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NOVEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

2007 CHRISTMAS PARTY: The Annual MAPL Christmas Party will be held at 5:30 pm, Thursday, **December 13th** at the Billings Petroleum Club, 22nd Floor of the Crown Plaza Hotel (formerly the Sheraton Hotel) in Billings. MAPL is throwing the party in conjunction with the geologists, geophysicists and engineers – MGS, BGS and SPE. Individuals and companies willing to help sponsor or donate funds for the party can contact John Fredlund at 259-5106 or Rob Diedrich at 869-8643.

TAYLOR SAGE GROUSE STUDY AVAILABLE ON THE MONTANA OIL AND GAS COMMISSION WEBSITE:

Mr. Tom Richmond of the Montana Board of Oil and Gas has placed the study on their website. (Thank you MPA for the information!) If you would like to check it out please go to:

<http://bogc.dnrc.state.mt.us/PDF/WYsageGrouseNov2paper.pdf>

PROFESSIONAL LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM:

Gunnison, Colorado - Today Western State College of Colorado announced that its Board of Trustees has approved a new business administration emphasis in Professional Land and Resource Management (PLRM). While the PLRM program at Western will prepare students for careers as "landmen" in the petroleum industry, the combination of training in business administration, natural science, public policy, and environmental awareness will also make graduates of the program uniquely suited for business operations in the many other land and resource industries unique to the Rocky Mountain region, the mountainous West and elsewhere around the globe. For more information on the Western State College Professional Land and Resource Management emphasis please contact co-directors Richard Daerr, at 970-943-3163, rdaerr@western.edu or Ken Blair, at 970-943-2538, kblair@western.edu

"DRESS-A-CHILD" DONATIONS: MAPL has donated \$300.00 from our kitty to the Salvation Army's "Dress-a-Child" Program. MAPL has been a loyal donor to this Christmas-time charity for many years. To give more, individual donations can be made to: The Salvation Army, Dress-a-Child Program, P.O. Box 1903, Billings, MT 59103, phone (406) 245-4659.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: Please remember to pay your annual 2007-2008 dues. If you know a landman who would like to join, contact any of the MAPL officers listed on the letterhead or hand them the application form enclosed in this newsletter. Active Members - \$20. Life Members - \$10. **If your address label is highlighted in yellow then we show you have not paid your 2007-2008 dues.**

STATE OF MONTANA OIL AND GAS SALE: December 4, 2007 at 9:00 am at the Department of Transportation Auditorium, 2701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana.

BLM ISSUES NEW PROCESSING AND FILING FEES

BLM issued a final rule on September 5, 2007 from its 2005 proposed rule to update its fee schedule for processing minerals documents and document filing fees. The new rule becomes effective October 1, 2007. The rule does not include fees to recover costs associated with processing drilling related permit applications and use authorizations because it was prohibited by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct). BLM has interpreted this prohibition to include geophysical exploration permits outside of Alaska. Alaska geophysical exploration fees (\$25) predated the 2005 cost recovery rule and were not affected by the EPAAct.

Oil & Gas (parts 3100, 3110, 3120, 3130, 3150)

Fee	Existing	New
Noncompetitive lease application	\$335	\$360
Competitive lease application	130	140
Assignment and transfer of record title or operating rights	75	80
Overriding royalty transfer, payment out of production	10	10
Name change, corporate merger or transfer to heir/devisee	175	185
Lease Consolidation	370	395
Lease Renewal or Exchange	335	360
Lease Reinstatement Class 1	65	70
Leasing under Right-of-Way	335	360
Geothermal (part 3200)		
Noncompetitive lease application	\$335	\$360
Competitive lease application	130	140
Assignment and transfer of record title or operating right	75	80
Name change, corporate merger or transfer to heir/devisee	175	185
Lease consolidation	370	395
Lease reinstatement	65	70
Nomination of lands	\$00 plus \$0.10 per acre nominated	\$100 plus \$0.10 per acre nominated
Site license application	50	55
Assignment or transfer of site license	50	55

MAPL Treasurer, Vikki Gray, reports that as of September 17, 2007 the MAPL had on hand \$10,048.40 in checking, along with a \$5,000 Certificate of Deposit.



THE GRAPEVINE



The **WAPL** Christmas Party is being held on Friday, December 7, 2007 at the (303) Restaurant, 303 South Wolcott, Casper, Wyoming. All WAPL Members and their spouses or dates are welcome to attend. Contact Wayne Ransbottom for more information or mail the required form and fees on or before before December 3, 2007 to: WAPL, P.O. Box 646, Story, WY 82842.

Robert L. Nance has announced his retirement from Nance Petroleum Corporation in the first quarter of 2008. He will be greatly missed as he moves into his retirement. His replacement will be **Mark D. Mueller**. Most recently, Mr. Mueller was the Vice President and General Manager of Samson Exploration Ltd. in Calgary, Alberta.

