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# WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 141  
November 2008

*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

Greetings! This is my last President's message for 2008. Please let me take this opportunity to wish you and yours the best of holiday seasons.

The WRD Retirees 2008 Reunion is over and it was a smashing success. A total of 142 retirees and spouses representing 22 states enjoyed the beautiful weather of the Tampa Bay, Florida area, the exciting and educational field trips, the hospitality suite, the excellent food, and the sights and sounds of the grand old hotel, the Belleview Biltmore in Clearwater, including the many ghosts wandering the halls on Halloween! During the business meeting on Friday, attendees were treated to outstanding presentations on the USGS work in the Everglades by Arturo Torres of the Tampa office and on emerging contaminants by Herb Buxton, coordinator of the Toxics Program. A note to all retirees – don't flush your left over prescription medicines! One sober note, nearly 140 of our members, spouses, and other retiree friends passed away between this and the 2006 reunion. Please keep these friends in your thoughts. Kudos and a tip of the reunion baseball cap to the local committee who made it all happen, all former Tampa Subdistrict employees, and a dedicated spouse including Craig Hutchinson, Chairman, Lynn Barr, Peggy Barr, Dan Duerr, and Carl Goodwin. As I write this, more than 90 of the attendees are enjoying an extended vacation on the 7-day long Carnival cruise of the western Caribbean that left the day after the reunion ended.

Please note the banner elsewhere on this page and in the newsletter – **it is time to send your 2009 dues for WRD Retirees** to the Retirees office. Your dues allow you to receive our outstanding newsletter 4 times a year, our updated Directory, and to support the WRD Retirees Hydrotech scholarship for an outstanding student in a technical program at a community college. This program, in its third year, is so popular that the WRD Retirees officers during a meeting at the Reunion unanimously decided, treasury permitting, to add a second scholarship for 2009. More about this later!

### It is time to pay WRD Retirees dues!

If you receive a paper copy of the Newsletter, there is a number in the upper right-hand corner of the mailing label on the envelope. This number is the last year you paid dues. If the number is 2008, then you owe dues for 2009; if the number is 2007, then you owe dues for two years (2008 and 2009). Dues are \$10 per year and cover the cost of the Hydrologic Technician Scholarship and printing and mailing the Newsletter and Directory. We accept dues for advance years, and contributions above dues are appreciated! If the number in the upper right hand corner of the mailing label is 2008 or earlier, please send a check for dues owed to: WRD Retirees, P.O. Box 280, Herndon VA 20172-0280. Indicate how much is for dues and how much is a contribution. Please let us know if we have made an error in recording your past payments. Members who receive their Newsletter by email will be notified by the Secretary of their dues status. If you have questions, email Bill Boning at [cwboning@verizon.net](mailto:cwboning@verizon.net) or [wrdretirees@usgs.gov](mailto:wrdretirees@usgs.gov).

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**Mary Akers** says, "I really enjoy the WRD Retirees Newsletter. They bring back lots of wonderful memories. I still remember many of the folks mentioned. I sure miss my husband, Jay."

**Mary and Larry Amos** celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on July 12, 2008. Larry retired from the National Mapping Division and Mary from the Water Resources Division. Some of the highlights from 2 days of celebrations-- Larry and Mary's 6 children gifted them in several ways; one was 50 roses on their anniversary. Then on July 18th, guests from Missouri arrived (Larry's sister; brother and nephew from Ashland, MO, and sister and niece from Rolla, MO) and the party was the following Saturday evening at a fine local restaurant. All six children and six grandchildren were there, Larry's five relatives, son-in-law Dan, future son-in-law Geoff (who is engaged to Laura), and Geoff's Mum (mother) from England and a few neighbors. The children had copied photos out of their wedding album and then had the individual photos placed around the room highlighted by candles placed close by. They used a laptop to do a slide show of photos from various stages of Larry and Mary's lives and pictures of the kids growing up; plus appetizers, drinks, a sit-down dinner, and an Anniversary cake that was much like the one at their wedding in 1958; and a photographer. Larry's relatives left Friday the 25th; on the 26th Larry & Mary joined Laura, Geoff, his mother, sister and the sister's twin sons (also from England) at a gorgeous home on the Chesapeake Bay south of Cambridge in Maryland (swimming pool, dock, five bedrooms, living room, dining room, eat-in kitchen, 3-1/2 baths, and pool table). They had had an all-you-can-eat steamed crab feast. Stayed Saturday and Sunday nights, then returned on Monday. Congratulations Larry and Mary.

**Bud and Bev Anderson** say, "We have just returned from California where we have been visiting our son and daughter-in-law and our two grandsons who are 6 and 4 years old. We spent a wonderful time with our grandsons who were starting school. The 4-year old is in the pre-school program and the 6-year old is in the first grade. We also enjoyed visiting our son and daughter-in-law."

**Andy Anderson** reports, "About 35 retirees/spouses attended the September lunch of the HQ retirees. **Hal Langford** gave an interesting and informative presentation. At the

October meeting, **Jim Devine**, USGS Senior Advisor for Scientific Applications, talked about USGS activities in Afghanistan and was well received by the 35 retirees/spouses in attendance. There will be no November HQ lunch because retirees will be attending the Tampa reunion. A Christmas party is being planned for the December meeting.

**Freddy Arteaga** writes, "The Hydrologic Technician Program seems well on its way to success. My last assignment with the USGS was to develop and serve as Director/Instructor, the Water Resources Technology program at GateWay CC in Phoenix. I had it approved as a satisfactory 2-year pre-requisite for the Hydrology Program at the University of Arizona. The USGS founded the BS and MS program at the U of A in 1960. My first class consisted of 22 students, ranging from Army Veterans with no college background to current employees of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. I contacted and had approval by the Sultanate of Oman, the diversion of 16 Oman students being sent to Oregon for a similar program. One of my students and the best scholastically, died in an automobile crash. Another student attained a Ph D and now works for a leading Environmental firm. A third student has a career with the BLM. About seven were stolen to work for the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. Most achieved excellent careers in other Agencies and Consultants. I hope this continues to be noted as a fantastic opportunity to serve our needs."

**Evelyn Beamer** writes, "I just finished reading the WRD Retirees Newsletter. It's always interesting to hear about old friends and their activities. I am so sorry to learn that **Kathy McCartney** is in poor health. It is hard to believe that someone so active and attuned to life is in such bad shape. She and I were very good friends – entertaining each other's family and following their activities. I am enjoying my visit to Palo Alto and am planning to have lunch with **John** and **Marcella Wark** soon. My son, Norm and his family have a lovely home here. Norm is a law partner in the firm of Ropes and Gray. My grandson, John, will be in his senior year at New York University beginning this fall. I plan on returning to Harrisburg soon and will try to sell my house. That will be the end of an era. After the sale, I will probably stay with my daughter, Andrea and her family in Ithaca, NY. I wish all WRD Retirees very well! Regards to all!"

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**Bob Beall** reports on a wonderful and patriotic article -- "THE ONLY FLAG THAT DOESN'T FLY."



It's a beautiful place, close to Vandenberg AFB. Between the fields where the flag is planted, there are 9+ miles of flower fields that go all the way to the ocean. The flowers are grown by seed companies. Check out the dimensions of the flag. The Floral Flag is 740 feet long and 390 feet wide and maintains the proper Flag dimensions, as described in Executive Order #10834. This Flag is 6.65 acres and is the first Floral Flag to be planted with 5 pointed Stars, comprised of White Larkspur. Each Star is 24 feet in diameter; each Stripe is 30 feet wide. This Flag is estimated to contain more than 400,000 Larkspur plants, with 4-5 flower stems each, for a total of more than 2 million flowers.

**Scottie Burch** says, "We have really been fighting the thunderstorms and humidity here in West Coxsackie, NY. A lot of them have been happening at night and you really have to keep the window blinds closed tightly. We now are getting cooler weather and have to turn up the heat! Oh well, the snow will be starting to come soon and we can dig out our boots to walk around in. The maintenance people that work here do keep things in good order and when we have meetings to go to in the office building it is easier to get there. Well I had better close this for now. I sure do enjoy the Newsletters -- keep them coming!"

