Shallow Horizontal Drilling Panel: Mark Lytle (Buckeye Oil Producing), Ryan Henderson (Peak Completions), D.J. Tatar (Appalachian Drilling Company) and Derek Hina (Universal Well Services). See pages 18 and 19 for sponsors and event pictures.

Ohio oil, gas production from shale shifts south

The following were the top-producing oil and gas wells in Ohio's Utica and Marcellus shale in the second quarter, according to a report issued by the state.

**TOP 5 OIL-PRODUCING WELLS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Well Name</th>
<th>Barrels of Oil</th>
<th>Natural Gas</th>
<th>Production Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antero Resources</td>
<td>Noble</td>
<td>Seneca</td>
<td>Myron (1H)</td>
<td>78,309</td>
<td>938,475</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antero Resources</td>
<td>Noble</td>
<td>Seneca</td>
<td>Myron Unit (2H)</td>
<td>63,772</td>
<td>752,134</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antero Resources</td>
<td>Noble</td>
<td>Seneca</td>
<td>Myron Unit (3H)</td>
<td>48,511</td>
<td>651,968</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulfport Energy</td>
<td>Harrison</td>
<td>Moorefield</td>
<td>Michael</td>
<td>38,741</td>
<td>502,892</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antero Resources</td>
<td>Noble</td>
<td>Seneca</td>
<td>Schafer Unit</td>
<td>33,407</td>
<td>360,458</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOP 5 GAS-PRODUCING WELLS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Well Name</th>
<th>Barrels of Gas</th>
<th>Production Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hall Drilling</td>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>Bethel</td>
<td>Harcher North (2H)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,434,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall Drilling</td>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>Bethel</td>
<td>Harcher North (1H)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,350,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulfport Energy</td>
<td>Belmont</td>
<td>Union</td>
<td>Family (1-32H)</td>
<td>586</td>
<td>1,071,297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulfport Energy</td>
<td>Belmont</td>
<td>Union</td>
<td>Family (3-32-H)</td>
<td>1,056</td>
<td>1,052,842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulfport Energy</td>
<td>Belmont</td>
<td>Union</td>
<td>Family (2-32-H)</td>
<td>796</td>
<td>1,022,130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Continued from page 31
The storage injection season is entering the fall season, storage is 81.6% full, and the gas market has struggled to stay around the $4.00 mark through October 30, 2014. With the October DTI Index posting at $2.04 (it’s lowest in two years) and TCO index posting at $3.96, we are seeing December, 2014 trading in the $3.85 to $3.92 range at the time of this article, October 31, 2014. This market is still somewhat volatile, waiting on additional longer term weather forecast and positive economic news that may impact pricing, as well as production numbers to ensure that storage injections will remain on schedule.

Our membership is growing as the Utica Shale brings more producer and support companies to Ohio and our Southeastern Ohio area. We are currently at 494 members and growing.

Our SOOGA Annual Trade Show that took place at the Oil Haulers LLC Facility at 30625 Ohio 7, Marietta, OH, was a huge success. We had a large number of booths, several great training sessions in the morning and afternoon, educational panel discussions on horizontal drilling in shallow formations, and some wonderful food for lunch. A special thanks to those who contributed to the success of our trade show, including those who provided food, the facility, and to those who volunteered their time to help with registration, traffic control, and facility setup.

Don’t forget about our SOOGA Legacy Fund, which enables your association through your donations the ability to help our communities with local education programs in the energy field, scholarships for students, community center improvements, gas assistance programs, and helping local law enforcement be prepared and ready to respond to oil and gas related accidents. Please consider donating to this fund, no matter how small the donation might be, as it will help us continue this great program.

SOOGA renewed its partnership with WMOA radio, and we are getting positive messages out to the public about our members and our industry. We are getting ready to put some new messages out, so stay tuned. Also, check out our new website and Facebook page, as you can register for SOOGA events by utilizing the website.

As we move into the winter of 2014, we will have several issues which your association will be taking an active role in, and we will need the memberships help and input on issues as they arise. After the elections, the severance tax issue, tank regulations in WVA in which registration has already begun, Wayne Forest Lease issues, and others will need to be closely followed and acted on by your board and committees. Please take an active role and provide your assistance with these issues as we present them to the membership.

