

NOGS LOG



September 2011

Volume 52, Number 3



September 12 - NOGS Luncheon

Presentation: Mississippi River Levee Shrinkage (*sic*) Cracks

Guest speaker Michael L. "Mike" Merritt, GEM Consulting LTD - Baton Rouge. See page 9 for more information.

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NOGS LOG

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Special Features:

September Luncheon Abstract
and Biography Page 9

Dr. Roy Dokka
Memorial Page 10

2011 GCAGS Convention
Information Page 11

Deep Water Symposium 2011
Photos Page 17

More Photos From May 2011
Golf Outing Pages 18-21

NOGS July Luncheon
and Awards Page 32

Regular Features:

President's Letter Page 5

Upcoming Events and
Activities Page 7

NOGA News Page 22

Drill Bits Pages 24-26

Info & Tidbits Page 28

ON THE COVER

Photo Provided By Mike Merritt

This photo was taken at Algiers Point on the West Bank. Looking to the Northwest you can see St. Louis Cathedral and the French Quarter. This spring, as a crest of high water moved downriver, concerns grew about a reach of levee on the West Bank that was cracking. This photo shows some of the cracking along the levee.

FROM THE EDITOR

Hello again fellow society members, this is another monthly column from your *NOGS LOG* editor. I would like to first recognize former president Tom Klekamp for supplying us with last month's shale gas article. It was a very nice addition to the *NOGS LOG*. We will be trying to add other energy industry articles throughout the year. I have again added an AAPG abstract from last April's annual convention and exhibition. Our editor elect and LSU graduate Jordan Heltz has provided a memorial column for the passing of professor Dr. Roy Dokka.

I would like again to remind folks to send in their most interesting geological photos. I am particularly looking for pictures that highlight the industry and local geology. Just send in your picture with a brief description.

Thanks, David Tatum - *NOGS LOG* Editor



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The New Orleans Geological Society was organized in 1941 to foster scientific research and advance the science of geology. Particular emphasis is laid on the exploration for and production of petroleum and natural gas. Related objectives include encouraging the adoption of improved methods of exploration, disseminating pertinent geological and technological data, and maintaining a high standard of professional conduct among its members.

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from the President

During this past summer, my youngest daughter, Helen, had several friends from different schools over to our house to hang out and play Monopoly. We started to talk about their school subjects, and of course, I asked about Earth Science. I was surprised to hear that they felt Biology and Physical Science were really important, but what was the big deal about Earth Science? To them, it was only about rocks! I have decided that, with school just being opened less than a month ago, I should discuss the relevance of Earth Science to our children's education. You might want to pass these ideas onto your own students.

I began by telling my captured audience that Earth Science is very important because we live on this planet. Understanding how the Earth works makes for a safer life. I added that everything you see and use ultimately comes from rocks because all of the atoms and elements used in all materials had to originally come from the Earth itself.

Because our younger students need to keep things in terms of their own references, I have decided to only discuss events since Katrina. This time-reference point would seem to work well with most of our New Orleans' population. As most of the country now knows, Katrina was an engineering failure of the New Orleans' levee system. What many seem to overlook is that the geology of the underlying sediments greatly contributed to the levee walls' failure. Sheet pilings were driven too shallow and never sealed off the permeable, unconsolidated sands below the canals. If the pilings were driven into impermeable clay layers, water would not have boiled up on the outside of the levees. Professor Stephen Nelson at Tulane and Professor Juan Lorenzo at LSU have lead field trips and lead the way in geologic evaluations of the levee failures.

Since Katrina, there have been several major tsunamis that were caused by undersea earthquakes.

Earthquakes off the coast of Indonesia caused massive destruction and deaths in Indonesia. The July 2006 quake off the resort of Pangandaran caused about 730 deaths. Not referencing the 2004 Asian tsunami that killed more than 130,000 people, only because it was one year before Katrina, seems to be illogical.

This year another earthquake caused a tsunami to Japan that lead to a nuclear power plant disaster. Nuclear energy and its waste products should be considered in discussions about Earth history and geologic stability of Japan and other power plant locations.

Volcanic eruptions have caused evacuations in many parts of the globe. Eyjafjallajokull, Iceland, Karymasky, Russia, Kirishima, Japan, Masaya, Nicaragua, and Llaima, Chile, all provide examples of Earth's violent volcanic tendencies. Understanding basic plate tectonics and the "Ring of Fire" seems to be a requirement for a large part of the inhabitants on this planet.

This past spring brought flooding in the Mississippi River system across a large part of our country. Understanding river drainage patterns and man's building of locks and dams along rivers are another lesson in Earth Science and its bearing on engineering projects.

Lastly, climate change, global warming, sea level rising, polar ice melting and CO₂ sequestration are debates that are entrenched in geologic/Earth processes. The economic and political discussions are absolutely meaningless and faulty without a sound background in Earth Science.

I discovered that my young listeners were interested in some of these basic geologic ideas. Please add your own ideas to this reference list when educating our students, citizens and leaders.

Bob

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Upcoming Events and Activities

September 12 - NOGS Luncheon

*** At the Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome ***
\$2.00 validated parking in hotel garage

Guest speaker: Michael L. "Mike" Merritt, of GEM Consulting LTD in Baton Rouge

Will present: Mississippi River Levee Shrinkage (*sic*) Cracks

(See page 9 for Abstract and Biography)

HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN SUPERDOME

Check with concierge or
front desk for location
Lunch served at 11:30am

ADMISSION:

with reservation \$30.00
without reservation \$35.00
Student Member with reservation Free

October 3 - NOGS Luncheon

Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome. Dan Smith, of Sandalwood Oil & Gas, Inc. in Houston, will present: "Discovery Thinking Has Led to 70 Years of Continuous Exploration and Development at Stella Salt Dome, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana."

October 16-19 - 61st. Annual GCAGS Convention

In Veracruz, Mexico. See announcement on page 11.

October 23-26 - AAPG International Conference & Exhibition

In Milan, Italy. For more information: <http://www.aapg.org/Milan2011/>.

October 25-27 - Louisiana Gulf Coast Oil Exposition

Cajundome & Convention Center in Lafayette. For more information: <http://www.lagcoe.com/>.

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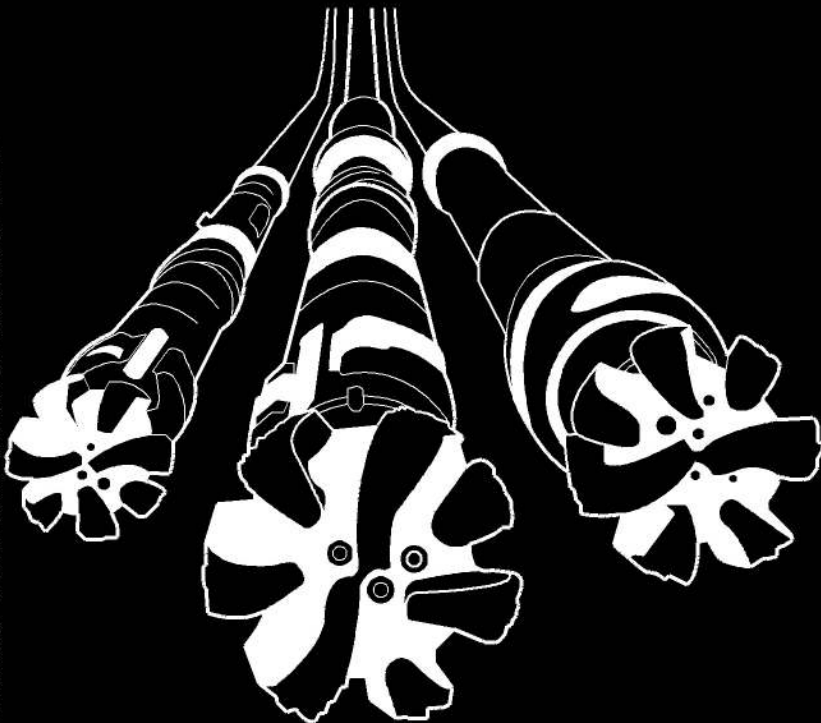
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September 12 NOGS Luncheon Presentation

At the Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome

Mississippi River Levee Shrinkage (*sic*) Cracks

presented by

Michael L. Merritt

GEM Consulting LTD – Baton Rouge

ABSTRACT

This Spring, as a crest of high water moved downriver, Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West (SLFPA-W) officials were concerned about a reach of levee on the West Bank that was cracking. NOGS member Mike Merritt works with SLFPA-W using his experience as a petroleum geologist.

