

# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future.

Len Duncan

1



# Speaker Information

- Len Duncan
- Wellbore positioning, past, present and future
- September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016.
- Magvar/Surcon



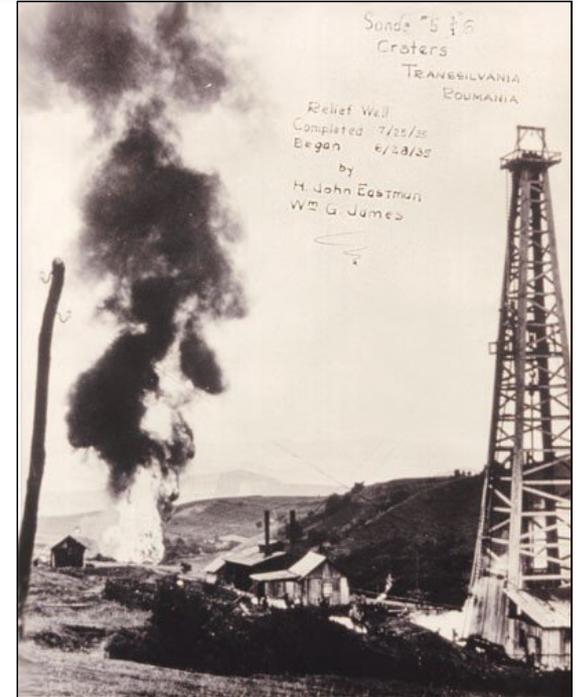
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# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

Survey Technology  
Timeline

## 20's thru 70's

- Earliest survey systems developed in late 1890's for Diamond Mine applications. Used acid bottle variations until first gyro system developed by Elmer Sperry in the 30's for oilfield applications.
- John Eastman seen here with early Gyro System.



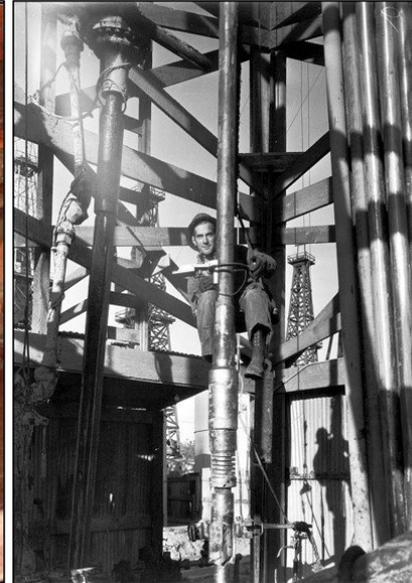
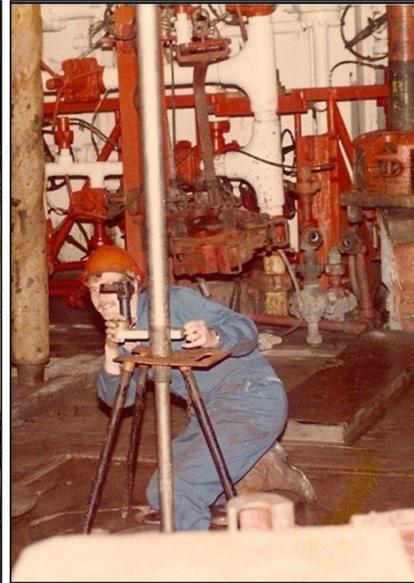
Photos taken by Angus Jamieson

# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

Survey Technology  
Timeline

## 20's thru 70's

- Drift Indicators
- Photo Mechanical Free Gyro Systems
- Photo Mechanical Compass Systems
- Wireline Steering Tools
- Systems used then were very operator dependent.



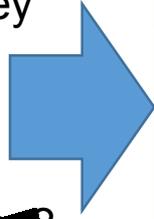
# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

1933 Acid Bottle Survey

Hobbs, New Mexico

Active Offset Well

Error Tool Code Anyways?



Hobbs, New Mexico  
January 16, 1933.

Mr. S.G. Sanderson  
Box 661  
Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Dear Sir:

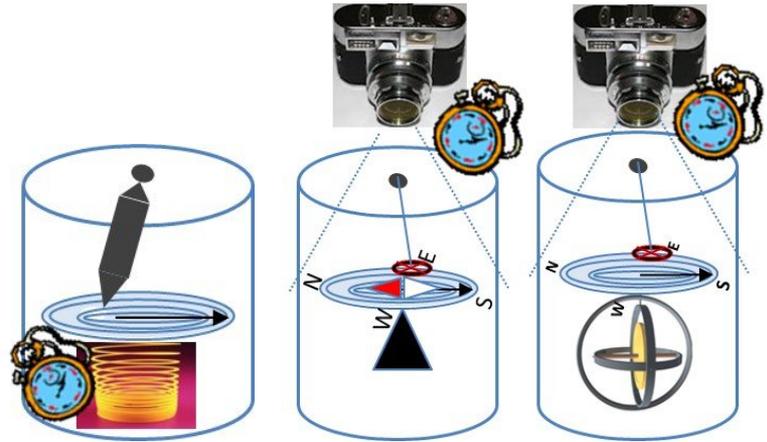
Following are the acid bottle slope tests run on D.W. Hardin No. 2 after cement and plug had been drilled on the 8-1/4" casing, and also the hole bailed dry of water. Also, I am showing herein the tests run at 250 feet intervals while the well was being drilled.

Depth	Degrees Off	250 feet Intervals and Method
1000'	1	1/2 Acid Bottles
1250'	2	1 " "
1500'	5/8	1-1/4 " "
1750'	5/8	1-1/4 " "
2000'	1-1/4	5/8 " "
2250'	0	5/8 " "
2500'	5/8	1-1/2 " "
2750'	1	5/8 " "
3000'	3-3/4	2-1/4 Hughes Outfit
3250'	7	1-1/2 " "
3500'	10-1/2	1-1/2 " "
3750'	10-1/2	2 " "
4000'	10-3/4	

I might state that in making the complete test with acid bottles that a 3" acid bailer was run inside the 8-1/4" casing for the reason that we had no larger bailer to run.

Yours very truly,

CCC/vac



**Punched  
Disk**

**Camera  
Based  
Magnetic**

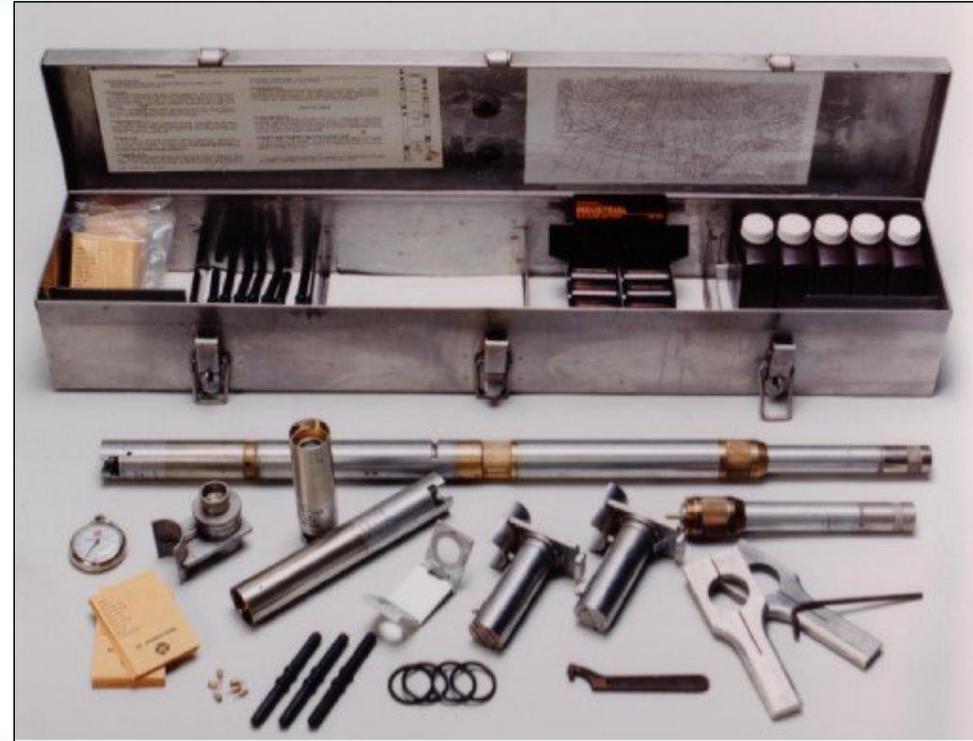
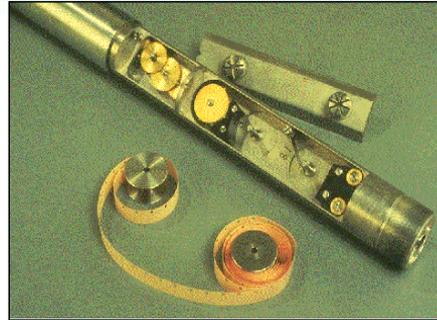
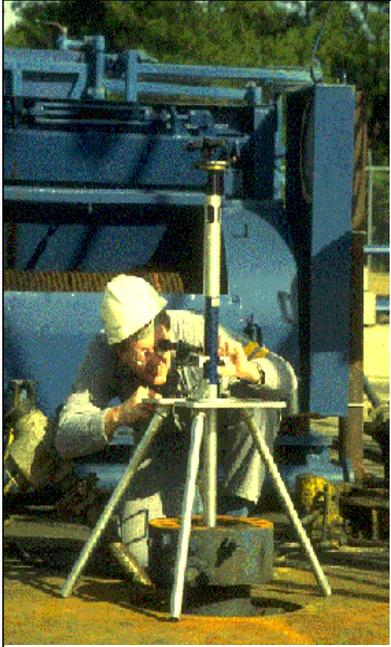
**Camera  
Based  
Gyro**



# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

Survey Technology  
Timeline

## Free Gyros



44<sup>th</sup> General Meeting  
September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016  
Glasgow, Scotland, UK



Wellbore Positioning Technical Section

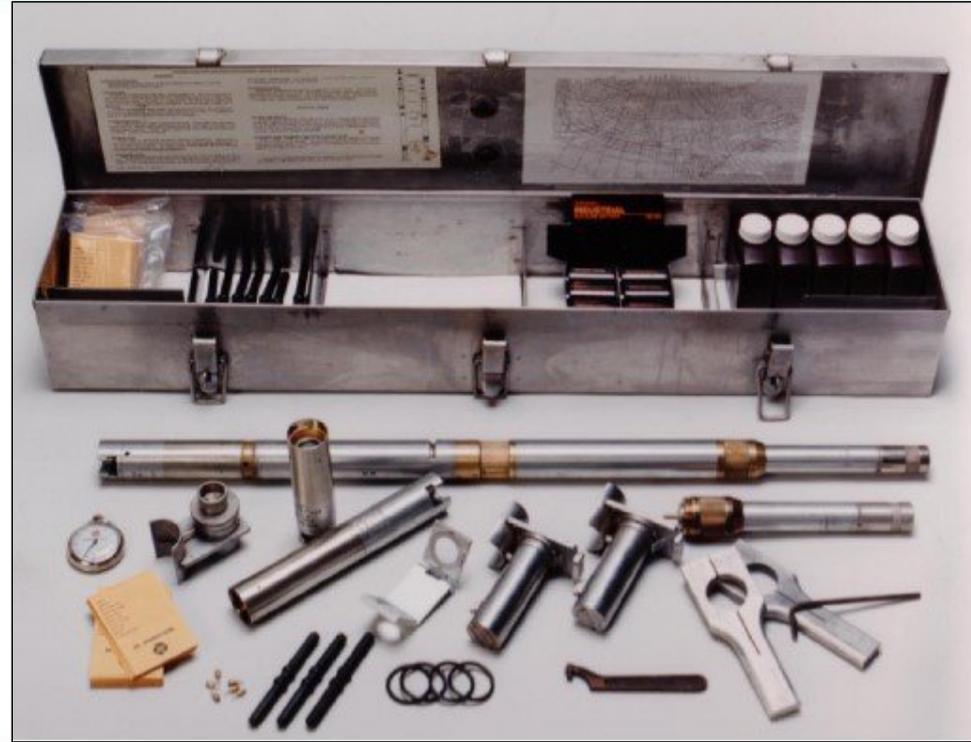
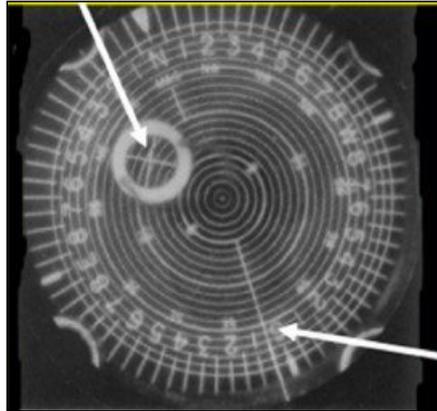
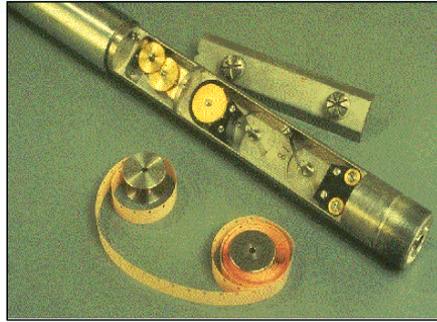


The Industry Steering Committee on Wellbore  
Survey Accuracy (ISCWSA)

# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

Survey Technology  
Timeline

## Free Gyros



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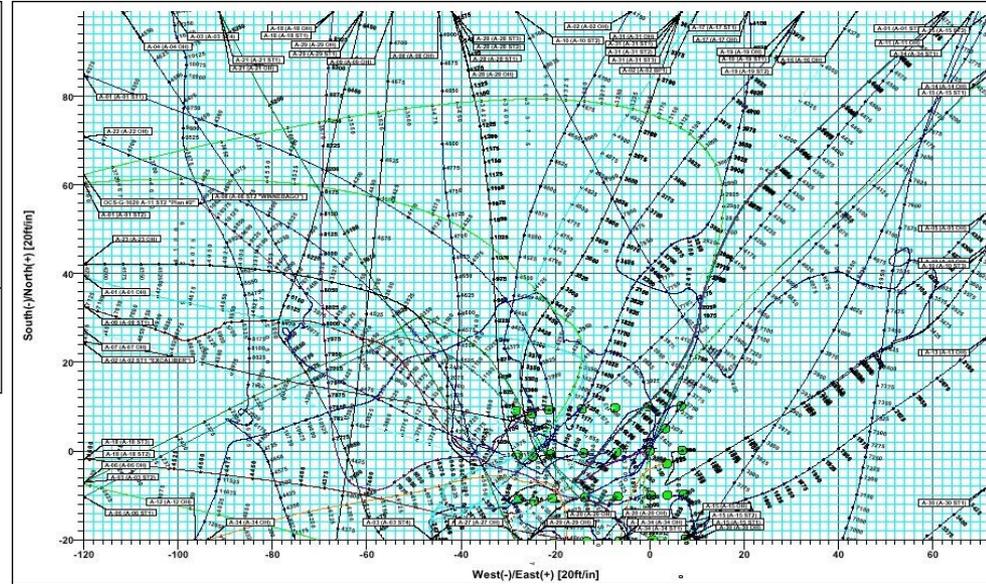
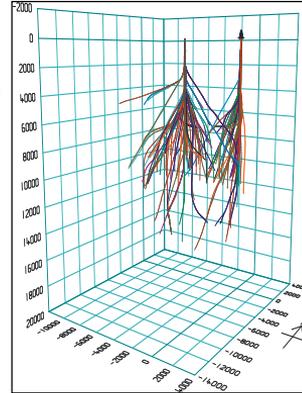


The Industry Steering Committee on Wellbore  
Survey Accuracy (ISCWSA)

# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

## 50's thru 80's

- The challenges then were as demanding, if not more so than modern day with many high density platforms under Dev.
- Anti collision was more a case of fingers crossed and check for cement over the shakers !
- The wells were where the surveys said they were !



