

# WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 150  
February 2011

*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.*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well my first year of two has been completed and as I looked over my previous messages, I noticed that I always started them with a weather report for my area in Maryland. It has been a cold winter with almost all of the last 50 days having lows for the day in the low 20's or less. I can hear a whole bunch of you across the country saying, "low 20's is duck soup" which I understand; however, my \$600 electric bill in December was not duck soup!

2010 was a good year for the WRD Retirees in terms of accomplishments that keep the organization moving forward. Here are some accomplishments for 2010:

**A)** The 15<sup>th</sup> biennial reunion in Denver in September was superlative in every way. That's what happens when you have an outstanding reunion committee and I thank them profusely.

**B)** The quality of the WRD Retirees Newsletter is at an all time high, which I think all of you members know. Here are a few things you probably don't know.

1. At this time about 820 of our approximately 1420 members (60%) receive the newsletter via computer versus less than 10% several years ago.

2. A highlight is that the newsletter, on line, allows you to have photos in full color; another is that it saves the organization substantial money in printing costs and volunteer time to stuff envelopes for surface mailing. Before the advent of the computer on line feature, surface mailing involved printing 1800 copies of the newsletter; today we print only 600 copies. Please sign up for on-line delivery if you can.

**C)** There will be an option to receive the annual directory of retirees on-line if you receive the newsletter on line.

**D)** At this time there are 41 Water Science Center Offices (formerly District Offices) that have organizations in place to promote local retiree communication as opposed to approximately 10 several years ago.

**E)** Our organization, several years ago, developed a competitive scholarship program for students entering hydrologic technician programs at several community colleges, all in the West. The Board of Directors voted to accept two students per year instead of one and raised the scholarships to \$3000 for the first place winner and \$2000 for the second place winner. We think this program is a good investment.

**F)** Members of the Board, with the help of the Regional Directors, collected a substantial amount of back dues during the year, not a very popular task but a necessary one.

**G)** The treasury of our organization is in good financial standing.

Kathy Peter, chairperson for planning the 2012 reunion, in Boise, Idaho, tells me she has several people from Idaho and neighboring states who have agreed to help her. Planning has started and negotiating for a hotel is in progress. We have already received a message from a contingent of folks from Oregon who say they will attend the reunion in mass. If I were you, other neighboring states, I would consider that a challenge.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and my wife, Pat, I wish you a joyful, healthy, and prosperous 2011.



## NEWS OF RETIREES

**Andy Anderson** reports, "There were 25 retirees/spouses at the November HQ WRD Retirees lunch meeting. **Earl Greene** gave a presentation about the USGS Climate Change program. Earl reported on the results of atmospheric gas analyses performed on ice cores from the Greenland ice sheet and Antarctica. CO<sub>2</sub> and methane have increased since 1970. Also, snowmelt runoff is occurring earlier in the United States. We had 54 retirees/spouses at the annual Christmas lunch on December 6th. It was particularly good to see that **Milt** and **Pam Hackett** were able to attend. Everyone had a great time and **Tom Yorke** emceed the event with lots of door prizes. Of special note was a beautiful hand-crafter mosaic of a panda built and donated by **Phil Cohen** and won by **Mel Lew**. The January meeting was also well attended with 35 retirees/spouses having fun and lunch. **Dick Engberg** gave an interesting and enjoyable slide show of his recent Scotland trip."

**Ted Arnow** writes, "**Lois** has had 3 plants named after her: *Poa arnowiae*, *stipa arnowiae* and *Eramagone Loisiae*." Congratulations, Lois!

**Mark Ayers** writes, "Happy New Year... not sure I like these new years. They fly by as it is and this getting old stinks. I got a back ache as I write because of stuff I did yesterday. Oh well, I'm alive and still enjoying life. I really do enjoy the Newsletter. Nice way to keep up with folks and things."

**Jim** and **Vivian Bailey** say, "Best of luck to you all and we hope all is well with you. Have a great 2011."

**Jim Barks** says, "I have been busy preparing to mount a big bear, a whitetail buck, a mule deer buck, a bobcat, and a coyote for the kids and grandkids---and I was hoping my taxidermy load would be light this year. Have a happy holiday season. In October, the Missouri WRD retirees gathered at Reed's Lake near Rolla for a fun afternoon of eating, telling stories, and playing games. It was nice to have retired folks from the Independence Subdistrict Office and Ollivette Field Office show up. Attendees included **Gary Alexander**, **Jim** and **Patti Barks**, **Larry** and **Virgene Becker**, **Dale Blevins**, **George** and **Barbara Gray**, **Leon** and **Nelda Reed**, **Mary Rosenburg**, **John** and **Martha Skelton**, **Lloyd** and **Evelyn Waite**, and **Bob Whitaker**."

**Ann Beam** reports, "The WRD Retirees Newsletter just keeps getting better. The photos are great and the articles very interesting. I moved to Springwood, NC, a Life Care Retirement Community in August and I love it here. I was hoping to move here six years ago but decided to wait until my sheltie dog died. He would have missed my large fenced back yard. I was lucky to sell my house in three months and my children and

grandchildren helped me move. Thanks to all the Newsletter staff."