To respond to SLFPA-W's concerns about the cracks, a geotechnical engineering team from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Geotechnical Branch prepared a report restating their opinion these are shrinkage cracks. Merritt's opinion of shrinkage cracks was they should be fairly shallow and form polygons.

Instead of finding polygons, Merritt found SLFPA-W inspectors were driving the levees continuously and placing

surveyor flags in cracks as wide as 5 inches, as deep as 38 inches and up to 10 feet long. The purpose of the flags was to help inspectors spot any new cracks appearing in the levee's linear crack zone over a quarter of a mile. This talk takes a closer look at the cracks, the USACE report and local geological conditions. Looking ahead, much more work is needed to

- (1) clarify the geological details of the site downstream from the Huey P. Long Bridge
- (2) verify the accuracy of assumptions used in USACE computer modeling (of safety factors that show no danger of failure) as water recedes from the now softened river bank.

BIOGRAPHY



Mike Merritt is a geologist and owner of GEM Consulting LTD. He is uniquely experienced because he has been involved with a wide variety of scientific projects. For Sun Oil, he was a development geologist in some of the most well-known oil fields in Louisiana and the Southeast. For Conoco, he worked on exploration projects in the world's most severely constrained deep basin. In Africa, he was Principal Geologist in a Production Optimization Project in the 50 square mile, 364,000 BOPD Hassi Messaoud Field where he used expertise in using computers to draw geologic maps. In public service for the State of Oklahoma, Merritt served in a variety of roles utilizing expertise in petroleum geology as a member of work groups receiving a Governor's Commendation for special projects or national recognition for implementing federally-mandated environmental protection programs. He made a home in Baton Rouge in 2004, joined NOGS in 2005 and was appointed as a Founding Commissioner of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West by Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco and re-appointed by Governor Jindal.

THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 7 - CONTACT THE NOGS OFFICE

“And Looking Ahead...”

The next luncheon will be held on October 3rd. Dan Smith, of Sandalwood Oil & Gas, Inc. in Houston, will present “Discovery Thinking Has Led to 70 Years of Continuous Exploration and Development at Stella Salt Dome, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana.” Contact the NOGS office at 561-8980 or use the PayPal link on the NOGS website (www.nogs.org) to make your reservation.



**Dr. Roy Dokka
1951-2011
Memorial**

It is with a heavy heart that I pass along the news that long-time LSU professor and Director of the Center for GeoInformatics, Roy K. Dokka died unexpectedly on August 1st at his home in St. Francisville, LA. He was 59 years old. Dokka is survived by his wife Margie, daughters Sandra and Kristina and a grandson, Trey. He was a dedicated researcher, instructor and mentor to numerous students that passed through LSU, including myself. He served as my thesis advisor during my graduate studies at LSU and I will be forever grateful for the guidance, knowledge and friendship he shared with me during that time.

Professor Dokka graduated from Cal State Northridge in 1973 with a B.S. and from the University of Southern California, where he attained his master's and doctorate degrees in geology. He joined the Department of Geology & Geophysics at LSU in 1980 after receiving his Ph.D. He was the only professor in LSU history to have endowed professorships from two different colleges. He was the first recipient of the Adolphe G. Gueymard Professorship in Geology & Geophysics and also the Fruehan Endowed Professorship in Engineering.

In 1992-93, Roy served as a program director at the National Science Foundation, or NSF. He had been a member of several national policy committees for NSF and NASA dealing with geology, geographical information systems and geodesy. He also served as past-president of the South-Central Section of the Geological Society of America. Dokka was a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and was awarded a lifetime honorary membership in Alpha Lambda Delta, the National Freshman Honor Society, for his record of outstanding teaching.

In 2002, he initiated the Louisiana Spatial Reference Center, a partnership with the National Geodetic Survey-NOAA, focused on creating a state-of-the-art positional infrastructure for Louisiana. During his work with the LSRC, he began to investigate the causes of large scale subsidence and coastal erosion occurring in South Louisiana and along the Gulf Coast. He became an outspoken voice in the debate regarding Louisiana's coastal land loss and restoration plans. The implementation of a network of continuously operating GPS reference stations in the Gulf Coast region, which was built under his guidance as director of LSRC, has and will continue to provide key insights into the subsidence and tectonics of the region. The importance of his work and research cannot be overstated and the impact he has had on the LSU community and students like myself will serve as a proud legacy for years to come.

Jordan Heltz



Sharing knowledge to add value

OCTOBER 16-19, 2011 VERACRUZ, MÉXICO

This Convention will take place in an emblematic city of Mexico: the port of Veracruz, one of the most privileged places on the American Continent, where the universal interchange of goods and ideas led the way to the actual configuration of the modern world.

For two consecutive days, three oral technical sessions each morning and afternoon will be presented simultaneously with poster sessions all through the day. These twelve technical sessions will cover relevant topics about petroleum geology, seismic interpretation, climate change, sustainable development, geohydrology, and education, enhanced by three field trips, six short courses, a luncheon conference, and an industrial exhibition. On the third day, a Symposium on "Jurassic regional framework and reservoirs in the Gulf of Mexico" will be held. Student activities have been designed as an integral part of the Convention.

**12 Topics: 103 oral presentations 51 poster presentations
6 Short courses, 3 Field Trips, and 1 Symposium.**



	EDMUNDO CEPEDA DE LA GARZA ROOM	MANUEL ALVAREZ Jr ROOM	TEODORO DIAZ ROOM
Monday 8:25 - 11:30	Remaining potential in circum - Gulf of Mexico petroleum provinces	Stratigraphy framework of the Gulf of Mexico and adjacent areas	Climate change, geohydrology, geological risks, environmental challenges and sustainable development
Monday 11:30 - 13:25 PM	Luncheon Conference		
Monday 13:25 - 16:35	The Gulf of Mexico deepwater setting - geology and economics	Seismic imaging and interpretation of geological complex areas	Learning and teaching in the geosciences to meet new challenges.
Tuesday AM 8:25 - 11:30	New perspectives in fractured reservoirs.	New insights into the geodynamic evolution of the Gulf of Mexico	New concepts and methods in biostratigraphy
Tuesday PM 11:30 - 13:25 PM	Walk & Talk Luncheon at the Exhibition		
Tuesday PM 13:25 - 16:30	Petroleum systems and oil quality controls in the Gulf of Mexico	Interaction between salt tectonics and sedimentation.	New approaches in sandstone reservoirs characterization and diagenetic modeling.
Wednesday AM 8:25 - 11:45	GUILLERMO P. SALAS ROOM		
Wednesday PM 13:30 - 15:30	Ralph W. Imlay Symposium: "Jurassic tectonic framework and reservoirs in the Gulf of Mexico"		

No.	COURSE NAME	INSTRUCTOR(S)	DAYS	FEE
1	Characterization of fractured reservoirs: examples from southeastern Mexico	Faustino Monroy, Miguel Hernández, Lilia Hernández, Norma Olazá and Clobilde Prieto <i>Pemex Exploración y Producción</i>	Saturday, October 15; and Sunday, October 16	\$215
2	Petroleum provinces of Mexico	Ernesto Miranda, Lourdes Clara, Mariano Téllez, Juan Rogelio Román, Víctor Valdovinos, José Ruiz and Carlos Williams <i>Pemex Exploración y Producción</i>	Saturday, October 15; and Sunday, October 16	\$225
3	Regional trends in Upper Jurassic and Lower Cretaceous carbonate sequence stratigraphy and depositional systems and their application to carbonate reservoir case studies, onshore northern Gulf of Mexico	Ernest A. Mancini <i>Texas A&M University</i>	Sunday, October 16	\$150
4	Practical aspects of seismic depth imaging in complex geology areas	Rubén Darío Martínez <i>Petroleum Geo-Services</i>	Sunday, October 16	\$225
5	Fundamentals of siliciclastic sequence stratigraphy	John Holbrook <i>University of Texas at Arlington</i>	Sunday, October 16	\$250
6	Formation evaluation of thinly bedded reservoirs	Quinn R. Passey <i>Exxon-Mobil</i>	Sunday, October 16	\$185

Students activities

- Presentation and discussion on the latest version of the Geologic Map of Mexico by geologists of the Mexican Geological Service.
- Meet and Greet at the Exhibit Hall.
- Round Table after Learning and Teaching Session.



