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MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY *eBulletin*



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~ PRESIDENT'S
LETTER ~

Bob Schneeflock

Society Brethren,

This being my last letter, I want to thank the people on the preceeding page for the service they have provided to the society this year. They pitched in and made my job a lot easier.

If you missed the April 12 meeting and Ken Ruckstuhl's talk on global warming, you missed a really good presentation. You could play catchup by

linking to http://westernstandard.blogs.com/shotgun/2007/03/more_about_the_.html.

This is an 8 part doumentary that pretty much debunks the Al Gore alarmist movement.

In the latest very close runoff, here are the newly and duly elected MGS officers for next year:

President - Tony Stuart

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2nd VP - Joe Johnson

Secretary - Matt Caton

Treasurer - Maurice Birdwell

Hope to see ya'll at the Spring Fling on May 10th.

I'm outta here!

bs

2007 MGS Spring Fling



Jackson Yacht Club

In This Issue:

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MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 14, 2006	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club
October 19, 2006	David Scott & Lisa Ivshin, MS O&G Board	River Hills
November 1, 2006	Ernie Mancini, University of AL	River Hills
December 9, 2006	MAPL/MGS Christmas Party	Colonial Country Club
January 11, 2007	Nick Tew, Ala Geol Survey	River Hills
February 8, 2007	Chuck Segrest – Petrophysical Evaluation of Gas Shale Reservoirs	River Hills
March 8, 2007	Boland Scholarship , Honorary Membership, and Awards	River Hills
April 12, 2007	Ken Ruckstuh – The Global Warming Controversy	River Hills
May 10, 2007	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club

**A gushy reporter told Phil Michelson,
"You are spectacular, your name is synonymous with the game of golf. You really know your way around the course. What's your secret?"**

Michelson replied, "The holes are numbered"

