

# USGS RETIREES

NEWSLETTER No. 196

August 2022

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have lost another USGS icon. Russell Hal Langford, 96, passed away on May 26, 2022, in Springfield, Virginia. Hal was born in 1925 in North Platte, Nebraska. After graduating from high school in 1943 in North Platte, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy at the Air Station in Hutchinson, Kansas and was commissioned as an Ensign in June 1946 after completing his NROTC training at Rice University. He served in the Pacific and after he was honorably discharged in May 1947, enrolled at The University of Nebraska, Lincoln. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1949, he accepted a full-time position with the USGS investigating the water resources of the eight-state Missouri River Basin and of Northern Minnesota. After 10 years he was transferred to Washington, DC Headquarters as Staff Assistant to the Director. In 1961, he was assigned as District Chemist in Salt Lake City, Utah where he was responsible for water quality and fluvial sediment investigations in Utah, Colorado, and Southwestern Wyoming. In 1966 he returned to Headquarters as Assistant Chief of the Office of Water Data Coordination and became the Chief in 1968. He was promoted to Associate Chief Hydrologist in 1980. Hal authored or co-authored over 40 technical reports many of which were in the Water Supply Series. He received the Department of Interior Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Awards in 1976 and 1980, respectively. After retirement, Hal enjoyed time with his family, fishing, hunting, and bird watching. He was active in many clubs, including fishing, cribbage, and computer. Hal attended many of the Retiree Reunions and he will be missed by all.

The 2023 Biennial Reunion will be held March 9-11 in Tucson, Arizona. We have a signed agreement with the Marriott Tucson University Park Hotel for a room rate of \$155 per night (including taxes and fees). The University Marriott is at 880 E. Second Street and the phone number is (520) 792-4100. Mention the USGS Reunion when making your reservation to make sure you get the contract room rate. Please make your room reservations as soon as possible after September 1, 2022 to help with the head count. The Marriott Hotel will accept room reservations with no fees and free cancellation. The registration form to attend the reunion, to sign-up for the tours, and the banquet can be found on page 5.

Our 2023 Reunion will include celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the USGS Retirees' Association! The next several newsletters will each have articles pertaining to the anniversary.

There are two other articles of note: (1) recruitment for the Quarterly Newsletter Layout Editor on page 6; and (2) the year-to-date total of the Hydrologic Technician Scholarship awards on page 7.

I wish everyone an enjoyable summer,

Bill

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# USGS Retirees' Reunion

Reserve the dates  
March 9-11, 2023 in

# TUCSON, ARIZONA

Take a break from the cold, clouds, and snow of next winter to join your friends and former colleagues in the sun, warmth (avg. high of 78° F), culture, and beauty of Tucson and Southern Arizona! Celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Retirees Association! For the March 2023 Reunion, we have a signed agreement with the Marriott Tucson University Park Hotel for a daily room rate of about \$155 (including tax and fees). The Marriott Hotel is adjacent to the University of Arizona and close to shopping, dining, and entertainment at Main Gate Square. The hotel also is a quick light-rail ride to down-town Tucson; an easy drive to Saguaro National Park East and West; and close to USGS offices on campus, hiking trails, golf courses, museums, and birding sites. If you're interested in extending your stay, the hotel agreement includes holding the reunion room rate for three nights prior to and after the reunion dates. We hope to see you in person in Tucson!

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/tusmp-tucson-marriott-university-park/>



*Conde Nast Traveler (May 2021) named Tucson as one of its Where to Travel Next: Hot list 2021 destinations. "Most come to Tucson for its miles of hiking trails under year-round sunny skies, but it's also worth visiting its food industry. The city is the first place in the U.S. recognized by UNESCO for its gastronomy, and it's easier than ever to seek out its Mexican and Native American heritage."*

*Stephanie Wu (2021, Conde Nast)*

**NOTE:** For those concerned about the ongoing COVID19 pandemic and what measures both the hotel and City of Tucson have implemented - you can either click on the link below or type in the reunion webpage which contains the web addresses for both the hotel and the City of Tucson. [What to Expect in the Age of COVID-19 | Tucson Marriott University Park](#) or [COVID-19 UPDATES | Official website of the City of Tucson \(tucsonaz.gov\)](#)

**SIGN-UP FOR LONG-OVERDUE REUNION**  
**University Marriott**  
**880 E. Second Street**  
**(520) 792-4100 (Mention USGS Reunion)**  
**Room rate is \$155/night including taxes and fees.**  
**Hotel Reservations open September 1, 2022**

**NOTE:**

- The Registration Form does not include the Hotel Room Reservation.**
- Hotel offers Reunion block rate 3 days before and after Reunion if you desire to extend your stay.**
- No cost for hotel reservation and canceling.**

**Highlights of Tucson Area**  
**Friday March 10, 2023 (11:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)**

The easiest way to see and experience the uniqueness of the Tucson area is a bus tour with multiple stops at some unique places. Buses will pick us up at the Hotel for a departure at 11:30 a.m. on Friday with an option to buy a box lunch. Some sites are under negotiation, others still closed due Covid, but a great tour is promised. Some examples are:

San Xavier Mission established in 1692 and completed in 1797. It is the oldest intact European structure in Arizona. <https://www.sanxaviermission.org/>



The **309<sup>th</sup> Aerospace and Maintenance and Regeneration Group** often called the Boneyard, is a United States Air Force aircraft and missile storage and maintenance facility located on Davis–Monthan Air Force Base. Established after World War II, the AMARG manages 4,000 aircraft-- the largest-aircraft storage facility in the world. Many unique aircraft are found here.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/309th\\_Aerospace\\_Maintenance\\_and\\_Regeneration\\_Group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/309th_Aerospace_Maintenance_and_Regeneration_Group)

The Gem and Mineral show in Tucson will be over by the time of our reunion but the University of Arizona has opened a new Gem and Mineral Museum in the old Pima County Courthouse with impressive specimens and a link to the mining history of the area.

<http://gemandmineralmuseum.arizona.edu>



Other possible sites, include Old Town Artisans, Saguaro NP and a demonstration of drone technology by the AZWSC, are planned with more details to follow.



## **Description of Sonoran Desert Museum Tour Saturday March 11, 2023 (8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)**

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is a 'must see' place when visiting Tucson and the Sonoran Desert. We have chartered 2 buses that will pick us up at the Hotel on Saturday morning and deliver us to the facility which is about 23 miles west of the University campus. Primarily outdoors and comprised of a zoo with mostly native desert species, an extensive botanical garden, two art galleries, and a natural history museum. The Desert Museum sits on 98-acres of pristine desert landscape. The Museum showcases the diverse flora and fauna of the Sonoran Desert region with over 55,000 plants. Wildlife can be viewed such as coyotes, javelinas, mountain lions, and bighorn sheep in naturalistic habitats. Bird lovers delight in visiting the Museum's two aviaries, one dedicated to hummingbirds. The Museum's gift shops offer an incredible bounty of books, jewelry, crafts, and more. Handicap accommodations are available.

<https://www.desertmuseum.org/>



### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

#### **Golf**

We want to create the opportunity for the golfers among us to take advantage of our beautiful courses Thursday afternoon or Sunday morning or both days. Rather than guessing the best event timing and format, we have time to base it on the input of those interested in participating. Tucson has a wide range of municipal and public courses available from ~\$50 per round to high-end resort courses with prices in the low triple digits. An expression of interest will result in your receiving a survey to give us your preferences in day or days, cost range, format (scramble, best ball, mixed gender foursomes just playing golf, etc.,).



Contact Bob MacNish at [macnish7@gmail.com](mailto:macnish7@gmail.com) or (520) 293-6547 **by January 1, 2023**, to express an interest and help us put together a golf experience that all will enjoy.

#### **USGS Jam session**

In addition to having world-class scientists, USGS has its share of talented musicians, who have gathered often for informal jam sessions. We would like to have an evening of music at our reunion, perhaps on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Bring your favorite acoustic instrument, and maybe sheets with lyrics and chords to share. If you can't bring an instrument, we may have a few to share.



If interested, contact Pat Tucci at [ptucci@sprintmail.com](mailto:ptucci@sprintmail.com) **by February 15, 2023**, so that we can arrange space. Hope to hear you there!

