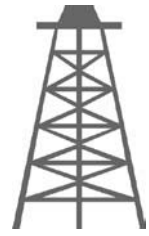




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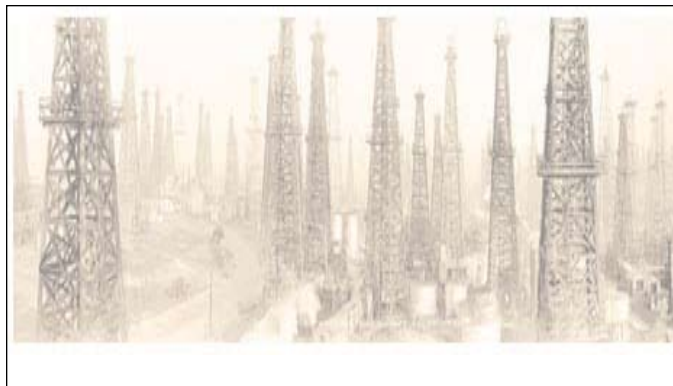
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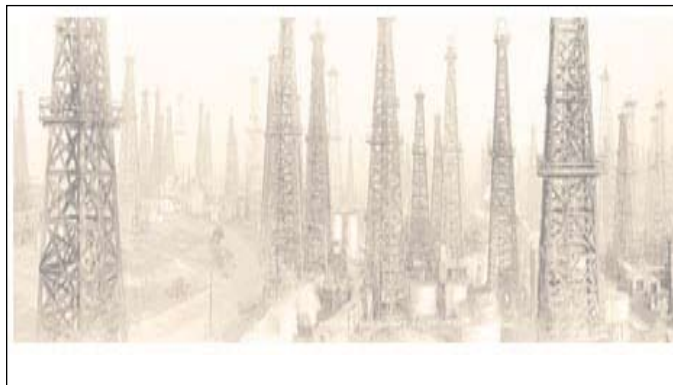
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An approximate-color image taken shortly after Phoenix's landing on Sunday shows a polygonal pattern in the ground near the spacecraft. The geometric cracks are likely caused by the repeated freezing and thawing of buried ice.

NASA/University of Arizona



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT JON KUESPERT

The PSAAPG had a great Joint Convention in Bakersfield. Roy Burlingame (PSAAPG) and Joyce Holtzclaw (SPE) did a wonderful job of leading their volunteers forward to plan and execute a great meeting with good talks, fun activities, and great trips (*the picture above is me on the Fracture field trip at Vandenburg AFB after the Convention. There is a bit of an optical illusion involved! Of course I have been your president for almost one year).* The final registration was over 750 and the Holiday Inn Select was hopping.

The National AAPG in San Antonio from April 20-23, 2008 was terrific. I heard that almost 8,000 attended. San Antonio is a great place for a meeting. Everything was convenient. The Riverwalk is a unique destination, and there are certainly a lot of fun restaurants along the walk. It was also Fiesta Week in San Antonio so the parades were ubiquitous and the hospitality was high. The technical talks were really good (lots of shale). I heard that the field trips were wonderful, and the venue was great. I like the way the convention center is laid out, it made for an easy time in getting around. I know that I had a great time, I imagine that most others did too.

The Imperial Barrel Award competition also moved on to San Antonio. Unfortunately, the PSAAPG representative school, SDSU, led by Professor Rob Mellors, did not make it out of the first-round, however, they had a great time and carried lots of enthusiasm for next year. The eventual winner was the University of Oklahoma. Congrats to all the teams.

I want to remind you that we are still working on the PSAAPG education initiative.

We have some great ideas coming out, but more are needed. This is a multi-year project that I hope can bring in more geo-interested youth to fill our future ranks. Several other programs are put together for that, including the Teacher of the Year (TOTY run by Sandra Szymanski at Chevron, [SandraSzymanski@chevron.com](mailto: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](mailto:kurt_neher@oxy.com), and Karen Blake of Hobby Energy, [karen@hobbyenergy.com](mailto:karen@hobbyenergy.com)).