Field Trip	Objetivo
Field Trip # 1 Thursday 13 to Sunday 16 October	Facies and development of turbiditic deposits from Chicotepec Formation, western margin of Chicotepec paleochannel, Mexico
Field Trip # 2 Saturday 15 to Sunday 16 October	Stratigraphic, sedimentological and structural elements of an exhumed Cretaceous reservoir at the frontal Sierra Madre thrust and fold-belt, Veracruz, Mexico
Field Trip # 3 Wednesday 12 to Sunday 15 October	Meaning of the stratigraphy and structure at Sierra de Chiapas in the Tectonic Evolution and Petroleum Systems of the southeastern Mexico



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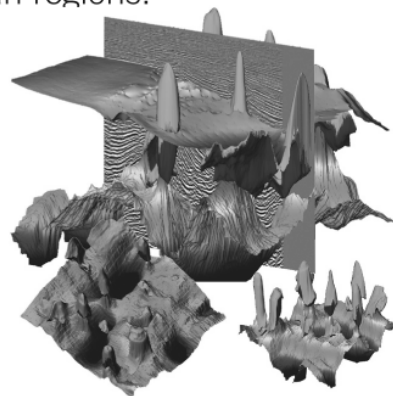
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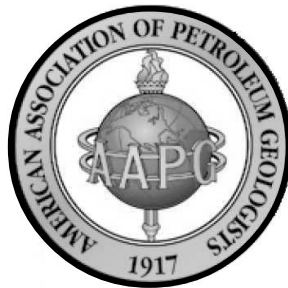
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SYSTEMS ACQUISITION LICENSING PROCESSING IMAGING



Reducing Structural Uncertainty at Tahiti Field Using TTI WAZ Imaging

Swanston, Alastair M.¹; Mathias, Michael D.²; Barker, Craig A.³

(1) Chevron North America Exploration and Production Company, Houston, TX

(2) Chevron North America Exploration and Production Company, Houston, TX

(3) Chevron North America Exploration and Production Company, Houston, TX

The Tahiti field is a major Chevron asset in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico, located 190 miles south of New Orleans in 4,100 feet of water. Discovered in 2002, the field started production in May 2009 from the primary Miocene reservoir, reaching facility capacity within three months of start-up. The reservoir section is at a depth of 23,000 to 28,000 feet subsea, below a thick salt canopy and trapped against a near-vertical salt face with structural dips approaching 80 degrees. The imaging challenges associated with this type of geometry required the latest technology in seismic acquisition, velocity model definition and pre-stack depth migration to reduce the structural uncertainty.

Over the past decade Chevron has re-imaged the Tahiti field with multiple iterations of proprietary earth modeling and depth imaging on narrow azimuth seismic data. These surveys were used to successfully position wells for the first phase of the Tahiti development. However, reservoir scale mapping and fault definition remained challenging, and a certain degree of structural uncertainty remained. In 2009-10, the Tahiti partners, led by Chevron, initiated a re-imaging project incorporating the multi client wide azimuth (WAZ) seismic data acquired by WesternGeco and the latest technologies in multiple attenuation, tilted transverse isotropy (TTI), Reverse Time Migration and Beam imaging.

The Tahiti TTI WAZ re-imaging project delivered significantly enhanced structural imaging for future field development. The project benefited from all the positive attributes of WAZ acquisition including increased azimuth, fold, inherent multiple attenuation and increased offset. The latest noise and multiple attenuation, including WesternGeco's GSMP-SRME, provided cleaner data with enhanced signal-to-noise, especially subsalt. Earth models representing multi-azimuth subsurface velocities, TTI parameters, ties to well data, and detailed salt interpretation resulted in a higher confidence structural image. Advanced imaging routines including Gaussian Beam and Reverse Time Migration provided final images that are reducing uncertainty in the current development phase as well as impacting decisions in the next Phase of development.

This talk will showcase the power of the latest seismic acquisition and imaging technologies on a major deepwater Gulf of Mexico subsalt field development.

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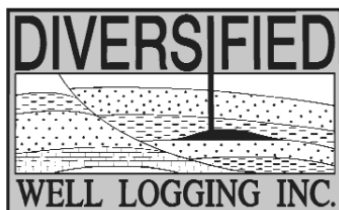


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2011 Oil History Symposium – Marietta, Ohio

Plans for 2012 - Houston

The Petroleum History Institute (PHI), in collaboration with the Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Program, held its 2011 annual symposium and field trip at historic Marietta, Ohio, on the banks of the Ohio River. Participants were treated to a wide variety of talks and poster presentations ranging from the history of oil and gas in Ohio to the many contributions to the industry from Baku. On the field trip, the group visited the Thorla-McKee Well, a salt water well drilled in 1814 that produced the first commercial oil in Ohio as well as seeing an old, but still operating, natural gas engine attached to a very large band wheel driving several pump-jacks (shackle line) – still producing Ohio crude after about 100 years, and a wonderful stop at the Parkersburg Oil and Gas Museum in Parkersburg, West Virginia. The trip ended with a tour of the Petroleum Engineering Department at Marietta College. **The next Oil History Symposium and Field Trip will be held in Houston, Texas, March 8-10, 2012.**


In the past, we have held the symposium in Oil City, PA, Long Beach, CA, Wichita, KS, Shreveport, LA, Lafayette, LA., Oil Springs, Ontario, and in WV.

Mission of PHI: To pursue the history, heritage, and development of the modern oil industry from its 1859 inception in Oil Creek Valley, Pennsylvania, to its early roots in other regions in North American and the subsequent spread throughout the world to its current global status. See the following web site for more information: www.petroleumhistory.org.

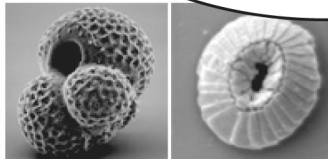
PHI also publishes a yearly journal, *Oil-Industry History*. Our membership includes geoscientists, engineers, historians, museum curators, authors, etc.

We look forward to another stimulating symposium next year at the Houston meeting, March 8-10, 2012. The abstract deadline is January 15, 2012, so start thinking about your subject and send the abstract to Bill Brice, wbrice@pitt.edu. For more information contact Jeff Spencer (spencerj320@gmail.com). Plans are to hold a meeting soon for those interested in serving on the 2012 oil history symposium committee.


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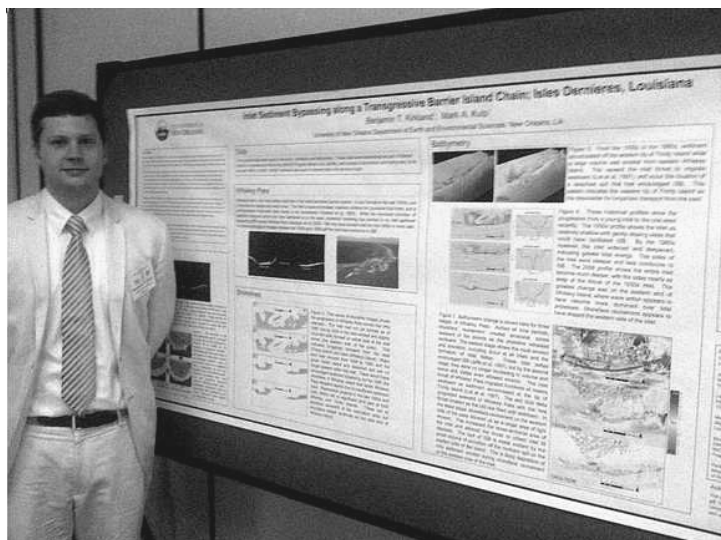
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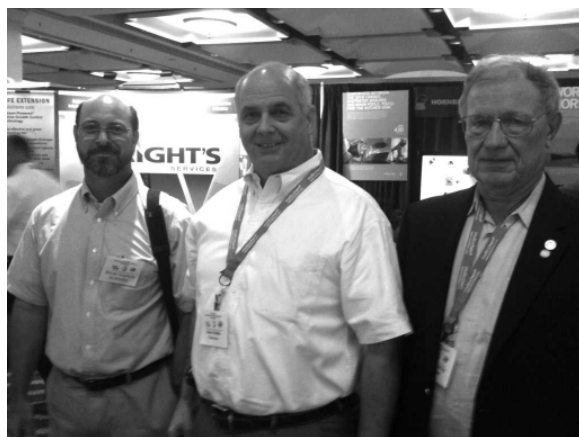
Deep Water Symposium 2011



John Dribus (Schlumberger), Rick Kear (Schlumberger) and Art Johnson (Hydrate International)



Newest NOGS member Ben Kirkland (UNO) won Second Place (student posters) for “Inlet Sediment Bypassing Along a Transgressive Barrier Island Chain: Isles Dernieres, Louisiana”



Bryan Stephens (BOEMRE), Al Melillo (Chevron) and Bill Whiting (Consultant)



Luncheon on Monday featured William Reilly, former head of the EPA and Chairman of the Presidential Oil Spill Commission. Mr. Reilly recapped the Commission findings.

