



SMRI FALL 2026

WEST YELLOWSTONE, MT | USA

SEPTEMBER 27-30

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

ALL TIMES IN MOUNTAIN DAYLIGHT TIME (GMT-6)

Saturday, September 26

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

Sunday, September 27

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	SMRI TECHNICAL CLASS #1: Development of a Cavern Storage Project: Cavern Basics
	SMRI TECHNICAL CLASS #2: Introduction to Python for Technical Professionals

(Both classes are optional with additional charge; classes will not be repeated)

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	WELCOME EVENT ICEBREAKER
8:30 PM – 11:00 PM	ICEBREAKER AFTER PARTY

Monday, September 28

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	BUSINESS MEETING <i>Members Only</i>
10:30 AM – 5:00 PM	TECHNICAL PAPER PRESENTATIONS
9:30 AM – 1:00 PM	FRIENDS & SPOUSES WALKING TOUR
5:30 PM – 9:30 PM	MONDAY EVENING NETWORKING EVENT <i>Optional; additional charge</i>

Tuesday, September 29

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	TECHNICAL PAPER PRESENTATION
8:30 AM – 5:00 PM	FRIENDS & SPOUSES: YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK TOUR

Wednesday, September 30

6:30 AM – 5:00 PM	FIELD TRIP 1: <i>World Mining Museum & Berkeley Pit</i>
7:45 AM – 5:00 PM	FIELD TRIPS 2&3: <i>Yellowstone National Park Bus Tour</i>

CONTACT

CONFERENCE ASSISTANCE

SMRI Membership Issues

John Nadeau Executive Director
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Registration Assistance

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PROGRAM QUESTIONS CONTACT

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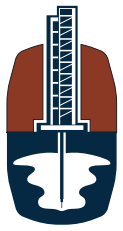
CLASS QUESTIONS CONTACT

Technical Class Chair 2026

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CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

SMRI FALL 2026

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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, AM/PM breaks, and Monday and Tuesday lunches. Registering after 4 September incurs a \$250 additional charge, subject to space availability.

REMOTE ATTENDEES

SMRI plans to broadcast the West Yellowstone 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 18 September to avoid additional \$250 charge. *The Technical Class will be live-streamed only and not available on-demand afterward.*

conference pricing

MEMBER COST:
\$725

\$600 without
Monday Night Event

NON-MEMBER COST:
\$1,225

\$1,100 without
Monday Night Event

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

registration dates

15 JULY

In-Person Member registration, Member and
Non-member Virtual registration begins

12 AUGUST

In-Person Non-member registration begins

4 SEPTEMBER

Registration ends; no refunds after this date

HOTEL & TRAVEL DETAILS

OVERFLOW ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Starlite Yellowstone, Tapestry Collection, Hilton
301 Madison Ave.

West Yellowstone, MT, USA

[CLICK TO BOOK HOTEL](#)

SMRI RATE \$380/night **GROUP CODE** 903
Room block available from 24 Sept - 2 Oct

Kelly Inn

104 S Canyon St.
West Yellowstone, MT, USA

SMRI RATE \$300/night

Clubhouse Inn

105 S Electric St.
West Yellowstone, MT, USA

SMRI RATE \$290/night

Room block available from 24 Sept - 3 Oct

These options have the same booking number. To book
with SMRI rate, call: **+1 406-646-4544**

GROUP CODE Solution Mining

Complimentary breakfast & WYS Airport shuttle service
for guests staying at the Kelly Inn or ClubHouse Inn.

CONFERENCE LOCATION

Holiday Inn—West Yellowstone

315 Yellowstone Ave
West Yellowstone, MT, USA

**SMRI ROOM BLOCK
IS SOLD OUT!**

*Each attendee is responsible for booking their own hotel
accommodations and arranging airport transportation.*

AIRPORT & SHUTTLE DETAILS

WEST YELLOWSTONE AIRPORT (WYS) is the closest airport, just
2.8 miles from the Holiday Inn West Yellowstone. WYS typically
only offers 1–2 flights daily.

