

Pacific Petroleum Geologist

NEWSLETTER



Pacific Section • American Association of Petroleum Geologists

March & April • 2008

Adding Reserves Through Collaboration, Innovation, And Technology Transfer

SPE Western Regional and Pacific Section AAPG Joint Meeting

31 March–2 April 2008
Bakersfield, California, USA



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Pacific Petroleum Geologist NEWSLETTER



Pacific Section • American Association of Petroleum Geologists

March & April • 2008

2007 - 2008 OFFICERS

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THIS ISSUE

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SPE Western Region Society of Engineers and
Pacific Section American Association of
Petroleum Geologists

Technical Sessions March 31 through April 2, 2008
Bakersfield, California





Message from the President Jon Kuespert

Welcome to my last message before the **SPE Western Regional and Pacific Section AAPG Joint Meeting** on Saturday, March 29, 2008 to Saturday, April 05, 2008 at the Bakersfield Holiday Inn Select Conference Center. The technical sessions are lined up, the speakers are getting prepared, the field trip buses will be warmed up, and the hotels are ready. Some of the sessions are:

PRODUCTION ENGINEERING USING STRATIGRAPHY,
SEDIMENTOLOGY, AND GEOCHEMISTRY TO UNRAVEL
THE GEOLOGIC HISTORY OF THE SOUTHWESTERN
CORDILLERA: A SYMPOSIUM IN HONOR OF
PATRICK L. ABBOTT PACIFIC SECTION REGIONAL
GEOSCIENCES RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT

SEISMIC CASE HISTORIES AND INTERPRETATION
TECHNIQUES/NEW ADVANCES IN SEISMIC
ACQUISITION METHODS

RESERVOIR ENGINEERING

GEOLOGY OF THE PALOS VERDES PENINSULA:
DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF JOHN D. COOPER
CALIFORNIA OIL FIELDS CASE HISTORIES
DRILLING

We are looking for a great Joint Convention. The schedule appears very well rounded and filled with many interesting talks, three neat field trips, and three great short courses. Let's not forget the Condor's hockey game and the luncheons. We also have over 25 sponsors waiting to fill the exhibit area. To find out more and to register please go to our website, www.PSAAPG.org.

And, it is **PSAAPG ELECTION**-time !!! Please vote. This is our Section and we want to know what direction you want us to go. We have a slate of great candidates who want to make our Section better by spending their time for YOU!!! Please spend your time and vote.

The **Imperial Barrel Award** is in full swing. The two PSAAPG schools, the University of Alaska – Fairbanks, and San Diego State University will have a Geo-showdown on Friday March 14th in Bakersfield. The two schools are vying for the right to represent the PSAAPG in San Antonio

at the National Convention in April. And we are looking for volunteer judges for Bakersfield. If you would like to volunteer or can suggest somebody else (always a risk to my saying that!), please contact our PSAAPG coordinator, Morgan Sullivan of Chevron, at morgansullivan@chevron.com. We want to grow this award program so volunteers are appreciated.

The next big convention is the **National AAPG** in San Antonio from April 20-23, 2008. The technical slate looks really good, the field trips are wonderful, and the venue is great. I encourage all of you to visit a National Convention at least once in your career.

I want to remind you that we are still working on a **PSAAPG education initiative**. This is a multi-year project that I hope can help us bring in more geo-interested youth to fill our ranks in the future. Several other programs are designed to help meet that goal; including the Teacher of the Year (TOTY run by Sandra Szymanski at Chevron, SandraSzymanski@chevron.com), and a PSAAPG committee set up to look into options that will provide us both an immediate and a long-term impact (led by Kurt Neher of Occidental, kurt_neher@oxy.com, and Karen Blake of PXP, kblake@pxp.com).

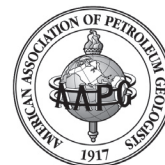
The **NATIONAL AAPG Elections** are approaching. One of our own, Kay Pitts of AERA, is running for Treasurer. When you see Kay at the Bakersfield convention please wish her luck and also give her your voting support at election time.

It is almost Spring, and that means field trips (the picture above is me in Towsley Canyon near Castaic doing some geo-wandering). The Los Angeles Basin Geological Society field trip to Laguna Beach is set up for Sunday, March 16th. See www.labgs.org for more details

One issue that is not going away is the need for **Society insurance**. The PSAAPG ExCom has not resolved this situation. So in the meantime, please be safe when you climb on rocks, bang boulders for samples, or backup in a bus near a precipice. I would like to see you on the next event! Thanks, and have a wonderful convention!

