



SMRI FALL 2025 WICHITA, KS | USA

SEPT 28-OCT 1

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

All times in Central Standard Time (CST)

Saturday, September 27

8:00 AM –12:30 PM	RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING
1:00 – 4:30 PM	LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Sunday, September 28

8:00 AM –5:30 PM	SMRI TECHNICAL CLASS Basic Logging Operations for Salt Cavern Development <i>Optional with additional charge; to be repeated at Spring 2026 Conference</i>
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Monday, September 29

8:00 –10:00 AM	BUSINESS MEETING <i>Members Only</i>
10:30 AM–5:00 PM	TECHNICAL PAPER PRESENTATIONS
10:00 AM–3:30 PM	FRIENDS AND SPOUSES EVENT
6:00 PM – 10:30 PM	MONDAY EVENING EVENT <i>Optional; additional charge</i>

Tuesday, September 30

8:00 AM–5:00 PM	TECHNICAL PAPER PRESENTATIONS
9:00 AM–2:30 PM	FRIENDS AND SPOUSES EVENT

Wednesday, October 1

7:30 AM–5:00 PM	FIELD TRIP 1: ONEOK & Williams Conway, Kansas Facilities
7:45 AM–5:00 PM	FIELD TRIP 2: Strataca Salt Museum, Hutchinson Salt Mine, and UV&S Tour

CONTACT

CONFERENCE ASSISTANCE

SMRI Membership Issues

John Nadeau

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Registration Assistance

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PROGRAM QUESTIONS CONTACT

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CLASS QUESTIONS CONTACT

Technical Class Chair 2025

Mr. Dirk Zapf Secretary-Treasurer

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REGISTRATION INFORMATION

IN-PERSON ATTENDEES

All conference attendees must be in the SMRI database and register online in advance, with payment required for confirmation. Non-technical guests must be registered as "guests" before finalizing the online payment. Event space is limited. The delegate registration fee includes access to Sunday Icebreaker, breakfast, AM/PM breaks, and Monday and Tuesday lunches. Registering after 5 September incurs a \$250 additional charge, subject to space availability.

REMOTE ATTENDEES

SMRI plans to broadcast the Wichita meeting in a hybrid format. The same platform as previous events will be used, and details will be shared closer to the conference date. Virtual attendees must register separately with a link on the registration page. The remote delegate registration fee is the same as in-person rates, covering live feed broadcast, on-demand videos, and a file of all presented papers. Register before 17 September to avoid additional \$250 charge. *The Technical Class will be live-streamed only and not available on-demand afterward.*

conference pricing

MEMBER COST: \$700
(\$600 w/o Monday Night Event)

NON-MEMBER COST: \$1,200
(\$1,100 w/o Monday Night Event)

Discounts available for Class Instructors and one Speaker per paper. University students contact John Nadeau to apply for discounted registration (jnadeau@solutionmining.org).

in- person registration dates

16 JULY
Member registration begins

13 AUGUST
Non-member registration begins

5 SEPTEMBER
Registration ends;
no refunds after this date

HOTEL & TRAVEL DETAILS

CONFERENCE HOTEL

**Hyatt Regency
Wichita**

400 W Waterman St.
Wichita, KS, USA 67202

[Click to Book Hotel](#)

SMRI RATE	RESERVATIONS
\$145.00	+1 316-293-1234

AIRPORT

Wichita Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport (ICT) is located 6 miles from the Hyatt Regency Wichita. The hotel offers complimentary airport transportation for guests between 5:30 AM and 10:30 PM upon request. To arrange a pick-up, call +1 316-293-1234.



CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT



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FALL 2025 SPONSORS

Sponsorships help defray costs of hosting conferences, keep conference fees affordable, and allow more of member dues to be directed towards active research. Members or non-members may be sponsors. Current sponsorship information is available [online](https://www.solutionmining.org) or contact Rachel Cunningham (rcunningham@solutionmining.org or +1 713-724-3342) for more information. No commercial advertising is accepted, but SMRI will acknowledge contributions of all sponsors.

Thank you to our sponsors of the Fall 2025 Wichita Conference!

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TECHNICAL CLASS INFORMATION

TECHNICAL CLASS Basic Logging Operations for Salt Cavern Development

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 | 8 AM - 5 PM

Class instructors and topics list on last page of announcement. This class will be repeated as part of the Spring 2026 Edinburgh, Scotland conference.

The Technical Class, typically held on Sunday prior to the Technical Session, is designed to be an introductory course or refresher course for the variety of disciplines and management levels that work in the solution mining environment and with solution mined caverns. "Basic Logging Operations for Salt Cavern Development" was chosen as the topic for the Technical Class for Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 based on a survey by SMRI leadership to members.

