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WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 158

February 2013

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

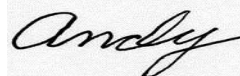
My second year as president of this great organization began with the invasion of cold temperatures after a very mild fall here in the east, then a week of warm weather. Our Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations with family and friends went very well to end the year 2012. The huge wind and rain storm that devastated the shore areas of New Jersey and New York came as a surprise. It was great to see so many **volunteers** stepping up to help those in need. Where would this nation be if it weren't for **volunteers** being there to support those families and businesses in need?

It is possible that several important retiree positions may need to be filled for those who may be having health problems or other situations. To keep the WRD Retirees functioning as we are used to, we will need **volunteers** willing to accept a position when asked. As these positions are filled, we will make them known to you.

There must be more WRD Retirees who have something interesting to share with the rest of us. If you enjoy reading about the happenings of your colleagues, don't you think they would like to hear what's happening in your life? We have District and Regional contacts, Regional Directors, and National Officers, **all are volunteers**, willing to help you if needed, just call or email them. A vital area of the Newsletter is the input from our members, **NEWS OF RETIREES**, about how things are going in their lives, vacations taken, and other information of interest to your fellow members. We need this input to keep the Newsletter interesting and informative. There is a need for information concerning new retirees, health of members, and also any deaths. There is no pipeline of information except from our members. All you have to do is contact an officer by calling or sending email about what you may have heard. Charles does an excellent job following up on any information sent or called in to us.

I really feel fortunate to have had Charles Nethaway as our Newsletter Editor for the past year, after the passing of our friend, Jim Biesecker. Charles and I meet several times before the Newsletter goes to print and Charles always has the 24 pages organized. I am impressed with the way he presents the material he has received and the research he does to ensure the completeness and correctness of information.

I hope that you will take note of the word **volunteers** being used several times since everything we do is through **volunteers**. See page 3 where it explains how to tell us about new retirees.



Do I owe dues to WRD Retirees?

If you receive a paper copy of the newsletter, please check the mail label of the envelope for a number above the right side of your name. This number represents the last year your dues were paid. If the number is 2012, you have paid for 2012 and you owe dues for 2013. If the number is 2011, you owe dues for 2012 and 2013. If the number is 2010, you owe dues for 2011, 2012, and 2013.

Dues are still \$10 per year and can be paid for advance years if you wish to do so. If you owe dues, make a check to WRD Retirees and mail it to "WRD Retirees, P.O. Box 280, Herndon, VA 20172-0280." Contributions are welcomed and appreciated, so indicate how much of your check is for dues and how much is a contribution. If you think an error has been made in recording your past dues payments, notify Bill Boning at cwboning@verizon.net or wrdretirees@usgs.gov. Please also send some "News" for the next newsletter!

NEW or RE-INSTATED MEMBERS

Anderson, Dean (06) 1330 Lake Street, San Francisco, CA 94118, 415-668-0910, dsa344@sbcglobal.net
Beauchemin, Paul F (08) 22491 Orchard Grass Terrace, Apt 101, Ashburn, VA 20148, (C) 703-627-5389, paulrbeauchemin@yahoo.com
Brown, Glenda E (12) (Randy Siebert) 1428 Cypress Circle, Lafayette, CO 80026, gebrown@comcast.net, 303-666-4414
Femmer, Suzanne (12) (Steve) 12903 County Road 3000, Rolla, MO 65401, 573-364-0654, stevesuzf@gmail.com
Hollway, Richard (13) (Nancy) 242 SW Parkside Drive, Portland, OR 97205, rah@easystreet.net
Majors, Deborah K (Affil) 8264 N State Road 109, Wilkinson, IN 46186, debimaj@yahoo.com, 765-781-2288
Meyer, David F (12) 12942 Nora Drive, Anchorage, AK 99515
Plunkett, Mickey (12) (Cathy) 530 Windy Ridge Lane, Madison, MS 39110, (H) 601-853-9380, (C) 601-506-4000
Rennick, Walter (11) (Jean) 4717 Orcas Court NE, Lacey, WA 98516, (C) 360-464-3258, (H) 360-464-0476, wlrrennick@msn.com
Scott, Jonathan "Jon" (12) (Betty) 5941 NW 59th Street, Warr Acres, OK 73122, joncscott@cox.net
Spechler, Rick (12) (Cindy) 108 Willow Drive, Lake Mary, FL 32746, rickspechler@gmail.com, 407-322-4776
Swancar, Amy (12) 3905 W Platt Street, Tampa, FL 33609, 813-872-1559

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Allingham, John (79) (Patricia) 2943 Mill Island Parkway, Frederick, MD 21701 -- addr
Bauer, Daniel P (99) (Mary) (C) 608-469-4850 -- phone
Beck, Donald D (86) (Mary) 3 Watson Lane, Fairfield IL 62837 -- addr
Cannarsa, Anthony (11) (Jane) -- add spouse
Case, H Lee (Affil) hlcasiii@yahoo.com -- email
Dudey, William W (03) wwdudley@gmail.com -- email
Gonthier, Joseph B (90) (Dolores) 8325 S Highland Drive, Apt 118, Sandy UT 84093 -- addr
Griffin, Judith B (08) 250 Heather Lane, Staunton, VA 24001, 703-891-4064 -- addr, phone
Herrett, Thomas A (11) (Wendy) therrett@comcast.net -- add spouse, email
Hornig, Charles E (10) 116 N 110th Street, Seattle, WA 96133, capital@gmail.com, 206-535-5246 -- addr, email, phone
Knochenmus, Darwin (93) (Linda) dknochenmus@wildblue.net -- email
Laird, Leslie B (86) (Thelma) cell 253-219-5083 -- cell phone
Paulson, Richard W "Dick" (93) (Marion) 1020 Creek Road, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949, cell 252-715-3274 -- addr, cell phone
Scribner, Elizabeth "Betty" (07) (R.W.) scribner@sunflower.com -- email
Smith, Mrs Earl "Betty" (W) 5 Stuart Drive, Barrington, NH 03825 -- addr
Smithson, Jerry R (04) 113 Twilight Overlook, Canton, GA 30114, 470-226-9105 -- addr, phone
Stollenwerk, Kenneth G (11) 6452 Blue Heron Point Drive, Waterford, WI 53185 -- addr
Sweeney, Patricia (08) 12915 Alton Square, Apt 205, Herndon, VA 20170 -- addr
Upson, Mrs Joseph "Roberta" (W) 1093 Drew Drive, Yardley PA 19067 -- addr
Wolff, Joyce B (11) 15520 6120 Road, Montrose CO 81403 -- addr

Identifying and Contacting New Retirees

In past years, Barbara Gunderson has provided WRD Retirees with a quarterly list of recent retirees, and our organization has made each of them members of WRD Retirees. With the retirement of Barb in 2012, the function of providing such a list was transferred to Human Resources (HR) in Denver. Initial response indicated this was not to be a problem, but senior personnel in HR said they cannot do this for privacy reasons.

In consultation with Jerad Bales, the best alternative has been for the WRD Retirees Secretary to include in the USGS internal electronic distribution of the WRD Retirees newsletter, a request to provide the names of retiring personnel. The internal distribution has included the A and B distributions, and the Water Science Center (WSC) Directors, and recently our distribution has included the WSC Data Chiefs and the WSC Administrative Officers (AO). Subsequently, after receiving the names of the retiring personnel, the WRD Retirees Secretary would send an email to the potential retiree inviting him/her to join WRD Retirees.

This has been marginally successful. Sometimes no response is realized from the recipients of the USGS distribution, and sometimes the employee has already retired and is no longer on the USGS email directory. Also, many potential retirees do not respond to the invitation to join our organization. ***If you know of a retiree or an employee about to retire, please encourage them to join WRD Retirees. Also please notify WRD Retirees at wrdretirees@usgs.gov of the potential retiree.***

Let us know if you have any other suggestions to reach more of the new retirees.

Soliciting Pictures for the Directory

We are soliciting pictures that are suitable for the Directory cover. Typically, the picture (or pictures) is of older equipment, field activities, etc. If you have any such pictures and would like to see them on a cover of a future Directory, please send them to WRD Retirees, P.O. Box 280, Herndon, VA 20170. Scanned photos can be emailed to wrdretirees@usgs.gov. Please identify where the picture(s) were taken and who took them. Credits will be given for the sender of any picture we select. For the 2013 Directory, any submittals need to be received by **April 1, 2013.**

Briant Kimball Retires from Utah Water Science Center

Briant Kimball, Research Hydrologist with the Utah Water Science Center, retired on November 30, 2012, after 37 years with the USGS. Briant started his career in the Utah District of the Water Resources Division in 1975 as a student. He completed his B.A. in Geology at Harvard in 1976 and his M.S. in Geology at the University of Utah in 1978. In 1981, Briant completed his Ph.D. in Geology at the University of Wyoming. He then worked with the Colorado District in Denver from 1981 to 1990. The Colorado period of Briant's career was when he began his professional alliance with Diane McKnight and Ken Bencala. The three united forces to propose and execute hydrology and mine-drainage studies. In 1990, Briant and his family returned to Utah where he continued and finished his career with the Utah District, now a Water Science Center.