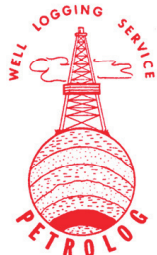
Jon

AAPG Imperial Barrel Award Program



THE 2ND ANNUAL AAPG IMPERIAL BARREL AWARD COMPETITION (IBA) is now underway and San Diego State University and University of Alaska, Fairbanks are competing to determine which university will represent the Pacific Section in the final competition at the AAPG National Meeting in San Antonio, April 20-23, 2008. For those of you who are not familiar with the IBA program it started in 1976 as the 'Barrel Award' which was part of the MSc Petroleum Geoscience program at Imperial College, London. Originally it focused on the North Sea and interpretations were made on paper copies of well-logs and seismic lines using color pencils. Today, the IBA is a global competition between graduate-level students from universities located all over the world and it uses the latest technology to provide students with a unique learning experience using data sets from basins around the world. The student teams complete a technical assessment of the basin's petroleum potential, define leads/prospects, and recommend a "drill" or "no drill" plan for future exploration. Each team delivers their results in a 30 minute presentation to a panel of judges consisting of industry experts. As our two teams hail from the far ends of the Pacific Section area we plan to hold the runoff competition via video conference on Friday, March 14 at Chevron's office in Bakersfield where all the PSAAPG judges can gather. We are seeking judges with a diversity of backgrounds and expertise in geology, geophysics, economics, and business. We seek representatives from small independents and majors, working in exploration, development, etc. who can give critical suggestions to help our PSAAPG representative do well in San Antonio.

If you are interested in being a judge please contact Morgan Sullivan of Chevron, the Pacific Section coordinator for the AAPG Imperial Barrel Award Program, at morgansullivan@chevron.com, or (832) 854-6997.



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TOTAL IMMERSION GEOLOGISTS

Total immersion geologists: Are you totally obsessed with geology? If so, then you are a total immersion geologist. Here are the ten warning signs:

- 1) You judge a restaurant by the type of decorative building stone they use rather than their food.
- 2) You manage to turn any conversation into a discussion of geology, as in:
 “What did you think of that Superbowl game last night?”
 “I must have missed that conference. Who sponsored it? Geological Society of America?”
- 3) The only thing you notice about attractive members of the opposite sex is the stone in their jewelry.
- 4) You refuse to let nightfall stop your field excursions and continue looking at the outcrops using the headlights of your field vehicle.
- 5) You like rock music only because it’s called “rock” music.
- 6) You will try to claw through the water flowing in a stream to get a better look at the bedrock at the base of the channel.
- 7) You will walk across eight lanes of freeway traffic to see if the outcrop on the other side of the highway is the same type of rock as the side you’re parked on.
- 8) You name your children after rocks and minerals.
- 9) You’re not sure if you have children.
- 10) You view non-geologists as subhuman.



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SCOTT T. HECTOR

Work History

1974-1977 Geologist, Texaco Inc. (San Joaquin Basin)
 1977-1978 Staff Geologist, Carlsberg Petroleum (California, Belize)
 1978-1979 District Geologist, Great Basins Petroleum (California)
 1979-1981 Staff Geologist, Champlin Petroleum (Offshore California)
 1981-1987 District Geologist, MCOR Oil and Gas, MCOR Geothermal (Paradox Basin, The Geysers, North Dakota, Mid-Continent, Galveston Bay, Wyoming)
 1987-1989 Consulting Geologist (mudlogging, Baker Oil & Gas, La Honda field)
 1989-1994 Vice President, North Valley Oil & Gas (Sacramento Basin)
 1994-2000 Geologist, Gary Drilling Company (Sacramento & San Joaquin Basins)
 2000-2002 Exploration and Development Manager, Gotland Oil (Sacramento Basin)
 2002-2005 Senior Explorationist, Carneros Energy (San Joaquin Basin)
 2005-Present Partner, Hobby Energy (Sacramento Basin)

Education

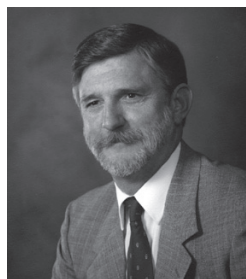
BS Geology, University of California at Davis, 1972
 California Registered Geologist # 03682 (received 1981)
 On State Board Examination Committee 1990-2003

Society Memberships

Geological Society of America
 National SPE
 National SEG
 National AAPG
 Sacramento Petroleum Association (SPA)
 San Joaquin Geological Society
 Pacific Section AAPG

Society Service:

1997-Present Monthly Contributor, Sacramento Petroleum Association (SPA) Newsletter
 1997-2000 President, SPA
 1996 Vice President, SPA
 1992 Speakers Bureau Assistant and Student Awards Coordinator, Pacific Section AAPG annual convention, Sacramento



JOHN A. MINCH, Ph.D.