More Photos From May 2011 NOGS Annual Golf Outing



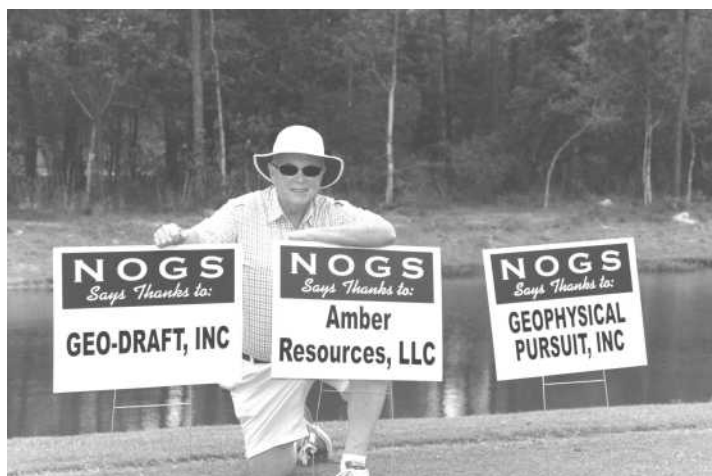
Brenda Reilly, Skip Herbert, Michelle Carrone,
Dave Cope, Jim McCarty



Roddy Norvell, Doug Cristina,
Scott Wainwright, Mike Snapp



Joe McDuff, Tim Klibert, Brad Pratt, Glenn Maxwell



Tom Klekamp



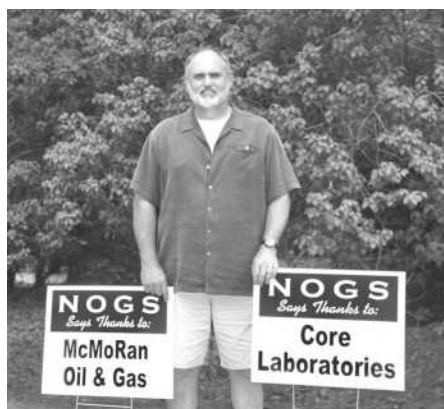
Jamie Klibert, Jan Catalano, Hank Ecroyd, Al Baker



Mike Vercher, Malloy French,
Larry Galloway, Jerry Simms



George Rhoads, Tom Klekamp



Toddy
Guidry



Richard Fossier, Larry Sears,
Toby Roesler, Bob Burnett



Roger Lindner, Hummel Killgore,
Rick Gilmore, Scott Spradley





Diversified's Ricky Klibert and Peter Millet
prepare rib eye steaks



Tim Moran, Kevin Guilbeau, Roy Lassus, Rivie Cary

*Photos courtesy of
Arthur Christensen*

Diversified Well Logging's steak dinner



Don Dubose, Scott Wandler,
Daniel Huffman, Jeff Durant



Roger Wager, Greg Hull,
Matt Wandstrat, Gary Snyder



Keith Long, Bruce Bahlinger,
Steve Freeman, Brian Daigle



Roddy Norvell, Doug Cristina,
Scott Wainwright, Mike Snapp



Michael Willis, Andy Clifford,
Mark Wojna, Harvey Kelley



Tom Klekamp, Cindi Klibert, Lisa McDuff



Roger Lindner, Hummel Killgore,
Rick Gilmore, Scott Spradley

New Orleans Geological Auxiliary News

Happy Labor Day!! What a long, hot, rainy and humid summer this has been. Hope all of you have kept cool and have had a relaxing and interesting past three months. Al and I have had an amazing time between trips to our home in the North Georgia Mountains, San Antonio to visit our son and daughter-in-law (several times) who is expecting **our** first grandbaby (please excuse me if “Beau” is all I talk about in the future; most of you will understand), and our trips to Dallas to see our son, John. I know, Jean, “The Pres” Jones has been cruising this summer and is now enjoying the Tennessee Mountains with her family from Texas and Virginia. What’s going on with you?

Now for the really interesting Auxiliary Member news; it is my pleasure and honor to brag for and on behalf of Arleen Falchook. Arleen and Marty are the proud parents of Dr. Gerald Falchook, Assistant Professor at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston. Dr. Falchook was recently interviewed by ABC News concerning his department’s research development of new drugs that target the growth of cancer. These drugs are less toxic than chemotherapy. Congratulations to the Falchook family: how proud they must be and how thankful we are to have the son of one of our members, who may be on the verge of a cure (and a miracle) for this deadly disease.

Thanks Arleen for sharing this news clip with us. The link concerning Dr. Falchook’s interview on research is. <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/CancerPreventionAndTreatment/revolutionary-drug-targets-deadly-skin-cancer/story?id=13775920>

The Board has approved the schedule for this upcoming year. So in brief, dates to remember are as follows:

September 14th – Coffee at the home of Elizabeth Furlong (invites to be mailed with further information)

November 9th – Palace Café with speaker Ronald Goyaneche

December 9th – NOGS Christmas Party, Metairie Country Club

February 8th – Chad’s Bistro with speaker Yvonne Spear Perrett

March 17th – Spring Social at the home of June and Paul Perrett

May 9th – Installation Luncheon at Ralph’s on the Park

“Thank you Luncheon” to be announced

If you are not a member of NOGA, please consider joining us. The Coffee is a relaxing time to catch up with old friends and meet new ones! We would love to have you be a part of the Auxiliary; plus the food is really, really good!

Till next month,
Susie Baker

NOGA Application Form

Dues: \$25.00

Name _____

Home Address _____

Home phone _____

Husband's Name _____

Husband's Company _____

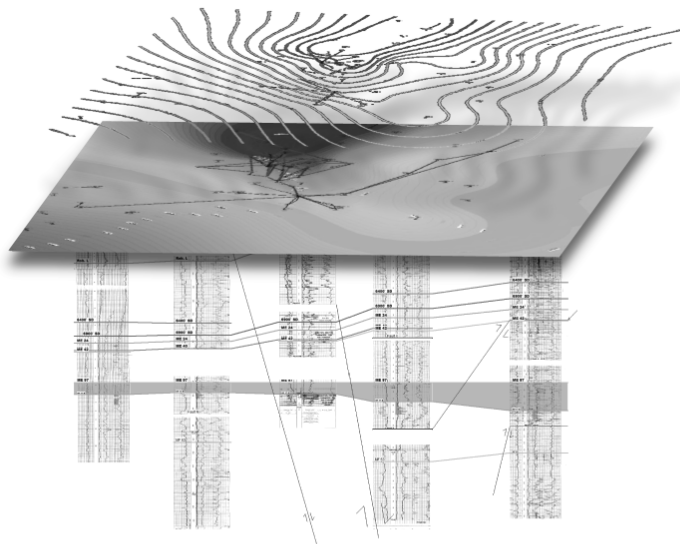
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South Louisiana and Offshore Gulf of Mexico

Exploration and Production Activities

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT, ONSHORE AREA

By Carlo C. Christina

The Office of Conservation has issued 37 new permits to drill in the Lafayette District between June 24 and July 23. Several deep tests and field extensions were permitted, and these wells are reported below.

