New Orleans Chapter Newsletter

Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists

Volume 15, Number 14 April 2014

Kirk A. Barrell

The Tuscaloosa Marine Shale, An Emerging Oil Play.

Tuesday, April 15th
Andrea's - Metairie

Registration & Networking - 11:30 AM

Lunch and Talk - Noon

Reservations and guests: Carol St. Germain - 504-267-3466

Kirk A. Barrell currently serves as the President of Amelia Resources LLC, an oil and gas exploration company focused on the onshore US. Kirk holds geological degrees from Louisiana State University and Texas A&M University. He has worked as a geologist for twenty-seven years exploring onshore Louisiana, the Gulf of Mexico, Mississippi, and Texas. Kirk began his employment with Amoco Production Company and has worked for several small independents as a prospect-generating geologist. At Amoco, he played a primary role in revitalizing the company's key assets in the Tuscaloosa Trend. For nineteen years, Kirk has created and managed companies pursuing ventures in the energy sector. Kirk leads the business efforts for Amelia, where his primary duties include geological and geophysical interpretation, financial management, capital raising, and operational planning. Amelia Resources LLC is currently focused on the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale and Austin Chalk trends across Central Louisiana. Kirk publishes a blog, "Tuscaloosa Trend," focusing on oil and gas activity across Central Louisiana (www.tuscaloosatrend.blogspot.com).

Chairman's Column

An excellent talk was presented last month by Bryan Stephens with BOEM to thirty members and guests. Bryan's subject was natural subsidence patterns in South Louisiana which may be "the elephant in the room" when it comes to coastal land loss and restoration.

This month our speaker will be Kirk Barrell, president of Amelia Resources LLC in Houston. Kirk has become recognized as an expert in the fast developing Tuscaloosa Marine Shale play. Kirk is a native of New Orleans and many of us remember his father, Bob Barrell, and the tragic event of his death many years ago.

Mark your calendars for next month when we will have our final meeting on May 20th. This is the annual evening dinner meeting for members, spouses and guests.

The 51st Annual SIPES Convention will begin on Monday, June 9, at the Omni Royal Orleans at 621 St. Louis Street. You will be receiving details in the near future. Ken Huffman, and his committee have worked very hard to plan for a successful event here in New Orleans.

On a final note, Roy Walther, Treasurer, reports that virtually all dues have come in for the spring sessions. Thanks for your cooperation!

Louis E. Lemarié

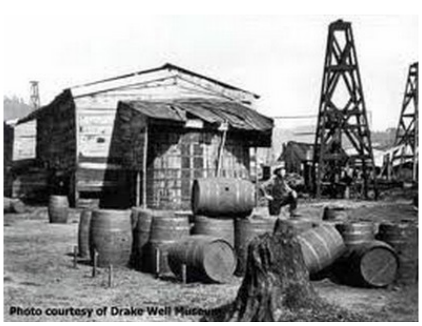
Photo courtesy of Drake Well Museum

The Tuscaloosa Marine Shale, An Emerging Oil Play

The Tuscaloosa Marine Shale (TMS), a source rock, occurs above the prolific deep Tuscaloosa sands and averages approximately 150 feet in thickness. The shale is uppermost Cenomanian to early Turonian in age (92-94 million years ago) and was deposited during a major transgression during the Tuscaloosa "A" Sequence. In 2010, Devon Energy commenced a large lease acquisition effort across the TMS play. Currently, active operators are Encana, Goodrich, Halcon, EOG, Sanchez, Comstock, Helis, and Contango. To date, over two million acres have been leased. The most significant completion to date has been Goodrich's Crosby 12H-1 well with an initial potential of 1300 barrels of oil equivalent per day. The well, through 24 stages in a 6700' lateral, has produced over 160 MBOE in the first year. Encana's Anderson 17H-2 had an initial potential of 1540 barrels of oil equivalent per day. Thirty five wells have been completed to date. At this early stage in the play, economics are not confirmed. Drilling new wells, fine tuning frac design, and performing additional analyses will lead to the definition of the play boundaries and "sweet spots" where economics will define the full development of the shale. It is believed, that once the play is fully de-risked and in development mode, costs will range from $9-12 million per well. In 2014, the economic viability of the play will be determined.

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