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WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 138
February 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

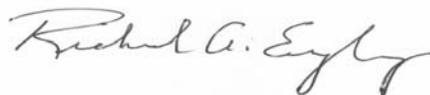
Happy 2008 fellow members of WRD Retirees! It is my great pleasure to serve as President of our organization for 2008-2009. As of one week ago, our organization numbered 1410 members. I'm acquainted with many of you but I hope that by the end of my term, I will have the opportunity to know many more of you.

Four of our 2006-2007 National Officers and Regional Directors have retired from the Board. Jim Biesecker, President; Bill Emmett, Vice President; Russ Wagner, Southeast Regional Director; and Sandra Duncan, Central Regional Director are to be commended for the outstanding jobs they did, including the establishment of the Hydrologic Technician Scholarship and the revision of the Constitution and Bylaws. Also, I would like to welcome to the Board for 2008-2009, Stan Sauer, Vice President; Charles Nethaway, Archivist; Lynn Barr, Southeast Regional Director; and Jim Blakey, Central Regional Director. Bill Boning continues as Secretary, Celso Puente as Treasurer, Bill Shope as Northeast Regional Director, and Charlie Morgan as Western Regional Director. Last but surely not least, Jim Biesecker, Newsletter Editor and Doty Woods, Layout Editor, will continue their outstanding work. Also, Vivian Olcott, SR; Eileen Smith, NR; Merilee Bennett, CR; and Loren Young, WR will serve as Regional Newsletter Editors. I look forward to working with this outstanding group for the next two years.

The year 2008 promises to be an exciting one for WRD Retirees. Circle the dates, October 30-November 1, on your calendar. They are the dates of the WRD Retirees Reunion in Tampa. Reunion chair, Craig Hutchinson, and his committee have promised a wonderful experience of exciting field trips and food and fellowship for the reunion attendees. Please see the detailed information regarding the reunion in this issue of the newsletter. Following the reunion, there will be a 7-day cruise of the Caribbean for those who wish to participate. Those who participated in the cruise following the reunion in Portland, nearly 4 years ago, have said it was truly great.

Money! Oh yes, I want to talk a bit about money. If you haven't done so already, please remember to send a check for your 2008 dues of \$10.00. If you are one of the several of us who still owe for 2007 or before, please send your check for 2008 and the previous year(s) to WRD Retirees, P.O. Box 280, Herndon, VA 20172-0280. We all love the quarterly newsletter and the annual edition of the directory. The dues are applied toward printing and postage costs of both the newsletter and directory. Also, the dues help to support our very successful scholarship program for Hydrologic Technicians that was initiated two years ago. While you are at it, please send us an item for the "News of Retirees" section of the newsletter. It is the heart and soul of our newsletter and everything received from you is printed. The last newsletter was 24 pages long. Help us make the next one 28 or 32 pages. We want to hear from you about you!

WRD Retirees is an organization of great strength and experience and we continue to thrive. If we assume that all of us had a minimum of 30 years with the USGS before we retired, that amounts to nearly 15,000 years of combined experience with the WRD – we truly are a resource to be respected – we can be very proud of ourselves. Please take an active role in your local group. If I can answer any questions for you, please contact me through the WRD Retiree's office or by email at wrdretirees@usgs.gov. I look forward to seeing many of you in Tampa.



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Andy Anderson says, "About 35 members and spouses attended the January WRD Retirees HQ lunch meeting. **Ken Lanfear** gave a very interesting talk about his month in France this past summer. The slides of the Provence section of France were beautiful. This was the first meeting of the HQ group for the newly elected Board of Directors including: President, **Dick Engberg** and Archivist, **Charles Nethaway**. Repeating offices: Secretary, **Bill Boning** and Treasurer, **Celso Puente** were also present. Unfortunately **Stan Sauer** couldn't make the long trip from Fredericksburg, TX, to join us. We missed you, Stan but look forward to your talented service as VP."

Richard Barnell writes, "My wife **Betty** died in January of this year. In May, I drove to Colorado and visited with **Ivan Johnson** for a few days and also had dinner with **Warren** and **Dee Teasdale**. We all had a great time visiting and telling stories about the "old days." After that I visited a cousin in Nebraska before motoring to Texas. It was an enjoyable trip!"

Jim Biesecker reports, "Once again I have been asked to serve as Editor of the Newsletter. **Dotty Woods** asked for some help with the Newsletter and I agreed to work with her. She will serve as the Layout Editor and I will resume the responsibility of Editor. Dotty and I look forward to working together as a team to deliver a timely and informative product to WRD Retirees. The Board of Directors, as required in our Constitution, has approved this arrangement. The Newsletter continues to be the vital communications link for WRD Retirees. Speaking of the Newsletter, the President's message in the November 2007 edition of the Newsletter contained a message of thanks to the many retirees who made special contributions to WRD Retirees during the last two years. Thanks to all of those folks. Unfortunately, the names of **Bob** and **Jean Schoen** were inadvertently omitted. Bob and Jean did a wonderful job of running the hospitality room at the Madison reunion. They made sure all of us had plenty to drink and eat. Jean's Norwegian meatballs were a real treat! A special thanks to Bob and Jean for their untiring efforts and an apology for the omission."

Anne Bisset says, "Thank you for the WRD Retirees Newsletters, I really enjoy reading them and appreciate all the work and effort it takes to put it all together. Keep up the good work!"

Van Brahana reports, "Thanks to all the volunteers who keep WRD Retirees functioning so well! I hope to start taking advantage of some trips when I retiree from the University."

Tony Buono says, "**Arlene** and I moved back to the east coast of Florida. After living in the Keys, the Gulf Coast wasn't right for us. We're now in Melbourne and I have ample garage space for car collecting and restoration [now a '65 Porsche 356C, '65 Porsche 912 (still looking for the '65 911 to complete the set), '67 Porsche 911 Targa, and an '84 Ferrari 308QV (every American of Italian decent should own a Ferrari at least once in his life)]. I made a 5-day round trip drive to San Diego and towed back the 356 a couple of months ago, making a quick exit off I-10 to say hello to **L. J. and Earline Dantin** in Baton Rouge. We're still into sailing in the Caribbean and diving, and we just started doing some RVing (around Florida so far). We're diving in the Bahamas over Christmas and I'm skipping a catamaran with some friends in the Windward Islands in April 2009 (St. Lucia to Grenada). The Windwards are more primitive than the BVI's (which has way too many chartered boats), the locals are friendlier, and the sailing is excellent. If anyone is interested in skipping another boat, let me know. We had two boats last trip and it was a blast. The catamarans are nicely equipped for 4 couples (4 cabins with separate heads). We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Tampa reunion plus the cruise."

Charlotte "Scottie" Burch writes, "I always look forward to the WRD Retirees Newsletter. My news is just about the same as previous years. I still live in the small town of West Coxsackie, NY. I don't drive anymore as my son thought that at age 83 my driving should come to an end – and naturally I agreed with him. I let him do the driving for me now. So please keep the news coming to me."

Ed Burke sent a picture of a beautiful USGS streamgaging station in the Penobscot River basin of Maine. It blends in with the beautiful scenery very nicely and is covered with cedar shingles. He says the gage was dedicated by President Teddy Roosevelt and had major rehabilitation in 1928 under then District Engineer Stackpole.

Bob and Libby Burchett report, "Hello all. As many of you know, **CT** had a knee replacement done in early December; this is the third time his

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knee has been replaced. I talked with CT yesterday and found out that he had to return to the hospital on December 26 because of an infection. His knee was reopened and the infection was removed. He was released from the hospital on December 30 and is staying with Dixie. His cell phone number is 512-517-2988. I think that CT's land line number at Dixie's house is 512-517-1957. He will be staying with Dixie for a week or so. Some well wishes and a prayer or two for CT and Dixie would be welcomed. Happy New Year!"

Dave Camp says, "Thank you to all of you who volunteer to serve WRD Retirees – your service to all of us "retirees" is greatly appreciated. I enjoy reading the WRD Retirees Newsletter and "hearing what's happening." I remain very busy with the various volunteer activities that I'm involved with. I continue to work in the budget management program for the council of aging, direct a choir in my church, work in my woodworking shop when I can find time, and still manage to get to the golf course a couple of times a week. I'm still maintaining an 8 handicap although age is beginning to "take its toll." I missed being at the last reunion. My wife, **Shirley**, still suffers from double vision that was caused by a stroke that occurred during the procedure to insert two stents in her heart some 5 years ago. She gets dizzy with a lot of movement and doesn't handle crowds very well. Time will tell about attendance at future events. Our kids/grandkids gave us a wonderful 4-day family gathering at Lake Tahoe this summer to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. We don't get to see our kids/grandkids very often because they are scattered all over the country. We really enjoyed our time with them at Lake Tahoe."

Gary Cobb reports, "Officers and Newsletter staff -- thanks for keeping the Newsletters coming! I have 9 grandchildren and all are nearby. We still have our family ranch in Nebraska and I spend about 2 or 3 months there every summer. It's wonderful to spend time there and remember events from childhood."