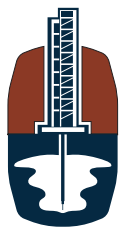
COMPLIMENTARY SHUTTLE SERVICE for attendees staying at
select SMRI room block hotels. To arrange pickup/drop off call:

**Holiday Inn West Yellowstone
or Gray Wolf Inn & Suites:**
+1 406-646-7365 ext. 2

**Kelly Inn or Clubhouse
Inn:** +1 406-646-4544

BOZEMAN YELLOWSTONE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (BZN),
90.8 miles away, offers more options and is often more cost-effective.

SMRI IS COORDINATING SHUTTLE SERVICE between BZN and
West Yellowstone. Schedules and booking information will be posted
on the conference website.



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FALL 2026 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 nonmembers may be sponsors. Sponsorship information is available online at [this link](#), or contact Rachel Cunningham (rcunningham@solutionmining.org or 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 2026 West Yellowstone Conference!

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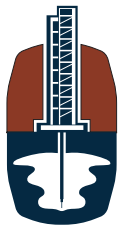
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TECHNICAL CLASSES

SUNDAY, SEPT. 27, 2026 | 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

As part of the Fall 2026 SMRI Technical Session, two educational opportunities will be offered on Sunday, September 27.

Participants may choose between SMRI's flagship Technical Class covering the complete lifecycle of cavern storage development, or a special limited-enrollment workshop introducing Python programming and data analysis for technical professionals.

Attendees will have opportunities to continue conversations with instructors and peers during coffee breaks and lunch.

technical class registration fees

MEMBERS \$400	NON-MEMBER REGULATORS \$400
MEMBER REGULATOR \$250	STUDENTS (SUBJECT TO SPACE)
NON-MEMBERS \$650	*No Charge

TECHNICAL CLASS OPTION #1

DEVELOPMENT OF A CAVERN STORAGE PROJECT: CAVERN BASICS

The Technical Class, traditionally held on the Sunday prior to the Technical Session, is designed as an introductory course and refresher for the wide variety of disciplines and management levels involved in solution mining and underground storage.

Over the past 50 years, SMRI has established itself as the leading source of technical knowledge and research related to solution mining and underground storage.

This intensive one-day program is designed for engineers, geologists, operators, regulators, and project managers involved in salt cavern development and operation.

Class Highlights

Comprehensive lifecycle overview
Ideal for new professionals + those seeking a technical refresher
Covers project development through abandonment
No prerequisites
Register early; seats will be limited.

Curriculum

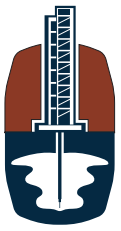
The course follows the complete project lifecycle and covers:

- Project development fundamentals & permitting
- Geology & geomechanics of evaporite formations
- Solution mining principles & cavern design
- Drilling, logging, & downhole completions
- Laboratory testing of salt & non-salt materials
- Cavern thermodynamics & gas storage capacity
- Gas first fill, commissioning, & mechanical integrity testing
- Storage operations & brine management
- Cavern abandonment & subsidence considerations

Format & Faculty

Instruction will be provided by an internationally recognized faculty representing industry, academia, and research organizations.

The class schedule allows ample time for presentation, participant questions, and open discussion.



TECHNICAL CLASS OPTION #2

INTRODUCTION TO PYTHON FOR TECHNICAL PROFESSIONALS

Class Highlights

Instructor: Matthew Bauer, Agapito Associates, LLC

As engineering, operational, and monitoring datasets continue to grow in size and complexity, Python has become one of the most widely used tools for scientific computing, automation, data analysis, and visualization. This workshop is designed to help participants understand the fundamentals of Python and explore practical applications relevant to engineering, geoscience, and underground storage operations.