As this is an election year, please take time to vote for your chosen candidates. Give some thought to those who are friendly to our industry, as those will support us with many of the issues that we will face in the next few years as our association grows, and as more regulations and laws will be brought up that could negatively impact our business and how we operate.

Continue to operate safely and protect our environment. Our country depends on the energy you produce.

President
Jim Javins
2014 NEW MEMBERS
SOOGA would like to welcome the following new members:

TIM ROGERS
Professional
Mid–Ohio Valley Tech Institute
2134 N. Pleasants Hwy.
St. Marys, WV 26170
304-684-2464

KIM WOLFE
Professional
Comfort Suites Hotel
202 Cherry Tree Lane
Marietta OH 45750
304-482-4675

THAD SOUTHWICK
PROFESSIONAL
Bulwark
545 Marriott Dr. Suite 200
Nashville TN 37214
513-593-6885

MARK SCHROEDER
Professional
First Capitol
600 Superior Ave. East Suite 1300
Cleveland OH 44114
216-621-4141

LORI JOHNSON
Professional
Precise Well Analysis
P.O. Box 452
Belpre, OH 45714
740-568-8616

CIENNA VAN DYKE
Professional
Grand Pointe Conference & Reception Center
1500 Grand Central Ave. Suite 118
Vienna, WV 26015
304-295-7008

CASEY MORRIS
Contractor
Summit Environmental Services, LLC
9407 South Pleasants Hwy
St. Marys, WV 26170
304-665-7550

Continued to page 9

2014 SOOGA Calendar of Events

SOOGA Fall Gun Raffle — November 2014
OOGA Oilfield Expo — December 2-4, 2014
IOGA WV Winter Meeting — February 10-11, 2015
OOGA Winter Meeting — March 11-13, 2015

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Ergon Oil Purchasing, Inc.
740-350-2804
Southeastern Ohio Oil and Gas Association
Gas Committee Report
October, 2014

PRICING

Prices October 6, 2014

One Year NYMEX strip (Nov., 2014 – Oct., 2015) $3.86
Summer NYMEX strip for 2015 (April-October) $3.80
Winter NYMEX strip (Nov., 2014 – March, 2015) $4.02
TCO Index Posting – October, 2014 $3.96
DTI Index Posting – October, 2014 $2.04

It appears that high storage levels combined with enhanced production capabilities and slow usage growth could keep gas prices from rising dramatically over the next couple of years.

GAS STORAGE AS OF THE October 2, 2014 Report

Working Gas in storage was 3,100 bcf as of Friday, September 26, 2014. At 3,100, total working gas is below the 5 year historical range.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>09/26/14</th>
<th>09/19/14</th>
<th>change</th>
<th>Year ago (09/26/13)</th>
<th>5-Year average (2009-2013)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>1,714</td>
<td>1,646</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>1,792</td>
<td>1,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producing</td>
<td>933</td>
<td>897</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>1,153</td>
<td>1,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonsalt</td>
<td>685</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>876</td>
<td>911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,100</td>
<td>2,988</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>3,473</td>
<td>3,499</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Storage is 72.7% full compared to normal as of this report, with normal total capacity of 4,265 at the start of the withdrawal season. Storage is 373 BCF below last year, and 399 BCF below the five year average.

Note: The shaded area indicates the range between the historical minimum and maximum values for the weekly series from 2009 through 2013.


(Continued to page 6)
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EIA Raises Forecast for natural Gas Prices:

According to the EIA, Natural gas prices will average $4.74 per MMBtu, up 6.8% from its forecast last month, as supplies are likely to stay tight. This short term outlook predicts that the natural gas industry will need to produce more in November and December to catch up and match consumer demand of 72.3 Bcf per day in 2014, up 0.22 Bcf from last month’s forecast. The EIA expects prices to finish at an average of $4.88 per MMBtu, up 27% from the 2013 average price of $4.84. Utilities that must inject into storage for the winter are competing for supplies with power plants and industrial consumers that are using more gas than expected now.

