

Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread & Bagel
1812 N. Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach
Wednesday, November 20
7:30 PM

Note New Date!

Our November meeting has been moved up a week to Wednesday, 11/20/13, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Time and place remain the same.

Our November program will focus on the issue of homelessness. As this article from the Daily Breeze explains, our local homeless population has increased in the South Bay, and we are struggling to provide appropriate care and services for this population. Please join us as we discuss this important and timely topic. (<http://www.dailybreeze.com/general-news/20130817/south-bay-and-harbor-area-trying-to-cope-with-growing-homeless-population>). There will not be a December meeting, and newsletter publication will resume in January. Stay tuned for plans for a holiday party in January.

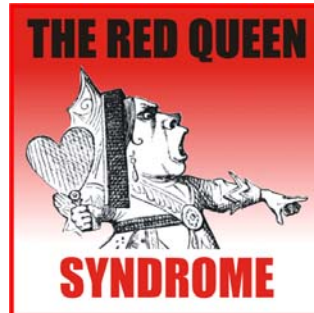
President's Message

Running Faster and Faster Just to Stay in Place

By Tony Hale

The Red Queen Syndrome is a term being used in the hydraulic fracturing industry to describe a desperate increase in drilling to compensate for diminished oil production.

One of the industry's dirtiest secrets has been the simple fact that the productivity of its wells is very short lived.



Production from wells using hydraulic fracturing methods falls 60% to 70% in the first year, and new wells are initially less productive than wells drilled five years ago.

Promoters of fracking have promised a new oil boom that would give America energy independence, but the promises and profits have fallen far short and now producers are frantically increasing the number of wells just to keep production from going down.

The Red Queen term is inspired by a line in Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass*, where the Red Queen tells Alice: "Now, here, you see, it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place."

The analogy is an apt one. David Hughes, a geologist and president of Global Sustainability Research, estimates the U.S. will need to drill 6,000 new wells per year just to maintain current production. The production costs are projected to be some \$35 billion, and these costs are expected to consume a larger percentage of profits as time goes on.

Hughes predicts that production can only be maintained for another four years, and, by 2017, production will peak and begin to spiral downward. Fracking producers are going

into greater debt, borrowing more and more in the hope that super sizing production will make their overall efforts profitable. The possibility of a total bust looms in the minds of many investors and producers alike. "Like anybody else who is over the age of 50 and has been through the boom-and-bust cycle, I am concerned," said Steve Slawson, vice president for Slawson Exploration.

The drop in natural gas prices has already caused companies to sell off assets and lay off workers. Where would a major bust in the fracking industry leave those communities that have had fracking imposed on them? Beyond the economic consequences, who would be responsible for environmental damages left in the wake of a total bust? Bankrupt companies would disappear like the Cheshire Cat leaving only a grimace of economic and environmental pain and suffering.

"If seven maids with seven mops Swept it for half a year. Do you suppose," the Walrus said, "That they could get it clear?" "I doubt it," said the Carpenter, And shed a bitter tear.



Carolyn and Ray Waters, and Isabel Rodriguez, enjoying the Franklin D Roosevelt Dinner on October 20.

OCTOBER RECAP

Beach Cities Democrats

October 23rd, 2013

Minutes courtesy of Kathryn Campbell

President Tony Hale welcomed everyone.

Officer Reports

President's Report

Tony announced that tonight's meeting would be dedicated to the hard work of getting Democrats elected via phone banking for our endorsed Hermosa Beach candidates.

Vice President's Report

Dency Nelson reported that Republican actor Ned Vaughn had dropped out of the 66th AD race already. While this may appear to be good news, Dency suspects that this was part of an effort to get all 66th Republicans to unite behind David Hadley, a Manhattan Beach investment banker. This is a sign that they are focusing their resources and trying to avoid infighting or splintering, which will

make things harder for Al's reelection campaign.

Secretary's Report

Kathryn Campbell submitted minutes from the September meeting, which were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Edna Murphy reported the following activity:

Federal account: starting balance of \$1748 + \$227 (new memberships) - \$124 (post office box) = ending balance of \$1851.

State account: starting balance of \$58 - \$15 (bank fees) = ending balance of \$43.

Upcoming Events

Kathryn announced that we are moving the BCD's November meeting to 11/20/13; there will be no meeting in December.

We have two upcoming events on November 17. From 3 – 5 PM; there will be an event at Rock & Brews on PCH &

Palos Verde for Betsy Butler, who is running for the 62nd AD. There is also an event for Al Muratsuchi that night nearby at Dale Petruilis' house from 4 – 6 PM.

Reports from Elected Officials

Veronica Zendejas reported from Sen. Ted Lieu's office. She thanked everyone for our support of Ted's bills, many of which became law in 2013. (See them all here: <http://sd28.senate.ca.gov/>).

Senator Lieu is also working with SCE on power outage issues in South Bay. In addition, he has recently asked Craig's list to stop allowing sales of prescription drugs on its site.

Phone Banking & Adjournment

BCD members placed calls for a little more than an hour in support of all BCD endorsed candidates in November 5 races. At 9 PM the meeting was adjourned.



Scenes from the Franklin D. Roosevelt dinner honoring local Democrats Tim Goodrich and Connie Sullivan. Left: Senator Ted Lieu with Lori Geittmann; right: Janice Hahn gave a rousing endorsement.



