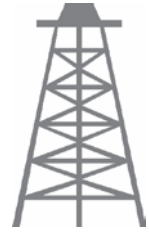




# Pacific Petroleum Geology



NEWSLETTER

Pacific Section • American Association of Petroleum Geologists

May & June • 2010

## Pacific Section AAPG Convention May 27-29



Miocene Monterey Formation of the Los Angeles Basin Fieldtrip

## From Mountain to Mainstreet

(with a little beach on the side)

# SYNERGY

# ENERGY

# CO<sub>2</sub>



**Weatherford**<sup>®</sup>  
LABORATORIES

Your success increasingly depends upon a better understanding of your reservoir. At Weatherford Laboratories, we provide a single source for comprehensive laboratory analyses, creating a synergy previously unknown in laboratory services. This single source includes distinguished geologists, geochemists, analysts, engineers, technicians and software developers, 38 worldwide laboratories, and the broadest portfolio of services for acquiring and interpreting data from physical samples. The end result is an unsurpassed combination of intellectual capital and technical resources — all working together to help you enhance development planning and reduce reservoir uncertainty.

Put our union of Synergy and Energy to work for you.

# Al<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>(OH)<sub>4</sub>

[Weatherfordlabs.com](http://Weatherfordlabs.com)

HIGHER STANDARDS

**NORTH AMERICA**  
NAInquiries@weatherfordlabs.com

**EUROPE**  
EUIquiries@weatherfordlabs.com

**LATIN AMERICA**  
LAIquiries@weatherfordlabs.com

**MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA**  
MENAIquiries@weatherfordlabs.com

**ASIA PACIFIC**  
APIquiries@weatherfordlabs.com

2009-2010 OFFICERS

President Scott Hector  
707.974.6402  
president@psaapg.org

President-Elect Cynthia Huggins  
661.665.5074  
president-elect@psaapg.org

Vice President Tony Reid  
661.869.8144  
vice-president@psaapg.org

Secretary Jeff Gartland  
661.869.8204  
secretary@psaapg.org

Treasurer 2008-2010 Donna Thompson  
661.395.3029  
treasurer@psaapg.org

Treasurer 2009-2011 Cheryl Blume  
661.864.4722  
treasurer@psaapg.org

Past President Don Clarke  
562.212.3314  
past-president@psaapg.org

Editor-in-Chief Karen Blake  
707.974.8313  
editor@psaapg.org

STAFF

Web Master Bob Countryman  
661.589.8580  
webmaster@psaapg.org

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Chair Brian Church  
661.654.7863  
membership@psaapg.org

PUBLICATIONS

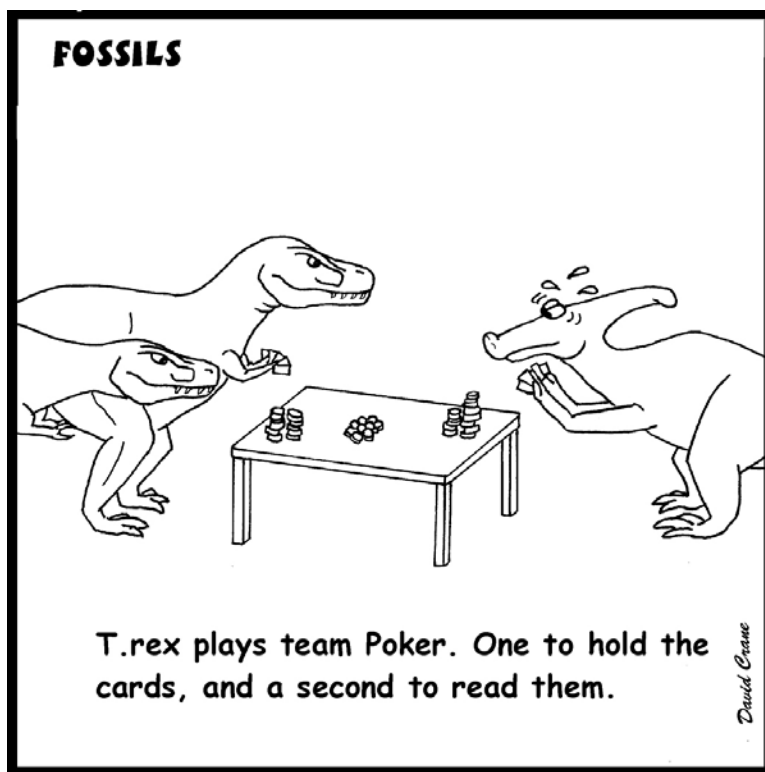
Publications Chair Larry Knauer  
661.392.2471  
publications@psaapg.org

EVERY ISSUE

- 4 Message from the President • S. Hector
- 5 Editor's Corner • K. Blake
- 14 Farewell to Friends
- 15 Society News
- 16 Society Members in the News
- 17 Member Society News

THIS ISSUE

- 6 State of the Industry in California • S. Hector
- 9 And the President's Award Goes to... • S. Hector
- 12 PS-AAPG Annual Meeting





# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

## SCOTT HECTOR

On May 27th to 29th, we host our annual convention in Anaheim, California. That is a great time of the year to be in Southern California! We are fortunate to have a joint session with the Geological Society of America (Cordilleran Section), the Pacific Section SEPM, Western Region SPE, the Pacific Coast Section SEG and our host society, the Los Angeles Basin Geological Society. I also wish to thank Oxy and AERA Energy, Chevron, and DHI Services as being our top corporate sponsors. They and all the many other contributors make our conventions possible!

There are exciting field trips (in the LA Basin, San Andreas Fault, Mojave Desert, Eastern Sierra Nevada!), short courses (GIS, Teaching Earthquakes, Learning PETREL), and social events (wine tasting, baseball game) on tap. The oral and poster sessions that are lined up cover a plethora of topics (from Basin Analysis to Detrital Zircons to Advances in Drilling and Completion Technology). My thanks go out to Curt Henderson, the AAPG Co-Chair for the event, and his convention committee for setting up this fine event.

As we progress a decade into the 21st Century, the oil and gas industry is facing great battles that revolve around the resources that we produce to fuel the world. These include access to certain lands, both onshore and offshore North America, as well as potentially crippling legislation. Unfortunately, a topic of conversation will be the recent blowout in the Gulf of Mexico of the British Petroleum well and the environmental damage that it is causing to fishing and wildlife. Hopefully, we will see the oil & gas industry responding to this disaster in an impressive way. Besides this incident, there is concern about global warming and/or global cooling, the impact of conservation measures set up by the Kyoto Protocol, etc., on business in the world, concern about the future reserves of oil and whether there will be a pronounced shortage in the future, etc.