Hector M. Colon-Ramos writes, "Last year my **Maria** and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. It was a big surprise put on by our children in the house of our youngest daughter at Manati, Puerto Rico. A mariachis group lighted up the celebration. The Colons were more than happy to have all the family together and had a wonderful time. Maria and I, children

and eleven grandchildren continue to do well. I take advantage of this message to send a warm hug to all the nice members we met when in active roll as well to the big gang of WRD Retirees. Since holidays are fast approaching, we also say Merry Christmas. Hurrah for all the WRD Retirees!"

Harlan Counts says, "Keep up the good work with the Newsletter."

Joe Cragwall says, "Thanks to all the outgoing officers for your outstanding service during 2006-07. Best wishes to all the newly elected officers and thanks for your willingness to serve. May the upcoming term, 2008-09, continue to reflect the loyalty and support of all members. Happy Holiday season to all."

Ruth Deike reports, "In September I sold my house in Maine and moved to Red Bluff, CA. A friend and I had a wonderful trip across country. We cruised Interstate 80, collected fossils in Indiana, stayed at little cowboy towns in Wyoming, collected salt from the Bonneville flats for a new mystery about ancient lakes, and six days after leaving my farm in Maine touched down in Red Bluff. My new address is: 14655 Betz Lane, Red Bluff, CA. At the moment, I am constructing a permanent headquarters for the Rock Detectives organization. See www.rockdetective.org for a description of the program. I send the best to all WRD Retirees."

Bruce Foxworthy reports, "After about 2 years of diminishing stamina in my left leg, in mid-September I had a femoral artery bypass operation to restore strong blood flow to my lower leg. That healed enough by early November to allow **Cleo** and me to fly from our home in central Washington for long-planned visits with friends in Virginia. We were royally entertained for 3 days by **Gene** and **Pat Hampton** at their lovely home on Virginia's eastern shore and also spent a great day with **Phil** and **Barbara Cohen**. We had hoped to visit other friends in the area, but ran out of time. Timing of the trip let us tour the WW II Memorial in Washington on Veteran's Day. I wore my Navy WW II cap and was quite moved by the number of younger folks in the crowd who approached and said, "Thank you for your service." We chatted with some, including two young men who had returned from Iraq and one Marine corporal who was waiting to go overseas. Believe us, when we say that patriotism is not dead in America. As wonderful

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as our experiences were, the long flights, especially the 6½-hour flight from DC to Seattle on a jam-packed plane, were about all I could tolerate and which I'm not anxious to repeat. We really enjoy the Newsletter, although I recognize fewer and fewer names. Keep up the good work and have a great 2008."

Herb Freiburger reports, "Pat and I hosted our annual wine dinner the first Saturday in December. WRD Retirees in attendance included: **Nancy** and **Jim Bley**, **Linda** and **Bill Carswell**, and **Joyce** and **Jim Biesecker**. Everyone said they had their usual great time and that **Pat's** cooking is as wonderful as ever! A number of active WRDers were also at the wine dinner. Greetings to all my fellow WRD Retirees and best wishes for a very good 2008."

Esther Flint reports, "A commendable job on your publication! Thanks! I do not know very many WRD retirees as I was a recent transfer from NMD. I worked previously in the Chief Topographic Engineer's office as a secretary. Then I married a great man from the Geologic Division, had two children and retired again from a short career in WRD in the tree ring laboratory. I am familiar with many of the organizational units and the USGS, and I miss the wonderful people there. My husband, George, died in 1965 -- my two children became attorneys, one in California and one here in Salt Lake City. Thanks again for the WRD Retirees Newsletter."

Eugene Friel says, "All is well with me at the present time. I really enjoy the Newsletter and wish to express my thanks to the staff for doing a great job. I spent 10 days over Thanksgiving visiting my two brothers and one sister in Pocahontas County. Did some deer hunting but didn't get a buck deer. My oldest grandson, Erick, on his second tour of duty in Iraq was wounded on April 1 by a roadside bomb. He is back in the United States undergoing treatment. My second grandson, Evan, and his wife Stephenie, also in the U.S. Army National Guard, are due to be deployed in March. My prayers are with them."

Harold Golden reports, "Marie and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary this summer with a family cruise to Alaska. We also enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday with Harold, Jr. and family in Springfield, MO. Also, we much enjoyed a visit with our 11-month old great granddaughter."

Butch Grossman says, "I am near the end of my second year as President of the Science Club at Martini Run, a retirement community in southeastern Pennsylvania."

William Hardt writes, "Hi, to all fellow retirees and keep up the good work running WRD Retirees and publishing the WRD Retirees Newsletter."

Bill Harenberg says, "I sure enjoy reading the WRD Retirees Newsletter. I just remembered that I had saved the November edition and when I decided to read it found a ballot. Here it is. **Jean** and I are doing well, Jean had a knee replacement done this summer and is having a cataract removed in January. I am staying healthy and bust with Boy Scouts and church camp. Probably did 40 hours of data collection this year. At least I made enough to cover property taxes!"

Al Harr reports, "This year has been very eventful for me. In May, I spent 12 glorious days in several villages about 30 km northwest of Milan, Italy, searching for relatives of my late wife. I stayed at an agriturismo (farm bed and breakfast) in Bernate (181 inhabitants) where the food, wine, and people were wonderful. Fortunately I found 5 of her cousins on her maternal grandmother's side of the family (the Ferrari's) and one on her maternal grandfather's side (the Zarini's). If you want a thrill, drive on the narrow rural Italian roads. Also, if you travel in rural Italy, it is almost necessary that you speak the language. I am planning to return next year to spend more time with the cugini (cousins) and go to the Santa Maria della Grazie church where Leonardo's L'ultime Cena (the Last Supper) is located. Next, was the fun time in helping plan the Madison WRD Retirees reunion. I hope to go to the one in Tampa. I keep busy building a strip canoe, volunteering three days a week at the Hospice Care Center, and tutoring elementary school children in reading."

Dave Harris reports, "Evelyn and I are still enjoying our retirement here in Oregon. I've been retired 25 years! We really enjoy the Newsletter -- keep it coming. We send our very best to all WRD Retirees."

Steve and **Sandy Hindall** write, "2007 was a very busy year for us. In April, we went to Florida to visit my two brothers and some church friends all in the Sarasota area. Over the week

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of Memorial Day, my son and I made our annual pilgrimage to our cabin in the north end of Georgian Bay to get things ready for summer vacations. Sandy and I went back to the cabin for a couple of weeks in August with our son, his wife and our 6-year old grandson. As always, we had a great time fishing, exploring, swimming, and boating. Our big trip last year was a 2-week Mediterranean cruise with 14 good friends. We flew to Rome, touring Rome before boarding the 150 passenger, four-masted schooner to sail up the coast and around to Barcelona, stopping at six ports. We flew home from Barcelona – a superb trip! We continue to enjoy our children, their spouses, and 3 grandchildren. They live close to us and we consider ourselves lucky. We are also enjoying having Sandy's 89-year old Mom close by. In July, we moved her to a retirement community about 5 miles from us. I continue to be somewhat active in Ohio's water resources through my involvement on various boards and committees. I also visit the USGS office every month or so to have lunch with **Jim Morris**, the Ohio Water Science Center Director to keep up to date on the activities of the Survey. I play golf in a weekly USGS golf league. We Ohio WRD Retirees finally got our act together and have been meeting every two months. In December, we had our gathering at the District office in conjunction with their Christmas party."

Helen Ipsaro reports, "Greetings to all of my fellow Retirees."

Don Jordan writes, "Things are pretty quite in Tifton, GA. I keep busy working around the house and yard. **Bobbie** directs. We do get to the Gulf Atlantic for a couple of weeks during the year. Email delivery of the Newsletter is the way to go! For those of you who haven't tried this yet, give it a chance – its wonderful."

Vince Lai says, "Happy New Year to all WRD Retirees."

Phil LaMoreaux reports, "I have received and read with interest the November 2007 Newsletter. I was pleased that so many WRD Retirees were recognized for their contributions to the organization. As stated before, the "News of Retirees and What's New in Research" are most helpful and informative. Best regards to all fellow retirees."

Hal Langford says, "The slate of candidates for officers of WRD Retirees for 2007-08 is

outstanding. WRD Retirees should be in great shape for another 2 years. They will have to work hard to equal, much less exceed, the solid accomplishments of **Jim Biesecker** et al over the past two years!"

Don Leifeste writes, "There isn't much exciting happening in our lives and maybe that's a good thing. **JoAnn** and I are enjoying good health and doing enough around home to stay out of trouble. We do enjoy regular trips to Virginia, Oklahoma, and Texas to visit friends and family. Our three kids blessed us with seven grandchildren ranging from 7th grade to 2nd year in college. They are all good looking, smart, and talented – what else!"

Jerry Lindholm reports, ""Idaho District retirees and spouses gathered for lunch on January 15 with 25 present. We welcomed new retirees **Jack Doyle** and **Jo-Ann Jones** and her husband **Rod** (a USBR retiree), plus first time attendees **Illaine Tracy** and **Doris Winkler**. Annette Campbell, who is still gainfully employed, told us about some current activities in the District."

Gus Ludwig says, "Have a cool Yule and a frantic first."