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 6, 2006

October 3, 2006

November 7, 2006

None in December

January 2, 2007

February 6, 2007

March 6, 2007

April 3, 2007

May 1, 2007



Jackson Yacht Club

2007 MGS Spring Fling

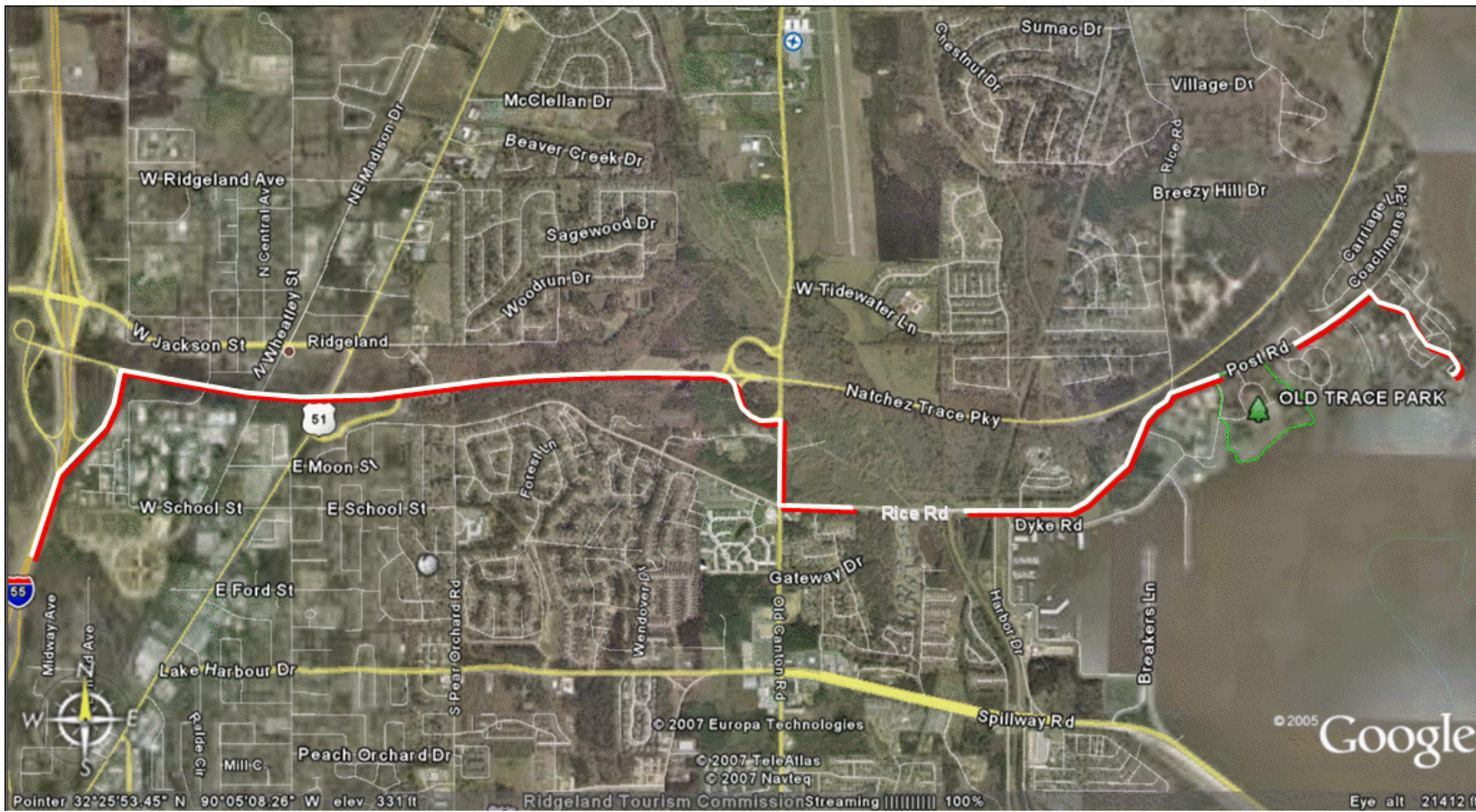
Thursday, May 10th 5:30 PM – 8:30pm

Catfish & Trimmings Keg & Cash Bar

\$15 per person (Students \$5)

Floyd (Neal) Shale Core on display

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Exit I-55 at Natchez Trace Parkway (exit #105A) and continue to stop sign, turn onto Parkway at stop sign to Tupelo (east), continue to Madison/Ridgeland/Ross Barnett Reservoir exit (2.0 miles), exit right and continue to stop sign, turn right (south) at stop sign onto Old Canton Road, continue to traffic light (0.2 mile), turn left (east) at traffic light on Rice Road, continue (1.3 miles) to Post Road (3 way stop), turn right (east) at 3 way stop sign and continue to Yacht Club Road (0.7 mile), turn right (south) on Yacht Club Road and continue to end of road. Jackson YC is located on the southwest shore of Ross Barnett Reservoir in Madison County Mississippi.



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Southwest Alabama”**

Thursday, June 7, 2007

8:30 AM–12:30 PM

University of Alabama

Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

201 7th Avenue, - Bevill Bldg. Room 101

Telephone: (205) 348-1880

The Petroleum Technology Transfer Council Eastern Gulf Region (PTTC-EGR) in the Center for Sedimentary Basin Studies at the University of Alabama, Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists and American Association of Petroleum Geologists Professional Affairs Division invite oil and gas producing and related companies operating in the Gulf Coastal Plain to participate in a technology workshop,

“Carbonate Reservoir Characterization: Case Study of Womack Hill Field, Southwest Alabama.” The purpose of this workshop is to transfer recent research advances in the use of an integrated geoscience and engineering approach to improve oil recovery from mature fields producing from Upper Jurassic Smackover carbonate reservoirs in Gulf Coastal Plain. This research has been funded by the National Energy Technology Laboratory of the Office of Fossil Energy, U.S. Department of Energy.

