

**National Officers:**

Richard A. Engberg, President  
Stanley P. Sauer, Vice President  
Charles W. Boning, Secretary  
Celso Puente, Treasurer  
Charles Nethaway, Archivist

**Regional Directors:**

William G. Shope, Northeast  
Lynn Barr, Southeast  
James F. Blakey, Central  
Charles O. Morgan, Western

**Newsletter Staff:**

Editor: James E. Biesecker  
Layout Editor: Dorothy M. Woods  
NR: Eileen R. Smith  
SR: Vivian Olcott  
CR: Merilee Bennett  
WR: John Klein

**Address:**

WRD Retirees  
P.O. Box 280  
Herndon, VA 20172-0280  
Phone (703) 648-5641  
Web Page: WRD Retirees.org  
Email: wrdretirees@usgs.gov

# WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 143

May 2009

*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

April is one of only a handful of beautiful months in the Washington, DC area but it's worth waiting for. Early in the month I had the pleasure of walking for an hour or two on a beautiful day with many others around the reflecting pool of the National Mall enjoying the cherry blossoms. The Bradford pears, weeping cherries, and purple leaf plum trees in my neighborhood in Loudoun County, Virginia, have just peaked and the redbuds are just coming on. We've enjoyed several April showers and today was magnificent – no wind, temperature in the 70's.

It's hard to believe that I'm well into my second year as President of WRD Retirees. Time really flies. It's been a great time working with the dedicated officers of the organization. Let me tell you about one activity that we just finished. Bill Boning, our hard working and dedicated Secretary, determined late last year that about 330 members were in arrears with their dues payments. He sent e-mail reminders to about 130 members. Then early this year, the officers divided up the list of some 200 more members and contacted them personally by phone, e-mail, or letter. Those contacted were persons who had not paid dues since 2007 and included a significant number of retirees in 2006 and 2007 for whom their first year's membership was complimentary. The results have been good. We have received payment from many members who just didn't see or remember the notice in the November 2008 newsletter and who appreciated the personal reminders. Bill has since dropped approximately 100 persons from the rolls. Many of these were complimentary members who indicated they did not wish to remain on the rolls. Why do I dwell on this? Because this means we have 100 fewer newsletters and directories to print, a significant savings. In fact, this savings is one reason why in 2009, we will, for the first time, be able to award two hydrologic technicians scholarships. My thanks to Bill for leading this effort, to the officers who made the contacts, and mostly to you, the membership, for your strong support of WRD Retirees.

I also want to acknowledge Jim Biesecker, our Newsletter Editor. Look in the list of Local Meetings and Gatherings in the 2009 Directory. You will see there are 11 more locations that have meetings of WRD retirees than were shown in the 2008 Directory. This has been a project of Jim's and has involved a multitude of phone calls, e-mails, and even a bit of arm twisting. Jim, thank you very much for making this happen.

I want to mention one more thing and I'm outta here. Don't forget to mark September 2010 on your calendars for the next National gathering of WRD Retirees. It will be in Denver and Chairman Jim Blakey and his committee are working hard to make it one of the most successful meetings. Jim assures me that it will be great and I believe him! Mark your calendars! My best to all of you.



## NEWS OF RETIREES

**D. Briane** and **Dian Adams** write, "In fairness to **Jerry McCain** who said in the last issue 'My Auburn Tigers had a bad year'- I feel a need to respond since having lived in AL for a few years learning the 'religion' of AL football you must know that by definition a good season for Auburn consists of a least one win which includes beating the Crimson Tide. I would also note that the self-righteous BCS also had another bad year because again they find themselves being challenged by non-BCS teams like Boise State, TCU and Utah. For the second time in recent years my alma mater, Utah, posted an undefeated season and national polls dictated they be accepted into BCS bowls and soundly defeated the favored team. This year we beat Alabama -- #1 most of the season. Alabama looked like deer in headlights and forgot that Utah is a Rocky Mountain school that breeds tough mountain men and skilled hunters. So go legends into history. As for us, our time since retirement has been busy. For me, I began catching up on delayed projects like the restoration of a 1968 Camaro RS/SS. The engine, transmission and body work is complete. Remaining are the installation of the engine and transmission, new body and sheet metal fasteners and trim, wiring harnesses, and the upholstery. More recently, we returned in 2008 from 22 months service as missionaries for our church at Temple Square, Welfare Square, Humanitarian Center, Family Search (genealogy), in Salt Lake City where we were visited by about 5 million people each year. We served with about 30 other senior couples and with more than 700 sisters (young women) missionaries from 50 countries who spoke about 45 different languages. It was a rewarding experience. Since returning home last March, we have been doing maintenance on our home, painting the inside and re-doing landscaping around the pool. Our family continues to grow - we now have 8 grandchildren from our two sons and one daughter. It is a joy to watch them grow and progress. Atlanta is still 'Hotlanta' but please stop in and see us when you pass thru."

**Mary Amos** reports, "Larry and I celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion last July at a dinner party given to us by our children and attended by friends, neighbors and family."

**Andy Anderson** says, "Lenny Konikow gave an extremely interesting talk at the February WRD Retirees HQ meeting. Lenny discussed the possible impact of ground water withdrawal on sea level rise. He estimated that as much as 10% of the recorded sea level rise could be due to the return of ground water to the sea. About 40 WRD Retirees/spouses were in attendance. The March meeting was canceled because of weather. WRD Researcher Cliff Hupp was the speaker at the April meeting attended by about 45 retirees/spouses. Cliff gave a slide presentation that described the impacts of dams and stream channelization on geomorphology."

**Bud** and **Bev Anderson** write, "It is Christmas at my daughter Keri's home in WI. We're enjoying time with family and with our first great granddaughter, Aubrielle,

but I'm remembering **Joe Beverage** and the good times our families had together in WA and MN. I met Joe in the Tacoma office; he came from NM and was continuing work on sedimentation, with a major study in Grey's Harbor in WA. Joe always enjoyed camping with family and invited us to go camping at Sequim on the Olympic Peninsula. I was evaluating GW for the Park Service at Coulee Dam National Recreation Area in eastern WA. Rain was predicated all weekend; so, my family's plan to camp there was a washout. Sequim, on the other hand, has one of the lowest precipitation rates in WA – less than 12 inches annually. When our families arrived at the camp site in Sequim, Joe and **Mary** set up a tent for themselves and their girls – Ona, Molly and Sarah. Joe had a tarp which we hung over the picnic table as shelter for his son, Paul, and our kids (Kari, Andy and Marcus) who slept on benches. I'd left my tent at Coulee; so, Bev and I slept in the back of our new Ford Falcon wagon. Overnight it rained more than 2 inches, but no one got wet except Bev and me. The rain gutter leaked and water dripped on us all night. In the morning the sun sparkled on the puddles and we had a gourmet breakfast of hot oatmeal around the campfire. After breakfast, Joe said, "The tide is out. Let's see if we can dig some clams or find some oysters." We didn't find many clams but we collected quite a few oysters. For lunch, Joe fired up the charcoal grill and put the oysters on the grate over the coals. When we tapped on the shells and they sounded hollow, we knew they were cooked and the sea water had drained out. We all enjoyed the oysters in seafood cocktail sauce. In 1967 Joe was transferred to MN, where he was assigned to the St. Anthony Falls Hydraulics Lab. The following summer, Joe suggested we meet at Rush Lake in northern MN for a week vacation. Our families enjoyed swimming and relaxing on the beach, but Joe built a fiberglass sailboat which really caught the wind! It added some exciting moments skimming over the water. We caught a few fish, and the two couples enjoyed playing bridge and the kids were settled in bed. Many more good times were shared after the Andersons were transferred to the St. Paul office in 1969. I have begun work on my garden -- planted broccoli and lettuce. In April, my son, and his family from California will be paying us a visit. We have reserved two cabins at Inks State Park located Inks Lake. The cabins have 4 walls, roof, floor, a table with 4 chairs and bunk beds. Everything else is outside. The cabins are built with concrete blocks – we call them concrete tents. They will spend three nights there. Our grandson lives in Indiana and recently earned his Eagle Scout Award."

**MaryJo Baedecker** reports, "I have been working on a document describing **Bill Back's** career. I still go to my USGS office several days a week and the rest of my time is busy with family."

**John Bader** writes, "All goes well here in Wilton, CA. The orchard is producing lots of all kinds of citrus fruits right now and the stone-fruit trees are in bloom. Looks like another good year despite the rather severe drought we've had for the last 3 years. Makes us appreciate our

## NEWS OF RETIREES

well! Even had a surprise this spring. We've been trying to get bluebirds to settle here for 22 years without success. But this year we got a pair to settle in one of our boxes. Hope they'll stay and get relatives and friends to join them. Still singing with the Sacramento Choral Society and Orchestra -- my 16th year. In addition to giving concerts locally, we have also sung in Europe and China and will go to Canada in this summer. Had lunch in Sacramento with about a dozen retirees last week. Nice to get together and swap stories."

**Peggy Baker**, widow of **Claud Baker**, reports, "I had an enjoyable trip to Japan with our son Peter. I think he was also checking out honeymoon sites, as his fiancée is third-generation Japanese. Peter speaks Japanese, which was a BIG help. If you go to Kyoto, be sure to go to Nara, the site of very early Japanese civilization, the huge Buddha, and a couple of thousand wee deer. They are not gentle, because they budge visitors for the "deer cookies". I saw several excellent pickpockets among the four-footed critters! Claud would have loved the geology, and the deer. My home in Baldwin City, KS is a small town and everyone "sees" everyone else and catches up on local gossip. As good as the quilting parties of my youth!"

**Edith Bauer** says, "David enjoys the Newsletter very much! Thanks."

**Chuck Berkstresser** writes, "Life is good at my new residence in Carmichael. Trying to find my "stuff" is a major project. The "stuff" I didn't want went to daughters' families, charities or the dump! My lady-friend and I have been enjoying theatrical productions and some travel within CA. When my old home sells there will be opportunity for extensive travel. I have managed to stay in contact with a number of former colleagues, mostly by phone. I'm sorry my recent move was at the time of the Tampa reunion. **Gail Keeter** organized a lunch for local WRD retirees – everyone had a great time. And, 64 years ago my U.S. Army Engineer battalion and I were at the bridge at Remagen."

**Jim Biesecker** writes, "I'm sure many of you noted in the last edition of "News" that **Dotty Woods** was retiring as layout editor of the Newsletter. You might also notice that she is still listed as such on the banner of this edition. Our replacement has some personal matters to attend to and could not accept the position so Dotty stepped forward and agreed to help us yet again. Dotty, we thank you very much! Also, you may note that **Hugh Hudson's** Memorial (p.16, this edition) was written by Hugh himself. About a month ago I got the following email from Hugh. "*I wrote the Newsletter memorials for **Frank Bell, Lamar Carroon, Al Clebsch, Elliott Cushing, Ty Dover, Keith Jackson, and Thad McLaughlin, and helped with those for Don Coffin and Phil Lamoreaux, all of whom were stars in the WRD galaxy. Although I was never a WRD official of their rank, I am writing my memorial in case others may think that my contributions merit a memorial statement and if so, this will spare someone time and effort. Besides, my memorial-writing experience should***

*not be wasted.*" Hugh was a true friend, a tremendous help to all of us who work on the WRD Retirees Newsletter and was a trendsetter. Therefore, we are pleased to honor his request. Also, examination of the list of Local Meetings and Gatherings in the 2009 Directory shows that there are 11 more locations that have meetings of WRD retirees: Baltimore; Carson City; Indianapolis; Jackson, MS; Las Vegas; Oklahoma City; Raleigh; Sacramento; Southern California; Tallahassee and Tucson. These Local Meetings have always been an integral part of the WRD Retirees and will probably be more important in the future. We thank **Herb Freiburger, Pat Glancy, Sharon Goss, Jim Hudson, Charlie Morgan, Karen Steele, Gerry Ryan, Gail Keeter, Julia Huff, Jack McCoy** and **Bob MacNish** for stepping forward and organizing WRD Retiree meetings at these locations. All WRD Retirees owe these folks thanks for their energy and leadership!"