Briant traveled all over the Western United States with recent field forays into the Eastern United States and Italy. Briant often mentored (and sometimes caused USGS to hire) numerous students, graduate students, and post-doctoral researchers. Mentoring continued at the USGS National Training Center where he taught Aquatic Chemistry and Multivariate Statistical Techniques. Briant has authored or co-authored over 130 technical reports.

Briant leaves the USGS to enjoy his family, particularly 5 young grandchildren; numerous hobbies (hiking, back-country skiing, running); and service. Although he will continue as an emeritus scientist, those left in his wake will miss his unwavering commitment to excellent science, his calm under fire in the field, optional power naps, and his warm humor and personality. Buon Viaggio, Briant!

-Bill Werkheiser

Richard Hollway Retires from Oregon Water Science Center

After 33 years of service to the USGS, Richard Hollway retired on January 30, 2013. While Richard spent his entire career in the Oregon Water Science Center in Portland, his work affected the entire Water Mission Area. Richard joined the USGS in July, 1979. He attended the very first National Computer Technology Meeting (NCTM) held by the then Water Resources Division (WRD), which landed him an assignment at the USGS exhibit at the 1984 World's Fair in New Orleans. Since then, Richard was instrumental in planning and implementing a long string of NCTMs. These became the USGS Information Technology in Educational Management (ITEM) meetings. In this capacity Richard influenced the work of most system administrators (SAs) in the Water Mission Area.

Richard wrote requirements and test scenarios for the acquisition of the Prime minicomputers in the 1980s, the first distributed computers in Water Resources offices, and for succeeding generations of WRD computer systems, including the Data General and Sun workstations. Richard authored and co-authored four reports in the late 1980's, about information retrieval from databases, test plans for acquiring microcomputers, network connectivity, and evaluating an electronic reports processing system for earth-science technical reports. Richard has supported SAs around the country and he has traveled to nearly every Water Science Center in the USGS. For the past ten years, Richard has supported the administration of Sun computers for the National Water Information System database. Systems administrators have counted on Richard for help in a crisis or a pinch. Richard has also served on international assignments in Jordan, Senegal, the Czech Republic, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and with Turkish and Greek Cypriots in Austria. After Richard's retirement, his personal email address will be: rah@easystreet.net.

--Ken Skach and Janice Gordon

What's New in Research?

By: Jerad Bales, USGS Chief Scientist for Water

Glacier Studies in the USGS

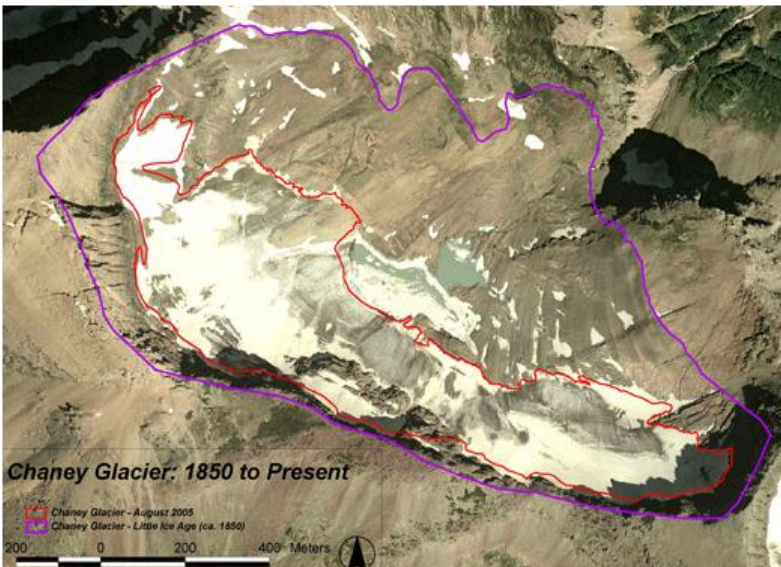


Retreat of the South Cascade Glacier, Washington, 1928 – 2003. From Josberger and others, 2009, <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2009/3046/>.

Much of the glacier-related research at the USGS currently is conducted through the Research and Development Program of the Climate and Land Use Change Mission Area. Glacier studies support understanding and prediction of sea level rise in response to glacier and ice sheet melting; coastal ocean circulation, which is affected by freshwater inputs; and water availability.

USGS monitors three benchmark glaciers: two in Alaska and one in Washington. Additional monitoring is occurring at five glaciers in Glacier National Park. All three benchmark glaciers have lost mass since the USGS monitoring began in the early 1960's, with an acceleration of loss in the last 15 years, which is coincident with the highest melt years. During the early years of monitoring, the mass balance of the glaciers

correlated well with the Pacific Decadal Oscillation index, but this correlation has weakened during the last 20 years, indicating a greater influence of a warmer and (or) drier climate relative to effects of conditions in the Pacific Ocean. For more information on glacier monitoring studies, see <http://www.nrmc.usgs.gov/research/glaciers.htm>.



Alaska's glaciers are among the biggest mass losers of all Earth's glaciated mountain regions, but also among the poorest studied. Evolution of these systems has impacts far beyond effects on sea level, as runoff from these glaciers contributes substantially to the freshwater budget of the Gulf of Alaska and the Arctic, which both support large and productive biological systems and fisheries. Water-resource and other stakeholders in the Pacific Northwest need up-to-date information about current glacier changes in the future in order to plan for and mitigate decreased summer flows and possible higher winter flows.

Chaney Glacier, Glacier National Park. The purple line represents the glacier extent in ~1850, and the red line represents 2005 conditions. It is anticipated that all the glaciers in Glacier National Park will have melted by 2030. (see http://www.nrmc.usgs.gov/research/glacier_model.htm)

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Jeff Agajanian writes, "Thanks for the email. Happy New Year."

The Allegra Team, part of the company that prints our newsletter, sent us greetings, "Best wishes for the Holidays and Happiness throughout the New Year." *[Editor's note: we really appreciate the efficiency and courtesy with which the Allegra Team prints our newsletter!]*

Andy Anderson says, "My position as President of the WRD Retirees for one year has been quite rewarding, inspiring, and educational. It is not as taxing as I thought it might be time wise. Even though there are many items to be taken care of, most are easily handled, especially by having a good Secretary and Newsletter Editor. Thanks to the computer, communication and information processing are nearly a snap, saving time and energy. It is a real joy to have our Retirees meetings and lunches at a local diner on the first Monday of each month. Getting to see and communicate with 25-40 of my colleague friends makes that week memorable for me. Last month, January 2013, meeting/lunch included (last names only) Baedecker, Boning, Cohen, Condes, Engberg, Hutchison, Jobson, Kilpatrick, Lai, Lanfear, Langford, Lenox, Lew, Lunsford, Mann, Matalas, McWreath, Nethaway, Winograd, and Yorke. Also, seven members of the Geologic Division Retirees had lunch with us, and our speaker for the meeting was John Keith of the GD Retirees. A great time was had by all. I feel very lucky that Mary's and my children live close to us. We get to see our grandchildren (ages 3, 6, 9, and 11) often, especially their activities, which include basketball, soccer, dance, and music. Weekends are busy."

Arnold Boettcher says, "Thanks for reminding me that my dues are due. As you may know, as we get older, we tend to forget!! Happy New Year! "

Alan Brown tells us, "After 8 & 1/2 years of full time travel in various small RVs, I have returned to stationary life in a home with all the usual obligations such as mortgage payments, mowing lawns, cleaning out the gutters and on and on. But, it is a nice change for the most part; comfort and security being tops. But even with this big lifestyle change, I do plan to continue my adventure travel, but the trips will be shorter and more local and my new location on Colorado's Western Slope is ideally located for such travel. My new address is P.O. Box 688, Cedaredge, CO 81413. Phone and email unchanged. Any WRD colleagues traveling through my adopted state are welcome to "camp here" any time."

Bob Bubeck tells us, "Thanks for the reminder and all your work to keep us together and organized. I am no longer working part-time at Department of Geosciences, UF Gainesville, but do attend regular seminars, etc., when I can. Here's wishing All the Best in the New Year (for all of us and our Government!)"

Phil and Patricia Carpenter wrote to us, "Here's for WRD Retirees and a donation. Sure appreciate all you all do on behalf of the rest of us. Take care."

John and Janice Conomos write, "After a string of seven grandsons, we finally have a granddaughter! Annick was born a proud Texan three months ago. All are well."

Nina (Mrs. Terry) Danielson says, "The best to you in the New Year 2013."

Dave Dawdy writes, "The paper I mentioned earlier, 'Regional Flood Frequency in the USA --- How we got here and where we are going,' was published in the September ASCE Journal of Hydrologic Engineering. If anyone wants a copy and doesn't subscribe to JHE, let me know and I will email a copy. **[Reference: Dawdy, D., Griffiths, V., and Gupta, V. (2012). "Regional Flood-Frequency Analysis: How We Got Here and Where We Are Going." J. Hydrol. Eng., 17(9), 953-959.]**"

David Erdmann wrote to us, saying, "Keep up the good work."

John Flager writes, "Thanks for all your good work. Please sign me up for 5 more years. Happy trails."

Harold Golden reports, "Best wishes to all! Marie and I had a wonderful holiday with visits from two of our great-grandchildren. The other two will visit in late January. Happy 2013!"

