

SHUG (SNS HFIR User Group), <http://neutrons.ornl.gov/users/shug/>
SHUG executive committee minutes.

Teleconference held February 1, 2011.

Attendees:

Executive Committee: Cora Lind, Matthew Stone, Mike Crawford, Greg Beaucauge,
Antonella Longo, Eugenia Kharlampieva

Guests: Al Ekkebus, Ken Herwig

Minutes submitted for review February 1, 2011 by M. B. Stone.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Please note next telecon date: Tuesday March 1, 2011 at 1 PM
- Item 3 below. Please send suggestions to Al Ekkebus for SNS and HFIR users to attend the NUFO congressional poster session.

ATTACHMENTS and WEBSITES of interest from the teleconference:

1. Report on status of NSSD (Ken Herwig).

HFIR is currently running, and will be shutting down sometime on Saturday. The SNS starts up on February 14. We are wrapping up installation of instrument installation items which occurred during the SNS outage.

Instrument readiness reviews are going forward with commissioning instruments at the SNS: VULCAN, EQ-SANS, and POWGEN.

TOPAZ will be reducing its background during the start of the next beam cycle.

NOMAD is commissioning further this beam cycle, and may require an extra proposal call for NOMAD in between the scheduled proposals calls because commissioning is proceeding so well

HYSPEC and VISION will start commissioning later in 2011

The cold TAS at HFIR is still commissioning and examining background issues.

SPIN-ECHO at SNS is still commissioning. During this outage, they resolved some mechanical issues in their positioning systems for their hexapods. There are 4 or 5 friendly user experiments scheduled in the next few months.

POWGEN will have 20 installed detector modules at the start of the upcoming beam cycle. This doesn't quite double last run cycles coverage. Ghosting is nearly completely resolved. He-3 is working well on NOMAD, and this may be a long-term detector option for POWGEN. Radial collimators are now being manufactured for use between the sample and detector. This will reduce sample environment background.

2. Sample Handling (Ken Herwig).

A prior SHUG EC conference call brought up some issues regarding sample manipulation.

There are procedures in place to deal with samples. The division would like to help to inform users more on how to go through these procedures. There is a laboratory and a staff person available for dealing with activated samples. This part of the facility is not available at all days and times, and one needs to schedule use of this time with the staff member who runs it. There are discussions within NSSD management discussing how to make the sample handling procedures consistent and appropriate.

It was noted that it would be nice to have consistent procedures for handling samples publicized for the users to read prior to coming to the facilities.

3. National User Facility Organization meeting in Washington, D.C. (AI)

Members of Congress are inviting NUFO to send representatives from the different user facilities to present posters to the Members of Congress and their staff. The most frequently mentioned dates are April 6 or 7, 2011. These posters are currently in production for the HFIR and SNS. There will be no research talks presented, just posters. If you have suggestions for users who can potentially be invited to participate in this poster session, please send them to AI Ekkebus.

4. Future events (AI)

A SANS data reduction/analysis workshop is planned to be held in Oak Ridge in April 2011.

A structural biology course in collaboration with North Carolina State University will be held at ORNL toward the end of May 2011.

The Neutron X-ray School will start at ORNL on June 11, 2011, and then the students will proceed to Argonne on June 18, 2011. Applications due in the middle of February.

TOPAZ workshop. This will be a user workshop for the TOPAZ instrument, demonstrating its capabilities, advantages and science cross-section. This will be in mid June 2011. 20-30 attendees expected

Reflectometry workshop. This is a reduction/analysis workshop for prior users of the reflectometers at SNS. This is proposed for July 11- 12, 2011. Please contact the instrument scientists for further information, and invitations to prior users will be sent.

New User Proposal Workshop. Three days each focusing on one particular technique or science focus. Instrument scientists will be available for discussion. There will be tours of the facilities. This is to attract new users to the facilities and let them know what the capabilities are and give them information to submit proposals for beam time. Expecting 30 different people each day of the workshop.

Workshop on modeling and soft matter using neutron data. This will potentially be in early August, especially for the low-Q instrumentation suite users.

A suggestion for advertising at national user meetings is for having an open session over lunch or dinner to attract attendees at a very free time in their busy schedules at these meetings.

5. Other business?

* Next telecon date

Tuesday March1, 2011 (3/1/11 at 1 PM)