Landmen are noted for their wanderlust, but it seems like everyone is moving hither and yon in search of greener pastures these days. **Rick Larson**, head of the State of North Dakota Land Department was courted by Marathon. Apparently Marathon was successful in the courtship because Rick has now joined Marathon in its Dickinson office as a landman. Congratulations Rick!. **Mike Murray** left Encana to become Land Manager at Kodiak Oil & Gas

Corp, **Roxann Eveland** has relocated from Williams to Newfield Exploration, **Dave Richardson** has left Questar Exploration & Production for parts unknown, **Heather Lang** has also left Questar and has moved to Cabot Oil & Gas, **Greg Ryan** left Encana to work for Vantage Energy, **Janet Paul** has left Petrogulf to work for Pioneer Natural Resources. **Sheryl Olson** has joined McElvain Oil & Gas, **Sharon Regan** has left Venoco, and **Lynn Belcher** is working for Focus Energy. **Jennifer McNamara**, clay shooter extraordinaire and Roller Derby Queen, as left Savant Resources and moved to Austin, Texas.

Samson landman, **Kerry Heerssen**, is recovering from a recent surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Kent Davis stopped in Billings to say hello to the folks at Nance Petroleum. He is still working as a consultant for Stone Energy and looking for deals.

Quest Resource Corporation and **Pinnacle Gas Resources**, Inc. announced on 10-16-2007 that their boards of directors have unanimously approved a stock-for-stock merger and that the companies have signed a definitive merger agreement. As a result of the merger, Pinnacle will survive as a wholly owned subsidiary of Quest. Quest will continue to be listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market. The merger is subject to various conditions, including approval of the stockholders of both Quest and Pinnacle and other customary conditions. It is anticipated that the closing of the merger will occur in the first or second quarter of 2008.

OBITUARIES

September 13, 2007 - A plane registered to Textana Inc., a Montana oil-and-gas exploration company crashed and burned near Burlington, Washington, killing all three people on board. Oilmen John O. Brown, Sr., 59, Randal Alan McPherson, 59, and Christopher John Schafer, 25, of Havre, were killed. They were on their way to Anacortes, Washington for a fishing trip. The Beechcraft Bonanza, piloted by John Brown, crashed while landing in inclement weather. Textana, Inc. is a sister company of Sandtana, Inc., and J Burns Brown Operating Co.

Randal Alan McPherson, 59, of Havre, "a knower of things," died Sept. 13, 2007, from injuries received in a plane accident near Burlington, Wash. Memorial contributions in Randy's honor may be made to the Havre Public Schools Education Foundation or to the donors choice. He survived by his wife, Marie McPherson; daughters, Jessica (Kent) Clinger of Orem, Utah, Jana (Josh) Nordboe of Chinook, Jayla McPherson (Andrew Sakalis) of Havre and Jeanna McPherson of Missoula; his father, Jerry McPherson of Salt Lake City; brothers, Bob McPherson of Big Timber, Dale McPherson of St. Paul, Minn., Gary McPherson of Sidney and Ronnie McPherson of Forsyth; grandchildren, Natalie, Todd and Keith Clinger and Jackson Nordboe. Also, numerous nieces, nephews and close friends. Preceded in death by his mother, Jeanne McPherson; and grandparents, Tom and Pearl McPherson and Frank and Laura Fulton. His most cherished time was sharing his interests with his family, especially his grandchildren. He will be remembered for the lessons he taught as a husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend, and the unconditional love he shared with so many

Christopher Alan Schafer, 25, of Havre died Sept. 13, 2007, from injuries received in a plane accident near Burlington, Wash. Chris was born Dec. 1, 1981 in Ridgecrest, Calif., to Michael and Margie Schafer. Chris graduated from the University of Montana in December of 2004. While attending the University, Chris met the love of his life, Elizabeth Arneson, and on July 28, 2007, they were married. Chris and Elizabeth lived in Havre, where he worked as a Petroleum Landman for a gas and oil leasing business. Chris will be greatly missed, but always remembered for his kind heart, loving spirit and witty sense of humor. Memorials may be given to the Chris Schafer Memorial Fund, PO Box 80372, Billings, MT 59108.

John O. Brown, Sr., 59 of Havre, died Sept. 13, 2007, from injuries received in a plane accident near Burlington, Wash. Survivors include his wife, Sandra Brown; a daughter, Dana Anne and sons John Oliver Brown, Jr. and Travis Austin Brown all of Havre; his mother, Wynne Mae Brown of Tyler, Texas. John began working in Montana with this father in the late 1960s in the oil and gas business. John liked traveling for work, but most of all he loved to be with his family and friends. John's beaming smile, sparkling eyes and vivacious laugh touched the hearts of those around him.