**Bob and Libby Burchett** write, "We had a wonderful trip to Tennessee, North Carolina, and Virginia. We spent 2-1/2 weeks visiting family, a reunion, and Libby's aunt's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Bob had a meeting with the Texas WRD Retiree senior officers -- meaning Bob, Bud, and CTW -- and it was decided to have the Christmas party at Bob and Libby's home on December 10, 2008. The party will begin 6:00 pm and last until ??? Please notify CT or Bob if you are coming."

**Bill Dudley** reports, "As far as I know, things are going pretty well in beautiful Colorado, where I left behind my ex-wife, two of my four kids, two of my eight grandkids, and lots of cold, snow, and ice in January '07! Except for the exceptional summer heat this year and continued drought, things are going pretty well here in Sun City, TX, also. Sun City is a western addition to Georgetown, about 25 miles north of Austin, and is a Del Webb golfing community approaching 7,000 homes. I moved here when I had recovered sufficiently from hydrocephalus to live independently, drive, and walk reasonably well, though with a cane, wedge or putter for stability on irregular ground. I do have to use an electric cart for golf, but I've regained enough balance that I generally can swing a club without falling over. On a good day, I have a fighting chance of averaging bogies for nine holes, perhaps with a mulligan or two, but I wear out somewhere between the 12th and 15th holes if I try for 18. Mostly, I play scrambles with the Solos, a coed group of single folk, so I rarely have to admit my individual score."

**Mike Gaydos** says, "Those of you who haven't signed up to receive the WRD Retirees Newsletter by email are missing a great opportunity. The email version of the Newsletter is delivered at least 2 weeks earlier than the U.S. Mail version. Also, all of the photos are in full color. For example, the color photo of the flower U.S. flag shown in the item above by **Bob Beall** is really impressive. Not as impressive in black and white. If you have a personal computer connected to the Internet, please sign up to receive your copy of the Newsletter by email. It's easy; just send me an email request at [TigerLSU2@cox.net](mailto:TigerLSU2@cox.net). The email version saves our organization money because we don't need to pay the cost of printing and mailing the Newsletter to email recipients. Sign up now to get your Newsletter by email! Regards to all of my colleagues."

**Ron and Ellie Hanson** write, "We have the good fortune of living most of the year in the northwest (Post Falls, ID) where we are relatively close to our 3 children and their families living in Portland and Seattle. We recently spent a fun week on the north Oregon coast at Manzanita with all of the family including our 3 grandchildren. Four years ago we built a small home on the outskirts of Tucson (near the Sonora Desert Museum) where we spend about 3 months each winter. Ellie is recovering from recent knee replacement surgery and hopes to be able to hike the Tucson Mountain trails when we return to Tucson this

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winter. Idaho offers many recreational opportunities which Ron enjoys -- including fly fishing, deer hunting, and bicycling Idaho's numerous "rails to trails." I'm also enjoying playing clarinet in the North Idaho College Wind Symphony. We always look forward to reading about the Retirees in the Newsletter."

**Ralph Heath** reports, "It is obvious from the August Newsletter that 2008 is going to be a "bad year" for WRD Retirees. We have, so far, lost four of our "giants" in Cragwall, Ferguson, LaMoreaux, and Back. They will all be missed by our organization! Finally, I hope you are doing everything you can to encourage **Don Kelly** and **Phil Emery** to keep their contributions to the Newsletter coming. Bribe them if you have to!"

**Sumner Heidel** says, "I am so pleased to receive all of the Newsletters and the 2008 Directory. I so enjoyed the 20+ years that I had the pleasure to serve as WRD Retirees treasurer -- and consequently being presented with a lifetime membership in the organization. The latest Newsletter, as always, had some special news that I otherwise would not even know about. It was interesting to see **George Ferguson's** birthday celebration in May, along with **Joe Cragwall** -- but then the shock of having their memorials in the next issue. Other retirees I probably would not have known about having recently passed -- **Fred Mack** and **Frank Flynn**. It is also good to see that some of my fellow workers, like **Hal Langford** and **John Wark** are still around and kicking and even planning to attend the Tampa reunion! I was pleased to receive a new address for **Mary Lowry**. She and I commuted together for a while. Like George Ferguson, I had a long and happy marriage. However, my marriage to Tommie was just over 64 years when she died in 2006. I will be 92 in November 2008. My career with the USGS was from 1946-74, but the USGS seemed like family to me for much longer than that. My father, Charles Sumner Heidel, started his hydraulic work in 1910 (first in Montana where he was with the State Engineer, and then he transferred to the USGS and retired in 1957). I have a letter to him signed in 1958 by the Secretary of the Interior in which he was awarded a "Citation for Distinguished Service." Personally, like some other retirees, with the passing years my health hasn't been too great and I came here to Georgia to be with my son but don't have close contact with old friends. This makes the Newsletter even more welcome

and I have been glad to get mail or phone calls from old WRD colleagues."

**Hugh Hudson** reports, "WRD Retirees was not able to locate Helen Brown, Del's widow, and asked me for help. I was able to locate Helen and am pleased to report Helen is alive, well, and greatly appreciates your concern. Her address in the current directory is correct and she suggests you drop the Michigan address and use only the Aurora, CO, address. Her phone number is 303-750-6696. I'm offering the following brief information about Helen. I enjoyed a brief telephone visit with Helen recently and was delighted to find her, at 84 years young, as vivacious as ever, despite a macular problem. She still spends summers at her place in Michigan with the lake as her front yard and the bank and shopping an easy walk out the back. I asked her about the vintage CrisCraft cruiser that Del so lovingly restored. "It's still in the garage." Del called himself a "migrant hydrologist" having worked from Florida to California with stopovers in Nebraska and North Dakota and even briefly, Guatanamo and Arizona. His last assignment was head of the WRD Training Center in Denver."

**Hugh Hudson** also reports, "The 90th birthday of Dr. Maurice Albertson, Emeritus Professor of Civil Engineering, Colorado State University, was celebrated in an article in the Denver Post recently that gave prominent attention to Maurice's role as co-founder of the Peace Corps in the early 1960s. Maurice was a part-time employee of WRD during the 1960s and '70s, having been recruited by Paul Benedict and Rolland Carter to help guide research in sediment-flow mechanics using the world-class flume at CSU, the construction of which was funded by the USGS. He also worked closely with Roy Oltman in the late '50s to help design the grad-level correspondence course in fluid mechanics offered, primarily, to Surface Water Branch engineers. Maurice's interests reached far beyond highly technical fields of civil engineering into global, humanitarian causes in addition to the Peace Corps, such as Village Earth that he also co-founded and his recent publication "Worldwide Sustainability" that can be read online by Googling his name."

**Clayton Kauffman** says, "Hello from me and **Brenda**. After some 39 years in our old split-level, we finally sold it and moved into our almost-new attached rancher. We really like the new experience of one-level living and not having to climb stairs every time we need to do

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laundry or go to the bathroom. Brenda and I and family are doing fine. In May we got a new son-in-law and step grandson and we are delighted that our widowed, youngest daughter and her son have become a complete family again. I am in the 5<sup>th</sup> year as a part-time ride operator at Hershey Park and our new home is only 5 miles away. We are still enjoying our grandchildren although they are soon to be teenagers and losing interest in Grandma and Grandpa. We still enjoy our getaway in Delaware."

**Gail Keeter** writes, "I enjoy reading the Newsletter, so decided I should contribute a little. For the past 2 years I've been working 3 afternoons a week at the Sacramento Sports Commission as their volunteer coordinator. We bring sporting events to Sacramento, such as the AMGEN Tour of California bicycle race and NCAA events. Its great fun to be part of the events, and it gets me out of the house and talking to people. And, 12 hours a week isn't too onerous. On May 24, the 5th Northern California Retiree's picnic was held on an extremely rare rainy and cool day in May. Happily, our picnic site is covered, to keep off the sun, but it works for rain as well. Fifteen or 20 hardy people showed up, and a good time was had by all. Then, on June 7, I left on a 26-day vacation in New England. I flew to Boston, where I was joined by **Lee Lenfest** for a couple of days of sightseeing. However, temperatures in the mid-90's, and humidity that must have been in the 100's, combined to make walking the Freedom Trail take a little longer than I had planned. Guess I'll have to go back sometime to finish it. Anyway, then Lee headed home and I picked up a rental car to start my travels. I drove out to Cape Cod and Plymouth, and then headed north to Maine. I took a leisurely drive up the coast of Maine, met Lee to visit Campobello, then followed him home for a couple of days. After that, I snaked my way back and forth across New Hampshire and Vermont, and extreme eastern New York. I can now say I've driven through Poughkeepsie, which has always been one of my favorite place names to say. I visited historic homes, Shaker villages, historical sites, and the Basketball Hall of Fame. All in all, it was a wonderful vacation. By the time I turned in the rental car, it had 3,000 additional miles on the odometer. Even having my flight home cancelled worked out okay. The flight I was re-booked on was unable to leave because of a mechanical problem, so I got a free night at the very nice airport hotel, with a lovely view of downtown Boston, and left

early the next morning, getting home less than 24 hours late. When I got home, my daughter was in town from Eugene, OR, where she is in a master's program in physiology. It made coming home even nicer. I can't wait for my next trip, just as soon as I decide on where to go next. Thanks to the Survey, I visited a lot of states over the years, but none in depth, so now I hope to see them all again."

