

Advice to conveners
AGU Chapman Conference on the Great Plume Debate: The Origin and Impact of
LIPs and Hot Spots
28 August - 01 September 2005
Fort William, Scotland, UK

Many thanks for agreeing to convene a session at the forthcoming Chapman meeting at Ft. William.

Please note the following:

1. Each session is divided into two 1.5-hr sub-sessions. Each of you will be the assistant convener for the first sub-session (which contains the talks inclined to be more plume-advocate) and the lead convener for the second sub-session (which contains the talks inclined to be more alternative-advocate).

2. Most sub-sessions are scheduled to have three speakers. Each of the speakers in the first sub-sessions will be allowed 20 mins for their talks + question time, and speakers in the second sub-sessions will be allowed 15 mins (total talk + question time). This will allow 30/45 mins for following discussion. It is vital that you keep people to time, as it will not be possible to have a meaningful discussion if people ramble on and use up most of the discussion time. Past experience is that people tend to overshoot and "discussion sessions" can end up with practically no discussion at all. So please be strict with timekeeping. We will try to set the scene for this during the first half day, which the four meeting conveners (Ian, myself, Dean and Jason) will convene.

3. The primary objective of the meeting is to discuss whether plumes exist, whether alternatives are viable/better/worse, and how to test the plume and alternative theories. Please bear this in mind when guiding the discussion and discourage people from talking at length on matters of peripheral significance to the main mission. For example, lengthy descriptions of observations at hotspots e.g. of rifts, geochemistry or earthquakes, are not relevant unless it is explained how they bear on discriminating the causative process of that hotspot, e.g., plume or passive rifting. Of particular importance are the concepts of which models are required by observations and which are merely permitted.

Action you need to take:

1. Please liaise with your co-convener and agree on how you will run your session.
2. Please spend a few minutes reflecting on what you think are the most important issues, and the most likely to come up, in your respective sub-sessions. Check who the most relevant people to these issues are, who will be at the meeting, and look over their abstracts. Be ready to call upon them to contribute during the discussion. Some people tend to be shy of speaking out at such forums, especially if English is not their first language, but can be very useful if drawn out. It is your job to make draw useful

contributions out, if necessary. People will be encouraged to bring transparencies so they can briefly take the podium and make fortified points.

Thank you again for agreeing to convene.

Best regards,

The Great Plume Debate meeting conveners