**Jim Blakey** reports, "Paula and I spent two great weeks at Hilton Head Island in February. **Bob** and **Libby Burchett** and **Jerry** and **Janet Pascale** spent part of the first week with us. **Jim** and **Joyce Biesecker** joined us for the second week. Everyone had plenty of great seafood and fun! Savannah, GA was interesting. Next we are going to Russia in April and a Blakey family reunion in Puget Sound this summer."

**Henry Blanchard** says, "I continue to stay busy with the Church, gardening, woodcraft and visiting our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. I recently built 65 bluebird houses which I gave to the White Plains Community. **Claire's** health continues to be fair. My health is good enough for me to work with my crafts 6 hours a day, 6 days a week. I was sorry to learn of the passing of **Rod Cherry, Phil LaMoreaux** and **Joe Callahan**. Joe was District Geologist in Georgia when I transferred in 1957 and was a good man."

**Dick Bloyd** writes, "Mary Dunn, the "Moma Hen" of the Atlanta WRD retirees group and I are engaged and bought a new home in the Hall County suburbs of northeast Atlanta, a Del Webb senior citizens site. It's a great place to live and there are numerous organized events almost every day of every week. And by the way, our WRD retirees group meets on the last Wednesday of every month and we talk about all the fond memories we had in our work years. However, it becomes more difficult to remember what we did way back when. But, we sure do have fun. Mary and I also try to have lunch at least every other month with **Joan Cook**, Jim's dear widow. I have been writing my autobiography. I've written more than 100 pages so far and I'm just getting started. I have written many letters over the last 5 years to my oldest grandson in CA about my life experiences and I am putting things together in a book. I may even try and get it published. We have a Writers Club here in our development and we are helping each other with writing. Mary and I are heading up to ME in June to visit her sister. Her other 2 sisters also will be there. And would you believe, Mary makes me eat as

## NEWS OF RETIREES

many as 4 lobster tails in a picnic they always have. Yes, it's a tough life up there. I guess I might as well mention the crab cakes she makes me eat as well. We look forward to the WRD Retirees Newsletter. Thanks for spreading the news of our retirees."

**Fred Boner** says, "Keep up the good work with a wonderful Newsletter."

**Bob Bougler** reports, "**Marie** and I are doing well. She retired 08. We are excited about sharing more time and traveling. Seeing our 7 grandchildren is high on our list and some US travel is planned. But first Marie needs a knee replacement, which is scheduled in February. She has had one replaced. We were saddened by the loss of **Ed Wilson** last year. He was a great data chief and leaves a great legacy in the CO District. He wrote the "Ratplot" program in an earlier version of ADAPS. The Western Slope office still encourages technicians to broaden their horizons by being involved at the National level. Ed started that legacy in the 80s when he was lead technician in Meeker. Cooperators knew him as well versed in streamgaging. Ed didn't need to say hydrologic technicians were the backbone of WRD; he treated them like they were. Thanks, Ed!"

**John Burt** says, "Thanks to all who work keeping WRD Retirees functioning so well!"

**Judy Claussen** reports, "I can't believe I've been retired for 12 years! I moved from VA back to MI 8 years ago. I live in the small village of Cassopolis (20 mi. north of South Bend, IN) where I grew up. In 2002, I bought a house in the country with 5 acres -- a blessing. I work part-time at a nearby nursing home and love it. Almost 2 years ago my lifelong dream of owning a horse came true. He's a Polish Arabian named Trouble in Paradise but he is a really great horse. My health is good and I have a great family around, my finances are holding up, I live in the country with all my animals (the horse plus a dog and a cat), and I feel extremely blessed by the Lord. I pray for God's blessing for all of you, too!"

**Judy Cornwell** writes, "**Dick** and I have had an eventful 2008, beginning last March, when we traveled to the Holy Land and Egypt. In July, our grandchild (no. 7 of 11) was the first to get married. We're excited to have a grandson-in-law. In August, we made our annual trip to Santa Fe and saw three operas. In October, we attended a "Lutherhostel" (similar to an Elderhostel) in Trego, WI and this March, we will take in another Lutherhostel in Tucson. We volunteer at our church and in the community and have been blessed with good health. Our 4 daughters and sons-in-law are also doing well and the grandkids, too, so we have much for which to be thankful. I enjoy getting together with the WRD breakfast bunch once a month, and several of us retirees from Pubs. manage to celebrate each other's birthdays over lunch. I enjoy the newsletter, even when I don't know the people; it's fun to read how people are spending their retirement."

**John Cotton** says, "I retired from WRD 15 years ago and immediately joined the NH Dept. of Environmental Services where I reviewed hydrogeologic assessment used for permitting and closing unlined solid waste landfills and operating double lined landfills. After 14 years, I retired again in May 2008. My wife, **Tina**, was a career geologist with USGS and switched to WRD in 1994 due to the pending GD RIF. She retired in 2007. Tina and I are both active in the Geological Society of NH. I have maintained membership in the Geological Society of America for over 50 years and the New England Water Works Association for over 45 years."

**Dave Curtiss** reports, "Thanks for all who work so hard producing the Newsletter."

**Bill Davis** writes, "This year has been quite a time and despite some problems we all feel blessed. Our new adventure -- a horse farm -- is up and running, but there are more fences to be built. Our oldest daughter, Mary Beth, lives next door and is running it with another trainer. We own 7 horses and board others. Mary Beth has 4 children, ages 13-19. The two youngest, Trent and Ashlyn are in high school. Ashlyn is an honor student and in cheerleading. Trent is doing nicely in special ed. Tanner helps with the horse farm. Tyler is a graduate auto mechanic. Our youngest daughter, Ruth Anne, lives in Farmington, a Boston suburb. She has a 2-year old son, Taden. My wife, **Ruth**, had a stroke in November which hospitalized her for 7 weeks. She was at a Nursing home near Olney, MD but has returned home. She can walk but her motor skills have a ways to go. She can speak well and appears to be alert and to understand everything she hears. Still and all, we are thankful for what we have, and look forward to better days with fond memories."

**Bob Davis** writes, "Since retiring in August 07, we have completed several home-improvement projects, including expanding and remodeling our kitchen. Our grandson Nolan enjoys playing hockey and skiing, so those activities occupy our winter time. This summer, we hope to be able to spend time skiing and fishing at lakes in the Helena area. I am enjoying the freedom of retirement, but I also miss the science and people at USGS. We send best wishes to all."

**Harold Eddins** says, "I'm staying busy maintaining 20 rental houses, 2 office buildings plus my hobbies of backpacking, skiing, canoeing and rock climbing. I truly enjoy the Newsletter."

**Phil Emery** says, "**Janet** and I are ready for some warm spring weather. It's been a tough winter here in Mt. Home, AR. In February, we had a huge ice storm and were without power for a week. Our Alaska experience made us better prepared than most and with use of a propane fireplace we managed fairly well. I am doing some consulting for the Corps as a hydrologist regarding emergency situations. We hope to attend the 2010 WRD Retirees reunion in Denver."

## NEWS OF RETIREES

**Ted Ehlike** reports, "I just got done brewing a batch of ale for the summer. It has been a long and dreary winter here in the Northeast and we are looking forward towards better weather. We are in good health and **Kathie** is looking at retiring from the Bristol Twp school system at the end of the year. She finds it hard to believe that she has endured 21 years in this school district. Our daughter, **Marla**, is a Hydrologist with the USGS PA District (oops, now it's the Water Science Center) and she tells us that I would not like some of the things they are doing these days, so it's a good thing I'm spending my days riding my bike and brewing ale!"

**Bob Faye** writes, "Life has been good and largely uneventful for me and my family following retirement. Shortly after retirement, my wife **Theresa** and I moved from the Atlanta metro area to the small college town of Dahlonega in the north GA mountains. We enjoy the college amenities and I serve as the treasurer for the local historical society. We have a second home on Lake Nottely near the NC border where we spend considerable time. Amazingly, of the 15 classmates I graduated with from 8th grade from our little country school in northwestern NJ, 3 now live within 20 miles of our lake house and we enjoy visiting. Our son lives in the metro area and is the IT manager of Public Works for one of the large metro counties. He is a GIS and computer guru, which comes in handy when I need his help. He operates a successful computer consulting company. Following retirement I began my own engineering firm. I am fortunate to have been constantly employed on various projects almost from the day I retired in 97. I greatly enjoy being an engineer and not having to confront a bureaucracy. I work from my home, mainly using a variety of models to simulate GW flow and contaminant fate and transport. My work also affords an opportunity to occasionally meet with former USGS colleagues -- always a treat. I greatly resist traveling to any place I cannot drive to in 3 days or less. Theresa did persuade me to visit Alaska last June. I send my regards and best wishes to former Survey colleagues. Our door is always open."

**Jack Fischer** writes, "**Maria** and I are living on the Eastern Shore of Chesapeake Bay, not far from St. Michaels, MD—corn, soybeans, woodlots, a lot of water, few people. The nearest stop sign to our home is 30 minutes away. Maria has moved from landscape architecture to painting. She loves it and is damn good. I'm involved with several environmental groups here, sampling streams, serving on the board of an arboretum and trying to influence how development takes place. We have a large garden of fruits and vegetables that we both enjoy. (That's "large" on our scale, not on **Gene Hampton's**.) We have kayaks and a small sailboat so we spend time on the water. I play golf once or twice a week outside of winter. It's peaceful here so we don't travel much although we do go down to Chile about once a year to visit Maria's family. We have a great golf/poker group that meets monthly and includes **Tom Yorke** and **Lew Wade**. **Phil Cohen** and I meet for lunch when I get over to the Western Shore. Of the folks still active, I communicate with **John Gray** occasionally and with **Matt**

**Larsen** when I come across Survey accomplishments in the news. Matt seems to be doing just fine. Hopefully, the new Director will have the wisdom and stature necessary to guide the Survey through the minefields of these extraordinary times. Many, many thanks to **Dick Engberg** and all the members of his supporting cast for the time and effort they put in on behalf of our organization!! Well done!!"

**Marv Fretwell** reports, "I read the Newsletter with great enjoyment. It is great to learn what everyone is doing. I keep in contact with **John Klein**, **John Costa**, and **Dennis Lynch**. Occasionally hear from **John Conomos**. I faithfully read **Gordon Tribble's** fishing adventures in Hawaii. **Lloyd Woosley** sends me updates on USGS. Attend the Portland WRD Retiree's luncheons when we are there. Other than that, the Newsletter is the best source of "happenings." We appreciate it. I don't tend to think of what my wife and I are doing as something that others would want to know about, but perhaps it is. The important thing is we are enjoying ourselves. When I retired in 1999, we sold our home in Boring, OR and moved into a travel trailer --big transition! We were full time RVers all over North America for 6 years. An absolute blast. We drove all the paved roads of the Baja Peninsula, and many dirt roads and a few paths. We drove much of mainland Mexico, including all the west coast towns down to Acapulco, and then up through Mexico City, Guadalajara, and the colonial cities along the spine of the Sierra Madre. We have also done two short excursions down the east coast of Mexico. We spent three summers in AK, exploring and fishing, and other summers all over the rest of the US. After 6 years on the road, we felt the need to have a home again, so we bought a winter condominium in an adult community in Mesa, AZ. We spend 6 months each winter in our condo, and the rest of the year we travel in a newer, bigger RV. While in the condo, I am a member of the computer club; volunteer about 20 hours per week in the community to help folks with computer problems; and design web sites for select friend's businesses and my Fretwell-family genealogy site. This past summer we spent 3 months in British Columbia fishing for the famed Kamloops Rainbow trout; and caught a few. I don't know if fishing in the lower-48 will ever be quite the same for me now that I have discovered B.C.'s fabulous fly fishing. In August, we visited the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, and Great Slave Lake. Then we moved on to Alberta and the famed Athabasca Oil Sands, including a tour of huge oil sands mining operations near Fort McMurray. This once little city is in I "Klondike Gold Rush" mode. The oil companies are hiring persons from all over the world, literally anyone they can find willing to live under the harsh conditions and they always have a shortage of 5,000 workers. Wages are high, and cost of living is through the roof. McDonalds pays its help \$21/hr to keep them. Otherwise they leave, because they can't afford to live in Ft. McMurray. Many of the miners earn six figures. Good thing too; a two bedroom modular home costs \$750,000! Still, some college students make enough during a summer to fund college -- remarkable now days. After Alberta, we toured Saskatchewan and then dropped down

## NEWS OF RETIREES

into ND for a 3-week respite in Bismark while waiting to join a 21-day Adventure Caravan's tour to see polar bears in Churchill. We're not much into caravanning, as we like to travel at our own pace. But this one was very appealing because rates were far better than I could find. We thought we were seasoned travelers, but not amongst this crowd. Most of the other caravaners have been full time RVers and have done much foreign travel too. It was fun! My wife, **Ardie**, got to see 14 polar bears. We spend a lot of time with our 2 grandkids and time planning trips. Our upcoming trip in Sept. is a 42-day cruise with Princess, from Vancouver, B.C. to Alaska, Russia, Korea, Japan, China, Vietnam, and Cambodia. We are not sure how long we'll continue our RV travels. This year will be the 10<sup>th</sup>. I think we may be close to settling down in a summer place and a winter place, with interspersed foreign travel to keep things interesting."