Hands-on programming introduction

Ideal for professionals seeking practical data tools

Covers Python fundamentals through engineering workflows

No prior programming experience required

Limited enrollment (20) — register early

Topics Covered

- Python fundamentals and syntax
- Variables, data types, and data structures
- Working with data specific to cavern operations, including:
 - Tabulated data
 - LAS well logs
 - Spatial data
 - Deviation surveys
 - Sonar surveys
- Visualization and plotting
- Local Python installation

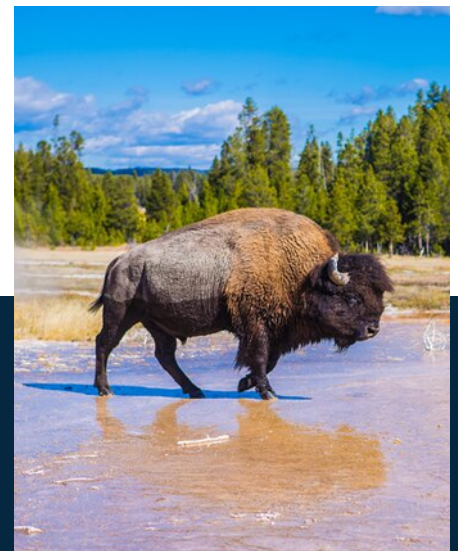
Format & Faculty

No programming experience is required. Participants should bring a laptop and have a Gmail account to access Google Colab notebooks. The workshop will include instructor-led presentations, guided exercises, and interactive demonstrations. Participants will receive course materials, example notebooks, and reference resources to support continued learning following the conference. Participants who wish to install Python on their local machine, which is optional, should have administrative rights on their computer.

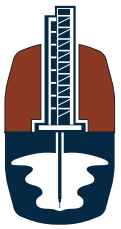
Enrollment: Due to the hands-on nature of this workshop, enrollment is limited to ensure adequate instructor interaction. Early registration is strongly encouraged.

Please note: Technical Classes #1 and #2 will take place simultaneously. Only one course may be selected when registering.

Badges are Required for all Conference Activities, Including Optional Events.



We look forward to seeing you in West Yellowstone this September!



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WELCOME EVENT

Sunday, 27 September | 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Enjoy an evening of networking, refreshments, and West Yellowstone hospitality. The evening begins with exclusive access to the Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center from 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM, located just a short walk from the Holiday Inn. Afterward, continue the evening at SMRI's private outdoor reception area at the Holiday Inn, where you'll enjoy drinks, appetizers, and great conversation with fellow attendees.

The Icebreaker Reception and discovery center are complimentary for registered delegates. Guests may attend for an additional \$75.00 fee.

ICEBREAKER AFTER PARTY

Sunday, 27 September | 8:30 PM – 11:00 PM

Join SMRI for an extended icebreaker! We will continue the networking and refreshments with live music and a touch of local West Yellowstone flair.

MONDAY EVENING NETWORKING EVENT

Monday, 28 September | 5:30 PM – 9:30 PM
(optional) \$125/person | Max. 350 guests

Explore the history of West Yellowstone and how Yellowstone National Park influenced the town during this optional networking event. The evening begins with a short walk to the Museum of the Yellowstone, where you'll enjoy a self-guided tour featuring engaging exhibits, videos, and stories about the park—don't forget to take a photo with Old Scarface. Following the museum, continue to the nearby Union Pacific Dining Lodge for a 7:00 pm included buffet dinner and drinks.

**WHILE REGISTERING,
ORDER YOUR SMRI LOGO
LONG-SLEEVE QUARTER-ZIP
PULLOVER FOR \$60**

[CLICK HERE TO ORDER SMRI PULLOVER](#)



FRIENDS & SPOUSES

Wander West Yellowstone

Monday, September 28 | 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Discover the history and charm of West Yellowstone on this relaxed, semi-guided walking excursion. Along the way, you'll visit notable local sites and landmarks while learning about the community's rich heritage before gathering for lunch at the Slippery Otter.

