



Society of Petroleum Engineers Austin Section

Austin SPE News

March 2008

SPE Section Meeting

Serrano's at Symphony Square

1111 Red River Austin Texas
(512) 322-9080

Price: \$20 Cash or Check (INCLUDES LUNCH AND PRESENTATION)

Date and Time: Thursday March 20 at 11:30am

RSVP: cjablonowski@mail.utexas.edu by Friday March 14

Guest Speaker

Overview and Update: Barnett Shale Gas Play, Fort Worth Basin

**Eric Potter
Bureau of Economic Geology, UT-Austin**

ABSTRACT

The Barnett Shale play now has 8400 producing wells, makes 2 BCF per day, and has produced 3.2 TCF of gas. Prices for leases in the best parts of the play commonly exceed \$10,000 per acre. 3-D seismic has been acquired over most of the basin, primarily to help operators avoid hitting faults with their horizontal wells. Passive microseismic has been widely used to map propagation of frac jobs. A major operator reports that the company will be completing one Barnett well every 15 hours through 2010. Drilling horizontal wells, achieving successful frac stimulations, and minimizing surface impacts in urban areas have all been notably successful strategies in this play. There is general agreement on key geological play elements, which will be summarized in this talk. Surprisingly, several fundamental questions remain unsolved and will be briefly touched upon. What does the detailed stratigraphic architecture of the Barnett look like? What are the gas flow paths and flow mechanics if the shale has nanometer-scale pores and lacks a well-developed microfracture system? Does the concept of reservoir storage of free gas even apply in the Barnett? Will inferred relative permeability issues in the western part of the play be exacerbated by liquid drop-out as pressures decrease? Considering the feeble permeability system inferred for most of the basin, why are there robust oil wells in Montague and Cooke Counties? Answers won't be provided in this talk, but we'll look at some of the relevant data!

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Guest Speaker Biography

Eric is Associate Director of the Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG), at the Jackson School of Geosciences at UT. He is responsible for coordinating oil- and gas-related research at BEG. Prior to joining BEG in 2001, he worked 25 years in exploration and in geoscience technology positions for Marathon Oil Company, in Wyoming, Houston, Denver, and Midland. He has a Bachelor's degree in earth sciences from Dartmouth College, and a Master's degree in geology from Oregon State University.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at 11:30 AM

SPE Distinguished Lecturer

Tarald Svanes, Statoil

"Integrated Uncertainty and Decision Analysis of Petroleum Projects: Work-flows and Tools"



Svanes



Kuuskraa

Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 11:30 AM

SPE Distinguished Lecturer

Vello Kuuskraa

"Maximizing Oil Recovery Efficiency and Sequestration of CO2 with "Next Generation" CO2-EOR"

Membership

Please ensure that your membership information is up to date at www.SPE.org.

Change in Meeting Venue

Our traditional meeting venue at the Campus Club is not available in 2008 due to construction and relocation (hence Serrano's at Symphony Square).

Members are encouraged to submit ideas for alternate venues—please contact an Officer.

2007-2008 SPE Officers Austin Section

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