How China Is Winning the Oil Race

As Americans pay more for gas, China gobbles up deals for new supplies of oil and other critical resources -- often from rogue regimes in Africa, South America and the Middle East.

By Jon D. Markman

Is America too ethical to have cheap gasoline?

That is the inescapable question presented to U.S. investors and policy makers as pump prices soar following a state visit by Chinese President Hu Jintao.

The United States is the world's greatest consumer of energy at present, but China is the world's fastest-growing consumer. That puts us in direct competition for any new sources of crude oil, natural gas, coal and uranium that materialize through exploration and discovery, not to mention any current sources that profit-seeking producers decide to put up for grabs.

Increasingly, new energy sources that China is acquiring are in countries that Americans find distasteful. Many of them are in Africa, in countries with horrific human-rights records such as Sudan, Chad and the Republic of the Congo. And much of the energy is controlled by rapacious despots in the Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan and in Southeast Asia's Myanmar.

Energy acquisition is a zero-sum game in which there are winners and losers. Any new energy that China obtains for its fast-growing economy is unavailable to us forever. So you just have to wonder whether the United States' antipathy for dealing with the worst of the world's rogue states has led inexorably to \$4-a-gallon gasoline this spring.

The new colonial power

Dan Zhou, chief analyst at CEB Monitor Group in Beijing, points out that China has emerged as an attractive partner in Africa and Central Asia in four ways: Its intensifying demand drives up prices for their products, which are largely raw materials such as oil, zinc and copper. It sets virtually no standards for political transparency or economic reform to get deals done. It ignores internal human-rights abuses as an impediment to deal-making. And it is a one-stop shop, offering not just investment, trade, skilled workers and military weapons, but also diplomatic protection in the form of its United Nations Security Council veto.

China's hunt for oil in Africa has made it essentially the new colonial superpower in the region, surpassing the memories of prior imperial forces like Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, Great Britain and France. And it has achieved that status in record time. Trade between China and Africa, which totaled \$10 billion in 2000, soared to \$39.7 billion in 2005. According to research by CEB Monitor, here is a guide-book of China's assets in the region:

- Sudan. China has a \$4 billion investment in the country widely believed to have the largest untapped oil reserves in Africa. The China National Petroleum Corp. has a 40% stake in Greater Nile Petroleum, which owns oil fields, a pipeline, a large refinery and a port. Last year, China purchased more than half of Sudan's oil exports. Conversely, Sudan accounted for 6% of China's oil imports, about 200,000-plus barrels a day.

Angola. Offshore wells have made this Africa's second-largest oil producer. Through February of this year, Angola accounted for 13% of all oil imports to China -- making it the country's main supplier. China has committed at least \$3 billion in loans to Angola for additional oil rights, and has supplied engineers and trained workers to develop fields. China is now Angola's largest aid donor as well.

- Nigeria. This is Africa's largest oil producer, and until recently has not been a major supplier to China. However, China's largest publicly held oil company, CNOOC (CEO, news, msgs), bought a 45% stake in a Nigerian oil-and-gas field for \$2.27 billion last month and has also bought 35% of an exploration license in the Niger Delta for \$60 million.
- Elsewhere in Africa. CNOOC has been active in Equatorial Guinea, Chad and Gabon; made investments of \$170 million in the mines of Zambia; and become a major weapons supplier and trading partner of Zimbabwe, run with unbounded corruption by global outcast Robert Mugabe.

A less meddlesome buyer

In Latin America, the story is much the same: China is increasingly becoming the partner of choice for repressive, paranoid or regionally ambitious regimes that want to buy guns and tanks with their oil and ore revenues.

According to The Los Angeles Times, the Bush administration held talks with the Chinese to encourage them to curb their role in training and advising forces in our southern hemisphere. This is getting to be a problem, as the region -- fabulously rich in metal, energy and agricultural resources -- is increasingly run by ideologues willing to snub traditional U.S. interests and seek less meddlesome buyers.

