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# MEETINGS, CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

**SHORT COURSE Salt Dissolution and Collapse:  
Effects upon selected Western Canadian  
Oil and Gas Pools  
presented by Steve Halabura and Dean Potter  
(12/13-15/00)(submitted by Randy Burke)**

Randy Burke attended a three-day short course in Winnipeg to learn more about the geologic characteristics of salt-dissolution phenomenon and how one distinguishes the sedimentologic traits of this phenomenon from other similar types of rock textures. This knowledge aids in the recognition of hydrocarbon reservoirs resulting from salt dissolution and is important for building exploration models to predict the location of undiscovered hydrocarbon reservoirs formed by this process. The concept of the formation of oil reservoirs and traps by the process of salt dissolution and collapse has been recognized in the Williston Basin for over 40 years. This short course provided an opportunity to learn the state of current thinking on the subject and to examine numerous cores from oil fields related to salt dissolution and collapse processes. Steve Halabura brought a particularly unique perspective to the presentation because of his experience working with the potash mines in Saskatchewan where he has been able to study examples of salt solution-collapse features underground in mines. Knowledge of the sedimentary and structural characteristics of a known dissolution-collapse structure allows one by analogy to recognize them elsewhere. By knowing where the collapse feature is located and by determining its shape, one can more easily anticipate the most likely locations for

porous and permeable rocks that could provide reservoirs for hydrocarbons. The best methods to accomplish this require the integration of core and seismic data with detailed stratigraphy, including the salt units. Randy gave a summary of the short course to the Survey geologic staff over two days at the end of January that included examinations of examples of salt solution features in cores from North Dakota.

## **Bluemle on the Lecture Circuit Again**

John Bluemle has been an invited speaker at several functions in the past few months. John presented a talk and slide show on the Geology of Iceland to the North Dakota Geological Society on December 4, 2000. In April, he helped to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the discovery of oil in North Dakota with two presentations. April 9, 2001, he spoke to the Westerners and on April 17 to the North Dakota Geological Society. On May 6, John gave a talk on the Geology of North Dakota in Bismarck to the Gem and Mineral Society. Finally, John travelled to Billings to talk on climate change with the Montana Geological Society on May 30, 2001.

## **Gonzalez speaks to Bismarck Rotarians**

On January 17, 2001, Mark Gonzalez was the guest speaker at the Bismarck Rotary Club. He presented a summary of his research "Recent Environmental Changes in the Little Missouri Badlands" and discussed some of the recent activities of the NDGS.