Alan Lumb reports, "**Carolyn** and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary in March with a 10-day trip to Paris. There aren't many museums that we haven't seen now! We went to Portland, OR in October to celebrate our sixth grandchild's birthday. While there, we spent a day with **John Briggs** lunching and touring the Japanese Garden. The rest of the time we spend gardening, maintaining the fences on our "farmette," and enjoying the mountain sunrises and sunsets."

Marjorie Martin writes, "I am grateful for health and home and to have been a part of the U.S. Geological Survey for a total of 24 years. I began my career in the 1950s."

Allan Messmore says, "Having lots of hurricanes in Florida. **Ray Cunningham** (who just wrote a fiction book) and I were sent to Bartow, FL, to measure the flooding on the Peace River. We took measurements late in the day in September 1960 from the rains of Hurricane Donna. It did not plot on the stage-discharge curve so we took measurements again (as the stage had fallen about half a foot) and measured more streamflow!! The second

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measurement plotted. A. O. Patterson, District Engineer from Georgia Tech figured out why. A downstream railroad bridge had a truss that caused backwater at the gaging station. Morale: In Florida, higher stage does not mean higher flow!"

Jerry Meyer reports, "I was so sorry to hear of the death of **Jake Rubin**. He was a strong technical asset to WRD. **Libby** and I send our regards to both WRD old timers and to the bright, newer WRD workers."

Dee Molenaar reports, "I am being recognized for rescue efforts in The Bradford Washington American Mountaineering Museum scheduled to open soon in Golden, CO. A featured article states, "A battle-scarred wood-hilted ax that Pete Schoening single-handedly saved six teammates from falling to their deaths in a feat of mountaineering so revered it is known simply as 'The Belay.' Pinned down by a storm at 25,000 feet during a 1953 attempt of the then-unclimbed K2 in the Himalayas, one member of the American team, Art Gilkey, developed an altitude-induced blood clot and pulmonary embolism that threatened his life. Schoening and his seasoned team-mates-- George Bell, Dee Molenaar [and three others] -- were attempting to lower Gilkey in his sleeping bag down the treacherous Abruzzi Ridge when Bell slipped. The unexpected yank on the rope jerked everyone off their feet and sent them tumbling toward certain death before Schoening jammed his ax behind a boulder and caught the entire team with the rope around his waist."

"Dee also reports, "In November 2007, **Steve Vandenburg** and Dee Molenaar, respectively of Carson City, NV and Burley, WA had an enjoyable reunion in Seattle with **Don Hillier** and his wife, **Barbara**. There they commiserated about their aging processes and happy choices of retirement locales, along with nostalgic reminiscing about the processing of WRD manuscripts before the advent of computers on every desk."

Charlie Merk writes, "**Gail Kalen** and I hosted a pot luck dinner party for the Fort Lauderdale Winterfest Boat Parade on December 15th. This traditional spectacular transforms local waterways into a parade route with floats rivaling the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in NYC. This year, the parade's new starting route brought the 100-plus decorated and lighted boats along Fort Lauderdale's New River and

Riverwalk before proceeding onto the Intercoastal Waterway. Santa's flyover helicopter, followed by fireworks, signaled the start of the parade. We had a bird's eye view from my 24th floor condo on the New River in downtown Fort Lauderdale. What a wonderful way to celebrate the Christmas Season as well as Gail Kalen's January retirement!!!"

Kenneth Muir says, "I always enjoy reading the WRD Retirees Newsletter to find out what is happening with the rest of the troops."

John Musser writes, "The Louisiana WRD Retirees had a group of 16 retirees, spouses, and friends at our quarterly luncheon on December 5th. Then, on December 12th, the Louisiana Water Science Center held its annual party and several retirees attended this sumptuous feast. As many know, good food is a specialty in southern Louisiana. Y'all come see us!"

Roy Newcome reports, "I'm still working about half time for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources – and still enjoying it. You guys are doing a good job keeping WRD Retirees going. Thanks!"

John Oberg writes, "**Joan** and I are enjoying all that the Northern Michigan winter has to offer. We have plenty of snow for snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and ice fishing. You know, if you want exercise, snowshoeing is one of the best. What a serotonin booster, eh! Think about it, why not a Northern Michigan winter vacation? Thanks to all of you for your efforts in publishing an interesting and informative Newsletter."

Nancy Ordazzo says, "It has been difficult the last few months with health problems. I had pneumonia twice and ended up in the hospital ICU both times. I am doing better now. We are spending Christmas in Richmond, VA with our son and his wife, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. I'm not sure we are ready for the cold weather as our weather has been great in Woodland, CA – 70s during the day."

Jerry Parker writes, "I am well, playing a lot of golf in Tacoma and Sun City and enjoying a beautiful and bright 5 year-old granddaughter. Hit it long, straight, and count all your strokes."

Jim Paschal says, "May those wishes closest to your heart come true this Christmas."

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Sam Pollock reports, "I retired from the Massachusetts Highway Department about five years ago. Since that time, I spend about four months each year in West Palm Beach, FL, and I work for the Massachusetts Highway Department for the other eight months. I am working on highway deicing salt contamination of ground water and water supplies."

Ron Rathbun says, "**Barbara** and I are doing well, except for the pains of aging and arthritis. We recently joined the RV crowd, with the purchase of a 23-foot Gulf Stream BT Cruiser. It is just the right size for the two of us and our dog Shadow. Our first trip was up to Rocky Mountain National Park for the fall colors and the elk run. Our second trip was to Dallas to visit our son, his wife, and our two adopted grandsons from Russia. They are both doing well and we all feel very blessed to have them in our family. "

Chuck Robinove reports, "I thought it would be appropriate to make the retirees, and any other hydrology types, aware of the very important web site: **dhmo.org**. This may be a part of the future of hydrology and the public perception of water science. You might want to mention it in the Newsletter."

Billy Robinson says, "I'm in my eighties and I have noticed that the law of gravity seems stronger with each passing year."

Harry Rodis writes, "Thanks for all of you who volunteer to serve as officers of WRD Retirees or on the Newsletter staff. The Newsletter is wonderful reading for all retirees."

Jim Rollo reports, "*Hi! Ho! The Derry O, a wandering we will go.* **Anita** and I recently made a couple of foreign trips: one to Mexico and the other to East Africa. I finally finished my book on the varieties of 2 Escudos of the Republic of Mexico and needed a new project. The tentative decision is to do a similar book on the 1 Peso gold of the Second Republic. As part of the preliminary data gathering process, we visited a collector friend who lives in Cuemavaca and has one of the better collections in existence. It is nice to invite yourself to visit and get asked to spend 10 days with the host. We both had a great time. Plans were in place to go to Kenya and Tanzania in East Africa in October. The trip started with a drive to Houston and a museum visit to see the bones of Lucy. This was followed by 20 hours of flying time via

Amsterdam, a long time to spend in the spacious accommodations in coach class. Once there, the trip was a delight. Don't let anyone tell you that lions don't climb trees. After our return home, same twenty hours flying in reverse directions, we drove to Louisiana to visit our oldest son in Lacombe. He finally finished house repairs from hurricane Katrina. The insurance settlement was good, but he had to do all the repairs himself. There is no labor force to hire. Hope one and all have a happy holiday season."

Bill Schaefer says, "As **Andy Anderson** reported in Newsletter 137, page 2, on the group annual fishing trip -- a very successful one -- to the Outer Banks of North Carolina, **Hal Langford** was the big winner at poker. This is not a surprise because Hal is a veteran of the Thanatopsis Club -- now defunct, of the 60s and 70s where he was a valued contributor. The club membership varied as the WRD saw fit to move individuals to different assignments. There were, however, several long term charter members-plank owners in Naval parlance, the late Messrs. Herb Swenson, Joe Wells, Warren Hasting and John Adamson, all masters at malevolence. Four others completed the membership, three of whom, Langford, **Cragwall** and Schaefer, still fondly remember the silent elation of inside straights filled or well concealed full houses. After honing his skill in this atmosphere it seems obvious that Hal is still a player of note. As usual, my appreciation to the members who toil to produce our Directory and the Newsletters, pro bono, of course."

Bob and **Jean Schoen** write, "As Madison, WI, approaches the end of its snowiest December on record, we eagerly await details of the reunion in Tampa this fall. We celebrated our 50th (and Jean's 77th) in February with a week at the Madison Concourse Hotel's Governors Club, site of our last reunion. Amenities in the Governors Club are posh: free drinks, delicious hors d' oeuvres, and after 9 PM, desserts. It was almost as good as our Hospitality Room in 06. For some strange reason, no one wanted to join us in Madison in February. But in June, our kids, grand as well as great, came here for a week and rented a house on one of the areas many lakes. The big surprise came when they took us to dinner in downtown Madison, and we found 42 friends and relatives waiting, from as far away as Durham, NC, Seattle, Paducah, KY, and Andrews, TX. Our son Peter, his wife Leslie, and 2-year old daughter Willa, drove out

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from Vermont for the occasion. Leslie had to fly back, but Peter and Willa returned via Canada, camping most of the way. On their first night, camped on the shores of Lake Superior, Pete awoke about midnight to the wail of a wolf in the distance. He said it was a sound he'd always hoped to hear. The second time the wolf howled, sleeping Willa sat up in her sleeping bag and said, "BABY" then went back to sleep. More good news--Our grandson First Lieutenant (now Captain) Justin Cowne returned from 15 months in Iraq on September 23 and received the Bronze Star for Valor; something he doesn't want to talk about much. But he still mourns the two members of his unit he wasn't able to bring home. Some of you who attended our reunion in Decatur, GA, in 2000 may remember Justin as the tall, good-looking (he takes after his grandfather) freshman, ROTC student who joined us for lunch in Dahlonga on our field trip. I mentioned him in the November 2000 President's message. His wife and 2-year old daughter, parents, and Jean and I are so relieved to have him home safe and especially sound."