GATHERCO

Retainage for July, 2014 is as follows for the Gatherco systems. Treat was 9.42%, Miley was 8.32%, Meigs was 12.4%, York was 7.0%, Grimes was 11.5%, and Elk was 19.11%. August, 2014 retainage was not available as of the date of this report.

WEST VIRGINIA NEWS:

West Virginia appears to be close to landing a coveted ethane cracker plant to serve the Utica and Marcellus shale plays -- the sort of billion-dollar project coveted by Ohio economic development officials for some time.

West Virginia Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin and officials from Brazilian company Odebrecht stood shoulder to shoulder at a press conference recently, saying the company is looking at developing a cracker near Parkersburg across the Ohio River from Marietta.

The plant, which would separate ethane from natural gas, would be part of a petrochemical complex that would include three polyethylene plants and facilities for water treatment and energy cogeneration.

New Tank Regulations:

West Virginia has adopted some new tank regulations recently. The results and requirements of these new regulation were sent out and explained in the latest SOOGA Newsletter, so please read it to familiarize yourself with these regulations if you have production in WV.

UTICA NEWS:

NEW PIPELINES PROPOSED TO SPUR UTICA SHALE DRILLING IN OHIO

COLUMBIA PIPELINE GROUP:

Columbia Pipeline Group (CPG), a unit of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI), today announced a total of $1.75 billion in new investment in infrastructure that will enable it to transport up to 1.5 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/D) of natural gas from Marcellus and Utica production areas to markets served by its Columbia Gas Transmission (Columbia Transmission) and Columbia Gulf Transmission (Columbia Gulf) pipeline systems. The proposed Ohio and West Virginia pipeline, known as Columbia Transmission's Leach XPress project, is supported by long-term firm service agreements with Range Resources - Appalachia, LLC, Noble Energy, Inc., Kaiser Marketing Appalachian, LLC and American Energy Utica - LLC. The project, which involves construction of approximately 160 miles of pipeline, compression and related facilities on Columbia Transmission's system, will provide access to multiple Marcellus and Utica receipt points and establish a substantial new header system serving the heart of the Appalachian supply basin.
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jrose@producersservicecorp.com

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Eclipse Resources
4900 Boggs Rd.
Zanesville, OH 43710
740-706-1497

JOSEPH SMITH
Producer
PDC Energy
513 Stanley Avenue
Clarksburg, WV 26301
937-621-0558

WILLIAM HUDGINS
Contractor
Kimzey Casing Service
614 27th Street
Vienna, WV 26105
304-615-1844

SAM ANDERSON
Professional
The Boys & Girls Club of Washington County
304 Lancaster Street, Suite 1
Marietta, OH 45750
740-516-7855

JAY SIMONDSD
Professional
Mannik Smith Group
815 Grandview Ave. Suite 650
Columbus, OH 43215
614-335-4724

ERIC BYERS
Producer
2Byers Enterprise
6776 Brodie Blvd
Dublin, OH 43017
614-395-2029

JOHN MOORE
Professional
The Career Center-Adult Technical Training
21740 St. Rt. 676
Marietta, OH 45750
740-373-6283

BOB GERST
Oil Haulers LLC
35651 SR 537
Graysville, Ohio 45734
(o) 740-585-2772
(c) 740-516-6623
(f) 740-585-2774
bgerstt@hotmail.com
Website: oilhaulersllc.com

Pettigrew Pumping Service, Inc.
Matthew J. Pettigrew
PO Box 809, Ravenna, OH 44266
PPSI@Bright.net
Mt. Gilead, OH
Office: (419) 768-9977
Fax: (419) 768-9900
Ravenna, OH
Office: (330) 297-7900
Fax: (330) 297-7901

Curt Reed
Account Manager

Baker Petroilte
Oil Field Chemicals
1681 East Main Street
Bridgeport, WV 26330
Office: 304-933-3301 | Cell: 618-214-2751
Continued from page 6