**Dorothy Meyer** reports, "I enjoy reading the Newsletter and appreciate all the effort that it takes to produce it. Thanks to all involved. Baton Rouge is still recovering from Gustav, which was the worst in history to hit our city. I was lucky in that none of my trees fell on my house, although many large limbs fell in the yard. The entire East Baton Rouge Parish was blacked out and a curfew was on from 8 pm to 6 am for several days. I hired 2 men who worked hard for 5 hours to clean up my yard. I had no power for 11 days. My wonderful neighbor got a generator and invited me to hook up my 36" fan to his generator which saved my life. Between my son, who also got a generator, and my neighbors, I was supplied with ice. The people of Baton Rouge were great in helping one another and the crews who came in from out-of-state were also wonderful help. Compared with all the devastation from water on Galveston Island and Houston from hurricane Ike, Baton Rouge was lucky. Grand Isle was evacuated during Gustav; however, I hear many of the people chose to stay when Ike came along, which was a mistake. My niece, who lives in New York, told me many folks in the northeast United States also lost power and trees from Ike."

**Fred Meyer** writes, "Keep up the good work. We all love the Newsletter."

**Gordy Nelson** reports, "After a tough summer fishing the Kenai River, I'm off to Indiana next month to replace **Derrill Cowing** in the FEMA field office for a month. Yes, I'm one of the many WRD retirees working for FEMA to keep me off the streets and out of trouble. In some disasters, FEMA's mitigation staff looks like a WRD retirees' party. Speaking of fishing, I caught a 50-pound King Salmon (aka Chinook) Saturday, 2 weeks after the season closed. I had to sacrifice a hook and cut her loose after bringing her alongside the boat. We both survived the battle with no damage, but she has a shiny new lip piercing."

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**Charles Nethaway** says, "Hi, friends and family, I've now completed three cycles of the chemotherapy that is fighting my multiple myeloma (MM). That is 9 weeks. The chemo is "Velcade/Doxil," a cocktail combination of the Velcade molecule that is designed to interrupt the MM cells' ability to live and replicate; and the Doxil molecule, a nasty little medicine that seems to increase rates of remission when in combination with Velcade.

"THE BAD NEWS: The Doxil produces many side effects, but I did not see any of these in the first two cycles. Well, "Welcome to the Party! Here comes Doxil!" The Doxil drug has decided to zap me with a few of its side effects. It started with a raised, red spot on the back of my neck where my gold chain was rubbing against it. Seemed almost like a boil without a center. It is still there, but it has flattened out. Meanwhile, many other raised spots have appeared in various places on my body, mostly at places where there is pressure. For instance, on the back of my right thigh about half way between my knee and butt, there is a pretty large spot. Turns out that this place is just about exactly where the leather couch's edge is pressed against my thigh when I sit on it and do laptop activity on a TV stand. And, my mouth seems to have some sensitivity similar to cold sores. New side effects seem to be popping up almost every day in the last few days. Additionally, now my hands are beginning to be something like dishwater hands -- redness and irritation along the creases on my palms and fingers. And now, same for my feet. This is the classic "Hand and Foot Syndrome" associated with Doxil.

"THE GOOD NEWS: Well, the good news is that the Velcade/Doxil continues to knock the myeloma on its rump and that's a very good thing. The MM numeric marker has gone down from a "bad" 848 to a "very good" 161. A person without cancer has this marker in the range (81-483), so I'm already in that normal range. However, some of my cells in that range are the ugly little MM critters. Hence, we plan to continue the cycles until the marker reaches somewhere below 50. This ought to be some time before Christmas.

"THE BEST NEWS: With good fortune and blessings from on high, **Carole** and I should be celebrating a complete remission before the end of the year. Regards, and thank you for rooting for me!

"My wife, Carole, also a WRD retiree (2003, HQ, Reston) continues to see specialists to try to remedy some "digestive issues" that have persisted since autumn 2007. The good news is that tests have found no serious disease; the bad news is that the cause of her discomfort is still a mystery. Thank goodness for Blue Cross / Blue Shield!"

**Bill Radlinski** says, "I was saddened to read in the August Newsletter that **Joe Cragwall** had died. I also noted in his Memorial that "His final USGS assignment was as Associate Director." There's more to the story. When I retired in 1979, Joe was offered the position of Associate Director. He was uniquely qualified for the job. But, he did not want it! He begged the Director to back off because he wanted to end his career as a member of his beloved Water Resources Division. We convinced him, however, that he had to do it for the good of the Survey and he finally and reluctantly agreed. I am forever grateful to Joe for his sacrifice."

**Frank Rinella** writes, "My wife and I are doing well now. I had been diagnosed with prostate cancer back in mid-2006 and had surgery for its removal in November 2006. Although I had a few complications since the surgery, I've been cancer-free for more than 1-1/2 years."

**John Shanton** says, "Fellow WRD Retirees **Andy Anderson**, **Hal Langford** and I enjoyed our annual fishing trip to North Carolina in September. Several regular attendees had conflicts and could not fish with us this year. We'll catch up on news from them next year. We caught quite a few nice fish."

**CT Welborn** reports, "**Dixie** and I made a trip to Silver City, NM, for one of Dixie's family reunions. Our oldest daughter and family decided they wanted to go and went in their own car. Dixie, her oldest daughter, and I went in Dixie's car. They wouldn't let me drive. The reunion was held in a church encampment and the mess hall was used as the church. There was a large rock fireplace and the mantel had candlesticks on each end and a cross in the middle. In front of the fireplace was a pool table. Dixie's 5 youngest grandchildren had never seen a pool table before. By the time we left, the kids were shooting pretty good pool. It was a very nice outing. Back in June, Dixie, my daughter, and I cruised the Caribbean and we will cruise the Caribbean again with the WRD retirees. Dixie had surgery in October and is doing fine.

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"CT also reports that the Texas WRD Retirees reconvened September 17 after a long hot summer. We had a good turnout but with a surprise. The **Blakey's (Jim and Paula)** flew in to pay us a visit. In addition to me, other members attending the meeting were **Bob and Libby Burchett, Bud and Beverly Anderson, Dana Barbie, Helen Davidson, Tish Reeves.** Bob Burchett, our president, opened the meeting and wished everyone good morning. Bob welcomed Dana, one of our affiliates, and welcomed Paula and Jim Blakey. Bob remarked that the Blakey's were at our meeting more often than some of our local members. Paula Blakey said that she and James have been having a wonderful time touring Central Texas and the scenery is beautiful as ever, if not more (a true Texan). They are happy that they were able come to the group meeting and hoped that they will be able to come to more meetings in future. Bob announced that **Bob Gabrysch** is taking chemo and radiation for a cancer and while he was at the Center, he lost his balance and fell and hit his head and caused fluid to collect between the brain and skull. He was operated on to remove the excess fluid. He is doing fine

and has gone home. Another member, **Paul Rettman**, recently had a hip replacement and is home doing fine. Bob said that he had a meeting with the senior officers of other TX WRD Retirees and it was decided to have the Christmas party at the Burchett's home on December 10, 2008."

**Leonard Wollitz** writes, "All is fine with **Marilyn** and me. We are doing a lot of traveling in the United States and Europe. We will do more!"

**Tom and Jeannie Yorke** say, "We are enjoying a great Penn State football season with our fellow Nittany Lions, **Jim and Joyce Biesecker.** Our seats on the 43-yard line have allowed us to see some great plays! We are all still able to walk up to row 83. I just finished a week-long elk hunting trip in Idaho and am getting ready to go fishing near the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Isn't retirement fun!"