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Mark Hardy writes, "Happy New Year, and thanks for the heads up on dues. Really do appreciate what you folks do for the Retirees. Thanks!"

Tom Herrett says, "Enclosed is a check ... [that] can be used toward the Hydrologic Technician Scholarship fund. The Portland, Oregon Field Office has 2 recipients of this scholarship and they have been outstanding employees. Since my retirement in December 2011, I have been volunteering about one day a week with the Oregon data program helping out on database issues and reviewing records. Helping out on just hydrologic records is a lot more fun than dealing with budgets, program and personnel issues. In September 2012, my wife Wendy and I took a road trip to Colorado. While passing through Grand Junction, we had breakfast with a couple of WRD retirees and their wives; **Paul and Tina von Guerard** and **Bob and Marie Boulger**. I'm glad to report that in the nearly twenty years since we last saw them that none of us has changed a bit."

Rick Iwatsubo writes, "Thank you WRD Officers for the outstanding job you are doing to keep the organization moving on! All is well at my end ... eat, sleep, and fish ... what more can I ask for!"

Marshall and Margie Jennings thank us for our efforts and report, "Margie and I do a West Texas Odyssey road trip and stay at Indian Lodge, historic hotels, visit Ft Davis, Desert Museums, Sul Ross U, and take in McDonald Observatory, star party, tour new telescopes, Big Bend, Judge Roy Bean, etc., etc. We usually work in theatre and symphony in Austin or San Antonio as a prelude to the road trip. We go in February every other year during a sunny period and before spring breakers. I've invited **Jobsons** and others from time to time. Be nice to get a group together. Cheers and Grace in 2013."

Gail Kalen reported to us that she was able to check off two items from her Bucket List in 2012. "On January 2nd, a friend and I attended the 123rd Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA. You might ask why the parade wasn't on January 1st. In 1893, the organizers were faced with the dilemma of having a parade on Sunday which they felt would interfere with church services; as a result, the "Never on Sunday" rule was adopted and exists today. In our bleacher seats across from the Norton Simon Museum, we were able to observe how efficient the parade organizers were as they started the parade on time and handled breakdowns as they happened. Seeing the floats in person was so much better than watching on television; and, after the parade, we went to the post parade viewing venue where we were able to see the floats up close and personal. There was someone with each float to answer questions about the float, how it was built, and where all the flowers came from. From Pasadena, CA, we drove to Death Valley National Park where we spent a few days traveling from Scotty's Castle in the north to the lowest elevation site in the United States which is in the southern end of the park.



"Then in March, we traveled to Lima, Peru, and on to Iquitos, Peru, where we boarded a boat on which we would cruise the Amazon River. The boat called La Aquamarina is used on International Expeditions cruises; and twice a year it has a joint cruise with the World Wildlife Association. We were lucky enough to be on this doubly-hosted cruise. The boat has cabins for 24 guests but we only had 12 which made the cruise even more intimate.



The crew gathered fresh foods from the local villagers as we traveled the river and also performed each evening before dinner. One afternoon we even went piranha fishing. I caught only one red-bellied piranha; but as a group, we caught 30 which the cook prepared for dinner that evening. (Piranha has a mild taste but is VERY bony.) Each day we had one to two outings on smaller boats which took us into smaller tributaries. March is still the rainy season and the river was 35 feet above its normal height; therefore, we were only able to hike the rainforest one day. But that did not

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matter as we were able to see three-toed sloths, six varieties of monkeys, and more than a hundred different birds. Seeing parakeets in the wild was almost mind-boggling for me. We did a night cruise on the small boats and realized what 'pitch black' actually means. I still don't know how the drivers of the boats could see and find their way back. As for mosquitoes, the only time we experienced these unpleasant insects was when we were parked, for two days, in the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve. Then we needed the long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and DEET. But even with the insects, all of the guests really enjoyed the 7-day cruise. There even is a web site hosted by one of the guests which shows photos and explains what we saw each day. If you are interested, the link to Day 1 is <http://greenglobaltravel.com/2012/04/09/the-peruvian-amazon-day-1-photo-gallery/>."

Barbara Kerans reports, "I am enjoying retirement a great deal. I currently spend entire summers at our family cottage on 'the Lake' in upper Ontario, Canada. Then enjoy the lovely champagne powder snow winters here in Colorado. My best to you all."

Chuck Lamb writes, "I love the Newsletter. Great work by you and staff."

Marty Land writes, "Hope all is well with you and family. We are good – seven grandchildren, ages 4-20! **Larry** is still working full-time. How much longer? No one knows!"

Gerald Lindholm writes from the **Boise Retirees**, "**Michael Lewis**, new director of the Idaho Water Science Center was a guest at the Boise WRD Retirees breakfast on January 8. He informed the group how the USGS is now organized at national, regional, and state levels with respect to water. Michael said that many long established methods of data collection and study are still used and explained some of the high-tech methods currently employed for a variety of purposes. The group thoroughly enjoyed his presentation and knows that the USGS is well represented in Idaho. Attendees were: **Gene and Glenda Blessing, Joe Bunt, Bill and Jean Harenberg, Mike and Jeannie Jones, Karen Kenyon, Kay Lehman, Jerry and Muffy Lindholm, Bruce Parks, Glen Sisco, and Paul and Robin Woods.**"

Deborah Lowe says, "Here is something towards the Hydro Tech Scholarship program. Hope this finds you well. I retired in June and absolutely love it! Don't know how I ever had time to work. Take care & happy new year!"

Jerry Lowery says, "We're gonna have to stop communicating like this! HA! Hope all's well with you and all yours. Joyce & I are fine. Later."

Dave and Jeanne Moody provided us with wonderful news from their 2012 experiences. Dave is now a priest. Here is his narrative from 2012: "This year our lives have been transformed yet again. On December 1, David was ordained as a priest in the Anglican Church in America. We were blessed to have our daughter Sarah and granddaughter Ruth with us from Texas. A number of other relatives also came, but the intended family reunion after the ordination was thwarted by stormy weather and slippery roads. We were overjoyed also to have with us the Rev. Kyriakos Saravelas and his wife Sophia. Fr. Kerry is one of David's oldest friends from their high school days at the Browne & Nichols School in Cambridge, MA. Fr. Kerry read the epistle during the service. Fr. David will continue to serve as an assistant at the Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd in Charlestown, NH, and help out in other parishes as needed.

"As many of you know, David had prostate surgery in June 2011 after a round of chemotherapy. All was deemed very successful although recovery took the better part of a year. While this slowed David up a bit, he is now fully recovered, praise the Lord. Church activities continue to occupy much of our time. Jeanne serves on the ACA's national Executive Committee, and David is a member of the diocesan Standing Committee. We both are part of the Charlestown Ecumenical Network. From May through October, David continues to reenact an 18th-century minister at the Fort at No. 4 with services every Sunday from the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer* and preaching from the Elizabethan Homilies that were still in use in the 1700s. Jeanne continued doing library work at the Fort at No. 4, but not as much as hoped because of various indexing and copyediting projects during the Fort's season. She also continues her volunteer work as Alstead's "Dump Librarian" in the book section of the recycling center's thrift shop. This has now extended to swapping books with the shop at the Walpole dump and also the bookshelf at Alstead's Friendly Meals for

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senior citizens. All proceeds support a regional food pantry and meals-on-wheels. In addition to these volunteer jobs, she still does her real work of book indexing and copyediting.

"Last winter, Jeanne got tired of cold weather and volunteered to cat sit in Texas while Sarah and Ruth spent spring break in Arizona and Craig went on a business trip. This was done in exchange for guaranteed weather above 50° F. Despite three days of heavy rain, the temperature remained warm by NH standards; she and Mimi the Cat enjoyed each other's company. **Ivan James**, a long-time friend from the U.S. Geological Survey, paid his annual visit to his woodlot in a nearby town and stayed with us for a week in April. He kindly took down a number of trees that we cut into firewood for our outdoor wood furnace for this winter's heating season. Sarah and Ruth joined us for nearly a month in June with visits to various friends and to the family camp on Lake Winnepesaukee.

"The highlight of August was visiting with David's classmate at Harvard, Emery, and Edie Cleaves at their summer home on Lake Sebago, ME. We also enjoyed being with Harvard friends, Bob and Sandy Michelson whom we met in Manchester, NH, at the Currier Art Museum for a tour of a Frank Lloyd Wright house that the museum owns. Other than that we stayed close to home this year. Last year we finally accomplished what was a 30-year dream we have had ever since we acquired our tree farm in Alstead. We placed a conservation easement on 220 acres of the property that is now held by the Monadnock Conservancy. This will ensure that the property with its four beaver ponds, brooks, wetlands, and abundant wildlife will not be developed in the future. Our land adjoins several thousand acres of unfragmented forestlands and is part of a much larger area that the Nature Conservancy and many other organizations are trying to protect that stretches from central Massachusetts to Mount Cardigan in New Hampshire just south of the White Mountains. The easement allows us to manage the forest for timber and firewood and allows for recreational use by the public. We pray that you all have a blessed Christmas as we contemplate the mystery of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ coming into the world as a little child. Jeanne and I hope that you will experience the love of family and friends at this very special time of year. Christmas Blessings!"