James McCrea Haughey, 93, of Billings, passed away on Sept. 13, 2007, In 1943, he joined the law firm of Coleman, Jameson and Lamey. He remained with the firm for 64 years and was a retired partner in the firm now named Crowley, Haughey, Hanson, Toole and Dietrich at the time of his death. Though Jim made his living as an attorney, his life revolved around art. He served in the Montana State Legislature for 10 years, where was Senate Minority Leader. He learned to play the piano and organ when he was 40. He took up running at 50 and at 60, ran one mile for every decade of his age. He wrote the bill that created the Montana Arts Council and, along with his wife, Katie, was a founder of the Yellowstone Art Museum. He was a Founding member of the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation and, for 52 consecutive years, he made a painting of the location where the annual meeting was held. He is survived by his three children, Kathy, Bruce and John; seven grandchildren, Susan Loo

Pattee, James Loo, Tammy Haughey Grishow, Patrick Haughey, Sarah Harlan Haughey, David Haughey and Kate Haughey; and three great-grandchildren, Andrew and Katherine Pattee and Emily Loo. Memorial donations may be made to the West High Music Department, 2201 St. Johns Avenue, Billings, MT 59102; the Yellowstone Art Museum; St. Stephens Church or the Carbon County Arts Guild, 11 W. Eighth St., Red Lodge, MT 59068.

Thomas C. Moran, 81, died September 14, 2007. Tom worked the Rockies for 48 years and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

James E. Williams, 77, of Sidney, passed away Monday Sept. 17, 2007 after a four year battle with cancer. Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at: www.fulkersons.com or they can also be mailed to the Williams at 2316 Third St. N.W., Sidney, MT 59270. The family is very appreciative for the loving support and care that he was given during his illness, especially during his final days. In 1952, he and a friend came to Montana to go to work for a Billings-based oil abstracting company, Deister, Ward and Witcher. During his 16 years with DWW, Jim managed abstracting crews throughout the western United States. He became a partner with Deister, Ward and Witcher in 1958. Jim and partners purchased First Montana Title Company in Sidney. Jim managed the newly formed Security Abstract Company into the '90s. In 1986, Jim also purchased the title company in Glendive and began Montana Title Company of Glendive, which he also managed until his retirement in 1993. During his 45-year career, he was well known within the title and oil industry for his title knowledge and professionalism. Sidney was Jim's home from 1969 until the time he passed away. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Janice and their son, Jay E. Williams (Rhona) of Pocatello, Idaho; former spouse, Dorothy Gray and their son Jim Williams Jr. (Sharon) of Little Rock.

Roger N. Borchert, 60, of Bismarck, passed away Oct. 1, 2007, after a very short battle with liver and bile duct cancer. He and his dear friend, Robert P. Johnson, ran Harris, Brown, and Klemer, Inc. (Johnson and Borchert Consulting Geologists) until his death. He was considered an excellent well site geologist and will be dearly missed by his friends in the field. Roger was a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the American Institute of Professional Geologists, North Dakota Geological Society (past president), Society of Mining Engineers, North Dakota Landman's Association and the Elks Club. He was the general chairman of the Fifth Williston Basin Symposium in 1987 and the general chairman of the 1988 Rocky Mountain Section of AAPG. His favorite pastimes were fishing, golfing, reading, hunting and fossil hunting.

↑ **Which way next????** ↓

- October 18, 2007 – Oil prices surpassed \$90 per barrel for the first time.
- October 26, 2007 – Oil prices spike above \$92 per barrel
- November 1, 2007 – Oil prices rose to a record above \$96 a barrel.
- November 6, 2007 - Oil prices top \$98 a barrel, setting new record, due to falling dollar and fears of limited supplies
- November 9, 2007 – Oil prices drop back to \$96.32 per barrel
- November 12, 2007 - Oil prices fall to \$95.06, amid talk of output hike by OPEC.**



“Ultimate Landman’s Retirement Home”

Please forward all news tidbits to **Vikki Gray** at Vgray@NancePetro.com

**MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF
PROFESSIONAL LANDMEN**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND RETURN THIS FORM ALONG WITH A CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20.00 FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS OR \$10.00 FOR LIFE MEMBERS TO COVER DUES FOR FISCAL YEAR (July 1 through June 30) 2007-2008 TO:

MAPL
P.O. Box 1911
Billings, MT 59103-1911

Name: _____

Spouse
Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____, State: _____, Zip: _____

Company
Affiliation: _____

Company Address: _____

Position _____

Phone #: _____ (w) _____ (h)

Cellphone #: _____

E-mail
Address: _____

(Please write email address legibly! They are hard to read!)

Send mail to: Home or Office

Are you a member of AAPL? Yes Please provide CPL or RPL number if Applicable: _____

No

X _____
Signature

Date: _____

**Montana Association of Professional Landmen
PO Box 1911
Billings, MT 59103**