

2026 RCRL Core Workshop

Mesozoic Carbonate Reservoir Systems of the Gulf of Mexico

April 21-23, 2026, BEG-HRC CORE FACILITY
11611 W. LITTLE YORK, HOUSTON, TX 77041

The RCRL Carbonate Research Group will host an intensive core workshop focused on **Mesozoic carbonate reservoirs**, emphasizing the **Gulf of Mexico (GOM)** and comparative analysis with coeval systems from the Middle East and South Atlantic.

This workshop integrates core, log, and seismic perspectives to examine stratigraphic architecture, structural configuration, facies distribution, and pore-type evolution across key Jurassic and Cretaceous reservoirs.

Mesozoic carbonate systems of the Gulf of Mexico provide one of the most complete and data-rich spectra of carbonate reservoir development globally. These systems encompass:

- Slope, reefal, and a variety of shelf depositional settings
- Production variability tied directly to stratigraphic architecture and facies distribution
- Evidence of paleoclimate fluctuations and Oceanic Anoxic Events (OAEs) influencing carbonate factories.
- Reservoir performance across the GOM is governed by the structural framework and climatic setting, stratigraphic configuration, facies architecture and pore-type evolution.

Few basins worldwide exhibit this range of reservoir styles combined with the breadth of subsurface data available in the GOM. Each core will be placed within a sequence stratigraphic framework and will highlight the local context within seismic datasets and well log correlations.

This workshop represents a rare opportunity to evaluate a basin-scale, Mesozoic carbonate spectrum in one integrated setting and will provide participants with:

- Early-career professionals have a rare opportunity to examine a comprehensive core dataset spanning the northern GOM Basin including Jurassic and Cretaceous systems.
- Integrated understanding of core-log-seismic stratigraphic relationships.
- Improved recognition of facies-pore type associations.
- Enhanced predictive capability for stratigraphic/petrophysical heterogeneity and flow unit definition.
- Industry-first collaborative VR sessions integrating core, outcrop, and subsurface models
- Broader context for exploration and development strategies in carbonate systems.
- New perspectives on overlooked opportunities in critical minerals.



Day 1 - Tuesday, April 21, 2026

- 8:00 am – Arrive
- 8:15 am - **Janson and Kerans – Presentation: Overview of Mesozoic and Themes, Approach of Workshop, Part I**
- **9:15 am - Introduction and Lectures: Jurassic Smackover Fm.**
- 9:40 am – Core viewing: Smackover cores

Crystal Lewis A-1 (Dorcheat-Macedonia)
Runyon Dodson
Price
Sun Oil Tubbs Trust

- 12:00 pm – Lunch – Rudy's BBQ
- 12:45 pm – Virtual Core and Outcrop Viewing:
 - Overview of BaselineZ “co-anchored” core viewing, VRExplorer, PluraView 3D monitor with examples from:

Pipe Creek Analog
Smackover Cores
Word Field Cores
Devil's River and South Texas Cores

- 2:00 pm – Lectures: **Late Jurassic (Cotton Valley Lime) Reef and Shoals and Early Cretaceous Reefs**
- 2:30 pm – Core viewing

Cotton Valley Cores:
Vanderbeek J W
Morton 2
Muse Duke 1

Knowles Cores:
Shell Ross Neil #1
Shell Adoue #2
Shell Adoue #1

- 5:00 pm – Adjourned for the day
- 5:30 pm – Informal gathering at Senate Avenue Brewing Company 16000 Dillard Dr Suite F, Jersey Village, TX 77040

Day 2 – Wednesday, April 22, 2026

- 8:00 am – Arrive
- 8:15 am – **Janson and Kerans – Presentation: Overview of Mesozoic and Themes, Approach of Workshop, Part II**
- 8:45 am - Lectures: **Aptian Cow Creek and James Fms (OAE1a)**



- 10:00 am – Core viewing

*Tenneco No. 1 Ney
Dilley No. 1 Ritchie
Siriani
Hamilton Pool #1*

- 12:00 pm – Lunch – *Manny's Tex-Mex*
- 1:00 pm – Lectures: **Haut.-Aptian Sligo, Albian Glen Rose and Stuart City margin**
- 2:30 pm – Core viewing

*Shell Alvarado #1
Pipe Creek
Prime Energy No. 1-84 La Paloma
Schroeder No.1*

- 4:30 pm – Adjourned for the day
- 5:30 pm – Informal gathering at Senate Avenue Brewing Company 16000 Dillard Dr Suite F, Jersey Village, TX 77040

Day 3 – Thursday, April 23, 2026

- 8:00 am – Arrive
- 8:15 am – Lectures: **Albian Edwards Fm. and Stuart City margin at Word Field**
- 10:00 am – Core viewing

*Kahanek #1
Fred Melnar #1
Bertha Anderson #1
Golsch-Edwards Gas Unit #3*

- 12:00 pm – Lunch – *Jason's Deli*
- 1:00 pm – Lectures: **Albian Ft. Terret/Ft Lancaster/Devils River Fms field trip preview**
- 2:30 pm – Core viewing

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FI #15*

- 4:30 pm – Adjourned for the day