Work History

2003-Present – Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
 - Dibblee Map Editor, working on Publishing of Dibblee Geologic maps – Published 300 maps of 350 quadrangles in last three years.
 1974-Present – John Minch & Associates, Inc. – Principal of Environmental Services consulting company. Hundreds of environmental projects and reports
 1972-1995 – Saddleback College – Professor of Geology – Teaching geology, various years as Department Head.

Education

B.A. [1964] and a M.S. [1966] in geology from San Diego State University
 PhD [1972] in geology and paleontology from the University of California, Riverside Professional Geologist, State of California #3269

Society Memberships

- PACKSEC AAPG [35 years], Honorary Life member
- Geological Society of America [40 years]
- Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists [40 years],
- Sociedad Geologia Peninsular, Founding
- Secretary, Honorary Life member
- Coast Geological Society

Society Service

National AAPG service has included: General Chairman of the 1996 National Convention, San Diego, CA; Member of House of Delegates,
 1995-1997; Member of House of Delegates,
 2004 to 2007; Member of Ad Hoc Committee on Sections,
 2004-2007; Member of AAPG Advisory Council [PACSEC representative]; Chair-elect of AC Officer Nomination Committee; Associate Editor E&P Bulletin; Annual participation in AAPG leadership conference.
 Pacific Section AAPG service has included: General Chairman of the 1974 Convention in San Diego, CA; General Chairman of the 1984 Convention in San Diego, CA; service over years on other convention Past-President of Coast Geological Society committees; Treasurer, Secretary, President,



BRYAN BELL

Present Position

Regional Manager, Core Laboratories, Bakersfield, CA

Education

1976: BA, Cal State University East Bay

Work History

1978-1982: Core Lab, Assistant Lab Supervisor, Bakersfield CA

1982-1986: Core Lab, Lab Supervisor, Santa Maria CA

1986-1988: Core Lab, Lab Manager, Bakersfield CA

1988-2003: Goode Core Analysis, Owner, Bakersfield, CA

2003-Present: Core Lab Regional Manager, Bakersfield, CA

Professional Activities

Held various positions in the following societies

Member of SJGS, SPE, SCA, SJWLS



DONALD D. MILLER

Work History

2007-2008, Oxy/Vintage Production CA, Bakersfield/Ventura, Geologist for Ventura Basin

2007, Bankers Petroleum, Camarillo, Exploration Geologist, gas shale plays

2005-2006, BreitBurn Energy, Los Angeles, Geologist for LA Basin and Santa Maria Basin

1997-2005, Aera Energy, Bakersfield, Production Geologist, Belridge, Lost Hills, Midway-Sunset fields.

1979-1996, Mobil Oil Corporation, Denver and Bakersfield, Exploration and Production Geologist for Mid-Continent, Rocky Mountains, and California.

Education

BA Geology, The Colorado College, 1976

MS Geology, University of Illinois, 1979

Ph.D. Geology, Stanford University, 1999

Society Service

- Pacific Section AAPG Secretary, 2007-2008
- AAPG National Meeting, Technical Program Committee, Poster Program Co-chair, 2007
- AAPG National Meeting, Technical Program, Session Chair, 2007
- Pacific Section AAPG Technical Program Co-chair, 2000 and 2004
- Pacific Section AAPG-SPE Session Chair, 2003
- SEG Pacific Section Guest Speaker, 2000
- Vice President, San Joaquin Geological Society, 1999



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KAREN BLAKE

Work History

2005 – Present: Geologist, Plains Exploration & Production, Bakersfield
2003 – 2005: Geologic technician, Plains Exploration & Production, Los Angeles
2002 – 2003: Geophysical Analyst, Paulsson Geophysical Services, Brea
2000 – 2002: Geologic technician, Berry Petroleum, Bakersfield
1997 – 2002: Geologic technician, OXY, Bakersfield & Houston

Education:

1993: B.S. in Geology from Sam Houston State University
1990: A.A. in Computer & Information Science from North Harris County College
M.S. Candidate in Geology at California State University, Bakersfield

Professional Activities

AAPG Public Outreach Committee member, 2008
Vice President, Pacific Section AAPG, 2007-2008
Editor-in-Chief, Pacific Section AAPG, 2005-present
Distinguished Mentor GSA Cordilleran Section Meeting, May 2006
Secretary, Pacific Section AAPG, 2004-2005
AAPG House of Delegates member for LABGS, 2004-2005
HoD's Rules and Procedures Committee member, 2005
HoD's Nomination Committee, 2004
Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (#5936)



ROBERT L. COUNTRYMAN

Work History

2001-present: Geological Advisor, Occidental Oil Co., Bakersfield.
1999-2000: Consulting Geologist; Bakersfield.
1987-1998: Development/EOR Geologist; Chevron USA, Bakersfield.
1984-1987: Stratigrapher, Venezuela Task Force, Chevron Overseas Petroleum.
1979-1984: Development Geology Supervisor/ Geologist Gulf Oil Co. Bakersfield.
1977-1979: Research Geophysicist; UCLA, South Pole, Antarctica.
1973-1976: Industrial Minerals Geologist; Tenneco Oil Co., Nevada.