**Note:** Photos contained in this issue of the newsletter are the courtesy of Lynn Barr, Joyce Biesecker, Dan Duerr, Dick Engberg, Mario Fernandez, and Tai Hutchinson.

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## NEWS OF RETIREES FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

Please use the space below to let us know what's happening in your life. Your friends and colleagues in WRD Retirees would like to hear what you have been doing! Thanks!

## **The 14th WRD Retirees Reunion, Tampa, October 30 – November 1, 2008**

As reported in Dick Engberg's President's message, the Tampa reunion was a resounding success. This was due to the great planning by the local reunion organizing committee. It is difficult to find a group of folks to step forward and volunteer to run one of these reunions. The Tampa committee, shown below, did a marvelous job.

### **Reunion Committee**

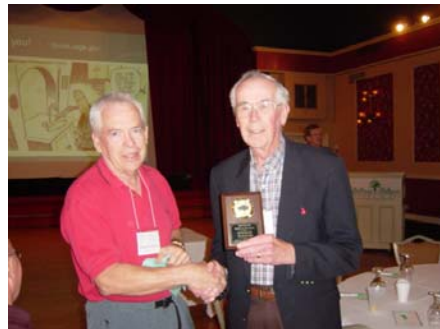


L to R: Lynn Barr, Peggy Barr, Dan Duerr, Carl Goodwin and Chairman, Craig Hutchinson

### **The Reunion Committee Chairman presents awards to WRD Retirees at the Gala Banquet**



Hal Langford receives a plaque for attending the most WRD Retiree Reunions.



John Wark gets an award for traveling the greatest distance to attend the reunion.



Abe Cameron is recognized as the "most experienced" retiree present.

### **Craig Hutchinson, Tampa Reunion Chairman, passes the "flag" to Jim Blakey who will chair the 2010 WRD Retirees Reunion to be held in the Denver area.**



## The 14<sup>th</sup> WRD Retirees Reunion, Tampa, October 30 - November 1, 2008



First time attendees for WRD Retiree reunions. Hope to see you at many more Reunions.



WRD Retirees enjoying the hospitality suite. This is a favorite meeting place.



Retirees on one of the fine field trips at the Tampa reunion.



This is a photo of the "Pepto Bismol" bus used for the field trip. Here we see retirees boarding.

## The 14<sup>th</sup> WRD Retirees Reunion, Tampa, October 30 - November 1, 2008



Abe Cameron and a few of his many admirers.



Reunion Registration Desk



More action in the hospitality suite.



Dan and Kathy Duerr at the banquet.



Tom Buchanan handing Marie his purse!



WRD Retirees Jim Biesecker and Herb Freiburger mix with some locals on Halloween.

## WRD Retirees Cruise



The WRD Retiree cruise ship docked at Cozumel, Mexico.



Marcella Wark, Helene and Bill Mann, Jean and Fritz Kilpatrick get ready for a show on the ship



Zelda Bailey, Pat Tucci and Merilee Bennett enjoy a quite moment on the cruise.



Jean and Hal Langford, Joyce Biesecker, and Tom Yorke enjoying one of the great meals on the cruise.



Jeannie Yorke visits some Mayan ruins.



Sharon and Rick Goss getting ready for some cruise entertainment.

## **WRD NEWS**

Note to WRD Retirees: Recent retirees automatically become members of WRD Retirees. If you know any of these folks who recently joined our ranks, reach out and welcome them aboard. Please invite them to your Local Meetings!

### **Recent Retirements**

#### **Northeastern Region**

**Kathleen K. Fitzgerald**, Hydrologist, 2849 Oakmont Drive, East Troy, WI 53120, 09/03/08

#### **Southeastern Region**

**Ronald T. Richards**, Hydrologic Technician, Calle 26 Y-29, Trujillo Alto, PR, 00976, 07/31/08

#### **Central Region**

**Richard L. Daddow**, Hydrologist, 14154 W. Evans Circle, Lakewood, CO, 80228, (303) 989-7072, 10/03/08

**Douglas G. Emerson**, Hydrologist, 217 Toronto Loop, Bismarck, ND 58501, (701) 258-5739, 09/03/08

**Colleen A. Gupta**, Chemist, 103 Willowleaf Drive, Littleton, CO 80127, 07/31/08

**Gregory B. O'Neill**, Hydrologic Technician, P.O. Box 260781, Lakewood, CO 80226, 10/03/08

**Michael P. Schroeder**, Chemist, 15400W. 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Arvada, CO 80007, 08/02/08

**James R. Tibbetts**, Hydrologic Technician, 497 Juan Court, Moab, UT 84532, (435) 259-8571, 11/03/08

**Janice R. Ward**, Hydrologist, 415 Basalt Court, Golden, CO 80403, (720) 810-7072, 08/01/08

#### **Western Region**

**John W. Bowlby**, Gaging Station Construction Mechanic, 5712 E. 136 Street, Puyallup, WA 98373, 10/09/08

**Vance Cossette**, Administrative Technician, P.O. Box 5954, Elko, NV 89802, 07/31/08

**Waite R. Osterkamp**, Hydrologist, 1502 East Magee, Tucson, AZ 85718, (520) 797-2230, 10/03/08

**WRD NEWS**  
**“WHAT'S NEW IN RESEARCH”**

**News of the WRD Research**  
**Pierre Glynn, Branch Chief, BRR/ER, National Research Program**

Here are a few highlights of some recent Water Discipline research. For more information email Pierre at [pglynn@usgs.gov](mailto:pglynn@usgs.gov) or visit the website: <http://water.usgs.gov/nrp/highlights.html>

**Early life and anaerobic photosynthetic oxidation of arsenic.**

In a recent article in Science, a team of USGS researchers (Kulp, Hoefft, Culbertson, Miller and Oremland) and University scientists documented their discovery of bacteria that use the light-dependent oxidation of arsenic (III), in the absence of oxygen, to convert carbon dioxide into carbohydrates and biomass. They found films of purple bacteria (cf. adjacent figure) and cyanobacteria growing in pools fed by hot springs on Paoha Island in Mono Lake, CA. The water in these pools contains very little oxygen but is rich in arsenic-containing minerals that leach out of the rocks. The researchers were able to grow cultures of the purple bacteria and demonstrated in the laboratory the bacteria's anaerobic photosynthesis using oxidation of arsenite. The phylogenetic analysis the researchers



conducted indicates that microbial arsenic metabolism is ancient and probably extends back to the primordial Earth. Other photosynthesizing bacteria have previously been found that use sulfide, nitrite and ferrous ions as electron donors and are also anoxygenic, or non-oxygen-producing. Bacteria have also been found that employ arsenite as a reducing agent but do not use light as the energy source. The Mono Lake bacteria, however, provide the first known example of photosynthesis using arsenite.

**Natural arsenic contamination and finding drinking water solutions.**



The shallow wells of the Bengal Basin, which covers India and Bangladesh, serve an estimated 85 million people and are highly polluted with arsenic. In a recently published study, USGS researchers Michael and Voss describe a practical method for reducing the concentration of arsenic in the region's drinking water supply. The authors performed a quantitative, large-scale hydrogeologic analysis and numerical simulation of the entire Bengal Basin and demonstrated that the deeper part of the aquifer system may provide a sustainable source of arsenic-safe water, if its utilization is limited to domestic supply. Simulations provided two explanations for this result: deep domestic pumping only slightly perturbs the deep groundwater flow system, and substantial shallow pumping for irrigation forms a hydraulic barrier that protects deeper resources from shallow arsenic sources. Installing wells to depths of 150 m or more and using that water only for household drinking water supply could provide 90% of the region with low-arsenic water for 1,000 years, according to the authors. Water for irrigation would continue to be taken from near the surface because using the deep aquifers for both purposes could stress the resource, potentially drawing surface arsenic into the deeper

reservoirs. Hand pumps installed on wells that supply safe low-arsenic ground water are typically painted green (cf. adjacent figure), while pumps supplying high arsenic water that may be suitable for irrigation are painted red. The authors say drilling deeper wells is a much simpler and more sustainable solution than more technologically demanding solutions such as installing special filters and treatment plants.