China is now Latin America's second-largest trading partner, surpassing Europe. From 2001 to 2006, exports from the region to China rose more than 500%. In 2004 alone, Hu signed letters of intent worth \$100 billion over the next 10 years, according to published reports. Here are the key developments by country, according to CEB Monitor:

- Brazil: The largest South American country exports iron ore, soybeans, cotton, oil and sugar to China and jointly develops satellites and aerospace equipment. China has promised \$10 billion in additional investment in the short term.
- Argentina: China has signed agreements offering \$20 billion in investment over 10 years. CNOOC is developing an offshore oil field.
- Venezuela: This is the third most important source of foreign oil to the United States, but political and social disputes have led strongman Hugo Chavez to seek alternative partners. He plans to double oil exports to China to 300,000 barrels a day, about a fifth of the 1.5 million barrels a day that are sent to the United States. The Chinese are buying stakes in several oil fields, making their output unavailable to U.S. consumers.
- Ecuador: This country is a top-three producer of oil for the West Coast of the United States. The Chinese just purchased one oil field and are in negotiations for more.

Meanwhile, in the Middle East, Hu has found in Saudi Arabia another repressive regime that wishes to ease away from a highly dependent relationship with the United States. He visited in January, and turned around and visited again this month on his way home from Washington, with weapons sales and

technology transfer high on the discussion list. China gets an eighth of its oil imports from the Saudis, and trade has increased ninefold since 2000 to \$14 billion.

As you might expect, Iran is China's fastest rising partner in the region. There have been unconfirmed reports that Hu has committed to spend \$70 billion to \$100 billion to develop a single large oil field in Iran, about a fifth of which involves a \$20 billion order to purchase liquefied natural gas over the next 25 years. Zhou says that one Chinese company is expanding Tehran subways, another is building out the city's fiber-optic networks, and others are setting up auto and electronics factories. It probably won't be long before Iran becomes China's largest source of imported oil, which will put their economic and political interests directly opposed to U.S. politicians and consumers.

Neighbors: theirs and ours

And finally we get to Central Asia republics, which formerly belonged to the Soviet Union, all nestled up against China's back door. They deliver almost 500,000 barrels of oil a day through pipelines and tankers. This has been a boon to the commissars of Kazakhstan, where gross domestic product has reached \$56 billion due to the development of its robust energy fields by U.S., European and Russian explorers. The country shares a border with the gigantic Xinjian province of China and has developed fast-expanding bilateral trade, not just in oil and gas, but also cement and small manufactured goods.

Of course, the Chinese have not left democratic countries' resources off its shopping list. A couple of years ago, it bought a big stake in the big Canadian miner Noranda, and it has dozens of supply relationships with individual Alberta and Saskatchewan oil, gas and coal producers. No rock is left unturned, so to speak; a venture capitalist in my Seattle office building has helped Chinese entrepreneurs acquire privately held coal, gold and silver mining interests throughout the western United States.

For stone-cold U.S. investors, the obvious play here is to simply tag along by taking positions in foreign and domestic companies supplying the Chinese juggernaut, whether they are base metal producer Falconbridge (FAL) in Canada; a producer of Turkish energy like Toreador Resources (TRGL) of Texas; a producer of Venezuelan oil and gas like Harvest Natural Resources (HNR); or the two big Chinese energy companies CNOOC or China Petroleum & Chemical (SNP).

For consumers, outraged indignation is about the best you can do, along with new personal choices about limiting the use of fossil fuel. China has no incentive to bend to U.S. demands to force change on its repressive foreign energy partners. And our politicians are unlikely yet to ease up on rules preventing U.S. companies from participating in the sort of bribery and weapons brokerage that has become de rigueur for doing business in the equatorial zone where most new energy sources are being discovered.

So this really is just another case of joining 'em when you can't beat 'em. Shake your fist at the Chinese if you must, but also continue to buy global miners and drillers on dips in this bull market for commodities; sell your SUV; move closer to work; install solar energy panels; and make peace with nuclear energy.

