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# WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 152  
August 2011

*An organization of retirees of the Water Resources Discipline, U.S. Geological Survey, whose purpose is to keep its members in touch with each other and their former agency.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here's a short weather report for the East coast: hot, hot and hotter! Predictions for the next few days (7/22 to 7/24, 2011) are in excess of 100 degrees. That's warm for us folks on this side of the country. Our lawns are brown and crinkly.

I got to thinking the other day about our organization and concluded that any given person outside of the organization, not knowing us, could logically think that we would be a docile or static group of retirees. As you know, that couldn't be any further from the truth. There is always something going on, a dynamic situation. Here are some examples. I reported on some of these about a year ago but things have changed. I want to make it clear that these successes are not directly attributed to me. We have a great Board of Directors that keeps the day-to-day business moving and we would be in a world of hurt without them.

1. Two years ago, we had about 600 members receiving the Newsletter on-line. Today we have about 900 receiving the Newsletter by computer. Jim Biesecker estimates that we have probably reached our maximum on-line capacity. We just need to get new members to sign up when they join. This has saved the organization substantial money for printing, stamps, envelopes and volunteer person power to stuff envelopes.

2. Next year the annual membership directory will be available on-line. We'll be providing more information about this later.

3. We think the hydrologic technician's scholarship program will be a success for recruiting for our retirees group and for helping the WRD in general. This past year the Board voted to raise the total scholarship amount to \$10,000 to be split among several students. The future of the funding will depend on the amount in the treasury.

4. We had a very successful reunion with about 170 attendees in Denver in 2010. One of the absolute successes was the meet and greet session on the first evening where the attendees had heavy hors d'oeuvres and then met with long time friends for the next two hours.

5. Kathy Peter and her committee appear to have a firm grasp on the plans for the next reunion September 20-22, 2012 in Boise, Idaho (see Kathy's article on the next page of this newsletter). By the way, we expect to see a whole host of you signing up for the reunion. I'm going to make my pitch once again to the Eastern folks who probably have never been close to Boise. It's a great city that you should visit and it will be a great vacation spot.

As you can see, the WRD Retirees Association has been and still is a dynamic organization with many initiatives. I can say without any doubt that our founding father, George Ferguson, would be thrilled with what the organization is doing.

Pat and I wish you a great summer and urge you to keep Boise on your radar screen.



## **SIXTEENTH WRD RETIREES REUNION 2012**

**Boise, Idaho**

**Thursday, September 20 - Saturday, September 22, 2012**

**By Kathy Peter, retired 2009**

One of the most enjoyable activities of WRD Retirees is the reunion held every two years. Locations of the reunions are rotated among the WRD Regions to enable retirees from various parts of the country to attend easily. The reunion in Boise will give retirees living in northern California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming a special opportunity to attend. We have lots of fun! Reunions feature field trips, a banquet, golf outings, and a hospitality room that is always the favorite "meet and greet" place. The Boise Reunion Committee will have a float trip planned, which one will depend on streamflow -- a fun outing! A trip to the famous World Center for Birds of Prey, a breeding and research center for falcons, condors, and avian predators is also planned. Reunions are a great way to visit longtime WRD friend and colleagues, particularly those retirees who live in other parts of the country. September 2012 is more than a year away but we want to give you plenty of opportunity to plan to attend! September is a wonderful time of year in Boise. Temperatures average in the high 70s during the afternoon and in the low 50s at night. Precipitation is possible, but not likely. Everything in town is still green though, thanks to irrigation from the Boise River, which flows through town, about five blocks from the hotel. Late-September flows are about 600 cfs and the water temperature is about 64°F. Situated on the north end of the Great Basin and the western foothills of the Rockies, Boise gets the benefits of lower altitude, a moderate climate, and proximity to the majestic mountains. Elk winter in the foothills and deer pass through downtown, along the river.

The WRD Retirees 2012 Reunion will take place at the Owyhee Plaza Hotel in downtown Boise: address 1109 Main Street, Boise, ID 83702; phone number 1-800-233-4611, and web site [owyheeplaza.com](http://owyheeplaza.com). Room rates will be \$75.00 for Single/Double, \$85.00 for Triple/Quad, and \$125.00 for Suites. The hotel has a complimentary shuttle from the airport, free parking, and is located a 15-minute drive from downtown. Major airlines serving Boise are Southwest, United, Delta, US Airways, Frontier, Alaska, and American.

Transportation will be arranged for reunion events outside the hotel and you can find many restaurants and bars within a couple of blocks of the hotel. If you are a walker or runner, you can access the Greenbelt a half-mile from the hotel, a path along the river that connects the large city parks and extends southeast about eight miles to Lucky Peak Reservoir and northwest about eight miles to the town of Eagle. Along the way it passes the famous Boise State University stadium, with its blue turf.

If you plan to drive to Boise, you have an opportunity to visit places like Sun Valley, Silver Creek, Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, Craters of the Moon, Coeur d'Alene, and other scenic areas. A seven-hour drive may seem like a long drive to retirees from the East, but this isn't the Jersey Turnpike! The scenery is fascinating, wildlife abundant, and the traffic is light, particularly on the "blue highways."

We hope you can join us in September 2012 to renew old friendships and start some new. More information about planned events and registration will be provided in future newsletters. Kathy Peter is the Chair and we have a committee with members from CO, NV, WA, OR and ID.

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**Andy Anderson** reports, "**Vince Lai** gave a presentation describing an unsteady-flow flood model to the 32 retirees/spouses present at the May HQ retirees meeting. Vince's model was for the flashy streams in northern Taiwan that are subject to typhoon caused flooding. This was our final meeting until September 2011; the HQ retirees don't meet during the summer because so many members are out of town."

**Jim Biesecker** writes, "I have been Newsletter editor since November 1998. This edition is the 53<sup>rd</sup> Newsletter for me as Editor. Obviously it is a labor of love or I wouldn't continue with the effort. The only parts of the Newsletter I don't enjoy preparing are the Memorials and In Memoriam -- we lose so many members each edition. I want to send sincere appreciation to the Regional Editors for their assistance: **Eileen Smith**, NR; **Vivian Olcott**, SR; **Merilee Bennett**, CR; and **John Klein**, WR. These folks all do a lot of work to help deliver a quality product to the retirees every 3 months. Also, special thanks to **Dotty Woods**, Layout Editor, who continues to do a fantastic job putting the information into a great looking document. Dotty has been Layout Editor for 10 years and I frankly don't know what we would do without her! We now deliver the Newsletter to almost 900 retirees by email. **Kate Flynn** handles the emailing and does a great job -- it is no simple task maintaining a reliable data base of 900 email addresses. Thanks Kate and thanks to each of you who get the Newsletter delivered by email instead of by U.S. Mail. The email product is delivered up to a month before the printed version and is in full color. The email version also saves printing costs and greatly reduces the burden on the WRD Retiree volunteers who stuff material in envelopes for mailing -- a great help. If you have email and are not yet receiving the Newsletter by email, send me a request at jeb393@verizon.net and I will see that your name is added to the list of WRD Retirees receiving the Newsletter by email. Thanks and continued good reading!"

**Jim Blakey** reports, "While visiting family in Texas the end of June, **Paula** and I had lunch with **Bob** and **Libby Burchett**. They and other Texas retirees are doing well, just trying to keep cool. The Denver area retirees continue year round with 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday meetings. We average about 8 to 10 retirees per meeting. The **Hugh H. Hudson** Social Committee will meet soon to plan our big fall lunch that will probably be held in mid-September -- join us! We still have 3 Denver area retirees in rest homes: I visit **John George** nearly every week and he is always in good spirits. This last week he talked about **Bill Schaefer** being his mentor when he moved to the Northeastern Region. **Ivan Johnson** is always happy. He spends the days with his girlfriend. He is in a wheel chair -- they took his mobilized chair away from him because he kept crashing into things. **Tom Lyons** has

had strokes and falls but hangs in there and likes to talk about old times. For those of you who receive your copy by email (in living color) when you read this, **Jerry** and **Saundra Duncan** and Paula and I will be in Amsterdam about to board a North Atlantic Cruise. For those who use snail mail, when you read this we will be at the end of the cruise in Boston. **Jim Biesecker** and I, as directed by President **Herb Freiburger**, are putting together a slate of candidates for the November 2011 election of WRD Retiree officers. If you are interested in serving as an officer of WRD Retirees, please email or call me."

**Gary Bradford** says, "Regards to all WRD retirees. I fondly remember my 20 years with the Foreign Hydrology Section of WRD."

**Dave Click** reports, "**Laurel** and I enjoy reading each WRD Retirees newsletter and in particular news written by the retirees. It only seems fitting that from time to time we should participate in submitting something about us. Still living in south-central PA, we experienced what seemed to be an abnormal spring, being cool and wet then quickly changing to very hot. We did manage to get most of our yard work done and plant a small garden, and as the rain keeps coming things are growing quite well. May was quite busy for us with trips to the Outer Banks of North Carolina and Smith Mountain Lake in Virginia. June was special for us this year, as we celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on the 4<sup>th</sup> with all of our immediate family and family from Utah and Washington. International travel this year is planned for September when we will be touring Spain and Portugal. We already have started planning for a trip to Boise for the next WRD Retirees Reunion. Hope to see you there."

**Ernie Cobb** writes, "On March 21 I had cataract surgery on my right eye. Last week I went in to get post-operation prescription for new glasses. In this process, the Doctor found a spot on my eye. This caused concern that perhaps cancer had moved into the brain area. I was sent to retina specialist right away to get better confirmation on the spot. Yesterday, I had an MRI run on my brain and the results came back today. They were negative. No cancer was detected in the brain/head area. Praise the Lord! He is good and answers prayer. Thanks for your prayers."