**Gordon Bennett** writes, "I still work as a volunteer in the Geology Department at the University of Texas-Arlington. I appreciate the fine job done by the Newsletter staff and enjoy reading about old colleagues."

**Craig Bentley** reports, "The Las Vegas WRD group had a luncheon December 7th. Lost one member temporarily (**Dave Bauer**) for the luncheon, heard from another who plans to come later (**Jerry Magner**). My wife, **VaDonna**, **Jim Daniel**, **Gerda Seaber**, and **Charlie** and **Pauline Moran** attended. We're still attempting to get more local people to attend. The next luncheon is on January 4th."

**Chuck Berkstresser** says, "Our big event of the year was a 3-day family reunion at Morro Bay (south of Monterey, near Hearst Castle). Brother George and his wife from Colorado and their family from Leadville were there. All four daughters, two (of five) granddaughters, both grandsons, and three sons-in-law also made it to the reunion. Edie joined me for this fine event. Daughter Jeanie had just moved into her new house in Atasacadero and was happily showing it off – after living in Los Angeles for 36 years. Last, but not least, I stay in contact with former Survey colleagues – mostly by phone."

**Gil Bertoldi** writes, "I hope all you WRD Retirees are well and enjoying life."

**Gary Bradford** says, "Regards to all the folks I worked with in WRD. I still do short Wave radio listening – it helped me in the past by teaching me about other countries and time zones, among other items. My travels are naught. Kind regards for the volunteers who keep WRD Retirees going."

**Bob Brennan** writes, "**Elaine** and I enjoyed seeing so many of our longtime WRD friends at the Denver reunion. We hope to see you again in Idaho in 2012."

**Allan Brown** reports, "**Jean** and I have moved to Highland Farms, a retirement community about 10 miles east of Asheville, NC. We need to drive only a few miles to get on the Blue Ridge Parkway which we can see from our living room after the leaves fall in the autumn. We are already making friends and enjoying our new life, although we miss all the people we knew and worked with in New Jersey. **Carolyn Bellante** is the new leader of the West Trenton NJ WRD Retirees Club since I left in October."

**Russ Brown** reports, "Austin living is very pleasant and satisfying, but I miss the former Reston associations."

## NEWS OF RETIREES

My best wishes to all WRD Retirees for a very fine holiday season.”

**Bob Burchett** writes, “**Libby** and I went to Daytona Beach, FL, for a family reunion of Libby’s Clan. This is the third reunion we have been to this fall. On the way back from Daytona Beach we stopped and visited with **Jerry** and **Janet Pascale** for a few days. Now that we are back in Austin, we plan to be around for a while.”

**Phil Carpenter** writes, “**Patrice** and I plan to leave Salem, OR, on December 29th (in our 5<sup>th</sup> wheel), beginning our back-on-the-road-again adventure. We’re heading to California, visiting friends and relatives that we haven’t seen in at least 3 years, and seeing some new faces, too. Then we meet up with friends in Quartzite, AZ, and on to Las Vegas to visit our son and family. Ever eastward we’ll stop in Phoenix/Mesa, on to Austin, TX, then wa-a-a-ay south to Weslaco, back up to Dallas, and on to our farthest eastern point in New Smyrna Beach, FL, turning westward right after April 1<sup>st</sup>. More relatives and friends we’ll visit in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa, where I was born and raised, then on back toward Salem with stops in Idaho and Washington, planning to return about May 1st. We have grown to love the Salem area and have many friends here, and we enjoy the coast and exploring the small towns. Patrice was born in Tillamook, grew up in Astoria, and had two years of college in Portland. Most of our resting in Salem was a result of placing Patrice’s mother Rena in a Memory Care facility in Lake Oswego, OR in October 2007. The RV park where we’ve been staying is only 37 miles from there. The place is cozy, secure and professional; the staff loves her; and we feel comfortable letting them care for her while we’re away. Patrice will return every 6 weeks to 2 months, or as needed, to visit and take care of business for her mother. We will spend Christmas day with kids and grandkids in the Puyallup area, then head on up to Skykomish, WA (east of Everett near Stevens Pass) to visit with our new 2-month old grandson and family. A year ago I had my right knee replaced – it is healed and I’m thriving. December 13<sup>th</sup> Philip’s carpal tunnel problems in both wrists were corrected, and he is healing well enough for us to leave on the 29<sup>th</sup>. We’ve been full-time RVing 6 years now, Philip enjoyed his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday in September (Patrice is 61) and next month we celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> year of marriage. And they said it wouldn’t last.”

**Edith Chase** says, “Best wishes for a continuing successful year for the WRD Retirees Newsletter and the other activities of WRD Retirees.”

**Denny** and **Dorothy Cline** report, “Dorothy spent the last year recovering her health – not yet fully recovered but it is good enough that the two of us went to Hawaii. We really enjoyed a week on Kauai seeing so much of that island. Later we spent ten days in St. George, UT,

seeing the beautiful scenery and enjoying the nice weather. We particularly enjoyed Zion National Park and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. We will be visiting our daughter in Oregon for Thanksgiving.”

