



November 2009

Houston

Newsletter

Special Announcement - Logistics

Please help us speed check in by registering for the meeting at least 24 hrs in advance.

APLN Houston monthly meetings are the third Thursday (11/19) at **Sysco**. Networking is at 6 PM program from 6:30-7:30.

Please watch for information on **refreshments and door prizes** with your EventBrite meeting reminder the week of Nov 15.

Events

Mark Your Calendar! Special Event!

Join **APLN Houston** for a **Special Event** hosted by **Waste Management**, 1021 Main.

Refreshments will be provided by DISYS.



Parking is available in the building garage for \$5, provided you register for the event by Nov. 3 at <http://aplnhouston20091119.eventbrite.com>

11/4/09 APLNH Special Event – 5:30- 7:00 pm

Agile Estimating and Planning for Scrum

Agile Estimating and Planning techniques have become widely used as part of Scrum. **Peter Borsella** will focus on user stories, relative effort and story points, Planning Poker and tracking velocity to help teams understand the basic expectations of estimating and planning within the Scrum framework.



Peter Borsella is the founder of **Winnow Management**. Peter has 23 years of experience in application development and IT leadership. He is also a certified Project Management Professional and a Certified ScrumMaster Trainer. His ability to contribute across a wide range of environments has taken him to companies such as Hilton, Cisco, and AOL, and to various countries such as India, Hungary, and Israel. Peter is adept in administering all aspects of project management, as well as providing authentic leadership to create effective teams.

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11/19/09 – APLNH Chapter Meeting – 6:00pm

Evangelizing Agile Inside YOUR Company



Roy Carnes, OutSystems shares valuable techniques for communicating the business value of Agile and how to help gain and strengthen support for it inside your company

Share best practices and lessons learned about:

- Gaining business sponsorship.
- Building trust with customers (end-users)
- Dealing with other non-Agile teams.

As a Texas Instruments manufacturing supervisor, production control manager and manufacturing engineer schooled in Lean and Kanban, Roy leveraged his business knowledge when he served as an analyst to help design a new manufacturing floor control system.

Over the past 8 years, **OutSystems** has worked with organizations around the world to introduce and implement Agile practices and has been directly involved in the delivery of over 500 Agile projects.

Please register at: <http://aplnhouston20091119.eventbrite.com>

Sponsorships Still available.

12/10/09 – APLNH Chapter Meeting – 6:00pm

“Oracles” and “Moles”: How to Manage Key Performers across the Knowing-Doing Gap

In the 21st century, organizations succeed or fail on the strength of two currencies: (1) information and knowledge, and (2) proper execution to deliver results. In many organizations individuals sometimes morph into those who are either: information-focused (to the neglect of timely execution) – “Oracles”, or execution-focused (to the neglect of the bigger-picture) – “Moles”. Join



us to help you gain a clearer understanding of the Oracles and Moles in your organization and find ways to manage them effectively across the information and execution gaps.

Donald J. Minnick of **Interpersonal Skills Laboratory** returns on a special date in a Joint Meeting with the **West Side PMI Houston** group!

1/21/2010 - APLNH Chapter Meeting 6:00pm

Beyond Scope, Schedule, and Cost: Rethinking Performance Measures for Agile Development

A Business Week article proclaimed, “There is no more Normal.” With businesses in the throes of pervasive change, the traditional emphasis on “following the plan with minimal changes” must be supplanted by “adapting the plan to inevitable changes.” If agile development practices are about focusing on and delivering customer value, then how can adherence to traditional scope, schedule, and cost be a good way to measure performance? It can’t. Jim explains the need to move beyond the classic Iron Triangle measures to focus agile software development success on value, quality, and constraints.

Jim Highsmith, Cutter Consortium is author of

- *Agile Project Management: Creating Innovative Products*
- *Agile Software Development Ecosystems*
- *Adaptive Software Development: A Collaborative Approach to Managing Complex Systems*

APLN Houston promotes the growth of agile practices, shares real world experiences with agility, and provides a networking forum for like-minded professionals.

Other Agile Events

11/5-11/6/09 – Winnow Certified Scrum Master Workshop – Houston, TX

Peter Borsella’s CSM class is suitable for those practicing or looking to practice the art of the Scrum Master, but is highly valuable for anyone involved in Scrum (Managers, Team Members, Product Managers, etc.). While no experience is necessary, attendees should have some familiarity with Scrum.

Use discount code **APLN\$D** to get a \$150 discount from Winnow Management.

For a Winnow Management course list see <http://www.winnowmanagement.com/classes.php>

11/9-11/10/09 - Agile & High-Speed Software Testing, ASPE – Houston, TX

Transition from traditional test practices to an Agile testing approach. Learning the goals of Agile will help you transition, implement and monitor testing in the High Speed Agile Testing environment.

Use discount code **VersionOne** to get a 20% discount on ASPE registration at <http://www.aspesdlc.com/courses/4815>.

11/11-11/12/2009 – ASPE Agile Project Management, Austin TX

Learn to lead agile software projects that adapt to change & discovery, improve collaboration, drive innovation and deliver on-time business values. For a 20% discount register at 877-800-5221 using code **VersionOne**. See <http://www.aspe-sdlc.com/courses/4170/>

12/8-12/9/09 - Certified ScrumMaster Training with Sanjiv Augustine - Houston, TX

Learn the essential concepts and tools of Scrum, differences between agile processes and traditional "waterfall" methodologies, and how to build a roadmap for adopting. Learn how to lead development teams towards agile operations by: managing product backlogs, planning releases and sprints, tracking and reporting progress, and conducting retrospectives.