The PACIFIC SECTION AAPG elections are here. We have a great PSAAPG slate of people who want to make our Section even stronger (ballots are in the mail). One of our own, Kay Pitts of AERA, just won the national AAPG Treasurer (voting is closed). Kay needs our future support .

**PLEASE VOTE !!!**

One issue that is not going away is the need for Society insurance. The topic was brought up in San Antonio at the Section meeting. National AAPG promised that this issue was being looked at, data was being collected, and they also admitted that PSAAPG was the most vocal about the situation. In the meantime please continue to be safe when you climb on rocks, bang boulders for samples, or backup a bus near a precipice (Don Clarke take note). *I would like to see you on the next event!*

Thanks, and have a great spring !

Jon



Have you ever wondered how other geologists got where they are? And what they did along the way?


My early years were spent trying to survive in the gangland atmosphere north of MacArthur Park in LA and later in South El Monte. I left [was kicked out of] high school early and finished my high school equivalent at 17. I decided that the only way out of the ghetto was to go to college. I was the first of my family to go to college and it took 15 years of classes and work to earn my Ph.D.

It was decided by others that I should go into engineering which was the hot career at that time. Geology was the furthest thing from my mind. After nearly two years of math, physics, and chemistry I knew that I would never be an engineer. One bright spot was a drafting course in descriptive geometry that taught me to visualize in three dimensions.

Thanks to GE requirements at Pasadena City College I was forced to take a lab science. The lesser of many evils seemed to be a course in geology. I immediately fell in love with geology and the young lady sitting next to me. I married both. The next semester I signed up for historical, mineralogy, and paleontology and left all thoughts of an engineering career behind me.

I went on San Diego State College where I soon found that geology was not a hot career in the early 60s and oil company summer jobs were non-existent. I was lucky that Professor Gordon Gastil received an NSF grant to provide student work experience in geology and set off with a number of students, including me, to map the geology of the state of Baja California. What an eye opener! I knew then that field geology would be a major part of my career.

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In 1964 there were only two oil company summer jobs offered to students. I was hired to work for Magnolia Petroleum in Texas; interesting but not my cup of Texas Tea. To work in geology you needed a Master's degree so I went into the MS program. I was still uncertain of my specialty beyond field geology and sedimentation-stratigraphy. I mapped part of the City of Tijuana for my Master's thesis. Without a Topo map I used the open TJ sewer as a level line for sections.

After turning down an oil company offer on the North Slope I went into college teaching for two years before going back to school for a Ph.D. I finished all of the requirements for the degree except the dissertation in one year. I was then forced to take a year of vertebrate paleontology and an additional course in paleontology. What a stroke of Luck!

I went back into Community College teaching because I love teaching and it provided time to continue my research and publishing. I continued my work in Baja and published more than 80 books, guides, papers, and abstracts including a popular Roadside Geology & Biology guidebook. I also participated in AAPG Society affairs serving on a number of committees and as General Chairman of the 1974 and 1984 PSAAPG meetings and the 1996 National AAPG meeting in San Diego. I won the Levorson Award for one of my talks and was made a Honorary Member of the PSAAPG. I served on the House of Delegates and am currently on the national Advisory Council and running for President-Elect of the PSAAPG.

At Saddleback College I developed a career in paleontologic consulting in the urban environment which became, and still is, a major part of my income. I was on TV around the world twice. I also initiated a program of introductory geology field classes. Over 20 years I was paid to climb Mt. Whitney 9 times, hike most of the John Muir Trail, every trail in Yosemite, bottom of Grand Canyon 26 times and every National Park and Monument in the western states many times. My class was at the 1991 eclipse of the Sun in Baja California.

In between all of this I built houses in Mexico, China and Japan and imported Tequila and wine from Mexico. I retired [from teaching not geology] early to run my consulting corporation which had become more interesting and lucrative and to spend more time in Baja with my Mexican corporation.

