



# NEWSLETTER

Serving the Petroleum and Geothermal Community

Nevada Petroleum Society; P. O. Box 11526; Reno, NV 89510

Visit our NPS Homepage: <http://www.nbmng.unr.edu/nps/>

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## Next Meeting: Thursday, January 4, 2007

**Speaker:** Alan Chamberlain, Ph.D.  
Geologist/President  
Cedar Strat Corp., Eureka Nevada

**Title:** Great Basin Elephant Hunt

**Place:** Austin's Restaurant, Mt. Rose Room, 7671 S. Virginia St.,  
Reno, Nevada  
Shopping center, west side of Virginia St at Longley Lane

**Agenda:** Cocktails begin at 6:30 PM  
Dinner Served at 7:00 PM

**Dinner  
Costs and  
Menu:** NPS Members \$ 17; Non-Members \$19; Students \$10  
**Choose one:** ▶ Texas Taco Salad ▶ Homestyle Meatloaf  
▶ Chicken Fried Chicken ▶ Lemon Pepper Chicken

**RSVP by NOON TUESDAY, Jan 2, 2007**

**Diane Phillips (775) 267-4663 or [trailsend@pyramid.net](mailto:trailsend@pyramid.net)**

**Reservations required**

## Speaker's Abstract

### Elephant Hunting Heating Up in the Great Basin

*Alan Chamberlain  
Cedar Strat*

The eastern Great Basin thrust belt provides an opportunity to explore for giant oil and gas fields. Thick, thermally mature, organic-rich, lacustrine oil shales deposited in the Mississippian Antler Basin flood plain in eastern Nevada are the source beds for the fifty million barrels of oil already produced in Nevada. Some of the oil migrated into the newly discovered giant oil field in central Utah. Karsted unconformities, stromatoporoid reefs, impact breccias, and sandstones make the eastern Great Basin Devonian reservoir rocks most favorable for giant accumulations. One Great Basin

well in the Grant Canyon field of eastern Nevada flowed 4,000 barrels a day for ten years from these karsted carbonates. Late Cretaceous thrusting created the compressional features of the prolific Canadian foothills, Utah/Wyoming thrust belt, the new central Utah oil field, and the eastern Great Basin thrust belt.

A deeply entrenched notion that discouraged exploration investment is that the north-south structural grain of the eastern Great Basin was caused by Tertiary extension that could have compromised seals on older, compressional structures. The newly discovered giant oil field on the eastern edge of the Great Basin provides an example of an intact compressional feature. Another example of an intact compressional feature is the Golden Gate fault fold 40 miles south southeast of the prolific Grant Canyon field and 120 miles north of Las Vegas. The Golden Gate fault fold is ten miles long and five miles wide and has more than five thousand feet of closure. It may have trapped billions of barrels of oil before it was breached by headward erosion of the Colorado River. New mapping reveals that no Tertiary extensional faults compromise the structure. Similar structures, along strike that have escaped erosion, likely contain billions of barrels of oil and trillions of cubic feet of gas such as the newly discovered giant Utah oil field. Oil seeping from these giant fields is probably the source for the Great Basin commercial oil seep fields. However, old opinion and theories based on little or poor geologic mapping have obscured the true understanding of the eastern Great Basin geology for at least five decades. As a result, past oil exploration efforts in the eastern Great Basin based on old tectonic and depositional models have been disappointing.

### ► **About the Speaker:**

Alan K. Chamberlain, Ph.D., President of Cedar Strat Corp. (775) 237-5076.

Alan K. Chamberlain received his B.A. and M.S. from Brigham Young University and his Ph.D. from Colorado School of Mines. His dissertation, Structural Geology and Devonian Stratigraphy of the Timpahute Range, Nevada, provides a new exploration model that could lead to significant discoveries in this frontier region. After he worked for Exxon, Gulf, Marathon, and Placid, he became president of Cedar Strat Corporation in 1984. Constrained by well data, measured sections, and new gravity surveys and geologic maps, Cedar Strat has identified 36 Great Basin structural plays similar to the giant discovery in central Utah.

### ► **From the President**

Beginning 2007 with Even More Optimism

The Nevada Petroleum Society starts the year with optimism. Our dinner meeting on Thursday evening, January 4, 2007, features one of our most optimistic petroleum geologists, Dr. Alan Chamberlain, founder of Cedar Strat. Alan's talk on the "Great Basin Elephant Hunt" will be sure to stimulate discussion and open eyes to possibilities for a significant resurgence in oil (and gas) production in Nevada. For more information about Cedar Strat, please refer to their Web site at <http://www.cedarstrat.com/>.