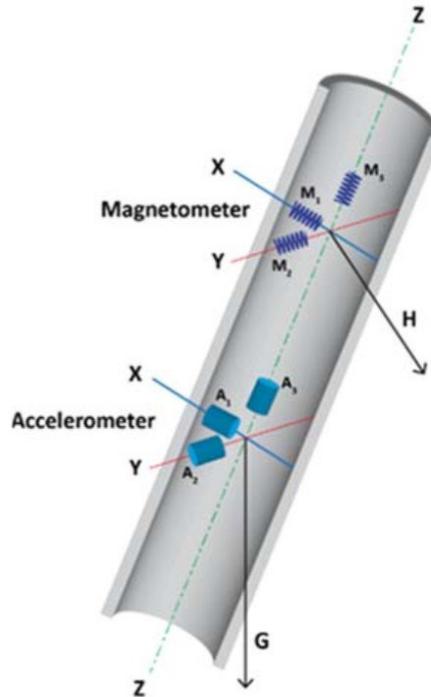
Offshore Gulf of Mexico

# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

Survey Technology  
Timeline

## 1977 1<sup>st</sup> Surface Recording Gyros

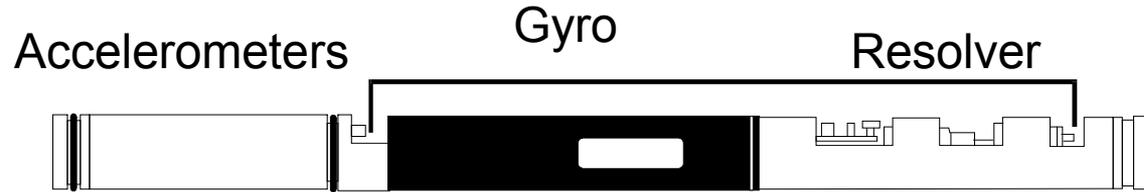
- Accelerometers replace mechanical plumb bobs.
- Resolvers track gyro orientation.
- Significantly more accurate and faster. Kick off time reduced from 3-4 days to <1 day.
- Ability to do cluster shots to eliminate effect of bent sub in low angle scenarios.
- Increased confidence for D/D



# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

Survey Technology  
Timeline

## 1977 1<sup>st</sup> Surface Recording Gyros



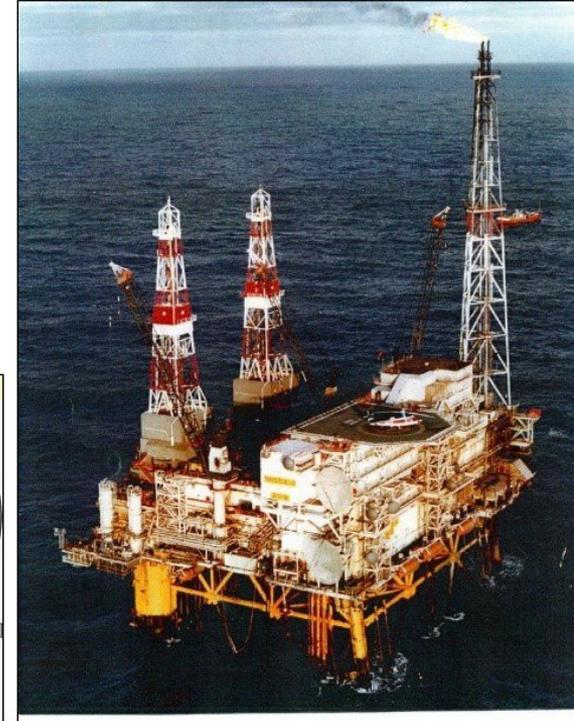
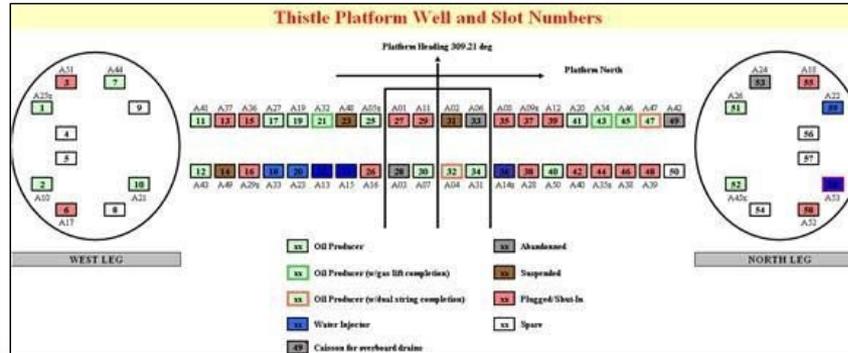
Data converted to pulse train downhole, sent to surface via w/l and decoded at surface back to realtime GTF, INC and AZM.



# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

## 1977 1<sup>st</sup> Surface Recording Gyros

- System developed per a request from a Major operator who was setting the largest offshore structure in the North Sea at the time, a twin derrick 60 slot jacket.
- There was concern about slot layout and well separation and the ability to nudge surface hole without spending days taking photo gyro single shots.



# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

Survey Technology  
Timeline

## 1977 1<sup>st</sup> Surface Recording Gyros

- At the same time, another Major Operator had just set two twin Derrick Platforms in the area and was faced with the same challenges.
- In this case, there were 21 slots each side on one and 20 slots each side on the other.



# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

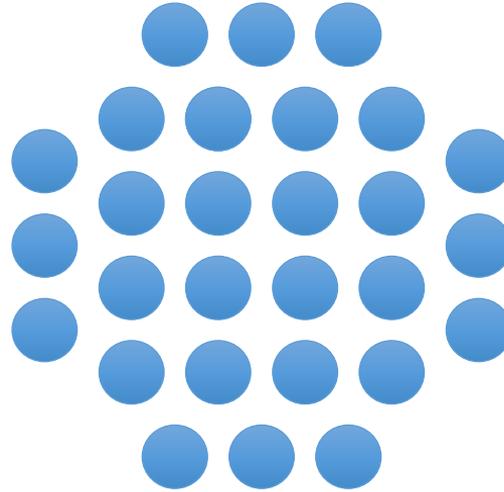
Survey Technology  
Timeline

## 1977 1<sup>st</sup> Surface Recording Gyros

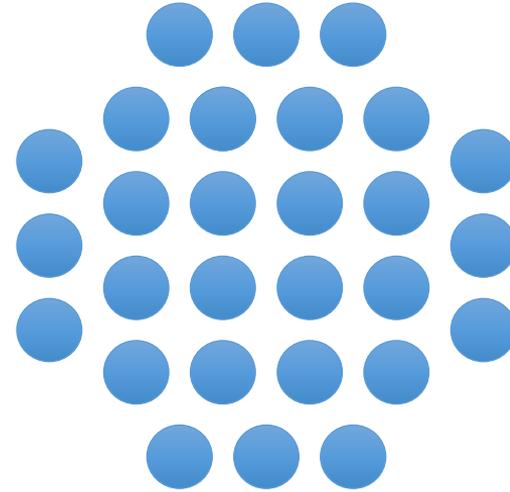
- Slots were typically 6 - 8 ft. center to center.



Left Leg



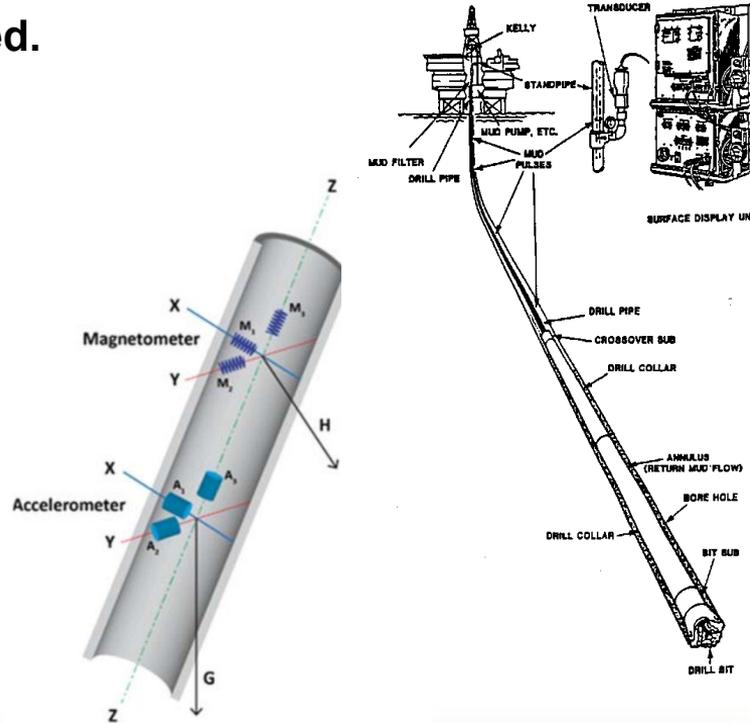
Right Leg



# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

## 1978 1<sup>st</sup> MWD Systems Deployed.

- Magnetometers replace mechanical compasses.
- Accelerometers replace angle units.
- Data converted to binary and sent to surface as pulses.
- Real time readout on rig floor
- Display gives D/D Tool Face, Inc. and Azm.
- Significant time reductions in open hole sections.