**Jim Daniel** writes, "In 1989, WRD released a solicitation designed to upgrade and modernize the system of 71 Prime minicomputers (DIS I). The award was made to Data General on December 21, 1989. The other two bidders, SMS and Lockheed protested the award to the General Services Administration Board of Contract Appeals and were successful. DIS II was about to become the computer system that almost wasn't. Data General didn't take the Board's decision as final and pursued a legal challenge to it. Those

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efforts resulted in an appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit. On October 9, 1990, the Appeals Court reversed the Board's decision and reinstated the award to Data General. The Court's final decision stated "The board has neither the authority nor the expertise to second-guess the agency." That decision led to much rejoicing in the USGS. SMS & Lockheed petitioned the Court for a rehearing -- denied. Matter settled, right? The procurement was further complicated because one of the bidders contacted the House Interior and Insular Affairs Subcommittee chaired by Peter Kostmayer (D-PA), who launched an investigation into the award. The rationale for the House contact was that DIS II was one of the first of a series of procurements known as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and so warranted Congressional scrutiny. That emphasis on GIS was inaccurate but would become a major factor in subsequent actions. That led to myriad correspondence and meetings with Subcommittee staff over the next several months. We (WRD, ISD, & Director's Office) never quite understood the GIS question until much later and were perplexed by, but responsive to, the questions posed by Kostmayer's folks. The Subcommittee got the General Services Administration involved which resulted in a meeting including the Assistant Director for Information Systems and me. A high-ranking GSA official started off by stating that they wanted to look at the GIS part of the procurement. We pointed out that there was no GIS procurement in the package and the meeting quickly wound down. Government Computer News stated that a 9-month investigation had failed to turn up any malfeasance. Well, USGS won. DIS II finally became a reality. We won because USGS folks involved proceeded with their customary honesty and integrity. Like Superman, they stood for truth, justice, and the American way."

**Jim and Barb Eychaner** report, "Thanks for the welcome to our freshman year as retirees. Barb and I are just starting this new education, so we'll see what our real major is in a few years. We already drove 4 weeks through AZ, OK, IL, Denver and Santa Fe. We saw **Rod Roeske** and **Julie** and **Don Graf** in Tucson, then **Bill** and **Joanne Garrett** at their home. I will go canoeing from Ely, MN with Peace Corps friends, and visit the OR coast and NE US later this year. Does anyone know of citable data related to the 500-year high water records of the Danube River displayed at [Passau, Germany, and Melk, Austria](http://Passau.Germany.and.Melk.Austria.panoramio.com/photo/30840599?) [panoramio.com/photo/30840599?](http://panoramio.com/photo/30840599?) Some interesting stories are possible for the nonprofessional US audience if I can learn a bit more about the data quality and completeness. Or, perhaps we'll just have to visit both places and knock on the city engineers' doors."

**Jack Fischer** writes, "**Phil Cohen, Don Kelly, Joanne Taylor** and I, along with members from each of our

families, chartered a fishing boat out of Deale, Maryland recently to go out on the bounding main in search of the wily rockfish. And the main was indeed bounding, also slate gray and spitting rain. Keepers had to be at least 35 inches. We each got our monster fish but not until after a good deal of long, hard reeling and grimacing, and, of course, jeering, the latter led by Kelly and the rest of the crowd. After, we repaired to a local watering hole where fat crabs were plentiful, cold beer was more so and Phil held forth, telling one lie after another, insisting that his fish was by far the biggest and certainly the toughest to land, how fishing on the Chesapeake was nothing compared to the wilds of the Kenai Peninsula. The outing was another in a continuing series of fishing trips on the bay this group has enjoyed together over a couple decades now, the first few on Phil's boat, the Kenai King. I can report that Phil is in fine fiddle, he having received high praise from the charter captain for having the best reeling form of all. Don continues his writing career, penning articles from a small cabin high in the mountains overlooking Berkley Springs. He is published regularly in several east coast magazines. Joanne is having a great career at the Survey, now serving as Special Assistant to the Director. And, I am working with a bunch of water-related organizations here on the bay, our primary objective being to figure out how to come to grips with "Big Ag" and the catastrophic impact of nitrogen fertilizer on water quality. Kudos to the leaders of our organization! Thank you from all of us!"

**Gail Kalen** says, "On May 16, I was fortunate enough to be onsite for the final launch of the space shuttle Endeavour at Kennedy Space Center in Florida. On launch days, the Kennedy Space Center is closed to the public and only those people whose names were selected from an online lottery are allowed onsite. The Visitors Center is one of two viewing areas with the closest proximity to the launch pad. These sites, at 6 and 7 miles from the launch pad, provided a totally awesome view of the shuttle from the wide orange exhaust that pushed the shuttle skyward to the louder than thunder continuous rolling boom of noise. The launch itself was much more than I expected and I'm glad that my name was selected to attend."

**Vance Kennedy** reports, "At age 88 I am really slowing down physically and my memory is terrible, but since I still get up in the morning I really should not complain. I would like any ideas you fellow WRD Retirees have on the following topic. There is a huge cheese manufacturing factory in the area that provides an outlet for milk from the hundreds of local dairies. For years they distributed their waste water on surrounding farmland at up to 10 feet or more per year. It is no surprise that the high organic water percolated down to the water table and changed its chemistry greatly. Over time lateral movement of ground water into surrounding areas ruined the neighbor's well water. The company

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got away with this for years because of the company's owners was on the State Water Quality Control Board. Finally, a \$2 million fine was assessed and they looked for another outlet for their waste. Four wells were approved for injection of up to 750,000 gallons per day each at a depth between 3,000 and 4,000 feet below land surface. Injection started a couple of years ago and a few million gallons have been injected. The geologic situation is that of interlayered clays, silts, sands and gravels, with relatively thick confining clay later 200 to 300 feet below the surface throughout most of the area. There is fresh water, both above and below the confining layer, which is tapped by wells. Depth to saltwater is on the order of 1,000 feet and varies. The potential problem, as I see it, is that injection of large volumes of any water at depth in the saltwater zone will force that saltwater laterally until it can move toward the surface, mixing with fresh water and making that fresh water unusable for agriculture. I have contacted groundwater modelers within and outside the Survey for published examples of such a problem, so far without success. This is an extremely "hot" political subject, since any problem for the cheese factory immediately becomes a problem for the dairies, many of which have gone bankrupt. It seems the old story of short term gain and long-term disaster. The obvious agency to contact to address this is the EPA, but they approved the project and are unlikely to pay to prove themselves wrong. To me, the reasoning on saltwater displacement seems obvious, but deep-well injection has occurred for years without well publicized harm. I understand that deep injection of liquefied carbon dioxide has been proposed and of course "fracking" of black shales is getting considerable attention. The Survey does not need a politically "hot" subject, for obvious reasons, but it also cannot be seen as oblivious to a potential problem. Any ideas out there?"

**Fritz Kilpatrick** writes, "June and I spent a week at Jekyll Island, GA., this spring and found it a beautiful, quiet place to visit, with clean, white beaches. Our only "disaster" was in leaving home on the same day tornados ripped up I-95 through North Carolina. Traffic crawled, and we only made it to the middle of NC the first day. After finding no room in the first "inn," we were happy to finally find a place, even though the power was out in the motel and the rest of the town, including restaurants. Our large flashlight came in very handy as we groped our way up the dark stairwell to our room on the third floor. It also enabled us to find the bed and the bathroom! The best stroke of luck was that the hail hit while we were checking in and our car was parked under the Hampton Inn overhang! And before morning, the power was back on. Evergreen, VA is beautiful this spring. We came home in time to see our huge beautiful Kwanzan cherry trees at their peak. Two days later the blooms shattered and our driveway was covered in pink "snow." I remember all of you who have

meant so much through the years and hope your lives are going well."

**John and Joyce Klein** report, "It is already near the end of June 2011 and we have been on the road since mid-March. We spent Christmas in our Tucson house and shortly after we returned to our RV and the construction we are having done on our RV lot at Rancho RV resort which is east of Temecula, CA. Most of that construction is now behind us....finally. We hit the road in late March, bound for a return volunteer assignment at Yaquina Head Lighthouse and Wildlife Refuge where we spent 2 months last year. This year we're here for just a month since we accepted a 2-month detail at a new location (for us) in SE Oregon. At the end of March, we departed from Yaquina, with a partial promise that we will/might return next year, and traveled across the state of Oregon to our present location at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in the high desert region of SE Oregon, several hundred miles from the coast. What an incredible place! We are here for 2 months. The U.S. Dept. of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service really knows how to take care of their volunteers. We are parked on a large, level cement pad that was very easy to back in to (for you non-5<sup>th</sup> wheel owners that is important), electricity, water and sewer is provided, there is a nice office/living room area across the street, a laundry facility, and two separate heated bathrooms that have showers. Even before we arrived we had a vehicle assigned for our "official use," and we have keys to the entire refuge and facilities. Malheur National Wildlife Refuge was established on August 18, 1908 by President Theodore Roosevelt as the Lake Malheur Bird Reservation. Right now the refuge is approximately 75% covered in water due to the very high snow pack in the surrounding mountains, especially the Steen Mountains to the SE. The water level in Malheur Lake may soon rise to the 1984 historic high. Much of the refuge roads are now under water and that has limited our mobility as we try to conduct some critical bird counts. Both Malheur and Harney Lakes are shallow and generally filled with alkaline water. This part of Oregon is a closed basin, water flows into this area from all directions and as it evaporates during the summer months the lake grows very alkaline and of little use. Early wagon trains of thirsty settlers that passed through this area in the mid-1800s found this route to be miserable due to the bugs and terrible water. In 1872, a cattle ranch that encompassed 190,000 acres was established and a few hardy settlers began moving into the area. Once the bird riches were discovered, plume hunters swarmed into the lake region to harvest swans, egrets, herons, and grebes for feathers. The beautiful white egrets were nearly exterminated by hunters eager to cash in on an eastern fashion craze. But once this area was established as a refuge life again began to flourish and it is now a premier habitat for many migratory birds,