Fr. David at ordination



Fr. David gives his first blessing to Ruth, Sarah, and Jeanne



Fr. David with Sarah and Ruth

Marshall and Carolyn Moss wrote, "Tucson ain't what it used to be — too hot in the 'summer and too cold in the winter.' We are having freezing weather for the next week. It sure makes it difficult to raise citrus (only 7 trees). Hope that your holiday season was a good one and the new year is off to a good start."

Charles Nethaway writes, "After bouncing back from my successful chemotherapy from April to October that placed me in complete remission from my multiple myeloma, I flew to Colorado for two weeks, part of which was to celebrate my mother's 92nd birthday and her good health. I also spent lots of time with my brother who had driven up from Waco, TX, doing genealogy. Mother, Rowland, and I have submitted our DNA to Ancestry.com to see what comes out of our family closet! I also spent lots of time with my daughter and her family, especially enjoying the young grandchildren, two boys ages 3 and 1. I had the pleasure of a "Power Breakfast" with **Jim Blakey** at Denny's off South Wadsworth in Lakewood. I also enjoyed talking with, and

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thanking, **Merilee Bennett** and **Anna Lenox** about possible future editing contributions to the WRD Retirees Newsletter. God willing, my oldest granddaughter, Elizabeth, will graduate from Western Kentucky University in May with a double major of Theology and French. To celebrate her graduation, we are planning a trip to France for this coming summer."

Roy Newcome says, "'Hello' to **Bill Boning**. He is the only WRD National Officer I ever met and **Dick Bloyd** is the only Retirees Regional Director I ever knew. Hope they're well."

John Oberg writes to us, "Thanks to all for your efforts in publishing the WRD Retirees Newsletter. It always brings to mind all of the great people I worked with in my career with WRD. However, I am now seeing too many familiar names in 'In Memoriam' each issue."

Marion and Dick Paulson say, "After 17 years of enjoying family vacations each summer at Duck on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, Marion and Dick have thrown in the (beach) towel—pun intended—and relocated to the Outer Banks permanently. During recent years, as their grandchildren grew up and were diverted by jobs, and high school—and now college—schedules, it became impossible for everyone in the family to join them each summer for 2 weeks. The Outer Banks had become part of the family DNA, and Marion and Dick decided to relocate permanently so that the rest of the family and friends can visit as their schedules permit. So, in July 2012 they bought a house in Martin's Point—on the Albemarle Sound side of Kitty Hawk—and moved in on September 20th. By early October, they had unpacked and found places for everything in their new residence, registered to vote, passed their driver-license tests, found a couple of good Thai restaurants, and settled in, with afternoons on the beach of course as long as the weather permitted. What a difference from the last time Dick lived in North Carolina, as an 18-year old Army recruit at Ft Bragg outside Fayetteville. Oh yes, Hurricane Sandy and a subsequent Nor'easter passed by the Outer Banks shortly after they settled in, but their home in Kitty Hawk—which is two miles back from the ocean beaches—was unaffected by the storm, even to the point of no loss of electricity and other utilities. Dick continues to consult intermittently on projects that take him to Africa and Asia occasionally."

Doug Posson writes, "Greetings from Maine. All the best."

Harry Rodis says, "Enclosed are my 2013 dues. I recognize fewer names as time goes on. Still there are a few old-timers I remember."

Roger Rumenik tells us, "Thanks for keeping us more together."

Betty Smith, widow of **Earl Smith**, writes, "I'm having fun recycling! Wow, was I surprised you never changed a word [in November 2012 News] —I guess people would realize the restaurants on Dubai Creek were not on the desert. Getting ready for a quick trip to NYC — The Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra is playing 'The Christmas Rose' at Carnegie Hall on November 29th, my first and probably only time there. My daughter, Cheryl Hay, is in the violin section. ☺ I'm not crazy, just a little weird."

Jerry Smithson tells us, "Thanks for all your good work."

Jim Stewart says, "Thanks for your efforts."

Chet Thomas sends us, "Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year to all WRD Retirees. The Newsletter is great--keep it up! I enjoy reading it and keeping up with the group."

Janice Ward writes, "Happy 2013. Thanks for all the work you do for us!"

NEWS OF RETIREES

Vital Verbs

*Tips provided to us by **Charles Ewart, III**, Honolulu,*

From HelpingWithWriting.com

Vital Verbs, Worksheet 1/7. Verbs tell us what the subject is doing in the sentence. Circle the verb openers in the sentences below.

1. Accept the gift from your friend.
2. Bang the drum loudly at the concert.
3. Calculate the difference between five and seven.
4. Decorate the hall for the holidays.
5. Encourage your child to read every day.
6. Fix the hole in the boat so that it will float.
7. Gather up the dishes and we will wash them.

Every sentence opens with a verb to grab the reader's attention.

Tessie's tips on writing ... Write a variety of verbs to enhance your writing. Recommended Reading: Pooh Bear by A.A. Milne. [[Winnie-the-Pooh](#)] (1926) (illustrated by Ernest H. Shepard)

Photographs with Your Articles

As you see in this News of Retirees, we are beginning to put some photos in with the news. If you have pictures to send along with your news, please feel free to do so. Someone said, "A picture is worth a thousand words." Your friends would love to see what you are up to!

MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

North Carolina Meeting – April 26, 2012



Front Row – L to R: Mary Miekle, Bill Wilson, Kathie Wilson, Ann Beam, Mickey Reid, and Nancy Williams;
Second Row – L to R: Bob Miekle, Charles Daniel, Myra Daniel, Rufus Allen, Nancy Coble, Ron Coble, Ann Eddins,
Harold Eddins, Bruce Lloyd, Charlotte Lloyd, Doris Hodge, Graham Hodge, Nancy Garrett, and Gary Garrett.

North Carolina Retiree Luncheon – November 15, 2012



Front Row – L to R: Myra Daniel, Ann Beam, Nancy Williams, Mickey Reid, Ron Coble, Carol Winner, Mary Meikle,
Nancy Garrett, and Gary Garrett;

Back Row – L to R: Kathie Wilson, Bill Wilson, Jim Turner, Charles Daniel, Mike Winner, Ed Floyd, and Bob Meikle.
Ralph Heath attended but had to leave before the group picture was taken.

MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

Virginia Christmas Luncheon – December 4, 2012



Alice DiLandro and Dennis Sulam



John Shanton, Isabelle and Pepi Lacayo.
Pepi is retired from EPA.



Helene and Bill Mann



Fritz Kilpatrick and wife June

MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS
Colorado Luncheon – December 11, 2012



Left side: Jack Weeks, Bill Kastner, Rich Hawkinson, Jim Blakey, Alan Burns
Right side: Warren Teasdale, Bill Emmett, Bob Mead, Bob Brennan, John Moore.

Virginia Luncheon – January 2012



Wives and Daughters
Left side, front to back: Mary Anderson, Betty Rapp, Dottie and Beth Guerin
Right side, front to back: Joan Ferguson and Shirley Boning

Water Resources IMPACT

By Tim Smith

Water Resources IMPACT is a publication of the American Water Resources Association (AWRA). It is published six times a year and contains in each issue about five or six articles, mostly of a shorter nature, that focus on more popular topics in water resources. For example, recent issues in 2012 have been devoted to such topics as Water and Energy, Sustainable Water Resources, and Water and Food. During 2013, some of the topics planned for issues of IMPACT are International Concerns, Water Conservation, and the Colorado River. Each issue also contains opinion columns in which relevant concerns are discussed, such as water economy and arctic sea ice. Authors are generally sought from throughout the professional water resources community; for example, one recent issue contained an excellent article contributed by Matt Larson, the USGS Associate Director for Climate and Land Use Change.

The AWRA web site (<http://www.awra.org>) allows anyone to see the table of contents of each issue, although membership is required to access the contents of each issue. Each issue is usually assigned to one of eight associate editors, although guest editors can also work on an issue, sometimes in partnership with one of the associate editors. Both authors and guest editors are sought who may wish to participate in a future issue. The contact point for IMPACT is Earl Spangenberg, (espangenberg@uwsp.edu), who is at the University of Wisconsin.

Several members of the local retirees' chapter are active in AWRA. Dick Engberg serves as AWRA Technical Director, Tim Smith is an Associate Editor for IMPACT, and Ken Lanfear is the Editor for the AWRA Journal, the professional publication of AWRA.

Dr. Alan D. Thornhill Becomes Director, USGS Office of Science Quality and Integrity

Dr. Alan D. Thornhill has been appointed the new Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Office of Science Quality and Integrity, effective February 4, 2013, according to Deputy Director Suzette M. Kimball. He will be based in Reston, Virginia. Alan joins the USGS from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), where he was the Chief Environmental Officer and the Science Advisor to the Director of BOEM. From 2001 to 2010, he was the Executive Director of the Society for Conservation Biology (an international society working towards the goal of advancing science and protecting life on Earth). He has also served as the Director of Learning and Communications for the Science Division for The Nature Conservancy and as faculty in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Rice University.

For more than 15 years, Alan has worked in the nexus between academic research and the application of science to conservation and policy. He has focused his attention on climate change adaptation science, a significant part of his portfolio at the DOI, and he is the DOI's principal representative to the U.S. Global Change Research Program.