Bill Champine says, "Keep up the good work with the Newsletter. Thanks for the effort."

John Singer reports, "All is well at Smith Mountain Lake here in southwest Virginia. **Micki** and I remain active with our local rescue squad and we run about 400 EMS calls a year with our ambulance squad. I also am employed part-time at our local hospital and work in the 10-bed emergency room helping to do all the things that are done in an ER. Medicine is quite a jump from hydrology but the USG taught the skills that are also needed to make decisions in the medical field. Doctors as a group are very interested in hydrology and some of my many "war stories." Water skiing is the norm on summer days and grandkids now number six for Micki and me. The door is always open for WRD retiree visitors."

Jean Stewart says, "It's so good to read the news of those left in my age group. It took almost a year to get damage to the house, trees and shrubs taken care of. The entire neighborhood received a new face lift. Merry Christmas to all."

Dick Swisshelm writes, "Thanks for all the great work publishing the WRD Retirees Newsletter. Greetings to all of my fellow retirees."

Chet Thomas reports, "I enjoy the Newsletter very much. I especially look forward to it arriving to keep up with the gang."

John Vecchioli says, "I look forward to joining my many friends in WRD Retirees in Tampa at the 2008 reunion this coming fall. I now lead a sedentary existence thanks to complications from diabetes, but I still have enjoyed attending various functions held by the Tampa USGS retirees."

Roger Waller reports, "We are off to sunny Arizona for the rest of the winter. Keep up the good work."

Frank Wells writes, "I really enjoy the Newsletter and I am enjoying the retired life near Liberty Hill, TX (population about 1500). We don't miss the Austin traffic at all. Keep up the good work with the Newsletter."

Dave Wiesnet reports, "**Evelyn** and I are alive and well and living in Vienna, VA, as we have since 1985. We are more home bodies than world travelers, but we enjoy our grandkids and our grown-up children. Beth Stettner, our oldest daughter, continues to do well at USGS. She recently received the DOI Meritorious Service Award for her work as head of the Visitor Center. Beth's husband, Will Stettner, has sent a ton of books to refurbish the library of the Afghanistan Geological Survey. We shine in their reflective light. May I say to my contemporaries that I eagerly scan the Newsletter for news of their activities and well being. My Survey days are very fond memories. And, while I met some great people at the Naval Oceanographic Office and at NOAA, the USGS folks are simply a cut above. Thanks to the editors for making it all possible. May 2008 be a great year for all of us."

Sulo Wiitala writes, "Keep up the good work. We all want WRD Retirees to continue its success."

Kathy Wilson says, "Greetings from the Wilsons. When I retired from my position as Technical Editor/Outreach Coordinator of the USGS Water Science Center in Lincoln, NE, in January 2006, my husband, **Bill**, and I decided we wanted to return to our home State of Wyoming, but not in winter! We took a little time to enjoy retirement and began preparing our Lincoln home for sale. In March, we drove to Kansas to pick up our new camper and visit

NEWS OF RETIREES

the family farm. By the end of May, we were ready to go. We moved into our camper for a week, while the final painting and repair of the wood floors were done in our home. Once the work was finished, we turned the keys over to the realtor and headed west. We spent the summer living in our camper with our two small dogs in a campground in Cheyenne, looking for a new home. Because we wanted one with a main-floor laundry and mostly one-floor living space, our search was difficult. We did take time for several trips over the summer -- to Colorado Springs for the tri-annual convention of owners of our brand of campers (TrailManor); to Buffalo, WY, for the annual Basque festival; and to Clearfield, PA, for Bill's family reunion. We camped in eight states over the 3-month period. Finally, in September 2006, we found our new home -- in Wheatland, WY, which is about 60 miles north of Cheyenne. We are enjoying the opportunity to meet new friends and re-connect with former ones. **Lynn** and **Janet Cunningham** (Lynn retired from USGS-Wyoming District in 1989) visited us and helped us recycle the old house on the property to make way for our new garage/workshop. We also visited with **Sue Roberts** and several others from the Wyoming Water Resources Center. Bill had reconnected with several of his buddies from the Wyoming Army National Guard, including our new pastor, who was his Chaplain when he first joined the National Guard in the late 70s, and one of the contractors we hired to help us build the garage. Bill and I spent from April to July keeping up with all the contractors who worked on preparing our new garage, then from July to early September getting all our stuff put away and his workshop set up. We finally managed to move our cars from the street to our new garage on September 15, almost a year after we moved to Wheatland. The following week, I drove to Kansas to visit my family and to provide support as my mother reached the final stages of lung cancer. She died on September 25, so Bill drove down for her celebration of life on October 1. We were blessed to visit with both of my brothers, the in-laws, both of my nephews (who live in Arkansas) and their wives, our three nieces and a nephew, and my cousin from California. We even saw my father's cousin who came to the ceremony. We haven't seen that much family in years. I am enjoying retirement and agree with those of you who recommended it. I am keeping busy with the new home, my e-commerce business, local volunteer work, and editing our church's bulletin. I'd love to hear from former co-workers and

friends. Our new address is 1057 Elliot St., Wheatland, WY 82201, home phone is 307-322-1623, and email is kewilson@juno.com. If you'll be passing through Wyoming on I-25, please give us a call and stop in."

Kathy Wrege writes, "**Tim** and I have retired and are living in the Piedmont, beautiful Clemson, SC. I am attending Clemson and working towards my Ph.D. Life is good. Timothy has had two liver transplants and is doing great. Thank you Viet Nam! Hopefully the next time I report it will be to say my graduation is scheduled."

Tom Yorke reports, "**Jeannie** and I traveled to California to visit one daughter for Christmas, then to Philadelphia to visit our other daughter. In January and February, we will be in Florida. Lots of golf for me -- I've got to keep my handicap down! More than 60 WRD Retirees and spouses enjoyed themselves at the HQ WRD Retirees Christmas party. The filet mignon was delicious and folks enjoyed the prizes of wine and candy. The December meeting was my last as coordinator of the HQ luncheons. I've been coordinating these for about 5 years and my schedule will not let me permit this in the next few years. It's been fun."

Chet Zenone reports, "I hereby submit a belated report of my last assignment as a Disaster Assistance Employee (DAE) with FEMA. I spent January and February 2007 in Olympic, WA, doing some writing and editing of news releases, fact sheets, and technical document for FEMA in the aftermath of damaging floods on the western slope of the Washington Cascades the previous November. Almost every winter here in the Pacific Northwest brings floods and (or) windstorms that cause enough damage to garner Federal disaster funding. In addition to the "real" work of such assignments, they have enabled mini reunions with several of my former WRD-Alaska colleagues, including **Phil Carpenter**, **Derrill Cowing**, **Jim Meckel**, **Larry Merritt** and **Bill Wiggins**. Other former Alaska-WRD colleagues and now FEMA DAE's that I have worked with include **Gordon Nelson** and **Bruce Parks**. Did I miss anyone?"

MEMORIAL Lamar Carroon 1922 – 2007

Lamar Carroon joined the Geological Survey in June 1946 as a hydraulic engineer, grade P-1, in the Santa Fe, New Mexico, office of the Surface Water Branch (SWB), Water Resources Division (WRD). Although Lamar was graduated from New Mexico State University with a BS degree in civil engineering in 1943, his entry into the job market was delayed by the onset of pulmonary tuberculosis requiring three years of sanatorium treatment.



Lamar's early and constant career goal was to become a district engineer in the SWB. When Lamar joined the Survey and for many years thereafter, district engineers were the king pins of the SWB and the SWB dominated the WRD. He recognized the career value of the Branch policy that required its engineers to gain experience in different locations as prerequisites to becoming a district engineer. In 1951, he transferred from Santa Fe to the Louisville, Kentucky, SWB District where he remained until 1957 when he moved to the Albany, New York, SWB District. In all three districts, the jobs assigned to Lamar were of increasing complexity and administrative responsibility, his performance was excellent, and promotions to higher grades were steady. In 1959, Lamar was offered and accepted the position of District Engineer of the Alabama SWB District with headquarters in Montgomery with a promotion to grade GS-13. Lamar had reached his career goal at the relatively youthful age of 37. But, changes were soon to sweep over WRD that would abolish the branches, eliminate the position of district engineer, and integrate branch operations at the district level under the management of a district chief. Lamar was a well qualified contender to be district chief and set his sights on the new career objective, but the route to district chief, for Lamar, was circuitous.