DUKE ENERGY:
Duke Energy and Piedmont Natural Gas today announced the selection of Dominion to build and operate a 550-mile interstate natural gas pipeline from West Virginia, through Virginia and into eastern North Carolina to meet the region’s rapidly growing demand for natural gas. The pipeline has an estimated cost of between $4.5 billion and $5 billion, an initial capacity of 1.5 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day, and a target in-service date of late 2018. Gas will be carried through a 42-inch-diameter pipe in West Virginia and Virginia, and a 36-inch-diameter pipe in North Carolina. The pipeline’s main customers are six utilities and related companies that collectively will purchase a substantial majority of the pipeline’s capacity to transport natural gas – Duke Energy Carolinas, Duke Energy Progress, Virginia Power Services Energy, Piedmont Natural Gas, Virginia Natural Gas, and PSNC Energy.

SPECTRA ENERGY:
Spectra Energy, along with two other companies, is proposing a new 250 mile 36” pipeline, Nexus Gas Transmission, for transporting gas from shale drilling in eastern Ohio to Detroit and southern Ontario, subject to FERC approval. The anticipated cost of this new pipeline is $1.5 billion, and could be in service as early as November, 2016. The proposed pipeline will run from Carroll County, Ohio, to Detroit and southern Ontario.

AMERICAN ENERGY/REGENCY ENERGY PARTNERS
American Energy and Regency Energy Partners are planning a $500 million pipeline to move American Energy’s Utica shale gas to major pipelines like Rockies Express and Tesas Eastern that service Texas, Colorado, and states along the nation’s southeastern rim. The 52 mile system will deliver more than 2 BCF per day of gas supply. It is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2015.

ENERGY TRANSFER
A second interstate pipeline is being planned to shop natural gas from the Utica and Marcellus shale regions across Stark County. The planned Rover Pipeline would carry up to 3.25 BCF of natural gas per day from West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. In total, the Rover mainline will include 380 miles of 36 inch and 43 inch diameter pipe and five compressor stations, plus 197 miles of supply laterals ranging in diameter from 24 to 47 inches.

DOMINION EAST OHIO:
Blue Racer Midstream has negotiated a new agreement for liquids uplift for producers on the DEO Guernsey/Cambridge gathering system for conventional production. The new agreement will be an amendment to the original HCA agreement. More details will be available after the agreement is completed.

MIDSTREAM/PROCESSING NEWS:
Pinto Energy is looking to build a 2,800 bbl/day gas to liquids plant east of Ashtabula, Ohio. It will produce high quality synthetic liquids as well as lubricants, waxes and solvents from gas being produced by the Utica and Marcellus formations.

Utica East Ohio (UEO), a joint venture by Access Midstream, M3, and EV Energy Partners, became the first fully integrated gathering, processing, and fractionation complex to be put into operation on July 28th, in Eastern Ohio. This initial phase of the UEO project is capable of processing 220-million cubic feet per day at their cryogenic processing facility near Kensington, and is processing 45,000 barrels per day of natural gas liquids at their fractionation, storage and rail facility.

The second phase is under construction and scheduled to be completed in December, 2014 with a third phase to follow. When complete, the UEO project will have 800 million cubic feet per day of cryogenic processing, 135,000 barrels per day of natural gas liquids fractionation, 870,000 barrels per day of natural gas liquids fractionation, 870,000 barrels of gas liquids storage and a rail facility capable of loading 90 cars per day.

Hickory Bend Project, the NiSource and Hilcorp natural gas processing project, has announced the construction of a $60 million pipeline to move natural gas liquids from their cryogenic natural gas processing plant in Springfield Township to attractive market destinations. Pennant Midstream will construct the 12 inch 38 mile pipeline. It will have the capacity to deliver up to 90,000 bbls. of NGS per day to a Utica East Ohio pipeline in Columbiana County, and from there be transported to the fractionators in Harrison County. It is expected to be complete by July, 2014.

(Continued to page 16)
ROOM FOR RENT.

Very nice 1200 sq. ft. room consisting of entry with secretarial and waiting area, two large and clean offices with storage for lots of paper work followed by a large conference or staff area with kitchen. This office was re-done a few years ago, new lighting, wired for computers etc. Only one block from Court House. An adjoining room of the same size will also be available in a few months for expansion. Rent is $800.00 per month plus utilities.