Beach Cities Green

By Dency Nelson

The holiday season came to Hermosa Beach early this year, with the gifts of the November 5 election. Not only did we



thrash the two-term right-wing ideologue Kit Bobko in the City Council election, overall we elected 4 out of the 5 Beach Cities Democrats-endorsed candidates for both Council and School Board, and the third Council seat is too close to call. We may get a clean sweep of all 5! Thanks for your help in this campaign, Beach Citifies Democrats!!

And just like that fruitcake you get every year about this time, I'm re-giving, or let's just say recycling, my annual tips for a "green" holiday season. The following information has been compiled from some of my past columns and from information posted by "Clean Air-Cool Planet," "Coalition for Clean Air," and "Green America."

First, your holiday travel can have a big impact on the environment. Planes currently produce about 12% of transportation-related CO2 emissions worldwide. Trains and buses can often move as many people as planes, and even though most of these modes of transit use diesel fuel, they create as much as 1/3 less CO2 emissions than commercial aircraft. Better yet, if time and distance allow, consider driving your hybrid car (or renting one if you don't own one) for that holiday trip. If you must fly, consider purchasing carbon offsets through www.nativeenergy.com or some other organization.

For your holiday decorating, how about trading in those incandescent string lights for LED string lights? The latter use considerably less power and last longer than traditional incandescent lights, and some now come with small solar panels

that make and store electricity during the day to power those lights at night. I've seen them at Home Depot and many other local stores the past couple of years. LED lights cost more initially, but using less power and lasting longer, they offset that extra cost over time and do the planet a favor. You can trade up to two strings of old electricity-guzzling incandescent holiday lights for two new energy-efficient LED strings at the South Bay Environmental Services Center, November 18, 19 & 20, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, by just showing up with your driver's license and your SCE bill. For more information call 310-371-7222.

What about the Christmas tree itself? For the past four years our family has rented a living tree from a local company, the Living Christmas Company www.livingchristmas.com. This company received the 2010 SEED Award for Environmental Innovation, and they are absolutely wonderful! Not only do we have the fun of welcoming the same tree back into our living room each year, but during the rest of the year they keep our tree and the rest of their "rentals" in tubs on the "brown field" of a local oil refinery. It's land that can't be used for anything else and is located near a source of reclaimed water that is used to irrigate the trees throughout the year. Smart, sustainable and truly innovative! If you usually buy your tree from Kiwanis or some other local charitable organization, consider writing a check to that charity to make up for not buying your tree from them.

That brings me to holiday gift-giving. Locally made gifts are better for the local economy and better for the planet (less of a carbon footprint), plus they are often more unique and personal. Alternatively (or in addition), you can avoid the hassle of the mall and save money on gas by online purchasing. (Just skip the airmail shipping and further reduce the carbon by choosing ground delivery.) Not all companies are created equal, however, so look for great gifts from Fair Trade and environmentally and socially conscious busi-

nesses like those found at www.greenamerica.org. If you do purchase gifts, either from local vendors or online, be conscious about how you wrap them. Gift packaging and wrapping contribute to a 25% jump in trash during the holidays. Choose gifts with minimal packaging and wrap them in reusable gift bags or recycled wrapping paper, or even in newspaper or brown bags that you decorate yourself.

And then there is, in my opinion, the best option for holiday gift giving. I said it last year, and the year before, and I'll say it again. Each year it has become easier for me to ignore the pressure imposed upon us all in our over-consuming society to buy, buy, buy! It has become my practice these past few years to cut down on buying the stuff and instead make the gift of a better world by making donations to socially conscious and/or environmentally friendly organizations. Two years ago I sought out the local food banks of friends and relatives near and far.

Here in Los Angeles it is the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank www.lafoodbank.org. For my relatives in the San Francisco Bay Area, it is the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. I did the same for my friends and relatives out of state—I made contributions to these organizations on their behalf and sent them a note I created announcing the gift, or used the notices that many of these organizations furnish for the purpose. This spreads the word about the organization to the people on my gift list, as well as providing their local organization with the desperately needed dollars to do its good work. The negative impact that this kind of giving has on the planet is minimal: just the paper for the note and the energy consumed for postal delivery, and that's it!

The positive impact for the folks in need is a truly gratifying way to celebrate the spirit of the season!



Beach Cities Democrats

P.O. Box 2192
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

President
Tony Hale — 310-465-6188
Vice-President
Dency Nelson — 310-374-4543
Secretary
Kathryn Campbell — 310-316-4375
Treasurer
Edna Murphy — 310-545-6292
Newsletter
Moira Zucker — 310-546-7562
moiraz@alumni.reed.edu
Membership
Isabel Rodriguez — 310-372-4716
Database and Mailing
Mark Drabkin — 213-787-5267
Web Manager
James McGreevy — 310-320-1638

**Beach Cities Democrats
Membership Form**

Please Print

Name _____

I (we) understand that only registered Democrats, or those intending to register, may join the club.

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Employer _____ Occupation _____

Distribution of the newsletter via e-mail saves money. Check this box only if you would like to receive it by US mail.

I volunteer to:

- Telephone Help with mailing Hospitality Write for newsletter
- Register voters Programs Legislature Membership Other

Annual dues are \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 for two at the same address.
Please make checks payable to Beach Cities Democrats and mail to P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278