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REGULAR FEATURES

Previews ii
Staff Editors iii
Association iv
House of Delegates vi
Geoscience Meetings Calendar 320
Instructions to Authors 342

ON COVER – Russian - Austrian field party on the way to the Lower Oligocene Polbian Bed (Belaya River, Russian Federation, Republic of Adygeja). The Polbian Bed is a thin, white marlstone layer that forms a marker horizon in the eastern Paratethys deposited during a time with significantly reduced salinity (Solenovian event). See related article by Sachsenhofer et al., p. 289, this issue of the *Bulletin*.

ARTICLES

The type section of the Maikop Group (Oligocene–lower Miocene) at the Belaya River (North Caucasus): Depositional environment and hydrocarbon potential
Reinhard F. Sachsenhofer, Sergey V. Popov, Mikhail A. Akhmetiev, Achim Bechtel, Reinhard Gratzner, Doris Groß, Brian Horsfield, Alessandra Rachetti, Bernhard Rupprecht, Wolfgang B. H. Schaffar, and Nina I. Zaporozhets 289

The kinematics of normal faults in the Ceduna Subbasin, offshore southern Australia: Implications for hydrocarbon trapping in a frontier basin
Lewis Ryan, Craig Magee, and Christopher A.-L. Jackson 321

In situ stress variations associated with regional changes in tectonic setting, northeastern Brooks Range and eastern North Slope of Alaska
Nilesh C. Dixit, Catherine L. Hanks, Wesley K. Wallace, Mohabbat Ahmadi, and Obadare Awoleke 343

Distribution, controlling factors, and oil-source correlation of biodegraded oils in the Bohai offshore area, Bohai Bay basin, China
Jinjiang Tian, Fang Hao, Xinhui Zhou, and Huayao Zou 361

Origin and characterization of Eagle Ford pore networks in the south Texas Upper Cretaceous shelf
Lucy T. Ko, Robert G. Loucks, Stephen C. Ruppel, Tongwei Zhang, and Sheng Peng 387

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