**Hector Colon** says, “**Maria** and I are enjoying our retirement for quite a time and really everything is so beautiful. We really appreciate very much the effort and interest to make a dream come true, the WRD Retirees Newsletter via e-mail. Hope all you WRD Retirees have a wonderful Holiday Season!”

**John Crippen** reports, “**Eleanor** and I enjoy the WRD Retirees Newsletter very much. However, we see fewer and fewer names that we can associate with faces. The recollections that come to mind are good ones. We’ve been fortunate in the coworkers and friends that we’ve had since our first days with USGS in 1946, then in Washington (Arlington), Los Angeles, and finally Menlo Park. Best wishes to all for the holidays and have a good New Year!”

**Jim Daniel** writes, “Once while working at the ticket counter, a young man came up with a long rectangular box he wanted to check. One of the rules was that we had to know contents so I asked him, “What’s in the box?” He replied words to the effect, “Well, it may be a little complicated for most people to understand [After all, what would an old ignorant menial know?]. Basically, it’s what we call a probe that we lower down wells to find out some of the information about the well.” Dead pan, I then said, “Really. What company do you work for?” He replied, “A consulting firm called **Papadopoulos** and Associates.” I said, “How IS Stavros? I remember that when he first came into this country that the immigration officer had trouble pronouncing his name and decided that she would call him Steve. Tell the two Steves [Papadopoulos and **Larsen**] that Jim Daniel said ‘Hello.’” The young man never said another word and was still open-mouthed when I handed him his boarding pass and directed him to the gate!”

**Terry Danielson** says, “**Nina** and I are pretty good. She still is suffering from rheumatoid arthritis but it is rather stable. In February she had shingles and is still suffering some side effects. She also tore her rotor cuff tendon this fall and had limited motion for awhile -- not back to tennis yet! I still play tennis twice a week and ride my bike 10 miles twice a week also. I had another heart attack the day after Thanksgiving and had 3 more stents (now a total of 9) installed. Doing better now. We truly enjoyed the WRD Retirees Reunion in Denver – it was great to see so many good friends.”

**Win Durum** writes, “Another year has gone by and I continue to do well. I keep very busy with a lot of activities organized here. I celebrated my 91<sup>st</sup> birthday with my family and my in-laws that came to visit from

## NEWS OF RETIREES

Italy. I wish all of you love, happiness, and a wonderful holiday season."

**Fayne Edwards** writes, "I enjoy the Newsletter."

**Jim Ellis** writes, "I am thoroughly enjoying retirement. I miss many things about my work and miss the camaraderie of the many fine people who make working at USGS more than just a job, but I don't regret closing that chapter and moving on to the next phase of life. I truly enjoy reading the WRD Retirees Newsletter."

**Kathy Fidler** reports, "Dance, church activities, and golf continue to fill my life with friends and experiences here in Bella Vista, AR. My 2 months each year with family in the North Country fill my life with family. The eight grandchildren span from kindergarten to college sophomore year."

**Rick Fontaine** says, "Ann and I have been married 36 years. We have very much been enjoying retirement. Both Ann and I continue to work part time (about half time). Ann has her Psychology practice and I am doing some consulting work for the USGS in Hawaii. The balance of our time involves volunteer work and simply enjoying family and friends. We do a fair bit of traveling as I go back to Hawaii about 6 times a year. There never is a dull moment. Take care and happy holidays."

**Jim French** reports, "I appreciate the work of all the volunteers who keep WRD Retirees going."

**Don Diego Gonzales** says, "Thanks for all the hard work keeping WRD Retirees going. I really enjoy reading each edition of the WRD Retirees Newsletter."

**John George** has a new address, The Courts, 3790 W. Quincy, Denver, CO 80236. His phone number is 303-738-8500. Call him or send him a note.

**Bonnie Greeson** reports, "Another year has whipped by, time passes so quickly anymore. My 2 sisters and I continue to provide care for our 92 year-old mother. In July, 5 of my lady classmates and I rented a van to visit another classmate in Alpena, MI. We did all sorts of wonderful things, including a ferry trip to Mackinaw Island. There are no motorized vehicles there – just bikes, horses and horse and buggies. Lots of wonderful shops. You all understand about ladies and shopping! Hope all of you continue to have a healthy and happy year and a blessed holiday season."

**Milt and Pam Hackett** write, "We have been unable to send a Christmas letter for the last few years owing to health problems. This report is possible with the aid of our daughter, Wendy, who is visiting us from British Columbia. Pam has been in and out of the hospital due to pneumonia. She is now home but must be on oxygen permanently. Milt continues to be afflicted with

Neuropathy and associated problems – I use a walker and have poor balance. I have increasingly bad vision from Macular degeneration. We no longer drive so we have not been able to attend the reunions we so enjoyed in the past. Over the past few years, we have been saddened by the passing of so many of our relatives and long time friends – more than we like to think. We are grateful for frequent visits from our four children and their families. It is fun to be with them and they help us a great deal. They are all happy and doing well. We will soon have our 7<sup>th</sup> great grandchild. We continue to enjoy our life in retirement and our happy memories of by-gone days with you all. We wish you a blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year. Stay in touch!"

