

The Alaska Driller

The Newsletter of The American Association of Drilling Engineers
Anchorage, Alaska Chapter - PO Box 93538 Anchorage, AK 99509-3538

A.A.D.E. Monthly Technical Forum

When: Wednesday – October 31st
Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Where: **BP Energy Center (1st Floor, Birch Rm)**
Speaker: Frank Pugh – BP
Topic: Liberty Project Drilling Challenges
Reservations: Send an E-mail to [Sandy Hamilton - Hamis0@bp.com](mailto:Sandy.Hamilton@bp.com)

RESERVATION DUE BY
EOB, FRIDAY
OCT 26th
RSVP NOW!!!

A.A.D.E. LOOK AHEAD 2007

10/31/07 Luncheon: Frank Pugh, BP
11/3/07 Sporting Clay Tournament @ Grouse Ridge
11/27/2007 Next AADE Luncheon

From the President by Vance Hazzard, Pioneer Natural Resources Alaska

Like many of us, I was asked the other day what it is like working in Alaska from someone living down in Houston. Other than the usual discussion of the beauty of the State and the endless choices of what outdoor activities one can do, I almost always bring up the wonderful Alaskan oilfield community. To this day, I am amazed at how the membership of our chapter and many others in Anchorage or around the State of Alaska will offer helpful suggestions or advice to any aspect of the projects we all work on either when asked or sometimes unsolicited. Everyone seems to rally around our isolation as a State in a very positive way. This oilfield community is much stronger than any I have ever experienced both in and out of the States and one everyone should be proud of.

On Halloween (that's a Wednesday), **Frank Pugh of BP will be presenting some of the unique challenges that the Liberty Project Team has identified.** Given the world class technical nature of the project, there should be some very large obstacles to overcome to be able to execute the drilling portion of the project. I know it will be a very interesting topic and one meeting you all will not want to miss. We actually need to give Frank an extra set of thanks next week Wednesday because he stepped up to replace a late speaker cancellation for this month's meeting – thanks Frank!

As if you need another reason for coming to this month's meeting, we are also going to present our FFFF donations to the three charities: Bean's Café, Kid's Kitchen, and the Downtown Soup Kitchen.

According to Mike Whitlatch, the **2nd Annual Big Lake Tournament**, that took place on October 6th, was a great time by all whom participated. Thanks go out to Mike and his committee for

putting together the event. In the future, mark your calendar for the 1st week in October as the fishing tournament date out at Big Lake. As I learn more details about bragging rights, I will pass them on.

Our other fundraising event of the fall, **Sporting Clays Tournament**, is also fast approaching. The date is **November 3rd** and the place is Grouse Ridge. Expect to see flyers with more information soon.

Please RSVP for October's luncheon **now** & don't forget the meeting is at the **BP Energy Center** this month (instead of the atrium of the BP building).

Permitting Statistics (as of October 12, 2007)

Permits to Drill:	2007- 140	2006- 149	2005- 154
Sundry Notices:	2007- 312	2006- 345	2005- 318

Operational Items

As I review operational summaries for well work submitted to the Commission, several items have come to light that I think need to be shared among the Alaska Drilling Community. Please note these are my observations based on events reported in the summaries I have reviewed. I believe that both Operators and Contractors have procedures in place to prevent occurrences such as these, however for some reason despite policies and procedures multiple events have happened.

BOP Ram Damage – There have been several instances of damage to pipe and blind rams due to closing with the incorrect tubular size (or a tubular at all) in the BOP. Since VBRs are widely employed, it is critical that the size(s) in use are conspicuously noted on the rig. With regard to the test joints, they should be clearly and permanently marked to avoid possible confusion. Blind ram control covers are required by regulation.

“Trusting” Prior Well Work – There have been a couple of instances where deep isolation plugs have been installed in wells prior to the rig moving on. When rig operations were begun, the wells were not circulated prior to pulling the tubing. Due to fluid imbalance, wellbore fluids flowed from the wells. So far as I know, spills out of containment were not experienced. However, it would appear that in each case the flow event could have been avoided by circulating prior to beginning to pull the tubing.

Shutting Down an Operation – Especially during workover operations, it is not unusual to determine that a well is “more broke” than initially reported and a decision is made to shut down the current work. It is very important that the well be properly secured for the duration of the work stoppage and in most cases some sort of plug is set as deeply as possible and a kill string run to allow the well to be circulated. One part of the thought process that seems lacking at times is what work will need to be accomplished to undo the securing work. I have seen CIBPs and other essentially permanent mechanical plugs employed that presented significant removal

challenges. There have been at least 2 cases where attempts to mill the plugging device resulted in exiting the casing.

When it is necessary to shutdown an operation, it is important to notify the Commission as soon as possible so that a proper regulatory review of the plans can be accomplished. I have been notified of operational shutdowns after the work has been accomplished and the rig moved which is not acceptable. Commission Inspectors and Engineering Staff can be contacted 24-7.

Please share this information with your colleagues. Call or message with any comments.

Student Section Report by Greg Hobbs, BP

I wanted to Thank Chantal Walsh and Chevron for sponsoring a fall field trip to their Happy Valley Drilling Operations near Soldotna Alaska. I met her on a trip to Fairbanks, and she offered the trip which was accepted by myself and Dr. Chukwu. The trip is accommodating 2 faculty and 18 students. the trip is being scheduled for late october or early November.

The applications are out for the six scholarships being made available by AADE to UAF students. Two scholarships are for Graduate Students. Four are for Undergraduate students.

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The Knowledge Box is a traveling exhibit showcasing the many aspects of the oil and gas industry. Includes teacher resources, hands-on activities and interactive lessons correlated to state and National Science Standards. This educational curriculum follows the line with other national initiatives such as "Project Learning Tree", "Project Wild", and "Project Wet". With forestry, wildlife, and water resources covered, and education guide covering energy is a natural fit for the next national initiative - particularly an education guide that would cover all aspects of energy including engineering issues. The curriculum would be for all grade levels.

Contact Dallas Rhodes, AADE National Representative for further information.

How to Make Lunch Reservations: Reservations for luncheon meetings are accepted up to EOB two business days prior to the meeting. Since we have little financial pad in our bank account, we cannot afford many "no-shows" or "new-shows". E-mail reservations to [Sandy Hamilton - hamis0@bp.com](mailto:hamis0@bp.com)

- Include the names and company names for those that plan to attend.
- **Note: The charge for the Technical Luncheon this month will be \$20 for all attendees.**

Meeting News

(Please post in Coffee Rooms)

Date:	Wednesday, October 31, 2007
Topic	Liberty Project Drilling Challenges
Speaker:	Frank Pugh, BP
Time:	11:30 am – 1:00 pm (doors open at 11:15)
Place:	BP Energy Center
Cost:	\$20 for all attendees
Reservations:	<u>Sandy Hamilton - hamis0@bp.com</u>

Please renew your membership or join at the tables outside of the conference room!

**Reservations must be made by EOB
on Friday – October 26th
(Please help by sending your RSVP early!)**