

PETROLEUM HISTORY SOCIETY



Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society

February 2010; Volume XXI, Number 2

P.H.S. Lunch and Learn Meeting – Wednesday, February 24, 2010

## Unconventional Gas in North America: A Massive Paradigm Shift

by Dave Russum, P. Geol. (AJM Petroleum Consultants)

One can scarcely pick up a paper these days without reading about the growth of the unconventional gas industry. Some aspects are positive, such as the possibility of liquefied natural gas exports to the Pacific Rim from the prolific basins of British Columbia. Others are more ominous and include market oversupply, the possible erosion of Alberta's export markets in eastern North America and the undermining of the economics of conventional projects like the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline. Unconventional gas production has, however, been with us for quite a while but has only recently been a major news item, in particular with regards to shale gas resources. Early shale gas production occurred in the eastern US in the 1800's. Government incentives for tight gas led to the growth of coal bed methane production in New Mexico's San Juan Basin in the 1980's and 1990's. In Canada, the basin-centered tight gas sand revolution led by Canadian Hunter occurred in the late 1970's and is still being pursued today. More recently the explosive growth of the Barnett Shale play in Texas has led to the pursuit of every organic-rich shale in North America, including those in northeastern British Columbia. Join us as we listen to Dave's overview of this series of significant developments.

Dave Russum is Vice-President, Geoscience with AJM Petroleum Consultants, based in Calgary. He graduated in 1973 from the University of Manchester, England, with a Bachelor of Science in Geology (Honours). Dave earlier worked for Amoco Canada Petroleum and Crestar Energy. He joined AJM in 2003 and is a specialist in regional geological studies, overseeing all the geological functions of the company. He has been involved in a variety of long term consulting projects including assessment of the gas potential of Western Canada.

TIME:12 noon, Wednesday, February 24, 2010.PLACE:Calgary Petroleum Club, 319 – 5th Avenue S.W. – Cardium RoomCOST:Members \$30.00 and Guests \$35.00 (most welcome) (cash or cheque only)

## R.S.V.P. if you wish to attend to: Clint Tippett, 403-691-4274 or <u>clinton.tippett@shell.com</u> by noon, Monday, February 22

Individuals who indicate that they will be attending but do not materialize will be considered "no shows" and will be invoiced for the cost of the luncheon. Individuals who do not R.S.V.P. cannot be assured of seating.