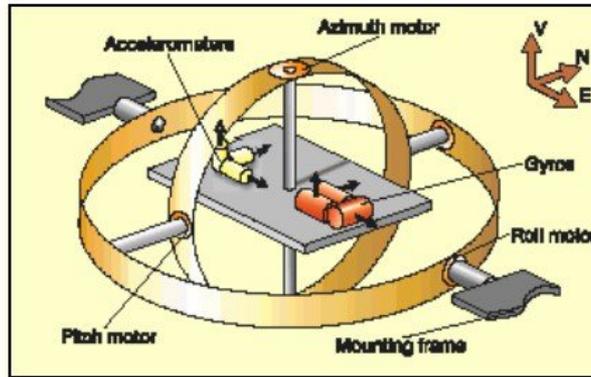
# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

Survey Technology  
Timeline

## 1978 1<sup>st</sup> Full Inertial Platform FINDS Tool.

- 3 Gyro Full Inertial Platform giving extremely high accuracy.
- Run in a 10 3/4"OD casing.
- Physical size and weight restricted operations on many projects and ultimately was removed from service.

Gimbal Mounted Inertial Platform



# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

Survey Technology  
Timeline

## 1981 1<sup>st</sup> N. Seeking Gyro Systems.

Game changing technology  
eliminating sighting errors and  
significant increase in accuracy.

Less operator dependent than older  
systems.

Used for kick off and definitive  
casing/drill pipe surveys.

Uses earths spin rate as ref.

Still had to be stopped at survey  
stations for data acquisition..

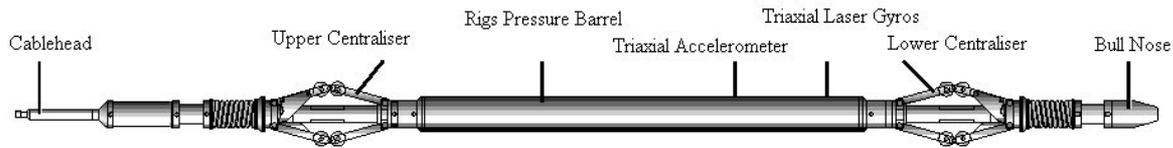
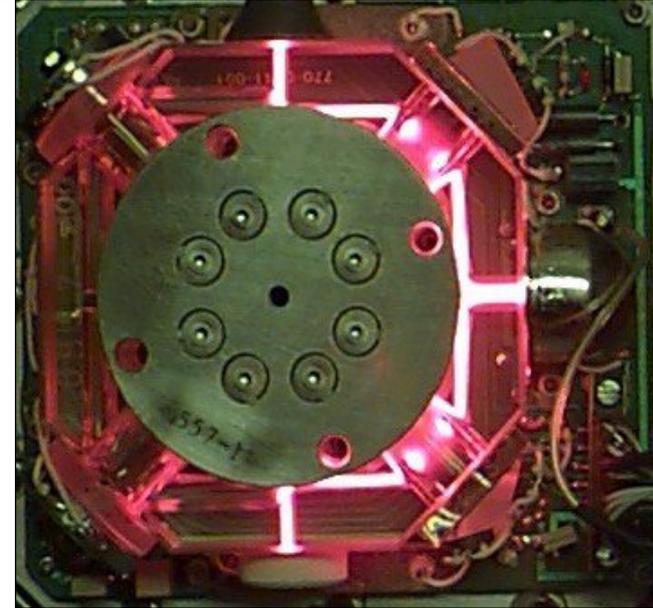


# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

Survey Technology  
Timeline

## 1985 1<sup>st</sup> Ring Laser Inertial Gyro RIGS Tool

- Uses laser path instead of spinning wheel.
- Very high Accuracy.
- Run in a 5 ¼" Barrel.
- Limited inventory and costly to service.
- Ultimately removed from Service.



# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

Survey Technology  
Timeline

## 1985 1<sup>st</sup> Continuous N. Seeking Gyros Systems.

- Major time reduction and increase in accuracy at high angles.

## 1990's

- Gyro and MWD systems continued to improve but a more formal definition of survey procedures, error models and realistic anti collision calculations were needed.
- Drop Gyro mid nineties, major market shift allowing N. Seeking tools to be dropped in drillpipe and survey on out trip.
- Huge time saver to clients. These tools are still the preferred gyro option today for cost effectiveness.

## 2000

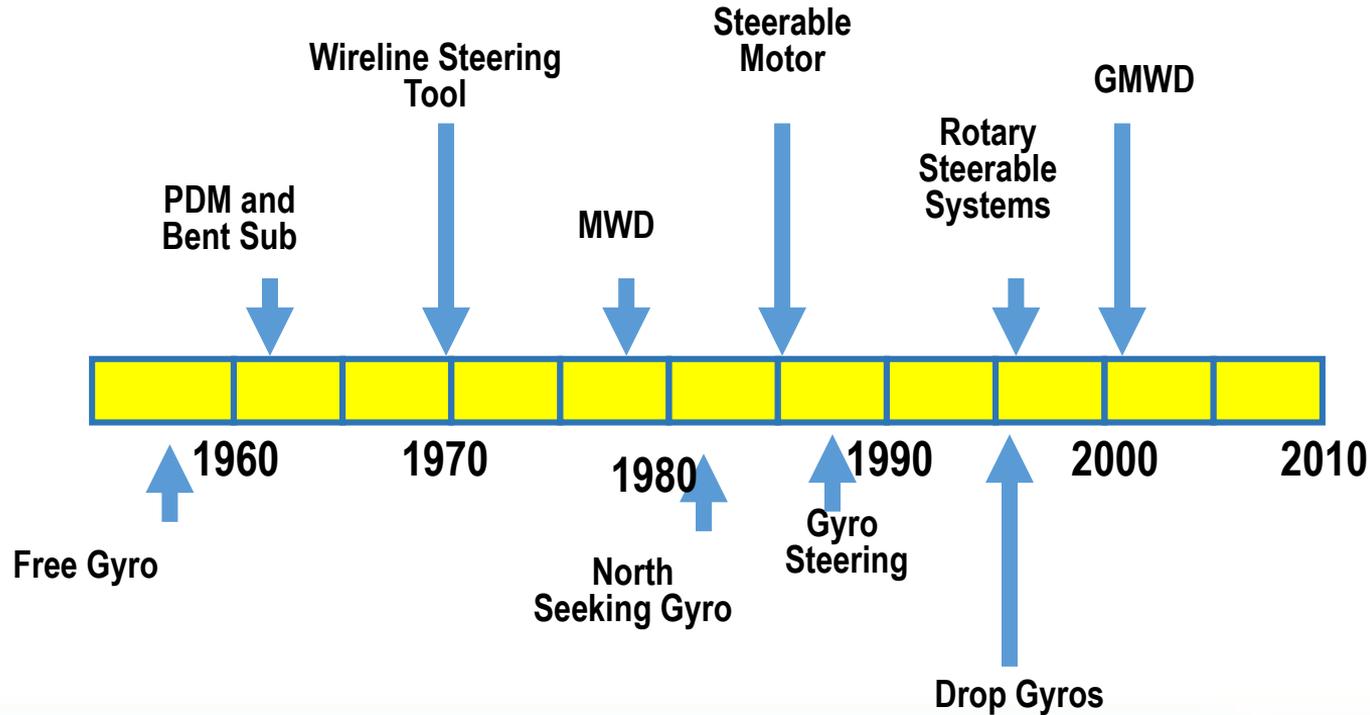
- Gyro MWD systems introduced to further enhance wellbore position accuracy and reduce EOU's in top hole.





# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

Survey Technology  
Timeline



# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

Error modeling/well planning timeline.