**Don Hadley**, a USGS retiree from the Geologic Division who served with WRD in the United Arab Emirates has recently joined WRD Retirees. Don is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University and has a Masters from Wisconsin and Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins. Don also spent a number of years working for the Survey in Saudi Arabia.

**Ron Hanson** writes, "I have been thinking about contacting the WRD Newsletter to let people know that all has not gone well for me in 2010. In early July I had an attack of pericarditis (inflammation of the membrane around the heart) and spent several days in the hospital. Recovered OK from that by September, but then ended up back in the hospital by mid-October for several weeks with abscesses around the left kidney. After a couple surgeries and several weeks on potent antibiotics, I am finally home and hopefully recovering. Doctors have told me it will be a long haul to get my energy and strength back...so it doesn't look like we will get to spend this winter in Tucson. **Ellie** has been dealing with a torn tendon in her right leg for several months and it looks like she may need a cast. We had hoped to attend the WRD reunion in Denver last September, but obviously couldn't make it. Sure wish I could give more positive news, but as a T-shirt I have says, "It is what it is!" Hopefully, 2011 will be better."

**William Hardt** says, "I enjoy the Newsletter. Regards to all WRD Retirees."

**Bill Herb** writes, "Hi to all!"

**Rick Iwatsubo** says, "All is fine here in Carmichael, CA. I am having to deal with an aging mother with dementia. She needs care 24/7 so we have her in a care facility. I wish all WRD Retirees a wonderful Christmas."

**Ben Jones** writes, "Mae and I really appreciate all of the hard work that goes in to the Newsletter and in keeping WRD Retirees operating."

## NEWS OF RETIREES

**Kathy Jones-Waggoner** reports, "My summer was spent taking care of my father-in-law in the hospital in Saginaw, MI. He spent 28 days in the hospital and they finally diagnosed him with a high grade brain tumor. The day he was released from the hospital we were on a plane the very next day headed back to Seattle. We don't know how much time he has but will make what time he has enjoyable. The VA Hospitals in Tacoma and Seattle have been absolutely wonderful and I don't know what I would have done without their help."

**Joel Kimrey** says, "Keep up the good work."

**Rick and Sandy Krause** write, "Keep us the good work in keeping WRD Retirees functioning."

**Larry Land** reports, "Marty and I wish you all a wonderful New Year. We're fine and staying busy."

**Pat Latkovich** writes, "I will find out the results of my recent cat-scan on Dec. 6. I feel sure all is ok. I am still trying to get my strength back, but that is a part of Cancer. Hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas."

**Irene Leaffer-Levine** says, "It is fun and interesting reading the WRD Retirees Newsletter, even though I don't know very many of the contributors anymore."

**George Leavesley** writes, "RoseAnn and I visited Egypt for three weeks this fall – wonderful trip. It was great seeing so many of you at the reunion in Denver."

**Ken Lindskov** reports, "All is well in Rapid City. Thanks to all the volunteers who keep WRD Retirees going."

**Russ Livingston** writes, "Anita and I have had a busy year. We went to Mexico in January, Texas (Padre Island) in February, Utah in March, Florida in May (Disneyworld), Italy – the Italian Riviera, Tuscany and Rome in September. We also enjoyed the Retirees reunion in Denver. Have a wonderful holiday season!"

**Bruce Lloyd** reports, "The Newsletter is a gem to me. Keep up the good work!"

**Rick and Debbie Lumia** say, "Thanks to all who volunteer for WRD Retirees, Merry Christmas to all."

**Bill and Helene Mann** write, "We are once again feeding the birds during the winter months. The feeders have been empty during the summer months because the bears like to visit and clean out the feeders! We took a long trip by auto traveling to visit Helene's sister in Oklahoma and then to Denver for the retirees reunion. If you are even in the panhandle of Oklahoma visit the Black Mesa Mountains, the highest point in OK and a well kept secret. It is not a state park or National park. The stratification on the mountains is stunning and

this beauty went on for about 15 miles. We also liked the solitude and wildflowers. Our family is well."

**Marjorie Martin** reports, "I am so proud to be a retiree from the USGS!"

**Dennis McClain** writes, "Been retired for a couple of years now and just wanted to let everyone know what I've been up to. Still going to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota every August; 2011 will make our 10th year in a row. The Black Hills of South Dakota is beautiful country and wonderful riding. This year we took an extra week and spent a week in Yellowstone riding. During the Yellowstone stay we crossed the continental divide twice, saw some beautiful country, did the ride over Bear Tooth Pass and saw some of the most outstanding scenery we've ever encountered. After Yellowstone we headed to the Sturgis Rally for a week of riding in the Black Hills. Summers are spent mostly boating on Dale Hollow Lake in Tennessee. It's a great place to get away from the telephone and to do some serious relaxing. I'm not a fisherman, but am able to occupy my time with the help of a good book and Miller Lite. Spring and fall are spent riding our side by side (small 4 wheel drive utility vehicle) in the hills of Tennessee and Kentucky. It's great to get back to nature and see unspoiled country."