**Don Diego Gonzalez** writes, "I started with the USGS in 57 in Santa Fe as a technician with the SW Branch where I worked for **Gordon Stearns** and **Charlie Sieber**. I worked with SW through 67 in Santa Fe, Albuquerque (while attending UNM) under **Stutz Oakland** and **Fred Fields** and Denver under **Ted Moulder**. I spent a year attending CSU in the USGS graduate program with fellow students **Marshall Jennings**, **Ernest Cobb** and **Stanley Sauer**; and enjoyed this time. In Denver, I worked for both the SW and Nuclear Hydrology Programs (**Sam West**, **William Dudley** and **Art Beetem**) and enjoyed these experiences as they allowed me to be involved with the interaction with SW, QW and GW disciplines. We departed the USGS in 79 when I accepted a position with Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque where I found myself as the first hydrogeologist hired by the Labs. I supported the Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP), Uranium Mill Tailing Remediation Program (UMTRAP) and preliminary hydrological remedial investigations DoE nuclear facilities. In the mid eighties I accepted a position with Roy F Weston, a national environmental firm and was a part of developing the west in behalf of Weston. In 1993, I left Weston and went on my own as DDG & Associates (clever huh?), moved to Santa Fe where most of our families resided. We still have a home in Santa Fe, but I live in Velarde (north of Espanola about 11 miles) on a small farm which I enjoy; I continue to consult in water resources, rural development and emergency management for tribes, ranchers and small rural communities. My wife **Corine** and I have not been together since 1998 and we have three great children, Don Diego J who lives with me most of the time; Joaquin Gavin, a doctor living in Mesa AZ with wife Carolina and children; and Tirzah Gayla who lives in San Francisco as a systems analyst for a hospital. I can say without a doubt I enjoyed my tenure with the USGS and continue to have many great memories while working with and knowing so many USGS friends."

**Paul Grantham** reports, "I really enjoy the Newsletter and also appreciate the work that goes into it!"

**Patti Hamel** says, "Thanks to WRD Retiree officers for all their hard work!"

**Millard Hiner** reports, "**Sharon** and I are planning to move back to Missoula to be closer to kids and medical facilities. We are toooooo isolated up here in the mountains of Idaho. It is time to get back to civilization, so to speak. We will be headed to Montana this next week to take care of taxes etc. We've been to Leavenworth, WA for Oktoberfest this last year."

**Ray Hoffman** writes, "G'day, mates. Greetings from northern Tasmania in "the land of the sunburnt." In truth, Tasmania at 42 S is somewhat like western Oregon. This note is my sole and long overdue contribution to this fine Newsletter since my retirement in late 2000. So, an update is in order. Each year for the past 8 years, **Elizabeth** (a lovely Aussie) and I spend about 6 months in our respective countries to travel about and to visit family and friends. In short, we routinely chase the summer sun. Over the years, several Yanks have visited us in Tasmania, including **Steve Frenzel** and **Marc** and **Marie Sylvester**. The Australian government became very suspicious of my frequent sojourns to their country so they granted my request for a permanent visa renewable every 5 yrs. Rest assured; I will remain a U.S. citizen. This April we will take the 11-hr ferry trip across Bass Strait, drive west about 2,100 mi and stay a month or so."

**Hugh Hudson**, shortly before his passing, wrote, "Not long after I arrived in Hawaii in 1954, **Don Richardson**, resident streamgager on Kauai, gave me a conducted tour of his gaging stations. He was driving us on a jeep road into the Kokee Swamp in central Kauai, telling me about the last time he was here, "A pheasant crossed the road and I pulled out my rifle and shot it right through the head." I knew how they walked with its head bobbing with every step. Before I could say, "You gotta be kidding me!" a pheasant started across the road about 25 yards ahead. Don braked the jeep, reached behind the seat among the chains, ax and other tools a well-equipped streamgager carries, and fished out a lever-action .30-.30 with open sights. POW! The pheasant dropped; no head. Next evening, thanks to the culinary skills of **Jessie**, Don's delightful wife and my hostess, were treated to a gourmet dinner."

**JoAnn Huffman** writes, "I enjoy the Newsletter and reading what everyone is doing."

**Tom Huntzinger** says, "All is well in Kansas. I go to the lunch meetings with **Jess McNellis** and our USGS friends every other month. We have a good time visiting and have added a few new faces as they retire. I have been elected president of the local chapter of NARFE. The new administration and the economic crisis will bring new challenges for federal retirees. I have my own consulting firm and a contract to coordinate the state's non-point source program for the Wakarusa watershed. The Wakarusa River drains into Clinton Lake, which is the water supply for Lawrence and all or part of nine rural water districts. I work half time. The other half of my time I spend sailing, riding my bike, and kayaking so I am getting good exercise and sunshine. My wife **Pat** still works at a bank in Lawrence. We are Jayhawk fans and

## NEWS OF RETIREES

follow football and basketball. "March Madness" is coming soon and the Jayhawks are winning so it is good. Our twin daughters live in Mission, KS a suburb of Kansas City and about 40 minutes from Lawrence. Our daughter Amber had our first grandchild born February 20th and we are proud of her. Grandma Pat will be making frequent trips over there and I will go sometimes, too. The baby's Aunt Erin lives two blocks away so there will be lots of visitors around there."

**Norm Hutchinson** reports, "My family is having a 77<sup>th</sup> birthday thing for me at our oldest daughter Robbie's place in Naples, FL. **Marcy** and I continue to be in good health. In addition to working part time, I try to walk a mile or two each day to keep fit. When summer comes, I keep busy with projects around our home. I still work 3 days a week in the Public Works Dept. for Purcellville, VA. Purcellville is only about 4 miles from home so my commute takes about 10 minutes. One of my major activities now is helping to put together grant applications to the VA Dept. of Health and the VA Transportation Dept. for some Stimulus Recovery funds for water, sewer, and street projects. We have a couple of projects that may be far enough along so that construction could begin very soon. VA gave us less than 2 weeks to get the grant applications submitted to Richmond by March 9. One of the main criteria in evaluating the projects is how soon they can be under construction. Someone else at the office has the lead on the project so I am able to get away to FL for a week. I hope this Stimulus Recovery works. It is still hard for me to understand how we got in this mess."

**Dale Hyman** says, "I appreciate the work the WRD Retirees officers do for all of us."

**Rick Iwatsubo** writes, "Since my retirement in 2005, everyday continues to be a Saturday. I am still working part-time at a fishing tackle store and the extra money helps to pay for gas to go fishing. I just returned from a 15-day long-range tuna trip out of San Diego. The goal of the trip was to catch a yellow fin tuna 200 pounds or bigger. We call them "Cows." It takes me about 4 years to save up enough money to go on one of these trips, so this was my 6<sup>th</sup> attempt to catch my first 200 pounder. Well, mid trip my dream came true as I hooked and landed my first "Cow" that weighed 229 pounds ... what a fantastic feeling! But the trip was not over. On the last day of fishing, before we had to head home, I did not get my first bite of the day until right before sunset. After a 2-hour battle, my first "Super Cow" (300 + pounder) came aboard. It took 4 gaffs and 4 crew members to land the 302 lb. fish – truly the icing on the cake!"

**Edna Johnson** writes, "**Mel** has resided at Rocky Mountain Care for the last 4 years. His health is good. He has some memory loss but his legs finally gave out. He enjoys reading the WRD Retirees Newsletter. Mel says Hi to everyone."

**Herb Johnston** reports, "I am still able to assume a vertical position and am reasonably mobile. A pacemaker keeps my cheeks rosy (although Rosacea helps)

and meds keep everything else functioning. I do some part-time consulting work to help pay the bills. I am single and live in a condo, where I moved to avoid the responsibilities of home ownership. Unfortunately, I am now the condo president and have to cope with problems of 50 homes. Most of the owners are my age or older. It is a little like managing a home for cranky senior citizens. I have 4 children. My 2 sons (and 5 of 8 grandchildren) live in CO. I get there a couple of times a year to see them and my friend **John George**. My 2 daughters (and my other 3 grand kids) live in nearby MA. I spend a lot of time with them. I also spend part of my summer at my cottage on a lake near Bangor, ME. I do a little fishing, but mostly I spend my time keeping the old place in repair for my children--and the occasional renter--to use. John and I once did a lot of fly fishing in ME and in CO, but now neither of us is able to negotiate swift moving water in rocky streams. When we go to a stream now, we have lunch and and talk about the good old days."

**Dennis Kent** says, "Retiring in 02 I did the usual stuff old guys do: went fishing a lot, slept in, honey do's, and relaxed. After 2 years it became boring and the pay wasn't very good. Anyone that says you can live just as well on 50% of your salary is either lying or has a much better stock broker. I wanted to find something to do as a contractor with no bosses, work out of my car with my computer and cell phone -- not unlike stream gaging minus the hip boots. I work as an Insurance inspector doing residential inspections. This is strictly dress shirt and tie as I do not crawl under houses looking for vermin. I currently work for three companies, staying quite busy despite the downturn in the housing industry. With my 401 and IRA decimated, will continue to do so until they cover me up with earth or the insurers quit calling. Besides I enjoy it, provides extra income, and I can write off all my electronic toys. Aside from that, we are awaiting our grandbabies 7 & 8 in the spring. Enjoy the link that the newsletter provides and the nostalgic memories it invokes."

**Jerry Leenheer** writes, "I recently made a PowerPoint presentation in Denver summarizing my activities as a USGS Emeritus Scientist since I retired 3 years ago. My most significant activity has been to write a book, "Systematic Approaches to Comprehensive Analyses of Natural Organic Matter." It is to be published soon by the Annals of Environmental Science as an electronic book. My reasons for retiring included: family obligations, adequate financial resources, career objective completed, desire to write a book, limited USGS research funds, loss of patience with bureaucracy, opportunities for volunteer services, recreation and freedom. I have found many benefits to being in the Emeritus Scientist program."