While there has been no commercial oil find in the vicinity of Disneyland or the Anaheim Marriott as of yet, there are giant oil fields in the Los Angeles Basin, and some not far away. Oil fields named East and West Coyote, Leffingwell and Santa Fe Springs line up in a southeast to northwest trend parallel to the Interstate 5 freeway. North of them lies another string of pearls, the fields along the Whittier Fault Zone. These include Brea Olinda, Sansinena, Whittier and Montebello fields. Hundreds of millions of barrels of oil were produced from these fields.

Thus, our Anaheim location is located near some very large oil fields, which have a complex structural and stratigraphic history. These fields lie in the Los Angeles Basin, which I have been told is the richest in the world, in terms of barrels of oil produced per acre. And, a great place to have a convention.



**DHISERVICES**

Formation Evaluation Specialists

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

**Les Collins**  
Regional Operations Manager

4030 Well Tech Way  
Bakersfield, CA 93308  
Tel: +1 (661) 750-4010 Ext 107  
Fax: +1 (661) 840-6602  
Cell: +1 (661) 742-2720  
Email: [lcollins@dhiservices.com](mailto:lcollins@dhiservices.com)

Condolences to the families and friends of those lost in the accident. As with any accident, there will be an investigation. It is my hope that the calm heads will prevail and our industry will not suffer from any knee jerk reactions. Energy is still vital to our nation.



(Photo: Edison Chouest Offshore)

## For Want of A Nail

For want of a nail the shoe was lost.  
For want of a shoe the horse was lost.  
For want of a horse the rider was lost.  
For want of a rider the battle was lost.  
For want of a battle the kingdom was lost.  
And all for the want of a horseshoe nail.

GOOD MORNING AMERICA, David Axelrod — "All he has said is that he's not going to continue the moratorium on drilling but... no additional drilling has been authorized and none will until we find out what happened here and whether there was something unique and preventable here." (At least this week - Who knows going forward.)

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Monday withdrew his support of a plan to expand oil drilling off the California coast, citing the massive oil spill that resulted from a drilling rig explosion in the Gulf of Mexico.

## We don't need no stinking offshore platform... We can reach it from onshore!

### ExxonMobil Sets Drilling Records

- \* Advanced drilling technology boosts production from Santa Ynez Unit
- \* World's longest extended-reach well drilled from an offshore fixed platform drilling rig
- \* Longest extended-reach well drilled in North America

HOUSTON--(BUSINESS WIRE1)--ExxonMobil2 has completed the world's longest extended-reach well drilled from an existing offshore fixed platform drilling rig, increasing the company's ability to produce more domestic oil supplies from existing facilities at the Santa Ynez unit, offshore southern California. The well drilled from the Heritage platform using ExxonMobil's Fast Drill technology extends more than six miles horizontally and more than 7,000 feet below sea level.

**What a year it has been!** My term runs from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. As President of the Pacific Section AAPG, a non-profit corporation, am I supposed to avoid discussion of political issues? I guess so. However, administrators and congressmen of both the State of California and the United States of America have tried to install taxes on our industry that could greatly affect our bottom line, and our ability to deliver energy to America, so much so that it would be ostrichian if I did at least address their proposals during my tenure. Besides, I hate it when I have my head in the sand!

To begin with, studies of the taxes on the oil industry in California show that we pay our fair share (at least the analyses by pro-industry groups that I have seen and read about). Analyze the taxes that we pay in this state, and we are on a par with other oil and gas producers in other states. California prides itself in being #1 in the nation in so many things, and in taxes we are no exception: we have the highest sales tax in the nation (averaging 8.25%) and the highest gasoline sales tax in the nation (63.9 cents per gallon). Unfortunately, we are only #2 in the nation in State income tax (10.55%).

However, there is one tax in which we are LAST in the nation, and it appears to be an untapped “cash cow” to those that don’t know what we, the oil & gas industry, do for this state: of the 22 oil and gas producing states in the U.S.A., we are the ONLY ONE that does not pay SEVERANCE TAXES! So, when the budget for the State of California got tight, there was an immediate move to impose such a tax. Several bills were entered that would have taxed at a 9.9% ( AB 656, sponsored by Alberto Torrico) or a 12.5% ( ABX39, a bill sponsored by Pedro Nava) of the value of the oil or natural gas produced at the wellhead. This would have raised up to \$1.3 billion of new tax dollars. The bills earmarked the money, in one case, for the state college system, in another for a few selected groups. It was perhaps admirable to have an assemblyman figure out a way to keep destitute widows and orphans off the streets, but not at the cost of 10’s of thousands of jobs! So far, the oil industry has rallied around the cause, in one case sending busloads of people from Bakersfield to Sacramento to fill the assembly chambers during a committee hearing on one of the bills. And, so far, the assembly bills have not made progress. I was concerned when several bills were introduced, what would happen if the both passed? Would we suddenly have a 22.4% severance tax? I live in Sacramento, and was listening to a radio station about this issue, but the speaker was so hateful towards the oil industry that I finally had to turn the radio off (Gene Burns, KGO, San Francisco). I don’t know if these po-

litical fights will ever be over. I would advise those that are interested in this (severance tax) issue to contact the Western States Petroleum Association or the California Independent Petroleum Association (CIPA).

Now, on to a discussion of what the federal government has in store for our industry! They have discovered that we have some unusual tax breaks that they would like to get rid of. I would like to discuss why these tax breaks (aka “loopholes”) were put in place, i.e., the rationale behind them. All put together, the tax breaks that they propose to take away will generate some \$31.5 (2010 proposed budget) to \$36.5 (2011 proposed budget) billion in extra revenue for the federal government in the next 10 years. That translates to me as billions of dollars that our industry could have had to pay wages for employees, drill more wells to make us more energy independent, and even do “green” research as the energy companies (after all, we are not just “oil and gas”, many of us also are into coal, geothermal and other energy sources) try to find new sources of energy to meet the energy needs of our energy-consuming nation. The lowlights of the 2011 budget for the oil and gas industry are (most of these points I took from an article by Nick Snow for the Oil & Gas Journal):

- 1) Repealing the percentage depletion allowance (OMB estimates \$10 billion savings)
- 2) Doing away with expensing of intangible drilling costs (OMB estimates \$7.8 billion in new revenue)
- 3) Increasing independent producer’s allowed geological and geophysical amortization (OMB estimates \$1.1 billion in new revenue)
- 4) Repeal of domestic manufacturing tax deduction for oil and gas companies (OMB estimates this would raise \$17.3 billion over the next 10 years if enacted).