JULIUS M. RIDGWAY

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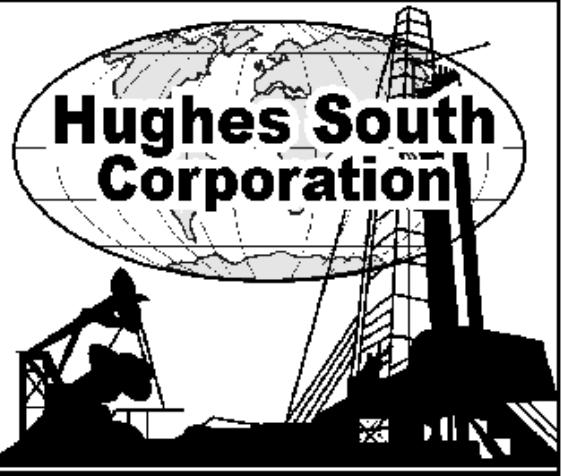
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Boudreaux at the revival

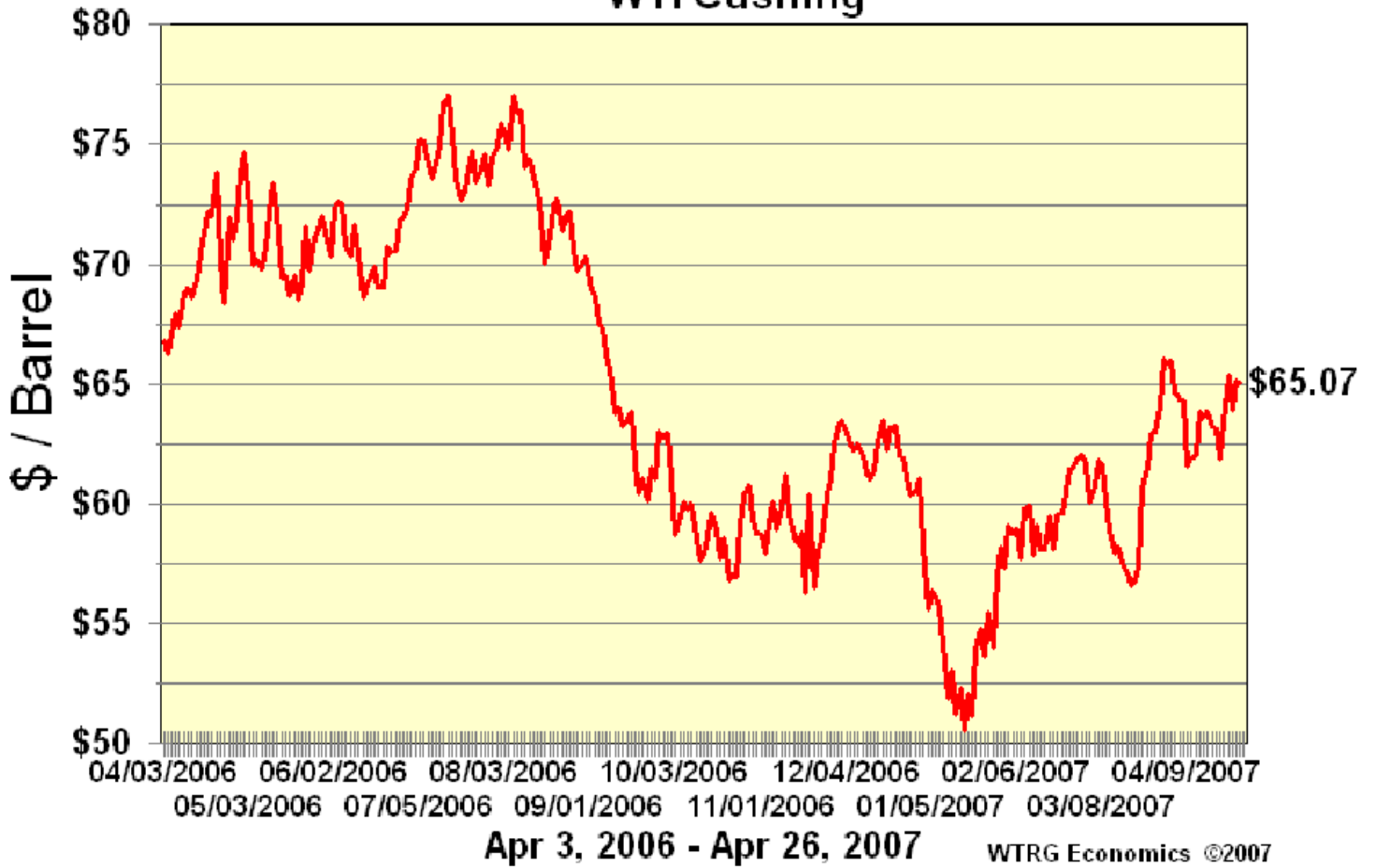
Boudreaux goes to the revival and listens to the preacher. After a while, the preacher asks anyone with needs to come forward and be prayed over.

