

News Release



IPAMS
410 17th Street, Ste. 700
Denver, CO 80202

Embargoed

Until Saturday, May 2, 2009 at 9:30 p.m.

Date: May 1, 2009
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Jim Lightner named IPAMS 2009 Wildcatter of the Year *Industry icon and humanitarian receives energy association's highest award*

(Denver) –The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS) announced Saturday night that Jim Lightner is the recipient of its distinguished *Wildcatter of the Year* award. The announcement was made during IPAMS' annual Wildcatter Gala on May 2nd held at the Denver Performing Arts Center. Some 500 gas and oil industry leaders joined IPAMS in congratulating Lightner on this lifetime achievement recognition.

"Each year, IPAMS honors one remarkable individual whose character, achievements, service and philanthropy stand out among the rest. Jim Lightner is a deserving individual who has made the West a better place to live, work and raise a family," said Marc W. Smith, Executive Director of IPAMS.

Nominations for *Wildcatter of the Year* are based on the unique contributions and accomplishments of the individual, particularly regarding: (1) successful longtime natural gas and oil exploration and production in the Intermountain West, (2) community service, and (3) support of oil and gas industry activities and organizations. The annual event attracts a "who's who" of independent oil and natural gas producers in the Intermountain West.

2009 marks IPAMS' 27th *Wildcatter of the Year* Award presentation. "Today's Wildcatter deploys and refines new technology, understands complex markets, manages risk, reduces environmental impacts, leads great teams, navigates complex political situations and continues to give back to the community," said Smith.

Jim Lightner joins an elite group of Wildcatter Award winners. Prior award winners include: Edward J. Ackman, Dr. George G. Anderman, William W. Ballard, William J. Barrett, Robert L. Bayless, Wayne T. (Dusty) Biddle, Cortlandt S. Dietler, Raymond Duncan, George H. Fancher, Samuel Gary William C. Goodin, Kenneth D. Luff, Frederick R. Mayer, Mick McMurry, F. H. (Mick) Merelli, Rex Monahan, Robert L. Nance, Thomas A. Petrie, Conley P. Smith, John C. Snyder, H. A. (Dave) True, Harry Trueblood, Jr., Thomas G. Vessels, James B. Wallace, Donald L. Wolf, and Harvey E. Yates.

(more)

[Jim Lightner \(biography\)](#)

Jim Lightner is Partner and CEO of Orion Energy Partners, based in Denver, Colorado, and serves as the Non-Executive Chairman of Forest Oil Corporation. Prior to the formation of Orion, Mr. Lightner was the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of Tom Brown, Inc., until its sale to EnCana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc., in May 2004.

Mr. Lightner was raised in McHenry, Illinois, and received his Bachelor of Science degree in geology from Southern Illinois University (SIU). He was then awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to obtain his Master of Science degree in geology from the Australian National University. Mr. Lightner was the recipient of SIU's College of Science 2009 Alumni Achievement Award.

He started in the oil business as a gulf coast geologist for Amoco in Houston, Texas, before moving to Billings, Montana, to "learn the Rockies" as a geologist for Milestone Petroleum. After serving as Exploration Manager for Burlington Resources in Billings he became Exploration Manager for Enron Oil & Gas in Denver, eventually serving as Vice President - General Manager of the Denver Division.

Mr. Lightner has served on the board of Energy Outreach Colorado (EOC) since 2004. EOC is a non-profit organization that helps low-income people pay their energy bills and "keep the heat on." Mr. Lightner is also on the development board of Colorado UpLift and on the board of Alliance for Choice in Education (ACE), both Denver-based organizations focused on improving educational opportunities for underprivileged inner-city children. Mr. Lightner is also a past-president of IPAMS.

He and his wife, Kathy, have two sons and together founded the Lightner Family Foundation whose sole purpose is to serve and support various charitable missions, primarily throughout Colorado.

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About IPAMS

The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS), founded in 1974, is a non-profit trade association representing more than 400 independent natural gas and oil producers, service and supply companies, banking and financial institutions, industry consultants, and their 150,000 employees who are committed to environmentally responsible natural gas and oil development in the Intermountain West. More information on IPAMS and its members is available at www.ipams.org.