



MONTANA GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

MGS Vol. 52 No. 10

DECEMBER 2008

MGS LUNCHEON

WED, DEC 17th, 2008

Dave Galt
Executive Director
Montana Petroleum
Association
“Issues and Challenges
for the Oil Industry
in the 2009
Legislative Session”

Members who do not
Receive an e-mail
Reminder can RSVP by
calling Doretta Brush
at Ballard Petroleum
(406) 259-8790

All meetings are held at
the Billings Petroleum
Club at 11:45 a.m.
unless otherwise noted.

THUR, DEC 18th 2008
Oilies Christmas Party
Billings Petroleum Club

MGS HOME PAGE:
www.montanags.org

MGS EMAIL:
mgs@wtp.net

PRESIDENT’S LETTER – PAT LEMKE

I rolled into the Conoco station last week, not quite on fumes, and decided to bite the bullet and fill both tanks on my '93 Ford pickup—about 40 gallons. I spent half of what it cost last summer, \$80 and some change. Now that's change I can believe in! Conversely, we had a geology department meeting last week and reevaluated next year's drilling program, cutting back on wells and moving key wells forward. \$50/bbl oil does that to an exploration program. That is a paradox for everyone in the oil business. We all pay the same price at the gas pump, but what a “fair price” is doesn't explain the whole equation.

I was having a casual conversation last week with an acquaintance I've known for years, a science teacher, an educated, common sense, fishing and hunting kind of guy. Probably burns a lot of gas. He asked how work was, where I was drilling, that kind of stuff, then asked, “What do you do after you drill a well, cap it and wait for the price to go up?” Aghhhh! Most people still think we get oil from big underground caverns and then cap wells until the price goes up. I think the bank wants their money back sooner than that.

Misperceptions about the cost and risk of drilling, ignorance about exploration and reservoir characteristics and volatility of the market generate public mistrust. With a new administration coming to Washington many in the energy sector are wondering what changes are in store. As far as alternative energy, from a practical standpoint, there is none. In America we can have our “ideals” and still live our consumptive lifestyles. Like the bumper sticker I saw on a Ford diesel, “I vote to protect the environment”. And that is the other side of the equation. With current technology, there is no substitute for liquid motor fuels. Interesting times we live in. We will continue to ride the wave, educate people and explore for oil. And we all pay the same price at the gas pump.

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MGS Receives thanks from Local Teacher - Denece Lord

As noted in the October Newsletter the MGS and RMS Foundation recently facilitated and funded the purchase of a presentation device for Ms. Lord at Billings West High School

Ms. Lord took it upon her to launch a geology program at the school and needed the flexcam to more effectively present information to her students. She sent a heartfelt and sincere thank you note to the Society. She said she would send along some pictures of her class shortly so keep an eye out for that in an upcoming issue. Along with her thanks she also requested any and all idea for projects, classroom participation opportunities, and "real world scenarios" that will engage and spark an interest in her students. So if you have any thoughts of suggestions or have time to volunteer for an in-class presentation drop an email to the MGS or call the editor and we'll get you in contact with Ms. Lord.

Thanks to each and every member of the society for your support and we'll be looking for more opportunities to help out in town like this in the future.

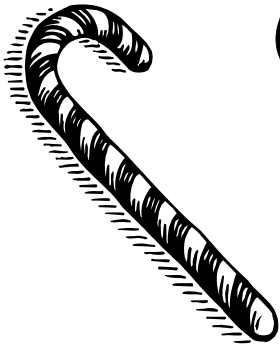


MGS/SPE/MAPL/BGS

Oilies



Christmas



Party



Please Join Us



For an Evening of Festivity

Thursday, December 18th



5:00 p.m.



at the

Billings Petroleum Club

Come Celebrate the Season



Ho! Ho! Ho!



Abstract

**“Issues and Challenges for the Oil Industry in the 2009 Legislative Session”
by Dave Galt , Executive Director Montana Petroleum Association**

Issues and Challenges for the Oil Industry in the 2009 Legislative Session: MPA will present an updated overview of the oil and gas industry in Montana, the same presentation given to Montana’s legislators during our 2008 Legislative Briefing Tour.