**Dale McMurtrey** writes, "It has been a long time since I contributed to the WRD Retirees Newsletter. It seems as though procrastination comes easier with age. I am sure that those of you that are recently retired have never heard of me. Next year I will have been retired for as long as the 31 years I worked! All except two of those years were in Montana. Early on we enjoyed our place in Victor, MT in the Bitterroot valley. We had a week's timeshare in Fairmont Estates, about half way between Butte and Anaconda. We used it to trade for a week in condos around the world. That, coupled with cheap airline tickets from a son that worked for Northwest, now Delta, Airlines allowed us to enjoy foreign travel to various places in Europe, The British Isles, Australia and New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands and around the US and nearby islands. Now at 85 years old, we confine most of our travels to visits around the states. With 6 children, 26 grandchildren and 25 great-grand children, there are plenty of events to travel to every year. We plan on living another year so we can enjoy a party being planned for a family reunion and our 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in Las Vegas! I enjoy the Newsletter even though I recognize very few of the names. Keep up the good work."

**Charlie Merk** writes, "Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 2010 has been an "annus horribilis" for me. The "Grim Reaper" visited me twice! On April 15, I called 911 with symptoms I thought were food poisoning. These symptoms turned out to be from a perforated colon. A surgery removed a

## NEWS OF RETIREES

foot of the large intestine and left me with a colostomy. Fortunately, the colostomy was able to be reversed and this operation was on September 7, along with major abdominal surgeries to repair two hernias and rebuild the abdominal wall muscles. The next day I had a heart attack. Several weeks later, I had a quintuple heart bypass surgery. Needless to say, I am fortunate to have survived these calamities. The good news is that I had family and friends to provide home health care for the many weeks that left me home bound. I continue to improve day by day and I am enrolled in cardiac rehab at the Broward General Hospital wellness center in Fort Lauderdale. Last week, the cardiologist gave me a clean bill of health and the next appointment with him is in six months. The doctors all encouraged me to resume my travel and such so I took a Caribbean Cruise the week after Thanksgiving. I am hoping to have a healthy year in 2011 and wish to hear from you via email or phone."

**Bob Middleburg** reports, "Carol and I still are enjoying retirement here in Port Townsend, WA. My knees are starting to pop and grind although they are still the original ones! Carol and I are actively trying to keep up with our business, Townsend Bay Soap Company, as it seems to want to keep growing. That keeps me busy creating a bigger production facility to handle orders. We do manage to take vacations by heading south in the motor home to Arizona and California several months during the winter. Guess that makes us rain birds. We are looking forward to the upcoming WRD Retirees Reunion in Idaho in 2012 and plan to make that one."

**John Moore** writes, "I have remained active in GSA and the International Association of Hydrogeologists. In July, I presented a series of hydrologic talks in Columbia, SA with Bob Reynolds (Denver Museum of Nature and Science). He was a volunteer geologist for the Boy Scouts of America in Philmont, NM. We both were in Poland to attend an IAH Congress and took a field trip to Auschwitz concentration camp. In October, **Dickie** and I went to Ohio where I received an Honorary Doctor of Science from Ohio Wesleyan University and completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of a field hydrogeology book and mailed it to the publisher. He is now working with **Joe Rosenshein** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the "History of Hydrogeology." Dickie recently underwent several operations to replace her knees and hips. Thank heaven for modern medicine. She has managed to lose the extra weight she has gained over the past several years. We have been spending time improving our house, including the addition of 19 solar panels to the roof in February which resulted in a major reduction in our electrical bill."

**John Musser** writes, "The Louisiana retirees had their Holiday luncheon on December 1 with 11 attendees. Several regular members could not attend owing to

unfavorable weather. **George Arcement**, Associate Director of the LA Water Science Center, reviewed current water activities, including the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and the USGS national realignment into a "science theme" organization. George didn't think the realignment in HQ would have a significant impact on the programs in the science center."

**Carole Nethaway** writes, "May your Holiday season be filled with peace, your Christmas with blessings and your New Year with joy. While much of our time this year was focused on health issues, **Charles** and I were able to take a two-week road trip to Chincoteague, Virginia; the Finger Lakes region of New York; Vermont, New Hampshire and a quick view of the ocean in Maine and Massachusetts. God also gave us the strength to spend the end of August at a beautiful resort call Wild Dunes on the Isle of Palms, SC with our daughter and her family. It was truly a gift. The timing was perfect, as I was admitted to Reston Hospital with a significantly blocked colon due to Primary Peritoneal Cancer that required two surgeries. I was released after almost two months (Sept. and Oct.). November found me under emergency care at the Hospice In-Patient Center in Arlington. After many months of prayer and failed treatment, we could not believe what happened next. Hospice began the use of a new drug and offered it to me. Two days after taking the medicine, there was no projectile vomiting or pain. Incredible relief. I am now under Hospice care at home. One of the joys of the summer of 2009 was the joy of our grandson, Chase, on July 21. Charles and I were able to celebrate Thanksgiving day, 2010, at our home, along with two of our daughters and their families. It was a great treat to finally be able to spend time with them. A year had made such a difference in the development of the kids. What fun! My illness has kept me inside and not as mobile as I would like to be. We are hoping that I will soon begin to gain the strength needed for short excursions and visits. Charles and I are so thankful for your prayer support and encouragement."