Alan is filling the vacancy left by Linda Gundersen, who retired in January after more than 30 years of dedicated service to the USGS.

Walt and Win Durum



Key to the Inception of Our WRD Retirees Reunions

Walt Durum very much enjoyed the WRD Retirees Organization, and when he was President of the Retirees, he and his wife, Win, hosted a meeting that became the inception of Retirees Reunions as we know them. In this Newsletter, Issue 158, February 2013, we have an *In Memoriam* for Winifred "Win" Durum, the widow of Walt Durum who died in 1996. Walt and Win greatly enjoyed Retirees reunions.

By way of background, in the spring of 1973, several retirees met with Chief Hydrologist Roy Hendricks to determine the extent of interest of WRD to support a retirees' organization

"... to assist its members to keep in touch with one another, and with the activities and personnel of the Geological Survey, particularly its Water Resources Division."

Given support, the WRD Retirees Organization was formed, and Newsletter Number 1, a 2-page issue, was printed in the fall of 1973 and distributed nationwide to some 200 retirees. Issue 2 of the Newsletter was distributed to 300 retirees in February 1974. A Constitution and By-Laws were written at about this time, and it was decided that newsletters should be published quarterly.

While newsletters were being written, there were no reunions in those early days. We can thank Walt and Win Durum for the concept of Retirees Reunions. On October 10, 1981, when Walt was president of the WRD Retirees, he and Win hosted a buffet lunch at the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC, with about 45 WRD retirees, active personnel, and their spouses attending.

Along with Ray Abrams, Art Baker, Bob Beall, Phil Cohen, Ruth Malone, Tom Nolan, and Helen St. John, couples at this planning meeting, according to the "A Chronicle of Reunions: 1982-1992" were Norm and Evelyn Beamer, Jim and Joyce Biesecker, Tom and Marie Buchanan, Hadley and Jane Carrigan, Joe and Jane Cragwall, John and Eleanor Crippen, Butch and Ann Grossman, Milt and Pam Hackett, Cavis and Dorothy Ham, W. Danielses, Walt and Win Durum, Fergusons, Geurins, Hastings, Heidels, Lairds, Langfords, J. Meyers, Pauszeks, Pecks, Pickerings, Riggses, Schaeferes, Wells, and F. Whites.

Walt suggested that the WRD Retirees should sponsor the USGS Founding Day the next year to celebrate the anniversary of the October 2, 1888 signing of the Irrigation Act of 1888 which authorized the first water resources activities of the USGS. This was approved and planning began.

The Retirees sponsored "The Founding Day Celebration" on Saturday, October 2, 1982, at the USGS National Center in Reston, VA. About 130 retirees and active personnel attended. Director Dallas Peck, Chief Hydrologist Phil Cohen, and WRD Retirees President Milt Hackett, among others, spoke in the auditorium. There was a lunch held in the cafeteria and a tour of the National Center was held. The day was blessed with autumn sunshine. Since retirees came from several distant States – California, Colorado, Florida, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Texas – this gathering is now considered the first "reunion" of the WRD Retirees. The next five reunions were held at 2-year intervals in Denver, Baton Rouge, Seattle, Orlando, and Williamsburg, and the Retirees published "A Chronicle of Reunions: 1982-1992" in May 1993.

Charles Nethaway, Archivist and Editor

Changes to the Editorial Staff

We are happy to announce that Anna Lenox has agreed to step into the shoes of NR Editor, replacing Eileen Smith who is leaving the position for personal reasons. Merilee Bennett in Lakewood, CO, has agreed to work as Layout Editor, with the help of the current Layout Editor, Dotty Woods, with the layouts of the February and May 2013 issues of the newsletter and is considering becoming the layout editor permanently, if all goes smoothly.

Thanks go out to all of these volunteers: "Dotty, Eileen, Anna, and Merilee, Thank You!"

In Memoriam

Duane Henry Conger, age 81, passed away on Tuesday, November 29, 2011, at the VA Hospital in Madison of complications following surgery. Duane had survived smoldering multiple myeloma for 16 years. He was born on February 5, 1930, in Oxford, the son of Henry and Lena (Grosskreutz) Conger. Duane was united in marriage to Joanne Anderzon in 1967. He was a veteran having proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force. Duane earned his Bachelor's of Science degree in civil engineering from the UW-Madison and worked as a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in the WRD District office in Madison for more than 30 years. His work involved surface water measurements, flood estimates, etc. Duane authored an extensive report dealing with estimating the magnitude and frequency of floods in Wisconsin streams that was used by engineering students and professional engineers [Conger, D.H., 1971, Estimating magnitude and frequency of floods in Wisconsin: Madison, Wis., U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report, 200 p.; and updated in 1981, 1986]. Duane was an avid fisherman and enjoyed frequent trips to Lake Superior to troll for Coho salmon with friends. He was equally at home in a trout stream and in an ice fishing shanty in pursuit of the "big catch." Among his other "talents" were watching the Packers and repairing TV's - a hobby that turned into a small business in retirement. He was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (Fellow) and a member of Midvale Lutheran Church since 1967. He is survived by his wife, Joanne; a son, Dennis (Silvia) Conger; two grandchildren and one great-grandson; and his faithful collie, Buddy. Funeral services were held at Midvale Community Lutheran Church of Madison December 2, 2011, with the Reverends Bruce Loewenhagen and Katie Baardseth co-officiating. Burial was in the Oxford Cemetery. The family would like to thank the nursing staff and the medical team at the VA Hospital in Madison for their competent and compassionate care. Memorials may be made to Midvale Community Lutheran Church, Dane County Humane Society, or to Agrace Hospice Care.



Mrs. Winifred "Win" Bronson Durum, 93, widow of retiree Walton "Walt" H. Durum (1917-1996), passed away on September 10, 2012, at Homewood at Crumland Farms, Frederick, MD. Winifred was formerly of Annandale, VA. Born in St. Paul, MN, on June 17, 1919, she was a daughter of the late Harry and Olivia Olson Bronson. According to the 1939 U of MN yearbook, Win attended the School of Dentistry, U of MN, in Minneapolis, majoring in GDH, general dental hygiene. She worked for many years as a dental hygienist for Dr. Roland Goodman, in Annandale, VA. She was a longtime member of the St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, in Annandale. Win had a busy husband. Win and Walt were married by at least 1951 when they were in Lincoln, NE, and Walt was a chemist for the USGS. Walt was a chemist by training and had research experience in the chemical manufacturing industry, including on the Manhattan Project. He was a prolific writer for the USGS. Walt studied metropolitan area water resources in the early 1950s, including works in Kansas City and St. Louis, MO, and the Twin Cities in MN. In the late 1950s, he published QW sections in Water-Supply Papers in Nebraska. He often wrote QW sections in GW publications, including works in MD, WY, NE, DC, MO, MN, KS, and MT. He published Water Quality of the Potomac River Estuary at Washington, The Aeration Capacity of Streams (with W. B. Langbein), and Occurrence of Minor Elements in Water. He was principal author or secondary author with such USGS luminaries as Hal Langford, John R. Rapp, H.M. Babcock, W.B. Langbein, to name a few. Walt and Win were longtime residents of Annandale, VA, when Walt was assigned to Headquarters. Walt served as Chief, Water Quality Branch, 1968-1972, until he retired. He continued to work on the staff of the Chief Hydrologist. In 1978, Walt authored the oft-referenced Historical profile of quality of water laboratories and activities, 1879-1973, OFR-78-432. Walt worked with Jim Biesecker and others on a Task Force to consolidate QW laboratories across the country into central laboratories. In the USGS Library, there is a video interview of Walt taken on September 20, 1989 by Walter F. White with an introduction by Joe Cragwall. Walt died in Annandale, VA, on January 7, 1996. Surviving Win is her son, Scott K. Durum and wife, Tiziana Cavinato; five grandchildren, Hillary, Leslie, Jonas, Christoph and Rita; three great grandchildren, Michael, Haven and Julian; and many nieces and nephews. Memorial services were held at the Keeney and Basford Funeral Home in Frederick with Rev. Esther R. Ziegler, chaplain of Homewood at Crumland Farms, officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Homewood Benevolent Fund, payable to Homewood Foundation, P.O. Box 250, Williamsport, MD 21795. Online condolences may be shared with the family at keeneybasford.com.

Birtie Edwards, 83, of Nashville, TN, wife of WRD Retiree Derward Edwards, formerly of Potts Camp, died January 5, 2013, in Nashville. She was a member of Haywood Hills Baptist Church and a telephone operator. Derward joined the USGS and worked on a Surface Water project in southern Mississippi in 1959, then served in the Tennessee SW District in the 1960s and onward, serving as the Nashville Subdistrict's

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Acting Subdistrict Chief between the tenures of Charles R. Burchett who transferred to Texas in 1982 and the time that the next Subdistrict Chief, Delmer J. O'Connell reported to Tennessee from Wyoming. Services for Bertie were held at Bethlehem Methodist Church and burial was in the church cemetery. She leaves her husband, Derward Edwards; her daughter, Janet Borcharding (Bo) of Springfield, TN; two granddaughters, Jenny Boles (Andy) of Lebanon, TN and Devon (J) Williams of Huntingdon, TN; and two great-granddaughters.

