PTTC Offers Array Of Training Opportunities

Although I have been out of school for more years than I care to remember, I still feel as though summer represents a special time of year that is different from the rest. For many, this means taking a vacation or adding an addition to the house. For others it means working on that old Mustang in the garage or heading to the lake to catch the one that got away last year.

Travel and fishing are definitely on my list as well. However, this year I have decided to spend some time accomplishing one thing that I can take with me into the fall. I am committing myself to training; specifically, training outside my area of expertise. Summer is a great time for this type of exploration, and in the oil and gas industry, the more one knows, the more effective he can become.

For example, I organized and attended a geology field trip in Northwest Arkansas, led by Walt Manger from the University of Arkansas. The area of study was the Mississippian geology of that region. I found it interesting that while the bus was filled with geologists, there were at least two engineers onboard. When I asked one why he decided to attend the trip, he simply said he wanted to see the formation that he was spending so much time designing methods to produce.

As I have mentioned previously, training opportunities abound in the oil and gas industry these days. In fact, there are so many sources for training that sorting through them all can be a daunting task. If anyone is thinking about adding a workshop to his schedule this summer, my advice is to explore interests outside one’s area of work, and to look for opportunities with solid topics and credible speakers. When doing this, one should look for opportunities near his location, and that possibly feature talks about the play he may be working in—or better yet, the one he would like to work in.

One organization has been offering this type of training for more than 20 years; the Petroleum Technology Transfer Council was established as a nonprofit with the sole purpose of providing those working in the industry with access to training, technology, and best practices to make them more successful and ultimately increase hydrocarbon production in the United States.

I will admit that I am biased since I serve in a leadership role for PTTC. However, when I accepted the position to help lead PTTC, it was because of its links with independent operators as well as with the majors. I found PTTC to be serving the needs of operations around the country and in the backyards of folks doing the work. Finally, I found that because PTTC worked with industry to help design and lead its training, its offerings were among the very best in the industry.

PTTC has more than 20 training opportunities scheduled for this summer. Chances are there is at least one in everyone’s area. One of the highlights PTTC is bringing to industry this summer is a course being held in Pittsburgh called “Applications of Stable Isotope Geochemistry in the Petroleum Geosciences.” While the name may sound a little intimidating, this course will provide an accessible overview of the tools, methods, and terminology related to stable isotope geochemistry as it applies to exploration and production.

Another opportunity this summer will be a course in Midland, titled “Permian Basin: Wellbore Integrity.” This course will focus on casing design and cementing, and how these two critical steps can impact the total life of the well.

Finally, the Rocky Mountain PTTC Region is hosting “Source Rock 101” in Golden, Co. This short course is scheduled in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists’ annual meeting.

In the coming months, look for topics related to waterflooding, drilling engineering essentials, and lithology from logs for geologists.

There are many opportunities to find just what anyone is looking for in training this summer, and while there are many sources of that training, I encourage everyone to check the new PTTC website at PTTC.org to find one near them. Simply click on the training and events button, find a date and location that work for you, and you are halfway there.

Stay cool this summer and enjoy the many opportunities for training and development.

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