

Montana Association of Professional Landmen



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www.maplweb.org

MAPL
P.O. Box 1911
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MAPL NEWS

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

2008 MAPL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Annual Christmas Party will be held on Thursday, **December 18th** at the Billings Petroleum Club, located in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, downtown Billings. MAPL is throwing the party in conjunction with the MGS (geologists), BGS (geophysicists) and SPE (engineers). All members are invited, and are welcome to bring wives, husbands, girlfriends, boyfriends. Come and be happy.

MAPL CHRISTMAS PARTY
6:00 PM
December 18, 2008
Billings Petroleum Club

Voluntary donations to the party fund can be sent to the MAPL mail box, or contact Tom Hayes (861-6354).

MAPL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

The winner of the 2008 MAPL Education Scholarship was **Shannon Fee**, daughter of Eric S. Fee, landman for NFR Energy LLC in Havre. Shannon is currently a sophomore at Jamestown College in Jamestown, North Dakota, and is studying Health and Fitness Administration. The scholarship award was for \$500. Congratulations, Shannon.

GOLF TOURNAMENT RESULTS, LINKS AND OUR WEB SITE

Go to our MAPL web site for some pictures from our 2008 MAPL Golf Tournament and a list of the Golf Tournament winners. Our web site should finally be updated by the time this newsletter arrives. We have more than 40 new (and returning) members, so our membership and mailing list updates have been a project. Check out the color pictures (including our tournament golfers and also some classic Montana courthouses). Also note web links to the **NAPE Prospect Fair**, to Montana Legislature issues and to the **Microsoft Excel seminars** that are scheduled for Billings in February. www.maplweb.org

GRAPEVINE

Big hoopla was heard in North Dakota this summer, not for the relentless completions of Bakken wells, but for the completion of the “**4 Lanes for Highway No. 2**” project that was finally completed. Four smooth lanes of highway all the way from Grand Forks to Williston, then to the Montana border. It’s described as a “nice stretch of road now.”

Meanwhile, in Montana, Highway 2 is a nice stretch of 2-lanes. **Except in Havre**, where the city just finished re-doing the highway through the middle of town - replacing water pipes and sewer, and pouring 9” of concrete and re-paving 4-lanes from the west hill to Bearpaw Lumber on the east end of town.

Gary McCartney (McCartney Petroleum) retired this summer, making good on his endless promise to quit and play golf. He’s currently wintering in Mesquite, Nevada, but has retained an office in Sidney. Many of Gary’s former clients are now handled by Bakken Oil LLC, which is headed up by Jon Aisenbrey.

Leo P. Sas also retired in 2008. He told the MAPL past president one morning at the post office, “I have six more ownership reports to type-up, then I’m retired for good.” Ya, right. Several reliable sources report that Leo is back pulling books in a North Dakota courthouse (top secret location). 91 years young.

Klabzuba Oil & Gas, which has been active in the Eagle gas play in the Tiger Ridge-Bearspaw Mountains Area (Hill, Blaine and Chouteau Counties) for more than 30 years, is no more. Klabzuba sold the company and all its Montana production to **NFR Energy LLC** (Houston, Texas) earlier this year. Sad to see Klabzuba go, but the good news is that NFR keep the Havre office in tact. Many in Klabzuba’s Denver office were also retained.

Jimmy Knapp got quoted in the *Billings Gazette* (Nov. 20). Jimmy was reminded about an earlier interview in which he was asked to divine the low-end price of a barrel of oil. His prediction was a bit off, but it was still four times closer to today’s price than T-Boone’s predicted near future price (\$200).

The **Montana Legislature will be back in session** in January 2009. Stay tuned for the regular onslaught of anti-business, anti-energy, anti-CO2, anti-Mineral Rights, high-tax legislative bills. Poor legislation can pass if our industry is silent. MAPL will attempt to provide a link to our ally and legislative advocate – the Montana Petroleum Association (www.montanapetroleum.org). Link direct or go to the MAPL web site (www.maplweb.org).