Lamar's arrival in Montgomery closely coincided with headquarters efforts to foster closer program coordination between branches by creating WRD Councils made up of the local supervisors of the branches with programs in each state or district. Lamar was the first Alabama WRD Council chairman. However, the council concept did not work well in Alabama with SWB District office in Montgomery, GWB in Tuscaloosa and, initially, no QWB representative headquartered in the State. In 1961, Lamar moved the SWB District headquarters to Tuscaloosa with a small staff to place his office in close proximity to the GWB District headquarters and its principal cooperator, the Geological Survey of Alabama, for better program coordination. The year 1961 was also the year of the first reorganizations into Division districts with the remainder soon to follow. In some districts there was little or no competition for the top job but in others, competition was keen and selections were influenced by cooperator pressure. Alabama fell into the latter category.

Assistant Director Bob Lyddan was late for the Director's daily briefing one morning in early 1964 at which the writer attended as staff assistant to Lyddan. He said, simply, that he had been on the phone and there has to be a personnel change in Alabama. By June, Lamar had been removed from the competition with a new assignment in Denver to extend streamflow records in the Upper Colorado River Basin. He remained in Denver until August 1968 when he was offered the position of District Chief, Mississippi WRD District with headquarters in Jackson.

Lamar compiled high honors as District Chief. In 1970, he was recognized for his astute and dynamic leadership with a Quality (salary) Increase; in 1973, he was elected president, Mississippi Section, ASCE; in 1974, president, Jackson Federal Executive Association; in 1975, president, Jackson Chapter, Mississippi Engineering Society; in 1976, State Director, Mississippi Engineering Society; and in 1978, Lamar was appointed by President Carter as Federal Representative to the Sabine River Commission. He retired in January 1980 but, always the good soldier, agreed to remain on the job for a while as a reemployed annuitant to complete several projects.

Lamar died in May 2007. He left a son, Robert, in Jackson; two daughters, Barbara Ann, in San Leandro, California and Jean, in Boston, Massachusetts; and three grandchildren, Catherine, Lydia, and Carter. Barbara, his wife, died in December 2005.

By: Hugh H. Hudson with Joe Cragwall's assistance.

FOURTEENTH WRD RETIREES REUNION 2008

**Tampa, Florida,
October 30-November 1, 2008**

HOTEL

The 2008 Reunion will take place at the Belleview Biltmore Resort & Spa, Clearwater, Florida, which has bestowed Southern hospitality and elegance to an impressive guest list. Our reunion will take place near the end of the hurricane season when activity is usually diminished and when the temperature is ideally in the low 70's. Eighty-five rooms have been reserved for the reunion -- we can get more rooms if reservations are made before September 15, 2008. Guest rooms feature water views and include small refrigerators or decorative fireplaces. Shuttle service is available from the Tampa and St. Petersburg-Clearwater Airport, call 800-282-6817. There is no charge for parking at the hotel. Special room rates for single or double occupancy (before taxes) are: Run of House \$109 and Sun Parlor Suite \$139. For more info about the hotel, go to WRDRetirees.org and click on 2008 Reunion Information. You can also make room reservations by calling 800-237-8947 (mention WRD Reunion when making your reservation) or by clicking on the reservations line of the reunion web page shown at WRDRetirees.org.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Thursday, October 30

Tropical Welcome, 6:00–9:00 pm -- poolside buffet with steel drum music.

Friday, October 31

Business Meeting, 9:00 am-12:00 noon

All retirees and spouses are invited to participate.

Lunch Buffet, 12:00 noon-1:00 pm

A healthier side lunch buffet will follow the business meeting.

Golf, Visit USGS Office or John's Pass Village, 1:00-6:00 pm

Belleview Biltmore Golf Club Outing, 1:00-6:00 pm

The Belleview Biltmore Golf Club is about 2 miles from our hotel, and there is shuttle service. Carl Goodwin will arrange this golf outing. Information about the golf club can be found at <http://www.belleviewbiltmore.com/golf.shtml>.

USGS Florida Integrated Science Center, 1:30–5:00 pm

Each fall the USGS Florida Integrated Science Center office in St. Petersburg holds an open house with about 50 displays. They have graciously agreed to honor WRD retirees with a private tour. The tour bus will leave after our business luncheon at 1:30 pm and return to the hotel by 5:00 pm. The USGS office is about 20 miles from our hotel.

John's Pass Village & Boardwalk, 1:00–4:30 pm

This quaint turn-of-the-century fishing village is Pinellas County's #1 tourist attraction. The village is 14 miles from our hotel. Watch the fishing boats, shop, or have a great meal. More info at <http://www.johnspass.com>.

Belleview Biltmore Hotel Historical Tour, 2:00 pm

We will try to schedule a free group tour of the resort facility during which you will hear the guide speak about the resort's past social prominence and its remarkable revitalization through the years.

Saturday, November 1

Tours, 8:30 am–4:00 pm. Please refer to specific tour for times.

Gala Banquet, 6:30-10:00 pm. A plated dinner will be served at the closing presentations and awards ceremony. See Registration form for menu.

TOURS

The reunion committee has arranged several activities and tours. Some retirees may wish to forego the organized tours and take advantage of the hotel amenities. Complimentary transportation is available to and from the beach club every hour. The Belleview Biltmore also has a spa, tennis courts, pool, and bike rentals.

Salvador Dali Museum and Baywalk, 9:00 am–3:00 pm

The Salvador Dali Museum has attracted millions of visitors. The collection includes 2,140 pieces with 95 oil paintings and over 100 water colors by the world-famous master. The website is <http://www.salvadoralimuseum.org>. We will have a private tour led by a docent. It is about 20 miles from the hotel. A mile from the Salvador Dali is the Baywalk, a collection of shops and restaurants, where we will have buy-your-own lunch.

Hydrologic Field Trip-USF GeoPark and Sinkholes, 8:30 am–4:00 pm

The University of South Florida has provided much talent to WRD. The geology department constructed GeoPark that portrays aspects of the geology of Florida. Ann Tihansky of the USGS St. Pete will lead our tour. What do WRD retirees want to see when they come to Florida? Sinkholes and springs! After GeoPark, the tour will head to Schreuder, Inc., where Peter Schreuder will give an overview of the Curiosity Creek basin, that has sinkholes, retention areas, and water works. The field trip will end at Sulphur Spring City Park where refreshments and Cuban sandwiches will be provided.

Florida Aquarium, 8:15 am-4:00 pm

Experience one of the top aquariums in the world with over 10,000 aquatic plants and animals. You can take an optional behind-the-scenes tour led by an Aquarium docent. Information on the Florida Aquarium is available at <http://www.flaquarium.org>. Enjoy lunch on your own at the Aquarium Café or visit 2 blocks away at the Channelside Entertainment Complex where you can eat lunch, shop, and watch the ships.

Sunken Gardens, 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Sunken Gardens is one of the finest botanical gardens in the United States. The 13-acre site encompasses a sinkhole feature around which the garden's lowered elevation coupled with the tree canopy above creates a local tropical environment within a sub-tropical setting. Information on Sunken Gardens can be obtained at <http://www.stpete.org/SunkenGardens.htm>. After a self-guided tour of the gardens, a catered lunch will be served.

November 2 – November 9

Western Caribbean Cruise

A 7-day western Caribbean cruise will depart from the port of Tampa. A detailed description of the Cruise is presented on page 15 of this Newsletter. Join us for a fun time!

Registration for the Reunion and Hotel Reservations must be made by September 15, 2008.

Please register and make your hotel reservations as soon as possible.

Information and links to related sites are available through the WRD Retirees 2008 reunion website <http://mysite.verizon.net/cbhutchinson/wrdretirees2008reunion/>. This website is also accessible through the "reunions" page at the WRD Retirees website, WRDRetirees.org.

**REGISTRATION FORM
WRD RETIREES 2008 REUNION, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA
OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 1, 2008**

NAME(S) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

REGISTRATION FEE—DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

Number attending _____ @ \$35 per person \$ _____
(\$45 per person after September 15; refunds available prior to this date)

FOOD—Group meals are listed. Other meals are on-your-own.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, CABANA POOLSIDE BUFFET

Soup, salad, baked grouper, jerk chicken, Cuban pork loin, rice, plantains, dessert
Number attending _____ @ \$43 per person \$ _____

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, HEALTHIER SIDE LUNCHEON BUFFET

Soup, salad, roasted sea bass, fruit, cookies
Number attending _____ @ \$30 per person \$ _____

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, GALA BANQUET

___grilled ribeye steak, ___pan seared grouper, ___chicken saltimbocca,
or ___vegetarian selection, with salad and 2 desserts. Check selection(s)
Number attending _____ @ \$47 per person \$ _____

TOURS—One 43-56-passenger bus is reserved for each tour.