**REGISTRATION FORM -- 20TH USGS RETIREES' REUNION 2023****Tucson, Arizona****Thursday, March 9 through Saturday, March 11, 2023**<http://wrdretirees.org/Reunions/2023Tucson/index.html>Complete this form, make check payable to **"USGS Retirees Reunion"**, and mail to:USGS Retirees Reunion c/o Sandy Williamson  
16809 Lakeside Dr. So. Spanaway WA 98387 c 253-376-8273**Note:** This Registration Form **does not** include the Hotel Room Reservation. Encourage you to call early the University Marriott directly at: (520) 792-4100, **mention USGS Reunion**. Hotel offers Reunion block rate 3 days before and after Reunion if you desire to extend stay. No cost for reservation and canceling. Room rate is \$155/night including taxes and fees; **Hotel reservations open September 1, 2022.****REUNION REGISTRATION--Deadline February 1, 2023** - Refunds are available prior to the February deadline.**Print first and last name(s) as you'd like on name tag(s):**

RETIREE (1st, last): \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE (1st, last): \_\_\_\_\_

Year Retired \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_ **@ \$95 per person** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Includes Thursday evening ice-breaker reception, with drink ticket and hospitality room for the three days.

**Thursday, March 9, 2023**

Reunion check-in is 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. Hospitality Room opens at 3:00 p.m. Informal Reunion ice-breaker reception (6 pm to 9 pm). The Hospitality Room will be closed during the reception and subsequently reopened.

**TOURS: (One Friday and one Saturday)** capacities are limited and filled based on date of registration. Refunds will be given for applications received after maximum capacities have been reached:**Highlights of Tucson Area Bus Tour , Friday (11:30 am - 5:00 pm) March 10, 2023:**

(Maximum Capacity 100)

Number for tour: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$65 /person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Optional Box lunch \$15

Number for lunch: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15 /person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Saturday (8:30 am to 1:00 pm) March 11, 2023:** <https://desertmuseum.org>

Tour includes transportation, museum entrance fee, and refreshment. (Maximum Capacity 100).

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$50 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Banquet, Saturday (6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) March 11, 2023:**

Banquet in Ballroom in hotel. The Hospitality Room will be closed during the banquet and subsequently reopened. Choose from entree's below. NOTE: Dinners are served with house salad, artisan bread, and chef's selection of desserts, ice tea, coffee, and assorted herbal teas

Meal Choice:	Grilled Top Sirloin	Stuffed Chicken Breast	Vegetarian	Number of meals	
Indicate Entrée Choice(s) by first name:				Number: _____ @ \$56 per person =	\$ _____
				(Price includes all taxes, tip, 1 drink ticket)	
<b>Total cost:</b>					<b>\$ _____</b>

**Questions?** [markandersonwater@gmail.com](mailto:markandersonwater@gmail.com) [sandeb2@gmail.com](mailto:sandeb2@gmail.com) [ptucci@sprintmail.com](mailto:ptucci@sprintmail.com)

## **Help needed in preparing the USGS Retirees' Association quarterly Newsletter**

Your Layout Editor for the Newsletter, Merilee Bennett, has decided to step down. In her words, "*After 10 years and 40 newsletters it is time for me to move on and concentrate on my retirement.*" She has done an outstanding volunteer effort on behalf of this Association. Please join me in thanking and congratulating her. She has agreed to offer a glidepath of serving in this role through the November 2022 issue and to help with orientation and training of her replacement.

So, there is now an opportunity to serve the Association through this layout editor role. Briefly, primary duties of the Layout Editor are:

- Collects draft content for each newsletter from the Association e-mail box and other authors
- Collates, pre-edits, and formats Memorial, Retirement, and news from retiree articles and forwards them to the Editor for review and edit,
- Incorporates all edits provided by the Editor and Regional Editors,
- Synthesizes a draft copy of the full newsletter. The DRAFT copy is then forward to the Editor, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Regional Editors for final review and comment,
- Incorporates final revisions into the full Newsletter with the editor as needed and works with the contractor with final printing instructions.

Merilee spends about 20 hours/quarter. Someone starting out may expect up to 30 hours/quarter. Organizational and workflow tracking skills are more important than editing and there is good team support. We hear from many members about how they value the Newsletter. Please contact me or any Officer of the Association if you are interested and have specific questions about this rewarding recreation.

Sincerely,

Jeff Stoner  
Editor, USGS Retirees' Association Newsletter  
651-808-5795

**2022 -- USGS RETIREES' SCHOLARSHIP  
HYDROLOGIC TECHNICIAN**

Below is a 2022 updated table reflecting by year the total amount of Scholarship dollars awarded, and the overall total for the Retirees' Scholarship program. The article reflecting the awardees goals and pictures will appear in the November's newsletter.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>NUMBER of AWARDEES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>REMARKS</b>
2022	6	9689	
2021	6	7403	
2020	7	7575	
2019	2	4000	
2018	5	8700	
2017	0	0	No awards were made this year
2016	3	6000	
2015	2	7000	
2014	2	8000	
2013	0	0	Summer Hiring Freeze
2012	3	10000	
2011	4	10000	
2010	2	5000	
2009	2	2500	
2008	1	1500	
2007	1	1500	
2006	1	1500	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>\$90,367</b>	

**NOTE:** A complete listing by Fiscal Year, awardee's name, amount of award, Water Science Center and the educational institution attending, can be found at: <http://wrdretirees.org/scholarships.htm> .

## RETIREMENTS

**Kim S. Crutchfield writes:** Colleagues and Friends, on Friday, July 1st, I will retire with 40+ years of Federal service. In those 40 years, I worked for four Agencies in four Departments but the 34 years I spent at USGS were the most challenging and rewarding. I have been given opportunities of which most folks would only dream, who knew that an admin. employee would be involved with hurricanes (many!), oil spills, earthquakes and much more. I even had an opportunity to shock fish for science. Embrace the opportunities that you are given, you never know where they might lead or who you might meet. I have traveled across the US and back many times and during those travels, I have enjoyed many adventures, before and after work, with my USGS family. I have always said that when it is time for me to retire, I will know it, and that time is now. Many of you know that my 92-year-old mom lives with us and my husband is having some health challenges so while my hand was forced, I feel that the time is right. I will miss you, my USGS family, but look forward to a time when our paths might cross again. My personal email is [kcrutch1002@gmail.com](mailto:kcrutch1002@gmail.com) and my cell phone number will remain the same, should you wish to keep in touch. Kindest regards,



**Suzie Grams** retired effective July 1, 2022 after 43 years of service to the USGS. That's no typo folks. 43 years! She began her career with the USGS on June 4, 1979 as a Hydrologic Field Assistant in the Georgia District Office Data Section while completing college. Her first duties were to assemble the Annual Data Report for publication and to chase clouds of Rhodamine dye along various stream reaches across the State to determine effluent time-of-travel. Once she graduated from college, she continued to work at USGS and remained in the Data Section focusing on data collection and data processing for water-quality projects. From 1987 to 2003, she was the water-quality representative and tester for the NWIS-ADAPS Technical Review Team, a group that was eventually known as SWUG (Surface Water Users' Group). From the mid-1990s to 1999, she served as the Assistant Safety Officer, then Safety Officer for the Georgia District and, also, conducted workshops on Ergonomics at other USGS offices and at DOI Safety conferences. Since 2004, Suzie has been the Project Chief of the Georgia Statewide Water-quality Monitoring Program, a long-term cooperative program with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. A history of that storied program is here <https://www2.usgs.gov/water/southatlantic/ga/projects/epd-wq/history.html>. In recognition of her impact on the USGS and the Water Mission Area, Suzie was named the 2008 Data Person of the Year by the Committee for Hydrologic Instrumentation and Data, Eastern Region (CHIDER). Since 1992, she has been the collateral-duty Furniture and Vehicle Fleet-Czarina for the offices in Georgia, duties of which magnified during several office moves in Georgia and the merger of the South Atlantic Water Science Center. Her understanding and appreciation of the importance of the accuracy and proper handling of the data and records we all collect is unparalleled. That said, we will be glad to have her return as a Volunteer for Science to help ensure SAWSC develops and maintains secure and robust records management procedures.



