

GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD
Form SC 13G/A
February 17, 2009
SEC Page 1 of 9

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL
OMB Number: 3235-0145
Expires: December 31,
2009
Estimated average burden
hours per response 10.4

SCHEDULE 13G

**Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
(Amendment No. 3)**

Gastar Exploration Ltd.

—
(Name of Issuer)

Common Shares

—
(Title of Class of Securities)

367299104

—
(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2008

—
(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

Rule 13d-1(b)

Rule 13d-1(c)

Rule 13d-1(d)

The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the

disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

SEC Page 1 of 9

CUSIP No. **367299104**

—

1. Names of Reporting Persons.
I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

William Leland Edwards

—

2. Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group (See Instructions)

(a) _____

(b) **X**

—

3. SEC Use Only _____

—

4. Citizenship or Place of Organization **U.S.A.**

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Number of | 5. Sole Voting Power | 140,000 |
| Shares | 6. Shared Voting Power | 30,866,612 |
| Beneficially | 7. Sole Dispositive Power | 140,000 |
| Owned by | 8. Shared Dispositive Power | 30,866,612 |
| Each Reporting | | |
| Person With: | | |

9. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person **31,006,812**

—

10. Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares (See Instructions) _____

—

11. Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9) **14.8%**

—

12. Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions) **IN, HC**

—

CUSIP No. **367299104**

—

1. Names of Reporting Persons.
I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

Anthony Joonkyoo Yun, MD

—

2. Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group (See Instructions)

(a) _____

(b) **X**

—

3. SEC Use Only _____

—

4. Citizenship or Place of Organization **U.S.A.**

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Number of | 5. Sole Voting Power | 0 |
| Shares | 6. Shared Voting Power | 30,866,612 |
| Beneficially | 7. Sole Dispositive Power | 0 |
| Owned by | 8. Shared Dispositive Power | 30,866,612 |

Each Reporting
Person With:

9. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person **30,866,612**

—

10. Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares (See Instructions) _____

—

11. Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9) **14.7%**

—

12. Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions) **IN, HC**

—

CUSIP No. **367299104**

—

1. Names of Reporting Persons.
I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

Palo Alto Investors

—

2. Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group (See Instructions)

(a) _____

(b) **X**

—

3. SEC Use Only _____

—

4. Citizenship or Place of Organization **California**

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Number of | 5. Sole Voting Power | 0 |
| Shares | 6. Shared Voting Power | 30,866,612 |
| Beneficially | 7. Sole Dispositive Power | 0 |
| Owned by | 8. Shared Dispositive Power | 30,866,612 |

Each Reporting
Person With:

9. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person **30,866,612**

—

10. Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares (See Instructions) _____

—

11. Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9) **14.7%**

—

12. Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions) **CO, HC**

—

CUSIP No. **367299104**

—

1. Names of Reporting Persons.
I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

Palo Alto Investors, LLC

—

2. Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group (See Instructions)

(a) _____

(b) **X**

—

3. SEC Use Only _____

—

4. Citizenship or Place of Organization **California**

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Number of | 5. Sole Voting Power | 0 |
| Shares | 6. Shared Voting Power | 30,866,612 |
| Beneficially | 7. Sole Dispositive Power | 0 |
| Owned by | 8. Shared Dispositive Power | 30,866,612 |

Each Reporting
Person With:

9. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person **30,866,612**

—

10. Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares (See Instructions) _____

—

11. Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9) **14.7%**

—

12. Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions) **OO, IA**

—

-
1. Names of Reporting Persons.
I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

Palo Alto Small Cap Master Fund, L.P.

-
2. Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group (See Instructions)

(a) _____

(b) **X**

-
3. SEC Use Only _____

-
4. Citizenship or Place of Organization **Cayman Islands**

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Number of | 5. Sole Voting Power | 0 |
| Shares | 6. Shared Voting Power | 13,675,059 |
| Beneficially | 7. Sole Dispositive Power | 0 |
| Owned by | 8. Shared Dispositive Power | 13,675,059 |

Each Reporting
Person With:

9. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person **13,675,059**

-
10. Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares (See Instructions) _____

-
11. Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9) **6.5%**

-
12. Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions) **PN**
-

CUSIP No. **367299104**

—

1. Names of Reporting Persons.
I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

Palo Alto Small Cap Fund, L.P.

—

2. Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group (See Instructions)

(a) _____

(b) **X**

—

3. SEC Use Only _____

—

4. Citizenship or Place of Organization **Delaware**

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Number of | 5. Sole Voting Power | 0 |
| Shares | 6. Shared Voting Power | 11,697,645 |
| Beneficially | 7. Sole Dispositive Power | 0 |
| Owned by | 8. Shared Dispositive Power | 11,697,645 |

Each Reporting
Person With:

9. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person **11,697,645**

—

10. Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares (See Instructions) _____

—

11. Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9) **5.6%**

—

12. Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions) **PN**

—

CUSIP No. **367299104**

Item 1.

(a) Name of Issuer

Gastar Exploration Ltd.

(b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices

1331 Lamar Street, Suite 1080

Houston, TX 77010

Item 2.

(a) The names of the persons filing this statement are:

Palo Alto Investors, LLC ("PAI")

Palo Alto Investors

William Leland Edwards;

Anthony Joonkyoo Yun, MD

Palo Alto Small Cap Master Fund ("Small Cap Master")

Palo Alto Small Cap Fund ("Small Cap")

(collectively,

the "Filers").