While you're in town, be sure to pick up a huckleberry-themed souvenir—a regional favorite unique to the Rocky Mountains!

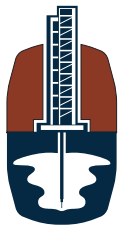
The tour includes a historical walking map, lunch and a beverage at the Slippery Otter, and gratuities.
25 persons max. \$25 per person.

Yellowstone National Park Sightseeing Excursion

Tuesday, September 29 | 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Experience some of Yellowstone National Park's most iconic sights on this full-day guided tour led by a certified guide. Highlights include Gibbon Falls, the Norris Geyser Basin Museum, Black Sand Basin, Morning Glory Pool, and the world-famous Old Faithful. The tour also includes a stop at Canyon Village for lunch and Yellowstone souvenir shopping. Participants should dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared for walking.

Includes transportation, park pass, and tour guide. Lunch and souvenirs not included.
26 persons max. \$170 per person.



WEDNESDAY TECHNICAL FIELD TRIPS

FIELD TRIP 1

World Mining Museum & Berkeley Pit

MIN CAPACITY: 25 **MAX CAPACITY:** 40 (*register early*)

COST: \$170 (*inclusive of transportation from/to hotel to the facilities, guided tours, lunch*)

ANTICIPATED TIME: 6:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Travel through the scenic landscapes of southwest Montana on this full-day excursion to Butte, home to the renowned World Mining Museum. For more than a century, Butte was one of the world's most productive copper mining regions, earning an important place in mining history.

At the museum, you'll step back in time as you explore the historic mining camp, tour the impressive steel headframe, and descend into the Orphan Girl Mine on a guided underground tour. The experience offers a fascinating look at the lives and working conditions of the miners who helped build Butte's legacy.

The day also includes several notable stops along the way, including Earthquake Lake, Meaderville, and the Berkeley Pit—a former open-pit copper mine that is now one of the nation's largest federal Superfund cleanup sites.



FIELD TRIPS 2 & 3

Yellowstone National Park Bus Tour

MAX CAPACITY: 35 (*register early*)

COST: \$170 (*inclusive of transportation from/to hotel, Park entry fee, tour guide, lunch*)

ANTICIPATED TIME: 7:45 AM – 5:00 PM

Experience a comfortable bus tour through Yellowstone National Park with a knowledgeable interpretive guide. Along the way, you'll visit some of Yellowstone's most iconic landmarks and scenic areas. [View the conference page](#) for more details about this trip.

Famous Yellowstone sights you may see on your day:

FIELD TRIP #2

Lower Loop Route

- Old Faithful Geyser
- Craig Pass
- Fountain Paint Pot
- Yellowstone Lake
- Mud Volcano
- Hayden Valley
- Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone

FIELD TRIP #3

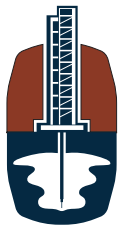
Upper Loop Route

- Mammoth Hotsprings
- Tower Falls
- Roaring Mountain
- Lamar Valley
- Dunraven Pass



Clothing Details

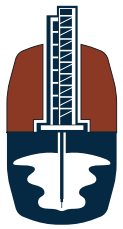
Dress in layers and be prepared for a wide range of weather conditions. Temperatures can vary from 17°F to 70°F, sometimes within the same day. We recommend bringing a windproof and waterproof jacket, sturdy walking shoes or boots, warm socks, gloves, a hat, and a scarf. **Open-toed shoes such as Crocs or sandals are not permitted.** Sale of clothing or outdoor gear options are limited in West Yellowstone, so plan ahead and pack accordingly.