**Lori Weir** has retired after more than 30 years with the USGS! Lori has served the USGS in a variety of roles beginning in 1989 after graduating with a degree from Middle Tennessee State University in Office Management and Business Administration. Her roles have covered many aspects of work and responsibility in a Water Science Center, including serving in the publication's unit, working as a secretary to the District Chief, hydrologic technician, author, and working with the local USGS retirees. Most of Lori's career has been as the Site Administrator for the Lower Mississippi-Gulf Water Science Center (and formerly for the Tennessee District), a position she was selected for in the mid-1990s. She is the first to admit that there have been a lot of changes over her career in the way things are done, particularly as it relates to changes in computing and IT infrastructure. In addition, Lori has served the greater water-resources community as Chairperson for the

Tennessee Chapter of the American Water Resources Association since 1989, providing much of the leadership and organization for the annual symposium. Lori's last official day was June 30, 2022. In retirement, Lori and her husband Chris plan to travel the country and enjoy taking time to see the sights. For those that know her best, there will be plenty of time for family and friends, while never being far from a sudoku puzzle.

**-Rodney R. Knight, Director, Lower Mississippi-Gulf Water Science Center, Nashville, TN**



## NEWS OF RETIREES

**Ronnie Andreani** writes: Thanks to all who keep the Retirees' Newsletter going. Can't believe it's been 15 years since I retired. I had a part-time job working for a Food Broker supporting Costco purchasing. What an eye opener. Learned so much about food processing, packaging, and delivery. I have a new respect for small business, retail, and trucking. Gave up the job to take care of 3 grandsons and 1 granddaughter. Love being a Grandmother – spoil them and send them home! Cheers

**Pete Anttila** writes: When I had the privilege of serving as President of this great and unique Retirees Organization, I like my predecessors would repeatedly urge members to submit articles to the Newsletter on happenings in their lives. True to those requests, is the following on my highlights for the first 6 months of 2022. First, in importance, is that I remain in relatively good health. Thus far I have not been infected from COVID, thanks to being cautious and having received two each of vaccines and boosters, A PET scan revealed no trace of the esophageal cancer that I had 3 years ago. I've had successful RFA (Radio Frequency Ablation) procedures on my veins in upper and lower right leg and upper left leg, made in response to blood ejecting from my lower right leg last October. In March I drove to California to visit family and old friends. My brother John flew into Nashville on March 5 to assist in the drive to his house in La Quinta (Southern California). After a 4-day drive with good conversation, we arrived at his house where I had a most enjoyable visit with him and his wife for 5 days. Subsequently, I drove 10 hours to the San Francisco Bay area for a 2-night visit with a good friend, engineering classmate, and fraternity brother at Tufts University. On the next day we met three other Tufts fraternity brothers for lunch at a Cuban restaurant on Pier1 in San Francisco. The food was wonderful as well as the reunion with a lot of laughter, while sharing memories and life updates. The next day I crossed the bay to Mike Nolan's house in Palo Alto for a pizza luncheon with 4 other former colleagues from the Menlo Park office. A photo, taken by Mike's wife Julie (USGS volcanologist), of the six of us was in the last Newsletter. Again, it was a great and memorable time. From Palo Alto I drove under extremely heavy Bay area traffic conditions to Auburn, CA, about 30 miles northeast of Sacramento, to stay with my late wife's son, Mike Markov, and his wife. I interrupted my stay for 3 days to take my daughter, who live in El Dorado Hills, to the Bodega Bay area and Healdsburg in Sonoma County where we did some beach walking and wine tasting, respectively. Three days after returning to Auburn, I took my daughter to lunch in Folsom to celebrate her 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday. I returned to Tennessee on March 31<sup>st</sup> after a 5-day drive. This was a fantastic trip, and I am thinking of returning to California immediately after the March Reunion in Tucson. In the middle of April, I drove to North Carolina and spent 3 nights in Burlington, visiting my sister who is in an assisted living facility, and 2 nights in Charlotte, visiting my former college fraternity roommate of 3 years. Being road weary, I have no plans of multi-day travel for the rest of the year. I did drive to Nashville on June 27<sup>th</sup> to have lunch (**see photo**) with our Tennessee Affiliate Liaison Member, Lori Weir and Atticus Lanier, USGS IT Specialist from Memphis. Atticus replaced Lori when she retired on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, I hope to see many of you in Tucson next March for the reunion. Remember, we are all getting older and eventually will not be able to physically attend these memorable and fun events with former USGS colleagues and old and newly developed friends.



**Zelda Bailey and Pat Tucci** have recently returned from a cruise vacation in Europe. The cruise started in Barcelona, where we spent a few days prior to the cruise, and ended in London where we also spent some extra time. Some of the ports/cities that we visited on the 17-day cruise included Mallorca, Cadiz, Cartagena, Casablanca/Rabat, Lisbon, Bilbao, Gijon, Bordeaux, and Guernsey. The photo was taken in Bilbao at the Guggenheim Museum. Lots of good food and wine, and wonderful people and sights along the way. It was fun, but it was good to return home after being away a month.

**Jim Blakey** writes: I had the honor and pleasure of working with **Bill Kastner** in different positions for several years. He always did the job right and on time.

**Larry Bohman** writes: Hope all is well, Kate. I enjoy the newsletter (both good and bad news).

**Errata:** The following sentences were edited out of the original message **about Gene Hampton written by Steve Craig in the May 2022 issue**. The author asked for those sentences to be printed in the August issue. Editor.

Every couple of weeks or so, our group would load up in my 1983 Toyota 4WD pickup and head to a Chinese buffet restaurant in Herndon. Gene, Chet, and Celso Puente (Dave Aronson would usually drive himself as I recollect) were expected to crawl through the open tailgate and sit under the camper shell on the truck bed, while Janet Sachs and I would be upfront. These trips were always a lot of fun. And I made an effort to hit as many bumps in the road as possible. I am surprised we were never pulled over by Reston or Herndon police.

Finally--the group, including Don Hillier (CR reports guru) and, if my memory serves me correctly – also Don's assistants John Flager and George Garklavs, were in San Antonio to attend a USGS reports and outreach gathering. Most of the group walked to dinner one evening, and on the way back, Gene had to "go really bad." We happened to pass a construction site and spotted a porta-potty. Gene went in and a couple of us decided to close in and "rock-and-shake" the potty. The verbal proclamations coming out of that porta-potty are not repeatable herein!

**Marge Davenport** writes: Thank you (Board Members) for all your hard work.

**Glenn Engel** writes: **Bill Kastner** was my supervisor in the early 80's when I was Data Chief. He was an excellent boss, very laid-back and didn't micromanage. I am so sorry to hear of his passing.

**Jack Fisher** writes: **Why I Enjoy Membership in the USGS Retirees Association** - I joined the USGS Retirees Association when I retired as a means to maintain contact with men and women with whom I had worked and whom I admired and respected. From the day I walked into the Survey subdistrict office in Miami until the day I walked out of Reston headquarters over two decades later, I was impressed daily with the skill, character, intellect and integrity of the men and women with whom I worked. I was proud to be colleague of those impressive people and a member of the organization they represented. I wanted those people and the Survey to remain a part of my life. Today, some twenty-plus years later, I am so glad I made that call. The Retiree Association has been a prime vehicle through which I have maintained contact with my Survey friends and colleagues. When I lived closer to the meeting place of our local chapter, monthly lunches at a local restaurant provided a great opportunity to laugh, sharing recollections of a field incident we were fortunate to survive, catch up on news of other former colleagues or just share time together. A common part of monthly meetings of local chapters is a presentation made by an active scientist or technician of the local Survey office. Retirees are often stunned and excited hearing about how times have changed, learning of the evolution and advances in our sciences and instrumentation described by men and women carrying on the traditions we carried on for those who preceded us. National reunions of the Retiree Association, held every two years, provide members with more lengthy opportunities to meet again with former friends and colleagues and to share time and "war stories" over drinks and dinner. I particularly have enjoyed reading the quarterly Newsletter published by the Association. The personal accounts of former colleagues, some about events in their lives, others recalling memorable events in their professional careers always are interesting; many bring back memories of my own. Finally, I am proud to have served in such a respected scientific agency as the USGS and to have been a colleague of so many outstanding people. The Retiree Association provides opportunities to reflect on that service and to enjoy the many memories and friendships. The value in that continuity has enriched my life.

**Marv Fretwell** writes: Once again, thanks for the latest Newsletter. It is always good to read each new one. I particularly enjoyed the excellent writeup about **Phil Cohen's** illustrious career. It brought back many memories of him and of the many programs and people involved in his leadership of WRD. I also enjoyed the reminiscences about **Gene Hampton**. I remember him very fondly. The main purpose of this email is to get my address changed in the 2023 directory. Ardie and I moved about 5 miles east of where we have lived for the past 16 years. The new home has all the things my wife wanted in a "remodel" of our former home, plus it gives me a huge garage in which I can keep my car, truck, boat, golf cart, and, of course, a woodshop. So, we abandoned our remodel plans and moved to a new residence.