If done, the U.S refiners would be the only domestic industry NOT covered by the manufacturing tax credit, which Congress enacted in response to foreign governments’ subsidies to industries in their countries.

What I liked about the Oil & Gas Journal article was that they talked to the small, independent producers. They interviewed Somerlyn Cothran, the executive director of the National Stripper Well Association, meaning wells that make 15 barrels of oil per day or less. Somerlyn talked about the little guys, the opposite of “Big Oil”, saying that the little companies that struggle with these old, poorly producing wells are the “Rotary Club and PTA members in the respective hometowns”.

I have spent most of my career working for small companies, some of whom relied on the tax breaks that they could offer individual investors so that they would

invest money in prospects. Without these tax breaks, it was hard to convince the wealthy enough SEC approved investor to plunk some money down on a wildcat!

Case in point is the deletion allowance. This is a form of capital cost recovery. The taxpayer is allowed a deduction in recognition of the fact that an asset – in this case the mineral reserve – is being expended in order to create income. My investors liked to see that if the well was successful that a portion of their money (about 15%, but it varies according to your tax situation) would not be taxed, with the idea that you would reinvest that money in other wells. This amount also roughly equaled the amount of depletion that annually occurs in most reservoirs, and it made sense to give oil and gas producers a bit of a break so that they could reinvest that much money to maintain their level of production.

The investors that I tried to corral into my ventures also liked the idea of the writing off of the intangible drilling costs. The idea of the immediate write-off gave us the edge compared to other investments that had to be amortized, but also took into account how risky the wildcat or even infill development well is. Similarly, as to point #2 above, if the expenses to the producer for “G&G” expenses are not allowed to be taken immediately but have to be amortized over seven years (it is only 2 years right now for the smaller oil companies, but 7 already for the major integrated oil companies), this will have a negative effect on the taxes paid by the small, independent companies that do a lot of America’s exploration. I can see an obvious “ripple” effect where the seismic acquisition companies and consulting geologists and similar companies may see drastic cuts in their work.

As to point #4, I have always been in the “upstream” part of our business, and do not know a lot about refining. However, I do know that refining is an extremely large, internationally oriented business, and that our refiners must have to compete, to some extent, against “overseas” competition. The loss of the manufacturing tax deduction will hurt them in the international arena, no doubt about it! Yet the White House says that all of this money, this \$36 billion in total, is only going to amount to about 1% of the gross domestic value of the production from natural gas and oil. How painful could that be, just a little old 1%?

Now, a wrinkle in the whole mess: a chance to raise money from the oil industry that the oil industry agreed to and was passed up! Yes, I am talking about the Tranquillion Ridge oil field that sits under state waters offshore of Santa Maria and Vandenburg Air Force

Base in Santa Barbara County. Plains Exploration and Production Company has actually PROVED from an offshore platform in Federal waters that there is a large oil field under the adjoining state waters. However, that area of the state waters remains unleased. Plains proposed a plan which was approved by environmental groups to take a state lease and develop the state oil field from the existing platform. They also agreed to stop production after a set number of years and tear down the platform! However, the State of California, in all its’ wisdom, could not agree to the proposal. It would have generated some \$4 BILLION in revenue over the life of the field. This proposal was brought up during the negotiations to settle the state budget, but was not included in the final plan. The Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County even approved the plan, but not the State Coastal Zone Commission. Go figure!

So, I am not into politics. But, I know that they affect our oil and gas industry. We are a target, for whatever reasons, be they justified or not, of a relentless pursuit by politicians to share in our “wealth”. I do not believe that our industry has had special tax treatment when compared to other industries, although I must admit that most of what I read on these matters is slanted towards our industry’s points of view. I merely wanted to point out some of what has gone on with this California oil & gas industry over the past year.

However, I do have a concern about our industry. The proposed taxes may well cause jobs to be lost, and companies to shut down operations and move to other states. Government decisions can severely impact a targeted industry. The logging industry in Northern California was almost wiped out by the Spotted Owl decision, when an endangered species designation put so much land “off limits” to logging. Unlike that industry, we face a different governmental decision (or decisions) that will drastically weaken our income flow, but we will continue to exist and pump our 600,000 barrels of oil per day. We have to. Our state, our nation and our federal government depend on it.

**GREGORY GEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

**Glenn J. Gregory**

**California Professional Geologist #3676**

**4800 Easton Drive, Suite 101  
Bakersfield, CA 93309**

**(661) 633-5555  
glenn@bak.rr.com**

## DIBBLEE GEOLOGIC MAP COLLECTION AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

The Dibblee Geologic Map Collection is the most complete compilation of geologic mapping of over one quarter of the State of California by one person. This collection is now available through several venues. 359 of Tom's maps are available in digital format. 60 of the original 76 are only available as scanned PDF files.

### Dibblee Geologic Map Collection as CS4 .ai files

On a temporary basis as part of our fundraising efforts we are offering the complete Adobe Illustrator Dataset as CS4 .ai files. Data in this set is in a layered format. This will allow the user to examine and manipulate the data to incorporate it into their dataset. A presentation of the data set can be arranged.

At this time we are offering the 419 map set at a per-set price of \$54,470 + Tax. Appropriate prices can be negotiated for partial bulk sets such as the San Joaquin Valley or Ventura Basin.

We are asking for help in contacting the appropriate person within your company that might be able to determine your company's interest in acquiring this dataset. One major oil company has already acquired the dataset. This offer has never been made before this and may change as our funding goal is reached.

### Dibblee Geologic Map Collection as Layered GeoPDFs on Datapages

The AAPG is featuring 359 of Tom's maps in digital format in the Datapages section on their web site for downloading as layered GeoPDF files. Maps will be added as they are digitized.

### Dibblee Geologic Map Collection as printed map sheets

All Dibblee maps will continue to be available as printed map sheets. 60 of the initial map sheets are only available as printed maps.