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including 2.5 million ducks each year. I think we have counted each of them...several times. Our life here has exceeded our expectations. We congregate with the visiting birders who we learn from and we are doing tasks that allow the refuge staff to stay focused on the ecology and wildlife. We are learning so many things about the complexity of nature. Every day brings us several "first time" birds; we just hope we can remember all that we are being blessed with learning and seeing. Birds are incredible creatures. For example the Bobolinks that are here right now are on their way north for the summer. They are here having flown from Bolivia. They fly nonstop from the north coast of South America across the ocean to the southern US and then head here on their way further north. In spite of living in the middle of nowhere (50 miles to Safeway in Burns, OR), we are living very soft lives compared to the early brave settlers in this area. How these early hardy individuals managed to deal with the feast or famine of the hydrologic cycle while trying to manage thousands of cattle on the open range is hard to understand, especially during the bug season. Several weeks ago we met the individual who used to be the refuge manager here. He was here as part of a gathering of students who had studied under a professor at Evergreen University. Now he is the refuge manager at the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, in Fairbanks, AK. He rode his motorcycle (more of a dirt bike) all the way here from Fairbanks! He used our RV pad to store his cycle while he was here. Bugs are a fact of life here. Midges swarm by the millions on a daily basis, sometimes making the area look as though it is full of smoke. Hitting a swarm of midges in a vehicle is like hitting a dirty hail storm, suddenly one can't see beyond the windshield and the entire front of the truck turns into a very fuzzy black color. When we leave here in a few days we must quickly get our RV back to Rancho, and then drive back to our house in Tucson. A very hard freeze in February has damaged much of our landscaping and we need to start replacing what we can. On July 17, we return to Kauai and the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge for our next volunteer assignment."

**Don Leifeste** writes, "JoAnn and I moved twice since Oakview which was our address about a year ago. Our current address is 21 Park Pl Dr, Gonzales, TX 78629 and we hope to stay here until at least one of us moves to Montheria UMC Cemetery, Cost, TX where Don grew up. Two of our grandchildren graduated this year: Luke Leifeste from Booker T Washington, and Meg Walters from the University of Georgia. We are proud of our 7 grandchildren."

**Bill Mann** had triple bypass surgery on June 7. He is home and recovering. **Helene** is his chauffeur and caregiver. He is walking daily and will be able to drive by the end of July. Give Bill a call at 540-364-9287.

**Dennis McClain** reports, "Greetings All! We have had a rough winter, cold, snow, and gloom. Now that spring is here we've had nothing but rain. I'm seriously thinking about planting rice in my yard. We did make a trip to Myrtle Beach in April and camped 50 steps from the beach. Had good weather for that trip and the sea food was great. Been battling health problems with **Carol's** Mom (83) and my Dad (94) but all is starting to look up. Still planning on a trip to the Tetons, Yellowstone, and the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally late this summer. This will make our 10th year in a row for the Sturgis Rally. Hoping for some good weather soon so we can get the Harley out and do some riding."

**Charlie Morgan** writes, "The Las Vegas WRD retirees hold our monthly noon luncheon (first Tuesday of the month) at Putters, located at the corner of Tropicana and Pecos Boulevard in Las Vegas. **David J.** and **Virginia Bauer**, **Larry Eccles**, **Louise M Lupton**, **Gerald E.** and **Marnie Magner**, **Charles** and **Pauline Morgan**, and **Gerda Seaber** were in attendance at the July 6 meeting. It seems that many of the other WRD retirees were traveling or involved in other actives. WRD retirees in the Las Vegas area please remember that our meetings are held at noon on the 1st Tuesday of the month at Putters restaurant. My wife, **Pauline**, had triple bypass surgery in April. She was found to have 3 blocked arteries. She has recovered extremely well and is almost back to her old activities."

**Fred Ruggles** reports, "We had a quiet winter and wet spring in Connecticut. I am doing well and am still active with Housatonic River Commission, the Canaan Inland Wetland Commission and being a trustee at church – along with normal house work."

**Vern Sauer** writes, "WMO asked me to develop a 2-week power point training session for the WMO streamgaging manual I recently helped write. I was hesitant at first because I've been out of the training business for so long, but then I learned that **Mike Nolan** was retiring, so I contacted him. To make a long story short, he and I are now in the process of putting the training course together. Other than that, I stay busy as the Chairman of the Sabine River Compact Commission, serve on the Technical Committee as well as maintain the web site for the Lake Hartwell Association, and play golf about once a week. My wife and I travel some in our attempts to see more of the USA, sing in our church choir, she runs several blood drives each year, we both do volunteer work at the local YMCA, and exercise almost daily at the Y. The list goes on. We thoroughly enjoy living on Hartwell Lake...life is great. Come by and see us sometime, but call before you come."

**Betty Scribner** writes, "I enjoy reading the news of retirees because there are a few people I have met and names I have heard while working for the USGS. Not

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sure that anyone really cares what I am doing since so few know who I am. Also, I am amazed at how many people love being retired but I notice they spend a lot of time with their USGS buddies so that must help the "missing work" part. For my part, I miss the work of researching and writing data on pesticides in **Mike Thurman's** lab in Kansas. It was an honor to work with him. **Mike Meyer**, who now runs the lab, lets me help with data projects so it keeps me in touch with the USGS. Thanks for your work in keeping the retirees in touch with one another. Not an easy job."

**John Shanton** says, "Hal Langford arranged a wonderful flounder fishing expedition for him, me, **Andy Anderson**, and **Jim Biesecker** in mid-May. We had a motel about 2 minutes walk from the boat which was an all wooden boat the captain has been operating for 65 years. The boat was in remarkably good shape. Needless to say the captain knew where all the flounder were so we had 2 great days of fishing. The Virginia part of the Delmarva Peninsula is beautiful and remote. A great time was had by all!"

**Ron Shields** writes, "I continue to volunteer at USGS and review records, and tell them about "Old Times." We've had record floods this season, especially on the Missouri River. Some of my previous high flow measurements have been exceeded by younger hydrographers; however, some of my measurements still stand. I operate a consulting business, mainly providing oversight and review of Hydrologic reports for Trout Unlimited on Instreamflow leases. This involves developing rating tables, measurements and reports for about 10 streams in Western MT. **Addie** and I are continuing to battle her cancer. My son Brian graduated from Army War College this summer and my grandson Ben entered West Point. My daughter and 2 grandkids live here in Helena. She is the Human-Relation's manager for the MT Legislative Services."

**John and Micki Singer** report, "Sorry to hear of the passing of **John Wark**; he was always a bright spot in California and the Western Region. I will miss seeing him at our reunions. All is well in southwestern Virginia with the boat in the water, the veggies in the garden, the bees making honey, and Micki and I still out running the ambulance all over the place. The grill is always on and the suds are always cold. Stop in and visit. This part of VA is NOTHING like HQ!"

**Betty Spahn** says, "I haven't read anything recently in the WRD Retirees Newsletters from my good friends in the Central Region. I have been physically slowed down the last couple of years due to pneumonia/heart, etc., but I'm back and having a bit of fun!! Family Home Care was a great help for me to recuperate here in my home after those health problems. I was invited recently to do some local commercials for them. A really fun film crew came out and it was an interesting

experience. Now I hear myself on the radio, see pictures on health brochures, or television. All of this recognition and notoriety has made the paparazzi very difficult to control at the local bars, saloons, pool halls and Senior Centers---my usual destinations--especially since I'm pushing my walker with tanks and tubing of oxygen attached. --Just had an "ah-ha" moment--How about you? Hopefully, this will add a little humor to your day! I retired from USGS, WRD, CR secretary to Regional Hydrologist **James F. Blakey** 20 years ago."

**Tim Stamey** writes, "I am staying busy traveling, fishing, and relaxing, like retiree's are supposed to do. Although, I still find time to do some occasional volunteer work for the Eastern Region-South, OSW, and a few Water Science Centers. My most recent fly fishing trip was out West last summer. **Lucky Sultz** (MT retiree, and my personal guide) and I spent a week fly fishing for cut-throat trout in Montana and British Columbia. The fishing was great, as was seeing old friends."

**Dennis Sulam** reports, "My wife, **Linda**, and I recently hosted our younger daughter's wedding which makes it 2 weddings in 2 years as my older daughter was married in 2008. By my count that is it for me as I have run out of kids. Retirement continues to be pleasant, especially in the mornings. The demise of the old Northeastern Region is a haunting result of the reorganization of USGS, but it brings back good memories of the 26 years I was there."