**Don Goolsby** writes: I am saddened to learn of **Bill Kastner's** death. Bill was a good friend and colleague. I worked with him for many years in the USGS Regional office in Lakewood. He was always kind and thoughtful of others and he was a good scientist and administrator. My sincere condolences.

**Clayton D. Kauffman** writes: Brenda and I are doing okay.

**Gordon Keezer** writes: I am fine at 86 years old. Keep up the good work.

**Pete Martin** writes: Thanks for the keeping the great newsletters coming my way. In April, **Mike Shulters** visited San Diego from Sacramento, so a group of retirees from San Diego and a few current hydrologists joined Mike for a luncheon in Old Town. I have attached a picture of the group and Mike Shulters presenting recent retiree, **John Izbicki**, with his 40-year award at the luncheon (see Meetings and Gatherings). I am still enjoying retirement in sunny San Diego. In a week, my wife and I will start walking a portion of the Via Francigena in France. The Via Francigena is the ancient pilgrim way that stretches some 1900 km from England to Rome. This year, we will be walking for a week in the Champagne region of France, south of Reims. If we survive the week of walking and drinking champagne, we will walk other sections of the pilgrimage in future years. I think we will concentrate on walking through the wine regions along the pilgrimage. Thanks for your great work on the newsletter.

**Rich Reynolds** writes: Still volunteering as an Emeritus with the New York WSC in Troy, NY and just had a report published this month. A bunch of us try to meet monthly for lunch at a local diner to catch up on things. I appreciate all the work that goes into putting out the Retirees' newsletter. Thanks!

**Stan Sauer** writes: Cathy – Greetings from a very dry and very hot Texas! At least our most recent winter was rather mild in contrast to our experience in 2021. Thank you very much for all the work you do to maintain the financial and membership records of the organization. I know that must be a time-consuming undertaking. Thanks too for all that you and the other retirees do to prepare the newsletter to keep us all informed, as well as all the other work to keep the organization strong and moving forward. On a personal note – I really enjoyed the note from you and Herb along with the banner/flag for the retirees' reunion held in San Antonio – that was a fun event that all of our host committee enjoyed planning and hosting. I still enjoy the ranch and am happy to see two of my daughters' building homes on it with one living there already and providing lots of help with the ranch. Of course, I enjoy spending time keeping up with family consisting of three daughters and spouses, 12 grandchildren, mostly married, and 10 great-grandchildren. I no longer travel much but enjoy keeping up with USGS friends by phone, email, and mostly the newsletter! I am hopeful the 2023 reunion will be held as scheduled – if so, I will make every effort to attend. Best wishes and thanks for all you and the other retirees do to manage the affairs of our organization and keep us all informed! It is such an important part of keeping us in touch with friends and associates from our years of service with the WRD as well as current activities of the USGS. Sincerely yours,

**Mary Jo Schlotfeld:** **Bill Kastner** hired me in December 1984. I think he went to Central Region in 1988 or 1989. I can't remember much, except that he was so nice to everyone. There was no one to train me, so he did his best to help me with my first closeout.

**Darla Straka** writes: Well, phooey. I have to report that I have another address change. I wish I had sent it in before the latest WRD Directory was completed. The address listed was the rental we occupied for 11 months, while we waited for a new house to get built. We closed at the Title Co. on May 18, 2022 and will be moving into the new house over the weekend.

**Bob Swanson** writes: All our sympathies from the USGS Nebraska Water Science Center where Bill was District Chief in the late 1970's and early '80s. *I was a lowly entry level technician, but Bill was my "first" district chief. The previous district chief was only there for a couple of months when I started. Bill was the second District Chief after the reorganization into State Districts. Ron Zelt had a great personal note on the obituary page. I'll see if I can get him to share with you. I'm requesting some information from others, but I'm still on my cruise with limited communication. Sharing this with you from a Margaritaville in Grand Turk. I was a mere technician in a time when they didn't interact much with the tech team.* However, I can tell you that he was the second District Chief after the reorganization to state districts. His tenure started in Nebraska in 1978 and went to the Central Region office in 1988. Making him the second longest tenure as Chief, after me.

**An additional submission from Bob:** Seems like just yesterday that I retired. It can't be 4 years! It's been so busy taking care of parents and grandkids (two of the cutest ever). I volunteered at the Groundwater Foundation until they merged with the National Groundwater Association and also at the USGS Nebraska Water Science Center. A few groundwater level runs, some station level surveys, a few flood assists and outreach events. However, the administration requirements finally got to me. It wasn't worth all the mandatory training for computer security, bank card, etc. we've also enjoyed a return to cruising this past year with trips to the Caribbean, Alaska, and will be doing a New England/Canada cruise in a couple of months. If you are ever going down I-80 past Lincoln give me a call!

**Ron Zelt** writes: I wish to convey my deepest sympathy at the loss of your beloved family member, my former direct supervisor (1987-88). I am privileged to recall that Bill was there at a crossroads moment in my life, pointing me toward a career with the US Geol. Survey that ultimately lasted 34 years. I was in my second year of grad school at

Univ Nebraska-Lincoln, where having completed an assignment in the UNL Archives expected to provide two terms of employment (funded by Fed Work-Study Program) in just one term, I was rewarded with a referral off campus to speak with **Bill Kastner** about work at the USGS "Hydrologic Unit" (as the sign in the Federal Building read). Bill was his easy going self with a ready smile, welcoming me to his staff that at the time had few young faces. After I returned to UNL for the Fall Term of 1987 (but with no Work Study funds), Bill welcomed me to the USGS employee family as a part-timer. Shortly thereafter, Bill took a promotion/transfer to the regional staff in Denver, CO. The rest, as they say, is history.

## MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

### San Diego USGS Retirees San Diego, CA



In April, Mike Shulters visited San Diego from Sacramento, so a group of retirees from San Diego and a few current hydrologists joined Mike for a luncheon in Old Town. **From L to R:** Larry Schneider, Claudia Faunt, Peter Martin, Steve Predmore, John Izbicki, Roy Schroeder, Julia Huff, Robert Kent, Eric Reichard, Mike Shulters, Dennis Clark, and Tracy Nishikawa). Mike Shulters presented recent retiree, John Izbicki, with his 40-year award at the luncheon. Everyone had a great time reconnecting after a 2-year hiatus. I told Mike and some of the other recent retirees that they need join the USGS Retirees. When I retired, I received the newsletter for a year before paying dues. According to Mike and the other recent retirees, they are not receiving any information about the organization when they retire.



**Atlanta Area USGS Retirees  
Atlanta, GA  
May 11, 2022**



For the first time in two years, Atlanta area retirees got together for a nice lunch at a El Matador Mexican restaurant. Seated (**L to R**): Helaine Markewich, Ed Martin, Brian Hughes, Eve Kuniansky, Tim Hale, Keith McFadden. Standing (Left to Right): John Clarke, Michael Peck, Howard Perlman, Rick Krause, Jim Smoot.

**Atlanta Area USGS Retirees  
Atlanta, GA  
June 8, 2022**



USGS retirees and current staff met for lunch.

**Front row (LtoR):** Marge Davenport, Ed Martin, Jeff Armbruster, Brian Hughes

**Back row (LtoR):** Marly Gordon (Deb's daughter), Debbie Gordon (current employee), Caryl Wipperfuth, Michael Peck



**Atlanta Area Retirees Lunch Meeting  
Atlanta, GA  
July 13, 2022**



**Front row (L to R):** Mark Landers, John Clarke, Helaine Markewich, Jeff Armbruster.  
**Back row (L to R):** Keith McFadden, Howard Perlman, Bonnie Turcot, Michael Peck

**USGS National Center Retirees  
Gainesville, VA  
April 29, 2022**



**Sitting (L-R):** Cathy Hill, Joanne Taylor, Bruce Taylor, Heather Gray, John Gray, and Jack Fischer

**Nebraska Water Science Center  
Retirees' Breakfast**



We're small, but mighty! **L To R:** Mary Jo Schlotfeld, Bob Swanson, and Judy Boohar.