The SMRI has continued to be a leader in solution mining concepts with many research projects and technical presentations over the past 50 years. From concept to final disposition of caverns, logging is integral in providing critical information and the SMRI has proposed a tentative list of topics for the Technical Class including:

- Overview of Logging Needs for Salt Cavern Development
- Logging for:
 - Geological Characterization
 - Drilling Phase
 - Solution Mining Phase
 - Completion, Operation and Abandonment Phases

technical class registration fees

MEMBERS

\$400

MEMBER REGULATOR

\$200

NON-MEMBERS

\$650

NON-MEMBER REGULATORS*

\$400

STUDENTS (SUBJECT TO SPACE)

*No Charge

- Composite Log Data Review
- Overall Geologic Evaluation Including Microseismic

The class schedule allows ample time for the topic, questions, and open discussion during session. It also provides opportunities to continue conversations with peers during included coffee breaks and lunch.

FUTURE CONFERENCES

Spring 2026

26-29 April
Edinburgh, Scotland

Fall 2026

27-30 September
West Yellowstone, MT, USA

Spring 2027

25-28 April
Lyon, France



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ICE BREAKER

Sunday, September 28 | 6:30 - 11:30 pm

Join SMRI in celebrating our 60th Anniversary! We're marking the occasion with an extended after-party following our Welcome Event Icebreaker. Enjoy appetizers, wine, beer, soft drinks, and a special live performance by a local Kansas band. It's the perfect way to kick off the Fall 2025 Wichita Conference! Located at the Hyatt Hotel. Complimentary for delegates; guests are welcome for a \$75 cover.

MONDAY NIGHT EVENT

Monday, September 29 | 6:00 - 10:30 pm (optional)
\$100/person | Max. 350 guests

Step back in time and experience aviation history at the Kansas Aviation Museum, once Wichita's original airport and famously the 4th busiest airport in the United States during its heyday.

Guests will enjoy exclusive, private access to the entire museum — from its historic halls to the expansive outdoor ramp, featuring over a dozen remarkable aircraft, including the legendary B-52 and B-47 bombers. As you explore this unique venue, savor a delicious southern cuisine buffet, thoughtfully prepared to complement the evening's atmosphere.

Buses will begin loading at the Hyatt Regency hotel starting at 5:15pm and will return guests to the hotel after the event.



FRIENDS & SPOUSES

Monday: Walk, Shop, Sip & Create!

Monday, September 29 | 10:00 AM-3:30 PM
25 persons max. \$40 per person

Join us for a fun walk in Wichita's Historic Delano District! Stroll through charming shops, enjoy lunch at a local favorite, then unwind with cocktails, mocktails, or coffee at GROW Plant Bar. We'll cap off the day with a hands-on craft — designing your own Wichita tote bag to take home. The cost covers a drink at GROW, a Wichita tote bag, and craft supplies.

Wear comfy shoes for this 2-mile walking round trip!

Tuesday: Discover Wichita's Most Unforgettable Museum Experience

Tuesday, September 30 | 9:30 am - 2:30 pm
15 persons max. \$30 per person

Step into a world of wonder at the Museum of World Treasures, where you'll meet Ivan the T. Rex, explore ancient Egyptian burial rituals, and stand inches from artifacts of World War II. Located in the heart of Old Town Wichita, Kansas, the museum features three floors of hands-on exhibits, fascinating stories, and rare treasures from around the world and throughout time. Guided tour begins at 10 am. (1 mile walk.) After visiting the museum, we will walk as a group to River City Brewing for lunch (Not included in the tour price.) at approximately 12:30 pm-2 pm. The trip will arrive back at the hotel by about 2:30 pm, although feel free to wander downtown and return at your leisure.



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WEDNESDAY TECHNICAL FIELD TRIPS

FIELD TRIP 1

ONEOK & Williams Conway, Kansas Facilities

MAX CAPACITY: 50

COST: \$90 (all inclusive of transportation, breakfast, and lunch)

ANTICIPATED TIME: 7:30 am – 5:00 pm



This trip will visit the ONEOK and Williams facilities in Conway, Kansas. ONEOK and Williams staff will allow the group to tour their respective facilities and discuss operations, visit well heads, and cavern emplacement operations at the Williams site (weather permitting). The day will include a presentation on the geology in the Conway area and the dissolution zone below the surface. The group will view core and downhole logs of on-site wells.