NEW LOCATIONS

In Beauregard Parish, El Paso has permitted the #1 Olympia Minerals in **South Bancroft Field**, (A), a 15,000-foot test located in Sec. 26, 6S-13W. The proposed location is 1 mile east of the recently drilled #1 Columbia Land in Section 26, which has set casing to 13,500' and is waiting on a completion rig. (243483)

Also in Beauregard Parish, Midstates will drill in **West Gordon Field**, (B), its #1 Forestar Minerals-5 in Sec. 5, 7S-9W to a proposed depth of 14,000 feet. The proposed well is located 1 mile north and east of 3 Midstates' wells currently waiting on completion rigs. (243486)

El Paso has staked a location in **Clear Creek Field**, (C), Beauregard Parish in Sec. 8, 6S-8W. The #1 Forstar Minerals-8 will be drilled as the first Wilcox test on the northwest flank of the field. It will be drilled to a depth of 15,000 feet. (243514)

Beauregard Parish has recorded another deep Wilcox test in **South Bear Head Creek Field**, (D), with Midstates preparing location on its #1 Cooper located in Sec. 28, 6S-11W. Proposed total depth is 15,800 feet. (243524)

United World Energy will drill the #1-13 Lacassane, permitted in **North Chalkley Field**, (E), Cameron Parish in Sec. 12, 12S-6W. The well will be drilled to a depth of 17,500 feet. Although permitted in North Chalkley Field, the proposed well is located 6 miles southeast of North Chalkley Field and 2 miles northwest of Lacassane Refuge Field. (243576)

Hilcorp has permitted a 16,000' well in **West Bay Field**, (F), Plaquemines Parish, located in Sec. 26, 22S-30E. The #179 SL 192 PP is located on the northwest flank of the field and is a deep test for this flank of the structure. (243535)

In Pointe Coupee Parish, Anadarko will drill the #1-42 Lacour in Sec. 42, 3S-8E, in **Lacour Field**, (G), to a depth of 22,251 feet. The well will be drilled as a horizontal Austin Chalk well, located 1 mile west of #1 Lacour SU B, a producing chalk well, completed in 1994. (243462)

Yuma E & P has permitted the #3 Weyerhaeuser in **Beaver Dam Creek Field**, (H), St. Helena Parish. The well will be drilled in Sec. 57, 4S-4E to 15,000 feet. It is a southeast offset to the #2 Weyerhaeuser, which was completed as an oil well, extending production 1 mile southeast of the field. (243506)

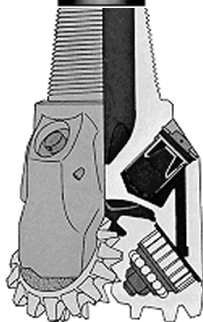
COMPLETIONS

Knight Resources has completed the #2 Brownell-Kidd and has extended production 2 miles to the northwest in the **Bayou St. Vincent Field**, (J), in Assumption Parish. The well was drilled in Sec. 12, 13S-12E, and completed in the Planulina 3 Sand, flowing 1677 MCFD and 100 BCPD through perforations 14,982 to 14,988 feet. The field was discovered in 1964 but had been off production since 2005. (242009)

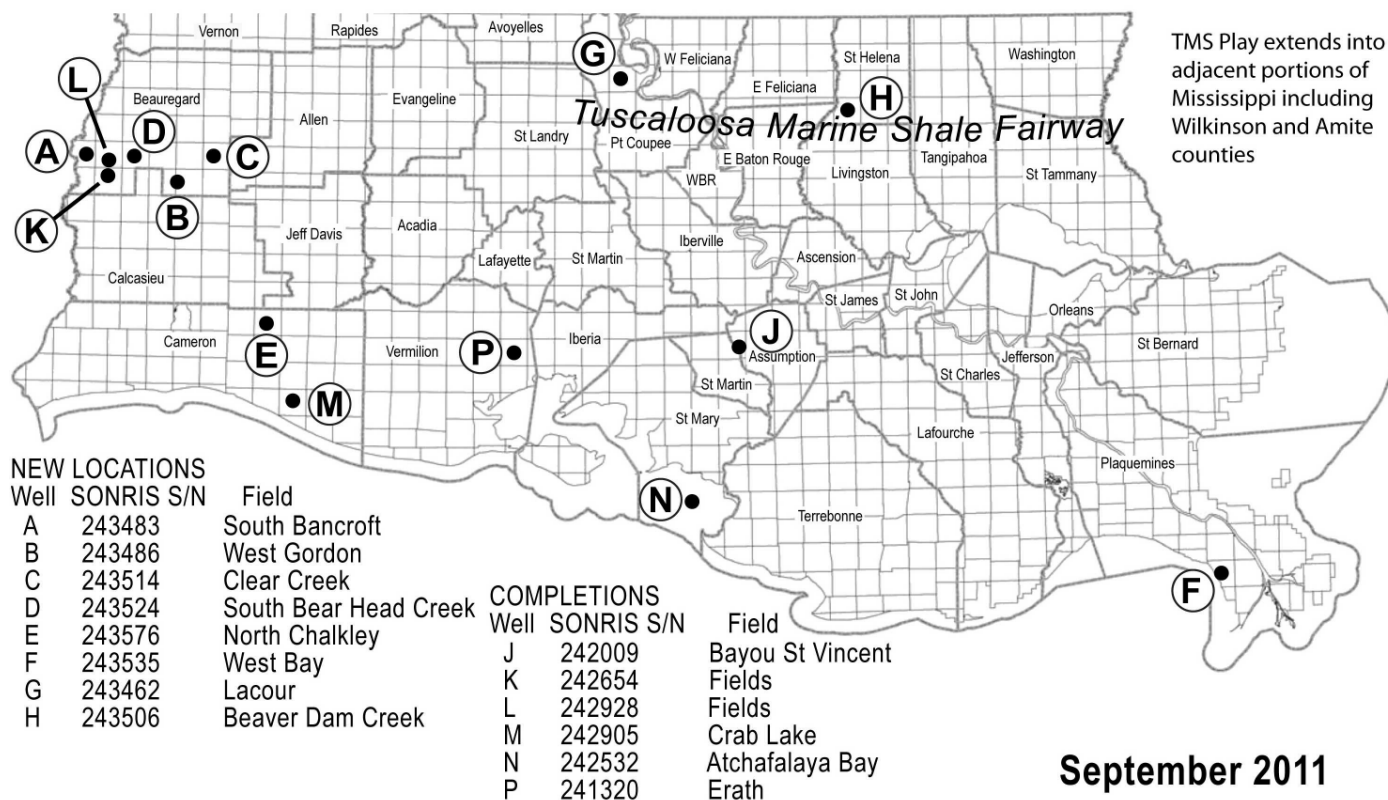
In Beauregard Parish, El Paso continues to extend production in **Fields Field**, (L), with the completion of the #1 Olympia-5, located in Sec. 5, 7S-12W. It was completed in the Lower Wilcox through perforations 12,440 to 13,486 feet, flowing 423 MCFD and 23 BDPD. This well is located 1 mile south of 3 recent Wilcox completions in the field. (242654)

The most recent completion in **Fields Field**, (K), is the El Paso #1 BP-31, located in Sec. 31, 6S-12W. (L) This well extended production 1 mile to the west and was completed flowing 2835 MCFD and 212 BCPD through perforations 12,550' to 13,698 feet. The operator has completed the 4 most recent wells through **perforated intervals of 1000 feet or more**. (242928)

In **Crab Lake Field**, (M), Cameron Parish, Smith Producing Co. has restored production with the completion of the #1 Est. of M.O. Miller, located in Sec. 20, 15S-5W. The well was drilled to a total depth of 13,805' and was completed in the Discorbis Sand, flowing 2612 MCFD and 56 BDPD through perforations 12,910 to 12,928 feet. Several pay zones were logged between 9700' and 12,900' having more than **130' net gas and 115' net oil**. The field was discovered in 1954, and more than 55 wells had been drilled in the field before going off production in 2008. As an old geologist once said, "In South Louisiana, old fields never die, you just keep drilling them." (242905)



NOGS LOG DRILL BITS — SOUTH LOUISIANA ACTIVITY MAP



Recent completions in **Atchafalaya Bay Field**, (N), in St. Mary Parish have established this area as having one of the most significant discoveries in South Louisiana in recent years. Phoenix Exploration Co. has completed 3 wells recently and is waiting to drill ahead at 19,446' after setting a liner at 18,893 feet on its latest well in the field. The most recent completion, the #2 SL 20035 was drilled to 18,934' and was completed in the Cib op 5 Sand flowing 14,535 MCGD and 25 BCPD through perforations 18,240 to 18,300 feet. The previously completed 2 wells are now producing more than 47 million cubic feet gas per day. (242532)

In Vermilion Parish, **Erath Field**, (P), Manti Exploration has completed a gas well in Sec. 33, 13S-4E. The #1 Moss was drilled to a depth of 20,225' and was completed flowing 9108 MCFD and 11 BDPD through perforations 18,511 to 18,650' in the Cris R Sand. The well was completed on June 7 and extended production 1 mile south of the field. There was no drilling in the field since 2005 although Manti had permitted this well in 2008 but allowed the permit to expire. (241320)

BITS AND PIECES

Petroquest has an apparent new discovery on its La Cantera prospect in Vermilion Parish, located in Sec. 17, 14S-5E. Electric logs indicated more than 170' of probable pay in highly resistive sand in the Cris R section. The well is now drilling in a side-tracked hole at 18,113 feet and is carried in the Bayou Hebert Field as the #1 Thibodeaux (242535)

In Cameron Parish, *Drill Bits* reported in the June issue the leasing of 11,264 acres of state water bottoms in Townships 15 and 16 South, Ranges 4 and 5 West, with total bonus of more than \$4,600,000. It has now been "rumored" that large amounts of landowners' acreage is being leased to fill in these blocks with the possibility of having very deep wells, in the range of 28,000' to 31,00', drilled in the near future.

OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO ACTIVITIES **SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES**

By Al Baker

Between June 24th and July 26th, the BOEMRE issued 66 drilling permits, of which 47 were for Gulf of Mexico shelf wells and 25 were for Gulf of Mexico deepwater wells. Current permitting statistics are still down from their historical averages. Seven of the above-mentioned shelf permits are for new wells whereas three of the deepwater permits are for new wells. The shelf new wells include one exploratory and six development wells. The shelf exploratory well permit is for the West Cameron Block 18 #J-2 well operated by Chevron. The shelf development well permits were issued to Arena Offshore for the East Cameron Block 328 #C-9 well, Dynamic

--- continued on next page ---

Drill Bits (continued from previous page)

Offshore Resources for the Eugene Island Block 307 #A-8 well, Apache for the Ship Shoal Block 258 #JB-8 and Grand Isle Block 116 #A-7 wells, Energy XXI for the Main Pass 60 #2 well and W&T Offshore for the Main Pass Block 108 #8 well. In deepwater, the exploratory permits were for Shell's Mississippi Canyon Block 348 #3 and Mississippi Canyon Block 762 #3 wells and Deep Gulf Energy's Garden Banks Block 506 #4 well.

According to ODS-Petrodata, as of July 22nd, there were 65 rigs under contract out of the 121 rigs available in the Gulf of Mexico. This represents a 53.7% utilization rate and is a decrease of two rigs under contract and one from the rig fleet when compared to last month. The rig fleet loss is a result of the mobilization of a rig to Mexico. According to documentation provided from Senator David Vitter's (R-La.) office, a total of 10 deepwater rigs have left the Gulf of Mexico since the Obama Administration imposed the moratorium on deepwater drilling in May 2010. The rigs have left for locations in Egypt, Congo, French Guiana, Liberia, Nigeria and Brazil. Compounding this rig exodus dilemma is that fact that eight other rigs that were planned for the Gulf of Mexico have also been detoured away.

The BakerHughes Rig Counts on July 22nd indicated that there were 37 active rigs, which represents 56.9% of the total rigs under contract. The 37 active rigs compares to 14 active rigs during the same time last year. This represents a 164% increase in the active rig fleet on a year-to-year basis. At the end of the 2011 second quarter, there were just 27 active rigs implying a 10 rig increase within the last four months.

On June 29th, McMoran issued a detailed press release regarding their Gulf of Mexico exploration and development activities. The most significant news was regarding their Davy Jones offset appraisal well (#2) situated in South Marsh Island Block 234. This well was drilled to a total depth of 30,546 feet, approximately two and one-half miles southwest of the Davy Jones #1 discovery well that logged 200 feet of pay in multiple Wilcox sands. In June 2011, the results from wireline logs within the Cretaceous interval indicated that the #2 well found 192 feet of potential hydrocarbons in the Tuscaloosa and Lower Cretaceous carbonate sections. Future flow testing is required to confirm the hydrocarbon-bearing nature of these sandstones and limestones. A 6-5/8 inch production liner has been set to 30,511 feet, and the well has been temporarily abandoned. McMoran is currently evaluating development options and anticipates completing the #2 well in the second quarter of 2012. In addition, McMoRan is considering updip locations in a subsequent well to further evaluate the Tuscaloosa and Lower Cretaceous carbonates on the Davy Jones structure. McMoRan claims that these potential hydrocarbon-bearing zones in the Davy Jones #2 well are the first Cretaceous sandstones and limestones encountered offshore central Louisiana in the Gulf of Mexico.

Still there is no announcement from the BOEMRE regarding anticipated dates for future lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico. However, public comment meetings regarding the Central Gulf of Mexico, OCS Sales 216/222 are scheduled for August 2nd in New Orleans, August 9th in Houston and August 11th in Mobile. It is anticipated that OCS Sales 216/222 will be held in the Spring of 2012.

TUSCALOOSA MARINE SHALE SPECIAL REPORT

The **Tuscaloosa Marine Shale** has been the target of several horizontal wells in the past 3 years. Encore Operating Limited has drilled 4 wells, 2 in Louisiana and 2 wells in Mississippi,

In East Feliciana Parish Encore re-established production in **Richland Plantation Field** with the #1 Richland Plantation. It was drilled in Sec. 69, 1S-2E to a total depth of 16,209' in a 3720 foot horizontal hole and completed through the interval 13,850 to 15,900 feet. Completed and producing since May, 2008 it has produced 10,162 barrels of oil in 27 months.

In St. Helena Parish Encore's #1 Weyerhaeuser was completed as the discovery, well for the **North Chipola Field** in November, 2008. It was drilled in Sec.60 1S-4E to a depth of 17,032' in a 5200 foot horizontal hole. It was completed through perforations 14,750 to 16,703' flowing 323 BOPD. Total production is 26,365 barrels of oil in 22 months.

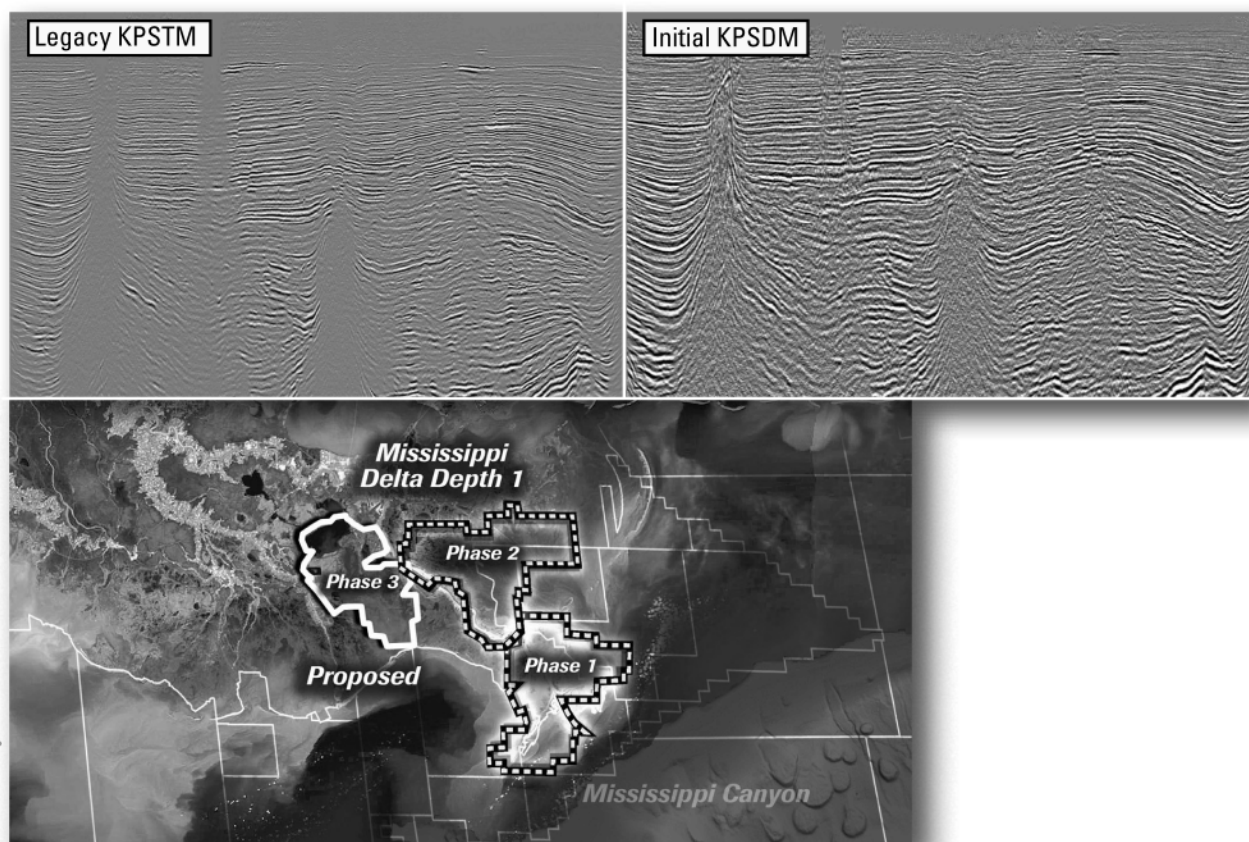
In Mississippi, Encore drilled and completed the #1 Joe Jackson in the depleted **West Enterprise Field**. The #1 Jackson, located in Sec. 4, 2N-3E, was drilled to a depth of 16,643' and completed in the Marine Shale in December 2007. The well has produced 25,819 barrels of oil in 33 months.