TECHNICAL PAPER LIST WITH ALL AUTHORS

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Author(s)	Organization(s)	Title
Benjamin Allard-Robitaille, Felix-Antoine Comeau, Justin Raymond	INRS	Diapir-Related Overburden Deformation in the Magdalen Islands, Québec: Field Characteristics and Salt Cavern Implications
Benjamin Reedlunn ¹ , Omer Iqbal ² , Hiroko Kitajima ² , Fredrick M. Chester ² , Tonya S. A. Ross ¹ , Kyung Won Chang ¹	Sandia National Laboratories ¹ , Texas A&M University ²	Salt Cyclic Viscoplasticity: Model Formulation, Calibration, and Demonstration
Ceyhan Sahinkaya Akyol ¹ , Kilian Eichenseer ² , Matthew Bauer ¹	Agapito Associates, LLC ¹ , Durham University ²	Quantifying Stratigraphic Uncertainty in a Complex Evaporite Succession: Probabilistic Well Log Correlation in the Salina Formation, New York, United States
Eric Fortier ¹ , Anna Snider Lord ²	Baker Hughes ¹ , Sandia Labs ²	Deep Micro-Seismic Monitoring of Salt Caverns at the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve – Operational Warning Tools
Franz Bruening, Markus Ginten, Jason Edwards	Rosen	Inspection Solutions for Vertical Cavern Casing Pipes Using Advanced Inline Inspection Technologies
Hajar Habbani ¹ , Hippolyte Djizanne ¹ , Amade Pouya ² , Benoit Brouard ³	Ineris ¹ , Laboratoire Navier ENPC ² , Brouard Consulting ³	Hydraulic Fracturing Risk in Abandoned Brine-Filled Salt Caverns
Hendrik Wilke, Lukas Baumgärtel, Lukas Ochmann, Florencia Veccino, Christopher McMichael	AtkinsRéalis	Comprehensive Concept for the Positioning and Design of Caverns for Hydrogen Storage in the early Planning Phase of Large-Scale Storage Sites
Henry Seidlitz ¹ , R. Coleman Hale ¹ , Lenita Knudsen ²	Lonquist & Co, LLC ¹ , SaskEnergy Ltd. ²	SaskEnergy Gas Storage Cavern Wellhead Raise and Casing Remediation History
Hippolyte Djizanne ¹ , Arnaud Réveillère ²	Ineris ¹ , Geostock ²	From Apparent to Actual Leaks: Interpreting Mechanical Integrity Tests for Hydrogen Storage in Salt Caverns
Hossam Gharib ¹ , Men-Fung Chin ² , Hugh Flesher ² , Dave Olmsted ²	Stream-Flo USA, LLC ¹ , Stream-Flo Industries, LTD ²	Partial Stroke Testing Validation and Rate-of-Pressure-Drop Detection for Surface Safety Valves in Underground Gas Storage
Jose Ubillus, Inti Rodriguez, Yashesh Panchal, Vicky Miller, Berik Matebay, Adriana Ovalle	Vaulted Deep	Predicting and Enhancing End-of-Life Organic Waste (ELOW) Emplacement Behavior in Salt Caverns Using Integrated Geology, Geometric and Fluid-Flow Simulations.
Matthew W. Bauer ^{1, 2} , Cynthia Jennings ¹	Agapito Associates, LLC ¹ , Colorado School of Mines ²	Building 3D STL Salt Diapir Models from Legacy Contour Maps Using Python
Robert Ward ¹ , Denton Simek ¹ , Jaclyn Raskay ² , Tadd Busch ³	CUDD Well Control ¹ , Kinder Morgan ² , Tiberius Energy Services ³	Creating a Temporary Ice Plug Barrier in a Gas Storage Cavern Under Sustained Pressure. A Technical Study of Freezing a 13 5/8" Wellhead on a Gas Storage Well with no Column of Fluid.