**Marc Sylvester** writes, "I will begin with a description of relocations that my wife, **Marie**, and I have made since retirement in 2004, and then describe some of our recent activities. My wife and I both retired in the summer of 2004. We moved from San Francisco, CA to Ashland, OR where we stayed for 2 years. Ashland is known for its Shakespeare theatre and is a wonderful town of 20,000 people with lots of recreational activities in the vicinity (e.g., hiking, biking, birding, and skiing). In addition to Shakespeare, there are a lot of plays that are more contemporary. Ashland is in a very picturesque setting in the Rogue Valley and has great restaurants. We met some nice people there and made some good friendships. But, in 2006 we had to move back to the Bay Area to be closer to Marie's mom who lives in Walnut Creek, CA. We sold our house in Ashland and bought a house in Danville, CA, about 15 miles from Marie's mom. After being in Danville awhile, we realized that we did not want to stay there. So, after a few years we found a house in Sonoma, CA. This is where we are now. After moving 3 times in 5 years, we are not planning any further moves for awhile. We like Sonoma, a small, but lively town of about 10,000 people. Sonoma is the gateway to Sonoma Valley wine country, which rivals Napa County in the quality and variety of wines, but the wines tend to be less expensive. I am playing golf once or twice a week,

## NEWS OF RETIREES

hiking once or twice a week, and doing some birding. Marie plays tennis several times a week. We also like to travel, so we take 4 or 5 trips a year. The last long ones were to Costa Rica this March to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and to Spain last October. In Costa Rica, we went to Monte Verde and the Peninsula de Osa, including Corcovado National Park. In Spain, we went to Barcelona, and hiked in the Pyrenees and in Mallorca with friends from San Francisco and England. This year in January, we visited **Ken Hollett** and **Claudia Stone** in Tucson, AZ. In June, we visited friends in Ashland. Periodically, I visit **David** and **Doris Dawdy** in San Francisco, who are still vibrant and active on water issues, even though they are in their 90's. Recently, Marie and I had the treat of having lunch in Palo Alto, CA with **Loren** and **Renee Young**. Loren was my first supervisor in the USGS. Loren is a wonderful person and I was lucky to have such an excellent supervisor in my first years with the USGS. I hope this brief description serves to provide an adequate update on my whereabouts and activities for last several years. Best wishes to all my colleagues and friends in the USGS. I had the pleasure of working with some really wonderful scientists that made my career very rewarding."

**Debi Treseder** writes, "Hello from Denver and Debi Treseder. I am enjoying retirement VERY much. It sure makes those 38 years worth it. I am blessed to be healthy and as feisty as ever. I enjoyed seeing those who made the Denver Reunion, even **Linda Carswell** who whooped me at golf. I spent the month of May in Koloa, Kauai, Hawaii. I fell in love with that island in the mid-80's while working for USGS in Alaska. I celebrated my 60th birthday by renting a home and inviting friends and family. USGS folks that were able to spend time with me were **Mark Eaton** (my honey); **Jackie Johnson** (my dearest friend); **Richard** and **Pam Daddow** and **Janet Bishop**. I have several adventures planned for this year and next. I try to make some of the local luncheons with retirees. **Sandra Duncan** and **Jim Blakey** do an awesome job. I also enjoy the newsletter. Everyone take care. Give me a shout if you are in Denver."

**Lee Trotta** says, "The Trottas are now Sheboyganites! We are enjoying our new home in Sheboygan a few blocks from the Lake Michigan shoreline. It's beautiful and affordable and you are all welcome to visit at 1706 Fox Hill Road."

**Pat Tucci** writes, "**Zelda** and I have had a busy travel year in 2011 –we've been on the road, both near and far, every month so far. In April, we traveled to Namibia in southwest Africa, to go on a "mineral safari." In addition to purchasing mineral specimens for our business, we got to see cheetahs up close at the Cheetah Conservation Fund, and lots of other wildlife in Etosha National Park. We highly recommend Namibia

as a country to visit in Africa – it's relatively modern, with good roads and other infrastructure and English is the official language. We were accompanied on that trip by fellow retiree, **Ken Hollett** and his wife **Claudia**. Within a week of returning from Namibia, we were off again to Fayetteville, AR to help with the USGS Karst Interest Group's meeting. We had volunteered to help **Eve Kuniansky** (SR ground-water specialist) and USGS retiree, **Van Brahana**, put on the meeting, and were recruited to moderate a couple of technical sessions (it was like working again). In June, we flew to Barcelona to start a cruise of the western Mediterranean. The cruise stopped in Nice, Pisa, Rome, Naples, Venice, Ravenna, and Dubrovnik, and we stayed in Barcelona for a few days on each end of the cruise. Crammed in between these trips, were trips to Wyoming, Arizona, Maryland/Virginia, and New York, as well as some trips within Colorado. Somehow, I also found time to do some contract work for the U.S. Forest Service, writing ground-water technical procedures for them."

**Marilyn Visconti** writes, "I continue to travel quite a bit. In March, I cruised on the mega-ship, "Oasis of the Seas" in the Caribbean. For anyone who likes to cruise, that ship is a "must see!" In October, I will be making my 26th trip to Hawaii. I love to garden in the spring and summer, but the climate here in Colorado makes it quite a challenge, at times. The rest of the year I try to be creative and design hand-designed note cards and continue my quest for Asian art. I still meet for lunch with several of my friends from the Survey and still hear from others at Christmas."

**Pat Walker** reports, "I appreciate the great job you all do with the "Retirees." It must be a chore to try to get input from the Foggy Set. I always am astounded to read of the activities the geriatric community is involved in. Makes my life seems very quiet. Here, in Marblehead, the pace of life is much slower than elsewhere I guess. At least mine is. Just before last Christmas an event occurred that's had a terrible effect on my existence; I got a new prescription from one of the several physicians I keep in business. It is a replacement for one that has some significant effects on the old system so he decided to wean me from it. Unfortunately, the new one is quite unkind to the liver and I had to quit my 5:00p.m. Martini plus all other forms of booze! I now enjoy (?) a soothing glass of some caffeine-free diet soda before dinner. Understand that I was not the last of the big sots but I did enjoy a wee dram of single malt or a whiff of juniper berries. No more. Since that sentence to a teetotal existence, I've spent 2 otherwise great weeks with my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and their assorted in-laws over the Christmas-time, and been to 2 marvelous weddings; my granddaughter Erin in Virginia and my grandson Craig in New Jersey. Each wedding

## NEWS OF RETIREES

was accompanied by great people, marvelous food, and beau coup alcoholic beverages. I did cheat a bit, though, ingesting about 3-ounces of nectar since mid-December. As you can tell, my life is a whirl of activities. I bowl Candlepins each Wednesday with the only other bowler from a once 8-person team. I spend too much time watching drivel-TV and having coffee with pals at one of the several Dunkin' Donuts near me. I buy, and scratch, one \$2 ticket per morning in hopes of hitting "The Big Payout" but so far to no avail. Other than the foregoing, life is quiet. Health could be better but isn't really bad. Except for some ex-Survey email buddies and the rare phone call or visit from a long-ago compatriot, (**Ivan James** dropped in a few weeks back), my only USGS news comes from the "News of Retirees." Please keep it coming. My best wishes to everyone."

**Toni Waller** writes, "Since retiring, I've dealt successfully with thyroid cancer; visited family in PA and assisting former brother-in-law with his mom's terminal cancer diagnosis."

**Dave Webster** says, "I am scheduled to move in May to 101 Dana Drive, Oak Ridge, TN 37830 -- a few miles from my current address. My phone number will remain 865-483-5904. I really enjoy the Newsletter. For some of us WRD Retirees it is the only contact we have with the Survey and its family."

**CT Welborn** reports, "This is the month for April showers, but there was no rain on our luncheon at Nutty Brown Restaurant. Those that came from out of town were: **Stan** and **Virginia Sauer**, **Willard Gibbons** and **Frank Wells**. Those from Austin were: **Bob** and **Libby Burchett**, **Helen Davidson**, **Paul Rohne**, and **Clarence** and **Dixie Welborn**. We had a nice group but it would have been better if more of our group would come to these functions. We had an informal meeting and just sat around talking and no recording was taken of the discussion. I guess no one wanted a record. The "noise" quieted down after the food arrived. Everyone seems to enjoy what they were served. A note from **Doug Manigold** said they are enjoying the Newsletter and I could report that **Susan** retired in July '09. She has been traveling a lot visiting her family. Doug stays home to feed her 3 horses, 2 donkeys, sheep, and half-dozen chickens; also he has 4 dogs to feed. He said to tell everyone hello. An update on **Frank Wells'** health -- he learned in February that he has throat cancer and has made 2 trips to MD Anderson in Houston. They thought originally they could remove the cancer by surgery but decided they couldn't do it. He has begun radiation 5 days a week for 7 weeks and chemo once a week for the same time period. He hopes to be through with all of it by June 1."

**Janet Welday** says, "We are going to meet for lunch next Tuesday. I will pass the word onto the others. My life is very boring and not of interest to anyone. We'll see if we can get something from someone."

**Dick Whitehead** writes, "I still live in Boise. I volunteered to the USGS for a while after retiring, assembling and cataloging over 50 years of USGS reports with the help of **Maree Ray Larson**. I also conducted a class for the local Community Education Program in Hydrology and Geology. I have been studying my old reports and others trying to answer questions that bothered me. Several, I found answers to. However, it seems as if I am the only one interested. I tried to get the University interested but they didn't reply. Also, the local, old USGS office is into other problems now. Times are changing, and we "old-timers" will have to change with them!"