Boudreaux gets in line and when it's his turn the preacher says, "Boudreaux, what you want me to pray about?" Boudreaux says, "Preacher, I need you to pray for my hearing." So the preacher puts one finger in Boudreaux's ear and the other hand on top of his head and prays a while.

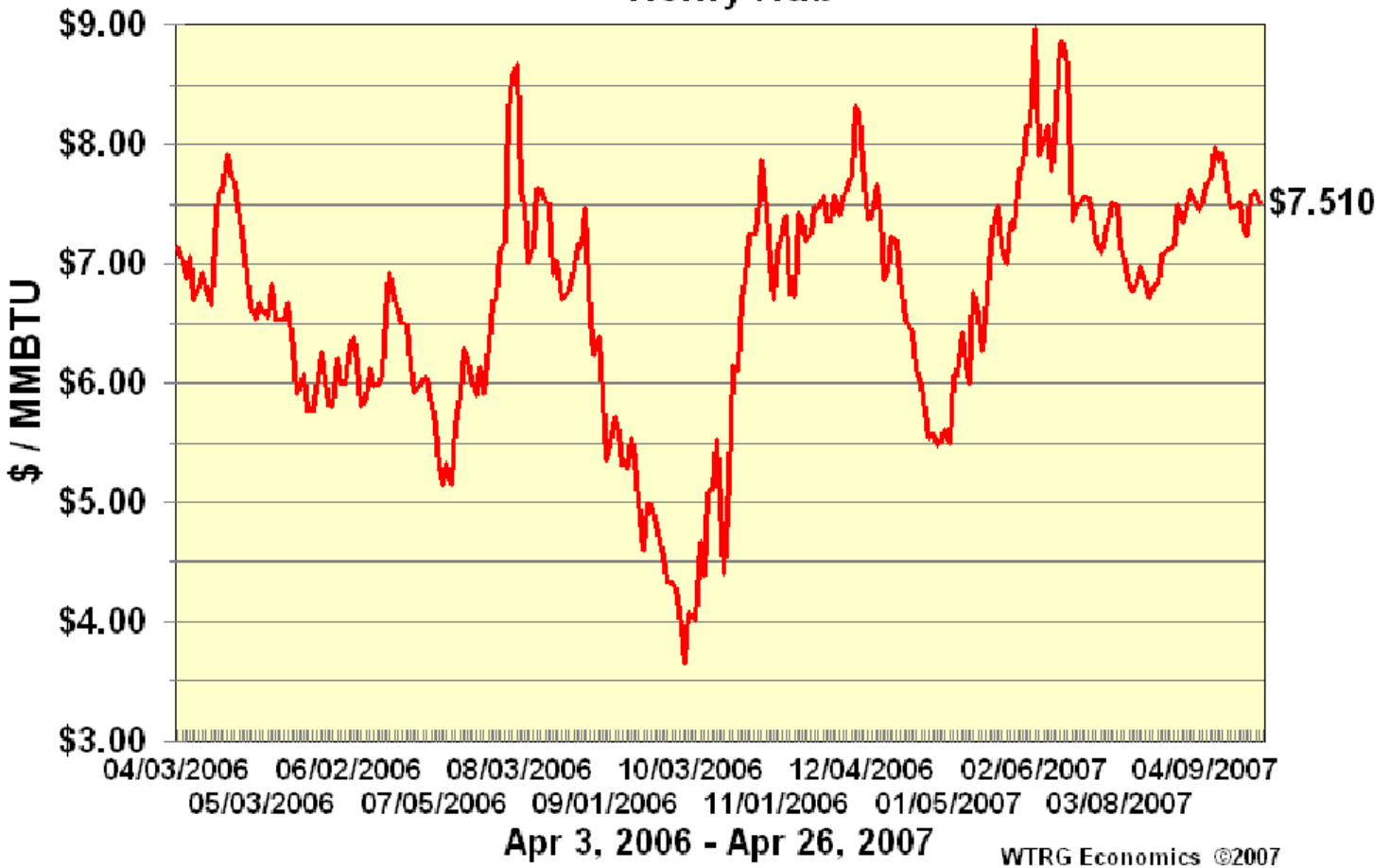
After a few minutes, he removes his hands and says, "Boudreaux, how's your hearing now?"