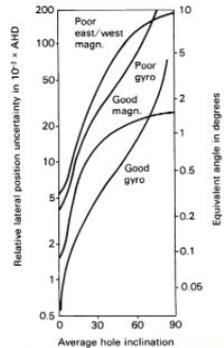
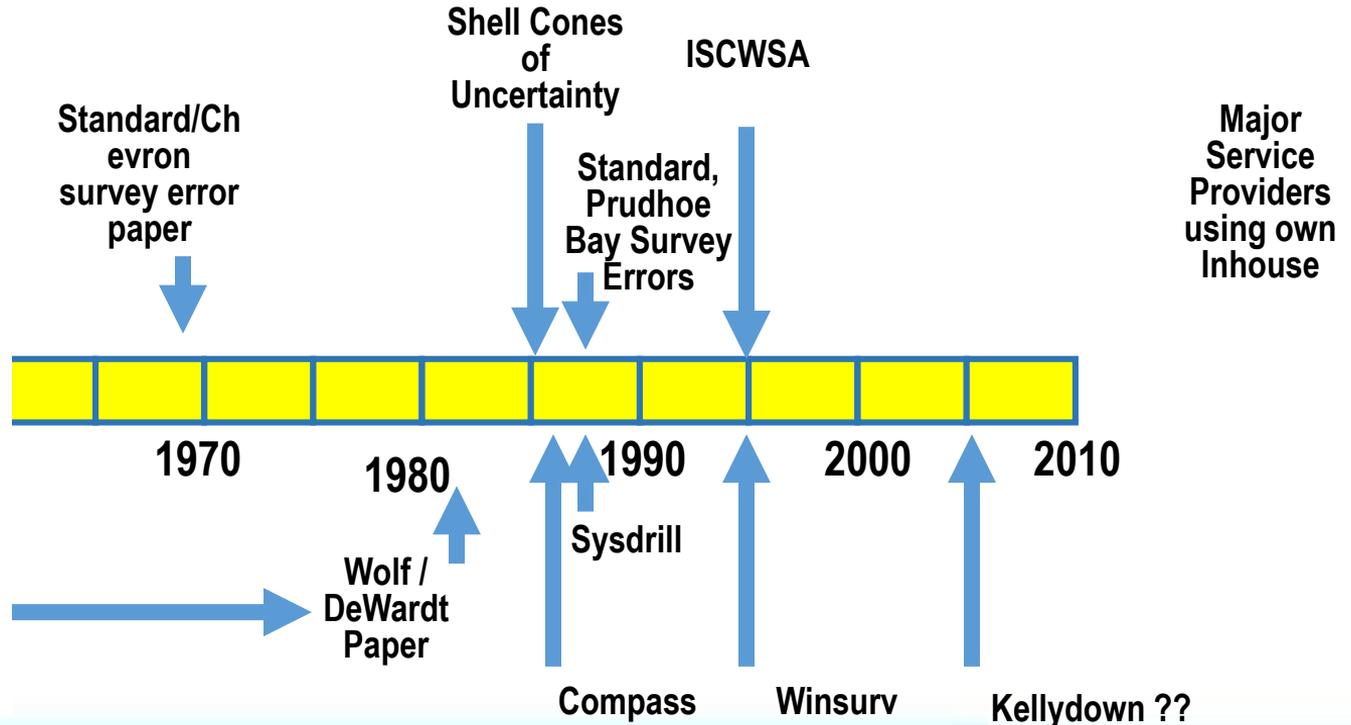


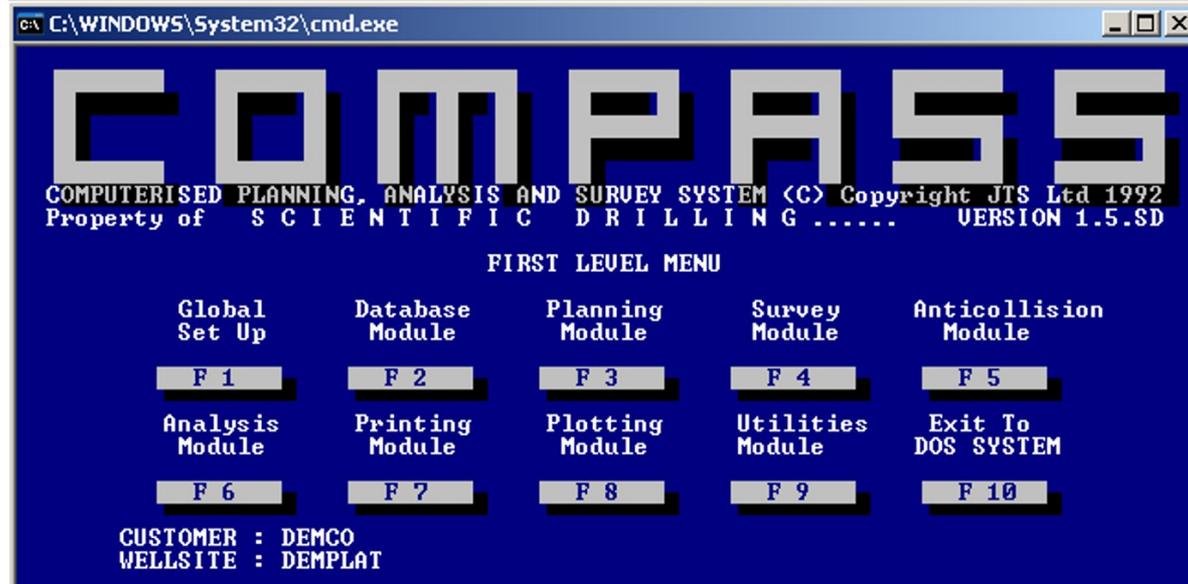
Fig. 9.9. Survey uncertainty using error model (after Wolff and de Warrt; courtesy of the SPE).



# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

Early Software  
Development

- 1990's – MS-DOS
- Directional Well Planning
- SURVEY
- PLANNING
- ANTICOLLISION
  - ANCILLARY FUNCTIONS
  - UTILITES (LOGOS, ERROR MODELING, FERRANTI SURVEYS, GEOMAGNETIC, ETC...)
  - ANALYSIS
  - PLOTTING (WALLPLOTS, SPIDER, TRAVELING CYLINDER & SMALL 8.5 X 11 DRAWINGS)
  - PRINTING (REPORTS)
  - DATABASE FUNCTIONALITY



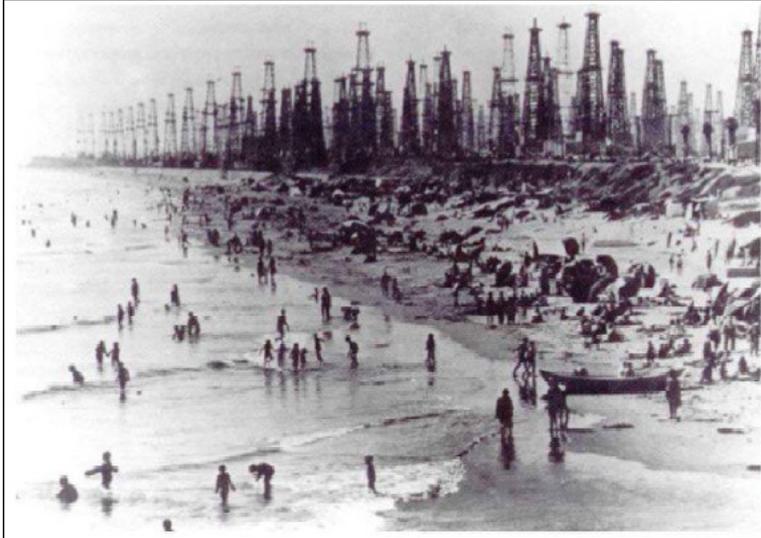
Planning & Survey Data - Software Pioneer - Angus Jamieson

22

# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

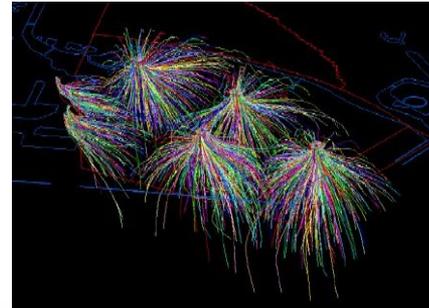
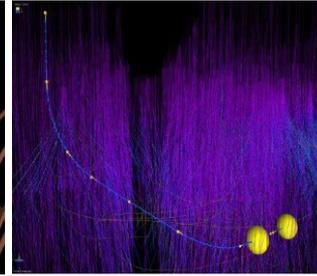
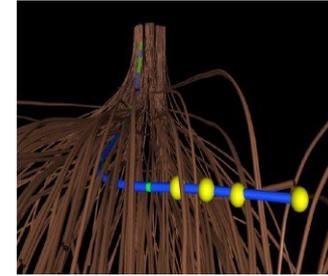
ISCWSA – Long  
Beach – 5/9/2014