**References:**

- Kulp, T.R., Hoefft, S.E., Asao, M., Madigan, M.T., Hollibaugh, J.T., Fisher, J.C., Stolz, J.F., Culbertson, C.W., Miller, L.G. and Oremland, R.S., 2008, Arsenic(III) fuels anoxygenic photosynthesis in hot spring biofilms from Mono Lake, California: Science v. 321, p. 967 - 970. ([on-line abstract of journal article](#)).
- Michael, H.A., and Voss, C.I., 2008, Evaluation of the sustainability of deep groundwater as an arsenic-safe resource in the Bengal Basin: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, v.105, no. 25, p.8531-8536 ([on-line abstract of journal article](#)).

## MEMORIAL

### Rodney Noel Cherry

#### 1928-2008

Rodney Noel Cherry died April 18, 2008, in Columbia, SC. In the last few years of his life, Rod suffered several strokes. Rod was predeceased by his wife of 56 years, Annelle Hogan Cherry. He is survived by his two sons, Hank and Mike. He was born in Cadiz, KY, September 30, 1928. In 1946, he graduated from Trigg County High School and attended Murray KY State College. In 1950, he enrolled in Western KY State College, majoring in biology and chemistry. He received his BS in 1952. He then entered the Army and rose to the rank of Sergeant. Before his discharge in June 1954, he received a reserve commission as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Army Chemical Corps. In the fall of 1955, he became a science teacher at Yulee High School, FL.



Rod began his notable 34-year career with the Water Resources Division in 1957, as a chemist with the QW Laboratory in Ocala and began a study of the chemical quality of Georgia surface water that resulted in a report by the GA Geological Survey. In 1959, Rod investigated the significance of the potentiometric high underlying the Green Swamp Area, Central Florida. At the same time he was assigned to study the chemical quality of the surface waters of Alabama, which resulted in a report published by the Alabama Geological Survey. The report on the Green Swamp Area in Central Florida served as an important contribution.

Early in the 1960s, the Southwest Florida Water Management District was established and started a cooperative program with the USGS. In 1963, a GW field office was established and in 1966 Rod transferred to Tampa to become the assistant to Joe Stewart. From 1966 through 1974, Rod developed and worked on a number of innovative projects: the use of remote sensing to study discharge of submarine springs; use of dye to determine the travel time of discharge from Tarpon Springs through the cavernous limestone to the Gulf of Mexico; use of treated effluent to irrigate green-belt areas of the coastal west-central Florida; and the effect of waste water treatment on the chemical quality of treated water. Since a large part of the fresh water pumped in the greater Tampa Bay area was used for irrigation of green belts, Rod initiated with Pinellas County the study of storage of advanced treated water in the Floridan aquifer for future green-belt irrigation.

Rod designed and built a packer and an electrically controlled sampler to collect water samples from discrete aquifer zones in uncased wells. He designed and built multiple parameter recorders that operated effectively in the field. The Tampa Subdistrict had a small water quality laboratory. Rod was responsible for its operation and the quality control. He convinced Herman Feltz to store his mobile laboratory in Tampa after its use during the massive sampling effort on the Tampa Bay project and to let the Subdistrict make use of the laboratory.

In 1974, Rod began a 2-year assignment with the Southwest Florida Water Management District. He contributed significantly to their development of ground-water regulations, strengthened the technical capability of their hydrology section, and served as an effective mentor to their young professional staff. In 1976, Rod faced a traumatic situation. He, like many in Florida at the time, had a real passion for Florida hydrology. After considerable soul searching, Rod transferred to Atlanta to become Chief of the Region's Chattahoochee River Basin Water-quality Project. In many ways, this project was an innovative approach to the investigation of the water quality of streams.

In 1978, Rod became District Chief for South Carolina. Through his vision and leadership, the South Carolina District program grew in both depth and breadth in data collection and hydrologic investigations. Rod was a leader in the implementation of satellite telemetry to deliver data in near real time. In 1991, he retired from the USGS. After retirement, he worked for the South Carolina Water Resources Commission as Director, Hydrology Division and later the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources as Chief of Hydrology. While serving with the Water Commission, he developed South Carolina's first water-management plan.

Rod received DOI's Meritorious and Distinguished Service Awards. Throughout his career, Rod was known for his innovative thinking and visionary approaches to hydrologic problems. Hydrology and his family were important to his life. He was well respected by his cooperators, colleagues, and peers. He enjoyed mentoring young hydrologists. Rod will be missed by his many colleagues and friends. He was truly a pleasure and, as his friend Joe Stewart would say, a challenge to work with. We shared many good memories.

By Joe Rosenshein

## IN MEMORIAM

**Erwin Asselstine** died in Montgomery, TX, on September 2, 2004, at age 85. Erwin received AB and MS degrees from Syracuse University and joined the USGS in 1943. From 1946-55, he worked in the Albany, NY, WRD office and became Geologist-in-Charge. Erwin transferred to the Publications Office of USGS in 1958 and in 1972 became the senior staff person overseeing the review of WRD publications. He retired in 1974 and is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, 4 children and several grandchildren.

**Joseph P. "Joe" Beverage**, age 75, died on May 17, 2008 in Minneapolis, his home for the past 41 years. After graduating in 1955 with a BS in chemistry from the University of New Mexico, Joe began his WRD career. While in New Mexico, he worked on sediment-transport research. In 1967, Joe transferred to the Federal Interagency Sedimentation Project in Minneapolis where he worked on devices for automatically collecting sediment data. He played a key role in operating the large-scale bedload sampler tests at the St. Anthony Falls Hydraulic Laboratory. He retired in 1989. Joe is survived by his wife, Mary; son, Paul; daughters, Ona, MoNey, and Sarah; and 8 grandchildren.

**Lou Boettcher**, wife of WRD Retiree Arnold Boettcher, passed away July 29, 2008. A Denver native, she attended the University of Colorado where she and Arnold met. They were married for 52 years. Lou was a Master Gardner and loved playing bridge and tennis and was also a talented quilter. She worked on the Altar Guild at church and volunteered at several of the food shelters for the homeless and at the ovarian cancer camp as part of Camp-Make-Dream. Arnold was a hydrologist in the Colorado and Montana Districts and in the Central Region office before retiring in 1988. Lou is survived by Arnold; son, Peter; daughter, Kathy; and 4 grandchildren.

**Joseph T. "Joe" Callahan** died August 27, 2008. He was 86. A full Memorial will appear in the February 2009 Newsletter. Joe graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 1949 with a BS in Geology and began his USGS career in 1950 with the GW Branch in Tucson. He earned his MS in Geology in 1951 at the University of Arizona. From 1951-55, he worked on the Navajo GW project and in 1960 was selected as the District Geologist in Atlanta. Joe transferred to the GW Branch, HQ, as Associate Chief in 1961. Following an assignment in Korea, he was the Regional Hydrologist, NR, the position he retired from in 1977. Joe is survived by his wife, Diana.

**John Hanneman**, age 81, passed away November 29, 2007 in California. A WW II veteran of the U.S. Air Force, he served as a B-17 turret gunner. His professional career included an assignment with the Soil Conservation Service before joining the USGS, WRD with the SW Branch in Iowa where he served for 20 years, retiring in 1982. John enjoyed softball, horseshoes, and jigsaw puzzles. He was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, Ann.

**Mae Winter Hardison**, age 93, died in Washington, DC, on July 30, 2008. She was preceded in death by her husband Clayton H. Hardison in 1994. She is survived by sons, William and John, 2 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Mae was born in Augusta, ME, April 5, 1915. She was a member of Wallace Presbyterian Church in Maryland. She was a schoolteacher in and also worked for the U.S. Bureau of Mines in Washington, DC.

**Richard E. Hedges**, of Ocala, FL, passed away June 20, 2008, at age 84. Born in Urbana, MD, he was a U.S. Army Veteran of WWII, served in the Battle of the Bulge as a medic and earned a Bronze Star. Richard later earned a BSCE and began his WRD career with the SW branch in Columbus, OH, transferring to the Ocala office in 1980. Richard attended Our Lady of the Springs Catholic Church and was a member of VFW and NARFE. He enjoyed golfing and playing cards. He is survived by his sons, Lawrence and Joseph; daughter, Kathleen Poage; his wife, Ruthann; and 5 grandchildren.