Bill Gannon, 85, passed away on October 12, 2012, in Harlingen, TX, where he and his wife lived for the past several years. Bill was born on January 25, 1927 in Pittsburgh, PA. The family moved to Summerville, MA, when he was a small child. He graduated from the Summerville High School in 1944. Soon after high school, he was drafted into the Navy at the end of World War II. He spent 1-1/2 years in the service and then went to the University of Massachusetts in Amherst where he majored in civil engineering, graduating with a BS in 1950. He married Ellie in October of 1950 and joined the Geological Survey at the Boston Office in 1951. In 1959, he was transferred to the Atlanta office. And in about 1965, he again transferred, this time to Madison, WI. In 1974, he became assistant district chief in Albany, NY. He retired from Albany in 1989. He got the most enjoyment out of the field work, especially the high-water events. Before he and Ellie had children, Ellie traveled with him on a couple of his field trips. Ellie said, "Course he had me taking notes!" After retirement Bill and Ellie became Winter Texans spending half the year in Harlingen, TX, and the other half of the year (summer, of course) at their log cabin on the Saco River in the White Mountains of NH. Eventually they gave up their cabin and became fulltime Texas residents. They spent many years in Texas square and round dancing several times each week. And, of course, playing cards and enjoying many of the activities in their senior citizen development. The last 2-1/2 years of his life was spent in Canterbury Court Memory Care unit with dementia. Bill and Ellie have 3 children, Nancy, Steve, and Deb; as well as 10 grandchildren; and 3 great-grandchildren. (Contributed by Bill's wife, Ellie Gannon.)



Martha Sandidge Heath, 86, wife of WRD Retiree Ralph Heath, of Raleigh, died on January 7, 2013. She was born September 12, 1926, in Bryson City, NC, the daughter of the late Robert L. and Letha Sandidge. Martha attended grammar school in Bryson City until her parents moved to Miami, FL, in 1935. She graduated from Miami Edison Senior High School in 1944 where she was a member of the Glee Club, Library Club, and the National Thespian Society. She also attended Walsh School of Business Science. In 1947, she married the love of her life, Ralph C. Heath of Lenoir County, NC. They met in Miami while Ralph was serving in the U.S. Navy and married in Miami soon after World War II. After Ralph's graduation from the University of North Carolina,

Chapel Hill, in 1948, Ralph joined the USGS and they moved to Tallahassee, FL, where Ralph worked in the SW District, as well as serving as acting chief of the GW District, 1952-1955. Ralph's career took them next to Albany, NY, where Ralph served as the Chief of the NY-New England GW District. He was in charge of the New York upstate program beginning in 1956 and was also the district geologist. In 1967, Martha and Ralph moved to Raleigh where Ralph became the District Chief of the unified WRD District. Ralph was the leader who reorganized the SW, GW, and Water Quality disciplines into a single WRD District. Under Ralph's leadership, the district's cooperative program flourished. Ralph initiated a district newsletter, "Currents and UnderCurrents." Two of Ralph's final and important reports were "Basic ground-water hydrology, with reference to conditions in North Carolina: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 80 – 44," 1980; and "Basic ground-water hydrology: U.S. Geological Survey Water-Supply Paper 2220," 1983. Martha was a lifelong learner, taking many continuing education courses in history, English, and geography at Meredith College in Raleigh. Martha and Ralph loved to travel and enjoyed cruises, visiting such varied locations as Tahiti, Hawaii, Turkey, Greece, Morocco, and Egypt to view historic sites. She is survived by her husband Ralph and son William Curt Heath of Raleigh; daughter Susan Ann Heath Johnson and her husband Frankford Milam Johnson II of Chapel Hill; and four grandchildren. Services were held at Mitchell Funeral Home, Raleigh, and a private entombment was held at Raleigh Memorial Park Mausoleum. The family wishes to express their sincere gratitude to the many caring health professionals at Rex Hospital and Hospice of Wake County. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Hospice of Wake County, 250 Hospice Circle, Raleigh, NC 27607. Condolences and fond memories can be shared at www.MitchellatRMP.com.

Lena Elizabeth Pirtle Phibbs, 99, widow of WRD Retiree Edward J. Phibbs (1913-1997), passed away on October 28, 2012, in a local nursing home in Montgomery, AL. She was affectionately known by family and

In Memoriam

friends as “Lib” and was 99 years old on January 21, 2012. Lib graduated in 1937 from High Point College in North Carolina, where she met her husband of 58 years, Edward J. Phibbs (1913-1997). Ed graduated from North Carolina State College in 1937 with a B.S. in Textile Chemistry and Dyeing and began working for Adams-MILLIS Corporation as a textile chemist until 1957, except for two stints in the military. Lib taught high school home economics in NC until Ed went into the U.S. Army in 1940, serving in WWII until 1946, from 2nd Lt. to Captain in artillery units, and as a Major during a second call-up, 1950-1953. In 1957, Ed joined the North Carolina Civil Defense Department and prepared survival plans for the State. In 1958, Ed became a chemist with the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development, which placed him in one of the USGS laboratories, analyzing ground and surface waters for the Quality of Water Branch in Raleigh. In July 1960, Ed became an employee of USGS and continued with chemical analyses at the QW lab. Among several reports that Ed authored or co-authored were: **“Chemical and physical character of surface waters of North Carolina, 1961-62;” “Chemical and physical character of surface waters of North Carolina, 1967-68;” “Chemical and physical character of municipal water supplies in North Carolina, 1969.”** Other assignments took Edward to the Ocala Laboratory, FL, 1971, where he became Assistant Laboratory Chief; to the Atlanta Central Laboratory, 1973, as a chemist; and then to the Regional Laboratory in Doraville, GA, until his retirement in 1983. Lib enjoyed working with her church and garden club, sewing, playing bridge, traveling, and association with the Professional Homemaker Club. Lib will be greatly missed. She was the oldest of the six children of the late Henry M. and Susan Mary Pirtle and is survived by one sister, Artie Pirtle Van Fleet Savage of Montgomery, as well as several nieces and nephews and their children. Graveside services were held at Alabama Heritage Cemetery in Montgomery, AL. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Montgomery.



Austin Stuart Post, 90, passed away on Monday, November 12, 2012, in Dupont, WA, at the age of 90 years. Austin was a noted research hydrologist and glacier photographer. His work for the U.S. Geological Survey and association with the Universities of Washington and Alaska included aerial photography of glaciers from Alaska to Patagonia and Greenland. He co-authored “Glacier Ice” with Edward LaChapelle in 1971. In his early years, Austin worked as a forest fire lookout. He served four years in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Austin became an accomplished carpenter and builder of residential and commercial buildings, as well as a boat builder. Later he worked as a cartographer and surveyor. He was born in Chelan, WA, on March 16, 1922. In his early years, he attended school in Chelan, WA. When he was 15 years old, Austin dropped out of high school during the depression and participated in the government programs for youth, including building cedar furniture for the U.S. Forest Service. The desk he built of Alaska cedar wood is still there today in the Port Angeles office on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington. In 2004, Austin was given an Honorary Doctor of Sciences degree by the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.



J. Kenneth “Ken” Reid, 90, passed away on March 29, 2012. Ken was born on May 16, 1921, in Salt Lake City, UT, to Clyde Emmett Reid and Nina Manilla Butts Reid. He was the oldest child of seven and the only son. Ken graduated from East High School and the University of Utah. He was a U.S. World War II Honoree veteran of the U.S. Army Air Force. He married the love of his life, Shirley Smith, on October 27, 1958. They were married for 53 years. They never had any children. Ken worked as a U.S. Geological Survey Engineer, Civil Engineer, and Computer Technician. He worked on building of the Panama Canal and went to work in Puerto Rico. Ken loved photography and developed his own photos and also loved skiing. Late in life he returned to school to learn Mandarin for a trip to China. He traveled the world and took plenty of photos to share with friends and family. Most of all, he loved and was protective of his wife and sisters. He called his sisters every week until his health slowed him down. He is survived by his wife Shirley (Denver, CO); sisters, Dorothy (Jim) Mullaney (Colorado Springs, CO), Phyllis Nelson (Salt Lake City, UT), and Wanda (Tony) Termini (San Jose, CA); aunt, Norma Lee Gerrand (Denver, CO); and a number of nieces and nephews throughout the United States and Australia. He was preceded in death by his parents and sisters, Audrey Reid, Rosalie Josephson and Nina Thomson. A viewing was held April 4th and 5th. Funeral services were held Thursday, April 5th at Larkin Sunset Gardens, 1950 East 10600 South, Sandy, UT. Online condolences may be made at www.larkincare.com.