**Roy Newcome** writes, "I've counted only 31 names in the 2010 WRD Retirees Directory that have been retired longer than me. I'm ancient! WRD is a good outfit. I enjoyed nearly every minute of my 32 years in USGS. I also enjoyed the 25 years in part-time work with the South Carolina water agencies. I stopped only when SC ran out of money for such practices as paying part-time workers."

**Cynthia Norman** writes, "I joined my church friends in a marvelous trip to Scotland and London in September. Besides enjoying the beautiful countryside and historic sites, we visited the beginnings of Methodism, where John Wesley got his start at Oxford. I spent Thanksgiving with family and friends in Albuquerque. I hope 2010 has been a year of joy for you all."

## NEWS OF RETIREES

**John Oberg** reports, "Thanks to all involved with putting out the WRD Retirees Newsletter. **Joan** and I spent the last two winters in Florida, but last year there were some days warmer up here, so in hopes that the mild weather repeats we decided to brave this winter in northern Michigan."

**Jerry Pascale** says, "All of you volunteers who work keeping WRD Retirees functioning so well are really appreciated by all the rest of us. It was good seeing so many of my fellow retirees in Denver. It reminded me of the "good old days." Warm regards to all retirees."

**Doug Posson** reports, "We've moved to Maine. I have been in touch with **Lee Lenfest** to see if there are other WRD Retirees in Maine – very few!"

**Paul Rhone** writes. "I enjoyed the Denver WRD Retirees reunion. It was a lot cooler there than it was in Texas at the same time. It was great to see so many old friends."

**Stan Sauer** reports, "After a tough 6 months, **Virginia** is doing better health wise. We think and pray she has turned the corner to better days."

**Bob** and **Jean Schoen** say, "We had a great time at the Lakewood reunion. It's nice to see friends who are still breathing since our last reunion. We'll keep our fingers crossed for 2012. On Friday, we visited the Celestial Seasonings plant in Boulder with a friend who dates back to our A.E.C. days on the Colorado Plateau. And for a memorable Friday night, **Janice Ward** recommended a little Italian restaurant in Lakewood, Cafe Jordano. We had to wait more than half an hour for a table, but what a worthwhile wait. They served the best Italian food I've ever eaten; and I have eaten a lot of Italian food in my nearly 80 years. It is a good thing I don't live any closer to Denver because I'd be over at the Cafe Jordano at least once a month. And even on a busy Friday night, the owner, Elisa, visited every table to chat a little. On Saturday, we took the Georgetown field trip amid blue skies and perfect temperatures. Jean did a little early Christmas shopping, and so did I and we boosted the local economy a bit, we hope."

**John Shanton** reports, "Merry Christmas to all WRD Retirees from **Linda** and me. We hope you all have a joyous and healthy New Year. My family and I had a marvelous trip to Switzerland and Austria this fall. I got to visit the home of my grandfather in Switzerland."

**John Scott** writes, "I'm sorry to learn that so many WRD Retirees have passed on during the past two years. As far as I know, all Alabama retirees are still alive and able to get up to the dinner table. Some of us have had some replacement parts. For example,

**Bobby Byrd** has two new knees. **Kim** and I are doing OK. We still plant a vegetable garden and I have a peach orchard that mostly supplies the coons, squirrels, birds, and deer. But we are able to harvest a few peaches. We also have about 50 azaleas and 20 camellias that we have to water during droughts. I still have an Alabama Geologist license but consulting jobs have been few this year. Charles Ming has an engineering consulting company that is doing quite well in spite of the economy. I enjoy the Newsletters."

**Bill Shope** reports, "**Jani** and I are in the process of buying a new home north of Winchester in Stephenson, VA. We hope to be moved by the end of March. The new home will put us a lot closer to our three grandchildren."

**Dick** and **Liska Snyder** write, "Thanks to all who keep WRD Retirees going."

**Bob Steacy** reports, "I am now 95 but my mind works OK – I think! I write a column for the assisted living center where I live. I had trouble with angina so the doctors installed a pacemaker 2 weeks ago and everything seems to be working fine. I celebrated Thanksgiving with my son Peter and his family in Houston which is only a 30 minute drive from here."

**Note:** As we were going to press we learned Bob passed away on January 18, 2011. An In Memoriam will appear in the May Newsletter.

**Herb and Elaine Stevens** report, "We continue to enjoy retirement. Merry Christmas to all WRD Retirees. We still keep busy. Two daughters and families live here and our youngest daughter and family are in Pueblo. Eldest daughter lives in Bend, OR with her husband and son. We travel a bit. Went to California in November with our daughter and her family. We had our dog, Exley, with us who went to final training for Canine Companions for Independence. This is a wonderful organization. Minnesota beckoned in October as we had a death in the family. We appreciate all of the efforts of the VA retirees who keep the organization so current with news of the members."

**Dick Swisshelm** writes, "**Sheri** and I are making a trip to Australia and New Zealand in January. We are looking forward to the trip – not the long flight."