Select first and second choice, pay for the more expensive, excess
will be refunded.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

Belleview Biltmore Resort Historical Tour

Number attending _____ (free)

Trip to USGS Science Center, St. Petersburg

Number attending _____ @ \$15 per person \$ _____

Belleview Biltmore golf outing

Number attending _____ @ \$60 per person \$ _____

John's Pass Village and Boardwalk

Number attending _____ @ \$15 per person \$ _____

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Salvador Dali Museum and Baywalk, lunch on your own

Number attending _____ @ \$30 per person \$ _____

Hydrologic Field Trip, picnic lunch included

Number attending _____ @ \$30 per person \$ _____

Florida Aquarium , lunch on your own	
Number attending _____ @ \$30 per person	\$ _____
Behind scenes tour _____ @ \$9 per person	\$ _____
Sunken Gardens , catered lunch included	
Number attending _____ @ \$34 per person	\$ _____
TOTAL (registration, food, and tours)	\$ _____

Reunion registration and hotel reservations must be made by September 15, 2008.

REMINDER: Don't forget to reserve a room at the Belleview Biltmore Resort by calling 800-237-8947 and mention "WRD Reunion" to the reservationist. Contact Sandra Duncan at wrdcruise@comcast.net for Caribbean cruise bookings.

Mail this form, with your check, payable to "WRD Retirees 2008 Reunion Fund" to WRD Retirees c/o Craig Hutchinson, 15912 Willowdale Road, Tampa, FL 33625.

Questions? Contact Craig Hutchinson at crabrahut@aol.com, phone 813-960-3769, or Lynn Barr at lynnbarr@tampabay.rr.com, phone 813-973-3937.

WRD Retirees Cruise of the Western Caribbean following the Tampa Reunion

WRD Retirees Reunions are a wonderful place to visit with long-time friends. We thought it would be a good idea to extend the time spent at the reunion by scheduling a cruise immediately after. We first did this following the Portland Reunion in 2002. Sandra Duncan, WRD Retiree cruise specialist, planned a cruise to Alaska following that reunion and about 125 WRD Retirees attended and had a great time! Because of the success of the Alaska cruise, we asked Sandra to plan a cruise after the Tampa Reunion, October 30 – November 1, 2008. She has scheduled a cruise to the Western Caribbean from Sunday, November 2 to Sunday, November 9. The cruise will visit four destinations in the Western Caribbean: Grand Cayman, Isla Roatan, Belize, and Cozumel. All cruisers will receive a cabin credit which will depend on the size of our group. We will also have a private one-hour cocktail party with food. Additional details about the cruise are shown below:

- **SHIP** - The Carnival Legend, with a crew of 930, has 1,062 staterooms, for a capacity of 2,124 passengers. There are 12 decks, numerous bars, a library, three pools, a casino, and spectacular entertainment.
- **DINING** - We have requested Main Seating in the dining room -- breakfast at 7:45 AM, lunch at noon, and dinner at 5:45 PM or 6:15 PM (at the staff's discretion). You may request Late Seating on board. You may also enjoy a continental breakfast in your stateroom or a limited menu on deck. Bistro style lunch and dinner are available on the Lido Deck. A "reservations only" Supper Club is also available for a nominal fee.
- **YOU SHOULD TRAVEL WITH YOUR PASSPORT**
- **CABIN CHOICES** (all prices are per person based on double occupancy PLUS taxes of \$65)
 - cabins with no windows start at \$479
 - cabins with a window start at \$579
 - cabins with sliding doors leading to a balcony start at \$679
 - cabins with balcony, but with partly obstructed view, are \$629
- **PAYMENT DUE DATES**
 - Payment of \$250 per person is due with your reservation -- see next paragraph.
 - Full and final payment is due no later than August 19, 2008.
 - Full refunds can be made until August 19, 2008.
 - You may prepay gratuities and purchase travel insurance with your final payment.
 - Gratuities are \$70 per person and travel insurance is \$129 per person.

Plan to cruise with us – you will have a terrific time! To make your reservation, contact Sandra as soon as possible. Call her at 303-279-5061 with your credit card number (the method of choice) or send a \$250 per person deposit check to Sandra at:

34 South Flora Way
Golden, CO 80401

Additional information, including a map of the cruise sites, is also available on the WRD Retirees web page at WRDRetirees.org. Simply click on the words 2008 Reunion Information near the top of the page and then click on Cruise information.

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

Donald C. Hayes, Hydrologist, P.O. Box 104, Studley, VA 23162, 01/03/08

George W. Hawkins, Information Technology Specialist, 9 West Street, Middle Island, NY 11953, (631) 924-3791, 01/03/08

Southeastern Region

Fernando Gomez-Gomez, Supervisory Hydrologist, 468 Paseo Del Mar, Willa Marbella Street, Dorado, PR 00646-4646, 01/03/08

Eugene C. Hayes, Supervisory Hydrologist, 731 Leke Circle, Diamondhead, MS 39525, 01/03/08

Jose A. Merced, Hydrologic Technician, RR-36 Box 1011, San Juan, PR 00926, 01/03/08

Luis Santiago-Rivera, Hydrologist, P.O. Box 1440, Corozal, PR 00783, 01/03/08

Aubrey A. Shaw, Electronic Technician, 2176 Atkinson Road, Biloxi, MS 39531, (228) 388-2248, 01/03/08

David J. Wangsness, Hydrologist, 5065 Haralson Way, Lilburn, GA 30247, (770) 381-0320, 01/03/08

Central Region

Lee Ann Alf, Hydrologic Technician, 8310 NE 122nd, Jones, OK 73049, (405) 771-5571, 01/03/08

Bruce M. Bochy, Hydrologic Technician, 1110 Nugget Place, Billings, MT 59105, (406) 256-5447, 01/03/08

Paul J. Blanchard, Hydrologist, 6505 Natalie NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110, (505) 881-9571, 11/30/07

Douglas L. Cain, Supervisory Hydrologist, 12629 W. First Place, Lakewood, CO 80228, (303) 984-0678, 01/03/08

Larry G. Cox, Chemist, 2217 South Downing Street, Denver, CO 80210, (303) 778-6774, 01/25/08

Virginia L. Redstone, Hydrologic Technician, P.O. Box 244, Fort Peck, MT 59223, 01/03/08

Deborah G. Vaught, Physical Science Technician, 2450 Overlook Drive, Broomfield, CO 80020, (303) 466-6081, 11/13/07

Jack E. Veenhuis, Hydrologist, P.O. Box 2042, Tijeras, NM 87059, 11/30/07

Scott D. Waltemeyer, Hydrologist, 22 Tigua Drive, Sandia Park, NM 87047, (505) 286-2041, 01/03/08

Western Region

Ronald J. Avanzino, Chemist, 3052 Chippenham Drive, San Jose, CA 95132, 01/02/08

Dixie D. Canny, Information Technology Specialist, 4695 W. Eskesen Drive, W. Valley City, UT 84120 (801) 967-3248, 01/03/08

John E. Costa, Hydrologist, 3515 Edgewood Drive, Vancouver, WA 98661, (360) 693-1239, 01/03/08

Shonna L. Dennison, Budget Analyst, 7748 South 2700 West, West Jordan, UT 84084, 01/03/08

J. Triska Frank, Research Hydrologist, 359 30th Street, San Francisco, CA 94131, (209) 962-0223, 01/03/08

Leroy L. Knobel, Hydrologist, 163 E. 15th Street, Idaho Falls, ID 83404-5912, (208) 523-4016, 12/31/07

Gerald E. Magner, Physical Science Technician, 1605 Belluno Court, Las Vegas, NV 89117-1158 (702) 228-0334, 01/03/08

Cynthia S. Morrison, Supervisory Management Specialist, 3521 Hollow Oak Drive, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762 (916) 933-2802, 01/03/08

David E. Prudic, Research Hydrologist, 702 Crain Street, Carson City, NV 89703, (775) 885-2557, 01/03/08

William T. Sexton, Regional Hydrologist, WR, 1375 Souza Drive, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762, (916) 933-6278, 01/02/08

Kent M. Sherman, Hydrologic Technician, 3455 Monte Vista Drive, Flagstaff, AZ 86004, 01/01/08, (928) 774-6127

Peter E. Smith, Research Hydrologist, 4602 El Macero Drive, Davis, CA 95616, (530) 758-5175, 01/03/08

Raymond R. Smith, Supervisory Hydrologic Technician, 14106 E. Sunnyside, Veradale, WA 99037, 01/03/08

Frances E. Spann, Information Technology Specialist, 2082 Arbutus Court, Fremont, CA 94539-6501, (510) 657-7734, 11/30/07

WRD NEWS

WHAT'S NEW IN RESEARCH”

News of the WRD Research

Matt Larsen, Chief Scientist for Hydrology

Here are two short summaries of current WRD research. For more information email Matt at mclarsen@usgs.gov or visit the website: <http://water.usgs.gov/nrp/highlights.html>

Endocrine Disruption Found in Fish Exposed to Municipal Wastewater:

USGS scientists and their colleagues reported in the journal *Aquatic Toxicology* that exposure to the wastewater from a major metropolitan sewage treatment plant caused endocrine disruption in male fathead minnows. After exposure to the wastewater, the male minnows started producing vitellogenin--a female egg-yoke protein. Treated wastewater discharge has been identified as a source of endocrine disrupting chemicals to the aquatic environment, and this study documents some of the potential effects, both positive and negative, in fish due to exposure to wastewater.