The presentation will cover current industry revenues and production, and include a preview of expected bills before the Montana Legislature coming in January. (Editor’s

Note: Dave Galt will be speaking at the December 17th MGS luncheon.)

“BEER THIRTY IS BACK!”

**GAINING GEOLOGIC KNOWLEDGE
WHILE DRINKING BEER!**

*“Hat Creek Field- some
interesting aspects of a recent
shallow gas discovery in the
southern Powder River Basin,
WY”*

*Presented By
Bob Schalla*



***Thursday January 15th
4:30 at the Petroleum Club***

December 2008 Webnote:

Check out: <http://www.onegeology.org/>

This is an exciting new website with a very simple mission statement;

"Make web-accessible the best available geological map data worldwide at a scale of about 1:1 million, as a geological survey contribution to the International Year of Planet Earth."

OneGeology is an international initiative of the geological surveys of the world and a flagship project of the 'International Year of Planet Earth'. Its aim is to create dynamic geological map data of the world available via the web. This will create a focus for accessing geological information for everyone. Thanks to the enthusiasm and support of participating nations the initiative has progressed rapidly and geological surveys and the many users of their data are excited about this ground-breaking project. These pages provide a background to the initiative as well as up to date information on its progress.



The MGS is still looking for a few good books!

Thanks to the generosity of Ballard Petroleum and the MBMG, we have collected 67 of 72 identified MGS publications. Doretta Brush has shipped them to AAPG for digitizing.

Take a minute and search your library for any of the five volumes we're missing.

Two copies of each MGS publication will be sent to the AAPG sponsored Data Pages group in Tulsa who will digitize the books. The digital data will be marketed by AAPG and MGS. The books will not be returned.

If you would like to donate a publication, call the Publication Committee editor collecting for that year:

Jay Shearer:	406-671-1282	jshearer@mt.gov	1950-1959
Joe Carlisle:	406-294-6222	jcarlisle@180.com	1980-1989

We need the following publications:

Copies Needed	Year	Title
1	1956	1 st International Williston Basin Symposium
2	1958	2 nd International Williston Basin Symposium
1	1982	4th International Williston Basin Symposium
1	1984	Guidebook to Northwest Montana and Adjacent Canada
2	1987	5th International Williston Basin Symposium

Luncheon Meeting RSVP Reminder

It is with some organization and effort that our speaker coordinator attempts to communicate an accurate attendance count to the Petroleum Club. In all fairness, in order for them to provide us good food and service they need to know how many people are coming and how many lunches to prepare. Generally, a couple more or fewer lunches are no big deal, and for the most part our RSVP system works satisfactorily. Usually the no RSVPers about equal the number of guys who did RSVP and forgot to come and it evens out. Occasionally the MGS gets stuck paying for a few extra lunches. But about twice a year we get caught and put the P-Club in a tight spot. The Nov. 19th luncheon was a good example. Ennis Geraghty's talk on the Stillwater Mine was excellent and well attended. What a great turnout! But we had 23 RSVP's and ended up serving about 35 lunches. I wouldn't blame the kitchen staff for blowing a gasket!

Here's how the system works. We advertise the luncheon dates and times in the newsletter. A few days before the luncheon we send out an Email reminder and request an RSVP. Members can RSVP by Email response or by calling Doretta Brush at 259-8790 with a phone-in RSVP. The day before the luncheon we compile an attendance list and call the number in to the P-Club. (The morning of the luncheon is really too late to RSVP.) If they prepare extra lunches for no shows, our RSVP number was too high, and we pay anyway. If our RSVP number is too low and they serve a couple extra lunches, they can usually accommodate us. If they have to serve more than a few extra lunches, that's probably unreasonable.

Hopefully this is a friendly reminder to our membership to help us be more consistent. We hope the excellent turnout continues through the entire year and into our AAPG Distinguished Lecture season. Thanks for your help making it successful and well attended.