The national organization, AAPL, is debating the sticky issue of “**licensing for landmen.**” Please link to the AAPL web sit to view the proposals and participate in the discussion. www.landman.org

OBITUARIES - Good-bye to our friends and colleagues:

Kelly Hollis Baxter. Kelly Baxter left this life on June 18, 2008, at age 53 in Austin, Texas. Kelly was born in Ft. Worth, TX, and was the son of an oil man. He lived much of his life in Midland and Houston. He was an independent operator, producer and landman for more than 30 years. He was well-known in the Rockies for buying and selling minerals throughout Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas, as well as the rest of the West. A friend of his in Denver said of Kelly, “he was a great guy.” Kelly Baxter is survived by three daughters (Ashley, Blair and Holly) and a sister (Jane).

Royce P. Robins, Jr. Royce Robins, age 74, died suddenly in his home in Broadus, Montana, on July 14, 2008. Royce was a tough-as-nails, no-BS landman. He worked hard and tirelessly throughout the Rockies since entering the business in the 1970s. Prior to that, life was a bit different. Royce attended the University of Colorado, where he played football. He was a U.S. Marine (1952-1960), and fought in the Korean War. After his military service, he worked for United Airlines, was a Sports Rep for the Baltimore Orioles and Baltimore Colts, and later worked for a travel agency that organized international travel tours. And, oh, by the way, the CIA – all good background experiences for being a landman. He is survived by his second wife, Gail (Collins), two sons (Royce III and Russell), and two step-daughters (Melinda and Andrea).

President's Report on Career Fair

Career Fair 2008, sponsored by the Bridger Chapter of Jobs for Montana Graduates, was held on October 22 between 8:00 am and 12:00 noon at the new National Guard Armory on Gabriel Road. I was accompanied by President of Ballard Petroleum Holdings LLC, Dave Ballard, Justin Balkenbush, a petroleum engineer, and Shane Morgenson, a geophysicist. Justin and Shane are both from St. Mary's Land & Exploration Co. We were all there to represent the petroleum business.

We set up two tables next to each other. Dave had a big computer monitor that presented a slide showing oil wells pumping, drilling rigs various gas fields in the national forest and some other cool oil field pictures. Justin and Shane had a microscope set up to show the porosity of core samples that hold oil in tiny cells. They had some colored seismic maps. I represented landmen, and had a rather boring set-up which included a pad of oil and gas leases, some title sheets, a 1-1/2 inch old title report and various other forms that we use - also a nice folder that said in big letters "Montana Association of Professional Landmen."

The first bus load of future business leaders started arriving around 8:00 am and continued until noon. The kids came from as far away as Malta and Glendive. Other companies near our booth included Conoco-Phillips, Stillwater Mining Co., and various colleges. The number of students that stopped at our tables was very few and I had to act like a carney at the fair and say "come over here and we will show you something you have never seen before in your whole life." That worked pretty well, but no way as good as the vendors that were handing out free candy, pens and other flashy items. Not one student knew what we landmen do. The same went for the geophysical department next to me. We were simply out-classed by the College of Cosmetics, and the St. Vincent's Nursing booth. If I go again, I will bring a whole basket of candy and some landman trinkets - whatever they are.

- Thomas M. Hayes, MAPL President

IMPORTANT DATES: SALES, SEMINARS AND MEETINGS

Wyoming Federal Lease Sale	Cheyenne, WY	December 2, 2008
Montana State Lease Sale	Helena, MT	December 9, 2008
MT Board of OG Commission Hearings	Billings, MT	December 13, 2008
MT-ND-SD Federal Lease Sale	Billings, MT	January 27, 2009
North Dakota State Lease Sale	Mandan, ND	February 3, 2009
Wyoming Federal Lease Sale	Cheyenne, WY	February 3, 2009
Wyoming State Lease Sale	Cheyenne, WY	February 4, 2009
NAPE Expo 2009	Houston, TX	February 5-6, 2009
Microsoft Excel Basics Seminar	Billings, MT	February 12, 2009
Microsoft Excel Beyond Basics Seminar	Billings, MT	February 13, 2009

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