In Amite County, Encore drilled the #1 Board of Education in Sec. 16 1N-5E to a total depth of TD 16,500, (TVD 11,992'), in a 3200' horizontal lateral hole. Completed in December, 2008, no perforations were reported and no production.

The TMS section lies between the sands of the upper & lower Tus. Many wells drilled during the 1960s and 1970s reported significant mud log oil shows while drilling this section and in cores. In 1978, Texas Pacific Oil Co. drilled the #1 Blades in Sec. 42, T1S-R8E and perforated a 572' interval from 11,072' to 11,644'.

The above mentioned Encore wells, drilled in 2007, 2008 and 2009, were drilled at a time when technology had caught up with science, and the price of oil peaked at \$145 in mid-2008. It has averaged more than \$80 per barrel since then, and is quoted at \$85 on November 18.

Improved depth imaging in the Mississippi Delta



In the Mississippi Delta region, WesternGeco is utilizing state-of-the-art processing designed to eliminate fault shadows and enhance deep imaging. The Mississippi Delta - Depth 1 survey, now in progress, incorporates the processing and remigration of twelve legacy surveys covering 1,855 square miles. High-quality time imaging using relative amplitude anisotropic Kirchhoff prestack time migration will be followed by improved structural imaging utilizing anisotropic Kirchhoff prestack depth migration.

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This article was published on *Rigzone*, August 12 2011. I thought this was an interesting read because of the impact it may have on our industry. I entered the oil and gas industry five years ago, and this was a major issue. Due to the downturn in the economy, this mass exodus of employees seems to have been delayed.

Barbara Saunders -Rigzone- "The Great Crew Change: 'Wolf Cries' or Reality?" http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?hpf=1&a_id=110134

For more than a decade, the Great Crew Change has generated deep concern among many – and skepticism among some – in the oil and natural gas industry.

Much like the old story about the boy who cried "wolf" so many times that nobody would listen when the wolf finally was at the door, statistics confirm that the post-World War II "baby boom" generation is at the retirement door.

What remains to be seen is how well the industry on the whole heeded the "wolf cries" to usher in a well-trained new generation of both technical professionals and rig labor, the two areas of greatest perceived need.

Are We There Yet?

Although there is some controversy about whether the Great Crew Change will be all that sweeping, the age statistics are indeed alarming. According to Pete Stark, VP of industry relations for IHS, the peak age for oil and gas technical personnel has risen from 43 in the year 2000 to 50 in 2006. The peak age is expected to be 60 in 2012.

Another way of looking at the situation is about half of the industry will be retiring within the next 10 years. Retirements in progress mean that "the big crew change is happening now and will be mostly over in five years," according to a 2011 study by Schlumberger Business Consulting. The study projects that by 2014, the inflow of younger petro-technical professionals (PTPs) will be only about 17,000, compared with roughly 22,000 experienced PTPs who are expected to leave by then, for a net shortfall of 5,000.

Other key findings of the study included:

Demand for graduates is recovering and outpacing the pessimistic forecasts of a year ago. Recruitment targets for technical staff in 2011 are 15 percent higher than levels planned in 2009. National oil companies (NOCs), independents and majors all plan to intensify recruitment efforts from 2011 onwards.

Universities appear to be on track to provide the oil and gas industry with sufficient graduates in geosciences and petroleum engineering, but supply from "quality universities will remain tight."

Recruitment targets for PTPs in mid-career are soaring, with NOCs and majors reporting the highest rates of increase. "The labor market for experienced PTPs will be tight over the next three years, resulting in the poaching of staff, salary escalation and higher attrition rates," the study said, continuing: "These staffing issues will have serious consequences on projects and production capacity. Companies contributing to the 2010 survey reported that staffing issues will delay projects and may drive decision makers to take more risk."

Mentoring Key

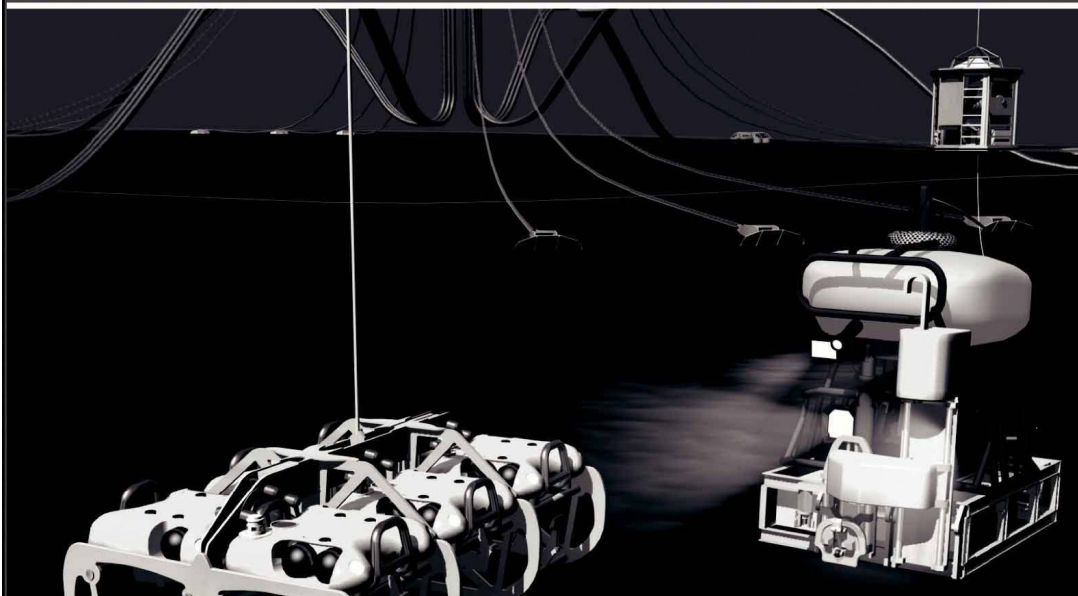
Meanwhile, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) teamed with the recruiting firm Working Smart in a survey this past May of technical oil company professionals age 55 and over. Of those who responded, the average intended retirement age was 65, with only 23 percent seeking to work beyond retirement age.

Many respondents felt that mentoring younger staff is a key factor in reducing adverse effects of the great crew change. The survey showed that 77 percent of respondents were currently mentoring younger staff.

Mario Carminatti, exploration manager for Brazil's national oil company Petrobras, told an industry conference that 42 percent of the company's geologists and geophysicists have less than five years of experience. "We are countering this by increasing the number of senior geoscientists and even retired professionals who operate as mentors to the younger generation," Carminatti said.

J. Ford Brett, managing director of PetroSkills, says that the price tag could be in the tens of billions for having less experienced technical personnel. If the looming demographics result in approximately 20 percent of the industry's personnel having fewer than five years' experience, Brett calculates that it's reasonable to expect a 20 percent reduction in performance across the board. "To put this into focus, in 2006 the industry spent about U.S. \$170 billion on E&P. A 20 percent reduction in performance correlates with an economic cost of approximately U.S. \$35 billion," Brett stated in an article for the Society of Petroleum Engineers' Talent & Technology publication.