Call Charlie Kremer 740-373-7393 to see.
Melanoma is a serious form of skin cancer that occurs when normal pigment-producing skin cells called melanocytes become cancerous (malignant). These cells are abnormal, grow uncontrollably, and aggressively invade surrounding healthy tissues. Melanoma may affect only the skin, or it may spread (metastasize) through the blood or lymph system to other organs and bones.

Melanoma can develop in an existing mole or other mark on the skin, but it often develops in unmarked skin. It occurs most frequently on the upper back, but can grow anywhere. It is most common in people with light-colored skin, although it affects people of all races.

Melanoma most often looks like a flat, brown or black (often with mixed colors) mole that has an irregular, uneven border, and is not symmetrical. Melanoma lesions are often 6 mm (0.24 in.) or more in diameter. Any change in the shape, size, or color of a mole may indicate melanoma. A melanoma may be lumpy or rounded, change color, become crusty, ooze, or bleed.

Melanoma is often caused by too much sun exposure at some point in life. Extensive exposure to the sun can occur during childhood, in jobs that require a person to work outside, and during outdoor activities.

Skin cancer can often be prevented by avoiding overexposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays (UV Rays). UV Rays from artificial sources, such as tanning beds or sunlamps, are just as dangerous as those from the sun. To minimize the risk of developing skin cancer, see the Prevention section for more details.

Risk Factors for Melanoma in adults include:

- History of exposure to the sun. Sun exposure is the single most important risk factor for melanoma. Extensive exposure to the sun can occur during childhood, in jobs that require a person to work outside, and during outdoor activities. UV exposure at tanning salons also increases a person’s risk.
- History of sunburns, particularly severe sunburns in childhood (prior to age 20).
- People who have fair skin that burns rather than tans.
- Red hair or blue eyes.
- Family history of melanoma.
- Atypical moles and some types of moles that are present at birth.
- 50 or more moles.
- Many (extensive) freckles on the upper back.
- Previous melanoma or other skin cancer.
- Other cancers such as leukemia or lymphoma.
- Impaired immune system.
- Recent reports have also suggested that PUVA treatment, used to treat skin conditions such as psoriasis (by applying a medication to the skin and then exposing the skin to ultraviolet light), may increase the risk of melanoma.

Preventive Measures:

- Protect your skin. Use a sunscreen daily—with a sun protection factor, or SPF, of at least 15—and wear protective clothing. Try to stay out of the sun during the midday hours (10:00am to 3:00pm), and use a higher SPF when at higher elevations.
- Check your skin regularly, and have your doctor check your skin during any health exams, or at least once a year if you are an adult.
- Have your doctor examine and treat any suspicious skin growths.

If detected early, melanoma can be cured by surgery. Complete surgical removal of the melanoma is the best and most effective treatment. If melanoma is not detected and treated in the early stages, it can spread (metastasize) and be fatal.
## GAS PRICING 2014

### SEPTEMBER 2014
- **NYMEX Settlement**: $3.39570
- **Inside FERC/DTI**: $2.0500 (Basis: -$1.907)
- **Inside FERC/TCO**: $3.9400 (Basis: -$0.170)
- **NYMEX 3-day Average**: $3.39350

### OCTOBER 2014
- **NYMEX Settlement**: $3.9840
- **Inside FERC/DTI**: $2.0400 (Basis: -$1.944)
- **Inside FERC/TCO**: $3.9600 (Basis: -$0.024)
- **NYMEX 3-day Average**: $3.9553

## OIL PRICING 2014

### ARG GROUP PRICING CATEGORIES AND DEFINITIONS FOR PENNSYLVANIA GRADE CRUDE OIL (LEGACY)

- **Group 1 (OH/PA/NY)** - 150.0 barrels from a single location, with no more than 2% BS&W (if the BS&W is over 2% it will then qualify for Tier 2 pricing).
- **Group 2 (OH/PA/NY)** - 60-149.99 net barrels from a single location.
- **Group 3 (OH/PA/NY)** - 30-59.99 net barrels from a single location.