Inquiries about the purchase of the map sets should be addressed to:

Dr. John Minch, Editor,  
Thomas Dibblee Jr. Geology Center  
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History,  
2559 Puesta del Sol, Santa Barbara, CA 93105  
805-569-1800 - [jmainc@earthlink.net](mailto:jmainc@earthlink.net)

Contributions are also appreciated and can be made to the Dibblee Map Digitizing Fund, Dibblee Geology Center, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Attn: John Minch



GEOLOGICAL LOGGING INC.  
9229 Beatty Drive, Suite B  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
Telephone 916-452-9573  
Cel 952-9975 Fax 452-9573  
[geolog@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geolog@sbcglobal.net)

ERNIE BURROUGHS  
President/Owner  
Registered Geologist No. 1628



RESERVOIR CHARACTERIZATION  
GEOLOGY  
PETROPHYSICS  
DATABASE MANAGEMENT  
DIGITIZING & SCANNING

**EarthQuest Technical Services, LLC**

*David R. Walter*

[drwalter@eqtservices.com](mailto:drwalter@eqtservices.com)  
[www.eqtservices.com](http://www.eqtservices.com)

2201 'F' Street  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
661•321•3136



And the President's Award Goes To: .....

I recently attended the National Convention of the AAPG in New Orleans. While I was there, I was able to talk several times with Bob Lindblom, who has done such a great job for years in heading up the Honors & Awards Committee, and in giving out the awards. He reminded me that at the upcoming Pacific Section Convention at the end of May that I should give the President's Award, if I so choose (not every President has!). Bob said that I ought to give it to someone that has meant the most to me. I did not hear if he meant the most help in assisting me as President, or someone who has meant the most to me in my career. I have assumed the latter.

As I thought of the people that have helped me to become the geologist that I am, I was struck by one thing most of them had in common: they are dead! Bob had warned me that it is customary to choose someone who is alive for such a prestigious award. The photographs are easier to take with the winner that way.

Well, I might have to go against convention! After all, I have the use of the bully pulpit and can exercise executive fiat (do they still make Fiats?). Here are some of the people that I thought about:

1) Ivan Scherb. Ivan was my mentor at Texaco. Gene Tripp was District Geologist and put me under Ivan's wing. Ivan was a tall, quiet man who was an excellent explorationist. Ivan taught me, as one fresh out of school, about all of the compartments that you had to master to be able to put a prospect together. He had a background in both geophysics and geology. In fact, he had run a seismic crew for Texaco in Saudi Arabia. But, when I met him, he was working in an office on Wilshire Boulevard near downtown Los Angeles, and we were both assigned to studying the area around Bakersfield.

I learned how to evaluate logs, make Texaco cross-sections and Texaco maps (the oil fields were colored green, the gas fields' red, and the prospect area gray!). I grew rapidly in my skills with his help, and started to develop prospect ideas. Unfortunately, the Texaco management said they were too small. After all, we had just farmed in on a Tenneco play and found the 100 million barrel Yowlumne field, so the company wanted at least 50 million barrel shots. I looked to Ivan, and he said "I've got a real big one". We worked for months on the play of the Middle Miocene sands pinching out across the south flank of Ten Section field. We calculated the size of our deep play at as much as 1 BILLION BARRELS! Texaco's management said it was too big to believe!

I remember two things most about Ivan: (1) I never knew when a conversation was over! He talked so slowly that more than once I had concluded our conversation was over and had walked out of his room and was heading down the hall towards my room, when he would say something and I would have to hurry back! I think that Ivan loved being a geologist at the prospect level and never aspired to management, partly because (2) he had a fear of public speaking. This created a problem for our managers when the Executive V.P. of Exploration would fly out from White Plains, New York to see our prospect presentations. Everyone was expected to give a talk, no matter what your phobias were! The District Geologist and District Geophysicist cringed at the thought of Ivan getting up there! What to do, what to do! Well, when the Executive V.P. came into the room, where we were all assembled, guess who he made a beeline for! Straight for Ivan! He had worked with him in the past, and gladly shook his hand and talked about old times. Ivan got up and talked, and was shaking badly as he did, but he got through it. Afterwards, the V.P. mentioned that Texaco would always be grateful to Ivan for his work in Saudi Arabia, which had led to the discovery of the 1 billion barrel oil field! Discussing his legacy is not complete lest I mention that Ivan went to Cal. Tech. They say that the best geologists come from Cal.Tech.. If you don't believe me, just ask someone who went there!

J.M. "BUZZ" DELANO, JR.  
Consultant

Cell (661) 747-0337  
Office (661) 832-5229  
Fax (661) 832-5229  
Email: BuzzBake@aol.com

**Delano Petrophysical**  
Consulting Services

816 Ferdinand Ct.  
Bakersfield, California 93309

Dipmeter Analysis  
Tape Conversion Editing  
Expert Petrophysical Analysis  
Wellsite Supervision

**DAVID B. DEL MAR**

**Consulting Registered Geologist**  
California Registered Geologist #634

**Development - Thermal EOR - Property Reviews**

2027 Park Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90026

H (323) 664-3358  
dbdelmar@earthlink.net

I had hoped to do something to honor Ivan while I was President, but he recently passed away. He left a number of protégés that are now stalwarts in our industry: Rhinehard Suchsland, Wayne Tolmachoff and I, among others. He lived to be 96 years old, but was ill the last few years of his life. We miss him!

2) Jim and George Roth: I knew Jim Roth very well over my years in the industry. Through his efforts, I was able to take what I learned from Ivan and put it into good use. I left Texaco after a number of years, and joined a company called Carlsberg. There, I was part of a team of young geologists that studied the prospect submittals of other geologists and packaged them up for sale to other industry partners. Jim had actually put together a consortium of companies to back our California prospect ideas. Carlsberg Petroleum drilled a few sub-commercial wells, and also some dry holes. We did not last long, the company ending when the owner was killed during a hunting accident in Russia.

I followed Jim to work with him again with Great Basins Petroleum, which also went out of business, and later, after other jobs, to join him again at MCOR (McCulloch Oil), which also went out of business while Jim was there. Jim may have been a good geologist, but he wasn't real good at choosing which company to work for!