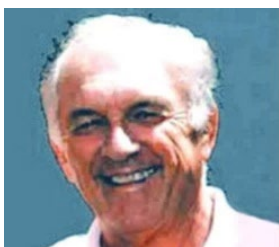
## MEMORIALS



**Theodore W. 'Ted' Cooney, 66**, passed away peacefully at his home in Batesburg, SC on April 20, 2022 surrounded by loved ones. Ted was born on May 4, 1955, and raised in Norwalk, CT by his father Thomas Cooney and mother Frances Cooney. After high school, Ted proudly served in the U.S. Navy from 1974 to 1976. While stationed in Charleston, he quickly fell in love with his new home state. Honorably discharged, Ted moved to Columbia to attend the University of South Carolina where he learned his lifelong love for the Gamecocks. After earning a degree in marine science, he worked as a professional hydrologist for the USGS, retiring after a long career and eventually leading a team of scientists and hydrologists across the state of South Carolina. Ted never met a stranger and could find humor in almost any situation. He was an avid fan of the Boston Red Sox, Gamecocks, and Cribbage. He was always willing to help family and friends with projects both big and small. Ted is survived by his son and daughter, and his five grandchildren. In addition to his children and grandchildren. Visitation was held on April 23, 2022, at the Barr-Price Funeral Home Batesburg-Leesville Chapel, Leesville, SC. A Celebration of Life was held on April 23, 2022.

**Gene C. Doty, age 93**, of Las Vegas, NV passed away on December 9, 2021. Gene was born on November 11, 1928. He was part of the USGS Ground Water Branch in New Mexico between 1956 and 1966, and beginning about 1956, Gene evaluated the ground-water conditions in the Playas Valley, Hidalgo County of New Mexico. In 1973, Gene transferred from Richland, WA, where he had been working along with the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission site on Hanford Reservation to Nevada to provide regional and explosion-site hydrologic support. In 1978, the Nuclear Hydrology Program was reestablished with Gene in charge of the project office in Mercury, NV. Gene in addition to maintaining the traditional nuclear-explosion support to ERDA, he collaborated with Ike Winograd, then in the WRD National Research Program in Reston, VA to provide a regional assessment of paleohydrology emphasizing evidence for past positions of the water table at and near the Nevada Test Site. By the beginning of 1979, hydrologic studies of the NTS by the Nuclear Hydrology Program (NHP) were dominantly in support of the U.S. Department of Energy's Nevada Nuclear Waste Storage Investigations. Gene was part of the NHP Yucca Mountain Project Branch in 1981 and retired in 1983. He is survived by his wife.

**James W. 'Jim' George, 77**, passed away on March 3, 2022 in Merrill, WI. He was born to William and Eloise George in Columbia, SC. In 1975, the Water Environment Monitoring Section, had expanded under Fred Dreher to include sediment research studies and a sediment laboratory under Steve Hindall in the Wisconsin District. Four area field offices were established and one of those offices was in the northeastern area (Merrill, WI), with Jim in-charge of the Water Environmental Monitoring Section (1979-82) and, later, the Hydrologic Systems and Data Section. Jim remained the Technician-in-Charge of the Merrill Field Office until he retired from the WI District Office in 1998. He was predeceased by his parents, a brother and a niece. He is survived by his former wife Trudy Laffer; his wife Susan LaMarche; his four children, a stepson, and his four grandchildren. He is also survived by many aunts, uncles and cousins.



It is with great sadness we announce the passing of **Patrick A. 'Pat' Glancy** on December 7, 2021, in his home in Carson City, NV. At age 90, he lived a full life, frequently saying he chose the perfect wife and had been blessed with children he was proud of, a career he loved, and the very best of friends! Pat was born to William J. Glancy and Anna (Planishek) Glancy on July 6, 1931, in Roundup, MT. It was there he met Julie Simanich, whom he would marry in 1953. Together they raised three children, two sons and a daughter. After high school graduation, Pat left his hometown to attend music school in Minneapolis, MN. He later enlisted in

the U.S. Navy and served on the USS Iowa during the Korean War, taking advantage of opportunities to travel and explore. Pat graduated from Montana State University with a B.S. in Civil Engineering and an M.S. in Geology. His career with the USGS spanned 38 years in Oregon, Washington, and finally retiring in Carson City in 1994. As a Research Hydrologist, Pat wrote many reports about water in Nevada; he especially enjoyed working outdoors and public speaking.





**Melva Gay Hahl, 88, (wife of USGS Retiree Daniel C. Hahl)** was born on January 26, 1934, in Laurel, MS, to Luther Lawrence Wade and Alberta (Dixie) Cronin Wade. Her father and youngest brother died when Mel was 5; after that, she went to live at the Methodist Orphanage in Jackson, where she stayed until she was 16 years old. Mel spent many years practicing nursing. Mel met Daniel C. Hahl at a dance while he was stationed with the Army in Mississippi. Although her mother highly objected to her daughter marrying a "Damn Yankee," Mel and Dan were married on March 5, 1958, in the Los Angeles Temple. The family moved to Utah so Dan could finish his education at the

University of Utah and four daughters blessed this marriage. In 1966, Dan was transferred to Houston, TX and the family welcomed a son. After 12 years in Houston, the family transferred to Vienna, VA. Eventually, a transfer to upstate New York allowed Mel to be able to move into her dream home. Mel established generous friends in every city the family moved to, but the friends she made in New York continued to get together, even when Mel could not remember their names. In 1988, Dan retired from the USGS. Dan and Mel took a leap of faith and purchased R. Spencer Pratt's Fudge Factory. This new phase brought many wonderful and surprising gifts to Dan and Mel. The business expanded from part-time seasonal to a thriving, year-round enterprise. After selling the Fudge Factory in 1998, Dan and Mel continued to have many callings that kept them traveling throughout the Nauvoo Stake and through the Illinois Peoria Mission. Years before, as Dan was called to be in the Stake Presidency, Elder Pinnock told Dan and Mel that they were serving a mission in Nauvoo and would have callings that the Lord needed them to fulfill. The time came when Dan felt that their Nauvoo time was ending. Dan decided that Nauvoo was too far from family, so Dan and Mel moved to Ivins, UT. Mel was soon diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Melva is survived by her best friend and husband, Daniel, her four daughters and son, 38 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents, her two brothers, and a beloved granddaughter. Funeral services were held on June 1, 2022 at the LDS chapel located in Ivins, UT. Interment will be held at the Ivins City Cemetery following the service.



**Mae Yoshie Jones, 88, (wife of USGS retiree Benjamin 'Ben' Jones)** passed away on February 7, 2021, in Honolulu, HI. She was born and raised in Honolulu, HI. She joined the WRD in 1960 and was a stenographer and technician in the USGS Hawaii District Office. Mae and Ben were married in 1970, and she took a research assistant position at the University of Hawaii before retiring in 1982. After we moved to Menlo Park in 1983, she worked at the Stanford Research Institute as a computer technician. We both retired in 1988 and moved to Seattle, WA. Mae is survived by her husband Ben of 50+ years, 5 children, 7 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

**Barbara Kastner, (widow of USGS Retiree William M. 'Bill' Kastner)** passed in early May 2022. We would like to acknowledge that both Barbara and Bill were very active in the national and regional reunions and appreciate their contributions to the Retirees' organization. *(At this time, we do not have any additional information for a memorial. If at some point, we receive additional information it will be included in a future newsletter.)*



**William M. 'Bill' Kastner** passed away peacefully on April 13th, 2022. He will be greatly missed by all who loved him. Bill worked in the Kansas District on the Channel Geometry project and used channel geometry measurements to determine streamflow characteristics. The district studies of channel geometry were coordinated and given a leadership role with ongoing research at the national level. Bill, along with other members of the team, determined mean annual runoff as related to channel geometry of selected Kansas streams and reported on streamflow characteristics related to channel geometry of streams in the Missouri River Basin. Bill applied statistical techniques to estimate groundwater withdrawals in northwestern Kansas. In 1974, Bill transferred from the Kansas District and became the Subdistrict Chief of the San Antonio Office in the Texas District. Bill became the District

Chief in Nebraska in 1978 and was the second Chief following reorganization into state districts. Bill became the Program Officer in the Central Region's Office of the Regional Hydrologist Denver, CO in 1991 until his retirement in 1994. Bill was a recipient of the USGS's Superior Service Award. After retirement Bill and his wife, Barbara, enjoyed traveling outside the United State. He was also a member of the USGS/WRD Retiree's Organization where he was an active member here in the Denver area and supported the annual spring and fall luncheons, as well as the national reunions.