**Chet Thomas** reports, "We survived the blizzard and snowstorm of Christmas week 2010. The family is fine. I enjoy reading the WRD Retirees Newsletter and keeping up with old friends. I am in touch with former WRD Connecticut staffers **Jim Bingham** and **Fred Ruggles**. They appear to be doing OK. We were saddened to hear of the passing of **Miner (Jim) Stackpole**, a longtime Connecticut surface water

## NEWS OF RETIREES

engineer. He was one of the main cogs in the surface water section of the District. He will be missed by all who knew him."

**Ken Vanlier** says, "Many thanks to all the retirees who keep the WRD Retirees going."

**Cathy Jones-Waggoner** writes, "I can't believe it's been 4 years since I retired. My summer was spent taking care of my father-in-law in the hospital in Saginaw, MI. He spent 28 days in the hospital and they finally diagnosed him with a high grade brain tumor. The day he was released from the hospital we were on a plane the very next day headed back to Seattle. We don't know how much time he has but will make what time he has enjoyable. The VA Hospitals in Tacoma and Seattle have been absolutely wonderful. I don't know what I would have done without them."

**John Wark** reports, "This past year started with me having successful colon cancer surgery. I am now taking a chemo drug, targeted at where the cancer had spread. This is slow but we are hopeful for good results.

**Marcella** is again taking treatments to induce remission of leukemia which worked before. In spite of all this, on good days we have been able to play a little golf with our senior groups and continue doing family history. Our DNA projects have been fun to work with. We were well enough to go to Lakeside, AZ in July for 3 weeks of happy times with family."

**Wayne Webb** says, "Sue and I continue to enjoy retirement. I had numerous fishing trips this year. I currently am working two part-time jobs (20 hours per week at each), volunteering with the local fire and rescue squad, bowling, and poker. Sue is still active in "Red Hat," United Methodist women, and bowling. Peace on Earth and a turn around in our economy would be the greatest gifts ever."

**Jack and Judy Weeks** write, "We still continue to live in Denver except for the cold winter months that we spend at our place in Arizona. In AZ, we seem to do more socializing, probably because the community is mainly retirees and most of us play golf. We hope you all are healthy and wish you the very best New Year."

**CT Welborn** says, "The November TX WRD Retiree meeting was a success. The December meeting will be our Christmas celebration. **Dixie** and I will be going to Port Aransas with my daughters and Dixie's son Brice and his family and Dixie's daughter Sarah, and her family. That will be a big crowd down there. Sarah has 9 children ranging from about 5 years to 23 years. Just some of the children will be there. There will be separate condos. It will be a great time on the beach."

**Sulo Wiitila** writes, "**Leone** and I are still kicking but not too hard – me at 92 and Leone at 91. We continue to go out for a least one meal a day and then it can be anything. Luckily we have grand kids to do the mowing and snow blowing."

**Sandy Williamson** reports, "I am continuing as a USGS volunteer on the stream view project that I started a few months before retirement [6/2010]. We hope it will be supported by Google and the likes to host photos, videos, and 3-D "ala street-view" pics contributed by anyone, focused and indexed to the streams of the USA. Progress is slow, but the next step is a contractor preparing a demo site. Hope to share the link soon. We built a 1,000 sq. ft. garage this summer for use in my boat sales business, as the contractor and framer. I am excited to be teaching Pacific NW Geology at UW Tacoma campus this winter quarter. I just passed my test for coast guard commercial captain's license. It is called OUPV or "six-pack" because it allows me to captain with 6 paying passengers. One of the 4-part test was hard because you have to make 90% to pass and it is lots of memorization. Next step is to upgrade to Master 50 ton license. How did I have time to work before? October 25-27 [weird that it all happened in two days]-[Google and facebook make it relatively easy] our oldest AND one of our twins that we adopted both made connections with their birth families and we are all flying to meet 1 or 2 of the families at Thanksgiving in So. CA. It was quite a week."

**Loren and Renee Young** write, "We are both doing well. We celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in October with almost all of our family. Our two children and their spouses, four of our five grandchildren and two of our four great grandchildren – another due next June! We did take a vacation in September, drove with our daughter and son-in-law to our time share in Rancho Mirage, near Palm Springs. It's a beautiful place but it was pretty hot. Stayed around 104 most of the time -- thank goodness for air conditioning. Renee is back at her Jazzercise class twice a week even after her hip replacement last year. I try to take fairly long walks two or three times a week, but I am not chasing that little white ball anymore. We wish you all a healthy 2011."



**WRD NEWS**  
**Recent Retirees**

**Note to all WRD Retirees: Recent retirees automatically become new members. Please treat these new members as old friends – welcome them aboard and invite them to local meetings. Call them and ask them to become active in our wonderful organization. Thanks!**