I add George to this list, because Jim's father was the quintessential explorationist! George Roth & Associates was a consulting firm that generated prospects during the 1950' through the 1980's. George and his cohorts, Gil Gaines and Harold "Sully" Sullwold, were responsible for making some 17 oil and gas field discoveries in California! Gil told me once that George was so tight that he would get mad at the other geologists if they tried to get a new pencil for their drafting without using a pencil extender first. That device would clamp onto the end of a pencil and allow you to keep handling the pencil until it was just shaved down to a nub. I believe that Texaco had the patent on the device. Anyway, I digress! I was fortunate to work with George while we were both tied to Carlsberg Petroleum. I worked with George on some plays in the Ventura Basin, including the sub-commercial wells we found at Simi and Tapo Canyon fields. But being around him helped me to better understand how to think to find oil.

Of the 17 fields that they found, probably the most interesting story is the one about Santa Clara Avenue field. This field is a 5 million barrel oil field in the western part of the onshore Ventura Basin. George had presented the play to McCulloch Oil, and they had drilled a well to total depth and were preparing to abandon what was to become the discovery well. While McCulloch's staff felt the well was no good, George did. He begged for time to create a farm-out, and was given 24 hours. George rushed up the valley to Rio Vista to talk to Neal Hunicutt, the owner the Hunicutt & Camp, the drilling company that had drilled the well. George got the companies to agree to a 60/40 split, and the casing was run and an attempt made to complete the well. It came in for about 500 barrels of oil per day! George passed away quite some time ago (1977, at the age of 86), but leaves an amazing list of discoveries to his credit. Another fact is that he won a gold medal in gymnastics during the 1924 Olympics in Los Angeles!

3) Drs. Earl Brabb and Tom Dibblee: I was a Master's Degree student in 1972 or so when I first met Earl Brabb. He had agreed to take a position on my thesis committee after Dr. Gerard Bond had not been given tenure at U.C. Davis and had to leave to go elsewhere to teach. (No worries, Dr. Bond did quite well for himself.) Earl worked for the USGS, and had received his Ph.D. from Stanford. He had mapped an area along Butano Ridge in an area in the Santa Cruz Mountains not far from where I was doing my field mapping. I had actually almost finished what I thought was a decent thesis on the Landslide Susceptibility of the area when Earl came on board. He found the work unacceptable, and made me go back for another summer of mapping. While I was at it, he said, take samples for paleo, wash them, pick them, and identify the bugs. Take some more measured sections, and for Job's sake make sure your geology matches up with the other Stanford student theses that surround your "Castle Rock Ridge" area of study.

So, I went out, grumbling all the way, to spend another summer in the field. It wasn't too bad, really, because my mom and dad owned a ranch right in the middle of it, so it was a home-cooked meal almost every night. One day, Earl wanted to meet me and see how my progress was going. He brought along another geologist, some guy named Tom Dibblee. Tom was kind of quiet and mumbled a bit when he talked. We first went to look at an outcrop on Beatty Ridge near Grizzly Rock. I was having trouble knowing what the age of the rock was. Earl and I took out our rock hammers, sliced off a piece of shale, got out our high-powered hand lenses and started to look for foraminifera in the sample. While we were doing this, Tom walked off. He came back in a few minutes and said, "I've seen enough, I remember how I mapped this, so let's go somewhere else". To which, Earl replied, "Tom, I haven't even finished describing my first rock sample and you already want to go?" I knew where to take them! I took them to an area where I had discovered a "shell hash" limestone deposit, interbedded with some basalt flows, which was always Lower Miocene (Saucesian) in age in this area. I also knew that this was an outcrop that Tom had mapped as being Oligocene. I showed him and Earl the evidence for my "age dating", and Earl said it made sense. Tom did not. "I don't care if I have to turn all this section upside down,"

he said, "it's going to stay on my maps as I mapped it". Well, I never! Earl told me later that they went back again to the section, but never could conclusively determine the age. That is why that section remained Lower Miocene on my thesis map, and remained Oligocene in age on the quadrangle map that Tom and Earl published. Tom was the senior author.

Something you might not know about Tom, who is famous for all of the great work that he did for the USGS, is that he did work for the oil industry. In fact, much of his field mapping along the California Coast Ranges was while he was employed by the Richfield Corporation (later Atlantic Richfield, or "ARCO"). In 1949 or 1950 Tom became enamored by the Cuyama Valley, a non-productive area between the great Santa Maria Basin to its west and the San Joaquin Basin to its east. He worked up several plays, and they found oil! In fact, the Company was so pleased with the discoveries that they offered him a raise! I have heard that Tom was making about \$100 per month then, and that the 10% raise would give him an extra \$10 a month! Tom got so mad over this that he quit! Between the Russell Ranch oil field and the South Cuyama oil field, Tom's work had found 300 million barrels of oil. In his mind, perhaps the raise was not fair compared to what he had found. This tale points out a problem that upper management has had with geologists for years: the ungrateful employees that don't appreciate a raise! Regrettably, Tom passed away a few years ago, also in his 90's. I stay in touch with Earl, who is in great shape and sharp as ever. Oh, by the way, my thesis mapping did not match what the Stanford men had done around me. But, Earl signed off on my thesis anyway.

4) Al Almgren. Al is a really good friend of mine. I have known him for decades, but cannot remember when we first met. It may well have been through Dr. Vic Cherven, a mutual friend. Even though Vic did a Stanford Ph.D. on the turbidite sand morphology of the Upper Cretaceous Winters sandstone, he has always felt that Al knew more about the Sacramento Basin than anyone else. He is right! Al wrote some critical papers on the Paleocene and Eocene aged "gorges" in the Sacramento Basin that greatly improved the industry's understanding of them. In addition, he wrote several important papers that corrected errors in paleontology made by others. Just as Ivan was, Al is an unassuming, quiet man. And, about a foot shorter than Ivan! But, Al has a mind for detail that amazes even me, and to be sharp at 90 years of age is wonderful.

Al spent most of his career with Union Oil Company of California, and most of that as a paleontologist. However, he did ask for a transfer to be an exploration geologist. During the time that he worked as an exploration geologist, he was responsible for coming up with the ideas that led to two great gas field discoveries: Union Island and Dutch Slough. Because of Al's recognizing ideas that gas might be stored on an anticlinal structure at Dutch Slough, he got his boss, John Kilkenny (former AAPG National President!) to lease the area. Union Oil agreed to lease one landowner who only wanted \$10 per acre, but not the other, who was trying to hold out for \$15 per acre. That mistake cost them about 50 Bcf! because Signal Oil came in right behind them and picked it up! However, at Union Island (the name of the island and company being the same is purely coincidence!) the company was able to control the entire field. They shared a few leases with Phillips, but operated the tremendous discovery. The 300 Bcf discovery was found on the LOW side of the Stockton Arch fault, and was trapped there stratigraphically due to the pinchout of the Winters sands. I forgot to ask Al if he was given a raise for helping recognize these finds. I don't think so, but he did not quit his job like Tom did, either.