Several years ago I was given the opportunity to work with Tom Dibblee as the map editor and set about bringing his more than 500 geologic quadrangle maps to publication. Working with Tom and my son Jason, we are producing full color digital maps of all of Tom's quads. In the last three years we have finished all of his over 300 - 7.5 minute quads. Later this year we expect to finish the rest of his 81 - 15 minute maps, something no one has ever done.

Geology is a fascinating occupation that one lives at, not works at. How do you retire from something that you love to do? At a time when most people are retiring I am ramping up to do more. The corporation is about to expand and Baja calls. The road is always smoother on the other side of the rut is the title of my next Baja book.





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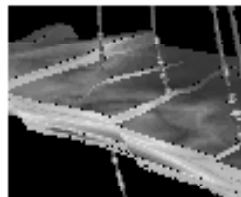
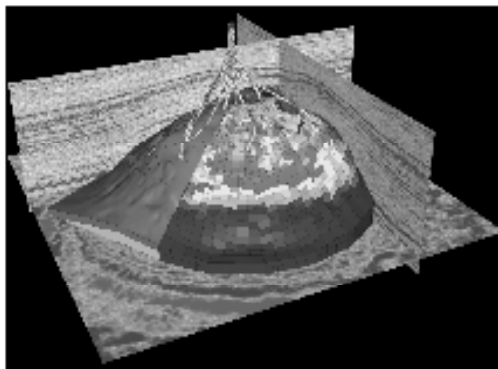
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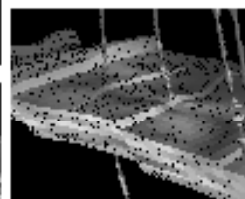


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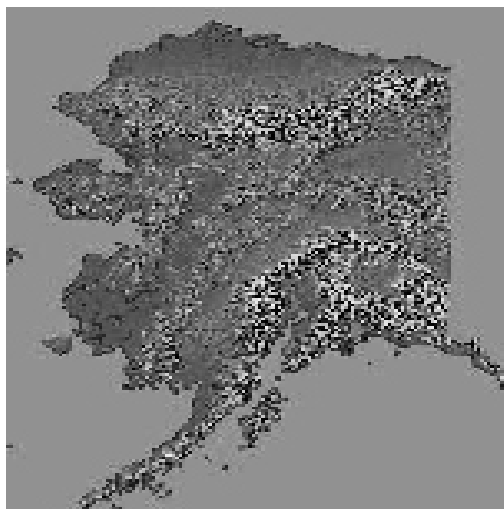
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It's hard to believe it's been 40 years since the discovery of the largest oil and gas field in US history. This event was recently celebrated at the 2008 AGS Technical Conference held at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage, Alaska on April 17, 2008. As a newcomer to the oil industry in Alaska, it was fascinating for me to hear the trials, tribulations and humorous anecdotes from those that made it happen. On hand were Gil Mul, John Sweet, Tom Marshall and Marv Mangus who were part of the ARCO exploration team responsible for the discovery. Harry Jamieson, who was ARCO's Alaska District Manager at the time, was also scheduled to speak but could not attend. His presentation was delivered by Gil Mul. The opening remarks were delivered by former governor Walter Hickel. His role was key to convincing Congress to open the North Slope to exploration. I think we could use his help today!

The morning was spent reviewing the history of exploration in Alaska and particularly the early mapping work conducted by the USGS. This laid the groundwork for major oil companies like ARCO and Humble to follow. Talks were given by Gil Mul, Tom Marshall and John Sweet about this history, from the early 1900's to the subsequent discovery of Prudhoe Bay in March 1968.

The afternoon featured a talk by Robert Swenson, Alaska State Geologist, about the influence of the discovery on the geologic studies conducted by the Division of Geologic and Geophysical Surveys (DGGS). The afternoon session wrapped up with presentations on Prudhoe Bay's economic impact to Alaska, a review of current operations and an excellent poster session.

It was a privilege to be able to attend this historic event.

If you're interested there is a book coming out in June of this year written by John Sweet about the discovery of Prudhoe Bay.