**Judy Wilson** says, "I'm still enjoying retirement here in Wyoming. I finished a lifetime project of visiting the 50 states with a fabulous 2-week trip to Alaska in September 2010. Now, I stay busy with family and friends, art, and genealogy interests, plus researching the history of Ryan Park, WY...a local sawmill site of (now) private cabins in the middle of Medicine Bow National Forest...where my summer cabin is. This past winter, the nearby Snowy Range received a 20-year record breaking snowfall...and many campgrounds and side roads are expected to remain closed until September...or whenever the snow melts. My COPD and arthritis continue to give me problems and I now use oxygen and have house-cleaning help...hooray!"

**Mike Winner** reports, "Our big news is that we will become great-grandparents in September. We are both well and busy with the usual retirement life stuff. Hopefully we will make the next reunion."

**Chet Zenone** writes, "I recently spent a month in Mississippi working with FEMA in response to deadly tornadoes and near-record flooding this spring. Although the tornadoes that struck Joplin and Tuscaloosa resulted in more deaths, a strong tornado that struck the small northeastern MS town of Smithville (pop. 950) with winds of 200 mph caused 15 deaths and nearly flattened the town. I welcome 2 more WRD retirees to the ranks for FEMA reservists: **Tim Stamey** (06) and **Steve Craigg** (07) who are working on their initial deployments as of late July. I am compiling a list of WRD retirees who are working for FEMA -- if you have, please email me at [chetwrdez@live.com](mailto:chetwrdez@live.com) or call me at 503-365-0682."

## **WRD RETIREE VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION**

### **MUSIC, THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE**

**By John S. Bader, retired 1994**

Music has always been a part of my life. There was always music in our house when I was growing up and I was involved in it all through school, either singing in a chorus or playing the violin in an orchestra. I was also a member of a Drum and Bugle Corps for several years after serving in the Navy. Even after starting a career with the Survey, I managed to find a musical group to join. I sang with the Schola Cantorum under the leadership of Royal Stanton in Long Beach, CA, while I worked in southern California. It was my privilege to lend a hand in the writing and publication of his book "The Dynamic Choral Conductor." I also oversaw the recording of all our concerts, some of which were released on LP records. Royal moved to the San Francisco Bay area in 1961, and I was fortunate enough to be transferred to Menlo Park a few years later so I was able to join his new chorus at Foothill College. I also organized the recording and release of some concerts there. I was a member of that group until I was transferred to Charleston, WV, where I became a member of the Charleston Civic Chorus.

Another transfer brought me back to Sacramento California and I soon found my way to the Sacramento Symphony chorus. However, after a couple of years, the Symphony was disbanded and the chorus was left to drift without a core group to cling to. After some serious soul searching and lots of resolve the chorus decided to "go it alone." The group became known as the Sacramento Choral Society. We formed a board of directors and all the necessary committees and staffed them with volunteers from within the group and proceeded to map out a concert season for the upcoming seasons. Most of the first concerts were accompanied only by organ or piano played by our very competent accompanist and they were well received by the local concertgoers. Needless to say there were a lot of serious fund-raising efforts going on, and eventually we were successful enough to be able to hire the orchestra musicians to accompany us (at union scale!). Things went on this way for several years and we survived but the union kept the recordings of all the concerts and would not allow us to make any copies available for ourselves or for sale. However, through the efforts of a member of the chorus, who was a lawyer, we eventually were able to reach an agreement with the union and we are now known as the Sacramento Choral Society and Orchestra (SCSO). We are the only chorus in the country with its own symphony orchestra.

The SCSO presents concerts in several venues in the local area, including the Sacramento Community Center, the Mondavi Center at the University of California in Davis, CA, and the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Sacramento.

The chorus has also performed in numerous other places. We went to Europe in 2004 where we performed in Munich, Germany; Prague, Czech Republic; Vienna, Austria; and Budapest, Hungary and were accompanied by some of their excellent orchestras. We were in China in 2008 and sang in Beijing, Tianjin, Xi'an, and Jinan. We also appeared in the spectacular Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles and in Victoria, and Vancouver, Canada. There were also two concerts at Carnegie Hall in New York in 1995 and 2002. We are also planning to go to Italy and Croatia this summer.

The main reason we have survived, while other musical organizations have failed is that all the effort of running and maintaining the group has been done by volunteers, not paid employees. Most are members but there are also some from the greater community who have pitched in and given us a welcome hand. The local Public TV station, KVIE, in Sacramento recorded and aired a story about the SCSO in its "Viewfinder" series. They are planning to run that story nationally in the near future, but it can be viewed now by going to our website at [sacramentochoral.com](http://sacramentochoral.com).

We have made several CDs for sale. One is a two-disc volume "European Horizons" of the European concerts, recorded live in the Liszt Academy in Budapest in 2004. Another is "Eternal Light," a live recording of the concert at Disney Concert Hall in 2008. "Carmina Burana" was recorded live at the Mondavi Center in 2010, and the "Verdi Requiem," also recorded live at the Mondavi Center in 2011. If anyone is interested, copies of all of these are available through our website, shown above.

The chorus has 180 members and the orchestra is usually about 65, depending on the instrumentation required for the presentation. In addition, concerts usually involve four soloists. The resulting performance is always a dynamic event and it is a real honor and pleasure to be a part of it.

## **WRD RETIREE VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION**

### **CHESS FOR CHILDREN**

**By John J. Musser, retired 1989**

**“Chess, like love, like music, has the power to make men happy.” Siegbert Tarrasch, Grandmaster**

Chess is certainly an enjoyable game played by millions of people of all ages throughout the world. To some, it is more than a game; it is an intellectual exercise that tests one's power to reason, to analyze situations, and solve the problems. To become a good player requires patience and the ability to plan in stressful situations -- useful skills for adults and children. Chess should be taught in an orderly manner, preferably by a player who knows how to analyze chess positions and can give sound instruction. Several stages in my chess career helped me:

1). I learned to play chess in 1947 as a teenager and taught many of my friends to play. I eventually joined the local chess club and in 1949, at age 16, did moderately well in the Pennsylvania State Chess Championships.

2). In the 70s after transferring to Baton Rouge, I joined the local club and began playing serious tournament chess regularly. This led to being involved in organizing and directing chess tournaments throughout Louisiana. I eventually earned the title “Regional Tournament Director” of the U.S. Chess Federation.

3). After retiring from WRD in 1989, chess became my main hobby. I became more active in the Baton Rouge Chess Club, played in numerous matches and tournaments, and won various titles.

In 1996, the Director of the Baton Rouge Public Libraries asked the Baton Rouge Chess Club to develop a chess program for children, with instruction, games, and tournaments to be held in selected library branches. He had learned of a similar program for inner city children in Philadelphia, PA. A few members of our chess club agreed to be involved. These members developed a lesson plan with problem exercises and our joint program with the library began with lessons in the summer of 1996, and is still going strong in 2011. Members teach as library volunteers on selected Saturday mornings. The lessons are free and are aimed at beginners and intermediate players. Informal tournaments are held at various times through the year, with small prizes for the winners. The library program is very popular and attendance has been stable. The average age of the students is 9 and we teach boys and girls of many races. We have sponsored over 80 scholastic tournaments at the libraries since 1996. We have taught several thousand children to play chess.

The success of the library program led many school teachers to ask good chess players to come to their school and/or help to organize a chess club. A few players have tried to help the schools in various ways, but the requests became overwhelming. Our club developed a standard response to turn down a request – that we support a library program that is open to all schools and we are not capable of helping each individual school. Nevertheless, I have responded to some calls for help. In 1999, teachers at an elementary school invited (begged) me to come on a Friday afternoon and play chess with “a few students.” When I arrived there were 40 students (mostly 5<sup>th</sup> graders) with chess sets who wanted to play. So, I played them all, simultaneously, at long tables in the cafeteria – 40 boards at once, going round and round and making moves. It took over 2 hours. They wanted to play more but the school buses had arrived and we had to stop. In 2001, teachers from various schools wanted to hold a city-wide chess tournament for grades K-8. Of course, they needed someone to organize this event so I volunteered. We had over 100 students from more than 10 schools that competed. The events were held in a large conference room at a mall and we had many spectators and happy players. In 2000, teachers from Middle Schools were receiving requests from former library students to start chess clubs as part of their “enrichment activity.” So, I became involved in organizing some school clubs and regularly have gone to Middle Schools to teach players. Starting in 2009, teachers and I organized an annual trophy tournament for Middle School students and I direct these events involving about 8 clubs.

My reward to all this effort came in 2009 when the Mayor and School Board presented me with the “Golden Apple,” a plaque given to those who have made significant volunteer efforts. It is rewarding to have introduced so many children to this wonderful game!

## LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

The Kansas retirees meet every other month. Jess McNellis keeps this group going. Shown below are the KS retirees who attended their July 12 meeting in Lawrence.



L to R: Seated: Fran McNellis, Caroline Signor and Janet Craig. Standing: Jack Kume, Tom Huntzinger, Butch Lacock, Jesse McNellis, Don Signor, Jim Craig and Lloyd Stulken.

WRD Retirees played a major role in the creation of the GD and TD retiree organizations. These 3 groups held a joint meeting at USGS in Reston September 10, 1990 – a photo of this historic meeting is shown below. Only the names of the WRD Retirees are shown, the other retirees are simply identified by the Division they retired from. Thirteen of the WRD retirees shown are still active – congratulations! Photo courtesy of Hal Langford.