The late, great Tor Nilsen had high praise for Al. While he was teaching a class on the stratigraphy of the San Joaquin Basin, Tor asked Al to come in and speak. He gave him credit for recognizing cycles on high-stand and low-stand sedimentation that are know the cornerstones of "sequence stratigraphy".

So, I have elaborated on a number of people that had a profound influence on me during my career as a petroleum geologist. I have partly written this piece for the younger professional who read this newsletter. We at the Pacific Section AAPG are so excited to see the young women and men that are joining our ranks at AERA Energy, Occidental Petroleum, Chevron, and other companies. I hope that you will seek out the assistance of mentors, for they were critical to me in my career. There is a wealth of information out there. As Wallace Pratt one said (don't worry who he is or was, just listen to his quote) "Oil is found in the minds of men".

I hope that you will attend our convention in May in Anaheim. That is the only way that you will find out who, if anyone, is chosen by me to be the recipient of the President's Trophy.

Sincerely,

SCOTT HECTOR



**Anaheim Marriott**

700 West Convention Way  
Anaheim, California 92802  
Phone: 1-714-750-8000  
Fax: 1-714-750-9100

Register on-line at:

**[www.geosociety.org/sectdiv/cord/2010mtg/](http://www.geosociety.org/sectdiv/cord/2010mtg/)**

All meeting badges will be distributed on-site.

**On-Site Registration and Badge Pickup Schedule**

Registration will be in the main lobby of the hotel on Wednesday afternoon and evening and in the Platinum Ballroom Foyer area on Thursday – Saturday.

Wednesday, 26 May	12:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Thursday, 27 May	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Friday, 28 May	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Saturday, 29 May	8:00AM – 12:00 PM



## **Volunteer Judges Needed!!!**

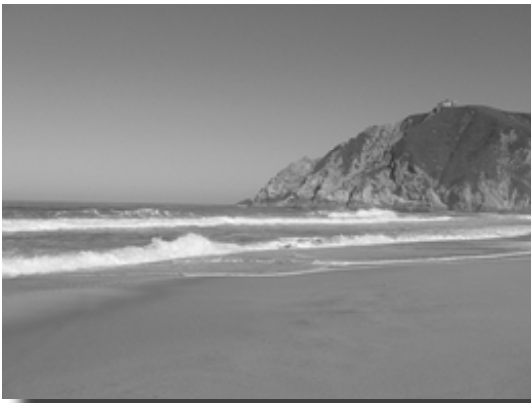
If interested in volunteering, please contact:

**Bonnie Bloeser**

**office: 661-665-5482**

**mobile: 661-319-4044**

**[BBloeser@aeraenergy.com](mailto:BBloeser@aeraenergy.com)**



# Special Events


- Exhibit Hall Opening: Thursday, May 27, 12 noon, Platinum Ballroom
- Refreshments: Thursday, May 27, 12 noon – 1:00 PM, Come enjoy hors d'oeuvres with the exhibitors.
- Icebreaker: Thursday, May 27, 6:00–8:00 PM, Exhibit Hall. Hors d'oeuvres and a free drink.
- Pacific Section AAPG Luncheon: Friday, May 28, 11:30 AM–1:30 PM - \$65.
- Society of Petroleum Engineers Luncheon: Friday, May 28, 11:30 AM–1:30 PM - \$65.
- Keynote Address: Friday, May 28, 5:30–6:30 PM, Dr. Lucile M. Jones, Geological Survey.

“When the Mountains Come to Main Street: Helping California Live with Natural Disasters”.

The U.S. Geological Survey's Multi Hazards Demonstration Project was formed to demonstrate how hazards science can be used to improve a community's resiliency to natural disasters. The project has created public products integrating hazards science with engineering and social science that support decision making for disaster management, including the ShakeOut Scenario and the soon to be released ARkStorm Scenario. Many of the ideas, science and partnerships thus formed have been tapped as Los Angeles County deals with the aftermath of the Station fire and the potential for some of the largest debris flows in southern California's history.

- A special lunch-time talk: Dr. Stephen Testa. 12:00 noon, Saturday, May 29. Location TBA. “Conflicts Between Josiah D. Whitney and William P. Blake, and the Fate of the First California Geological Survey.”
- Friends of the California Geological Survey reception: 5:00 PM, Saturday, May 29. Location TBA- Please come enjoy discussions and old stories with CGS friends. Cash bar.
- Luncheon Keynote Speaker, Friday, May 28, 2010, 11:30 AM - Mr. John Lorenz

Got Fractures? Now What? - The Application of Fracture Studies to Reservoirs



**PETROLOG**  
 PETROLOG, INC.  
 JOHN T. WILLIAMS  
 Geologist, P.G.#5899, President  
 Geological Well Logging  
 P.O. BOX 7028  
 VENTURA, CA 93006  
 jtw@petrolog-geological.com  
 (805) 642-2847 • Fax(805) 980-5569 • Cell(805) 231-3793

*Joseph F. Elliott*

---

**Geophysical Consultant**

---

**Exploration Management**  
 international / domestic  
 interpretations  
 synthetics  
 modeling

Office: (949) 240-1505  
 26801 Lariat Circle  
 San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675



## Alfred Emory McGinnis

June 22, 1934 • April 5, 2010

Alfred Emory McGinnis, born June 22, 1934 in Alleen, Arkansas, passed away after a short battle with cancer, Sunday April 5, 2010 in Woodland, CA. He is survived by his wife Erika of Woodland, a daughter, Pam Lopez, son Jessie McGinnis and daughter Jeri Sprague all of Yuba City, 7 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. Brothers, Richard McGinnis of Mendota, CA, William Henry McGinnis, Kenneth McGinnis and sister, Rebeca Drye, all of Texarkana, Arkansas.

Al was a long time resident of the Sacramento Valley area and worked in the oil and gas industry for over 50 years. He was a U.S. Army veteran. Private graveside services will be held Friday, May 7th at the Dixon, CA National cemetery, followed by a wake for friends and family at his home in Woodland.