Here's the link: <http://sweetjohnm.homestead.com/index.html>

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My parents lived and worked in the suburbs on the west side of Chicago. Every few years the gravel driveway to the garage in the back yard was re-graveled with a very coarse, chunky limestone. The limestone contained trilobites and other fossils that I learned to identify. In the seventh grade – age 13 – I announced that I wanted to be a geologist and work outdoors. My boyhood hero was Roy Chapman Andrews – AKA Indiana Jones. He brought back the dinosaur eggs (I think they were Triceratops) from the Gobi Desert. I saw the eggs on display at the Field Museum in Chicago – my favorite destination along with the Chicago Art Museum and the Museum of Science and Industry whenever I could go into the city on my own. I could get to the Brookfield Zoo on the west side of the city on my bike. I was that kind of a kid. But I was sold – this was the thing to

do. Geology is what I wanted to do. This is the why of my becoming a geologist. How, was a lot more difficult.

I applied to Northwestern University in Evanston Illinois, on the north side of Chicago. I heard they had a good Geology department, the school was in the Big Ten and famous and I could get to the campus on the ‘L’ (elevated train) with stops at Dempster, Davis, Foster and Noyes. Two and a half hours on the ‘L’ – each way. Money saved from summer jobs (69-cents-an-hour plus OT) plus the War Bonds I had accumulated in a defense plant when I was in high school paid the \$450 tuition. I was accepted at NU (Go you NU-rah-rah-rah!) and became a “twenty per center”. The twenty percent of the 1947 freshman class that was fresh out of high school. The eighty



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percent was fresh out of World War Two, and motivated. Some of them were eight years older than I was! I was ‘the kid’ in almost every class. My first chemistry lab partner (P51 pilot – Europe and Japan) asked to be paired with a German exchange student (FW190 pilot, Italy, France and das homeland) because he could not relate to ‘the kid’. No hard feelings but I was – ‘the kid’.

I had a great summer (1950) job in Northern Minnesota while I was at Northwestern. I became a member of a geophysical crew looking for the absence of magnetic anomalies in the search for Taconite (iron silicate – a non magnetic iron ore). Again, I was ‘the kid’. One cool summer day I was the instrument “man”. The Hotchkiss Super Dip Meter was fragile for a field instrument having sapphire bearings. It refused to operate in the afternoon that was almost my last on the job, erratic as heck! I was the instrument man – I broke the dip meter! My goose was cooked. That night (to be my last on that job) I decided that before packing up my gear and going home I would see a movie – just didn’t want to think about it. I looked up and knew that I had not broken the vertical magnetic field instrument. It was the largest aurora borealis recorded up to that time. A magnetic field like no other. Damming the chiggers that live in Minnesota grass I lay out on the lawn all night, and watched the show, meteors that shot through the luminous veils of energy would pull a cone shaped fragment of the veil with them. What a show! It looked like paper thin curtains of pure plasma, huge magnetic waves; my Brunton compass was going crazy! The next day I asked how many others had seen the display that night? No one? I did not resign; there was nothing wrong with the instrument! I asked for the magnetic data we had recorded because we would at least have a record of the strength of the aurora borealis field. They had thrown it away because I had “broken” the instrument. I was, however, no longer ‘the kid’. The year 1950 was a good one for me – not for the country.

After graduation with a BS in Geology in 1951 and a stint in the Army Corps of Engineers

during the Korean police action, I earned the GI bill (not as good as World War Two – I guess that is what happens when you don’t win). Graduate School at Washington State College in Pullman Washington was a disaster for the writer. One of the thesis members got a summer job with the Humble Oil Company in Montana and didn’t show up the day of my final oral. I was informed that I had the option to come back next year, at the same time, to take the oral. In the meantime I had two job offers from the same company to start a career in California. I took one of the jobs. My GI bill had run out and I had a job as an engineer trainee for the Tidewater Associated Oil Company and I reported, June 11, 1957, to the office in Ventura, California. After five years as a trainee, landslide expert (another story), trainee again and as a petroleum engineer, the company (Getty by this time) converted some of the geology degree engineers back to being geologists by creating a development geology group. I had become a geologist! Wow! Crazy! Only one problem, there are no fossils on an electric log.