Education

1973: CA State University, Northridge, B.S. Geology
1977: University of CA, Los Angeles, M.S. Geology

Professional Accreditation

California Registered Geologist # 4868
AAPG Certified Petroleum Geologist # 5786

Society Memberships

Member: National AAPG
Member: PacSec AAPG

Society Service

AAPG Activities:

AAPG House Of Delegates member; representing the SJGS, 1991-2006.
- AAPG HOD Distinguished Member of the House awarded 2003.
- Vice-Chairman, AAPG HOD, 1996-97.
- Extensive HOD Committee activity.
AAPG Advisory Council Member; 1997-2000.
AAPG Secretary, 2003-2005.
AAPG Certificate of Merit; 1995, 1999 & 2003.
AAPG Certificate of Appreciation; 2003.
AAPG Distinguished Service Award; 2001.
Participant on numerous AAPG committees

PACSEC AAPG & SJGS Activities:

2000-Awarded Honorary Membership to PS-AAPG.
1998-Present: Secretary & Trustee PS-AAPG Foundation.
President/President-elect, PS-AAPG, 1993-95.
Vice-President PS-AAPG, 1992-93; Secretary PS-AAPG, 1990-91.
President/Pres. Elect SJGS 1984-86; Vice President, SJGS 1983-84.
Participant on numerous PS-AAPG committees & conventions

During the February 2008 monthly Sacramento Petroleum Association meeting, Roland Bain presented "Review of Drilling Activity and Highlights in the Sacramento Valley for 2007".

A handout is available via e-mail (.pdf) by contacting Pam Ceccarelli at pceccare@consrv.ca.gov or call 916-322-1110.

MICHELLE GLASCOCK

Work History

2003 – Present Aera Energy, LLC – Geologist in Belridge and Lost Hills Light Oil properties.
1999 – 2003 Aera Energy, LLC & Occidental - Consulting Geologist, Ventura Ave. Field
1997 – 1999 Landmark (Halliburton) – Mobil/Aera Energy, LLC - On-site Geological Consultant
1995 – 1997 Petrophysical Solutions, Inc – Petrophysical consultant
1984 – 1995 Conoco, Inc., Houston, TX – Formation Evaluation Geologist for Domestic/International Exploration and Gulf of Mexico Field Studies.
1982 – 1984 Oklahoma Geological Survey, Norman, OK

Education

1985 BS Geology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

Society Membership

SJGS-PSAAPG
SPWLA
Society Service
2005-2007 Vice President, SJGS

DONNA THOMPSON

Work History

1982-1985 – Gulf Oil Exploration & Production Company – Bakersfield - Petroleum Geophysicist: Exploration geologist/geophysicist for projects in Santa Maria and San Joaquin basins, California.
1985-1988 – Chevron USA – Bakersfield - Area Geologist: Development geologist for fields in San Joaquin basin, California.
1988 – Present – San Joaquin Energy Consultants, Inc. – Senior Geologist (1988 - 1994); Vice-President (1994 - 1997); President/Owner (1997 - Present): Supervising Geologist for geologic projects and economic evaluations in California.

Education

BS Geology, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California – 1982.

Professional Accreditation

California Professional Geologist No. 5347
California Certified Hydrogeologist No. HG 241

Professional Service

Technical Advisory Committee for California State Board for

Pacific Section AAPG - Candidates for Secretary

KATHLEEN J. MILLER

Work History

2004-Present – Chevron USA, Bakersfield - Geologist. Development Geologist for San Joaquin Basin.

Education

BS Geophysical Engineering, Montana Tech of the University of Montana, Butte Montana - 2003.
MS Geophysical Engineering, Montana Tech of the University of Montana, Butte Montana - 2004.

Society Membership

San Joaquin Geological Society (SJGS)



BRYAN JOLLEY

Present Position

Petroleum Geologist, Aera Energy L.L.C.

Employment

1979 - 1983: Geologist, Shell Oil Company, New Orleans, Louisiana
1983 – present: Development Geologist, Shell and Aera Energy, LLC, Bakersfield, CA

Education

B.S. Degree in Geological Engineering, 1978, Brigham Young University

2008 Los Angeles Basin Geological Society Field Trip
Neogene Extensional Tectonics and Sedimentation,
Coastal Southern California.