Using on-site wastewater exposure experiments, USGS scientists found several chemicals known to be potential endocrine disruptors, such as surfactant (detergent) compounds and their degradation products and bisphenol A (a chemical used in the production of plastics). This study increases the scientific communities' understanding of the potential effects of wastewater on fish in streams, and this information can be use to make better decisions regarding the discharge of wastewater to the environment.



Aquariums where male fathead minnows were exposed to the effluent from a wastewater treatment plant.

Changes in riparian vegetation in Arizona: repeat photography at gaging stations: As part of the operation of surface-water gaging stations in Arizona, photographs are taken to document channel conditions. The photographs, starting in the early 20th century, show many features of the channel that are important to accurate streamflow gaging, including shifts in channel thalwegs or deepest point in the channel, changes in low-water controls, and changes in channel roughness. Now, these photographs provide an invaluable record for evaluating changes in the riverine environment of the major water courses. Riparian vegetation in particular is highly valued, and its long-term status is much debated. Water development is frequently blamed for decimation or elimination of riparian ecosystems. Floods may damage or destroy vegetation within channels, and channel changes may cause damage to floodplain structures, agricultural fields, and water- and irrigation-supply systems. Increases in channel roughness may create higher stages during floods, raising the possibility of increased frequency of flood damage. The photography at gaging stations documents long-term changes in the riverine environments of Arizona, including large increases in native and non-native vegetation at most sites, complete elimination of riparian vegetation at some sites, channel downcutting, lateral channel changes, and deposition of new fluvial terraces. The causes of many of the changes are not obvious; for example, at some sites, riparian vegetation has increased despite the occurrence of large floods or significant flow regulation. Despite the 20th century spread of tamarisk along the state's rivers, native species have increased as well.

“Tundra Repairs”

By Philip A. Emery, District Chief, Alaska, 1981-90

Charlie Sloan (Geologist – Hydrologist, USGS, WRD) flew out of Barter Island, Kaktovik on Alaska’s north coast (the Beaufort Sea of the Arctic Ocean). After making three or four low passes to pick out the best place to land, they safely landed the ski-wheeled plane at Sadlerochit Springs on the north slope of the Brooks Range’s Romanzof Mountains, in the Alaska National Wildlife Range -- now called ANWR (Alaska National Wildlife Range).

While Charlie was busy servicing the spring-monitoring device, the pilot was getting bored, so he decided to taxi the plane closer. Suddenly, Charlie heard a loud roar. He looked up to see the plane standing on its nose in the tundra. The pilot had started to turn upwind to line up for takeoff when one wheel lodged against a hidden snow-covered rock. When the pilot gave the plane some throttle, the tail tipped up – the wind caught it and raised it, and the prop dove into the ground.

Charlie and the pilot managed to get the aircraft tipped back down. Holding a suitable rock on one side of the propeller and beating on the other side with Charlie’s geologic pick, they beat the prop tips back into something approximating their original shape. Fortunately, the engine crankshaft was not broken.

They decided it was best to keep the takeoff weight at the minimum, so Charlie remained behind with the arctic fox, caribou, musk ox, and wolves. The pilot flew back to Barter Island, replaced the prop, and returned about 3 hours later to pick him up. It was a long and lonely 3 hours for Charlie.

We didn’t have cell phones or GPS in those days.

IN MEMORIAM

Betty Marie Barnell, wife of Richard Barnell, passed away in February 2007 at age 81. A native of Vancouver, British Columbia, she moved to Texas in 1965 and became a United States citizen in 1969. She lived in Rockport, Texas, for the past 20 years. She is survived by her husband, Richard, who retired from the USGS in 1960. Richard began his WRD career as an Engineering Aid with the GW Branch in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1951, became an Engineer in 1953, and served in that capacity in Lincoln, Salt Lake City, Huron and Minneola, New York.

Robert D. "Bob" Busch passed away December 2, 2007, at age 81. He was living in Sunnyvale, California. Bob started his WRD career as an Engineering Aid with the QW Branch in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1949. He transferred to the Sacramento QW office in 1958 and worked there as a Hydrologic Technician until he moved to the Hawaii District in 1966. Bob went back to California in 1969 and retired from his assignment in Menlo Park in 1984. His wife, Irene, died in 1998.

Alta G. Conrad, 91, died in Portland, Oregon, on April 25, 2007. She served 36 years with the USGS. Alta started her USGS career as a Clerk-Typist with the SW Branch in Portland in 1950. She was in that position when Oregon was converted to a District in 1966 and later became a Secretary, retiring in 1986.

John Franklin Harsh, age 70, of Tampa, passed away January 7, 2008. Survivors include his wife, Abbie; daughters, Jennifer Jones and Misty Steffen; stepchildren, Bob, Mark, and Marjorie Solomon; and six grandchildren. John was an active member of the Carrollwood Rotary and enjoyed bridge, golf, and travel. He was a Hydrologist with the Virginia District office from 1977-84. John also served in the Louisiana and Florida Districts. He retired in 2002.

Gregory Cornelius Lines died August 10, 2007, in San Diego, California. He was 61. A Stockton, California native, Greg received a BS in Geology at the University of Cal at Berkeley. He served with WRD beginning in 1968 as a GW Hydrologist in Montgomery, Alabama. Greg also worked in the Wyoming and Utah District offices before transferring to San Diego in 1984. He retired in 2004. After retirement from the USGS, he worked part-time at the California State University Foundation. Survivors include his wife, Anna, and son, Matthew.

Ruth Lord, widow of R. Stanley Lord, passed away in Cupertino, California, on October 4, 2002, at age 97. Stan had a 42-year career with WRD, mostly in California. He served as the SW Branch Area Chief for WR and completed his career as California District Chief. Stan died in 2000.

Marcia McWreath, wife of Harry McWreath, passed away peacefully on December 26, 2007, at Georgetown University Hospital. She was 55 and had been fighting cancer since March 2006. Since October 4, she was in the hospital battling numerous complications. Harry began his USGS career with LIA in 1977 as a Physical Scientist. He transferred to the LA District in 1983 where he served as a Hydrologist.

Phyllis McLaughlin, widow of Thad McLaughlin, died December 18, 2007, in Las Vegas, Nevada, where she had been living for the past several years. She was 91. Phyllis will be fondly remembered as a gracious hostess to the many Survey and foreign visitors that she and Thad entertained, particularly during the time when Thad was Regional Hydrologist, Central Region. Her ashes will be scattered from Mount Lindo at the site where Thad's ashes were scattered, overlooking Denver and from where "one can see all the way to Kansas," where both Phyllis and Thad were raised. Thad had a distinguished WRD career, starting as a GW Hydrologist in Colorado in 1945 and ultimately becoming the Regional Hydrologist, CR in 1972. He retired in 1975. Thad passed away in 2002.

Irene Mundorff, widow of Maurice Mundorff, passed away on October 16, 2007, at age 91. Born in Wolf Point, Montana, she was raised in the Willamette Valley of Oregon. She met her husband, Maurice, in Canby, Oregon. They were married for 64 years before he passed away in 2002. During their years together they traveled extensively – living in Pakistan and Kenya. Survivors include daughters, Maureen Smith and Carol Elms, and a grandson. Maurice served with WRD beginning as a Geologist with the GW

IN MEMORIAM

Branch in Raleigh, North Carolina in 1941. He also served in Tacoma and Boise before beginning his international work in 1962 in Lahore, Pakistan. He also worked in Kenya.

Ethylwyn Pecora, widow of William T. Pecora, who served as Director of the USGS, died on December 15, 2007, in Washington, DC. She was 91. Ethylwyn served as an administrative assistant to the science adviser to the President, serving in that position from 1976 until her retirement in 1980. Mrs. Pecora was born in Switzer, Kentucky, and attended the University of Miami. Her husband died in 1972. Survivors include two children, William Carter Pecora and Ann Stewart Pecora, and one granddaughter.

Byron Jonathan Prugh, Jr. died August 25, 2007, at his home in Melrose, Florida, at age 62. He was born in Plainfield, New Jersey. Byron lived in Westfield, New Jersey until 1954, when his family moved to Tampa. He graduated from high school there and attended both Northwestern University and the University of Florida, earning a master's degree in CE. He served with the U.S. Army and worked for 26 years with the USGS in both Illinois and Virginia. Byron retired as Chief of the Data Section of the Virginia District in 1995. He was active in the ASCE and in several earth science organizations. He retired in 2002. Byron is survived by his wife of 36 years, Hattie and sons, David and Jonathan.

George F. Smoot passed away in Newtown, Connecticut, on August 29, 2007, at age 85. A native of Wetumpka, Alabama, he received a BS in Mathematics from Auburn University in 1950. George's WRD career began as a Hydrologic Field Assistant in the Montgomery, Alabama, SW office in 1948. He became a Hydraulic Engineer upon his graduation. George also served with WRD in Palmer, Alabama, and with the Instrumentation Unit in Columbus, Ohio. In 1962, he moved to WRD HQ and became head of the WRD Instrumentation Program and was the principal developer of WRD instrumentation. George was active in the ASCE. He is survived by two sons.