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Photograph by E. Klett on 27 January 1994;  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

May 16, 2008

Contact: Sharon Wilson, 907-271-4418

### BLM-Alaska Releases Supplemental Final Plan for Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska

In a plan released today, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced that it would make land available for leasing in the Northeast portion of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) that could yield nearly 3 billion barrels of oil, equaling one quarter of the oil produced over the last 31 years by North America's largest oilfield in Prudhoe Bay. The lands could also provide trillions of cubic feet of gas for shipment to North American markets through gas pipelines currently in the planning stages.

The BLM would not open 219,000 acres of Teshekpuk Lake and its islands to oil and gas leasing according to the preferred alternative selected by the agency in its Supplemental Final Integrated Activity Plan/Environment Impact Statement (IAP/EIS). The plan's preferred alternative would also defer leasing for 10 years on 430,000 acres north and east of Teshekpuk Lake that are currently unavailable for leasing.

"This plan provides a balanced approach to energy development and wildlife protection, and forms a solid basis for the Bureau of Land Management to proceed with an oil and gas lease sale later this year," said Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne.

The BLM expects to hold a lease sale this fall for available portions of the Northeast area, as well as portions of the Northwest planning area.

North Slope Borough Mayor Edward Itta expressed support for the plan's deferral of acreage near Teshekpuk Lake. "BLM listened to local communities and it made the plan better," Itta said. "The lease sale can proceed while one of the region's most sensitive wildlife habitats will be protected. It's a win-win." BLM-Alaska State Director Tom Lonnie agreed, saying, "We appreciate the collaboration of Mayor Itta and the North Slope Borough in the development of this plan. Their input will assist the BLM in the management of these important lands."

"The strength of this improved and updated plan is its ability to adapt new information and new technology through its performance-based requirements," said Lonnie. "We know that the Northeast area has significant oil and gas reserves that are important to our country, but we also recognize the importance of protecting the area's wildlife values."

The plan includes protections for the polar bear, including requirements to consider impacts on areas used by the polar bears for denning. Additionally, with the listing of the polar bear earlier this week, the agency will continue to work closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on future oil and gas activities.

The supplemental final plan for Northeast NPR-A updates information in the 2005 Northeast NPR-A Amended Environmental Impact Statement. The BLM began developing the supplement in December 2006 in response to a September 25, 2006, U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska decision that the 2005 Northeast NPR-A Amended Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) failed to adequately address cumulative impacts. The Notice of Availability announcing the release of the plan will be published in the Federal Register later this month.

The Northeast Draft Supplement, released for public comment in August 2007, presented essentially the same alternatives as the Amended IAP/EIS. After considering public comments on the draft Supplement, the BLM modified and selected Alternative D as the preferred alternative in its final plan. The BLM expects to issue a Record of Decision by mid-summer. The Supplemental Final IAP/EIS for the Northeast NPR-A can be reached through a link on the BLM-Alaska's home page at [www.blm.gov/ak](http://www.blm.gov/ak).

The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is in 12 Western states, including 80.8 million surface acres in Alaska. The Bureau also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on the public lands.

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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.

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Secretary	Jen Flight	jennifer.flight@bp.com

## Coast Geological Society

www.coastgeologicalsociety.org

P. O. Box 3055  
Ventura, CA 93006

Contact: Bob Ballog  
805.498.6294



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.

*Officers:*

President	Bob Ballog	president@coastgeologicalsociety.org
Past-President	Dr. John Minch	pastpresident@coastgeologicalsociety.org
Vice-President	Bill Bilodeau	vicepresident@coastgeologicalsociety.org
Secretary	Christine White	secretary@coastgeologicalsociety.org
Treasurer	Muriel Norton	treasurer@coastgeologicalsociety.org

## Los Angeles Basin Geological Society

515 So. Flower Street, Ste 4800

Contact: Jon Kuespert



Luncheon meetings are held monthly September and October; and January through June, usually on the third or fourth Thursday of the month, in the Monarch Room at The Grand 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 \$0 (students are covered by Halliburton and Schlumberger). Reservations can be made online at www.labgs.org or by contacting **Jon Keuspert** at jkuesper@breitburn.com or (213) 225-5900 ext. 224. Reservations must be made prior to Tuesday before the meeting.