**Stanford L. Jolley**, 76, of Columbus, OH, passed away, September 19, 2008. He was born August 8, 1932 in Carbondale and was the widower of the late Marie Lanna Johnston Jolley. Stanford graduated from Waterloo High School and was employed by Ohio Malleable Iron Company for 21 years before joining the USGS where he served until he retired. He also owned several businesses. He loved camping, hunting, and fishing. He is survived by daughters, Sandy Yablonski and Cherie Sharp; sons, J.R. and Jackie Jolley; four stepsons; and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Grace B. Rapp**, wife of WRD Retiree Donald “Don” Rapp, passed away on August 1, 2007, in Carriere, MS, at age 85. Grace is survived by her husband, Don; son, Tom Dorman; 5 grandchildren; and 8 great grandchildren. Don started his WRD career in the Virginia district in 1965 as an Engineer, transferred to the Indiana District in 1974, and joined the newly formed Hydrologic Instrument Facility in 1979 as Chief of the Test and Evaluation Section, retiring in 1994.

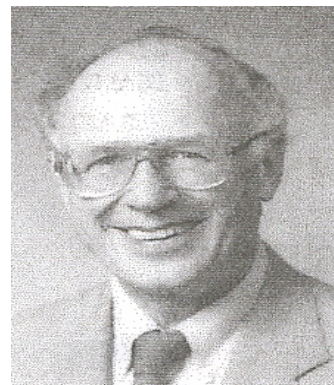
**Herman A. Ray** died September 11, 2008 at age 82 in Columbus, GA. Herman leaves his wife of 50 years, Margaret; son, Kenneth; and two grandchildren. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of the Korean War. He graduated from the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy in 1953, with a BSCE while working part-time for the SW Branch. Other USGS assignments included the SW Planning and Floods Section in Washington, DC from 1961-62, and the California District Office. In 1966, he transferred to the Sacramento office as Data Chief. In 1971, he became Assistant District Chief, Idaho, where he served until his retirement in 1984. Herman was a Registered Professional Engineer in Missouri, a member of the Idaho Society of Professional Engineers, the National Society of Professional Engineers, and the American Society of Civil Engineers. After retirement, he worked for Dames and Moore Consulting and played golf. He later moved to Alabama to be near the family.

**Donald R. Rima** died September 28, 2008, in Nashville, TN, at age 82, after a long bout with emphysema. Born in Adam Center, NY, November 22, 1925, he joined the U.S. Navy at age 17 and became a Naval Aviator. Following WWII, he earned degrees in geology at Syracuse University. Don spent most of his career with the USGS in Tennessee, rising to assistant district chief. Perhaps his greatest contribution was mentoring new USGS employees, instilling a need for accurate data, clear writing, and a respect for the reports system. When they got too engrossed in detail, he would say, “Raise the plow.” He retired in January 1982, and worked several years for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. He enjoyed his family, golf, bowling, and home repair. Don is survived by Dottie, his wife of 58 years; daughter, Sandra Cox; son, Tom; 2 granddaughters; and 4 grandsons.

**Joseph E. “Joe” Upson** died September 4, 2008, at age 97. Joe earned a BS in Geology from Princeton and an MS and PhD in Geology from Harvard. He began his WRD career with the GW Branch in Portland, OR in 1940 and later served in the California and New York districts. He was the District Geologist for the New York-New England office and started the first interpretive investigation of Long Island hydrology. Joe transferred to the General Hydrology branch in 1963 and in 1971 was appointed Deputy Assistant Chief Hydrologist for Research and Technical Coordination, retiring in 1973. Joe enjoyed photography, hiking, and working with the Boy Scouts. He was awarded the Rockefeller Public Service Award in 1959. He is survived by his wife, Roberta; a son; and a daughter.

**MEMORIAL**  
**Philip E. LaMoreaux**  
**1920-2008**

The 1961 program of the USGS Pick and Hammer show featured a skit of Chief Hydrologist Luna Leopold and Associate Chief Ray Nace discussing which way to go, with Ground Water Branch Chief, Phil LaMoreaux observing. Nace: "Let's follow this channel." Leopold: "No, this is the way to go." LaMoreaux: "I don't know if either of you know where you're going, but I'm going back to Alabama." That skit was based on a lack of agreement between LaMoreaux and Leopold on how to attain certain long-range goals for WRD. Leopold's preferred route was cerebral, LaMoreaux's, pragmatic. Phil resigned from the USGS and returned to Alabama in 1961.



Phil's illustrious career in hydrology began in Alabama in 1943, graduating that year from Denison University with a B.A. in geology. He was hired by the USGS as a geologist and assigned to the GWB District Office in Tuscaloosa, AL. In 2 years, he was in charge of all ground-water studies in Alabama. A strong advocate of the coop program, Phil developed grass-roots support for investigations in Alabama by speaking to service clubs, public-minded citizens, and politicians about the economic advantages of water-resources information. LaMoreaux's successes not only led to a significant increase in the coop program but also brought him to the attention of Chief Hydrologist Leopold who promoted him, in 1958, to Division Hydrologist, Mid-Continent Region with headquarters in St. Louis. But, Phil preferred Alabama to St. Louis and kept his office and home in Tuscaloosa. However, in 1959 he became Chief, GW Branch, necessitating a move to Washington, D.C.

He returned to Alabama as State Geologist and Oil and Gas Supervisor and as principal cooperater with the USGS in water-resources investigations. In 1976, he retired from his State positions to give full attention to P.E. Lamoreaux and Associates, Inc., a geological and environmental consulting firm he established in 1970 which ultimately worked in 31 foreign countries. Phil had long been aware of the need for training in the field of hydrology, particularly in hydrogeology. In fact, he took advantage of the proximity of his office to the University of Alabama to earn his M.S. degree in geology in 1949. He then became a part-time professor, teaching hydrogeology. In 1972, Denison University awarded him its honorary Doctorate.

Active in professional societies, Phil was a member of the Association of American State Geologists, Geological Society of America (GSA), American Geophysical Union, American Institute of Hydrologists, American Water Resources Association, American Association of Petroleum Geologists, American Geological Institute (AGI), and International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH). In 1989, he was elected to the National Academy of Engineers. A Senior Fellow of GSA, he received its Award for Distinguished Service in Hydrogeology in 1986 and in 1990, he received the Ian Campbell Award of the AGI in recognition of contribution to the profession of geology. In addition, he was awarded life membership in IAH, the "Commanders Medal" of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a gold medal from the Russian Academy of Science, and became a Senior Fellow of the Geological Societies of London and Thailand. He was certified as a professional geologist in 14 states and nationally by the American Institute of Professional Geologists. He wrote more than 150 reports and books including, recently, Exodus Myth Legend History (1996, Word Way Press) and Famous Springs and Bottled Waters of the World (1991, Springer). Phil shared his energy, vision, and leadership with community organizations, too, serving as a Deacon of the First Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa. He also served as a member of the Black Warrior Boy Scout Council Advisory Board.

He died June 23, 2008, at his home in Tuscaloosa, age 88, leaving his wife of 65 years and fellow world traveler, Bunnie; a brother, David; children, Philip, Jr, James, and Karen; nine grandchildren; and one great grandchild.

By John E. Moore and Hugh Hudson

**Changes/Corrections to May 2008 Directory  
(excluding Memorials and deaths listed in "In Memoriam")**

**Akers**, Mrs. J.P. "Mary" (W), [jaker5@q.com](mailto:jaker5@q.com) -- email

**Asselstine**, Erwin S. (74), Magnolia, TX -- Erwin died September 2, 2004 -- death of member

**Asselstine**, Mrs. Erwin S. -- status unknown

**Bailey**, James F. (85) (Vivian), [jivibai@wildblue.net](mailto:jivibai@wildblue.net) -- email

**Baker**, Mrs. Claud H. "Peggy" (W), P.O. Box 556, Baldwin City, KS 66006 -- address

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**Beck**, John R. (85) (Dawn), [bejoyir@yahoo.com](mailto:bejoyir@yahoo.com) -- email

**Blackwell**, Cassandra D. (08), [sandyb56@verizon.net](mailto:sandyb56@verizon.net) -- email

**Boner**, Fred C. (88) (Lillian), [fredcb@zeronet.net](mailto:fredcb@zeronet.net) -- email

**Boswell**, Mrs. Ernest "Rebecca" (W), [ehboswel@bellsouth.net](mailto:ehboswel@bellsouth.net) -- email

**Bradford**, Wendell (05) (Phyllis), [wendel.phyllis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wendel.phyllis@sbcglobal.net) -- email