L to R: Front Row: GD, GD, TD, TD, TD, TD, TD, TD, GD, TD, Hal Langford, GD, TD, Porter Ward, Sy Subitsky, Charlie Riggs, GD, Ed Kennedy. 2<sup>nd</sup> Row: TD, TD, TD, Bob Schneider, Clayton Hardison, TD, TD, TD, Finch White, Cavis Ham, George Edelen, Sumner Heidel, Joe Cragwall, Walt Durum, TD, George Ferguson. 3<sup>rd</sup> Row: Bob Beall, TD, TD, Ray Abrams, Frank Flynn, Bud Bettendorf, John Kammerer, Milt Hackett, GD, GD, Bill Schaefer, GD, GD, GD. Back Row: TD, TD, TD, TD, Charles Morgan, John Rapp, Bill Schneider, GD, GD, Gerry Meyer, Fritz Kilpatrick, Jim Hackett.

## LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

The Ohio WRD Retirees continue to meet regularly. Below are those who attended their June meeting in Columbus. Everyone looks happy! Isn't retirement wonderful?



L to R: Standing: Dick Swisshelm, Joyce McClure, Sandy Beck, Paul McClure, Jane Hinterschied, Janet Welday, Bernie Sroka and Jeff deRoche. Al Sedam is seated.

The Indiana WRD retirees shown at their May meeting. These folks have a great time at their gatherings. Sharon and Rick Goss have been a driving force for this group.



L to R: Jerry Davis, Jim Stewart, Dave Cohen, Rick Goss, Sharon Goss, Gene Hammil, and Lee Watson.

## LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

The HQ WRD Retirees meet monthly from September through May. The following photo shows attendees at the May 2011 lunch meeting at Amphora Restaurant, Hendon, VA. Andy Anderson coordinates with the restaurant and Dick Engberg arranges the speakers.



L to R: Seated: Mary Anderson, Betty Rapp, Delpha Williams, Donna Pendleton, Eileen Smith, Fritz Kilpatrick, John Rapp, Anna Lennox, Lora Schneider, Bob Schneider. 2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Jim Biesecker, Linda Shanton, Hal Langford, Jack Pickering, Frank Smith, Shirley Boning, Ken Lanfear, Mary Condes, Al Condes, Vince Lai, Joan Ferguson. Back Row: John Shanton, Andy Anderson. Bill Mann, Jaye Lunsford, Bill Boning, Celso Puente, MaryJo Baedecker.

John Yee helps keep the Hawaii WRD retirees active and having lots of fun. The photo below shows attendees at the May Honolulu meeting. Harold Sexton is their oldest member and at 93 still drives himself to the functions.



L to R: Seated: Pearl Tam, Amy Watanabe, Harold Sexton, Kathy Wong, Violet Ansai. Standing: George Dayag, Bill Souza, Ben Shimizu, Salwyn Chinn, Frank Romualdo, Reuben Lee, John Yee.

## **WRD NEWS**

### **Recent Retirees**

**Note to all WRD Retirees: Recent retirees automatically become new members. Please treat these new members as old friends -- welcome them aboard and invite them to local meetings. Call them and ask them to become active members in our wonderful organization. Treat them like you would want to be treated!**

#### **Northeastern Region:**

Donna M. Ayers, Secretary, 1610 E. Oaks Road, N., Urbana, IL 61802 – 07/01/2011  
Anthony A. Cannarsa, Admin. Officer, 5 Chocorua Lane, Merrimack, NH 03054, 603-429-2094 – 06/03/2011  
Eleanor J. Carter, Admin. Asst., P.O. Box 546, Grayling, MI 49738, 989-344-9063 – 06/30/2011  
Walter D. Jones III, Hydro. Tech., 44 Beaumont Place, Westampton, NJ 08060, 609-267-9098 – 05/03/2011  
James R. Nicholas, Hydrologist, 2613 Hagadorn, Mason, MI 48854, 517-337-2689 – 06/03/2011  
Dennis L. Wagner, Admin. Asst., 3429 N. Larch Street, Lansing, MI 48906, 517-485-1142 – 06/30/2011  
Timothy D. Wallbridge, Bio Lab Tech., 1853 Black Rock Road, King Ferry, NY 13081, 315-364-3581 – 04/01/2011  
Richard L. Young, Hydro. Tech., 7919 Lake Shore Drive, Richmond, VA 23235, 804-272-0989 – 07/01/2011

#### **Southeastern Region:**

Beverly R. Rowley, Admin Asst., 3038 Bell Grove Road, Tallahassee, FL 32308, 850-422-2151 – 06/03/2011  
Stewart A. Tomlinson, Hydrologist, P.O. Box 10914, Tallahassee, FL 32302, 850-402-0664 – 06/03/2011

#### **Central Region:**

Laurel A. Cottengaim, Hydro. Tech., 1205 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Bismarck, ND 58501, 701-255-7705 – 05/03/2011  
John G. Elliott, Hydrologist, 9760 W. 20<sup>th</sup> Ave., Lakewood, CO 80215 – 07/01/2011  
Royce E. Johnson, Hydro. Tech., 14204 E. 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, Tulsa, OK 74134, 918-438-1954 – 05/03/2011  
Jose A. Martinez, Facilities Coordinator, 1780 S. Emerson, Denver, CO 80210, 303-777-3208 – 06/30/2011  
J. Dungan Smith, Hydrologist, 6532 Flagstaff Road, Boulder, CO 80302 – 04/30/2011  
Joyce B. Wolff, Financial Spec., 11691 W. Prentice Place, Lakewood, CO 80127, 303-948-5446 – 04/30/2011

#### **Western Region:**

Gil Ambats, Chemist, 468 Sierra Vista Ave., Unit 6, Mountain View, CA 94043, 650-938-2677 – 04/30/2011  
Robert J. Hemauer, Hydro. Tech., P.O. Box 60881 Phoenix, AZ 85082, 520-791-3300 – 06/24/2011  
Karen B. Hennequin, Hydro. Asst., 13368 Torrey Meadows, Apt. #28, San Diego, CA 92129, 858-484-8545 – 04/09/2011  
Charles D. Hunt, Jr., Hydrologist, 700 Richards St Apt 1707, Honolulu, HI 96813-4619, 808-922-7028 – 07/01/2011  
Alice Kay Lehmann, Hydro. Tech., 1141 Camelot Drive, Boise, ID 83704, 208-375-8431 – 07/01/2011  
Douglas K. Maurer, Hydrologist, 1919 Carriage Crest, Carson City, NV 89706, 775-883-5127 – 07/01/2011  
David M. Sparks, Hydro. Tech., 4100 Sesame Street, Sacramento, CA 95821, 916-481-6079 – 04/30/2011

#### **Headquarters:**

Stephen E. Blanchard, Surface Water Chief, 511 Cindy Court, Sterling, VA 20164, 703-430-4480 – 06/03/2011

### **New Members**

**In addition to recent retirees listed above, we also have 5 other new members. Please email them, call them and invite these folks to be active. Thanks! The number in ( ) after the name is the year the person retired from the USGS. A (W) indicates the member is the widow of a retiree.**

Eccles, Larry ( ) 10624 S Eastern Ave, Ste A-212, Henderson, NV 89052, 702-373-3315  
D'Angelo, Irma (10) 7520 W Cosmic Sky Dr, Tucson, AZ 85743, 520-579-1751, joejoaz@comcast.net  
Otto, Kim (11) 53 N Crescent St, Tremont, PA 17981, kimotto@yahoo.com  
Russell, Gary M (04) (Susan) 2405 Tour Edition Dr, Henderson, NV 89074, 702-896-1083  
Stevens, Rhoda (W) 303 Edwin Ln, Vienna, VA 22180, 793-281-9679, pandrsteve@aol.com

## WRD NEWS

What's New in Research, by Jerad Bales, Chief Scientist, Water Resources

### 2011 Spring and Summer Flooding in the U.S.

As I write this, most of the Missouri River remains above flood stage and many rivers in the West remain at extremely high levels for this time of year (fig.10). The Missouri River flooding follows months of high water in the Mississippi River and tributaries. USGS scientist played a key role in helping the Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, National Weather Service, FEMA, and local authorities respond to these floods. With the advent of new technology, our scientists have been able to make discharge measurements quickly under conditions that were virtually impossible 10 years ago.

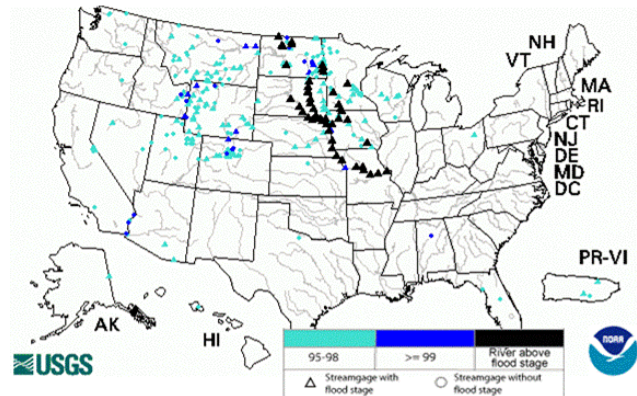


Figure 1. Above normal streamflow, Thursday July 21, 2011



Figure 2. Discharge measurement on Souris River, ND made using towed current meter (arrow)

For example, the Souris River in North Dakota was quickly measured by towing an acoustic Doppler current profiler across the channel (fig. 2).

USGS made numerous discharge measurements around the Birds Point levee breach on the Mississippi River, including along sections that were several miles long. Water levels within the floodway also were measured (fig. 3), providing a unique data set on the progression of the flood wave following the levee breach, a situation analogous to a dam failure. National Research Program scientists, working in collaboration with the Office of Surface Water, are testing a multi-dimensional flow model to determine if we can accurately simulate the flows in the floodway. Water-quality samples also

were collected at multiple locations along the Mississippi River. Please visit the USGS Flood pages to learn more about the streamflow

(<http://water.usgs.gov/osw/floods/2011/index.html>)

and water-quality

(<http://water.usgs.gov/owq/MRB-2011/>)

activities during this extraordinary season of flooding.