**Carol Lind** reports, "I did pretty much the same things this year, singing in 3 choirs and playing violin in 2 instrumental groups. The instrumental groups perform at Senior Centers. Otherwise, my time is taken up with house, yard, family, friends and church activities. Last year I laid tile outside my sun room and this year I

## NEWS OF RETIREES

translated a poem in old Swedish written by my grandfather. I made a wall mural of it. Besides the poem, the mural contained pictures of his parents, their home and him and his wife at house in Minneapolis. Last summer the family didn't take a group trip so during the summer, I decided to try a bit of Spanish at a Spanish Club. I didn't know any but the club was very helpful. I frequently run into Spanish-speaking people around here so it might be good if I understood a bit. In the fall, the musical activities started again, so I decided to forget about Spanish until next year. At Christmas time there was so much happening that I sometimes had activities scheduled for the same day and time and would have to decide in which one I would take part. After Christmas my life calmed down. Presently the church choir is preparing for the Easter besides Sunday performances; the Clef Hangers are preparing their Spring Program to be presented at 15 places. The third choir and one instrumental group perform for holidays and the other instrumental group plays every Tuesday for the Fun After Fifty Club. Of course, I also attend the monthly WRD Retirees Luncheon. Presently, my family and I are planning the travel for attendance at three college graduations this spring: in San Jose, Portland, and at Cal Poly."

**Debbie Lumia** says, "Thanks for all the work that the officers of WRD Retirees perform."

**Mel Marcher** writes, "Since I am unable to see I listen to books on tape. I just finished "A History of the English Speaking People", by Winston Churchill. Now I am listening to some of my favorite authors including Dickens, Trollope and Fielding. I have also listened to the "Grapes of Wrath" 2 or 3 times and consider it one of the best American books ever written. Thanks to my son Clinton and my daughter Sonya I am pretty well taken care of. Best of luck to you all."

**Pat McAlwee** reports, "I have been retired almost 5 years and the time has really gone fast. I stay in touch with a lot of USGS folks for lunch and dinners. I have had many trips in the US with family and friends. I am a gardener in the spring and summer months helping my 93 year old Dad with his large garden. I have been volunteering at the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation. The rescue was my daughter's dream -- first, it was a few "lost" dogs needing a place to stay until they could find new homes and it grew into taking in dogs who were about to be euthanized in shelters and finding them adoptive families. Through the efforts of founders **Pam** McAlwee (my daughter) and her partner they established the Rescue in 2001. It has grown to over 500 volunteers and a full time staff that houses and cares for the animals. Today, the Rescue places 1700 animals per year into loving homes. I also volunteer when needed at my daughter's two restaurants in Arlington, The Lost Dog Cafe and The Stray Cat Cafe which support the rescue."

**Jack McCoy** writes, "I really had a wonderful time at the Tampa reunion. I am going to get the WRD Retirees who

live in the Tallahassee area to meet regularly so we can have fun sharing time together."

**Dan McElhany** says, "I dearly loved my career with USGS and all the wonderful folks I had the pleasure of working with in the TX, CO and NM Districts. I greatly enjoy reading the Newsletter – it's very informative. I retired in 2003 but am far from being retired. I worked briefly with the Forest Service and Farm Service Agency in the Dept. of Ag. I also worked for the NM District after retirement under a 6-month working agreement – reviewing streamflow measurements and groundwater records in my home. In 2005, I got into Law Enforcement as a jail/transport officer with the Houston county Sheriff. I received my commission as a peace officer for the state of TX in 2007 and since have been employed as a police officer for Crockett, TX. I also work in criminal investigation. By the way, I have a wife, **Kimberly**, 5 children, 2 grandkids and 4 cats. I also manage my 150-acre pine tree farm on the Pecos River. I have been busy!"

**Joe McIntyre** writes, "Well, where to begin? California is \$43 billion in debt and guess who gets to pay it off? Yep, us good ole taxpayers! Arnold and his cronies have given us another incentive to clear California's crowded highways, a 12-cent per gallon tax on gas. That brings our gas tax to 52 cents/gal. I can remember when a gallon of gas cost was less than half of that. Damn, I must be older than dirt! **Lila** and I are just fine. Lila went back to work as a Teacher/tutor last year and will work until May to pay off the house. Kids are costly! Even with the price of gas we have scheduled a hot rod trip to the Street Rod Nationals in Louisville in August and will drive there with another bunch of rodders in our 1932 Ford coupe (God willin' and the creeks don't rise). We will visit the Corvette Museum and plant in Bowling Green on the last day before driving into Louisville -- cool! Perhaps on the way home we will stop in UT to peruse Bonneville Speed Week (ole Navy men just can't get the salt out of our veins and once a gearhead, always a gearhead). If we are really lucky, some time during the Nationals we will try to visit Indy; don't know if we can fit all in. In April, we are going to visit our oldest grandson who is in the Navy and stationed in Charleston, SC. Time to get a good look at the old South. A few years ago when he was stationed in Jacksonville we took in St. Augustine, the oldest city in the US, and drove down to Orlando to check out Don Garlits Museum of Drag Racing. Lila puts up with all of this nonsense and even enjoys it. Our biggest problem is always finding a reliable house and dog sitter for our Lab, Lake. He's a little spoiled or he has us trained well! That's about all there is for now, bye, Weird Harold. (Ask **Phil Emery** about the nickname)."

**Charlie Morgan** reports, "A retirement party was held for **Julia Huff** on Jan. 29 in San Diego. More than 100 folks, including 8 family members, 22 WRD Retirees and USGS workers from San Diego, Poway and Sacramento attended –see a photo in the [Local Meetings and Gatherings section of this Newsletter](#). Julia began working for WRD in 69 at Garden Grove as a clerk-typist.



## NEWS OF RETIREES

The office moved to Laguna Nigel in 75 and to San Diego in 84. Julia later became a Hydrologic Technician and finally a Technical Information Specialist. All who attended the party had a great time."

**Jim Mullen** writes, "I enjoy reading the Newsletter and have found the AK adventures very interesting. Although I used to streamgage in the Sierra Nevada range in CA via helicopter in the winter and there were several incidents, none were as spectacular as those in Alaska. **Eleanor** and I are doing fine in our forest home near Mt. Shasta. We continue to sing in the local college choir. Last summer we went with the choir to sing in Scotland and Ireland and had a wonderful time."

**Braxtel Neely** says, "I enjoy reading the Newsletter to learn what is going on in everyone's life. I retired and came back home -- I live in the house I grew up in. I have a lot of non-paying jobs trying to give back to the community. I play golf about three days a week. I help with the Exchange Club and the Richland Historical Society and teach Sunday school. I am Master of the Masonic Lodge. I am the Historian of the Mississippi Mayflower Society. At one time I served as an Alderman in the City of Richland. **Billie**, my wife of 35 years, passed away. Eighteen months ago, I married **Faynell**. We went to high school together. Her husband died after 51 years of marriage. Last year we went on a cruise to Bermuda and a 10-day trip to Europe. The Jackson office still invites me to their get-togethers which I enjoy. The last time we traveled north, we spent the night with **Carney** and **Jeannine Humphreys** in Harrisburg. They are doing well."

**Dot Niles** reports, "**Ken** and I stay quite busy with family, traveling and volunteering. We both have been blessed with good health. We celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary on an Alaskan cruise with our whole family. The cruise was great and I especially liked not having to worry about those at home because they were all with us. I enjoy the Retiree News and thank everyone who helps publish it. Keep up the good work!"

**John Oberg** writes, "**Joan** and I are both hanging in there with the limitations of the "Golden Years". Unfortunately I fell and broke my leg at the end of last August but after good rehab I graduated from a wheelchair to a walker, a crutch, then a cane that I am about to abandon. After over 100 inches of snow at the end of December back at our home in MI, we had to get out of there and come to FL for January to April. A luxury condo in Florida isn't too hard to take."

**Quent Paulson** reports, "**Lorraine** and I enjoy good health. The last newsletter was very interesting although we don't know many of the names anymore. Our routine doesn't change much --at our cabin on Eighth Crow Wing Lake in MN in the summers, winters in Fargo, Christmas with our family at son Steve's place in Chippewa Falls, WI. Last Christmas we got to see our new great-granddaughter for the first time. Of course, she is "way above average"."

**Bev Pittarelli** says, "Life is very busy and I can't believe it has been 14 years since I retired. I'm still working -- I provide **Ben** part-time help with his real estate business by providing computer support. On October 10, 2008, we celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a romantic tour of the Shenandoah Valley where we honeymooned. We are also advocates for the Lupus Foundation, GA Chapter participating in lots of fund raising and educational activities. We usually do a spring fling to Hilton Head, I'm a walker and Ben is a golfer. In August we are going to attend the Senior Olympics to be held in San Francisco -- Ben is competing in the golf venue. We can't be described as Mr. and Mrs. Excitement but life is good as we continue our journey to the next 50 years!"

**Bob Ramsey** writes, "I am doing well. Over the years my wife and I have traveled much (3-month tour of the US, Europe, Hawaii, Israel, and several cruises). We are leaving on February 25th for Curacao (the coast of Argentina). **Helen** and I celebrate our 50th Wedding Anniversary on February 27, 2009."

**Bob Rogers** reports, "Soon after retiring **Janice** and I moved to Arrowsic, ME, a small island at the mouth of the Kennebec River south of Bath. There are about 500 people in Arrowsic so we have gotten to know a large percentage of the town population. In the fall of 2007, we bought a condo in Erie, CO, to be close to kids and grandkids for part of the year. We split our time between the two -- April through Oct. (mud season, bug season, and leaf-peeping season) in ME and the balance of the year in CO. I've been doing some volunteer work for conservation organizations, and several of the projects have a water component. One, for The Nature Conservancy, is a survey of culverts in to evaluate their suitability for passage by fish and other critters. I expect to continue that work around Merrymeeting Bay this coming summer. The other is the AARP, which in this case is the Arrowsic Alewife (saltwater fish that return to freshwater to spawn.) Restoration Project. I also spend time gardening and have gotten seriously involved in photography again."

**Jack Rosenau** writes, "I enjoy the Newsletter even though my eyesight has become a problem. It was good to hear from **Hal Mattraw**. However, learning of the passing of 4 friends in the Nov. edition came as a shock -- **Wayne Bridges**, **Ted Cardwell**, **Stan Leach** and **Leonard Wood** were all good friends. **Gordon Bennett** did a great job writing the memorial for Leonard. I knew Leonard as a friendly chap working for an MS while I was an undergraduate at Michigan State. The stories by **Hugh Hudson** and **Rick Fontaine** about the Pacific Islands were interesting for personal reasons -- my experience in the Hawaii District and friendship with a Wake Island Japanese prisoner of war, Marine Sgt. Eschol Davis. Dr. Davis, MD, Tallahassee FL and member of the U.S. Coast Guard flew Gulf Coast search and rescue missions as my observer. As Marines, Doc and I chatted often about his experience of the Wake Island scrap. My dear wife, **Jean**, was for years my

## NEWS OF RETIREES

primary observer, until becoming ill in the late 90s. She passed away on September 24, 2007.”

**Roger Rumenik** says, “I’ve enjoyed with interest through the Newsletters the strong post-career socialization and personal accounts that continue to bond those dedicated to the USGS.”

**Stan Sauer** reports, “Thanks to all the folks who prepare the Newsletter.”

**LeRoy Schroder** writes, “**Kathy** and I thought a lot about the activities that would fulfill our lives after I retired, but these plans changed as the grandchildren became a larger part of our life. We really enjoy the 4 boys and a girl. We believe that old line: if we knew how much fun grandchildren were, we would have had them first. We coordinate a self-help group for parents who have lost a child and have been amazed at the need of parents to converse with others who have suffered this tragedy. We both volunteer at a local hospital where I drive a modified golf cart bringing patients and visitors from parking lots to doctor’s offices, medical-testing locations, the central hospital, etc. We coordinate a program to collect items needed by mothers and women-in-distress. Last year over 14,000 diapers, 10,000 wipes and similar items were donated to 6 shelters and self-help homes. Since we have lived in the Denver area for most of our lives (and Kathy is Italian), we have an active and fun social life. We both enjoy the WRD Retirees.”