Sunday, March 16, 2008 RESCHEDULED !!!!

Field Trip Leaders:

Mark Legg (Legg Geophysical)

Richard Behl (California State University Long Beach)



This field trip will visit coastal exposures of Miocene and younger extensional faults, syn-rift sediments and intrusives (San Onofre Breccia, Monterey Formation, dacitic and andesitic dikes) and post-rift sediments (Capistrano Formation) that were deposited in the newly formed tectonic troughs. Discussions at San Onofre State Beach, Dana Point, and Laguna Beach will be based upon excellent coastal outcrops and recently acquired multichannel seismic reflection profiles and high-resolution bathymetric data from the adjacent offshore continental borderland.



Although developed within the transform framework of the Pacific-North American plate boundary, an extreme extensional component was critical to the development of southern California's Neogene basins. Miocene transtension gave way to Pliocene and younger transpression as the plate boundary shifted inland to the San Andreas fault with its major restraining bend, and the Transverse Ranges rotated clockwise within the predominant northwest-trending right-slip transform motion vector. The evolving structure of the Neogene basins and troughs controlled the distribution of basin-fill as sedimentation increased during the late Miocene to Pliocene. Structural inversion of Miocene extensional basins in the late Neogene-Quaternary resulted in the formation of most of the major oil and gas fields in southern California.

Professional: \$100

Students and Retirees: \$40 (limit of first 5)

Please make reservations with: LABGS Vice President / Program Chair: Bill Long,

Email: Bill_Long@oxy.com

Office Phone: 562-624-325

Trip departure from CSULB, more details to follow.



Bill Normark passed quietly away on Saturday, January 12th, 2008, at home with his wife, D.J. at his side, following a 7-year fight against cancer. Bill was an Emeritus scientist with USGS. He is particularly well known for his work on the character and depositional patterns of turbidite fan deposits. He co-authored some 30 papers about the architecture, sediment type, and growth patterns of fan deposits.

Bill was involved in many groundbreaking scientific discoveries. During his graduate student years, he worked with Fred Spiess of Scripps, on bathymetric and magnetic mapping. Bill's research included working with the Jet Propulsion Lab/NASA on digital deep-sea mapping, and lithogenic processes.

Bill was aboard the submersible Alvin in 1979 when the first hydrothermal black-smoker vents were discovered. Unaware of the intense heat of the fluid, the pilot drove through the smoke, and only afterward, when the vent melted the temperature probe at 350° C, did they realize that they had put themselves at risk. Bill led the early 1980s USGS program on hydrothermal- mineral deposits on ocean-spreading centers.

During the GLORIA [Geological Long-Range Inclined ASDIC] side-scan sonar-mapping program of the entire U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone, Bill led the effort for the Hawaiian Islands in 1986. Working with colleagues, they identified gigantic submarine debris-avalanches -some of the largest mass failures on Earth. - The sheer scale of these failures suggests major tsunami potential on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Between 1988 and 1995, Bill served the USGS as Western Regional Associate Chief Scientist and as the first Regional Geologist (acting). He was the Joint Oceanographic Institutions/U.S. Science Advisory Committee's Distinguished Lecturer for 1995/96. During his career, he served on editorial boards, including *Geology*, the *Journal of Sedimentary Petrology* (now *Journal of Sedimentary Research*), *Marine Geodesy*, and the *Giornale di Geologia*. He spent 6 months observing the Geological Survey of Canada at the Chief Geologist's behest in order to learn how GSC's regional structure could be adapted to the USGS.

In 1996, Bill returned to research within the Coastal and Marine Geology Team to concentrate on sediment and contaminants between the coastal zone and the deep sea and offshore hazards in southern California. He found

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Bill wanted to be remembered, in part, for his relationship with the Geological Survey of Canada and mentoring of many international and local graduate students, particularly at Stanford University.

They called him “The Walrus.” With a thick handlebar mustache he meticulously maintained for more than 40 years - without the help of wax - Bill Normark only slightly resembled the distinctive marine mammal.

