COASTAL PHOTO BY CYRIL GALVIN: Scud Marks from Foam Blowing Across a Beach Face. The photo shows the upper beach face at Capers Island, just south of Price Inlet, South Carolina, on the mid-afternoon of 27 Sep 96. Open water is to the southeast, behind the viewer, and the tide is low. Lighter grey streaks cross the beach in several directions. Fresh winds produce choppy waves that generate foam on the water surface. Winds blow the foam to shore, where it makes an irregular swash line on the beach. Gusts of wind detach an occasional clump of the foam from the swash line, and the clump then scuds across the sand, leaving behind the tracks on the photo. These tracks often end in annular or tube-like traces of the foam that look like imaginary marine organisms. Why the multiple directions of these scud marks? NOAA weather data from the Charleston, South Carolina, airport for that day show a pressure drop in the late morning, a trace of rain around noon, and gusty winds between about 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., peaking around 1 p.m. (23 knots from the ESE). Winds at the airport shifted from about ESE to SSE and back to ESE. Making allowances for the inland location of the airport (about 35 km due west), that meteorological disturbance could have produced the variable directions. Foot prints and stride length give approximate scale. (Photo taken during an AAPG field trip led by Miles O. Hayes and Walter J. Sexton.)