Use code **APLN** to get a 20% discount at http://www.lithespeed.com/CSM_Detail.htm.

1/11-1/15/2010 - Advanced Superperformance Workshops: "Super Projects Boot Camp" with Dave Guerra – Houston

APLNH members receive a \$100 discount on each segment with code **SUPERAPLN**. See <http://corpsoptima.com/seminars/super-projects-boot-camp>

2/3-2/4/2010 Mike Cohn's Certified Scrum Product Owner Training - Dallas, TX

<http://www.mountaingoatsoftware.com/training/139-certified-scrum-product-owner>

APLN Houston launches a Special Event at Waste Management!

Thanks to **Gary Baumgartner** and **Jean Thornton** of Waste Management, and **Allan Watty** and **Kerry Ellison** of PROS Revenue for



their efforts in making this first venture in the downtown area possible. We also want to thank **Naresh Jain** for visiting with

us on his way to Brazil to provide an enlightening look at Test Driven Development.

Thanks also to DISYS for their sponsorship of Naresh's trip to Houston.



Naresh's presentation is available www.aplnhouston.org/documents/Presentations/NareshJain-TDD-2009-10-01.pdf.

Agile Leadership Summit

11/9-11/13/09 – Co-located at Agile Development Practices Conference – Orlando, FL

Join veterans from small and large companies who have led agile teams and organizations with new, innovative leadership styles.

Practical Development, Agile Testing, Kanban, Transition to Agile, User Stories, Agile PM. See www.sqe.com/agiledevpractice



Helpful Resources

Lean-Agile Straight talk from Net Objectives www.netobjectives.com/blog-categories/Lean-Agile%2BStraight%2BTalk

The Net Objectives Patterns Repository is at www.netobjectives.com/PatternRepository/index.php?title=Main_Page

Scrum Methodology and Resources from Danube www.danube.com/scrum

Agile Chronicles Newsletter www.versionone.com/ACNewsletter/

Ken and the Scrum Alliance <http://agileanarchy.wordpress.com/2009/10/06/ken-and-the-scrum-alliance/>

Lean thinking in IT http://searchcio.techtarget.com/news/article/0,289142,sid182_gci1371423,00.html

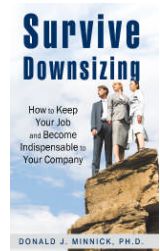
Books-of-the-Month

Donald Minnick's presentation Managing the Human Dynamics of Change is now available!

Look for Don again on December 10.

www.aplnhouston.org/documents/Presentations/Minnick-ChangeManagement-2009-08-20.ppt

See Don's new book, **Surviving Downsizing**.



Member Blogs

In addition to the Agile blogs highlighted on the website www.aplnhouston.org and in previous newsletters, several APLNH members have started blogs.

Please consider following our blogs and contributing with your comments. Let us know if you have a blog you'd like us to list.

Bryan Campbell's blog <http://it.toolbox.com/blogs/agile-pm>

Robbie MacIver www.robbiemaciver.com/robbies-blog

Shravan Arra <http://shravanarrasblog.blogspot.com>

Barbara Brown www.examiner.com/x-28050-Houston-Sustainable-Business-Examiner

Thanks to Our Sponsors

Please join APLNH in thanking the following sponsors for their generous support.



DISYS is providing food for the November Special Event. (www.DISYS.com)

Waste Management is providing the Oct and Nov special meeting venue. Think Green: Think Waste Management (www.wm.com).



APLNH appreciates **Sysco's** continuing support in hosting our meetings.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact a member of the leadership team or see www.aplnhouston.org/sponsors.

Thank you to **Prakash Roopani**, Development Manager, **Shaji John**, Senior Technical Architect and **Sejal Desai**, Quality Assurance Specialist for their October presentation: **Petris: An Agile Experience Report**.

Agility is NOT just flexibility and adaptability: Agility requires proactively monitoring the changing landscape.

The agile business focuses on current action, while methodically stepping back and getting a broader perspective. Then, reflecting on what's been learned, it re-engages and takes appropriate action.

APLN Houston Leadership Team

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APLN Member Services

Continuing Certification Requirements

PMPs may file for 1 PDU under Continuing Certification Requirements, "Category 4: Other Providers" for attending APLNH events.

User Group Discount Programs!

O'Reilly User Group Program!

Pearson Education User Group Program!

Contact us if you have others to recommend.

For more information on Member services visit: <http://aplnhouston.org/member-services>.

Make Your Voice Heard – Check out Jobs!

Join and participate in our LinkedIn Group today! Check out discussions and JOBS Listings



Search the groups directory for APLN Houston.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for a few good volunteers!

- ❖ Newsletter Contributors
 - Articles on real-world agile experiences
 - Book reviews
 - Blog references
- ❖ Event coordinators
 - Program coordination
 - Speaker recruitment
 - Event announcements
 - Check in meeting attendees
 - Traffic control at Sysco.
- ❖ Webmaster
 - Content management

Thank you Jeff Osborne and Jean Respass for helping with the October check in desk.

To share your talents and help **APLNH** grow contact a member of the leadership team.

APLN Houston Newsletter Editor

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Send announcements, book reviews or articles for the APLNH newsletter to Newsletter@APLNHouston.org