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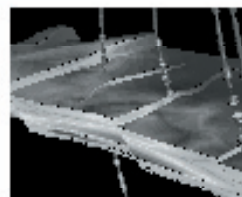
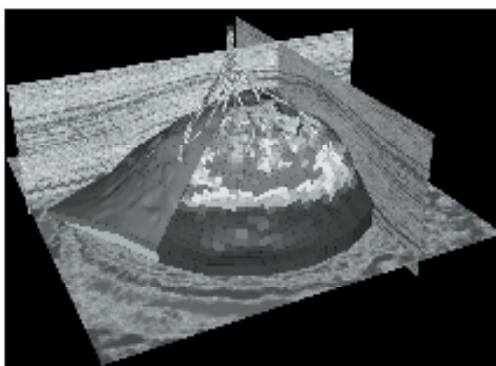
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HOW I BECAME A GEOLOGIST

My personal geo-history is probably very similar to that of many other geologists of my generation. I had a series of wonderful family and professional mentors who encouraged me to study geology. What follows is part of my life's journey that helped bring me to where I am.

My geologic start was definitely unforeseen as I was the born in Delaware to a chemical engineer and a house engineer, both from the upper Midwest. Early on I was surrounded by chemical, nuclear and mechanical engineers on my paternal side, and by insurance agents and small businessmen on the maternal, without either side having a single earth-science inclination.

My interest started early. In the 4th grade I started my rock and mineral collection by finding samples in the local Delaware-Pennsylvania-Maryland-New Jersey area. When I was about twelve I joined the Delaware Mineralogical Society and annually entered my growing mineral collection. Having a traveling father helped my collection. My mineral collection grew as my father traveled to Europe, Australia and South America on business trips. In about the 7th grade, for a social studies class project, I built a model oil derrick in a desert, and wrote a report on the oil & gas industry in the Middle East. In the 8th grade I had an enthusiastic science teacher, Mr. Simmons, who was into mineral and fossil collecting, and he had a great fluorescent rock collection. During this time I also got to know Dr. Peter Leavens at the University of Delaware - Newark. Dr. Leavens encouraged my mineral collecting and was a big supporter when I later applied for undergraduate and graduate programs.

Location was very important. Delaware is located halfway between the Smithsonian Museum in DC and the Museum of Natural History in NY, so weekend forays could include fun stops for me. I loved seeing the mineral

collections, especially the fluorescent and rare gem sections (including the Hope diamond). I also frequented Bey's Rock Shop in Allentown, PA for lessons on how to build a mineral collection from a treasure trove of piled minerals without any sense of organization. Jim Bey would travel the world, buy minerals and rocks in bulk, and then haul them to an old barn in the middle of upstate Pennsylvania. My patient father would take me to Bey's, and then disappear for hours at a time while I made my selections.

My family loved to travel and explore. We would take big western vacations in an Oldsmobile Vista Cruiser station wagon and visit the National Parks such as Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce, Yosemite, Yellowstone, and Glacier. While on those trips we would stop off so I could collect petrified wood in Arizona, Dugway geodes in Utah, thundereggs in Oregon, and snowflake obsidian in California. I can remember one trip in which we had so many rocks in the Vista Cruiser that the car shocks were ruined by the time we made it back to the East Coast!!

The next big step was a formal education. At Duke I started taking economic classes, #1 major back then, but quickly became bored with the "dismal science" and started taking geology classes in a catch-up mode. My geology advisor was Dr. Orrin Pilkey, probably the best coastal geology professor you could ever have. Dr. Pilkey was full of energy and loved wandering the North Carolina Outer Banks with his students, seeing barrier island morphology up close, catching wild goats for his home menagerie, and eating oysters at a hole-in-the-wall shack outside of Wilmington, North Carolina. At Duke I spent three years as a declared economics major, but also concurrently took all the geology requirements for a BS degree, including geomorphology (Dr. Duncan Herron), mineralogy (Dr. Bill Furbish), paleontology (Dr. Since Duke had no summer field camp I went to UTEP for my field geology experience in the Franklin Mountains near El Paso Texas. After camp I wandered the Western U.S. and visited several prospective graduate schools along the Pacific Coast, including USC and Stanford.

And then there was applying to graduate school in the booming early '80's. While most of my classmates were going to work in the "patch" for Texaco, Amoco or Mobil in New Orleans, several of us wanted advanced degrees. I chose Stanford for its remote-sensing program with Dr. Ron Lyons. On my trip to the West Coast at the Harris Ranch gas station near Coalinga I asked the attendant "where the oilfields were?" (a fortuitous

question). I was told by the attendant that Kettleman North Dome was the nearby large hill to the southwest of where we stood and had lots of oil wells. At Stanford I chose as one on my advisors Dr. Stephen Graham. When I first met Steve he was sorting/cleaning/rifling through his office. I started hanging out with Steve's graduate students, and going on his death-march field trips through California hills to see among other things his great White Whale . . . Monterey outcrops. When I found that I needed a funding sponsor to continue my graduate education, I switched into Steve's program to become a full-time oil & gas guy. My MS thesis area became the sub-surface Temblor at Kettleman North Dome, in the same area that I had stopped in to get gas several months before!!