Betty Jean Webber, 93, of Fletcher, NC, wife of the late WRD Retiree Earl E. Webber, passed away at home on January 18, 2013, in the mountains of Western North Carolina. Earl joined WRD in 1942 in the

In Memoriam

Surface Water Office in Columbus, OH, and worked for 40-plus years in the Ohio District, at one point serving as the Assistant District Chief. Betty Jean Webber, nee Vail, was born on July 9, 1919, in Rennerdale, PA. Betty moved to Columbus, OH, in 1939 where she worked for Motorist Mutual Insurance Co. and became a member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. She attended Glenwood Methodist Church's Epworth League where she met and married Earl E. Webber in June 1942. Their 57-year union bore three children, Kennon, Susan Marie Vail, and Jeffrey Thomas, as well as two granddaughters and one great-granddaughter. Betty Jean wrote musicals for the Maple Grove Methodist Church and a newspaper column, "Straight from the Heart." An accomplished soprano, she sang for "Melody Lane," WRFD's Saturday evening radio program. She was the Executive Secretary to the Director of The Columbus Hospital. Upon Earl's retirement in 1983, they relocated to Jeter Mountain in Hendersonville, NC, where they enjoyed retirement, leisure, and travel. After Earl's death in 1999, she moved to Fletcher, NC, to be closer to her two sons. She is preceded in death by her two older brothers, Victor Kennon, who died during the Normandy Invasion in WW II, and John D. Vail. A gathering to remember Betty Jean was held at Schoedinger Northwest Chapel in Columbus. Betty Jean's final comfort and care were greatly enhanced by CarePartners Health Services. Donations in her name may be made to CarePartners Foundation, PO Box 25338, Asheville, NC 28813.

Active USGS Employee Sharon Cook McKinney Dies



Sharon Cook McKinney, 51, active employee of the Water Mission Area, passed away December 14, 2012, following complications from heart surgery. Sharon was born July 11, 1961, to Eddie Cook and the late Shelby Curtis Cook. Sharon worked nearly her entire 33-year Federal career in Reston for Water Resources, which began immediately following graduation from James Madison High School in 1979. Sharon began her federal career as a Clerk Typist for the Administrative Division. That same year, she was reassigned to the Water Resources Division, Office of the Assistant Chief Hydrologist for Operations with the Management Information System (MIS). While with the MIS, Sharon became a Management Information Clerk, processing Project Plans. The MIS merged with the Branch of Administrative Management Systems in 1987, which managed the Administration Information System (AIS) where, as a Computer Assistant,

Sharon handled the Divisional Payroll processing. Most recently she worked for the Water Information Coordination Program in the Office of Water Information processing office payroll files, assisting with National Conferences, and Records Management. For her 50th birthday she checked an item off her bucket list when she went skydiving in Orange, VA. Sharon was a diehard Redskin and NASCAR fan and recently renewed her love of drag racing, cheering on her family team of Hawk and Cook Brothers Racing. Sharon was known by many people in the Water Mission as a truly caring person who considered her USGS co-workers to be family. Whenever someone at the office suffered an illness or bereavement, Sharon would always step forward and arrange an expression of support and sympathy. The hallways of the 5th floor in Reston will not be the same without her spirit and friendship and she will be eternally missed by her USGS family. Sharon is survived by her father, Eddie Cook; her sister, Karen Mysel and her husband, George; along with her nephew, Keenan, and niece, Shelby, whom she adored. The family suggests memorial contributions be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, P.O. Box 1893, Memphis, TN 38101 or Make a Wish Foundation of Mid-Atlantic, 5272 River Road, Suite 700, Bethesda, MD 20816.

This article was contributed by Sharon's "Lunch Bunch," Kimberly Rogers, Michelle Frederick, and Yvonne Jenkins.

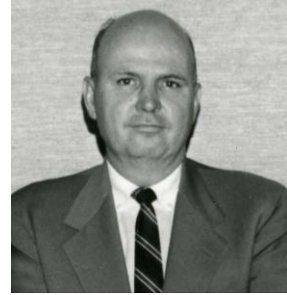
Photos for the In Memoriam Section

The WRD Retirees Newsletter is beginning to place photographs with the In Memoriam articles. If you have a photo of the person who has died, please send it to us at wrdretirees@usgs.gov or the editor's address at whozit1130@aol.com.

MEMORIAL

William H. “Bill” Robinson 1915 - 2011

William H. “Bill” Robinson, 95, passed away on July 19, 2011. Bill was born on August 23, 1915, in Fruitland, Washington. After graduating from the University of Washington in 1939 with a B.S. in civil engineering, Bill joined the U.S. Geological Survey in 1940 and was assigned as a junior hydraulic engineer in the Surface Water Branch in Tacoma. He had been working for the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, during his summers between school years in 1937, 38, and 39.



After taking time to serve in WWII, from November 1942 to January 1946, in the Civil Engineering Corps, 52nd Naval Construction Battalion, in the Aleutian, Hawaii, and the Marianas Islands, Bill returned to Tacoma in 1946 and worked on flood frequency studies and the highway program. While in Tacoma, he completed a pioneering study on the relative importance of various parameters to forecast flows of the Columbia River.

In 1951, he transferred to Montgomery, Alabama, and was named the Assistant District Engineer for the Alabama SW District. He directed that program until 1957 when he was appointed District Engineer in Mississippi. Under his leadership, the MS SW Branch was reorganized in 1960 into a Basic Records Section, a Floods Section, and a Special Studies Section. This organization remained in place until 1965, when Mississippi became a Division-level District.

Also during this time, in 1963, Bill represented the Geological Survey on an interagency U.S. AID team in Nigeria as a special consultant on surface water and made recommendations regarding what areas of Nigeria would be best to use surface water. In 1964-1965, Bill served on the extremely successful Mid-Continent Area Special Recruiting Team, helping to recruit the WRD Graduate School Students of 1963-1964 and 1964-1965. This team recruited about a dozen hydrologists per recruiting season, including, among others, Bill Boning, Ron Hanson, Everett Richardson, Joe Rosenshein, Ivan Burmeister, Ivan James, Bob Lichty, Ed Pluhowski, and O. James Taylor. Many of these individuals went on to become district chiefs or senior hydrologists in specialized disciplines.

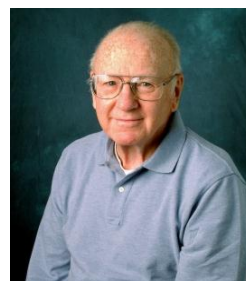
In 1965, in charge of the Mississippi Division-level District, Bill's leadership enabled a smooth transition to the new organization from the three heretofore separate Branch-level groups of surface water, ground water, and quality of water. In 1968, Bill accepted the position of Assistant Regional Hydrologist, Pacific Coast Region. In 1972, regions were redefined and the Western Region was defined by adding the Arizona District to the previous Pacific Coast Region. This huge region, larger than the continental United States, reached from Point Barrow, Alaska, in the north to tropical Samoa in the south, and from eastern Idaho to Guam and the Trust Territories west of the International Time Line. In 1976, Bill was named the Western Region's Regional Hydrologist, a position he held until he retired in early 1980. In these regional positions, Bill was instrumental in growing the program from about \$20 million to \$35 million in about eight years.

For his contributions and leadership, he was granted the Distinguished Service Award, the highest award from the Department of the Interior, and was inducted into the Senior Executive Service. Former Associate Chief Hydrologist, Hal Langford remembers, “Bill was kind and gentle man who always had a positive attitude and when he spoke at senior staff meetings we all listened. He and Roland Carter both did us proud as leaders of WRD.” Bill was married to Elsie Robinson who followed him in death, passing away in April of 2012.

By Charles Nethaway with a contribution from Hal Langford

MEMORIAL

Mark F. Meier
1926 - 2012



Mark F. Meier, 86, one of the nation's most prominent glaciologists, and a leader in the study of glacier melt's effect on rising sea levels, died in Boulder, Colorado, on November 25, 2012. Meier, an Iowa native, formed the glaciology department for the USGS in 1956 at the direction of Luna Leopold. Meier worked for the USGS, heading the Survey's Glaciology Office in Tacoma, Washington, from 1956 until 1985 when he became director of Boulder's Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR), 1985-1994. He received his Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology in 1957. At the time of his death, Meier was director emeritus at INSTAAR, as well as a professor emeritus of geological sciences at the University of Colorado. Jim White, current INSTAAR director, said, "He was one of the pioneers, when it comes to sea-level rise, telling people, 'This is a real phenomenon, this is going to happen, and you're not going to stop it unless you do something.'" Hurricane Sandy caused its devastation less than a month before Meier's death. But Meier didn't need to see its wreckage to affirm what he'd been saying for years. "I don't know that Mark needed vindication," White said. "Mark's understanding of the physics of melting ice, which is simple stuff, really, was profound. He knew what was going to happen." The cascading effect from the proliferation of greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere, compounding recent urban nightmares such as flooded subways and tunnels, according to White, is what Meier had been forecasting for a long time. "This day was coming." Tad Pfeffer, a fellow at INSTAAR and professor of engineering at CU, said Meier maintained his professional involvement in glacial studies and even took part in a seminar at INSTAAR shortly before Thanksgiving. "The work that he is most well known for now," Pfeffer said, "is his work on global assessments of glaciers and ice caps all around the world; not just studying one glacier in detail, most notably the massive Columbia Glacier on Prince William Sound in Alaska, but also looking at what all the glaciers are doing and adding it up as a critical part of assessing present-day sea-level rise -- as well as projecting it into the future." He took part in glaciological studies during the International Geophysical Year (1957-58). During the International Hydrological Decade (1965-1975), Meier was a principal organizer of systematic measurement and assessment of glacier mass balance in North America. He was a pioneer in the use of remote sensing in glaciology and the leader of investigations of tidewater glacier dynamics in Alaska. He received the Distinguished Service Award from DOI and three medals from the USSR Academy of Sciences. WRD Retiree Dee Molenaar recalls attending a snow conference with Mark in the mid-1950s in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, while Dee was with the Washington Department of Conservation in Olympia and Mark was with the USGS in Tacoma. Dee and Mark went skiing on a small hill east of town. After Mark moved to Boulder, Dee visited him there from time to time. WRD Retiree Chet Zenone remembers Mark's presentation to the Alaska Geological Society at about the time the Trans-Alaska Pipeline was being built (1975-1977). Concerns were being expressed about the hazards of icebergs to oil tankers going in and out of Valdez, the southern terminus of the pipeline. When Mark was asked why, of the many glaciers that used to calve icebergs to the waters of the Gulf of Alaska, the Columbia Glacier was the only one still doing that, Mark's simple, obvious answer: "Somebody has to be last!" Mark once accompanied Larry Mayo (Alaska Glacier Studies chief) and Chet to the USGS Research Station (actually a 16-ft square A-frame cabin) on Gulkana Glacier in the Alaska Range. Mark helped dig snow pits and make snow and ice measurements. After an evening of conversations on many aspects of the study of glaciers, Mark insisted on rolling out his sleeping bag on the cold floor of the cabin while Larry and Chet occupied the much warmer and more comfortable padded bunks. Chet summed it up, "A giant of glaciology, a scholar, and a true gentleman...to the nth degree!"