**John Scott** reports, “I am still doing a bit of consulting and stay in touch with the local WRD retirees. I was so sorry to learn of the death of **Phil LaMoreaux**. I took a ground water course under Phil in 1951 while studying at the Univ. of Alabama. Phil was District Geologist, USGS, for AL at the time. In 1952 Phil hired me as a physical science tech., GS-3. I had a BS in Geology, but in those days you had to pass a USGS exam to become a professional geologist. Phil’s ambition for Alabama was to have a geologic map and a ground-water availability report for each county. Later when the branches integrated to become WRD and Phil became the State Geologist of AL, the county reports included SW availability. Not all of the county reports were published while Phil was State Geologist, but almost all were published by the mid 80s. These have been very valuable for water managers and planners in AL. Phil is to be commended for his foresight in planning this effort. I believe the “Civil War” that **Bill Broadhurst** referred to was actually between him and Phil. Bill transferred to AL to integrate the branches about the same time that Phil returned to AL as State Geologist. Both men had strong personalities and strong opinions about the future of the AL water program. Both had strong ties to DC and both believed to be unbeatable. In the end Phil won and Bill returned to the west. Incidentally, I never did pass the geologist exam but retired in 1995 as Montgomery Subdistrict Chief.”

**Bill Schaefer** recently had a pacemaker installed and is home and feeling fine. We all think he is ready for another 50,000 miles! Good luck, Bill.

**Earl Skinner** says, “I still work crossword puzzles in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette and AR Sun-Times, which includes the more difficult New York Times puzzles. I also do some gardening during the summer and serve on the Board of Directors of the Cleburne County Cares, currently as President. We operate a resale store which generates most of the \$300,000 budget we use to provide food, clothing and shelter for people in financial difficulty. I also enjoy serving as an aide on a bus for handicapped folks making an 80-mile round trip twice daily, 5 days a week. I have overcome cataract surgery, corneal transplant, a ring-finger replacement, back surgery, an partial-prostrate surgery and am now considered to be a million-dollar man – not worth a million, just the outlay to recreate me. Currently I am in the process of a 43-day session of radiation treatment of the prostate. I continue to sing in the church choir and we will be singing “In the Presence of Jehovah” on Easter Sunday. **Ruth** plays a lot of Mexican-train dominos at the Senior Citizens Center. She also does a lot of knitting and reads quite a bit. I must be getting old because I don’t recognize most of the recent retirees and even some of those who are passing on. I was so sorry to read of **George Whetstone’s** passing. We had talked on the phone shortly before his death. He was a good friend and I am looking forward to reading his Memorial in the Newsletter. You all do a great job with the Newsletter – thanks!”

**Dick Stahl** writes, “It’s always good to read about my friends in the Newsletter.”

**Bob Steacy** writes, “In one of my earliest assignments in USGS, about 1940, I was sent to measure the Little Tennessee River at Calderwood, TN. The station had a cable-supported ferry and USGS was allowed to use the ferry cable for making measurements. The cable was not up to USGS standards – it was rusty and had a splice in the middle. It was supported by being wrapped around a large tree on each bank and had more than the usual amount of sag. I was young and determined to carry out my assignment so I rode out on the sub-standard cable and made the measurement. In the middle of the stream I was easily able to reach down with my foot and touch the rushing water. Wise?”

**Klyda Steele** reports, “I enjoy reading about all the WRD retirees activities even though there are so few that I know. Our group of WRD retirees still meets in Lincoln on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, a great way to keep up with each other.”

**Fred Stroman** says, “I had triple bypass surgery in 2003. Other than that life has been sweet.”

**Warren Teasdale** writes, “Thanks for a great Newsletter.”

## NEWS OF RETIREES

**Will Thomas** writes, "It has been 14 years since I retired from the USGS. I am still working full time for Michael Baker, Jr., an engineering firm with an office in Alexandria, VA. Michael Baker is beginning their 4<sup>th</sup> contract with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in support of the National Flood Insurance Program since I joined their staff in 1995. I spend much of my time reviewing and performing flood frequency analyses. In addition to the FEMA Project, I work on water resources projects for other clients such as the Maryland State Highway Administration and City of Alexandria. I am still active in Federal interagency activities such as serving on the Subcommittee on Hydrology (SOH) of the Advisory Committee on Water Information and chairing the SOH Hydrologic Frequency Analysis Work Group. The objective of the work group is to revise and update Bulletin 17B, *Guidelines for Determining Flood Flow Frequency*. I also represent Michael Baker on the Transportation Research Board Committee on Hydrology, Hydraulics and Water Quality. **Neva** and I still live in Manassas (33 years now) and have seven grandchildren ranging in age from 5 to 23 years. Our oldest grandchild (a granddaughter) graduated from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA in 2008. She was only nine years old when I retired from USGS and now she is a young woman. Time really flies! I really enjoy reading the Newsletter and appreciate the efforts of all those that contribute to its publication. It is a good way to keep informed about activities of former colleagues. I still have contact with several USGS staff. I often contact USGS offices when I need input or advice on flood frequency analyses throughout the country. The surface water data available from the USGS National Water Information System (NWIS) are very helpful to the National Flood Insurance Program and many other water resources projects. Whenever I access NWIS, I am proud to be a retired USGS employee."

**Pat Tucci** says, "Having completed my first year of retirement, I can say that there are no regrets. I've signed on as Volunteer for Science, mainly so that I can go into the office once in a while to catch up on the gossip. **Zelda** and I have been very busy in retirement. We've traveled to China, Italy, Ethiopia, and Ireland, as well as to AZ, NM, and MT. In addition, I had a consulting job that took me to Ghana for a week. We also had a great time at the WRD Retirees reunion in Tampa, and took the Caribbean cruise with a great bunch of fellow retirees. In December we attended the first lunch meeting of the IN retirees in Indianapolis, where both Zelda and I started our careers. Our home business (GEOOdyssey, LLC) has been growing and keeping us out of trouble. It's turned into a half-time job, so I guess we're only semi-retired. We sell minerals, fossils, and jewelry, mostly at shows around the Denver area. We've also gotten much more involved in various clubs and organizations. My work with Denver Sister Cities had me traveling to our sister city of Axum in northern Ethiopia in January. Our daughter, Cara, is finishing up her degree in equine science at Colorado State University in May. We look forward to seeing many of you at the reunion in Denver in 2010."

**Deanna Walth** reports, "I retired in 03 and spent the first 2 years traveling with my husband and working on our home. In 2005, I started volunteering a day a week at a Tacoma Hospital where I work in Surgical Waiting. Duties consist of tracking surgeries via computer and assisting families by getting them into private consultation rooms to speak with the doctor. From there the patient goes to Recovery. Also, the volunteer keeps the waiting area tidy and makes sure coffee, etc. is available for the families while they wait. In 2006, I joined another volunteer group meeting 1 day a month at a Quilt Store in Gig Harbor where we make quilts for the patients of a local Oncologist. Our leader is a cancer survivor herself. She does all the planning and preparing and the volunteers do the sewing and finishing. Most of the fabric is donated. I also assist at my Church in data entry for our Finance Secretary. I find volunteering very fulfilling."

**John Warren** says, "I enjoy reading the WRD Retirees Newsletter every 3 months."

**Toni Watkins** writes, "I really enjoy the WRD Retiree functions."

**CT Welborn** writes, "**Dixie** and I went to Rockport to celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We went on the whooping crane boat and there were a lot of cranes to be seen as well as other water birds. It was a little windy but the temperature was in the high 60's. The next day we went to Aransas Wild Life National Park -- our 9<sup>th</sup> time to the park during February. We saw 17 deer, a raccoon and an armadillo. We then drove to Port Aransas where we met my 2 oldest daughters, Frances and Beverly, and their friend, Tina. We also had an enjoyable trip in the South Pacific. We boarded the Tahitian Princess for a 26 day trip to Ft. Lauderdale. Highlight for me was Pitcairn Island. I read "Mutiny on the Bounty" and was intrigued about Pitcairn. Pitcairn was 4 days sailing from Bora Bora. The ship couldn't land because of high cliffs and barrier reef. A long boat, similar to the long boat used on the old British sailing ships, except with a motor, could make it through the reef. There is little or no flat land on the island. The landing for boats is a narrow beach and you come to the path that's about a 30 degree climb. From Pitcairn we sailed 3 days to Easter Island -- the main reason we took this trip. Dixie had been reading up on the island from last year when we signed up for the trip and has wanted to visit Easter Island for some time. We took a riding tour around the Island and saw a few of the many statues. From Easter Island we sailed for 3 days to Lima, Peru, then to Manta, Ecuador. We entered the Panama Canal at 0700 hours and at 1600 hours were through the last set of locks and entered the Caribbean. Then they went to Limon, Costa Rica the next day and then they sailed 3 more days to Ft. Lauderdale. It was a long trip! We will be taking shorter trips from now on."

## WRD NEWS

### Coordination of Water Information at USGS in 2009

In 1964, the Bureau of the Budget (now OMB) issued Circular A-67 authorizing USGS to coordinate certain water-data acquisition activities of federal agencies. For this purpose, the Office of Water Data Coordination (OWDC) was established in WRD. The first task of OWDC was to create a non-federal advisory committee and a federal advisory committee on water data. These two committees met annually for a number of years to describe and discuss data needs. They were instrumental in the preparation by OWDC of a Catalog of Information on Water Data that in 1979 contained information on more than 50,000 locations by more than 200 Federal, State and local agencies and universities. They also assisted OWDC in publishing "Standard Methods for Acquiring Water Data". The Committee structure was continued under OMB M-92-01, and two changes were made. First, the two groups were combined into the single Advisory Committee on Water Information, to increase the possibility of meaningful dialogue between the public and private sectors. Secondly, the new charter limited the size of the group, and elevated the level of personnel. The new advisory committee charter was signed in 1996 under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Like other programs at USGS, the coordination effort for Water Information has changed -- for example OWDC is now called the Water Information Coordination Program and consists of 6 personnel headed by a GS-14. During its early history, OWDC was lead by an SES-level scientist and had 18 personnel.

Currently, USGS uses a series of groups and subgroups to coordinate water information. The groups and subgroups are briefly described below. The Water Information Coordination Program ensures collaborative efforts among Federal Agencies to improve water information for decision making about natural resources management and environmental protection.

#### **Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI)**

The ACWI represents the interests of water-information users and professionals in advising the Federal Government on Federal water-information programs and their effectiveness in meeting the Nation's water-information needs. ACWI advises the Federal Government, through USGS, on coordination of Federal water information programs. ACWI members foster better communication between the Federal and non-Federal sectors on water-information acquisition, information sharing, and related technology transfer. ACWI will have a maximum of 35 members who will be appointed by the Secretary, based on recommendations from the USGS. Members represent the interests of water-oriented organizations, including Federal, State and other government agencies, professional and technical societies, the academic community, and the private sector.

#### **Subgroups**

The National Water Quality Monitoring Council provides a national forum for coordination of consistent and scientifically defensible methods and strategies to improve water quality monitoring, assessment and reporting.

The NWQMC Methods and Data Comparability Board provides a forum for exploring, evaluating, and promoting methods that facilitate collaboration and further comparability between water monitoring programs.

The National Liaison Committee for the National Water Quality Assessment Program (NAWQA) creates an ongoing national liaison process for external organizations to work interactively with the NAWQA Program in joint problem solving on water quality issues.

The goal of the Subcommittee on Ground Water is to develop and encourage implementation of a nationwide, long term ground-water quantity and quality monitoring framework that would provide information necessary for the planning, management, and development of ground-water supplies to meet current and future water needs, and ecosystem requirements.

The Subcommittee on Hydrology desires to improve the availability and reliability of surface-water quantity information needed for hazard mitigation, water supply and demand management, and environmental protection.

The Subcommittee on Sedimentation promotes and supports the development and standardization of equipment, methodologies, calibration, and performance criteria fluvial-sediment data and related technical information.

The Subcommittee on Spatial Water Data jointly sponsored with the Federal Geographic Data Committee develops water-resources components of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.

The Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable serves as a forum to share information and perspectives that will promote better decision-making in the United States regarding the sustainable development of our nation's water.