For questions relating to ARG Group Pricing or Utica / Marcellus Shale pricing, please contact: Gary Welker, Mgr.-Crude Supply & Gathering - 330-813-1898; gwelker@amref.com

You can now find EOP WVA Crude oil Price Bulletin on the internet at: www.ergon.com
Appalachian Resins announced that it will build a $1 billion facility in Monroe County that will be able to process approximately 18,000 barrels per day of ethane into ethylene and polyethylene, the feedstock for plastic and many other items we use in our daily lives. The facility is expected to begin operating in early 2019 and will produce 600 million pounds of ethylene/polyethylene per year. This new feedstock has the potential to reinvigorate the manufacturing sector in the region, which will, in turn, increase investment and jobs in the Ohio Valley.

For more information, click on this link; http://energyindepth.org/ohio/new-natural-gas-plant-up-and-running-in-eastern-ohio/

Utica Facts and Numbers:
The Utica gas production has been added to the Energy Information Agency’s Monthly Drilling Report as of August, 2014. Since January 2012, production has increased from 155 million cubic feet per day (MMcf/d) to approximately 1.3 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d). Utica’s production per rig has also steadily improved.

Horizontal wells in the Utica shale in the eastern part of the state produced more natural gas in the second quarter than all of the Ohio wells combined in 2012, reports the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

The shale wells in the state produced 2,467,283 barrels of oil and 88.673 billion cubic feet of natural gas during the three months ended July 30, ODNR reported Monday.

ODNR said 562 wells are listed on its latest production report, with 504 of them reporting results. Fifty-eight wells reported no production since they haven't been linked to pipelines.

Average production per well stood at 4,895 barrels of oil and 175,939 million cubic feet of gas, ODNR reported. Average number of days a well was in production stood at 67.

The highest-producing oil well was Antero Resources' Myron well in Noble County at 78,309 barrels over 91 days. The highest producing gas well was Hall Drilling's Hercher North well in Monroe County, which recorded 1.4 billion cubic feet of gas production over 91 days.

As of September 27, 2014, there have been 1,532 Utica Shale permits issued in 23 counties in Ohio to 29 companies, and 1,092 of them have been developed. The counties are listed below.


There are currently 562 Utica Shale wells in production, with 45 rigs running.

MARCELLUS SUPPLY UPDATE:
It has been reported by the EIA that the Marcellus Shale gas has hit 15 BCF per day in July, 2014.

Use of Data:
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Roy G. “Gene” Brasel

Roy G. “Gene” Brasel, age 84, passed away at his home on Tuesday, July 29, 2014. Gene was born in Carmi, Illinois on Jan. 6, 1930, to the late Percy and Hayley Bryan Brasel.

A loving husband, dad, grandfather and friend, he will be deeply missed by all who knew him. He is survived by his loving wife Ellen O'Connell Brasel; daughters Laurie Brasel, Betsy Brasel, Julie (David) Brasel Hersh and Christine (Amy Andres) Brasel; grandchildren Whitney and Alex; nephew Bill Russell; many other nieces and nephews; and many special friends from Southeast Ohio. He is also preceded in death by his siblings India Brennecke, Bryan Brasel and Mary Frances Russell; and his beloved dog, Bear.

An independent oil and gas producer for over 40 years, Gene was the past president of the Ohio Oil and Gas Association, was instrumental in starting the OOOGA Hall of Fame, and a member of the Petroleum Club. He was a member of Cheshire Baptist Church.

Guy F. Sitler, Jr.

NEWARK: Guy Sitler, age 85, was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on January 12, 1929 to Elva and Guy F. Sitler. He graduated from Oakmont High School in 1947 and Wooster College in 1951 where he was a three-sport athlete and majored in geology. A lifelong patriot, he proudly spent three years serving his country with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, leaving as a Sergeant 1st Class. While he was completing a Masters of Geology at the University of Pittsburgh, he married the love of his life, Joan Chase, on September 10, 1955.

Guy went to work for Sohio in their comprehensive training program and within one year, he and his young family lived in Riverton, Wyoming, Billings, Montana, Lafayette, Louisiana and Houston, Texas. His next job with Hope Natural Gas Company brought him to Ohio and after a position with an independent oil and gas company, he and George Stocker founded Stocker & Sitler Oil Company in Newark in 1961. In 36 years, the company drilled over 1000 oil and gas wells.