Mark was also an accomplished painter of high mountains, polar regions, and glaciers. "Some were very abstract," Pfeffer said. "And you could see that same kind of artistry in his scientific work. Back when people drafted by hand, his maps were beautiful examples of calligraphy." Molenaar remembers Mark's beautiful map of the Gannett Peak area of Wyoming. Dee occasionally visited Mark in Boulder and remembers seeing Mark's oil-paintings of glaciers that revealed his skillful conversion to a more abstract art. Zenone met Mark while in Alaska and also remembers Mark's interest in art. Mark and his son, Mark, Jr., were dinner guests at Chet's house in Anchorage. Mark and Chet's wife, Merrilee, became engaged in a detailed discussion of art and painting whilst Mark Jr. and Chet listened in.

Meier is survived by his wife, Barbara, as well as his children and grandchildren.

--Contributions by Dee Molenaar, Chet Zenone, and writer Charlie Brennan of Boulder's "Daily Camera"

MEMORIAL

Rolland W. Carter (1916-2011)

Rolland W. Carter, 95, passed away on November 7, 2011. We just received word of his passing. Rolland was born on July 25, 1916 in Hondo, Texas, not far from San Antonio. His parents were Baptist Pastor William P. and Georgia Mae Carter. Rolland graduated from high school in Choudrant, Louisiana, in 1933. Choudrant is very near Ruston, Louisiana, home of Louisiana Polytech Institute, (now Louisiana Tech University), and Rolland enrolled there in 1936, receiving his B.S. in civil engineering in 1940; and in 1954-55, he attended Georgia Tech and received his masters in civil engineering with a thesis on "A Comprehensive Discharge Equation for Rectangular-Notch Weirs." It was 1940 when Rolland joined the USGS, Montgomery, Alabama, Surface Water District, as a junior hydraulic engineer. His initial duties included the collection and analysis of data on the flow of streams. After a stint in the Navy, 1945-1946, where he was trained in electronics, Rolland returned to Montgomery in 1946. In 1947, he was detailed to work with Walter Langbein, and in 1949 he wrote, "Hydrology of Southeast Alabama," published by the Alabama Geological Survey. In 1948, Carter was transferred to the SW laboratory in Atlanta, Georgia, where he worked on flood frequency, frequency of low flow, rainfall-runoff relationships, and flood routing. He published four papers in this period. In 1952, he was in charge of laboratory investigations of discharge characteristics of channel constrictions such as bridges, culverts, and dams. Two papers during this period were published in the proceedings of the American Society of Civil Engineers and were considered the best papers of their years, 1956 and 1960, and therefore he received two ASCE Norman Medals. In the 1950s, Carter was the Southeastern Region's flood specialist. In 1955, he transferred to Washington, DC, and became the Chief, Research Section, Surface Water Branch (SWB). He was ideally suited for this position and performed significant research in hydraulics, hydrology, instrumentation, and data processing. In 1959, he was detailed half-time to the staff of the Chief, SWB, and published "Effects of Urbanization in Flood Flow." In 1961-1963, he extended the research begun by Ernest Hendricks and Melvin Williams and set forth technical procedures to be used in hydrologic studies development and publication. In 1965, he became the District Chief of South Carolina where he led the reorganized multidiscipline district and paid particular attention to analytical studies of sediment production, salt-water intrusion, water quality, and effects of land use on stream flow and quality. In 1967, Rolland returned to Washington to become the Chief of the Surface Water Branch. He led the first formal evaluation of the nationwide streamflow network. It was at this time that he assisted in the formation of the USGS Gulf Coast Hydrosience Center in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. In 1972, Carter returned to the Atlanta area and became the Southeastern Region's Regional Hydrologist. There he led a program with connections to 138 State, local, and Federal agencies that involved greater than 500 professional and technical employees. For all of his outstanding research and leadership, Rolland Carter received the Department of the Interior's Distinguished Service Award. Among remarks in the citation for this award, DOI stated that Carter "led USGS to its position of eminence in the field of surface water resources ... [with] outstanding contributions in research, water-data networks, and conservation of water resources. ...[and] personally developed a scientific method for developing certain hydrologic data based on sparse information, a significant step in reducing future collection work." He was widely published in subjects from rainfall-runoff relationships to instrumentation to analysis of urban hydrology. Rolland served in national and international organizations, including the ASCE (Fellow), AWRA, AGU, Iowa Institute of Hydraulic Research (Member, Board of Consultants); honorary societies, Sigma Xi, Society of Alpha Rho; International Field Year of the Great Lakes, 1967; World Meteorological Organization, U.S. delegate to the Geneva, Switzerland meeting, 1970; Member, WMO Commission on Hydrometeorology; Chair, WMO Committee on Water Levels; Member, WMO Committee on Technical Regulation; and International Association of Hydrologic Research, Chair, Committee on Instrumentation.



Rolland was married to Madge Carter and they had two children, James and Alma. He had time for hobbies – gardening, golf, and fishing. We will certainly miss this WRD star!

By Charles Nethaway

TREASURER'S REPORT, FOURTH QUARTER 2012

Treasurer Celso Puente reports that the organization had \$18,569.00 in its treasury at the end of the fourth quarter for calendar year 2012. Receipts for the quarter were \$6,405.31 from dues and contributions from 67 members. Distributions for the quarter were \$484.39, including the costs for printing of the WRD Retirees Newsletter. During the quarter, a total of \$5,245.00 in contributions above dues was received from 11 members.

Special thanks for contributions above dues go to: Mary O. Bishop, Ranard Pickering, Sandra Duncan, David C. Madril, Chester Thomas, Arthur G. Scott, Beverly Pittarelli, Arthur Horowitz, R. H. Langford, Richard Luckey, and Deborah Love.

Special Thanks to Mary Oltman Bishop!

Mary, daughter of the late Roy Oltman, who was, among many other positions, Assistant Chief Hydrologist, Research and Technical Coordination, 1966-1971, gave the WRD Retirees Organization a very much appreciated donation for the scholarship fund in memory of her father, Roy Edwin Oltman. Mary contributed a nice letter for the November 2012 News of Retirees that was a collection of memories about her father's work and friends in WRD. Although she is not a member of WRD Retirees herself, she said, "It's been great to reconnect with USGS. Your endeavors clearly mean so much to the retirees. You folks are keeping a flame alive and also inspiring a new generation. A grand cause." We really appreciate her donation and heartfelt compliments to our organization. Indeed, we try to carry the torch forward and a big part of that is the Hydrologic Technician Scholarship Program that is funded by dues and donations. Thank you, Mary!

Our February 2013 Newsletter Supplement

We have another fine Supplement for February. In response to Retiree Clint Nagel's article, November 2012, on the gaging station on the Merced River at Happy Isles Bridge, Yosemite, CA, Jim Daniel wrote an article on "Yosemite Streamgaging" when he was in California (1958-1961). Going back much earlier, Chet Zenone discovered two very old documents, from 1907 and 1908. One is a handwritten promotion of Fred F. Henshaw of Massachusetts to a Junior Engineer, signed by Acting Secretary of the Interior, George W. Woodruff. The other is a two-page letter to Henshaw from the Director, USGS, George Otis Smith (hand-signed), in which he describes how field employees should deal with the media. And finally, while rummaging through some of the class photos that we have on file in Reston, we found two groups that we are printing in this Supplement: "Fourth Intensive Seminar in Ground-Water Hydrology, " Baton Rouge, 1969; and "Project Planning and Supervision," Denver, 1972. Several of you are in those pictures – have a look! Go to www.wrdretirees.org/newsletter.htm page and click on the February 2013 Supplement.