2009 Past-Presidents Dinner

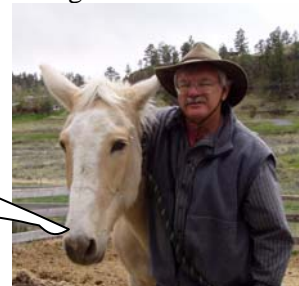
The annual Past-Presidents dinner has been scheduled for Friday January 16th 2009. All members are cordially invited to attend and celebrate the accomplishments of Bob Schalla and the many other distinguished Past-Presidents of the Montana Geological Society.

The evening will begin at the Billings Petroleum Club with cocktails served at 6:00 PM and Dinner at 7:00PM. Dinner will be followed by the traditional roast of outgoing President performed by sitting President Pat Lemke.

Further details can be gathered by contacting Betsy Campen the event coordinator. It is essential that RSVPs be sent to the MGS email at mgs@gmail.com or to Betsy Campen at 652-1760 or betsycampen@bresnan.net by January 12th. When sending the RSVP please select a main course menu option of Beef or Fish so that the Petroleum Club Staff can plan accordingly. Thanks and we look forward to seeing you there!

Below is a little tidbit to help inspire you Pat! Happy roasting!




Boy that is one silly looking hat, how am I ever supposed to catch a Filly with this guy on my arm?? Nahhhhhh.....






REMINDERS

- December 17** MGS Luncheon, "Issues and Challenges for the Oil Industry in the 2009 legislative Session," Petroleum Club, Billings
- December 18** MGS/SPE/MAPL/BGS Christmas Party, Petroleum Club, Billings
- January 15** Thursday Afternoon Talk, Bob Schalla, Billings Petroleum Club
- January 16** Montana Geological Society Past President Dinner, Petroleum Club, Billings

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Submission deadline for the MGS Newsletter is the **10th** of each month.
Submit requests to Newsletter Editor.
Andrew Urie
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MGS PUBLICATIONS

2006 Montana Oil & Gas Fields CD-----	\$65.00
MGS - NRGDC Northwestern Geologic Service Sample Logs (MT, ND, SD) ----- Over 2500 sample logs on CD-ROM, regional sets also available	\$2500.00
2000 Guidebook: Northern Montana & the Montana-Alberta Thrust Belt (2 Vol. Set) ----- 50 th Anniversary Symposium	\$125.00
1998 8 th International Williston Basin Symposium -----	\$55.00
1998 Core Workshop Guide for Williston Basin Symposium -----	\$30.00
1997 Bighorn Symposium Guidebook -----	\$50.00
1997 MGS-TRGS Field Conference Guide -----	\$25.00
<i>"The Edge of the Crazies: Where the Mountains Meet the Plains"</i>	
1996 AAPG Rocky Mountain Section Meeting Expanded Abstracts Volume -----	\$25.00
1995 Guidebook: Seventh International Williston Basin Symposium -----	\$100.00
1993 Guidebook: Energy and Mineral Resources of Central Montana -----	\$54.00
1991 6 th International Williston Basin Symposium -----	\$55.00
1991 Guidebook: Geology and Horizontal Drilling of the Bakken Formation -----	\$50.00
1991 Field Trip Guides: Beartooth Mountains -----	\$7.50
Sequence Stratigraphy of the Eagle Sandstone at Billings -----	\$7.50
1989 Guidebook: Geologic Resources of Montana -----	\$80.00
1986 Guidebook: Geology of the Beartooth Uplift and Adjacent Basins -----	\$45.00
1985 Symposium: Montana Oil and Gas Fields -----	\$55.00
1978 Economic Geology of the Williston Basin -----	\$100.00
1971 Catalog of Stratigraphic Names -----	\$10.00
1969 Guidebook: Economic Geology of Montana -----	\$8.50
1951 BGS 2 nd Annual Central Montana Field Conference -----	\$12.50
1950 BGS 1 st Annual Field Conference -----	\$12.50

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