**Russell Hal Langford, 96**, passed away on May 28, 2022, in Springfield, VA. Hal was born on November 14, 1925, in North Platte, NE. Mr. Langford was a long-time resident of northern Virginia having lived in Arlington, Vienna, and McLean before moving to Greenspring Village (Springfield, VA) in 2007. Following graduation from high school in 1943 in North Platte, NE, Hal enlisted in the US Navy's Air Station in Hutchinson, KS, he was transferred in 1944 to Washburn University in Topeka, KS taking regular college courses as well as Naval Science and Tactics. It was while at Washburn University he met his future wife, Mary Jean Ellenbecker. He was then transferred to Rice University in Houston, TX in the NROTC program and was commissioned as an Ensign in June 1946. He married his

wife, Mary Jean, that same day and, after a brief honeymoon in Colorado, was sent to sea aboard a Landing Ship Medium (LSM) in the Pacific. That ship was almost sunk during a typhoon that hit Guam in September 1946. Ensign Langford was then transferred to another LSM operating in the Marshall Islands out of Kwajalein Atoll. In May of 1947, he was discharged from active duty and enrolled in the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE, where he graduated in January 1949 with a Bachelor of Science degree. In 1950, he was promoted to Lieutenant (JG) in the US Navy Reserve. While attending the University of Nebraska, he served as a part-time Hydrologic Field Assistant at the USGS water quality laboratory in Lincoln, NE. Following graduation, Hal accepted a full-time position with the USGS investigating the water resources of the eight-state Missouri River Basin and of Northern Minnesota. After ten years there, he transferred to the Washington, DC headquarters as a Staff Assistant to the Director. He served as the Survey's Safety Officer during the two-year assignment, following which in 1961 he was assigned as District Chemist in charge of the USGS's office in Salt Lake City, UT with responsibility for water quality and fluvial sediment investigations in Utah, Colorado, and southwestern Wyoming. While there he supervised Pioneering studies regarding the dissolved mineral inflow to the Great Salt Lake, and the chemistry of the Great Salt Lake brine. In 1966, Hal was transferred back to the Washington, DC headquarters of the USGS as Assistant Chief of its newly established Office of Water Data Coordination. He became chief of that office in 1968 and supervised the design of a National Network for Acquisition of Water Data that involved coordinating the activities of over 30 federal agencies that acquired or used water-resources information. During that assignment, he also supervised the development of a Manual of Uniform Methods for Acquiring Water Data, a catalog of information on water data, and a national system for delineating and codifying river basins in the United States. Hal was promoted in 1980 to the position of Associate Chief Hydrologist of the USGS. During his five-year tenure in that position, he shared with the responsibility for a nationwide program (\$280 million per year; 4,500 employees) of water research and investigations. He represented the Survey on the Souris-Red River Engineering Board of the International Joint Commission charged with addressing water-resources issues along the US-Canadian border in Montana, North Dakota, and Minnesota. He also served as a US representative to meetings of the World Meteorological Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, and of the International Hydrological Program of UNESCO in Paris, France. Hydrology under the sponsorship of President Nixon's detente with China. During his career with the Survey, Hal authored or co-authored more than 40 technical reports many of which were published in the Water Supply Paper series of the USGS. The Department of the Interior awarded him its Meritorious Service Award in 1976 and its Distinguished Service Award in 1980. Following retirement in 1985, he served as docent leading tours of its headquarters building in Reston, VA. Mr. Langford was a member of several professional societies, including the American Geophysical Union, American Water Works Association, American Chemical Society, Water Pollution Control Federation, and American Association for the Advancement of Science. Hal had a life-long love of the out-of-doors, especially for fishing and hunting. He fished the Platte River in western Nebraska and Rocky Mountain rivers west of Denver, CO. He particularly enjoyed fishing the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean waters of Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and Florida after moving to northern Virginia. He hunted pheasant, prairie chicken, duck and geese in Nebraska and deer and elk in Colorado. He also pursued a life-long interest in birds of North America and kept lists of all the birds he observed over the years. Hal was a student of early man in North America, especially the Clovis, Yuma, and Folsom cultures, and of the Indians of the Great Plains. He loved music, particularly classical music, and played percussion instruments in his high school band and orchestra, and in the Navy drum and Bugle Corps at Rice University. He was active in the Fishing and Cribbage Clubs, formed and served as Chairman of the Greenspring Cornhuskers Club, served as president of the Greenspring Computer Club (650 members) beginning 2014, and served as a tutor at the West Springfield Elementary School. He also served as a docent leading tour at the headquarters of the USGS or Survey) in Reston, VA. Above all he was a devoted husband and father. Hal was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 63 years, Imogene Mary



Ellenbecker Langford, on December 16, 2009. He is survived by four children: Stephen, Amy, David, and Russell, and by 7 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. A memorial service to celebrate the life of Hal was held on June 13, 2022 at the Chapel at Greenspring Village, Springfield, VA. Graveside services will be private at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. Hal was a gentle man and a gentleman. He had a close interaction and love for his family and friends. He always had an optimistic outlook on life.



**Joe Loveland** (Tom's brother submitted this memorial): My 69-year-old brother **Tom Loveland** died in a Sioux Falls, SD hospice on Friday the May 13, 2022, less than a month after a gutting cancer diagnosis. Tom was born June 22, 1952, to Jack and Rosalie Loveland in Saint Paul, MN. I wanted to share a little about him, because he meant the world to me and my family. He was a remote sensing scientist for the USGS EROS Laboratory in Sioux Falls, which means he analyzed satellite photos of the Earth to inform decisions related to droughts, famines, land

use, and climate change. After being told in high school that he wasn't college material, he got a degree from South Dakota State University, a Master's degree from the University of Calgary, a PhD from UC-Santa Barbara. He made an international name in the remote sensing field. For many years, he led EROS's work in Africa, where he travelled frequently. Later in his career, most of his work was related to climate change, and he travelled the world doing that work. He was the lead scientist for NASA's launch of the LANDSAT 8 satellite launch. He was the recipient of numerous awards, most notably the Pecora Award in 2019 for outstanding contributions to earth science as a leading scientist for the USGS and as chief scientist at the USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science Center (EROS), and his 2018 induction into the South Dakota Hall of Fame a few years back. He loved every second of it. But way more important than his career, Tom was as good a husband, dad, grandpa, colleague, friend, uncle, and brother as you'll find. Truly, I haven't met a better human. Watching him, I learned from example how to do family, education, books, cooking, music, sports, science, politics, humor, conversation, and life. Thank goodness, we still have his amazing wife Cam, daughter Shannon, and son Bill, and their families, to help us keep memories of him alive. Tom had eclectic music tastes, but especially loved twangy, bluegrass music. This Nanci Griffith cover of a pop song always reminded me of his remote sensing career "watching us, from a distance." He refused to work on contracts involving the Pentagon or CIA. "From a distance I can't comprehend. What all this war is for." That was Tom. Like any good scientist, Tom had more questions than answers about life and the afterlife. Me too. But I do know this much: If an afterlife exists and it is a meritocracy, the pioneering remote sensing scientist will have fine accommodations as he continues to watch us, from a distance. The hole in our lives is devastating, but Tom had blinding pain at the end, so his quick death was the by far the best of the lousey alternatives he faced. We'll miss him so much.

**Marjorie S. Reid, 91**, was born in Buffalo, NY, passed away on January 9, 2021, in Raleigh, NC. She retired from the USGS in 1986. Marjorie was predeceased by her parents, Herbert H. Streicher and Cecilia P. Streicher; her husband James "Jim" Reid, Jr.; and a son and daughter. She is survived by two sons and a grandson. She is also survived by her aunt and uncle, several cousins, nieces, and nephews.