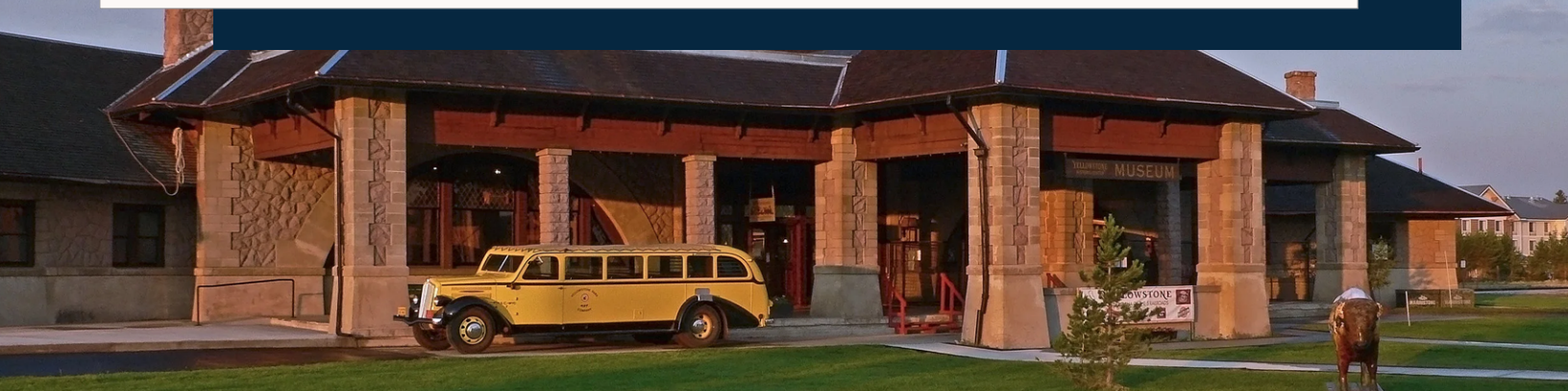


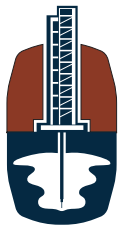
TECHNICAL PAPER LIST WITH ALL AUTHORS

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Author(s)	Organization(s)	Title
Ry Stone	Agapito Associates, LLC	Ground Support Design for a Pre-Driven Recovery Room in Soft Floor Conditions at a Trona Mine
Saeed Mohammadabadi ¹ , Alex Reed ²	University of Alberta ¹ , Calgary, Canada ²	Pressure Management in Abandoned Salt Caverns: Coupled Simulation of Thermal Expansion, Brine Permeation, and Creep Closure
Sheida Sheikheh ¹ , Neal Nagel ² , Minou Rabiei ²	University of Wyoming ¹ , Oilfield Geomechanics, LLC ²	Examining the Stability of Trona Caverns for Underground Gas Storage in the Green River Basin, Wyoming
Talha Hassan Khan, Michael Myers, Lori Hathon	University of Houston	Accelerated Characterization of Long-Duration Low-Stress Creep in Bedded and Domal Salts Using Amplitude-Scaled Stress-Increase-and-Hold Tests
Therese Mann, Birgit Horvath, Dr. Dirk Zander-Schiebenhöfer	DEEP.KBB GmbH	Advanced Numerical Modelling through the Integration of High-Resolution Structural Geological Models – an Approach for Subsidence and Integrity Analyses of Cavern Fields
Jacob Sanders ¹ , Timothy Masterlark ¹ , Scyller Borglum ³ , Cody Vining ²	South Dakota School of Mines ¹ , RESPEC ² , Westlake Chemical ³	Power Law Creep and Time Hardening Parameters Calibrated with Machine Learning
T.J. Phillips ¹ , Joe Dawson ¹ , Titilayo Adesiyun ²	Thru-Tubing Solutions ¹ , Dow Chemical ²	Casing Replacement in an Active Brine Mining Well Under Sustained Annular Pressure: A Technical Case Study of 9-5/8" and 16" Casing Retrieval and Reinstallation