Guy was a member of the Ohio Oil & Gas Association (OOGA) since 1959, where he served as president and was inducted into the OOOGA Hall of Fame in 1994. He served on Park National Bank's Board of Directors from 1982 until his retirement in 1994. He was also a member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board for many years. Guy loved trap shooting, bird hunting, fishing and The Ohio State University Buckeye football team, and he was a lifelong fan of the Pittsburgh Pirates and Pittsburgh Steelers. In retirement, Guy found a new avocation as an author, writing six novels and a cookbook and sharing them with everyone he knew.

Above all else, Guy loved his family. He was so proud of Joan, his wife of 59 years, and he told everyone he met about her induction into the Ohio State Trapshooting Association Hall of Fame. Every year, he composed a poem for Joan that he would read to her on Christmas Eve when the family was gathered. Everyone looked forward to his recitation but kept a box of Kleenex nearby. He treasured his children, Gary (Penny) Sitler and Susan (Tom) Kahle. He was the marvelous and beloved Poppop to Ryan and Aubrey Sitler and Cameron and Justin Kahle, attending as many sporting, theater and musical events of theirs as he could and constantly encouraging them to be the best they could be.
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Thorla-McKee Oil Festival– 200th Anniversary

Saturday, October 4, 2014

The Noble County Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau proudly celebrated the 200th Anniversary of North America’s very first oil well. In 1814 two gentlemen, Silas Thorla and Robert McKee drilled a hole near Caldwell, Ohio. Hoping to find an underground salty spring, they drilled a well approximately 475’ deep. They lined the well with a hollowed out Sycamore log and pumped out the water. Thorla and McKee had found the salty spring but it was contaminated with oil. At the time, oil was of very little use….

On October 4, 2014, at the site of the Thorla-McKee Park, the 200th Anniversary of the first oil well drilled in North America was held with entertainment, food vendors and other tourism attractions like the Shenandoah Traveling Museum.

The event was well attended by local oil and gas companies, government dignitaries and the public. We want to share our history with the community and the companies who are molding our future.
DEP is still accepting online AST registrations via the Electronic Submission System (ESS). The registration process includes questions about tank size, contents, construction, age and location. To assist in the registration process, there is a comprehensive AST Registration User’s Guide available at the link above or on the ESS signup/login page that provides screen-by-screen instructions. DEP employees also are on hand to assist tank owners who are subject to the requirements of a newly enacted law intended to help prevent future leaks such as the one on Jan. 9 that contaminated the drinking water of approximately 300,000 West Virginia residents.
The center of Ohio shale development is shifting somewhat to the south, based on new oil and gas production figures that show strong results for Noble County and Antero Resources Corp.

Antero has eight of the top 10 producing oil wells, and all eight are in Noble County, according to an Ohio Department of Natural Resources report on second-quarter results.

Monroe County has the top two natural-gas wells: both are owned by Hall Drilling.

Previous development of Ohio shale was clustered in or near Carroll County. Because of this head start, that county still has the most oil and gas wells and the largest production, but it lags in new development and in production per well.

“This dovetails with what I’ve been hearing and seeing, which is that the trend is moving south,” said Matt Warnock, a lawyer specializing in energy issues at Bricker & Eckler in Columbus.

Throughout Ohio, energy companies extracted 2.5 million barrels of oil and 88.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas in the second quarter, up 26 percent and 31 percent, respectively, from revised figures for the first quarter. The totals include oil and gas from Ohio’s share of the Utica and Marcellus shale formations.

Twenty-four companies reported producing oil or gas, one more than in the previous quarter.

“You can definitely tell it’s amping up,” said Jill McCartney, executive director of the Noble County Chamber of Commerce.

Her county is seeing an increase in drilling activity, construction of pipelines and new businesses that serve oil and gas workers. The county seat, Caldwell, got its second hotel this year, and two other hotels have been announced, she said.