## WRD NEWS

### Recent Retirements

**Note to all WRD Retirees: Recent retirees automatically become members of WRD Retirees. Please contact the recent retirees listed below that are from your state and welcome them aboard. Invite them to participate in your Local meetings! Call them and invite them to become active in our organization.**

#### Northeastern Region

**Robert P. Bodoh**, Info. Tech. Specialist, 7 Mountain Ash Trail, Madison, WI 53717, 608-833-2116, 04/03/09

**Carl W. Faulkenburg**, Hydrologic Technician, PO Box 389, St. Albans, WV 25177, 304-722-7497, 02/28/09

**Stephen J. Rheame**, Hydrologist, 5162 Meridian Road, Williamston, MI 48895, 517-349-9167, 04/03/09

#### Southeastern Region

None

#### Central Region

**Joseph R. Dungan**, Hydrologic Technician, PO Box 122, Meeker, CO 81641, 970-878-3219, 01/31/09

**Gary H. Haff**, Hydrologic Technician, 6935 S. 155 W. Avenue, Sapula, OK 74066, 918-227-4794, 02/28/09

**Philip L. Karper**, Hydrologic Technician, 6330 Jasper Road, Helena, MT 59602, 406-443-0021, 04/03/09

**John H. Lambing**, Hydrologist, 2000 Westridge Court, Helena, MT 59601, 406-442-9155, 04/03/09

**Patricia B. Ladd**, Hydro. Tech., 1409 Hollins Avenue, Helena, MT 59601, 406-442-6072, 04/03/09

**David W. Litke**, Hydrologist, 548 S. Swadley Street, Lakewood, CO 80228, 303-989-1732, 03/03/09

**Virgiline I. Lowe**, Administrative Assistant, 7810 W. 87<sup>th</sup> Drive, #J, Westminster, CO 80005, 01/31/09

**Dennis W. Oleary**, Geologist, 2579 Medinah Drive, Evergreen, CO 80439, 303-674-5778, 03/03/09

**Larry M. Pope**, Hydrologist, 12068 70<sup>th</sup> Street, Oskaloosa, KS 66066, 785-863-2482, 02/02/09

#### Western Region

**James W. Ball**, Chemist, PO Box 730, Selma, OR 97538, 01/31/09

**Julie Anne Berkman**, Biologist, 18041 Blue Sail Drive, Pacific Palisades, CA, 310-454-5479, 02/28/09

**Julia A. Huff**, Tech. Info. Spec., 3930 Holly Brae Lane, Carlsbad, CA 92008, 442-434-4739, 01/31/09

**Alan P. Jackman**, Chemical Engineer, 306 Del Oro Avenue, Davis, CA 95617, 530-756-3484, 02/27/09

**John T. Parker**, Hydrologist, 5723 N. Camino Del Conde, Tucson, AZ 85718, 520-299-2958, 01/30/09

**Theresa M. Sanchez**, Admin. Asst., 2083 NW 9<sup>th</sup> Place, Meridian, ID 83646, 208-884-2446, 02/28/09

**Blakemore E. Thomas**, Hydrologist, 4025 N. Star Park Place, Tucson, AZ 85716, 03/20/09

**Robert J. Wesley**, Admin. Asst., 10648 Braverman Drive, Santee, CA 92071, 619-448-7916, 03/31/09

#### Headquarters

**Linda H. Geiger**, Hydrologist, 11598 Lake Newport Road, Reston, VA 20194, 703-787-4751, 02/28/09

**Irene G. Myers**, Budget Analyst, 103 Hamilton Court, Stephens City, VA 22655, 01/31/09

### **You can have your copy of the Newsletter delivered by email!**

Those enlightened WRD Retirees who receive their Newsletter by email got their copy about 4 weeks earlier than retirees who receive their Newsletter by U.S. Mail! Also, the email version is in full color and you will help save a tree! If you want to receive your copy of the WRD Retirees Newsletter by email, you can join the nearly 400 WRD Retirees who are currently receiving their copy of the Newsletter via email by simply sending an email message to Mike Gaydos at [Tigerlsu2@cox.net](mailto:Tigerlsu2@cox.net). Mike will see that you are added to the list of email recipients. You need a personal computer attached to the Internet by a relatively high speed connection to have your Newsletter delivered by email. Join the "in group" and sign up for email delivery of your Newsletter. Send Mike an email today!

## LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

Northern California WRD Retirees enjoying themselves at a meeting on March 9. Thanks to Gail Keeter for arranging the get-together! The next meeting will be a June 7 picnic.



**L to R: Front:** Jim Blodgett, Chuck Berkstresser, John Bader, Kathy Shay; **Back:** Rick Iwatsubo, Gail Keeter, Ginny Wenslaff, Jerry Smithson, Paul Hayes, John Shay, and Jean Kay and Jerry McClelland.

Ohio WRD Retirees celebrated at their annual Christmas party on December 19, 2008. This was the largest turnout for Ohio retirees and included new WRD Retirees Bernie Sroka and Steve Frum



**L to R: Front:** Dick Swisshelm, Bernie Sroka, Steve Frum. **Middle:** Sandy Beck, Harold Shindel, Janet Welday, Cheryl Hawkins, Jeff deRoche. **Back:** Jim Sherwood, Steve Hindall, Max Katzenbach, Joyce McClure, Jess Klingler

**Boise, Idaho retirees having fun at their January 21, 2009 meeting.**



**L to R: Front:** Jerry Lindholm. **1<sup>st</sup>:** Barbara Pinkerton, Paul Woods, Jack Doyle. **2<sup>nd</sup>:** Luther Kjelstrom, Lois Douglas, Leona Harper. **3<sup>rd</sup>:** Carlene Kjelstrom, Jo Ann Jones, Karen Kenyon, Jeannie Jones, Iva Lou O'Dell, Bob Harper, Muffy Lindholm, Ilaine Tracy, Mike Tracy. **4<sup>th</sup>:** Rod Jones, Glen Sisco, Mike Jones, Glenna Wilson, Jean Harenberg, Bill Harenberg, Bob Luscombe, Frank Youngkin



## LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

WRD Retirees were among attendees at a recent retirement party for Julia Huff in San Diego. Photo below shows some of the active WRD workers and retirees who attended.



**L to R Front:** Joe Moreland, Rick Banta, John Singer, *Jim Bowers*, John Freckleton, Julia Huff, Kaycee Moreland, *Linda Woolfenden*, Darwin Knochenmus, Charlie Morgan, Robert (Red) Longfield, Jim French  
**Back:** *Peter Martin*, Tim Landis, *Wes Danskin*, Bill Hardt, Brian Baharie, *John Izbicki*, Paul Lipinski, Lindsay Swain, Gary Cronk, *Ron Fay*. *Italics indicates still working for USGS.*

### Four distinguished WRD Retirees at a recent HQ meeting in Herndon, VA



**L to R:** Hal Langford, Ray Abrams, George Edelen, and Bill Schaefer

### Indiana WRD Retirees at their March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting – the 130th birthday of the USGS



**L to R: Front:** Sharon Goss, Cheryl Silcox, Debbie Majors, Gene Hammil, Sonja Sanders, Brian Benedict, and Lee Watson **Back:** Randy Keeton, Konrad Banaszak, Rick Goss, Jerry Davis, Jeff Martin, Dave Cohen, and Jim Stewart

**MEMORIAL**  
**Hugh H. Hudson**  
**1923 - 2009**

My first Survey job was measuring streams in Mississippi. Freshly discharged from the Army, I was hired in late 1943 as a hydrologic field assistant by Andy Anderson, head of the Jackson Surface Water Branch office. I resigned in 1945 to re-enroll at Mississippi State University as a civil engineering student under the GI Bill. Soon however, Andy persuaded me to return to work, part-time, as the streamgager for North Mississippi. Although my academic load was heavy and I was also a lab instructor, I managed to make good grades.



After graduating in 1947, I was re-assigned to the Jackson office with a promotion to P-2, skipping P-1. In 1949, I married the bride of my next 60+ years, Rebecca Ely, and in 1950, we moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico; a huge cultural, religious and climatological contrast to Mississippi. During the next four years, I was trained by Stutz Oakland in the art of indirect peak-flow measurements and initiated and managed a peak-flow program in cooperation with the State highway department. We were transferred to Honolulu in 1954 where I was given a new title, "Operations Engineer," later "Assistant District Engineer."

Working in the tropics from Hawaii to Samoa to Guam was a great experience but after six years, I let higher authority know I was ready to move on. Stan Lord, SW Branch Area Chief, Pacific Region, sent word that my next job would be in Washington, D.C. as staff assistant to Assistant Director Bob Lyddan, succeeding Hal Langford who was completing his two years in that assignment. I declined, saying my knowledge of the USGS at bureau level was too limited, but my refusal was not accepted. Becky, I, and our two young sons arrived in Washington in July, 1961. The two-year tour turned into a three-year, extremely educational, career-broadening experience.

In summer, 1964, I was transferred to Denver as an assistant to Central Region's Regional Hydrologist Keith Jackson with responsibilities for river basin planning, but particularly to help Keith with the Missouri River Basin Program. My duties in Denver varied during the next 16 years from recruiting to reviewing district programs to managing the coal and oil shale hydrology program to Regional Program Director and included an assignment in Brazil advising power agencies on a network of gaging stations to optimize streamflow data for hydropower generation. I retired in 1980.

Retirement, however, did not end my professional career. I stayed on Regional Hydrologist Al Clebsch's staff for nearly two years finishing several jobs and writing a history of the Missouri River Basin Program, then, to leave some tracks for others to follow, an account of the hydrologic problems and accomplishments associated with coal and oil shale development. Both became Survey publications. I also finished my term as Chair, Ground Water Committee of the American Society of Civil Engineers; an unbelievable honor for an old streamgager to follow the truly accomplished Stavros Papadopoulos in that job. I also initiated a complete re-write of ASCE's Hydrology Manual, eventually published by ASCE.

In 1983, retiree Don Thomas, then working for Dames and Moore, asked me to go to Saudi Arabia to help design and supervise the surface-water component of a study of the hydrology of the Azir Province. I was pleased to be asked and enjoyed the job. My most enjoyable, post-retirement job was to work with Joe Cragwall and many others to write "A History of the Water Resources Division, US Geological Survey, Volume VI, May 1, 1957 to June 30, 1966." Renewed contact with those with whom I enjoyed working during my Survey career was a pleasure. Come to think of it, I never had an assignment in WRD that I did not thoroughly enjoy.

I am survived by my bride Becky in Lakewood, Colorado and sons Lawrence in Tempe, Arizona, Mark in nearby Arvada, and four grandchildren.

By Hugh H. Hudson



## First Light and Error Free

By Donovan Kelly, WRD Retiree  
(élan Magazine, July 2008)

First Light, and Nothing Has Gone Wrong Yet. First light is my favorite part of the day. It carries the hope that today I just might get something done, sweetened by the knowledge that I don't have to do it quite yet.

Plus, at first light I'm a step ahead of all my neighbors who are still sleeping. Kinda like that old joke about the hungry bear chasing you and another guy. You don't have to outrun the bear, just as long as you can outrun the other guy. Shoot, at first light, I'm probably two steps ahead of the other guy.

Maybe all that is the same as saying I enjoy the promise a new day brings. But I don't put much stock in promises. So, I'll stick to that good feeling that comes with the first light and the first cup of coffee. That feeling that I haven't screwed up yet, and so far, I'm a step ahead of everybody else, including the hungry bear.

An early morning walk also helps put off failure. Can't really get around to screwing up anything until the walk is over. My morning walk usually takes me past a crazy tree. At least somebody in authority thought the tree was crazy, because they gave it electroshock treatment back last summer.

Except for the zig-zag scar left by the lightning bolt, the tree looks normal enough, like nothing much had ever happened. I'd ask the tree how it was doing, but you know how oaks are. As quiet and stubborn as a fence post, which they are probably first cousin to anyway.