**Brown**, Mrs. Delbert Helen" (W), 303-750-6696 -- phone

**Chase**, Mrs. George H. "Barbara" (W), 109 Briarwood Court, Clemmons, NC 27012 -- address

**Clark**, Evelyn N. (83), 2740 Winston Court, Woodbridge, VA 22191 -- address

**Coble**, Ron (94), [nrcoble@mindspring.com](mailto:nrcoble@mindspring.com) -- email

**Coffin**, John E. (01) (Susan Graham), Hydrologic Data Collection, Inc., 5706 Ternwater Pl, Lithia Fl 33547 -- address

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**Curtis**, G. Wayne (91) (Martha), 217-328-2616 -- phone, delete email

**DeGiacomo**, Wallace "Jack" (05), 2909 So. Monaco Parkway, Denver, CO 80222, 303-782-0808 -- new member

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**Fogelman**, Ronald D. (97) (Susan), [r.fogelman@comcast.net](mailto:r.fogelman@comcast.net) -- email correction

**Gebert**, Warren (03) (Nancy) -- add spouse

**Giusti**, Ennio (86) (Teresa), [evgiusti@gmail.com](mailto:evgiusti@gmail.com) -- email

**Goss**, Rick (99) (Sharon), [goss.rick@comcast.net](mailto:goss.rick@comcast.net) -- email

**Goss**, Sharon (03) (Rick), [goss.sharon@comcast.net](mailto:goss.sharon@comcast.net) -- email

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**Gunter**, Herman Curtis (93) (Barbara), 919-567-0543 -- phone

**Hale**, Malcolm D. (76) (Sue), [malcolmdsue@bellsouth.net](mailto:malcolmdsue@bellsouth.net) -- email

**Hardison**, Mrs. Clayton "Mae" former (W) member -- died 3 July 2008

**Hawkinson**, Richard (00) (Bonnie), 3977 E Mallard St, Highlands Ranch, CO 80126, 303-470-1086, cell 520-990-1072 -- address, phone

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**Hickey**, John J. "Jack" (91), [johnjhickey@verizon.net](mailto:johnjhickey@verizon.net) -- email

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**Hodson**, Warren G. (83) (Erma), 205-968-9126 -- phone

**Hudner**, Betty L. (85) (Frank), [frank4478@verizon.net](mailto:frank4478@verizon.net) -- email

**Hudson**, Hugh H. (80) (Becky), [hughhhudson@gmail.com](mailto:hughhhudson@gmail.com) -- email

**Jobson**, Harvey (01) (Barbara), [hejobson@verizon.net](mailto:hejobson@verizon.net) -- email

**Jones**, Myrtle (08) (Brian Palmer), 360-825-6384, [h2omap.wa@netzero.net](mailto:h2omap.wa@netzero.net) -- spouse, phone, email

**Kauffman**, Clayton D. (94) (Brenda), 7779 Hanoverdale Dr, Harrisburg PA 17112, 717-566-1573 -- address, phone  
**Koch**, Neil C. (88) (Marie), [hiltop5336@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hiltop5336@sbcglobal.net) -- email  
**Kroll**, Carl G. (95) (Linda), [corbettkroll@gmail.com](mailto:corbettkroll@gmail.com) -- email  
**Langford**, R. Hal (85) (Jean), [huskerhal@yahoo.com](mailto:huskerhal@yahoo.com) -- email  
**Livesay**, Robert D. (89) (Marlene), [1rdl@bellsouth.net](mailto:1rdl@bellsouth.net) -- email  
**Long**, Mrs. William "Betty" (W), 1703 SW Locks Rd, Stuart FL 34997 -- address  
**Lopp**, Lari (02), 1420 Belcastle Court, Reston, VA 20194 -- address  
**Meyer**, Frederick W. (85) (Ann), [fwmeyer@att.net](mailto:fwmeyer@att.net) -- email  
**Meyer**, Gerald (80) (Libby), [meyer22@sbcglobal.net](mailto:meyer22@sbcglobal.net) -- email  
**Meyer**, Robert (05), [rwmeier@mac.com](mailto:rwmeier@mac.com) -- email  
**Meyers**, Stuart (70) (Ruth), Burlington, WA -- dropped, address unknown  
**Miller**, Lynn K. (08) (Suzi), 505-281-7476, [claybusterlynn@aol.com](mailto:claybusterlynn@aol.com) -- spouse, phone, email  
**Myrick**, Mrs. Robert "Stella" (W), 222 E Yvon Drive, Tucson, AZ 85704, 520-293-1920 -- address, phone  
**Nelson**, Gordon L. (02) (Lorna), [Gordon.nelson@acsalaska.net](mailto:Gordon.nelson@acsalaska.net) -- email  
**O'Daniel**, Pamela I (06), 621 Fenwick Drive, Apt. 36, Papillion, NE 68046 -- address  
**Patterson**, Archibald (64), Ocala, FL -- Archie died 6 June 2008 -- death of former member  
**Price**, Lee A. (07) (Barbara), [lee\\_price@att.net](mailto:lee_price@att.net) -- email  
**Price**, Mrs. William "Helen" (W), [hsprice1@cox.net](mailto:hsprice1@cox.net) -- email  
**Prych**, Edmund A. "Ed" (99) (Miyoka), 5707 E 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Spokane, WA 99212, 509-535-0459 -- address, phone  
**Pustay**, Edward A. (02) (Marilyn), [pustay@comcast.net](mailto:pustay@comcast.net) -- email  
**Rockwell**, Gerald (08) (Antoinette), P.O. Box 1431, Tahoe City, CA 96145, 530-583-5376, [toni-t@sbcglobal.net](mailto:toni-t@sbcglobal.net) -- phone, email, spouse  
**Roth**, William C. (86), Palmyra, PA -- spouse Gloria died 25 July 2008 -- death of spouse  
**Rutledge**, Albert T. (06) (Anne), 112 Thurman Road, Beaufort, NC 28516 -- new address  
**Shapira**, Margery M. (06) (Larry) -- add spouse  
**Smith**, Cynthia (06) Moab, UT, 435-259-5306 -- phone  
**Smith**, Mrs. Earl L. "Elizabeth" (W), 11 Young Road, Barrington, NH 03825 -- address  
**Stockhill**, Margaret H. (07), 33111 Blueberry Hill Dr, Raymond, CA 93653, [stockhill@earthlink.net](mailto:stockhill@earthlink.net) -- address, email  
**Teller**, Ralph W. (07), 13464 Winchester Place, Eden Prairie, MN 55344 -- address  
**Tharpe**, Mrs. Ezra "Marie" (W) -- delete email  
**Thompson**, Ronald E. (07), 1245 Kentwood Lane, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768 -- address  
**Tobin**, Robert L. (93), [MTVILLA@wreawildblue.org](mailto:MTVILLA@wreawildblue.org) -- email  
**Visconti**, Marilyn (02), Lakewood, CO -- spouse Angelo died 29 Aug, 2007 -- death of spouse  
**Vorhis**, Mrs. Robert "Monique" (W), 600 Springhouse Circle, Stone Mountain, GA 30087 -- address  
**Wade**, Lewis V. "Lew" (Affil) (Nancy), 10105 Baylor's Farm Rd, Fredericksburg, VA 22407, 540-898-6844 -- address, phone  
**Walth**, Deanna (03) (Kenneth), [kendea2@wamail.net](mailto:kendea2@wamail.net) -- email  
**Ward**, Janice (Affil), 720-810-7072 --phone  
**Wollitz**, Leonard E. (87) (Marilyn), [wollitz\\_2@q.com](mailto:wollitz_2@q.com) -- email  
**Woods**, Paul F. (06) (Robin), Boise, ID 208-342-3257, [drpaulfwoods@mac.com](mailto:drpaulfwoods@mac.com) -- spouse, phone, email

#### **New Members:**

**Beauchemin**, Paul R. (08) (Pat Sweeney), 25328 Ripleys Field Drive, South Riding, VA 20152, 703-327-3050, [patriciasweeney@comcast.net](mailto:patriciasweeney@comcast.net)  
**Sweeney**, Patricia (01) (Paul Beauchemin), 25328 Ripleys Field Drive, South Riding, VA 20152, 703-327-3050, [patriciasweeney@comcast.net](mailto:patriciasweeney@comcast.net)

## LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

The Hydrologic Technician Scholarship program is one that makes many WRD Retirees proud. Starting in 2006, WRD Retirees have awarded a scholarship to a student at one of the colleges training Hydrologic Technicians. The winner is selected by a panel of WRD Retirees. The 2008 winner is Claire Bunch, a student at GateWay Community College in Phoenix and a summer intern at the USGS office in Sacramento. A photo of her receiving a certificate is shown below. A check in the amount of \$1,500 was given to her at an earlier date.