### Special Core Analysis In Bakersfield



**Core Lab**  
RESERVOIR OPTIMIZATION

#### Laboratory Services Include:

- Capillary Pressure • Relative Permeability • Formation Damage Studies • Electrical Analyses • Environmental Studies

Core Laboratories, Inc • 3437 Landco Drive • Bakersfield, CA 93308  
Tel: (661) 325-5657 • Fax: (661) 325-5808



**AAPG  
House of Delegates  
Distinguished Service Awardees**



**Donald D. Clarke**



**Robert G. Lindblom**



**Society Members  
Who are New**



## Alaska Geological Society

www.alaskageology.org

P. O. Box 101288  
Anchorage, AK 99510

Contact: Tom Homza  
907.770.3701



Luncheon meetings are held monthly September through May, usually on the third Thursday of the month, at the BP Energy Center (1014 Energy Court) from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The hot lunch cost is \$20 for members with reservations; \$22 for non-members with reservations; and \$25 without reservations. The box lunch cost is \$13 for members with reservations; \$15 for non-members with reservations; and \$18 without reservations. 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.

President:	Tom Homza	907.770.3701	thomas.homza@shell.com
President-Elect:	Tom Morahan	907.230.1672	tmorahan@petroak.com
Vice-President:	Ken Helmold	907.269.8673	ken.helmold@alaska.gov
Secretary:	Chad Hults	907.786.7417	chults@usgs.gov
Treasurer:	Alan Hunter	907.263.7947	alhunter@chevron.com
Past-President:	Jim Clough	907.451.5030	jim.clough@alaska.gov

## Coast Geological Society

www.coastgeologicalsociety.org

P. O. Box 3055  
Ventura, CA 93006

Contact: Muriel Norton  
muriel@subsea-usa.com



Dinner meetings are held monthly September through June, usually on the third Tuesday of the month, at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill 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.

President:	Mike Nelson	805.535.2058	president@coastgeologicalsociety.org
Past President:	David Panaro	805.654.2327	pastpresident@coastgeologicalsociety.org
Vice President:	Jon Schwalbach	661.665.5081	vicepresident@coastgeologicalsociety.org
Secretary:	Gina Teresa	805.662.6510	secretary@coastgeologicalsociety.org
Treasurer:	Ed Magdaleno	805.535.2086	treasurer@coastgeologicalsociety.org

## Los Angeles Basin Geological Society

www.labgs.org

515 So. Flower Street, Ste 4800  
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Contact: Bill Long  
213.225.5900 x 205



Luncheon meetings are held monthly September and October; and January through June, usually on the 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 Marieke Gaudet at 562.624.3364 or marieke\_gaudet@oxy.com. Reservations must be made prior to Tuesday before the meeting.

President:	Bill Long	213.225.5900 x205	william.long@breitburn.com
Vice President/Program Chair:	Greg Hummel	213.225.5900 x251	ghummel@breitburn.com
Treasurer:	Bert Vogler	562.432.1696	hvogler@kleinfelder.com
Secretary/webmaster:	Marieke Gaudet	562.624.3364	Marieke_Gaudet@oxy.com
Scholarship Program	Jean Kulla	949.500.3095	k2mobile@msn.com

## Northern California Geological Society

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 before the meeting. Cost is \$5 per regular member; \$1 per student member; and \$1 per K-12 teachers (new!).

<p><b>Northwest Energy Association</b> www.nwenergyassociation.org</p>	<p>P. O. Box 6679 Portland, OR 97228-6679</p>	<p>Contact: <i>Tim Blackwood</i> 503.656.0156</p>
--	---	---



Breakfast 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 \$18. For information or reservations, contact Treck Cardwell at 503-226-4211 ext. 4681.

President	Tim Blackwood	tblackwood@pacificgeotechnicalllc.com
Secretary	Treck Cardwell	t2c@nwnatural.com

<p><b>Sacramento Petroleum Association</b></p>	<p>P. O. Box 571 Sacramento, CA 95812-0571</p>	<p>Contact: <i>Rick Blake</i> 925.422.9910</p>
--	--	--



Luncheon meetings held monthly January through November, on the third Wednesday of the month. Location: Club Pheasant Restaurant in West Sacramento. The meetings starts at noon. The cost is \$16 - \$20. For information or reservations, contact Pam Ceccarelli at 916-322-1097x2 or Pam.Ceccarelli@conservation.ca.gov.

President:	Rick Blake	blake2@ltnl.gov
Vice-President:	Marc Brennen	M.brennen@Termasource.com
Secretary/Editor/Treasurer	Pam Ceccarelli	Pam.Ceccarelli@conservation.ca.gov

<p><b>San Joaquin Geological Society</b> www.sjgs.com</p>	<p>P. O. Box 1056 Bakersfield, CA 93302</p>	<p>Contact: <i>Kurt Johnson</i> kurt_johnson@oxy.com</p>
---	---	--



We have dinner meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at the American Legion Hall at 2020 "H Street" in Bakersfield. There is an icebreaker at 6:00 pm, dinner at 7:00 pm, and a talk at 8:00 pm. Dinner is \$20.00 for members with reservations and \$25.00 for nonmembers, \$25.00 for members without reservations and \$30.00 for nonmembers without, and the talks are free.

President:	Kurt Johnson	kurt_johnson@oxy.com
President-Elect:	Jack Grippi	JGrippi@aeraenergy.com
Vice-President:	Anne Draucker	AnneDraucker@chevron.com
Secretary:	Heidi Hoffower	heidi.hoffower@chevron.com
Treasurer:	Will Satterfield	will_satterfield@oxy.com

**Advertising Rates**

<i>Members</i>	<i>Single Issue</i>	<i>Year (6 issues)</i>	
<i>Full Page</i>	\$400.00	\$1600.00	
<i>Half Page</i>	\$250.00	\$1050.00	
<i>Quarter Page</i>	\$150.00	\$650.00	
<i>Business Card</i>		\$250.00	

**Societies Free Advertising**

<i>Convention Societies</i>	<i>Unlimited Space</i>	<i>PSAAPG Newsletter</i>	
	<i>1/4 Page</i>	<i>AAPG Explorer</i>	

