



San Joaquin Geological Society

Date: Tuesday, June 13, 2017

Time: 6:00 PM Social Hour
7:00 PM Dinner
8:00 PM Lecture

Place: Eagles Lodge
1718 17th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93302

PSAAPG Members & Mesozoics
\$25 with reservation
\$30 without reservation

Non PSAAPG Members
\$30 with reservation

Full-time Students with ID:
\$10 - Courtesy of Chevron & California Resources Corp.

*** RSVP ***

By: Sunday, June 11, 2017

PayPal on the Website:
<http://www.SanJoaquinGeologicalSociety.org/>

or Reply to this email

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[SJGS WEBSITE](http://www.SanJoaquinGeologicalSociety.org/)

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[SJGS OFFICERS](#)

PRESIDENT

Greg Gordon
Aera

gsgordon@aeraenergy.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Marck Maroun
Aera

mymaroun@aeraenergy.com

SECRETARY

Beckie Burston
Chevron

661-654-7689 office

661-364-4845 cell

BeckieBurston@chevron.com

rburston8484@att.net

TREASURER

Kathy Ann Smith
PacSeis, Inc.

kathysmith@pacseis.com

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Cameron Campbell
DOGGR

Cameron.Campbell@conservation.ca.gov

@conservation.ca.gov

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Ariel Auffant
Sentinel Peak Resources

The Wildcatters, the Regulators and the Prize: Chronicles of the Cat Canyon Oil Field, Santa Barbara County, CA.

Presented by: Joe Nahama, President, PetroRock LLC

Abstract: Wildcatters spend a lifetime developing the skills to find the next Prize; a large oil or gas reservoir. Regulators have a mandate to protect both the environment and public from real or potential threats. Thus, a field of play is set where a wildcatter drives towards developing a Prize, while regulators play defense, wanting all potential future threats to be mitigated. In California, the "wildcatter" of old must become the new Playmaker, and navigate the team to the prize.

PetroRock set its sights on the prize of the Sisquoc Oil Sands in the Cat Canyon Field, Santa Barbara County, CA. These Pliocene heavy oil sands were steamed cyclically from 1965 to 1997 by Texaco and produced 4 million barrels of 8 API oil. Oil prices and the regulatory environment in the late 1990's prompted Texaco to abandon these leases.

After a cursory look at the old Texaco production, PetroRock decided to "do what it takes" to reactivate the field. That's when we learned about the Santa Barbara County Production Plan process. Impacts to air, tiger salamanders, ground water, ambient noise, visual impacts, traffic counts, and septic tanks, among other things, had to be addressed in a County application. How would PetroRock do this?

To execute our plan, we implemented a three-step process. First, by understanding the geology and reservoir characteristics of the Sisquoc sands and compared this with questions posed to us by the Regulators. Second, we took our knowledge and met face to face with regulators and heard their concerns. This lost art of being in the "Room Where It Happens" was crucial for our project. Finally, we changed our "team" mindset and went from "Wildcatters versus Regulator" to "we're all in this together".

As PetroRock has found, each day does not guarantee the ball will be moved down the field. But the modern wildcatter's knowledge can develop the playbook and keep the team on a successful quest for the prize.

Biography:

Joe grew up in Bakersfield, California and first worked in the oil industry during high school. He graduated from UCLA in 1987 with a Bachelor's Degree in Geology and, in 1990, from the Colorado School of Mines with a Masters of Petroleum Engineering. Joe is currently President of PetroRock LLC, one of four companies under the Vaquero Energy umbrella.

(See expanded biographical information on the web site <http://www.SanJoaquinGeologicalSociety.org/>.)

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