As part of the field trip, Thru Tubing Solutions, Cudd Pressure Control, and Well Control School will be showcasing equipment and providing lunch. The showcase will be a hands on and detailed demonstration of equipment used in Salt Cavern Storage Operations. Equipment examples: Capillary Inflatable Packer, Mills, Flow Control Plug, Wellhead Freeze, Casing Cutter, Hot Tap, Gate Valve Drillout, Well Control Equipment, Well Control School, PRIME, and other services provided under the RPC, Inc. umbrella. Operators will have the opportunity to see equipment that they don't usually see in their daily operations. Each company will provide brochures, QR codes, and videos of the equipment on site.

FIELD TRIP 2

Strataca Salt Museum, Hutchinson Salt Mine, and UV&S Tour

MAX CAPACITY: 50

COST: \$90 (all inclusive of transportation, breakfast, and lunch)

ANTICIPATED TIME: 7:45 am – 5:00 pm



This trip will depart the hotel for Hutchinson, Kansas where you travel 650 ft below ground into the Hutchinson Salt Mine. The mine is split into three sections: Strataca – the Underground Salt Museum, Hutchinson Salt Co, and UV&S – Underground Vault and Storage. Temperatures should be around 68 degrees, and some walking surfaces may be uneven, please dress appropriately.

The morning will start in Strataca with a guided tour through the Permian Room into the museum galleries including exhibits, movie costumes and props, and the original mining equipment used by the Carey Salt Company. The tour will also include a 30-minute dark ride explaining the challenges and unique solutions required to keep the mines safe and functional, and a 15-minute train ride reviewing the processes and tools used to clear out the 980 acres of excavated rock.

After lunch in the museum, Hutchinson Salt Co. will provide a guided tour of the active section of the mine. The day will wrap up with a visit to the Underground Vaults & Storage section of the mine. UV&S leased the use of the mined-out areas for 100 years in 1959 and is most known for its storage of fine-grain negatives of Hollywood films. The company also stores government documents, museum artifacts, historical documents and much more.



TECHNICAL PAPER LIST WITH ALL AUTHORS

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Author(s)	Organization(s)	Title
Robert Asch¹ , Mazi Rejaee ¹ , Sanjay Singh Rathore ² , Gebreegzabher Mekonen ²	Sedgman Novopro Projects, Inc ¹ Ethiopotash B.V. ²	The Dallol Potash Project in Ethiopia - Kainite Solution Mining and Processing
Mustafa Baris Ates¹ , Biao Qiu ¹ , Gorkem Yavuz ² , Tugce Besir ²	Agapito Associates, LLC ¹ We Soda-Eti Soda ²	Target Seam Selection and Reservoir Modeling in Solution Mining – Field Applications from the Beypazarı, Türkiye
Lukas Baumgärtel	Leibniz University of Hannover	Experimental Assessment of Effective Tensile Strength of Rock Salt and Infiltration Fracture Behavior in Salt Caverns during Gas Operation
Flávio Carvalho Botelho , José Antônio Barbosa, Jefferson Tavares, Osvaldo Corriea	Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE)	Favorability Analysis of the Aptian Evaporites in the Onshore Alagoas Basin, NE Brazil, for Hydrogen Storage
Rob Carson	Canadian Nuclear Laboratories	Overview of Lab-Scale Experimental Systems for Underground Hydrogen Storage at CNL
Hippolyte Djizanne	Ineris	Mechanical Stability Following a Hydrogen Blowout in a Salt Cavern
Zachary Evans , Lydia Richley	DarkVision Technologies	High-Resolution Acoustic Imaging for Large Diameter Inspections: Multi- Cavern Case Studies
Rohola Hasanpour , René Buzogany	DEEP.KBB	Long-Term Safety Assessment and Backfill Strategy Evaluation for Abandonment of a Brine Production Cavern
Franek Hasiuk , Don Conley, Anna Lord	Sandia National Labs	Solution Mining for Geologic Hydrogen
Mahya Hatambeigi¹ , Emmanuel Sansuthy Tardio ² , JoAnn Gage ³ , Scyller Borglum ¹ , Sophie Minas ⁴	WSP USA ¹ , University of Houston ² , ACES Delta ³ , RESPEC ⁴	A Computational Model for Real-Time Blanket Level Tracking During Solution Mining
John Hatteberg	CUDD Pressure Control	Well Integrity: Current Challenges and Future Solutions
Herminio T. Honorio , Mohammad Saeed Amini, Lucas Landeweerd, Hadi Hajibeygi	Delft University of Technology	SafeInCave: an Open-Source Simulator for Energy Storage in Heterogeneous Salt Caverns
Matt Jones , Kevin Heiberger, Maggie Sebert, Brady Mills , Matteo Scapolan	RESPEC	Parametric Study on the Effect of a Cavern's Aspect Ratio on Working Gas Capacity