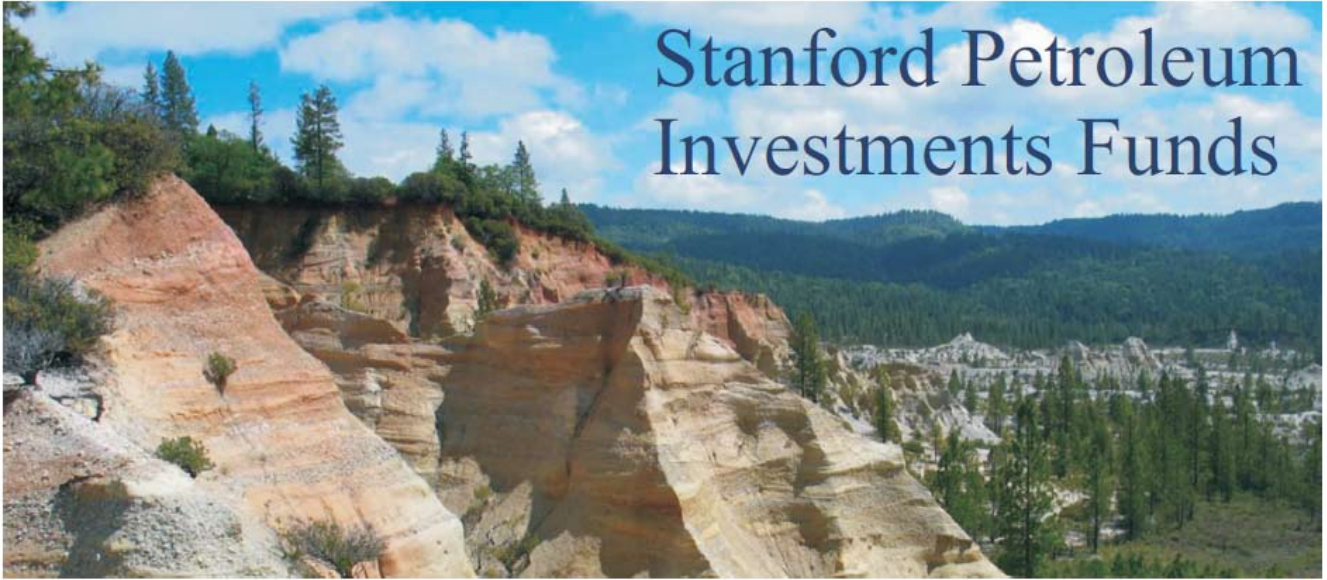
**Newsletter Deadline**

**June & July Issue**

**May 20th**

- Images (graphics, photos, and scans) must be at least 300 dpi resolution. Text should be scanned at least 600 dpi.
- Scanned photos, illustrations (line art) or logos must be scanned at 300 dpi minimum and saved as a tiff or eps.
- Avoid clip-art and images from the internet. These images are low-resolution (72 dpi).

# Stanford Petroleum Investments Funds



*Photo courtesy of Andreas Mulch*

## Investing in Energy to Support Education and Research



“Today’s computational capacity and the availability of large volumes of data from ground-based observations and satellites offer new opportunities for understanding how the Earth system works and how human activities interact with Earth processes. The Sanford Center for Computational Earth and Environmental Science will enable the development of sophisticated models to address questions about energy and freshwater resources, natural hazards, climate change, and other global issues.”

**Jerry M. Harris**, Director, Center for Computational Earth and Environmental Science, Professor and Former Chair, Department of Geophysics, Stanford University; Director, Stanford Wave Physics Laboratory; Past Distinguished Lecturer, Society of Exploration Geophysicists, American Association of Petroleum Geologists, and Society of Petroleum Engineers.

The alumni-managed Stanford Petroleum Investments Funds own, manage, and acquire producing oil and gas royalties and other energy investments. Income from these investments provides essential discretionary funding in support of energy and environmental education and research and other programs of the Stanford School of Earth Sciences. The Petroleum Investments Funds provided seed funding to help launch the Stanford Center for Computational Earth and Environmental Science.

If you would like to sell or donate producing oil and gas royalties, or learn more, visit <http://earthsci.stanford.edu/support/pif> or call or email David Gordon, Associate Dean, Stanford School of Earth Sciences, at (650) 723-9777 or [dsgordon@stanford.edu](mailto:dsgordon@stanford.edu) to see how you can help.





PACIFIC SECTION AAPG  
P. O. Box 1072  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93302

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BAKERSFIELD, CA  
PERMIT NO. 1163

**George Harper**  
**Account Representative**  
**Baker Hughes**



**Western US/US Land/Baker Atlas**

**Office: +1 661.334.3800 X 215 | Fax: +1 661.334.3808**

**Cell: +1 661.805.5984 | [george.harper@bakerhughes.com](mailto:george.harper@bakerhughes.com)**

**<http://www.bakerhughes.com> | Advancing Reservoir Performance**



**PacSeis, Inc.**  
Pacific Seismic Company

**The leader in sub-surface information**

**Resources that Deliver the Difference**

- One of the largest seismic databases available for license
- Seismic available for immediate license
- Over 500,000 line miles of 2D & 3D data located in domestic United States (onshore & offshore)
- 2,500 square miles of 3D surveys

**Exclusive Opportunity 2010**

**Recently acquired seismic databases by Pacific Seismic Co.**

- Chevron USA California, OXY USA Nationwide (including Arco & Enron)
- Santa Fe Energy, TXO, Cities Services Oil & Gas Nationwide
- Southern Pacific, PG&E / NGC, SOHIO
- Vintage Nationwide
- Seventeen Newly Acquired 3D's Covering Northern & Southern California

**Pacific Seismic Company**

**You're full-service Seismic Brokerage & Acquisition Company**

Exploration Consulting • Prospect Financing • 3D Seismic Project Management

**Bakersfield**

**Denver**

**Tulsa**

**Houston**

**Tel: 661.322.1171 • Fax: 661.322.1181**

**Web Site: [PACSEIS.com](http://PACSEIS.com)**

**[dwight@pacseis.com](mailto:dwight@pacseis.com)   [curtisconway@pacseis.com](mailto:curtisconway@pacseis.com)   [kathysmith@pacseis.com](mailto:kathysmith@pacseis.com)  
[brianrangel@pacseis.com](mailto:brianrangel@pacseis.com)   [danszymanski@pacseis.com](mailto:danszymanski@pacseis.com)**