I graduated from Stanford in '83 with an MS in Petroleum Geology, and went to work at Chevron in Concord as a development geologist working familiar ground, the Westside of the San Joaquin basin. My professional life in the oil patch did not deter my mineral collecting. While working at Chevron I continued to collect minerals, and on two of my vacations I was in Western Australia and Tasmania buying specimens for my collection. My goal of visiting all 50 states was achieved on one of these forays by visiting Hawaii.

Times were a changing in the oil patch. Over next nine years Chevron assimilated Gulf and moved people several times. I moved to Bakersfield for development work and then to San Ramon for my exploration stint in the Sacramento Valley and Alaska. Then I moved back to Bakersfield to work the Stevens zone at Elk Hills.

After almost 10 years with Chevron I decided to focus on more of the economic side of the patch and "took early retirement" from my Golden Empire digs to greener (?) pastures in Southern California for my fulltime MBA at UCLA. As the only oil & gas person in my business school program I hooked up with several energy entrepreneurs, graduated in '94, spent several years as an independent consultant, worked on the Elk Hills sale in '95-97, and then later several other slightly smaller project, moved in and out of Bakersfield, moved back to Los Angeles, and joined BreitBurn Energy in Los Angeles in 2001.

In 2004 I finally fell hard for love (at the ripe age of 44), and married a lovely Hawaiian women who knew nothing about geology, but did indulge me by going to see volcanoes erupting "red rock" on the Big Island (the

picture above is the warning the NPS gives to the lay people at the flow site!). She also has a retired jeweler father who has a personal collection of minerals and gems.

Such was my geology path from the "First State" to the "Golden State" and how I became a geologist!

Jon

Jon Kuespert

PSAAPG - President

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House Passes Higher Education Bill

On February 7, 2008 the House passed the College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007 (H.R. 4137) with little acrimony and only a few amendments. The measure is essentially a re-authorization of the Higher Education Act with some significant perks for science and engineering. Many of the amendments dealt with the cost of tuition and operating expenses of institutions. Amendments to monitor the effect and cost of regulation on institutions, require institutions to set benchmarks on tuition, require reports on how endowments are used to reduce costs and require institutions to provide non-binding estimates of tuition costs were adopted.

The major enhancements in the bill would provide more support for students majoring in science or engineering disciplines, for students training to be K-12 teachers to receive more education in science and engineering and for additional science and engineering training for teachers who are already in the classrooms. This support would come from more scholarships, more fellowships and more partnerships between science and engineering schools at universities and K-12 teacher training programs. Additional support is specified for minorities and women who are majoring in fields where these groups are underrepresented.

These measures are important for the geoscience community because they provide more support for geoscience students, more opportunities for minorities in the geosciences, more geoscience training for education students and more opportunities to provide current K-12 teachers with a better background in the geosciences.

Another key component to note is that the committee defined the geosciences as a physical science in the House report for this bill (Report 110-500). Under the Byrd Scholarship section, the committee indicated that the scholarships should go to students majoring in the physical, life and computer sciences. It then defined the physical sciences as “the branch of knowledge or study of the material universe, including such fields of knowledge or study as astronomy, atmospheric sciences, chemistry, earth sciences, ocean sciences, physics, and planetary sciences.”

This is an important and useful distinction because the President’s American Competitiveness Initiative calls for a doubling of federal funding for research in the physical sciences, but does not include any of the geosciences or space sciences in their interpretation of physical sciences. The American Geological Institute and many geoscience societies as well as members of the geoscience community have been advocating for a doubling of federal funding for the geosciences as part of any competitiveness initiative. Geoscience research is essential for competitiveness, economic growth, energy resources, water resources, climate change, hazard mitigation, risk assessment, environmental and ecosystem health, effective land use, agriculture, mineral resources and many other critical issues of national importance.

Key Federal Register Notices

DOI- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is amending its regulations at 43 CFR part 3130 pertaining to oil and gas resources in the National Petroleum Reserve--Alaska (NPR-A). The rule makes oil and gas administrative procedures in NPR-A consistent with Section 347 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The rule amends the administrative procedures for the efficient transfer, consolidation, segregation, suspension, and unitization of Federal leases in the NPR-A. The rule also changes the way the BLM processes lease renewals, lease extensions, lease expirations, lease agreements, exploration incentives, lease consolidations, and termination of administration for conveyed lands in the NPR-A. Finally, the rule makes the NPR-A regulation on additional bonding consistent with the regulations that apply outside of the NPR-A. This rule is effective March 5, 2008. [Federal Register: February 4, 2008 (Volume 73, Number 23)]

