

PTTC Focused Technology Workshop

“Basic Carbonate Geology: A One-Day Course for Geologists and Engineers”

March 8, 2005; Washington, PA

Workshop Summary

This workshop was the latest of several cooperative ventures with the Pittsburgh Association of Petroleum Geologists (PAPG), an AAPG-affiliated society that was established to offer continuing education and fellowship to petroleum geologists and engineers in the Pittsburgh area. PAPG commonly hosts joint monthly meetings and regional meetings with the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Society of Petroleum Engineers.

The workshop also was the latest in our series of traveling, or expert workshops, where we hire an expert, or in this case, two experts, to teach a day-long short course. Our service agreement was with Dr. Langhorn “Taury” Smith, a recognized carbonate expert who manages the Reservoir Evaluation group within the New York State Museum Institute in Albany, NY. Dr. Smith hired Dr. Fred Read, another carbonate expert and long-time member of the Department of Geosciences at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, VA, to co-teach the workshop with him.

The attendance at the workshop (73), possibly increased by the nearly unquenchable thirst for information concerning the Trenton and Black River carbonates in the Appalachian basin, was well above average (51) for a PTTC workshop in this region. The attendees represented a good mix of repeat customers (59%) and new converts; both groups apparently got their money’s worth and enjoyed the workshop and interaction with other attendees.

Based on the attendance, audience participation, personal feedback during and after the workshop and evaluation forms (below), we would have to conclude that the workshop was well received.

However, one thing that was not well received was our recently established program to offer Professional Development Hour (PDH) certificates to those who attend the entire workshop. At the end of the workshop, nearly half (30) of the eligible participants failed to pick up their certificates when they turned in their evaluation forms. Nearly all of those who failed to accept the certificates are geologists. In contrast, the engineers who attended seemed appreciative of the new PDH program and took their certificates with them.

Evaluation Forms

We did a much better job in encouraging participants to fill out and submit an evaluation form. Sixty two were received, a very favorable 85% submittal rate. Thirty six

of these were from employees of production companies, 14 from consultants, and 12 from universities and state and federal government agencies. Respondents gave high marks to the program, speakers, facilities and overall organization. Additional comments that were received included “well done” in terms of organization and presentation; “cores onsite very helpful,” a reference to cores supplied by Dr. Smith and by Dr. William Harrison, Director of the PTTC Regional Resource Center in Michigan; “cd invaluable,” and “glad to see CD of presentations was included,” references to the fact that both speakers offered their slides on cd; “wonderful, fast-paced outline;” “workbook was well appreciated - especially the cd;” “excellent presentations;” “one of the best PTTC short courses attended:” and “very informative and interesting.”

Other comments suggested that some of the more important points were weakly developed, that the meeting room was too cold (it was), and that “adverse weather/hazardous drive up caused participants to miss 1st hour of workshop,” which reinforces our traditional practice of not offering workshops during winter months.

The list of additional topics that participants would like to see in future workshops was long and versified. However, many of them can be grouped into more play-based workshops; workshops that focus on reservoirs, both conventional and fractured; drilling (including horizontal), logging (including interpretation) and completion techniques; and general geology and basin structure related to plays. Specific plays listed for future play-based workshops included the Big Lime in Kentucky and West Virginia; Upper Devonian sandstones (we will address this one on May 26); the Oriskany Sandstone; and Silurian sandstones, specifically the Bald Eagle, Medina and Tuscarora.

One comment was well-thought out and more detailed than the normal response. It came from a Senior Geologist with Dominion Exploration and Production Company, and is as follows: “Another idea for a topic would be modern completion and prospects in tight sands. For example, in southern WV, there are up to 3000 feet of tight Pennsylvanian sands above the Avis Lime. These sands are almost always tight with porosities in the 6 to 8% range, but are certainly gas charged and sometimes productive. The common perception is that if these sands do not give up natural shows, they are not productive. This is untrue. Many tight sand plays in the Midwest and west Texas are like this. How do they compare/differ? Typical names for these sands include the following: Breathitt sands, Lee sands, Salt sands, etc. Any help in how to take advantage of these sands would be highly beneficial here in the Appalachian Basin.”

Attendance List

Attached.