**Charles J. 'Chuck' Robinove** 1931-2022 Recently, the Editors received this note from Elizabeth Robinove 'My husband of almost 50 years passed away on March 25, 2022. He retired on November 1, 1986, and we enjoyed a wonderful life since then in Colorado. He will be missed by so many people, especially me.' We could find little else biographical and no colleagues to prepare a memorial, but Chuck was a national pioneer, advocate for, and author on the use of remote sensing in water resources and his accomplishments deserved some digging. One of the authors knew Chuck socially during their years of overlap in Reston, however, primary sources are the WRD History volumes and online bibliography listings. Chuck's first appearance with WRD is in the Wyoming District in 1956 where he published on the availability and quality of water for irrigation, municipal, industrial, and domestic uses from a wide variety of hydrologic environments there and in North Dakota. In 1961, he is found in Arlington Towers in the Ground Water Branch and already working on the hydrologic applications of airborne thermal infrared measurements such as surface-water temperature measurement and the mapping of the discharge of ground water. 1963 finds him in the Regional Office in St. Louis, probably as a report's specialist but in 1965, Director Leopold asked him to return to direct a program with NASA from a new Remote Sensing Hydrologic Applications Center back in Arlington. A 1967 WRD organization chart shows Charles J Robinove as the head of the Office of Remote Sensing under the Assistant Chief of Research and Technical Coordination, Roy Oltman, an office at the level of the Branches of Surface

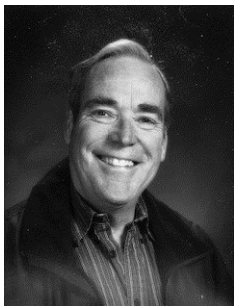
Water, Ground Water, and Water Quality in WRD Headquarters. In 1972 or 1973, he married Elizabeth. Throughout his career, in addition to his expertise in remote sensing and GIS (Geographic Information Systems), he was active in establishing standards for report preparation and publishing and he had a number of job titles in remote sensing and GIS in Headquarters. Charles J. Robinove's USGS bibliography lists 23 publications, and there probably were more; a listing shows 1264 citations just since 2017, demonstrating relevance to present. He continued his career at a high level at WRD Headquarters in Reston until retirement in 1986 (55 and 30) and one these authors remembers attending the retirement gala. As Elizabeth points out, they then moved, probably, to Colorado Springs where they enjoyed the remainder of his 91 years. RIP Chuck Robinove.

**-Compiled and submitted by Jim and Merilee Bennett**



**Paul B. Rohne, Jr., 88**, passed away on March 6, 2022. Paul was born June 28, 1933 on a farm near Cranfills Gap, Bosque County, TX, to Paul B. (Tom) Rohne and Alma B. Tergerson Rohne, and was the youngest of three children. He was baptized and confirmed at Saint Olaf Lutheran Church in Cranfills Gap and graduated from Cranfills Gap High School. He graduated from Clifton College in Clifton, TX, after which he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He served in Norman, OK, and Corpus Christi, TX, and achieved the rank of Aviation Sheet Metal Mechanic, 2nd Class (Tin Bender). After discharge from the service in 1956, he enrolled at the University of Texas at Austin as a

Petroleum Engineering student. During his stay there, he met and married Harriett Anne Stark. They were married for fifty years, and to this union were born three children two daughters and one son. Paul was a highly respected engineer and hydrologist for the USGS and the International Boundary and Water Commission, working in Texas, Indiana, and Arizona. After retiring, he worked for FEMA as a reservist, responding to national disasters around the country. He is preceded in death by his parents, his sister and brother-in-law, and his wife Harriett. He is survived by his brother, his three children, four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and special friend Rea Wiruscheske. A funeral service was held on March 10, 2022, at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Austin, TX. Graveside burial service will be at the Old Rock Church, Cranfills Gap, TX.



**David Wilson, 80**, passed away peacefully on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022. David began working for the Tacoma, Washington Office of the USGS as their Computer Specialist, in 1972. At that time, he had one employee who entered paper punch cards into the computer. By the time of his retirement, he employed 4 other computer specialists to help him. He was instrumental in maintaining computer technology. He also assisted 6 different regional offices throughout the US to in making transitions and training the employees in the use of the new system. In addition to all his regular job duties, David also assisted in two moves of the entire Tacoma office from its two original locations to its current location. David retired with honors, after 33 years of service, in 2005. A most memorable time for Faith, David's wife, was the change of the century from 1999 to 2000, commonly known as the Y2K problem. There was fear throughout

the world as to what might happen to computer systems as a result of the transition. David and his team did everything they could to prepare for this big event. They decided to stay the entire night in the office and keep watch over the system. Faith and their two children joined them with sleeping bags and lots of special foods to keep everyone comfortable as the new century was greeted. It was with great joy that the computers in the Tacoma office were able to move smoothly into the new century. The team continued to work throughout the night to make changes necessary to ensure that the Water mission would continue and to coordinate with the entire national USGS network. David was honored with several awards throughout his 33 years with the USGS, WRD. In 1992 he received the Star Award after 20 years of Service. It was in recognition of his "Outstanding Performance" as the Washington Water Science Center's (WWSC) Systems Administrator and Chief of the Computer Applications Section. The award states that "Mr. Wilson is a dedicated manager who displays the highest integrity and patience in the timely execution of his work, and that he and his section staff consistently provide outstanding services to the WWSC's staff. There are few customer complaints, but if so, they were addressed rapidly and calmly. Mr. Wilson also was a leader in developing new IT security plans and implementing new security measures and tools. Mr. Wilson was an important member of the WWSC's senior staff, and an outstanding and conscientious supervisor who led a small high-performing team with great humanity. During this rating period, Mr. Wilson was cited by Regional Management of the water programs as "building one of the most professional, highly-organized, and well-run computer services unit in the Western Region."

**The Great Buffalo Caper**  
**By Hal Langford**  
**(resubmitted from 2010)**

The heavy snows and freezing weather of this past winter here in Northern Virginia reminded me of a tale told to me by my grandmother when I was a boy in western Nebraska.

Grandmother was the daughter of a pioneer cattleman, Russell Watts, whose ranch headquarters were in North Platte, Nebraska, and who ranged his cattle many miles southwest and northwest of that town.

During the winter of 1871-72, the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia toured North America, and after visiting President Grant in Washington, D.C., was invited by General Philip Sheridan to hunt buffalo in the West. The Duke and his party must have liked the idea because he and his party arrived by special train in North Platte in January 1872. General Sheridan had arranged for Buffalo Bill Cody, whose ranch near North Platte served as headquarters for his famous Wild West Show, to guide the Duke's party and show him how to hunt buffalo. In addition to Duke Alexis and General Sheridan, the hunting party consisted of General George Custer, two companies of cavalry, two of infantry, and wagons of supplies, tents, champagne and royal spirits. The party also included my great-grandfather, Russell Watts, for it was on his range that the hunt was to take place.

The hunting party camped northeast of present-day Hayes Center, Nebraska near Red Willow Creek. Chief Spotted Tail and about 100 of his warriors also joined the party to demonstrate the Sioux way of hunting buffalo with bow and arrow and to perform their war dance.

The hunt was successful and the Duke reportedly killed the first of many buffalo. Following the hunt, the Duke and Buffalo Bill were entertained at a dinner party at the home of my great-grandfather in North Platte. I inherited the elk horn carving set of knife, fork and sharpener used at the dinner party, shown in the photo below.

Several months after the dinner party my grandmother received a package from the Duke. It contained a beautiful, tanned buffalo robe, which had been carefully embroidered on the tanned side by Russian women. The robe, of course, became a family heirloom, and ended up after my grandmother's death with her son Isaac, who lived in Omaha, Nebraska.

Years later Omaha received a big snowstorm accompanied by very cold weather. My great Uncle Ike (as I called him), fearing that the water pipes in the basement would freeze, wrapped one of the pipes with the buffalo robe. You guessed it! The pipe froze, broke and ruined the buffalo robe. So, the only vestige of my families' role in this event is the carving set!

To this day the hunting event is celebrated annually in September, at the site of the hunt near Hayes Center, Nebraska.



The Langford's elk horn carving set.

## Trip to the Arctic, June 2022 -- John Clarke

My wife Karen and I recently travelled to the Arctic on a Silverseas cruise. We arrived in Oslo on June 22 and waited for our charter to depart to Longyearbyen the next day. Saw some incredible views of Fjords on the flight over. After getting soaked by frigid waters during our zodiac trip to our ship, we departed on June 23 to traverse the Svalbard archipelago.

During the trip we visited numerous fjords, hiked on glaciers, toured sea caves in sea kayaks, and saw seals, walrus, reindeer, and two polar bears. One day we traveled to 80-degrees north, to the edge of sea ice. Our Silverseas ship wasn't an ice breaker, so we couldn't venture deep into the sea ice region. However, we got in our zodiacs and travelled in the fog along the ice edge. This is the closest to a pole we have ever travelled (our earlier trip to the Antarctic only reached 64.5 degrees south due to colder conditions and denser ice pack in the Weddell Sea).

During our voyage, temperatures were in the 30s and 40s, never falling below freezing. Effects of global warming were much more evident than in the Antarctic region. Glaciers were clearly retreating and tour guides mentioned how snow-capped peaks had diminished in extent. They also mentioned how the bays we travelled in previously froze over in winter, but no longer do. We noticed that wildlife seemed much less abundant than in the Antarctic and were surprised to never see a whale.