## Environmental Challenges



## Oxy Long Beach, Inc. Drilling Program Overview

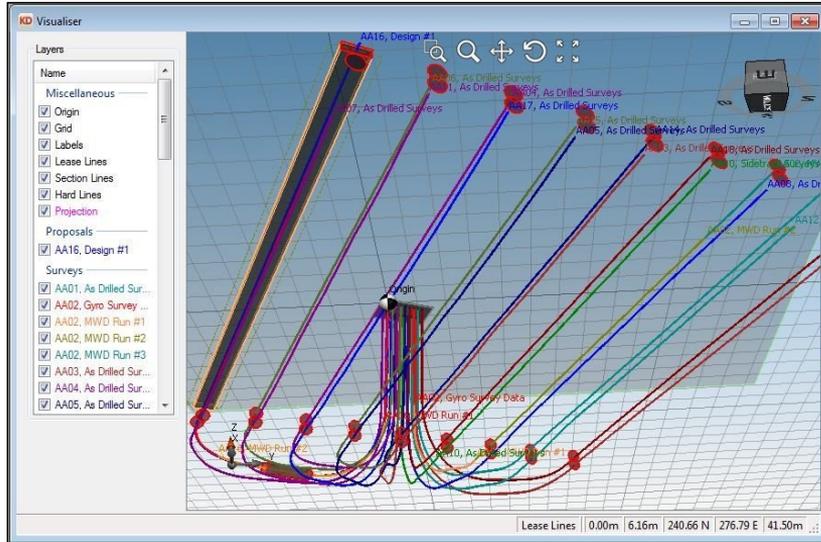
Occidental Petroleum Corporation ■ ISCWSA ■ Long Beach ■ 5/9/2014 ■ Julien Roubaud / Jason Mena



# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

Error modeling/well  
planning timeline.

Well Planning Suites - Key advancements; field development planning, new ISCWSA tool codes & advanced realtime data capabilities



44<sup>th</sup> General Meeting  
September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016  
Glasgow, Scotland, UK



Wellbore Positioning Technical Section

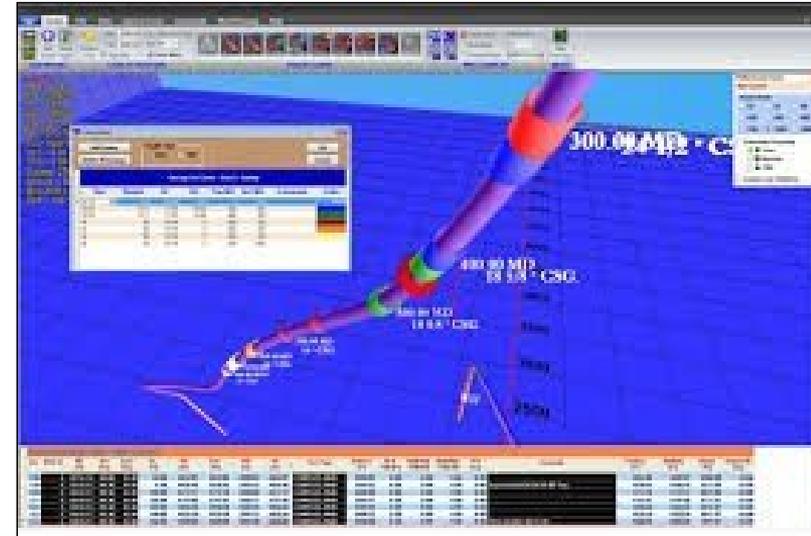
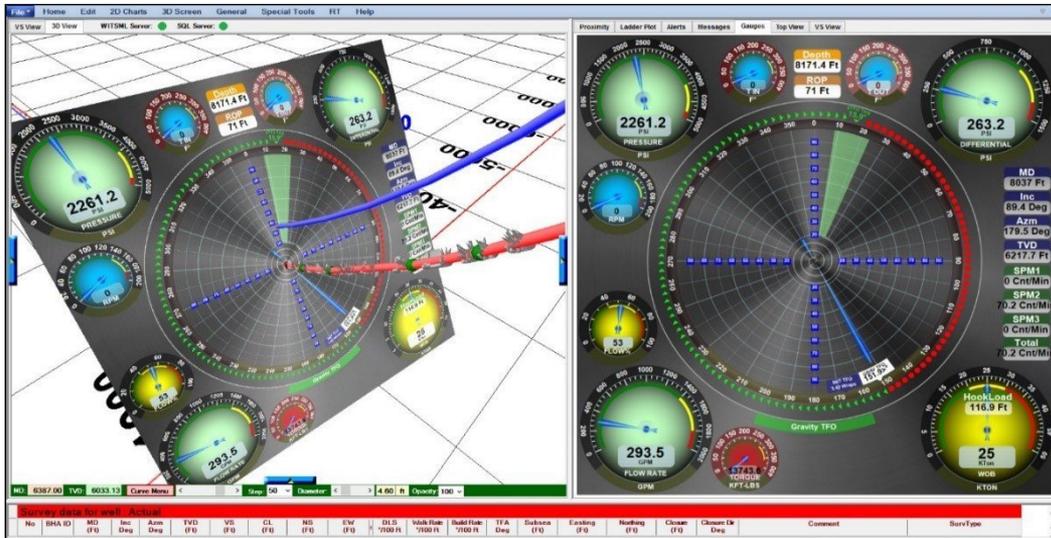


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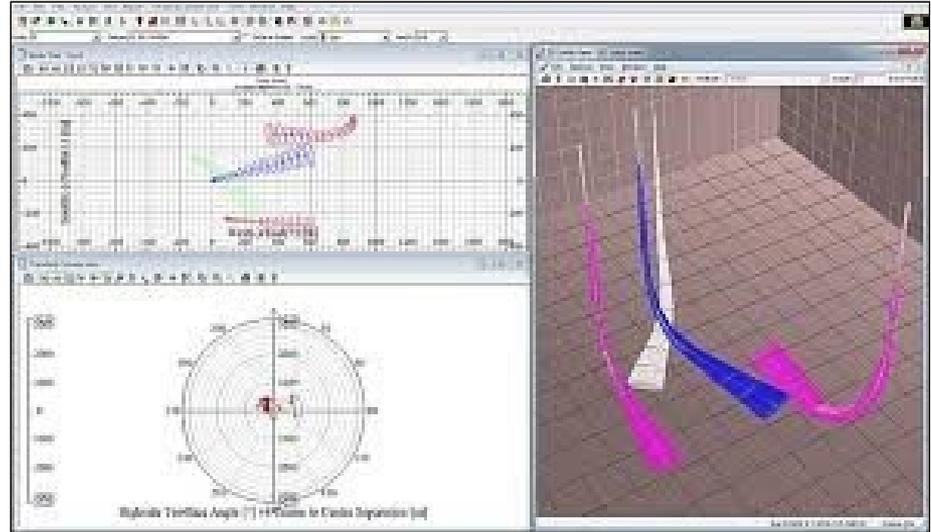
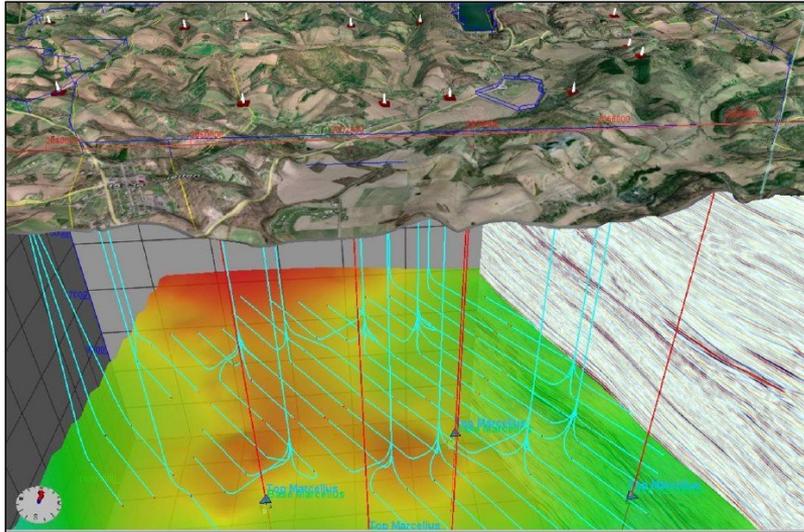