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NOGS July Luncheon and Awards



Rick Kear with his award of a gavel for his 2010-2011 service as president of NOGS



Speaker David Garner receiving a piece of the rock from Bob Hafner



Carlo Christina left of Charley Corona are presented with Special President's Award for their leadership in spearheading the committee to compile and produce NOGS new publication "Oil and Gas Fields of South Louisiana, 2010"



Rick Kear presenting to Eric Zimmermann the Vice President Award for 2010-2011

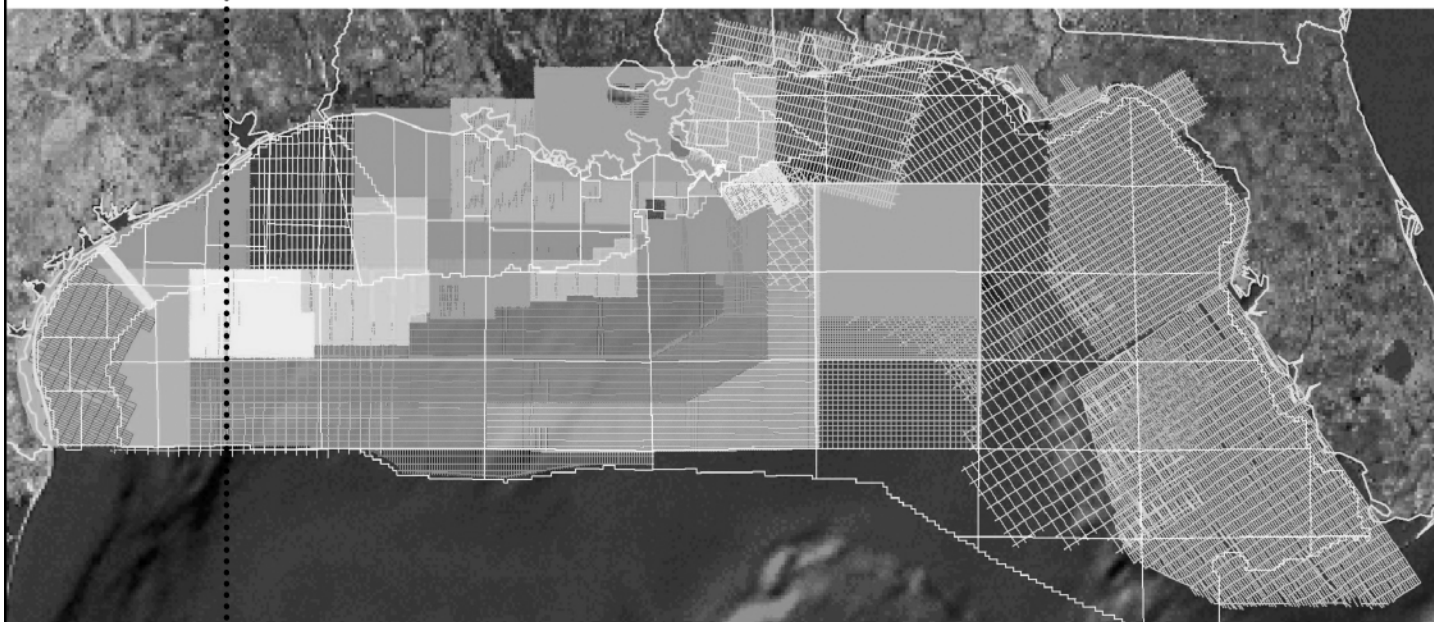


Bob Hafner presents Tim Klibert with the Outstanding Service Award



Tom Bergeon is presented with Honorary Lifetime Membership. Rick Kear at the Podium and Mike Fein Awards Chairman in background.

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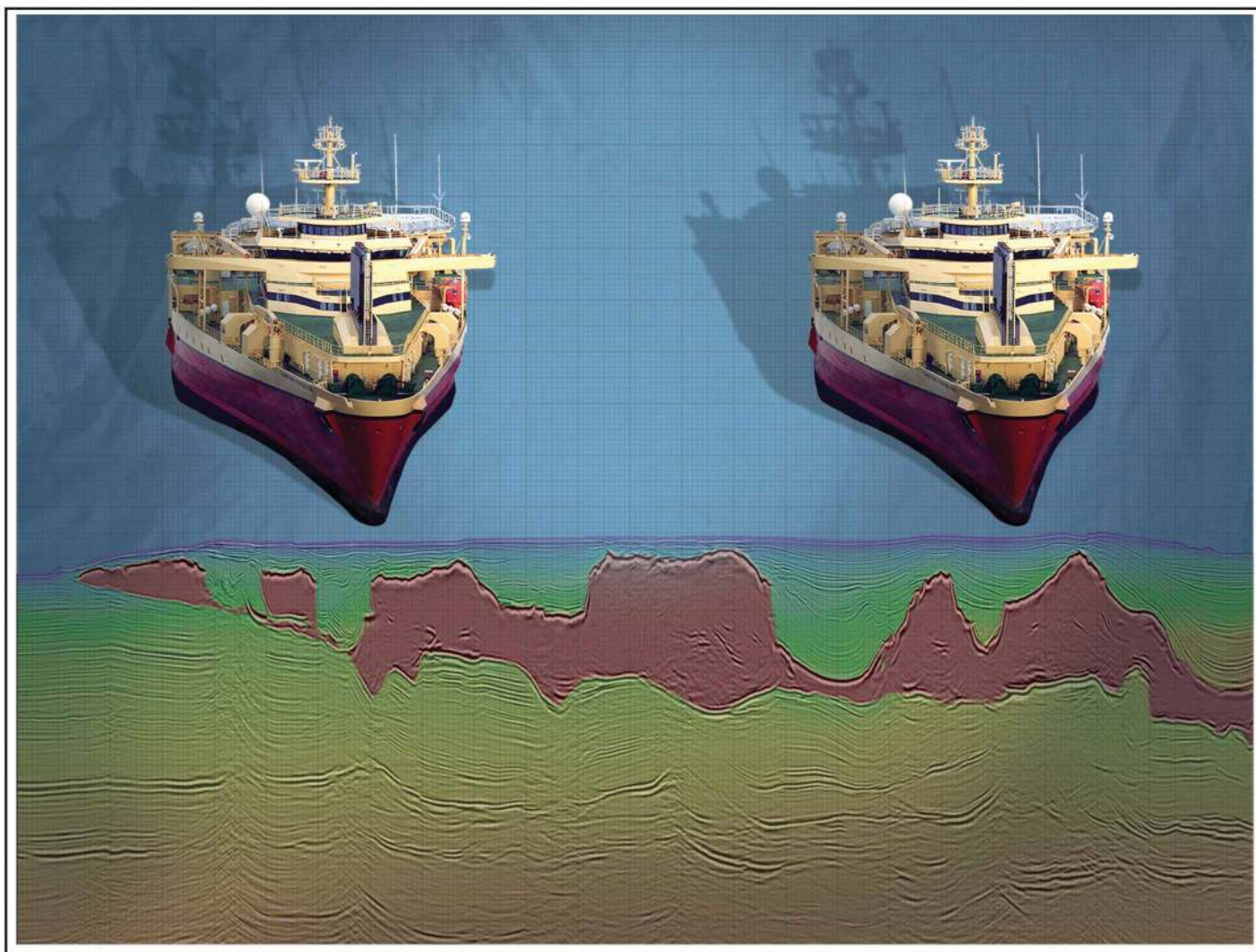
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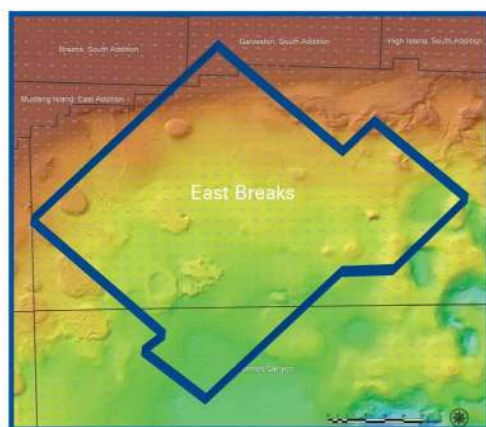
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