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Author(s)	Organization(s)	Title
Feline Körner , Dirk Zapf	Institute for Geotechnical Engineering Hannover	THM-Based Infiltration Assessment for Salt Cavern Design Accounting for Macroscopic Fractures
Brandon Lampe , Tim Lynn	Agapito Associates, LLC.	Novel Approach to Conducting a Mechanical Integrity Test with Optical Fiber
Hannah Maurer	Sandia National Labs	Well Collar Compression at the Bryan Mound SPR Site
Tonya S. A. Ross	Sandia National Labs	A Study on the Potential for Fluid Flow between Caverns 17 and 18 within the Bayou Choctaw Salt Dome
Anil Tokcan , Thomas Trautman, Alyssa Kendir	RESPEC	Spacing, Scheduling, and Scaling: Field Development Planning for Stratiform Evaporite Solution Mining
Fabio Ciceri ² , Riccardo Tortini, PhD ² , Giacomo Falorni ² , Joel Warneke ¹	Cavern Solutions, Inc. ¹ TRE Altamira, Inc. ²	Calibrated InSAR for Monitoring Salt Dome Subsidence along the US Gulf Coast
Kelsey Wong , Dave Marchase, Joel Warneke	Cavern Solutions, Inc.	The Creation of the Largest Helium Cavern in North America
Dirk Zapf ¹ , Hippolyte Djizanne ² , H. Habbani ² , Benoit Brouard ³	Institute for Geotechnical Engineering Hannover ¹ Ineris ² Brouard Consulting ³	Benchmarking Constitutive Models for Salt Cavern Design in Underground Hydrogen Storage



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TECHNICAL CLASS SCHEDULE

Time	Instructor	Title	Objectives
8:00Class Introduction: Tim Bauer, Dirk Zapf			
8:30	René Schneider <i>DEEP.KBB</i>	Logging needs for Salt Cavern Development	Overview of the basic logging needs and requirements for cavern development and why
9:15	Karim Sabaa <i>Baker Hughes</i>	Logs for geological characterization – Part I	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Standard Logging Suites• Gamma Ray/SGR (Spectralog)• Density Logging• Compensated Neutron Logging• Calibration with Whole Core• Rotary Sidewall Coring
9:45	Karim Sabaa <i>Baker Hughes</i>	Logs for geological characterization – Part II	
10:15BREAK: Coffee/Tea, Refreshments (30 Mins)			
10:45	Karim Sabaa <i>Baker Hughes</i>	Logs for geological characterization – Part III	XMAC; Vertical Seismic Profiles (VSP)
11:15	Brandon Lampe Matthew Bauer <i>Agapito Associates, Inc.</i>	Logs for the drilling phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Caliper• Surveying• MWD/Geosteering / LWD• Borehole Imaging Techniques
12:00LUNCH BREAK: Included with Class Registration (1 Hour)			
13:00	Frank Hasselkus <i>SOCON</i>	Logs for the solution-mining phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interface measurements• CCL/Multiple CCL/Natural Gamma for tie-in point• Sonar MIT (SoMIT)• Cavern shape measurements (Sonar Surveys)
13:45	Steven Patzer <i>ESK GmbH</i>	Logging operations for Completion, Operation and Abandonment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ultra Sonic• Flux Leakage• Casing Inspections – Multi-finger caliper• Bond Logs• Fiber OPTIC DTS"
14:30	Woody Woodworth <i>Sonic Surveys, Ltd.</i> Isabelle Tezenas <i>FLODIM</i>	Special Topics/Wireline Intervention/casing evaluation	Casing/Tubing Evaluation, Wireline Interventions
15:00BREAK: Coffee/Tea, Refreshments (30 Mins)			
15:30	Brandon Lampe <i>Agapito Associates, Inc.</i> Brian Wagg <i>C-Fer Technologies</i>	Special Topics/Non-intrusive Logging/Casing Deformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Logging without wireline (Europe)• Casing Deformation (Wichita)• Interface depth measurement• Damaged/Lost casing detection
16:00	Kiko Friguglietti <i>Sabine Storage & Operations, Inc.</i>	Composite Log Evaluation	Comparative Evaluation of Logs for Wells
16:30	Flavio Botelho <i>Braskem</i>	Geologic Evaluation Including Monitoring	Integration of Logs, Seismic, VSP, Microseismic Monitoring
17:15Concluding Remarks: Tim Bauer, SMRI Research Coordinator			