(b) The principal business address of the Filers except Small Cap Master is located at:

470 University Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301

The principal business address of Small Cap Master is located at:

**Citco Fund Services (Bermuda) Limited
Washington Mall West, 2nd Floor
7 Reid Street
Hamilton HM 11
Bermuda**

—

(c) For citizenship of Filers, see Item 4 of the cover sheet for each Filer.

(d) This statement relates to shares of common stock of the Issuer (the "Stock").

(e) The CUSIP number of the Issuer is: **367299104**

Item 3. If this statement is filed pursuant to rule 240.13d-1(b) or 240.13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is a:

(a) Broker or dealer registered under section 15 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o).

(b) Bank as defined in section 3(a)(6) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).

(c) Insurance company as defined in section 3(a)(19) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).

(d) Investment company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-8).

(e) An investment adviser in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E) (as to PAI).

(f) An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F).

(g) A parent holding company or control person in accordance with 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G) (as to Palo Alto Investors, Mr. Edwards and Dr. Yun).

(h) A savings association as defined in section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813).

(i) A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-3).

(j) A non-U.S. institution in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(ii)(J).

(k) Group, in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(K).

If filing as a non-U.S. institution in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J), please specify the type of institution

Item 4. Ownership.

See Items 5-9 and 11 of the cover page for each Filer.

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class

If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check the following [].

Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

PAI is a registered investment adviser and is the general partner and investment adviser of Small Cap Master and Small Cap and other investment limited partnerships and is the investment adviser to other investment funds. PAI's clients have the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of, the Stock. No individual client, other than Small Cap Master and Small Cap, separately holds more than five percent of the outstanding Stock. Small Cap holds shares of the Stock indirectly as a limited partner of Small Cap Master

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company.

Not applicable.

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

Palo Alto Investors is the manager of PAI. Mr. Edwards is the controlling shareholder of Palo Alto Investors. Dr. Yun is the President of PAI and Palo Alto Investors. The Filers are filing this Schedule 13G jointly, but not as a member of a group, and each of them expressly disclaims membership in a group. Each of PAI, Palo Alto Investors, Mr. Edwards and Dr. Yun disclaims beneficial ownership of the Stock except to the extent of that person's pecuniary interest therein. In addition, the filing of this Schedule 13G on behalf of Small Cap Master and Small Cap should not be construed as an admission that either is, and each disclaims that it is, the beneficial owner, as defined in Rule 13d-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, of any of the Stock covered by this Schedule 13G.

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group

Not applicable.

Item 10. Certification.

Certification of Palo Alto Investors, PAI, Mr. Edwards and Dr. Yun:

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

Certification of Small Cap Master and Small Cap:

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

Exhibits:

Exhibit A Joint Filing Agreement.

CUSIP No. **367299104**

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: February 13, 2009

PALO ALTO INVESTORS

By:

Mark Shamia, Chief Operating Officer

William L. Edwards

Anthony Joonkyoo Yun, MD

PALO ALTO INVESTORS, LLC

By: Palo Alto Investors, Manager

By:

Mark Shamia, Chief Operating Officer

PALO ALTO SMALL CAP MASTER FUND, L.P.

By: Palo Alto Investors, LLC, General Partner

By: Palo Alto Investors, Manager

By:

Mark Shamia, Chief Operating Officer

PALO ALTO SMALL CAP FUND, L.P.

By: Palo Alto Investors, LLC, General Partner

By: Palo Alto Investors, Manager

By:

Mark Shamia, Chief Operating Officer

CUSIP No. **367299104**

**EXHIBIT A
AGREEMENT REGARDING JOINT FILING
OF STATEMENT ON SCHEDULE 13D OR 13G**

The undersigned agree to file jointly with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") any and all statements on Schedule 13D or Schedule 13G (and any amendments or supplements thereto) required under section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, in connection with purchases and sales by the undersigned of the securities of any issuer until such time as the undersigned file with the SEC a statement terminating this Agreement Regarding Joint Filing of Statement on Schedule 13D or 13G. For that purpose, the undersigned hereby constitute and appoint Palo Alto Investors, LLC, a California limited liability company, as their true and lawful agent and attorney-in-fact, with full power and authority for and on behalf of the undersigned to prepare or cause to be prepared, sign, file with the SEC and furnish to any other person all certificates, instruments, agreements and documents necessary to comply with section 13(d) and section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, in connection with said purchases and sales, and to do and perform every act necessary and proper to be done incident to the exercise of the foregoing power, as fully as the undersigned might or could do if personally present, until such time as the undersigned file with the SEC a statement terminating this Agreement Regarding Joint Filing of Statement on Schedule 13D or 13G.

Dated: February 13, 2009

PALO ALTO INVESTORS

By:

Mark Shamia, Chief Operating Officer

PALO ALTO SMALL CAP MASTER FUND, L.P.

By: Palo Alto Investors, LLC, General Partner

By: Palo Alto Investors, Manager

By:

Mark Shamia, Chief Operating Officer
William L. Edwards

PALO ALTO INVESTORS, LLC

By:

Mark Shamia, Chief Operating Officer

PALO ALTO SMALL CAP FUND, L.P.

By: Palo Alto Investors, LLC, General Partner

By: Palo Alto Investors, Manager

By:

Mark Shamia, Chief Operating Officer
Anthony Joonkyoo Yun, MD

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