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# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

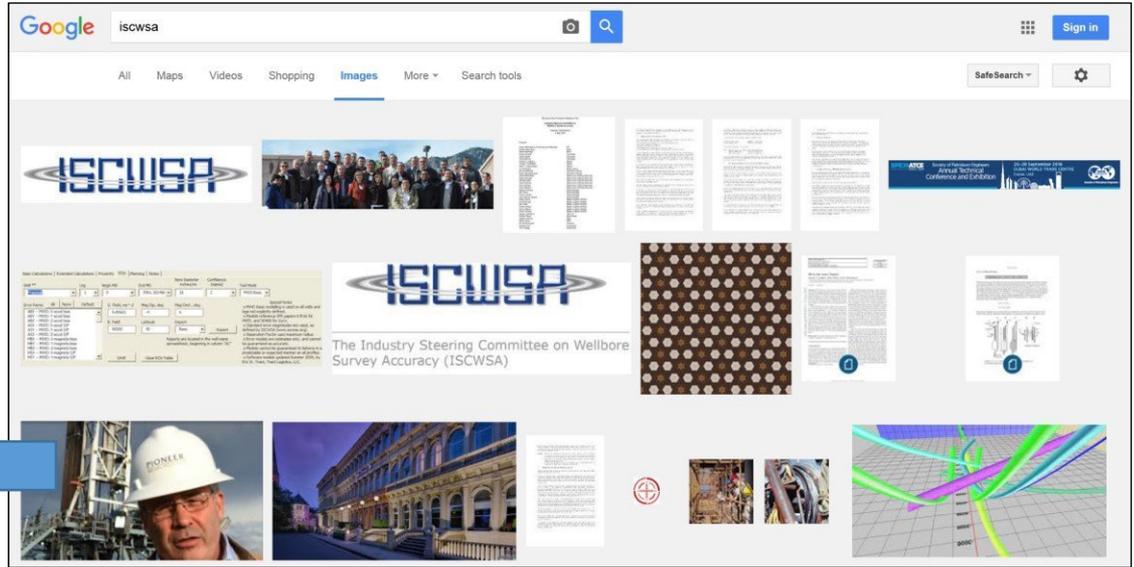
Error modeling/well  
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Well Planning Suites - Key advancements; field development planning, new ISCWSA tool codes & advanced realtime data capabilities



# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

ISCWSA – Google Search...

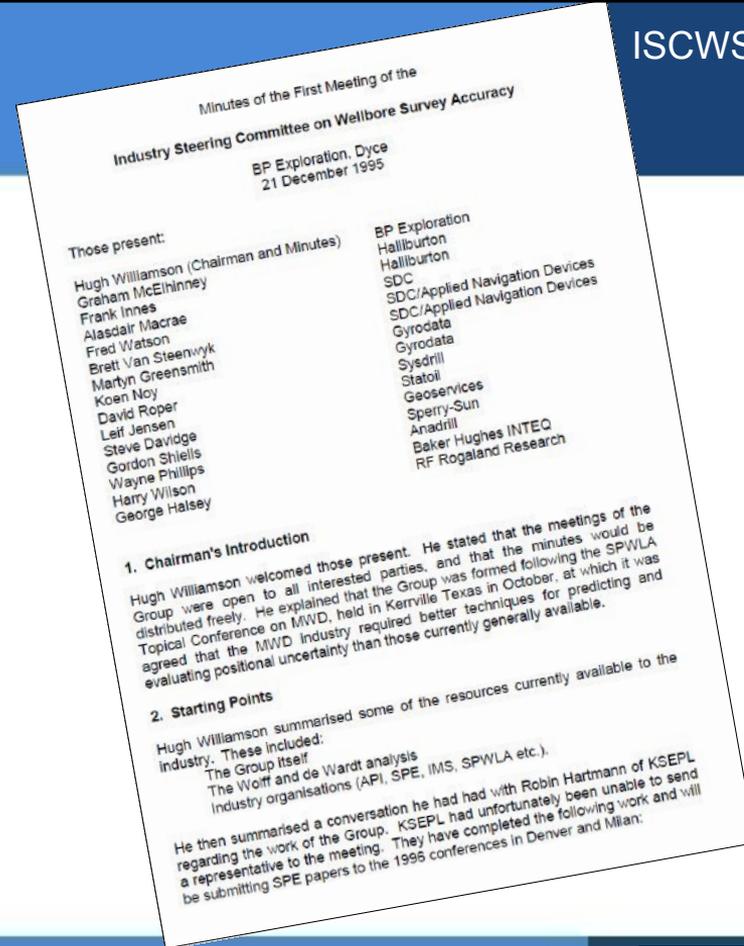


# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

ISCWSA History

## 1995 – 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting

- ISCWSA formed and first official meeting was held in Aberdeen, Scotland
- BP Exploration, Dyce
- 21 December 1995



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Wellbore Positioning Technical Section



The Industry Steering Committee on Wellbore  
Survey Accuracy (ISCWSA)

# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

1<sup>st</sup> ISCWSA Meeting  
1995

- |                      |                                    |                      |                      |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| • Hugh Williamson    | BP Exploration (Chair)             | • Wayne Phillips     | Anadrill             |
| • Graham McElhinney  | Halliburton                        | • Harry Wilson       | Baker Hughes INTEQ   |
| • Frank Innes        | Halliburton                        | • George Halsey      | RF Rogaland Research |
| • Alasdair Macrae    | Scientific Drilling Controls (SDC) | • John Thorogood     | BP Exploration       |
| • Fred Watson        | SDC / Applied Navigation Devices   | • Kamal Jardaneh     | BP Exploration       |
| • Brett Van Steenvyk | SDC / Applied Navigation Devices   | • Alewyn van Asperen | KSEPL                |
| • Martyn Greensmith  | Gyrodata                           | • Steve Page         | Geolink              |
| • Koen Noy           | Gyrodata                           | • Ken Weeks          | KRW Associates       |
| • David Roper        | Sysdrill                           | • Mike Pollard       | Saga                 |
| • Leif Jensen        | Statoil                            | • John Turvill       | Halliburton          |
| • Steve Davidge      | Geoservices                        | • Steve Mullin       | INTEQ                |
| • Gordon Shiells     | Sperry-Sun                         |                      |                      |



# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

ISCWSA History.

SPE WPTS  
(ISCWSA)



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Glasgow, Scotland, UK



Wellbore Positioning Technical Section



The Industry Steering Committee on Wellbore  
Survey Accuracy (ISCWSA)

**SPE WPTS  
(ISCWSA)**

43 - 2016 Mar 04 - Fort Worth, TX, USA

London, UK

44 - 2016 Sep 22 - Glasgow, Scotland

42 - 2015 Oct 01 - Houston, TX

# Wellbore Positioning Past, **Present** and Future

ISCWSA Present.

## Recent ISCWSA community achievements:

- **eBook, University Surveying Curricula**
  - University of the Highlands Masters Degree
- **More accurate geomagnetic field specification**
  - Global high-resolution models, near-rig disturbance field monitoring, new geomagnetic satellite missions
- **Widespread use of real-time survey management**
- **Dynamic FAC to verify that surveys fulfill tool codes**
  - Equations known for some time, but (except for Baker Hughes) only now finding widespread implementation
- **More accurate vertical depth**
  - Slide/rotate corrections, continuous inclination, inclination and azimuth near bit)



# Wellbore Positioning Past, **Present** and Future

The Present

## 2016 -

- Survey Systems greatly improved.
- Improved Sensors and MWD transmission rates.
- Running procedures better defined.
- Realistic Tool Codes in place for all Gyro and MWD systems
- Far better understanding of Earths Field and corrections.....