Chesapeake Energy remains the state’s most prolific producer. The Oklahoma-based company has 321 wells in the report, which is more than all other companies combined. It also produced the most oil and gas: 1.1 million barrels of oil and 44.2 billion cubic feet of gas. Much of Chesapeake’s output is in Carroll County.

Meanwhile, Antero is doing a lot with a much smaller presence. The Colorado-based company had 31 wells producing 587,013 barrels of oil and 11 billion cubic feet of gas. Most of Antero’s output is in Noble County.

Another leading producer is Gulfport Energy of Oklahoma, which had 60 wells, 321,143 barrels of oil and 15.1 billion cubic feet of gas. It is getting its best results in Harrison County.

Although production is rising, Ohio remains a tiny part of the national energy picture. The Energy Information Administration predicts that Ohio shale will have an average daily output of 40,000 barrels of oil and 1.39 billion cubic feet of gas this month. That is the lowest, or close to the lowest, of the seven shale regions the agency monitors.

For comparison, the country’s most-prolific shale-oil region — the Permian Basin in Texas and New Mexico — has output 40 times greater than Ohio’s. The most prolific shale-gas region — the part of the Marcellus centered in Pennsylvania and West Virginia — has output nearly 400 times greater than Ohio’s.

Close observers of Ohio’s energy businesses say the state is still early in its development. They also say that production is constrained while producers wait for construction of pipelines and other infrastructure.

“You have to be a little bit patient and see what’s going to happen,” Warnock said. “There are still a lot of wells to be drilled.”
Beck Energy Wins Appeal Involving Oil and Gas Lease Agreements

Monroe County Beacon, Thursday October 2, 2014

Several property owners in Monroe County who have been attempting to free up their previously-leased mineral rights in recent months were dealt a blow on Sept. 24 as the Court of Appeals of Ohio, Seventh Appellate District ruled in favor of Beck Energy in an appeal of previous judgments. The ruling reverses three previous decisions that had freed the plaintiffs from mineral leases with Beck Energy.

The legal process began on Sept. 14, 2011 as oil and gas lessors filed a class action claim against the lessee, Beck Energy. On Sept. 29 and then Sept. 30 of 2011, two amended class action complaints were filed.

The arguments on behalf of the plaintiffs asserted the following: “1. that the Leases contained terms and conditions contrary to public policy, because they were allegedly leases in perpetuity without timely development, 2. that Beck had failed to prepare to drill or to actually drill any wells on their property, 3. that Beck had breached a number of express and implied covenants including the covenant to reasonably develop the leaseholds.”

Initially, on July 31, 2012, The Monroe County Court of Common Pleas (with Judge Ed Lane of Washington County sitting as judge) ruled that the leases plaintiffs had signed with Beck Energy could be voided. The other two cases had the same result as decisions were announced on Feb. 8, 2013 and June 10, 2013. The trial court concluded in these cases “that the leases were perpetual in nature and therefore violate public policy, and that Beck breached the implied covenant to reasonably develop the land by failing to drill any wells on leasehold properties.”

After the decision was made, Beck Energy appealed. The company appealed the court’s decision on voiding the leases as well as the court’s decision to certify landowners with similar leases with the company from anywhere in Ohio, not just Monroe County. XTO Energy, who had entered a deal with Beck Energy to purchase mineral rights, filed a motion to be included as an appellant in the case as well.

After hearing the appeal, the Court of Appeals of Ohio decided the following in regards to the voiding of the leases: “Regarding the summary judgment ruling, the trial court misinterpreted the pertinent lease provisions and Ohio case law and erred in concluding the lease is a no-term, perpetual lease that is void ab initio as against public policy. The trial court further erred in concluding the lease was subject to implied covenants and that Beck breached the implied covenant to reasonably develop.”

Also part of the decision, the class action certifications (the landowners allowed to be part of the class action suit) were upheld. Finally, XTO’s appeal was deemed moot due to the decision of the court to uphold Beck Energy’s appeal. With the decision of the appeals court, the case will be remanded back to the Monroe County Common Pleas Court with Judge Lane sitting as judge. There is a possibility that the case could eventually make its way to the Ohio Supreme Court.
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