District Contacts are very important to the continuing success of WRD Retirees. These Retirees keep the local meetings functioning and are critical in recruiting new members. The District Contacts attending the Tampa Reunion are shown below. District Contacts attending the reunion but absent from the photo are: Dave Click, PA and Karen Steele, OK.



L to R: Craig Hutchinson, Tampa; Herb Freiburger, MD; Jack McCoy, Tallahassee; Charlie Morgan, NV; Ken Lindskov, SD; Bert Thomsen, AZ; Steve Hindall, OH; Sharon Goss, IN; and Marv Sherrill, WI

## **HYPOTHERMIC LANDING**

**By Phil Emery  
District Chief, U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska, 1981-90**

### **Story based on UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MEMORANDUM**

FROM: L. L. Leveen, Subdistrict Chief, USGS, WRD, Anchorage, Alaska

TO: THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Two Lakes Accident

#### **DAY ONE - January 9, 1986**

Larry Leveen, Wes Swanner, and charter pilot Chuck were returning from making winter stream flow measurements at the mouth of the Yukon River near Pilot Station and at Crooked Creek on the Kuskokwim. As they flew eastward, back to Anchorage, they found both Merrill and Telaquana Mountain passes "socked in." Both passes cross between peaks of the Alaska Range that has active volcanoes exceeding 10,000 feet altitude.

They decided to turn back and after radioing their intentions to FAA in Anchorage, they flew southwest to Two Lakes where there was an emergency cabin. As they approached the lakes in the ski-wheeled single-engine Cessna 185, they decided to land near the cabin but away from shore where the ice should be the thickest. However, an inflowing stream fed by relatively-warm ground water had weakened and thinned the ice. As they landed, the ice appeared solid, but when they slowed to a stop - the plane suddenly broke through! As the plane was sinking, Larry reached forward from the rear seat, unlocked and kicked the right side door open. Larry, Wes, and Chuck scrambled out. Larry went under a wing strut and grabbed a fuselage antenna support. Wes came up on the rear fuselage and Chuck struggled near the trailing edge of the wing, and with Wes's help got out of the water. They were a half mile plus from the shore. It was nearing sunset. Air temperature was about 10 degrees and the last rays of the setting sun could be seen in the west. It was obvious that the plane would soon be under water and their only chance for survival was to get out on the ice, hoping it would support them. All three managed to crawl out to a wing tip and slide out onto the ice.

The ice was cracking, but it held. They started making their way to shore, staying about 100 to 200 feet apart. Progress was slow as they had to crawl on their bellies and arms and knees to distribute their weight most evenly on the thin ice. They made it to shore in about half an hour. While crawling ashore, they saw the plane sink from sight. They started toward the cabin, which was about a mile away. On the way they had to cross the previously mentioned inflowing stream. They plunged across the 30-foot wide stream in water calf deep and near freezing.

By this time, they all were showing signs of hypothermia. Their hands had lost feeling and were white. Chuck observed frostbite on one of Larry's ears and loss of feeling in his own feet. They reached the cabin. Inside was a stove, matches, paper, kindling, and split wood. They tried lighting the matches, but because their hands were numb and shaking, they failed. Chuck had a Bic lighter and Wes was able to make it work after putting it in his mouth to thaw. They spent the night thawing out clothes and slowly thawing their frozen hands. It is important to thaw frozen flesh slowly to avoid loss of such. The thawing was painful and swelling and blistering occurred the next day.

## **DAY TWO**

Their clothing had dried out, but not their shoes. They ate from the cabin's provisions, and then went to the edge of the lake and stamped out S.O.S. HELI ONLY in the snow. Gathering spruce boughs, they made 3 fire-piles that could be ignited to signal passing aircraft.

## **DAY THREE**

Hank Rust, the charter operator, flew over and spotted their signal. Larry, Wes, and Chuck stood at the edge of the lake to show they were OK. Hank circled several times, gave the "wing-wagging" sign (which in Alaska means message received and understood) and headed back to Anchorage.

## **DAY FOUR**

Two single-passenger Piper Cubs (one from U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and one from Alaska Parks Department) landed on the short frozen floodplain of the nearby stream. They offered sleeping bags and food. Larry told them all was OK.

## **DAY FIVE**

Larry, Wes, and Chuck were picked up about noon by two light aircraft from Port Alsworth and flown from there to Anchorage by Rust's Flying Service. Back in Anchorage, all were examined and diagnosed with second degree frostbite. The plane remains at the bottom of the lake. Neither Larry nor Wes applied for overtime or hazardous duty pay.

As the District Chief, I had considered going along on one of the Yukon trips - as I had on a number of other fly-in trips. If I had been a passenger on this trip, I don't think I would have survived. I am a very poor swimmer, nor was I in as good a physical shape as those guys. (Story reviewed by L. Leveen, WRD retiree and trip survivor.)

The End

## Have you visited the WRD Retirees web page?

Yes, WRD Retirees has its own web page, located at [wrdretirees.org](http://wrdretirees.org). It contains a lot of useful and informative information. Ken Lanfear is the webmaster and he does a great job of keeping the information on the web page current and accurate.

The opening page contains a welcoming message from the President. It also contains a menu on the right side, simply click on the menu item to open that section.

- **Meetings**: This section lists all 28 of the Local Meetings. Local Meetings are an integral and vital part of WRD Retirees. The Local Meetings section lists location, function, when meetings are held, the local contact and their phone number. This enables out-of town WRD Retirees to visit these folks if they happen to be visiting in that area when a meeting occurs.
- **Reunions**: This describes our plan to hold reunions every two years and lists all of the past reunions by date and location. The site for the next reunion is also shown.
- **Newsletter**: WRD Retirees Newsletters are available at the web page since May 2006. The entire content of each Newsletter is online – in full color!
- **District Contacts**: All District Contacts are listed. These are the hard working folks that keep local activities going. Their name, telephone number, and email address are listed.
- **Officers**: A list of WRD Retiree officers is shown.
- **Constitution and Bylaws**: The constitution and bylaws of WRD Retirees is displayed in its entirety. Read this and see how your organization works!
- **Historical Notes**: This section describes who was responsible for conceiving our wonderful organization and how we got started. Very interesting reading!
- **Scholarships**: A description of the Hydrologic Technician Scholarship program is included. The selection process is described and past winners are listed.
- **Application Form**: An Application Form to join WRD Retirees is provided.
- **WRD Web Site**: Click here and link to the USGS, WRD web page.

Please go to this informative web page and learn more about your organization. If you have any suggested changes or additions, please contact Ken Lanfear by phone (703-217-8670) or email ([lanfear@his.com](mailto:lanfear@his.com)).

## **TREASURER'S REPORT, THIRD QUARTER 2008**

Treasurer Celso Puente reports that the organization had \$6,839.15 in its treasury at the end of the third quarter for calendar year 2008. Receipts for the quarter were \$991.95 from dues and contributions from 42 members. Disbursements for the quarter were \$2,277.87, including the printing of WRD Retirees Newsletter 140 and the 2008 WRD Retirees Hydrologic Technician Scholarship Award.

During the quarter a total of \$344.00 was received in contributions from 25 members. Special thanks for contributions above dues go to: John M. Klein, Hugh H. Hudson (In memory of George Ferguson), Mrs. John "Rose" Lawrence, Mrs. Margaret Randolph (In memory of John Randolph), Mary Akers, Raymond Abrams, James A. Malesky (In memory of Maggie Malesky, Joan Ferguson (In memory of George Ferguson), Mary R. Lowry, Theodore Arnow, Beverly Josefson, Solomon Lang, John P. Monis, Gordon Keezer, Lee H. Case, James F. Bailey, James K. Culbertson, Gerald Rockwell, Cynthia Smith, Charles Collier, Gerald Meyer, Gary S. Anderson, Marjorie Reid, Marvin Petersen, and Herman Curtis Gunter.

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

Those enlightened WRD Retirees who receive their Newsletter by email get their copy about 4 weeks earlier than retirees who receive their Newsletter by U.S. Mail! Also, the email version is in full color! You could see your fellow retirees enjoying the Tampa reunion in full color instead of black and white.

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!