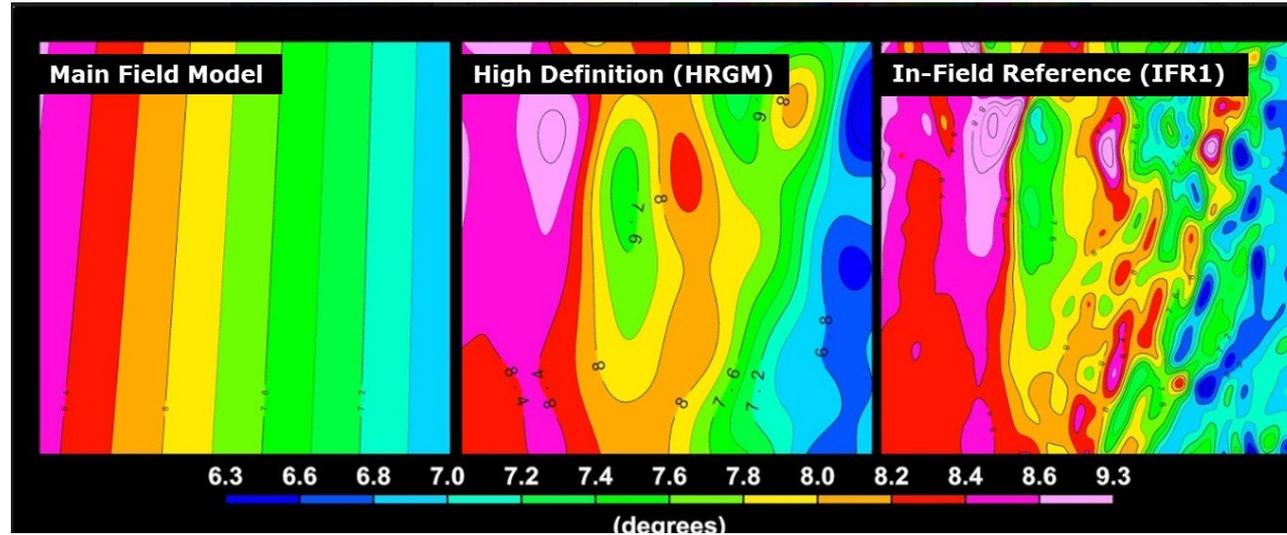


# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

The Present

2016 -

- Modern day operations are giving rise to a significant number of multi well pads with extended laterals.
- The slightest errors in magnetic correction can cause unacceptable lateral position shift.
- Using a high definition magnetic model identifies anomalies and ensures correct declination values are used.



# Wellbore Positioning Past, **Present** and Future

The Present

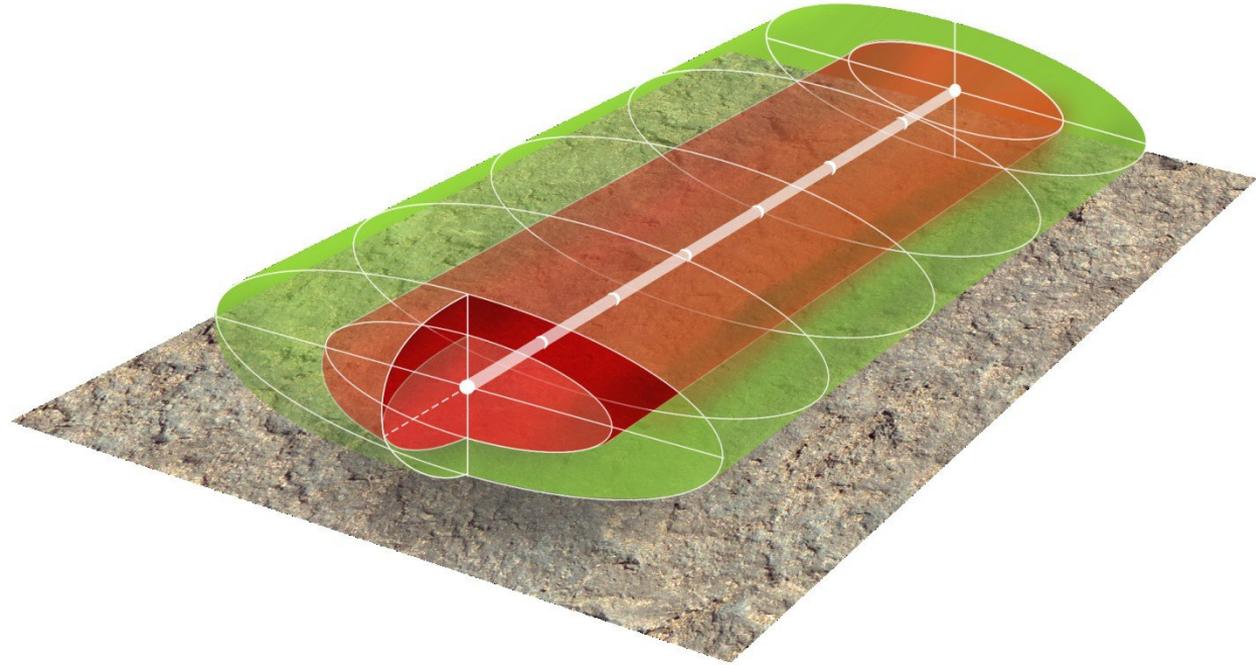
**2016 –**

MWD surveys do not give an exact position of the wellbore

All we can say is:

“With 95% confidence, the wellbore is within the green cylinder”

Further advanced corrections (IFR & MSA) reduce this cylinder by over 50%, as shown in red



# Wellbore Positioning Past, **Present** and Future

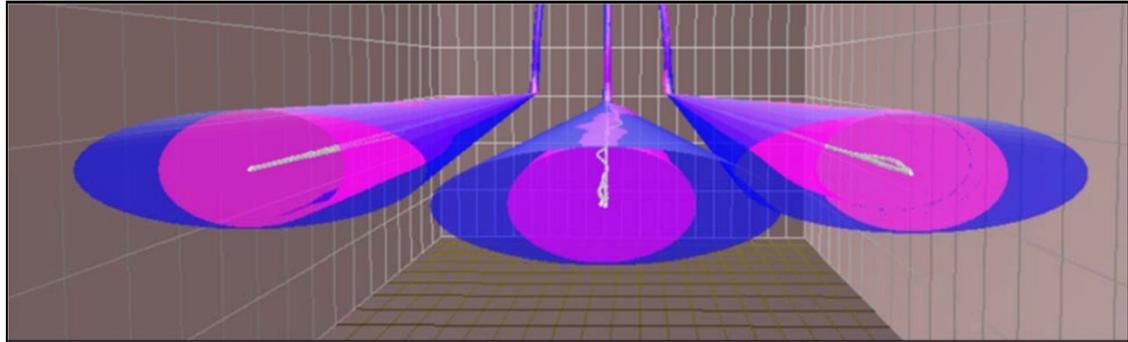
The Present

2016 –

Standard MWD surveying has large uncertainties

Real-time corrections significantly reduce positional errors

- Prevents gross human or instrument errors
- Results in more accurate wellbore placement and spacing
- Reduces ellipses of positional uncertainty
- Reduces collision risk
- Helps achieve economic field development



# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

The Future

## 2016 -

- More Operator acceptance of using QC on all Survey Systems reducing EOU's and further increasing quality of wellbore positioning
- Higher Data Transmission Rates for all MWD systems
- Incorporation of more sensors into Drilling Systems
- Industry standards
- ???



# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and **Future**

The Future

- **Proactively deal with increasing regulation**
- **Complete API RP78 Wellbore Positioning**
- **Complete the Unified Collision Avoidance Rule & Management Processes**
  - Documented by two SPE Technical Papers
- **Strengthen eBook, Education & Outreach**
- **Further improve error models**



# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and **Future**

The Future

- **Directional Software Advancements**
  - Combined Surveys
  - Continuous drilling & memory trip data
- **ISCWSA error models available in G&G (Geology & Geophysics) software apps.**
  - Evaluate directional survey uncertainties with geological and seismic uncertainties
- **Hold gyro surveys to same QC standards as MWD systems**
  - Question - Why are operators not QC'ing raw gyro data? in particular for continuous mode



# Wellbore Positioning Past, Present and Future

The Future

**Congratulations to all members of the ISCWSA, past and present for their contributions since 1995 to ensure our Industry is now using better than ever data for greater confidence in where their wells really are located!**

**Future Crew Change? Need New Recruits**

**Thank you.**



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