From the President

The annual golf tournament has come and gone and was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who played, all the sponsors, the food and beverage donors, and raffle prize donors and participants. Your dedication to our scholarships is inspiring! (Or you just like to come out and have fun, which is OK because we still get to benefit from it).

Often, we consider ourselves the oil and gas industry, but we are part of a larger energy industry. That industry is responsible for providing the ability of our society to operate efficiently and at the scale we are currently at. The breakthroughs in energy production, transmission, and consumption is what has allowed our world to turn into a global market. We can fly around to world, source raw materials from anywhere, go to cities that never sleep, make deserts habitable, and so much more. Without energy, we would still be fording rivers in horse drawn wagons. I recently had the opportunity to tour the Diablo Canyon Power Plant and I am grateful for the experience. While nuclear energy is somewhat of a competitor to oil and gas, they face many of the same battles we do. As a result of environmental and political pressure, the DCPP is mandated to shut down in 2025. This plant provides 10% of California’s power and they are being required to close their doors and begin the long and expensive decommissioning process. The opponents of DCPP have no facts on their side and rely on fear tactics to get their way,
much like what we face. We are not the only ones out there fighting the good fight and being vilified for it.

Another member of that energy industry and the second “G” in DOGGR will be the speaker for our April technical meeting. Chris Ellis, the VP for Coso Operating Company, a geothermal producer, will join us on April 20th to enlighten us on their operations. Chris is an entertaining speaker so you won’t want to miss this one!

The spring sporting clay shoot is quickly approaching on May 19th at 5 Dogs so start getting your teams together and get in some practice rounds. This shoot fills up quickly and there are some fancy belt buckles up for grabs!

Wyatt Shipley
Vaquero
Guest Speaker: Christopher Ellis
(VP & GM for Coso Operating Company)

Christopher Ellis is the Vice President and General Manager for Coso Operating Company, where he has been employed since 1988. At Coso, he oversees the operation of the third largest Geothermal Power Generating Facility in the country. Coso employs approximately 100 people. Chris obtained his formal training and education in the US Navy’s Nuclear Power Program after attending the University of Arizona.

He currently serves as President for the Boards of the Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce and The Geothermal (a non–profit fund raising organization), and is a board member of the Indian Wells Valley Economic Development Corporation, the East Kern Air Pollution Control District Hearing Board, and The Ridgecrest Regional Hospital.
I was born and raised in the small California oil town of Coalinga. After receiving a Bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering for Cal Poly SLO, I began my career in the oil industry in Bakersfield working for Unocal. My very first assignment (literally my 2nd day on the job) was as a Drilling Foreman in the Midway Sunset Field. Although I didn’t even know what a drilling rig was, I did learn quickly. After Drilling and a brief stint as a Reservoir Engineer, I settled in as a Facilities Engineer. The next ten years were spent focusing on oil and water treating, steam generation, and cogeneration. This was followed by a transfer to Ventura, where I spent the next five years working on Platform Gilda and the Piru Gas Plant. Next came a year in Sugar Land, Texas as a Process Safety Management Engineer. Unocal and I then parted ways and I moved back to Bakersfield and worked for Processes Unlimited as a Project Engineer. I ultimately hired on with Aera Energy as a Facilities Engineer. My jobs have included working on the Belridge Oil Treating Team, the Diatomite Thermal Recovery Team, and for the last three years, the East Cat Canyon Team.
CLAY SHOOT
STEVE THOMAS SEMI-ANNUAL SHOOT
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER
MAY 19, 2017

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The SPE San Joaquin Valley Section will be hosting the Society of Petroleum Engineers Western Regional Meeting in Bakersfield April 23 – 27, 2016. The event will be held at the Marriott Convention Center in Downtown Bakersfield and is sure to be an event to remember. We have hand selected continuing education courses, engaging panel sessions, and 100 technical papers ranging in topics from managing drilling fluids to simulating production response in the Midway Sunset field.

If you plan on attending the event I encourage you to register sooner rather than later as our early bird special (a discount of $100) is in effect until February 25th. SPE members will be able to attend the four day conference, exhibition hall, and all networking events for $300. Non-members are of course welcome, but will be charged an early bird rate of $400 (also a $100 discount to the onsite registration fee).

Please visit our website at www.spewrm.org to register for the conference. The web site has information on the technical presentations, panel sessions, how to exhibit at the conference, and networking activities (including the golf tournament).

Sincerely Yours,

Keith Kostelnik
SJV SPE 2016-2017 Chair
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