The NPS serves the petroleum and geothermal community in Nevada, and many NPS members are active in the development of both resources. On December 21, 2006, the Geothermal Energy Association released a report on "Geothermal Resource Development in Nevada – 2006," authored by Dan Fleischmann and available on line at <http://www.geo-energy.org/publications/reports.asp>. The report notes that Nevada is on track to be producing over 1,000 megawatts of geothermal power (about four times the current capacity) within the next three to five years. This would be approximately one quarter of Nevada's electric power needs. The press release states that "this dramatic success is due to four major factors: (1) the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard, (2) the extension of the federal production tax credit to include geothermal energy, (3) the Bureau of Land Management's efforts to reduce its leasing backlog, and (4) the Department of Energy's support for cost-shared drilling, technical assistance, and the work of the Great Basin Center for Geothermal Energy at the University of Nevada, Reno." The report identifies

between 24 and 29 new geothermal power projects that potentially could add up to 853 megawatts of capacity (beyond the 276 megawatts of capacity at 15 current power plants). If this capacity were realized within the next five years, it would be a good step toward achieving the prediction of the 2005 geothermal taskforce of the Western Governors' Association, which estimated that Nevada could add approximately 1,500 megawatts of geothermal power-generating capacity by 2015 and approximately 2,900 megawatts by 2025. We can expect a bright future for energy in Nevada.

Jon Price  
President

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### ► NPS CHRISTMAS DINNER - Dec 1 2006

The Annual NPS Christmas Dinner was great, at least the Prime Rib was! We had a really good turn out and it was fun to see everyone. Jon Price had a slide show going of the 2006 NPS Field Trip and Sam Limerick and Gayle Haraguchi organized a "Rob Your Neighbor" gift exchange. It was a big hit with some "winners" – they may even try and make this a new tradition. Bill Ehni walked away with an item deserving of weekly dusting, while Larry Garside was not so fortunate. John Menghini could entertain us all with the goods he made off with and Martin Booth will be packing his bags for parts unknown. Sam says he hopes the gift exchange was "fun for all (even those who only took home lumps of NV coal or talking dolls with a superior attitude)". Thanks to Sam Limerick and Diane Phillips for organizing the party and thanks to the following NPS Members who donated gifts:

**Marshall & Jane Crouch/White Eagle**  
**Bill & Vicki Ehni/Ehni Enterprises**  
**Peter Hummel/Eagle Exploration**  
**Sam Limerick & Gayle Haraguchi**  
**Christy Morris**  
**NV Division of Minerals**  
**Nevada Petroleum Society**  
**Diane Phillips**  
**Andy Pierce/FX Energy**  
**Jon & Beth Price**  
**NBMG**  
**Mark & Charlotte Stock**  
**George Vrame/Sigma Oil**  
**Jerry Walker**

### ► BLM OIL & GAS LEASE SALE:

The last BLM oil & gas sale in Nevada was held December 12, 2006. The next sale is tentatively scheduled for March 13, 2007. Nominations for the June 12, 2007 sale are due January 12, 2007. Contact the Reno BLM (775) 861-6500 for more information.

Eighty parcels received bids at the December sale, with the high \$/acre bid going to Parcel #151, \$53/acre for 640 acres in T7N R56E to DY Exploration in Boise ID. Great Nevada Petroleum, a company recently organized in Nevada, Texola, a Canadian company in Provo UT, Contex Energy from Denver, Makoil in Las Vegas, James Breene from Denver and DY were the buyers at the sale.

<b>Calendar:</b>	
Jan 4, 2007	NPS Monthly Dinner Meeting – Austin’s Restaurant, Reno, NV – Speaker: <b>Alan Chamberlain</b> , Geologist – Cedarstrat – <b>“Great Basin Elephant Hunt”</b>
Feb 1, 2007	NPS Monthly Dinner Meeting – Austin’s Restaurant, Reno, NV – Speaker: <b>Dave Seneshen</b> , Direct Geochemical – <b>“Surface Geochemical Expression of Grant Canyon Field and Analogues”</b>
Mar 1, 2007	NPS Monthly Dinner Meeting – Austin’s Restaurant, Reno, NV – Speaker: <b>Ron Wenker</b> , Bureau of Land Management - <b>Title to be announced (BLM Resource Management Plans)</b>
Apr 1-4, 2007	<b>AAPG-Annual Meeting – Long Beach, CA - <a href="http://www.aapg.org">www.aapg.org</a></b> Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center - Hosted by Pacific Section AAPG
Apr 5, 2007	NPS Monthly Dinner Meeting – Austin’s Restaurant, Reno, NV – Speaker: <b>Jim Faulds</b> , Geologist – Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology – <b>“Cenozoic Salt Deposits in the Basin and Range Province - Paleogeographic and Economic Implications”</b>
May 3, 2007	NPS Monthly Dinner Meeting – Austin’s Restaurant, Reno, NV – Speaker: <b>Don French</b> , Geologist – Independent - <b>Title to be announced - Something about oil and Nevada (:</b>
Oct 6-9, 2007	<b>AAPG Rocky Mtn Section Meeting</b> , Snowbird UTAH – Abstract deadline April 20, 2007 – Contact David Lambert <a href="mailto:gl1253@msn.com">gl1253@msn.com</a> (801) 953-3373.