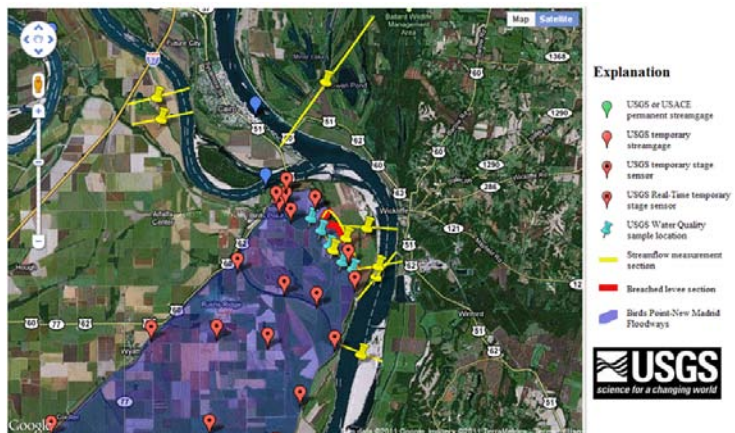


Figure 3. Data collection near the head of the Birds Point floodway April – May, 2011

## **Record Discharge Measurements Made in 2011**

**By Tom Yorke, retired 2001**

In WRD Retirees Newsletter 134, Bill Schaefer, Hugh Hudson, and Ken Darmer laid claim to making the maximum discharge measurements on the Mississippi River and presumably in the United States. Schaefer discussed using a 300-pound sounding weight to measure 1.2 million cfs on the Mississippi River at Memphis, Tennessee, in 1941. Hudson helped measure 1,876,000 cfs on the Mississippi River at Vicksburg, Mississippi, in 1950; and Darmer measured 1,944,000 cfs at Vicksburg in 1943. The record flooding on the Mississippi River this year enabled the young men and women that run the river today to shatter the record of Darmer. Hydrologic Technicians Steven B. Franks and J. Tyler Mays, from the Little Rock Field Office, measured 2.5 million cfs on May 13 on the Mississippi River near Arkansas City, Arkansas.

The measurement by Franks and Mays was just one of many measurements made on big rivers in the Missouri, Upper Mississippi, and Lower Mississippi Rivers in 2011. There were 32 measurements that were 2 million cfs or greater, 35 measurements between 1 million and 1,999,000 cfs, and 44 measurements between 500,000 and 999,000 cfs. The measurements that exceeded 2 million cfs were made on the Mississippi River. They were made at Helena, Arkansas on May 11 and 12, near Arkansas City on May 13 and 14, at Vicksburg on May 10 to 25, and at Natchez, Mississippi on May 20 to 23.

There were a total of 48 measurements that exceeded 1 million cfs made at Vicksburg, which is one of the control points for decision-making models used by the Corps of Engineers (COE). The COE and its contractors made 37 of these measurements. USGS personnel made 11 measurements, including the maximum discharges of 2,320,000 cfs on May 17 and 19. The accuracy of these measurements was critical for enabling the COE to make the best informed decisions about opening the Old River Control Structure and Morganza Spillway to discharge part of the Mississippi River floodwaters through the Atchafalaya River to Morgan City, Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico. The record measurements for the Mississippi River at Vicksburg on May 17 and 19 were made by Michael Runner and James Alvis and Robert Moss and Jared Wright, respectively, from the Mississippi Water Science Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Of course there is a big difference between how Schaefer, Hudson and Darmer measured the Big Muddy and how it is measured today. The hydrographers from the 40s and 50s used current meters suspended from truck-mounted cranes with monstrous sounding weights. Darmer stated, "I was always concerned as to the accuracy of our high-flow measurements. It was disconcerting to look downstream past the railway part of the bridge and see our sounding cable enter the water "way down there!!" We had to recalculate the large air corrections and at times also the wet line correction, for each velocity observation. Of course these velocities were observed far downstream from where we had recorded the depth. We often made integrated vertical velocity curves (at 0.1 depth intervals). Actually, the .2 and .8 values, as well as the .6 value were pretty close to the integrated result in most cases."

Today, the Big Muddy is measured with acoustic Doppler current profilers (ADCPs), see figure 1, deployed on a boat big enough and powerful enough to navigate the flooded Mississippi River safely. The measurements of the 40s and 50s probably were made over many hours as velocity measurements at 0.1 depths were made at 50 or more verticals. A typical ADCP measurement consists of 4 or more transects across the river, and most measurements are made within 45 to 90 minutes.

## Record Discharge Measurements Made in 2011 (cont'd)



Figure 1. A typical boat and ADCP for making discharge measurements.  
This boat is set up for suspending and testing two ADCPs.

ADCPs and acoustic Doppler velocimeters (ADV) are rapidly replacing the Price AA current meters and pygmy meters that most of us used during our streamgaging days. These instruments operate on the Doppler principle or the frequency shift that occurs when successive acoustic pulses are transmitted from and reflected back to the instrument from particles suspended in the water column. The difference in the frequency shift is proportional to the relative velocity between the instrument and the suspended particles. An ADCP can be mounted on a powerboat, a remote-controlled boat or a tethered raft deployed from a bridge or cableway. It transmits acoustic pulses and receives reflected signals from 3 beams. An ADP is mounted to a wading rod, and it transmits a single beam and has three probes for receiving the reflected signals. The output of the ADCPs provides a continuous recording of depth and velocity profile as the boat or raft traverses the river. An ADV provides a single velocity observation at the point it is suspended in the water column during a mid-section measurement.

The six individuals that made the record measurements near Arkansas City and at Vicksburg are typical of the dedicated corps of hydrologists and technicians that maintain the water data program of the USGS today. Steven Franks is a mid-career hydrologic technician, Tyler Mays is an entry-level technician, Michael Runner is a Supervisory Hydrologist, James Alvis is a senior-level technician, and Robert Moss and Jared Wright are mid-career technicians. Collectively, they have many years of education and service with the USGS. More importantly, they all have been trained and have experience in the use of hydroacoustic equipment and related software for measuring discharge in streams and large rivers.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Frances Marie Keiffer Agnew**, 88, of Corvallis, OR, passed away October 26, 2010. Frances was born May 7, 1922, in Cleveland, OH, and attended Ohio Wesleyan University and then spent time at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. She sang at Carnegie Hall and gave oratorio recitals, directed and sang in various church choirs, and taught voice and piano lessons. She and Allen were married September 5, 1946 -- she began her married life sleeping on U.S. Army cots in Death Valley as her husband made a geologic map. They had four children and lived in AL, WI, SD, IN and WA. After the children left home, Frances and Allen spent 10 years in the Washington, DC area before retiring to Corvallis to be close to their family. Frances is survived by her husband of 64 years, Allen; two daughters, Leslie Seitz and Heather Van Dyne; and two sons, Larry and Allen. She also leaves behind 11 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

**Richard L. Barnell** died August 26, 2008, in Rockport, TX, at age 81. Born in North Platte, NE, he attended the University of Nebraska from 1948-51. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, he began his USGS career with WRD in 1951 as a Physical Science Aid in the Lincoln GW office. He earned the title of Hydraulic Engineer in 1953 and transferred to the Salt Lake City GW office, to Denver in 1955, and eventually Huron in 1956. Richard retired from WRD in 1962 and moved to Rockport, TX, in 1987. He was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Marie Barnell.

**Margaret W. "Peggy" Barr** of Wesley Chapel, FL, passed away peacefully, May 18, 2011, at age 63. Peggy was the wife of WRD retiree Lynn Barr who has served at the Region Director for SR. Peggy was born February 10, 1948 in Paramus, NJ. Her family moved to Tampa in 1958 where in 1966 she graduated from Chamberlain HS. She served the Tampa-Hillsborough Co. Library as a Library Assistant for 30 years. Peggy was an officer of the Lexington Oaks Women's Club, Wesley Chapel. She was an accomplished artist and calligrapher. Her hobbies included writing, oil painting, and traveling. Peggy is survived by her loving and devoted husband, Gerald Lynn Barr.

**Peggy H. Baskin**, wife of WRD retiree C.R. Baskin, died March 8, 2011, in Elgin, SC, at age 77. Born in Baton Rouge she had a love of life and enjoyed traveling, gardening, cooking, and sewing. She was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church. Her husband joined USGS after retiring from the Texas Water Development Board, serving as an information specialist in the Information Systems Division. C.R. retired in 1992 and he and Peggy moved to NC and eventually SC. Peggy is survived by her husband; son, Richard; daughter, Sheila Kelly and 5 grandchildren.

**Stanley Alden "Stan" Druse**, age 72, died on June 24, 2011. Stan was born in Cambridge, NE, March 23, 1939. He graduated from The University of Nebraska at Kearney with a BS in Math and Education. He married Shirley Jean Ziegler December 23, 1960 and they raised 4 children together living in Cheyenne and Worland, WY and Salina, KS. Stan worked for a few years as a teacher, but then went on to study engineering and became a Professional Engineer. Stan was a hydrologist for the USGS for 31 years and also worked as a consultant. Stan and Shirley retired to Yuma in 2001 and spent time traveling. He was an active member of St. John Neumann Catholic Church. Stan enjoyed the outdoors, traveling, fishing, and spending time with family. Stan is survived by his wife, Shirley Druse, and four children: Kim Shirk, Todd Druse, Janna Mydland, and Ty Druse; 9 grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren.