Julian Soren of Levittown, New York, died on March 10, 2006. Julian was 88. He received a BS in Geology from the City College of New York in 1952 and began his career with the USGS, GD, in Chattanooga. He also served in Pennsylvania with the GD and in 1959 joined WRD with the GW Branch in Minneola. Julian spent the rest of his career studying the GW of Long Island and retired in 1986. Julian is survived by his sons, Joshua and Ethan, two grandsons, and a great-granddaughter.

Gracie Fae Ward, 82, of Columbus, Ohio, died November 30, 2007, at age 82. Gracie was a data processor for the USGS, WRD, and a member of Poes Run United Baptist Church in Chillicothe, Ohio. Gracie started with the QW Branch in Columbus, Ohio, in 1957, as a Clerk-Typist. In 1981, she became a Computer Assistant.

Edward Lee Young, age 73, of Boise, Idaho, passed away on October 20, 2007, at the Idaho State Veterans Home. Ed was a native of Columbus, Ohio. After service with the U.S. Navy from 1953-57, he started his civilian career with the U.S. Forest Service in Montana. Ed transferred to the USGS SW office in Boise in 1959 where he worked as a Hydrologic Technician until his retirement in 1990. Ed loved to hunt, fish, golf, camp, and dance. His wife, Claudia, preceded him in death in 2005. Ed is survived by his children, Laura, Nick, Kim, and Monte and their families.

Local Meetings and Gatherings

Alabama District WRD Retiree's Party at the Holiday Inn in Prattville



L to R: John Scott, Harry Rollins, Paul Cole, Jackie Freeman, Bobby Byrd, Mike Planert, Riley Cobb, George Nelson, Charles Ming, Doug Bateman, Frank King, Dave Byrd, Jerry Pascale and Roy Stone

Texas Retirees 2007 Christmas Party at Ruffi's Resturant



1st Row: Sean Moran, Max Moran, Sierra Moran and Sallie Burchett
2nd Row: Beverly MacCarty, Dixie Welborn, Bev Anderson, Bud Anderson, Libby Burchett and Bob Burchett
3rd Row: CT Welborn, Tish Reeves, Harriet Rohne, Cindy Wells and Jayne May
4th Row: Helen Davidson, Paul Rohne and Frank Wells. Alice and Fred Stroman left before photo was taken.

Cheyenne, Wyoming Retirees at their November Luncheon at the Airport Golf Club



Front row, L to R: Jim Rankl, Jean Craig, Pam Schuetz, Jan Walgren, Doug Manigold and Liz Adels.
Back row, L to R: Bruce Ringen, Gordon Craig, Joel Schuetz, Keith Walgren, Joe Wallace, Marlin Lowry, Sherry Green, and Jim Blakey.

Donovan Kelly, WRD Retiree
Crummy but Good Writer with a Lighter Touch

“Keeping the Wild in the Weekend Fortress”

© By Donovan Kelly (from *The Weekender*, Morgan Messenger, February 7, 2007)

“There are some who can live without wild things and some who cannot. These essays are the delights and dilemmas of one who cannot.”

The opening sentences in the Foreword of Aldo Leopold’s “A Sand County Almanac” are a philosophical touchstone that I return to often. You didn’t ask, but if you did, “Sand County” is one book I would recommend for every weekend cabin. Delightful, challenging, and a perfect gift for our guests.

Although Leopold wrote of his weekend county “shack” in Wisconsin, his Almanac fits comfortably into my weekend corner of West Virginia. “Soon after I bought the woods a decade ago, I realized that I had bought almost as many tree diseases as I had trees,” Leopold said. “My woodlot is riddled by all the ailments wood is heir to. I began to wish that Noah, when he loaded up the Ark, had left the tree diseases behind. But, it soon became clear that these same diseases made my woodlot a mighty fortress.”

The fortress that Leopold describes is the web of shelter and food provided by dead and dying trees to a variety of wildlife. Even as I write this, three pileated woodpeckers are checking the trees and logs around our cabin. They are welcomed Sunday morning visitors that we don’t see as much anymore. In part, we see less of their flashing wing and hear less of the laughing call because their nursery tree fell in a winter storm. A large hollow oak, a hundred yards from the cabin, had been home to at least two generations of young pileated woodpeckers and provided an adult hangout for more years than that. We were spoiled by daily visits of the big red-headed birds.

In part, we see less of them because I have been knocking down the fortress. I tell myself that I am cutting down the dead trees around the cabin for protection: to reduce the hazard from falling limbs and wildfire. But, the greater truth is that I’m lazy. I cut the firewood that is closest and easiest to bring to the fireplace. Even worse, I don’t begin to cut seriously until I feel a cold breath in the wind. By then, only standing dead wood is dry enough to burn. It’s too late to cull and season green wood to burn for the winter that is already pushing frost under the door. With each dead tree I cut, the pileated woodpeckers are driven further away and my woodlot fortress weakened.

Dr. Leopold died in 1948, while helping a neighbor fight a grass fire. I have often wondered what it was like growing up as one of his children. Many of us would pay good money as adults to sit around his campfire, but I imagine he was a demanding taskmaster. I had the honor of working a few hours with two of his children, both driven, strong-minded world-class scientists with deep conservation ethics. My image of their father came through strongly in their own characters.

I can picture him now, looking at my woodlot, not quite the fortress it should be, and gently, sternly, saying, “There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot. Where do you stand?”

A few Fridays ago, my five-year-old granddaughter delighted and surprised me by joining me, just grouchy old me, in a sleepover at our cabin. Izzy and I watched the snow fall, shared dreams in the fire, played with stuffed animals, and talked about real animals. On short walks, we debated cracking puddle ice (yes) and whether to take a cookie to the cave where we think the bear lives

(no). Maybe I can't ever reach the Leopold standards for wilderness fortresses, but I can hope to pass on my own version of the wilderness loving gene.

I am always glad to hear from readers, especially if you can share creative ways of surviving winter. So, write me at crummybut@aol.com and tell me how you plan to survive winter.

TREASURER'S REPORT, FOURTH QUARTER 2007

Treasurer Celso Puente reports that the organization had \$7,998.11 in its treasury at the end of the fourth quarter for calendar year 2007. Receipts for the quarter were \$4,892.00 from dues and contributions from 215 members. Disbursements for the quarter were \$1,245.53, including the printing of WRD Retirees Newsletter 137.

During the quarter a total of \$1,352.00 was received in contributions from 79 members. Special thanks for contributions above dues go to: Bruce Foxworthy, Robert W. James, Ann F. Bisset, Beth M. Wrege, James R. Rollo, Philip Lamoreaux, Gilbert Bartoli, Robert B. Wall, Paul Rettman, Elinor Handman, Frank D. Byrd, Leroy L. Knobel, Clarence T. Welborne, George W. Edelen, Theron R. Dosch, Ranard Pickering, Luther C. Davis, Robert E. Steacy, James B. Baker, Mrs. William J. Powell, Richard Swisshelm, G. Chase Tibbitts, Charlotte Burch, Lewis G. Conn, Lloyd A. Reed, Donald Jordan, Hal R. Langford, Richard Barnell, Joe David Camp, Chester E. Thomas, Albert Harr, Eileen Smith, Mrs. G. Scott (Lessie) Runner, Seymour "Sy" Subitzky, Bruce Parks, Wilbur Thomas, Gerald G. Parker Jr., Roger Waller, John W. Allingham, Lynn G. Barr, James R. Slack, Marjorie Martin, Kenneth R. Taylor, Frank C. Wells, Joe Cragwall, Hector Colon-Ramos, Steven Hindall, James. E. Biesecker, Dennis K. Steward, William F. Hardt, Gary L. Gallino, Donald Leifeste, Perry and Vivian Olcott, La Rue A. Baker-Odenbach, James F. Blakey, Chet Zenone, Edward Burke, Charles Showen, Jerry R. Smithson, Ronald E. Rathbun, Jerry C. Stephens, Rick Iwatsubo, Herbert J. Freiburger, David Moody, Vincent C. Lai, William Bartlett, Janis Ward, Edward Bolke, Mark Have, Norman Hutchinson, C.R. Wagner, Delmer J. O'Connell, Norman E. "Skip" Schmidt, Edward Davidson, Kenneth Markham, Russell F. Flint, Sulo Wiitala, Joe A. Moreland, Mark S. Gerl, and Walter Swain.

Do you owe dues to WRD Retirees for 2007 and 2008?

A review of dues received indicates there are about 240 members who owe dues for 2007. The Board of Directors is individually contacting each of these members in hopes that they sincerely want to remain active in WRD Retirees and to continue to receive the quarterly Newsletter and the annual Directory. Also, there are about 500 additional members who have not yet paid their WRD Retirees dues for 2008. Newly elected President Dick Engberg notes in his first "President's Message," contained on page 1 of this Newsletter, that the WRD Retirees organization would greatly appreciate you paying your 2008 dues. Please check your records and if you owe dues for 2008, send us a \$10 check.

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. His telephone number is 703-435-0031. If you need to write to Bill, please send him a note at the WRD Retirees office address, shown above.