The Longyearbyen area has been a coal mining region for years, exporting coal via ship. Recently, the coal mining operations have ceased. Norway is supplied electrical power entirely by renewable resources, principally hydroelectric. The last remaining coal-powered plant was at Longyearbyen, but that is being discontinued. Electricity will be generated by diesel until a renewable source can be established.

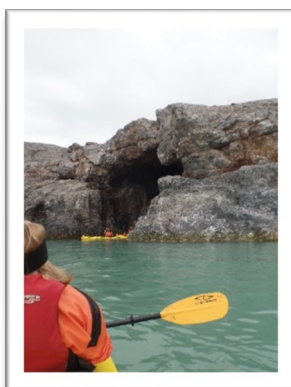


**Above:** here we are in our zodiac at the ice edge, 80-degrees north.

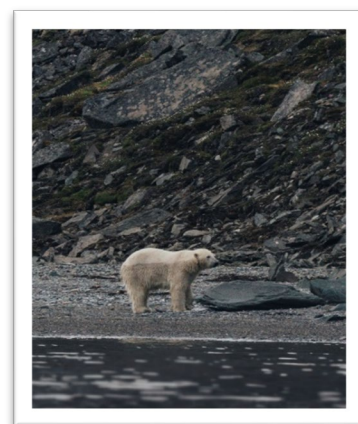
**Below:** map showing our stops during the cruise around Svalbard.



**Above left:** Walrus herd at Smeerenburg



**Middle:** My wife Karen paddles toward sea cave formed in calcareous rock in an area previously mined for marble.



**Far right:** young polar bear sighted at Bamsebu.



## Fire at South Atlantic Water Science Center Office on June 29th gives new meaning to the term “Hot ‘Lanta”

Nancy Barber reports: “There was a little fire in the office last night, started by something in a hydrologic technician's cubicle. Fire damage is probably limited to 4 cubicles (OK, smoke may have affected more), but oh, the water damage. Only 2 sprinkler heads went off, but I'm told there was water running out the front door (the fire area is very interior to our space) and there was 2 inches of water in the server room. Half the office space (not including the warehouse area at the back) had water in it, mostly on the floor.



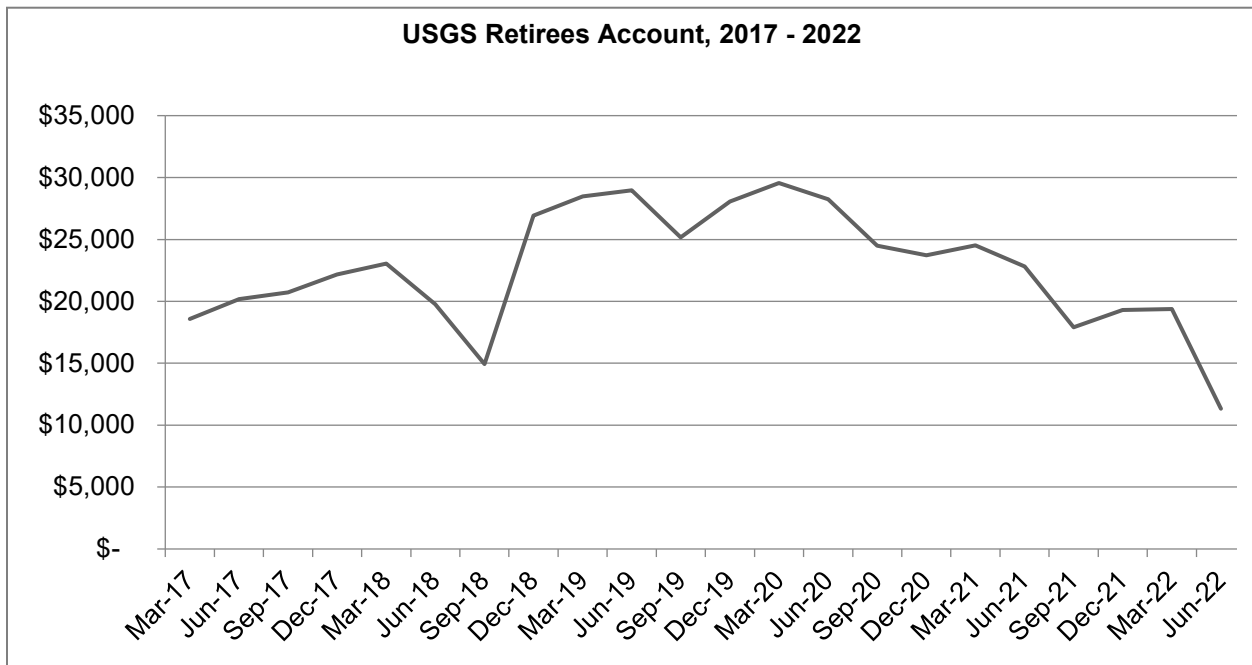
Two boxes of reports that were on the floor got wet, one badly, one not so much because some kind soul had put it on the desk for me. I threw out some of the box contents and brought some home to try to dry them out, mostly older reports I'm not certain ever got scanned. A salvage company will have to have all the furniture moved to get the carpets completely dry.



Some fire insurance professionals will have to determine the cause--first speculation was that it was a sonde, but it apparently didn't have a battery in it and uses a standard alkaline anyway. Brief thoughts of lightning, but the damage to the wire pole looks like smoke only. Something electrical almost certainly.”

## TREASURER’S REPORT, SECOND QUARTER 2022

Treasurer Cathy Hill reports the organization had \$11,330 at the end of June 2022. Special thanks for contributions above dues to Ben Jones, Jay Kiesler, Robert Swanson, Skip Schmidt, Bob Hirsch, Sandra Embrey, and Ronnie Andreani. Many thanks for your generosity. These contributions are a great benefit to our Scholarship fund.





## **DIRECTORY**

### **NEW MEMEBERS**

**Cole, Brian E. (10) (Jean)** – San Carlos, CA  
**Gentile, Michael A. (11)** – Central Point, OR  
**Heywood, Charles E. 'Chuck' (21) (Sonja Krongard)** – Ridgway, CO  
**Ingebritsen, Steven E. 'Steve' (20) (Barbara Gaal)** – Portola Valley, CA  
**Landers, Mark N. (21) (Aleta)** – Lawrenceville, GA  
**McFarland, Susan 'Susie' (22)** – Ashburn, WA

### **AFFILIATE LIAISON**

**Jones, Joseph L. (21)** – no longer affiliate liaison for Washington state  
**Lanier Sr., Atticus S. (AL) (Brooke)** – replaces L. Weir Tennessee state  
**Patrick Moran (AL)** – replaces Joseph Jones as the affiliate liaison for Washington state

### **DIRECTORY CHANGES**

**Cohen, David A. (10)** – new address  
**Doty, Gene C. (83) (Merla)** – widow would like to be removed as a member  
**Fretwell, Marvin O. (99) (Ardith M)** – new address  
**Galloway, Devin L. (18)** – add spouse's name to directory  
**Havens, Judith (S) (John S)** – family requested to remove widow as a member  
**Herb, William J. 'Bill' (05) (Marian)** – delete landline phone number, add cell phone number  
**Jobson, Harvey E. (01) (Barbara)** – new address  
**Jones, Rick (F) (Connie)** – remove 1<sup>st</sup> phone no.  
**Kalen, Gail (08)** – new phone no.  
**Kish, George R. (12)** – new address  
**Knochenmus, Darwin (93) (Linda)** – new email and address  
**Kontis, Angelo L. (99)** – new email address  
**Lanier, Willard D. 'Will' (11)** – new address  
**Martin, Peter (12) (Leslie)** – corrected address  
**Mason, Robert R. (A) (Heather)** – new address and phone no.  
**Morris III, Fred (06)** – new phone number  
**Shields, Ronald R. (02) (Addie)** – new email address  
**Skinner, Ruth (Earl L.) (S)** – new phone number  
**Huffman, Jo Ann Schnepf (94) (Curt)** – new email address  
**Straka, Darla E. (03) (James)** – new address  
**Weeks, John B. 'Jack' (99) (Judy)** – new address  
**Weiss, Lawrence A. (94) (Edythe)** – new address  
**Wilde, Franceska (13) (Ira)** – correct email address  
**Winograd, Isaac J. 'Ike' (05)** – replace old phone no. with new one