**James E. "Jim" Johnson** of Coon Rapids, MN, passed away on May 4, 2011. Jim's career with the USGS was from 1942 to 1974, beginning as a hydrologic technician in St. Paul. In 1964, he started the field office in Grand Rapids, MN, where he retired. A chance inquiry when Jim first went to Grand Rapids turned into an opportunity to buy a beautiful 100-acre farm on the Mississippi River, which became the family home for 30 years. Jim was active helping people and serving -- always active in his church and often involved in charitable works. Jim had a beautiful tenor voice and sang in the church choir and at family celebrations. He was a longtime member of the Blandin Arion Male Chorus in Grand Rapids. While living in Grand Rapids, he served on the Itasca County Fair Board. Jim was born on November 18, 1913, in Chicago and moved to the Twin Cities shortly after. He graduated from DeLaSalle High School in Minneapolis. He attended the University of Minnesota, where his interests in engineering were stirred. For a city boy, he had a strong interest in farming -- he raised horses and cattle and grew vegetables and fruit using organic techniques. Jim lived to be 97 and was still sharp as a tack, but his body simply wore out. He was preceded in death by Ruth, his beloved wife of 62 years. He is survived by 4 children: Kathrynne, Margaret, Lucy and Gerard; grandchildren; and great grandchildren.

**Carolyn Elizabeth Lamb** passed away March 26, 2011 in Jacksonville Beach, FL, following a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. She was 72. Carolyn was the wife of WRD retiree Terry Lamb. A native of Fort Smith, AR, Carolyn graduated from the University of Arkansas with a BS in Education. She taught school for many years, was a poet, loved tennis, and was an avid bridge player who made many friends playing bridge. Terry served WRD beginning in Ft. Smith, AR, as an Engineering Aid in 1960 and after returning to college earned his BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Arkansas and in 1968 he was converted to a Civil Engineer in the Arkansas District. He served as the NR SW specialist at the time of his retirement in 1996. He and Carolyn then moved to Florida to be near family. Carolyn is survived by Terry; daughters, Valerie Merrill and Vicki Kelley; and 5 grandsons.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Steven A. Martin**, 58, passed away April 28, 2011. A native of Elmira, NY, he was a student at both Elmira College and Metro State College, Denver. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served from 1973-76 and later was a guard with the GSA Federal Protective Service from 1982-93. Steve then joined the SW Branch in Denver as a Supply Technician, retiring in 2010. Steven is preceded in death by twin daughters Sophia & Sonja. He is survived by his loving wife of 25 years, Roberta and daughters, Alicia & Erica. His burial was at Ft. Logan National Cemetery with military honors.

**Betty McIntire** passed away June 16, 2011, at age 88. Betty was a long-time employee of the USGS in Alaska, retiring in 1985. Betty was a native Australian who moved to the U.S. after WWII. She began working for the SW Branch in Palmer in the 1957 as a Clerk. In 1966, the Palmer office moved to Anchorage and Betty moved to the Administrative Division, which supported all USGS divisions; not only supporting the personnel stationed in Alaska but in addition the many scientists and cartographers who spent their summer field seasons there. She quickly moved up to be the Administrative Officer for the USGS in Alaska. Betty is survived by a daughter, Jackie McIntire.

**James Austin "Jim" Nickles** died January 28, 2011, at age 56, of prostate cancer. Jim was born in Sacramento and was a graduate of Encina High School and the University of California at Berkeley. Jim worked as a newspaper reporter after graduation, specializing in science and environmental issues, including 13 years at the Stockton Record, where he served as the water and environment editor. He then took a public affairs position with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In 2007 he joined the USGS as a Public Affairs Specialist with the California Water Science Center, retiring in 2011. At the Center, Jim coupled his exhaustive communications expertise with a genuine love of helping USGS scientists convey their stories. He loved words and translating complex science into understandable prose. He enjoyed hiking, skiing, and fishing in the Sierra Nevada as well as biking and tennis. Jim faced a multi-year battle with cancer with an amazing combination of strength, courage, and grace. Jim is survived by his wife Cindy Bundock Nickles.

**Richard "Dick" Orth** passed away on July 21, 2008, at age 91. A native of Plymouth, NE, Dick received a BS in Chemistry from the University of Nebraska. He was a WW II veteran serving in Burma and India. He helped the locals purify their drinking water during his military service. His first assignment with WRD was as a Chemist in the QW office in Lincoln in 1948. Dick also served as a Chemist in the Rapid City and Sacramento labs before moving to his final WRD office in Oklahoma City in 1959. He retired in 1974 and was well known as a QW specialist who wrote reports about the quality of water in Oklahoma. Dick was an avid photographer specializing in outdoor scenes, loved to read and work in his yard and in earlier years was a fisherman. His wife, Doris passed away February 28, 2010. Dick is survived by a son, Steve and two daughters, Diane Orth and Jeanette Johansen.

**Avery W. Rogers** passed away on June 14, 2011, at age 86. Survivors include his wife, Irene; daughters, Lynn Rogers, Diane Greenwood, Whitney Callaway and stepdaughter Naomi Silva; stepson Saul Jimenez; and 9 grandchildren. A native Californian, Avery was born November 8, 1924, in Paso Robles. After graduation from Berkeley High School in 1943, he served in the U.S. Army in WW II, primarily in the South Pacific. After his discharge, he enrolled at the University of California at Berkeley and received a BS in Business Administration. After graduation, he began his 37-year career with the USGS, starting with WRD and then spending 25 years as the Management Officer of the Western Region in Menlo Park. He was a longtime member of the Federal Executive Board and WRD Retirees. Always ready with a story, Avery retained the humorous behind-the-scenes chronicles of establishing USGS as the go-to and get-done place. In 1981, he married Irene and after retiring from the USGS in 1986, they traveled throughout the world. Avery was an avid golfer. He and Irene loved to play golf together and with friends. Avery was a long-time member of the Elks Club, the Free Masons and the Shriners.

**Peter "Pete" Stevens**, age 87, died June 20, 2011, at his home in Vienna, VA. He is survived by his wife, Rhoda; sons, Curtis and Scott; and two grandchildren. He graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 1951. He began his 42-year USGS career as a Geologist with the GW Branch in AZ mapping the Navajo Reservation. He also served in Boise, Austin, and Bay St. Louis. He contributed to the studies of the salt contamination of the Brazos River, contamination of the Louisiana Delta, and nuclear waste management. He retired in 1993 and joined the Vienna Host Lions Club and was their King Lion for one term. He worked with his wife on a support group for the Nathaniel Library Service for the Vision Impaired in Vienna, ushered at Wolf Trap Theater for 13 years, and was a Boy Scout leader in Austin. He thought of life as an adventure.

**Leonard Fairfield "Len" Tunnell** of Tacoma passed away on May 17, 2011. Len was born on February 1, 1933, in Clovis, NM. He served as an Electronics Technician in the Washington District from 1972-90. He is survived by his daughters, Cathy Harrison and Yvonne Tunnell; his life partner of past 15 years, Anita Griggs and her children, Helen Stophel, Tom, Arnold, Sylvia, and Robert Griggs; 7 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. Leonard retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1972 and the USGS in 1990. Len was an active member and past Worthy President of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie No. 3 of Tacoma since 1995. An avid bowler, Len had been in many leagues.

## AT TIMES OUR ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAN BE STRANGE AND DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND!

Author unknown

Let's face it, English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square, and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it? How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which an alarm goes off by going on.

Consider the following:

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present his present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- 11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- 13) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- 15) A seamstress and a sewer fell into the sewer.
- 16) The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
- 17) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
- 18) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- 19) How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?
- 20) I did not object to the object.

**AT TIMES OUR ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAN BE STRANGE AND DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND!**  
**(Cont'd)**

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane! In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell?

English was invented by people not computers and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why when the stars are out they are visible but when the lights are out they are invisible.

There is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that is up. It's easy to understand up, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake up? At a meeting, why does a topic come up? Why do we speak up and why are the officers up for election and why is it up to the secretary to write up a report?

We call up our friends. And, we use it to brighten up a room, polish up the silverware; we warm up the leftovers and clean up the kitchen. We lock up the house and some guys fix up the old car. At other times the little two-letter word has real special meaning. People stir up trouble, line up for tickets, work up an appetite, and think up excuses. To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed up is special.

And this up is confusing: A drain must be opened up because it is stopped up. We open up a store in the morning but we close it up at night. We seem to be pretty mixed up about up! To be knowledgeable about proper uses of up, look the word up in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary it takes up almost 25% of the page and can add up to about 30 definitions. If you are up to it, you might try building up a list of the many ways up is used. It will take up a lot of your time, but if you don't give up, you may wind up with a hundred or more.

One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it up for now as my time is up so – it is time to shut up!

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## TREASURER'S REPORT, SECOND QUARTER 2011

Treasurer Celso Puentes reports that the organization had \$23,832.05 in its treasury at the end of the second quarter for calendar year 2011. Receipts for the quarter were \$1,625.13 from dues and contributions from 33 members. Distributions for the quarter were \$4,370.44, which included costs associated with the 2012 WRD Retirees Reunion in Boise, Idaho, and the printing of the Retirees Directory and the quarterly Newsletter. During the quarter, a total of \$67.00 in contributions was received from 5 members. Special thanks for contributions above dues go to: Arnold I. Boettcher, Milt Hackett, Fred Ruggles, Clarence "Andy" Anderson, and Kenneth Markham.