*Officers:*

President	Jon Kuespert	jkuesper@breitburn.com
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## Northwest Energy Association

dlgellar@msn.com

P. O. Box 6679  
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

[www.ncgeolsoc.org](http://www.ncgeolsoc.org)

9 Bramblewood Court  
Danville, CA 94506-1130

Contact: Barb Matz  
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](mailto:danday94@pacbell.net) before the meeting. Cost is \$5 per regular member; \$1 per student member.

### Officers:

President:	Barb Matz	<a href="mailto:arbara.Matz@shawgrp.com">arbara.Matz@shawgrp.com</a>
President-Elect:	Mark Sorensen	<a href="mailto:msorensen@itsi.com">msorensen@itsi.com</a>
Field Trip Coordinator:	Rob Nelson	<a href="mailto:rlngeology@sbcglobal.net">rlngeology@sbcglobal.net</a>
Treasurer:	Phil Reed	<a href="mailto:philecreed@comcast.net">philecreed@comcast.net</a>
Program Chair:	Mark Sorensen	<a href="mailto:msorensen@itsi.com">msorensen@itsi.com</a>
Scholarship:	Phil Garbutt	<a href="mailto:plgarbutt@comcast.net">plgarbutt@comcast.net</a>
K-12 Programs:	John Stockwell	<a href="mailto:kugel@peoplepc.com">kugel@peoplepc.com</a>
Membership:	John Christian	<a href="mailto:jmc62@bcglobal.net">jmc62@bcglobal.net</a>
Newsletter/Website Editor:	Mark Detterman	<a href="mailto:mdetterman@blymyer.com">mdetterman@blymyer.com</a>
Secretary:	Dan Day	<a href="mailto:danday94@pacbell.net">danday94@pacbell.net</a>
Counselors:	Mel Erskine	<a href="mailto:mcerskine@comcast.net">mcerskine@comcast.net</a>
	Tridib Guha	<a href="mailto:Tridibguha@sbcglobal.net">Tridibguha@sbcglobal.net</a>
	Don Lewis	<a href="mailto:donlewis@comcast.net">donlewis@comcast.net</a>
	Ray Sullivan	<a href="mailto:sullivan@lucasvalley.net">sullivan@lucasvalley.net</a>

## 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. Location to be announced. The meetings starts at noon. The cost is \$20. For information or reservations, contact **Pam Ceccarelli** at 916-322-1110 or [pceccare@consvr.ca.gov](mailto:pceccare@consvr.ca.gov).

### Officers:

President	Rick Blake	<a href="mailto:blake2@llnl.gov">blake2@llnl.gov</a>
Vice President	Marc Brennen	<a href="mailto:marc.brennen@halliburton.com">marc.brennen@halliburton.com</a>
Secretary/Treasurer	Pam Ceccarelli	<a href="mailto:pceccare@consvr.ca.gov">pceccare@consvr.ca.gov</a>

## San Joaquin Geological Society

[www.sjgs.com](http://www.sjgs.com)

P. O. Box 1056  
Bakersfield, CA 93302

Contact: Rob Negrini  
[rnegrini@csub.edu](mailto:rnegrini@csub.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 [jmcalee@pxp.com](mailto:jmcalee@pxp.com) or (661) 395-5438.

### Officers:

President:	Dave Miner	<a href="mailto:dmminer@aeraenergy.com">dmminer@aeraenergy.com</a>
Vice-President:	Kurt Johnson	<a href="mailto:kurt_johnson@oxy.com">kurt_johnson@oxy.com</a>
Treasurer:	Jana McIntyre	<a href="mailto:jana_mcintyre@oxy.com">jana_mcintyre@oxy.com</a>



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