DOI- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) requests public nominations for the BLM Resource Advisory Councils (RACs) that have member terms expiring this year. The RACs provide advice and recommendations to BLM on land use planning and management of the public lands within their geographic areas. The BLM will consider public nominations for 45 days after the publication date of this notice. Send all nominations to the appropriate BLM State Office by no later than April 14, 2008. [Federal Register: February 28, 2008 (Volume 73, Number 40)]

Alaska Geological Society

www.alaskageology.org

P. O. Box 101288
Anchorage, AK 99510

Contact: Robert Blodgett
907-786-7416



Luncheon meetings are held monthly September through May, usually on the third Thursday of the month, at the Anchorage Hilton (500 W. 3rd Avenue) from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$18 for members with reservations; no reservations add \$5; non-members add \$2. For reservations, call the AGS reservation voice mail at 907-258-9059 or contact **David Hite** at hiteconsult@acsalaska.net by noon on Monday before the meeting.

2008 - 2008 Officers

President

Robert B. Blodgett

rblodgett@usgs.gov

Coast Geological Society

www.coastgeologicalsociety.org

P. O. Box 3055
Ventura, CA 93006

Contact: Shaun Simon
805-495-2197



Dinner meetings are held monthly September through June, usually on the third Tuesday of the month, at Biedermann Hall at Sacred Heart Church - 10800 Henderson Road in Ventura. Social hour starts at 6:00 p.m., dinner is served at 7:00 p.m., and the talk starts at 8:00 p.m. The cost of dinner is \$18 (with reservations), \$25 (without reservations), or \$10 (students and K-12 teachers); the talk is free. For reservations, please email Christine White at cwhite@dcorllc.com or make reservations online at www.coastgeologicalsociety.org. Reservations should be made by 4:00 p.m. on Friday before the meeting.

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Los Angeles Basin Geological Society

www.labgs.org

515 So. Flower St., St. 4800
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Contact: Jon Kuespert
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Luncheon meetings are held monthly September through November and January through June, usually on the third or fourth Thursday of the month, in the Monarch Room at The Grande at Willow Street Conference Centre (4101 E. Willow Street) in Long Beach. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m., and the talk starts at 12:15 p.m. The cost is \$20 (with reservations), \$25 (without reservations), or students are free. Reservations can be made online at www.labgs.org or by contacting **Marieke Gaudet** at Marieke_Gaudet@oxy.com or (562) 624-3364. Reservations must be made prior to Tuesday before the meeting.

March 27th: Dr. Ken Peters of the USGS "LA Basin Geochemistry"

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Portland, OR 97228-6679

Contact: James Jackson
503-771-3887



Luncheon meetings are held monthly September through May, usually on the second Friday of the month, at the Multnomah Athletic Club (1849 SW. Salmon Street) in Portland. Meeting time is at 7:30 - 9:00 am. The cost is \$15. For information or reservations, contact **Shelley Thomas** at 503-848-2947 or **Treck Cardwell** at 503-226-4211 ext. 4681.

Northern California Geological Society 9 Bramblewood Court
www.ncgeolsoc.org Danville, CA 94506-1130

Contact: Barb Matzw
Barbara.Matz@shawgrp.com



Evening meetings are held monthly September through May, usually on the last Wednesday of the month, at the Masonic Center (9 Altarinda Road) in Orinda. Social hour starts at 6:30 p.m., and the talk starts at 7:00 p.m. (no dinner). For reservations, leave your name and phone number at (925) 424-3669, or at danday94@pacbell.net before the meeting. Cost is \$5 per regular member; \$1 per student member.

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Sacramento Petroleum Association

P. O. Box 571
Sacramento, CA 95812-0571

Contact: Rick Blake
925-422-9910



Luncheon meetings are held monthly January through November, on the third Wednesday of the month at the Hungry Hunter Restaurant (450 Bercut Drive) in Sacramento. The meetings starts at noon. The cost is \$18-\$20. For information or reservations, contact **Pam Ceccarelli** at 916-322-1110 or pceccare@consvr.ca.gov. If you would like to make a presentation at a monthly meeting contact Rick Blake at 925-422-9910.

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San Joaquin Geological Society
www.sjgs.com

P. O. Box 1056
Bakersfield, CA 93302

Contact: Rob Negrini
rnegrini@csu.edu



Dinner meetings are held monthly October through June, usually on the second Tuesday of the month, at the American Legion Hall (2020 H Street) in Bakersfield. The icebreaker starts at 6:00 p.m., dinner is served at 7:00 p.m., and the talk starts at 8:00 p.m. The cost of dinner is \$20 (with reservations) or \$23 (without reservations); the talk is free. For reservations, contact **Janet AcAlee** at jmcallee@pxp.com or (661) 395-5438.

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