Boudreaux says, "I don't know preacher, it's not until next Wednesday in Opelousas."

Crude Oil Spot WTI Cushing



Natural Gas Spot Henry Hub



North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was down 22 rigs to 1,747 for the week of April 27, 2007 and is 8.6 percent higher than last year.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil is down 9 at 283. The number of rigs targeting oil is 29 rigs higher than last year's level of activity. Rigs currently drilling for oil represent 16.2% percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were down 13 at 1,460. The number of rigs currently drilling for gas is 107 greater than last year's level of 1,353.

Year-over-year oil exploration in the US is up 11.4 percent. Gas exploration is up 7.9 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 8.3% percent lower than last year and natural gas spot prices are 4.5 percent higher. Daily crude oil and natural gas futures and spot prices are available on our site.

Canadian rig activity* was down 19 at 79 for the week of April 27, 2007 and is 71 lower than last year's rig count. Canadian drilling falls rapidly in the spring to avoid environmental damage during the spring thaw and rainy season.

*The Canadian drilling industry experiences wide seasonal swings and even year over year comparisons can lead to incorrect conclusions.

				Change		Percent Change	
	04/27/07	04/20/07	04/28/06	Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	1,747	1,769	1,608	(22)	139	-1.2%	8.6%
Offshore	73	76	96	(3)	(23)	-3.9%	-24.0%
Land	1,674	1,693	1,512	(19)	162	-1.1%	10.7%
Inland Waters	31	31	25	0	6	0.0%	24.0%
Oil	283	292	254	(9)	29	-3.1%	11.4%
Percent	16.2%	16.5%	15.8%	-0.3%	0.4%		
Gas	1,460	1,473	1,353	(13)	107	-0.9%	7.9%
Percent	83.6%	83.3%	84.1%	0.3%	-0.6%		
Directional	382	404	397	-22	-15	-5.4%	-3.8%
Horizontal	358	361	259	-3	99	-0.8%	38.2%
Gulf of Mexico	72	75	90	-3	-18	-4.0%	-20.0%
Gulf Oil	0	0	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.
Percent	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		
Gulf Gas	72	75	90	-3	-18	-4.0%	-20.0%
Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%		
Canada	79	98	150	(19)	(71)	-19.4%	-47.3%
North America	1,826	1,867	1,758	(41)	68	-2.2%	3.9%



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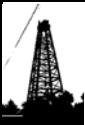
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