Sometimes when I come back from my walk, the birdfeeder sits real quiet. Could be there are no birds at the feeder because a hawk is lying by. That's when the chickadees finally stop chattering and the woodpecker press up tight against the feeder tree like it was his new best friend. Or maybe there are no birds because they are somewhere else. It's hard to tell one kind of "are no" time at the birdfeeder from the other.

Only thing to do is to ask the chickadees, because if anybody will tell you what the heck is going on, it's a chickadee. Problem is, just about when I start chattering with the chickadees about hawks and the crazy oak tree, my neighbors are waking up and watching me. I can see their curtains shaking with laughter. Soon they'll be picking up the phone and calling my wife. There goes the day. Can't wait until tomorrow. Tomorrow will be better, at least at first.

### Are you one of the WRD Retirees who have not paid dues for 2009?

A review of dues paid indicates there are still several hundred WRD Retirees who owe back dues. WRD Retirees would certainly appreciate you paying your dues. We need the funds to print and distribute the WRD Retirees Newsletters and the Directory and to pay for the Hydrologic Technician Scholarship. About 100 members not only owe dues for 2009, but for previous years as well! **Please** review your records and if you owe dues to WRD Retirees, send us a check in the amount of \$10 for each year of dues owed.

Please make your check out to WRD Retirees.

Mail your payment to:

WRD Retirees  
P.O. Box 280  
Herndon VA 20172-0280

Thanks for your assistance in keeping WRD Retirees operating well. If you have questions about your dues status please contact our Secretary, Bill Boning. Bill's email is [cwboning@verizon.net](mailto:cwboning@verizon.net). His telephone number is 703-435-0031. If you need to write to Bill, please send him a note at the address, shown above.

## **WRD Retiree Volunteers in Action**

### **Volunteering at Escapees CARE, Inc.**

**by Philip Carpenter**

Scrubbing and sanitizing cooking pots and pans, mopping floors, cooking, and serving meals--these are just a few of the tasks performed by Phil and Patrice Carpenter while serving as volunteers at Escapees CARE (Continuing Assistance for Retired Escapees), Inc., at the Escapees National Headquarters complex in Livingston, Texas, about 70 miles north of Houston. The Escapees RV Club provides a total support network for more than 35,000 active member families. The Club has 19 parks located across the southern and western United States, publishes a monthly magazine, operates a huge mail forwarding service, and offers CARE as an Escapee benefit. Phil and Patrice joined Escapees shortly after becoming full-time RVers in 2004, and discovered the CARE center on their first visit to the national headquarters complex. For more information, see [www.Escapees.com](http://www.Escapees.com).

CARE is a non-profit licensed Texas day-care center. Members who cannot take care of their own or their spouse's needs following an illness, injury, surgery, or the progression of a long-term health situation may park and live in their RVs adjacent to the CARE Center. They get a lot of help and receive three meals and a snack daily, and may participate in daily activities and programs in the Care Center. A nurse is on duty there eight hours every business day. Additionally, resident members are provided laundry and house cleaning services in their RVs; medical and dental appointments are scheduled and transportation provided because many of the residents no longer drive. These services and more are provided at a very affordable rate, because of the volunteers that serve in addition to the paid staff.

CARE is at the center of national Escapees Club fundraising—every chapter and park has their own fundraising activities that benefit Care and make residence at the Care Center affordable for Escapees. The paid staff includes a director, an activity director, a volunteer coordinator, caregivers, cooks, housekeepers and a maintenance person. Volunteers may provide assistance in all of these functional areas. The center also provides the opportunity and facilities for social activities including games, puzzles, movies, TV, and special programs (Phil presented a Mount St. Helens slideshow when we were there).

Volunteers are essential at the Care Center to give the residents the most complete services available. Volunteers at Care receive a site with full hookups and a meal at no cost on the days they work. The atmosphere is warm and friendly, and everyone has fun!

When not scrubbing pots and pans or mopping floors, Phil often transported residents to appointments using the CARE bus or station wagon. He established a particularly close friendship with Arlie, a resident, while accompanying him to the VA center in Houston. Arlie became blind after retiring from NASA and was fighting colon cancer. He enjoyed talking with Phil about the technical aspects of his career with NASA. As a machinist, he was very proud of having machined some of their exotic metals to less than one one-thousandth of an inch. Phil would take meals to Arlie in his RV and would accompany him to the CARE center every morning for coffee. Patrice enjoyed hanging out with the residents and volunteers when not doing dishes or kitchen work. Volunteers and visitors are encouraged to take meals and interact with the residents. In addition, there are activities and programs around the headquarters and park complex. Livingston itself is an interesting and quiet little town.

Volunteering at CARE was rewarding to us and we plan doing more when we can. Volunteers are hard to find at the Care Center during the hot-humid periods of the summers there in Texas—maybe we can plan it during one of those times.

## IN MEMORIAM

**W. A. "Art" Beetem**, 82, passed away on February 4, 2009, in Tarpon Springs, FL. A Pennsylvania native and 1948 graduate of The Pennsylvania State University with a BS in Chemistry, Art began his WRD career as a Hydrologic Field Assistant in Schuylkill Haven, PA, in 1948. He transferred to the Albany, New York QW office in 1951 where he operated the chemical and sediment labs and relocated to Denver in 1956 where he served with the Atomic Energy Commission Hydrology project and later as the Central Region QW specialist. His final WRD assignment was with the QW Branch in HQ, retiring in 1981. For many years Art was instrumental in preparing the WRD Retirees Directory. He moved to Florida in 1995. Art's first wife, Doris, preceded him in death. He is survived by his current wife, Ann Rich Beetem and 3 daughters: Doris and Rose Beetem and Bonnie Rogers.

**Barbara Chase**, widow of George, died September 16, 2008. George was a 40-year veteran of USGS who at the time of his death in 1979 was a hydrologist with the Environmental Affairs Program in Reston. Barbara is survived by a daughter, Mary Jacobs, and two grandchildren.

**Peggy Crosthwaite**, widow of E. G. "Jerry" Crosthwaite, passed away on December 26, 2008. She was a long time resident of Boise. Jerry started with WRD in Lansing, MI, in 1951, and transferred to Boise in 1952 with the GW Branch. He spent 26 years in Boise, retiring in 1987. He worked as a consultant until 1991. Jerry was a WW II vet of the U.S. Army. Peggy and Jerry spent their retirement together in Boise until his passing in 2003. Peggy is survived by her sons, Roy and Brian, and 8 grandchildren.

**George Dempster** of Colorado Springs died January 8, 2009. He was 77. A Missouri native, George earned his BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Arizona in 1954 and began work in the Tucson SW office shortly thereafter. George was a USAF veteran as a multi-engine aircraft pilot. In 1960, he transferred to Oklahoma City where he worked in hydrologic records. In 1962, he joined the QW program in Portland, OR, on the Columbia River project investigating fluvial sediment transport as related to radionuclide movement. His next assignment was in Dallas to work on Urban Hydrology. In 1972, he transferred to the Automatic Data Section in HQ where he worked until his retirement in 1990. George was an active member of ASCE, a Habitat for Humanity volunteer, and a woodworker. George is survived by his wife of 54 years, Alice Jean Boebinger Dempster.

**William J. "Bill" Drescher**, age 90, died February 25, 2009, in Madison, Wisconsin. A Colorado native, Bill graduated from Colorado University in 1940 with an MS in Civil Engineering. In 1941, he married his college sweetheart, Marcine Faunce. He began his USGS career in Miami. During WW II, Bill was a Seabee and spent several years in the South Pacific. After his discharge, he resumed work with WRD, this time in Madison, where he remained in various capacities until he retired in 1974. Bill received an MS in Geology from the University of Wisconsin in 1958 and taught graduate school during the 60's. He spent considerable time on his "Nut Farm" in Iowa county raising trees, keeping bees, and feeding the birds. Bill is survived by son, Jim; daughter, Becky Lofdahl; 6 grandchildren; 7 great grandchildren; and a great-great granddaughter.

**Carolyn Ducret** passed away in Nallehu, HI, on February 6, 2009, at age 68. A Salt Lake City native, her family moved to Portland, OR, when she was 9 and she graduated from high school there and began working at a local bank. She met her husband to be, Lou, at the bank and they were married in 1963. Lou worked with WRD in Lakewood, CO and Miami, FL prior to his retirement in 2000. Carolyn and Lou moved to Nallehu after retirement. Carolyn was active in the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints. She is survived by her husband, Lou; son, Christopher; daughter, Tiffany; and two grandchildren.

**Lonnie Garrelts**, husband of WRD retiree Mary Garrelts, died November 8, 2007. Mary started with WRD as a Clerk-typist with the SW office in Champaign, IL, in 1958. She earned her rating as a Hydrologic Technician in 1971 and served in that position until she retired in 1995. Lonnie was an Illinois native who served in the U.S. Army from 1955-58. He was a truck driver and enjoyed woodworking. He is survived by his wife, Mary; two daughters, Sherrilyn and Shelley; and a son, Scott.

**Joe H. Holm**, age 84, died on February 12, 2009, in Baton Rouge, LA. He was an avid outdoorsman, fisherman and in "fast-pitch" softball a noted pitcher for more than 30 years, competing beyond age 50. During WW II he served in the U.S. Army in Europe. In 1949, he received a BS degree from LSU and married Betty McComes. Soon after, he joined the SW Branch in LA, where he spent his career. Joe

## IN MEMORIAM

became Chief of the Hydrologic Surveillance Section, and in the 1970's supervised the Annual Data Report. For eight consecutive years, the Louisiana District was first in the country to publish its water records -- Joe spearheaded this achievement. He retired from WRD in 1980 and worked as a construction contractor until suffering a stroke in 2000. He is survived by his wife, Betty; a son; 3 daughters; and numerous grandchildren.

**Nathaniel Macon Jackson, Jr.** was accidentally killed in a tree cutting accident on May 5, 2007, at age 75. Macon was a graduate of North Carolina State College, School of Engineering. He joined the USGS in Raleigh in 1952 as an Engineering Aid, converting to Hydraulic Engineer in 1954 after receiving his degree. Macon was on military furlough from 1955-57, serving with the U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers. He returned to North Carolina and served as a SW hydrologist there until his retirement in 1987. He loved golfing, fishing, and watching a ball game. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Alice; son, David; daughter, Ann Hardwick; and daughter Susan Croom; and 7 grandchildren.

**Alvin R. "Al" Leonard**, age 88, a Kansas native and 1942 graduate of the University of Kansas with a degree in Geology died February 7, 2007. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force during WW II, seeing combat with the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force. Following his military service, he joined the USGS as a Geologist in Lawrence, KS, with the Missouri River Basin project. From 1952-55 Al was with the GW Branch in Sacramento and in 1956 transferred to Oklahoma as the District Geologist. He became Project Chief of the Willamette Basin project in 1965, stationed in Portland and continued to serve there until his retirement in 1981. Al is survived by his wife of 66 years, Jean; 2 sons, Jim and Allan Richard; and 2 daughters; Mary and Kathy.

**Nick Melcher** died on April 9, 2009 from complications related to a staph infection. Nick was 60. He retired in 2007 after 34 years with the USGS; 13 of those years were served as Director of the Arizona Water Science Center. He began his career as a staff hydrologist in Montana and later became Subdistrict Chief in Kentucky and District Chief in Iowa before moving to Arizona. In Arizona, Nick was lauded for having a strong data program and for developing an innovative ground-water program. Known fondly as "The Banker" by his peers, Nick managed his office as effectively and efficiently as any. He took an Arizona office that had been in deep financial trouble and turned it into a highly performing organization with soaring morale. Those who knew Nick knew he was a generous, thoughtful, and compassionate person. Nick is survived by his wife, Paula; 2 sons, Clifton and Henry; and 4 grandchildren. A full Memorial for Nick will appear in a future Newsletter.