FUTURE CONFERENCES

Spring 202725-28 April
Lyon, France**Fall 2027**26-29 Sept
Corpus Christi,
TX, USA**Spring 2028**23-26 April
Bratislava,
Slovakia



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TECHNICAL CLASS SCHEDULE

Time	Instructor	Title	Objectives
8:00	Technical Class Introduction: Tim Bauer		
8:15	Brandon Lampe <i>Agapito Associates</i>	Elements of a Cavern Development Project	Introduction to: Identifying Project Objectives (e.g., Stored Volume, Flow Rate, Product Type), Permitting in the US, General Types of Salt Deposits, Storage Well and Cavern Design, Drilling & Logging, Solution Mining
8:50	Matthew Dupee <i>Alpha Geoscience</i>	Geology: Economically Significant Subsurface Evaporites Suitable for Cavern Projects	Overview of Geologic Processes Leading to Accumulation and Stratigraphic Preservation of Evaporites
9:25	Piotr Kukiłka <i>Gulf ESS</i>	Understanding Solution Mining	Explain Solution Mining Basics so Attendees Understand How It Works, Basic Design Cases
10:00	BREAK: Coffee/Tea, Refreshments, and Light Snack (20 Mins)		
10:20	Woody Woodworth <i>Sonic Survey</i>	Logs and Sonars as Control Methods During Cavern Leaching and in Storage Phase	Overview of Different Logging Methods in Cavern and Borehole During Leaching and in Storage Phase. Explanation of Basics of Sonar Surveys in Caverns
10:50	Heike Bernhardt <i>DEEP.KBB</i>	Gas First Fill, Commissioning, MIT	Gas Filling (Flooding): Introduction to Cavern Hydraulics When Using Different Media. Options, Special Cases and Exemplary Cases. Prerequisites and Final Steps Before Start of Storage Operation
11:25	Kiko Friguglietti/Tim Bauer <i>Sabine Storage</i>	Drilling, Logging, Completion	Provide a General Overview of Drilling Rigs and Size Requirements, Cavern Logging and Coring Description, and Overview of Downhole Completions, Including Cementing.
12:00	LUNCH BREAK: Included with Class Registration (1 Hour)		
1:00	Dirk Zapf <i>University Hannover</i>	Laboratory Testing of Salt and Nonsalt Materials	Explain Lab Tests That Aid in Cavern Design: Triaxial Creep, Triaxial Constant Mean Stress, Brazilian Indirect Tensile, Direct Shear, Ultrasonic Velocity, etc., Specimen Preparation
1:35	Dirk Zapf <i>University Hannover</i>	Geomechanics of Cavern Storage (Rock Mechanical Design of Mining and Storage Caverns)	Inputs, Approach, and Outputs for Geomechanical Analysis and Design of Salt Caverns. Salt and Nonsalt Rock Behavior, Numerical Modeling Basics, Results Interpretation, Gas Storage and Cavern Spacing
2:10	Sophie Minas <i>RESPEC</i>	Cavern Thermodynamics	An Introduction to Cavern Thermodynamics and How Thermodynamics Can Be Used to Determine Gas Storage Capacity, Evaluate Gas Nominations, and be Used for Cavern Integrity Monitoring
2:45	MID-AFTERNOON BREAK: Coffee/Tea, Refreshments (30 Mins)		
3:15	Andrew Lloyd <i>Enterprise Products</i>	Storage Operations	Well Pressure and MAOP, Flow Rates, Backwashing, Brine Pressure, OverFill Protection / Detection, Minimum Inventory, Brine Management, Operating Conditions, Monitoring
4:00	Corey Shircliff <i>Cavern Solutions</i>	Cavern Abandonment	P&A Requirements and key differences between states, importance of proper P&A to new projects, and how P&A caverns can affect dome subsidence
4:45	Tim Bauer: Technical Class Concluding Remarks		