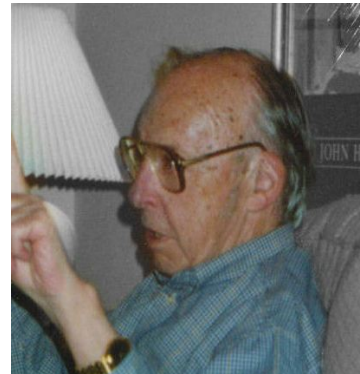
**Terry H. Thompson**, 71, died in Treasure Island, FL, on April 20, 2009. Born in Whittier, CA, he was a 1961 Geologic Engineering graduate of the University of Arizona. Terry began his WRD career as a Hydraulic Engineer with the SW office in Los Angeles in 1962, moving to the CA district office in Menlo Park in 1965. Terry became a Research Hydrologist in 1970 with the Regional office in CA, moving to Flagstaff, AZ, in 1976. He transferred to the Tampa subdistrict in 1978 and to WRD headquarters, his final assignment before retiring in 1997. Terry's passions were traveling, fishing, bird watching, and downhill skiing. He also enjoyed ballroom dancing with his wife. He is survived by his wife, WRD Retiree Judy Fretwell Thompson; step daughters, Kathi Whitcomb, and Karin Throckmorton; and 4 grandchildren.

**Gerald Wisnieski** died April 13, 2008, in Dodge, NE, at age 65. He was born in Dodge and was a graduate of Wayne State College. He was a school teacher before beginning his WRD career as a Hydrologic Technician in Huron, SD, in 1979. He spent his entire career in Huron, retiring in 1994. He and his wife moved back to Dodge in 2003. Gerald is survived by his wife of 39 years, Nona; a daughter, Jeri; and a granddaughter.

**MEMORIAL**  
**George W. Whetstone**  
**1921 - 2008**

George W. Whetstone died at his home in Sanford, North Carolina, on December 21, 2008, at age 87. He is survived by his wife, Clara; daughters, Ann and Barbara; two grandsons; and a great grandson.

George graduated from North Carolina State in 1944 with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Chemistry. He then began his 33-year career with the U.S. Geological Survey as a Chemist with the QW Branch in Washington, DC. In 1945, he moved to Charlottesville, Virginia, as Chemist-in-Charge of the Virginia Water Quality program. In 1950, George transferred to Palmer, Alaska, to lead the QW program and built the Alaska Water Quality Laboratory. He worked closely with the military to provide water quality information for their various bases. He initiated the first Arctic and sub-Arctic systematic sediment program and assisted in the early planning of the Alaska pipeline.



In 1957, George transferred to Columbus, Ohio, as the District Chemist of the Ohio River Basin regional laboratory, responsible for the Water Quality programs in 6 states. In 1963, he served as special consultant on acid mine drainage problems for the Subcommittee on Natural Resources, House Committee on Government Operations and received a special act award for his contributions. George also served as Chairman of the subcommittee on Water Quality Operations and Management, Ohio River Valley Sanitary Commission.

Headquarters was the next stop in George's impressive career with the USGS, transferring to DC in 1965. During the next few years he served in several positions, including Assistant Chief, Office of Water Data Coordination, Assistant Chief for Research and finally as the first Assistant Chief Hydrologist for Scientific Publications and Data Management. George also represented the United States on several international organizations: the International Conference on Water for Peace, the United Nations International Petroleum Council, and the International Hydrologic Decade. He also lectured on water quality at the Universitat de la Oriente, Barcelona, Venezuela. During the last 3 years of his career he was an Assistant Director of the USGS. He testified before a number of Congressional committees, particularly on the water resources and water quality programs of the USGS.

George was a man of integrity and was well respected by his colleagues, cooperators, and employees. He was the author or co-author of numerous scientific reports. He received many awards and commendations from national and international organizations. He was a model train enthusiast and an avid philatelist and a member of stamp societies here and abroad.

By Chuck Collier

## LIFE IN THE 1500s, Submitted by CT Welborn

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some **facts about the 1500s**:

1). Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom of **carrying a bouquet when getting married**.

2). Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, **"Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."**

3). Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall. Hence the saying, **"It's raining cats and dogs."**

4). There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. **That's how canopy beds came into existence.**

5). The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, **"Dirt poor."** The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread straw (thresh) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more straw until, when you opened the door; it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance way. Hence the saying **"a threshold."**

6). Sometimes folks could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, bring home the bacon. They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and **"chew the fat."**

7). Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the **"upper crust."**

8). Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock a person out for a couple of days. Someone could take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of **"holding a wake."**

9). England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So, they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the **graveyard shift**) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, saved by the bell and was considered a ...**"dead ringer."**

Now, whoever said History was boring! ! !

# **A Worm's Eye View of the Airline Industry - Part I**

**By Jim Daniel**

When I retired in 1995, Ruth and I had enjoyed several years of parent flight benefits while our son, Jim, was a ticket agent for Pan Am and, later, American Airlines. Just as I retired, son Jim decided to take a leave of absence to pursue his degree at the University of Miami (Florida). We lost our flight benefits! What to do? I went to work for American Airlines as a lowly ticket agent.

Some thought it would be hard to go from being a Senior Staff Executive to the lowest seniority position in a rigidly seniority-driven industry. It wasn't. I wanted nothing more than to just have someone else be in charge for a change - I told them to just point me where they wanted me to go and I'd go. I had a ball! My work in WRD DID, however, provide me with a viewpoint and understanding of what was happening in the workplace and the whole organization that was extremely interesting. I would often look at problems (like lost baggage) and think about how WRD management would deal with them. My first bottom-of-the-seniority totem pole assignment at Washington Dulles airport was in late night lost baggage (I was to make myself available at the baggage carousel for passengers whose bags didn't arrive to scream at me). Aside from normal people, I helped find misrouted bags for the likes of Steve Allen (he was surprised I used a computer rather than a paper form to process his claim), Roger Clinton (he came through Dulles several times each year with his family to visit his half-brother at the White House), and Congresswoman Maxine Waters (she left her wallet in the boarding area on her way to Los Angeles -- no money but some other good stuff).

During this time I noted several things which happened repeatedly. One was that at Dulles (symbol IAD) we frequently received bags tagged for IND (Indianapolis) and IAH (Houston-Bush). Those places also frequently received our bags. I wondered if dyslexia played a role here. You see, all those bar code marks on the bags meant absolutely nothing (they may have started to be used by some carriers this year)! Those marks are relics of a failed attempt to automate routings several years before -- rather than change the software and eliminate the marks, it was cheaper to just continue to print them on the tags. All bags were routed by people who just looked at the tags. Then I began to realize that because of the airline obsession with seniority, only the least experienced employees (like me) worked on the weekends and many more misroutings occurred on Saturdays and Sundays. Not only might dyslexia be at work, but the newest folks were handling the bags. Typically at Dulles, on a non-stop flight, bags are handled a minimum of 7 times (11 times on a one-stop). Each time is an opportunity to make a mistake. I concluded that if one MUST check a bag (Ruth and I avoid such by taking only carry-on for any trip under 10 days), try never to book a weekend flight when opportunities and expertise are most likely to result in a misrouted bag.

Another general problem came (and still does) during bad weather -- in airline parlance, "OSO," Off Schedule Operations. At American, the vast majority of passengers go through Dallas/Ft. Worth (Houston for Continental, Atlanta for Delta, etc). Dallas, of course, is subject to snow, ice, and thunderstorms at certain times of the year. When flight schedules were severely disrupted, the baggage handlers there would simply start to put bags on the next flight out, NO MATTER WHERE IT WAS GOING! Why? Because they have no capability to store bags in Dallas. Someone decided that it was more expensive to build/rent some storage space in Dallas than it was to send all the misrouted bags to the end of the spokes (like Dulles) where they could be stored, processed, rerouted, and delivered later. They apparently discounted the monetary loss and the value of passenger rage. It typically costs American about \$50-75 per bag to deliver misrouted bags, not including the cost of employee research time and the fuel to carry the rerouted bags.

Of course, there were those weird things which were not the airlines' fault. Passengers do some really dumb things. There was the guy who put his car keys in his checked bag which didn't show up. I patiently explained to him that the airline would find and deliver his bag but we had no responsibility to hire a locksmith to get him into his car. Frequently, passengers put prescription drugs in their checked bag (dumb, dumb). Then there was the bag from Puerto Rico on the carousel which had some purple ooze coming out of the seams. It turned out the passenger put the raw makings for a particular cheese in his checked bag - I don't know if he salvaged any of his clothing. Another bag from the Caribbean was leaking white powder and the passenger didn't claim the bag. Silly me, I was suspicious of white powder from the Caribbean. I called the police with the drug dog to take a look. It wasn't that kind of white powder.

**(Continued on pg 24)**

## TREASURER'S REPORT, FIRST QUARTER 2009

Treasurer Celso Puente reports that the organization had \$20,795.77 in its treasury at the end of the first quarter for calendar year 2009. Receipts for the quarter were \$10,826.97 from dues and contributions from 198 members. Disbursements for the quarter were \$1,646.48, including the printing of WRD Retirees Newsletter 142.

During the quarter a total of \$2,239.00 was received in contributions from 52 members. Special thanks for contributions above dues go to: Everett V. Richardson, Jack Rosenau, George D. McElhany, William J. Davis, III, Warren Anderson, Rose and DeWitt Kelley, Virgil L. Spiers, Stanley Sauer, C.T. Welborn, LeRoy Schroeder, Mrs. Robert M. "Stella" Myrick, Henry "Bud" Anderson, Robert MacNish, Robert W. Boulger, Fred Stroman, Mrs. Mason Jackson, Charles Berkstresser, Kerry T. Garcia, Robert Devaul, Alan Lumb, Leslie Lenfest, Richard and Deborah Lumia, Warren Teasdale, Mrs. G. Scott "Lessie" Runner, Charles R. Collier, Fred Ruggles, Ruth Yeager-Thornberg, Milton O. Hackett, Richard McCollough, Joseph Rosenshein, Keith V. Slack, James K. Culbertson, John P. Monis, Robert L. Laney, Mrs. Wilson G. "Harriet" Bonham, Carney P. Humphreys, John W. Wark, Frances F. Birchell, Mrs. Eugene K. "Klyda" Steele, Peter Anttila, Deborah Richards, Robert C. Bubeck, George L. Gray, Merle F. Wyant, Anthony Spinello, Jack McKechnie, Judy Claussen, Joel R. Schuetz, Mary L. Garrelts, George Irwin, David J. Bauer, and Eugene "Gene" Shuter .

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*

### **A Worm's Eye View of the Airline Industry- Part I (continued from page 23)**

As you might expect, people frequently left things like eye glasses and cell phones in the seat pockets. We had a big cardboard box full of them in the baggage office. Every few months we would get the Lions Club folks to come take them away. We never did find a charity that wanted the women's underwear left on the plane.

Well, even with all the mishandlings that occur, very few bags are truly lost. Ninety percent of the ones which are misrouted are found and delivered to the passenger within 24 hours. That is small comfort to those passengers, though. As an 'older' agent, I didn't get too much grief from the passengers. When I could see they were going to start up, I would smile, point to my head and say, "You see this white hair? That means that if I have reasonable expectations of getting up in the morning, it's a good day and can't nobody piss me off. Now, how can I help you?" Most times they would smile and settle down. I only lost my cool with an irate passenger about baggage one time in the 7 years I worked at Dulles. After taking considerable verbal abuse, I snapped and said, "Look! There are only 2 people in this airport who care about trying to find your bag and you're pissing one of them off!" I probably had less trouble with passengers than most of the agents because I was mature (OLD) and wasn't working for money. I could afford to be pleasant and jovial and that seemed to carry over to the passengers.

I like to think that the bar code and storage problems which cost American so much money would not have been tolerated nor remained unsolved in WRD. Whenever people assert that private enterprise is so superior to government organizations, I tell them these stories. If enough folks find this little memoir of interest, I'll continue in Part II with my life at the ticket counter.