**Northeastern Region:**

Stephen P. Blumer, Hydrologist, 186 E. Sherwood Rd., Williamston, MI 48895 (517) 349-1569 - 01/01/2011  
Harold G. Henderlite, Hydro. Tech., 156 Rocky Hollow Rd., Atkins, VA 24311 (276) 783-2119 – 01/01/2011  
Kalman N. Isaacs, Hydro.Tech., 1867 Garth Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19116 (215) 676-6257– 10/29/2010  
Robin G. Middlemis-Brown, Hydrologist, 1258 Gay Lac La Belle Dr., Lake Linden, MI 49945 (906) 296-8097 – 11/02/2010  
Michael J. Welsh, Hydro. Tech., 3852 Halls Corner Rd., Interlaken, NY 14847 (607) 532-9278 – 12/31/2010  
Joseph F. Whitley, Hydro.Tech., 102 North Street, Jefferson, MA 01522 – 11/05/2010  
Robert B. Winowitch, Hydro.Tech., 53 Longstreet Dr., Lake Grove, NY 11755 (631) 585-4009 – 12/31/2010  
Stephen W. Wolcott, Hydrologist, 403 Derzee Court, Delmar, NY 12054 – 01/03/2011

**Southeastern Region:**

Mary L. Anderson, Info. Asst., 2364 Shadowbrook Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70816 (225) 753-3411 – 12/31/2010  
Broderick E. Davis, Hydrologist, 223 Fairways, Dr., Vicksburg, MS 39183 (601) 638-8945 – 12/31/2010  
Norman E. Peters, Hydrologist, 3923 Carriage House Lane, Duluth, GA 30096 (770) 476-9397 – 12/31/2010  
Philip L. Stephens, Hydro. Tech., 401 Hardin Road, Little Rock, AR 72211 (501) 624-5836 – 12/31/2010  
Brian F. Wahl, Hydro.Tech., 210 Sarah Drive, Westminster, SC 29693 (843) 379-9937 – 01/01/2011

**Central Region:**

Walter R. Aucott, Hydrologist, 3710 Hartford Ave., Lawrence, KS 66047 (785) 749-1089 – 12/31/2010  
Dorothy Ann Barnett, Admin. Asst., 1712 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Helena, MT 59601 (406) 442-4623 – 12/31/2010  
Larry V. Benson, Hydrologist, 602 Pine Street, Boulder, CO 80302 (303) 449-5529 – 11/01/2010  
Phillip R. Bowman, Hydrologist, 1902 Inez Drive NE., Albuquerque, NM 87110 (505) 323-7724 – 11/30/2010  
Tony Ellis Coffey, Hydro. Tech., 15612 Champions Glen, Choctaw, OK 73020 (405) 390-9096 – 12/03/2010  
Virginia A. John, Hydro. Tech., 81663 Hwy 70, Ord, NE 68862 (308) 728-5690 – 12/31/2010  
Dee L. Lurry, Hydrologist, 4813 Transit Circle, Austin, TX 78727 (512) 834-9420 – 01/01/2011  
Steven A. Martin, Supply Tech., 7745 W. 87<sup>th</sup> Dr., Arvada, CO 80005 (303) 750-1367 – 12/31/2010  
Barbara K. Kerans, Info. Spec., 28848 Cedar Circle, Evergreen, CO 80439 (303) 670-0665 – 12/31/2010  
Ralf F. Montanus, Hydro. Tech., P.O. Box 144, Coy, AR 72037 (501) 275-8180 – 12/31/2010  
Tino J. Quintana, Hydro. Tech., 1509 Garcia St. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112 (505) 293-8152 – 12/31/2010  
Dale R. Rankin, Hydrologist, 3309 June St. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111 (505) 877-3103 – 12/31/2010  
Patricia Ann Speckman, Secretary, 8587 W. Hampden Ave., Apt. 5-207, Lakewood, CO 80227 – 11/01/2010  
Barbara E. Wessner, Budget Analyst, P.O. Box 1837, Rolla, MO 65402 (573) 364-5619 – 12/31/2010  
John F. Wojcik, Hydro. Tech., 7810 Callaghan Road #04, San Antonio, TX 78229 (210) 340-3740 – 12/31/2010

**Western Region:**

Jo Ann Eggers, Prog. Asst., 100 Salmon Beach, Tacoma, WA 98407 (253) 752-8197 – 12/31/2010  
Christopher D. Farrar, Hydrologist, P.O. Box 202, Tahoe Vista, CA 96148 (530) 546-8970 – 12/31/2010  
James J. Gibbons, Hydro. Tech., 9855 West Rd., Redwood Valley, CA 95470 (707) 485-7955 – 12/31/2010  
Thomas C. Haltom, Geographer, 1106 Church Street, Roseville, CA 95678– 12/31/2010  
Daryl R. Slawnikowski, Hydro. Tech., 21760 Standing Rock Ave., Apple Valley, CA 92307 (760) 247-5067 – 12/31/2010  
Gregory F. Susich, Hydro. Tech., 1538 T Street, Eureka, CA 95501 (707) 442-8236 – 12/31/2010  
Davison V. Vivit, Chemist, 1427 Las Palmas Drive, Santa Clara, CA 95051 (408) 983-0459 – 12/31/2010

**Note to all recent retirees listed above:** Welcome to WRD Retirees! Learn more about us at our web page at WRDRetirees.org. If there is no phone number listed for you above, please call Bill Boning, WRD Retirees Secretary at 703-435-0031 or email him at [cwboning@verizon.net](mailto:cwboning@verizon.net) to provide such. Thanks! Also, if you have an email address, please provide Bill Boning with that information.

## What's New in Research

By Jerad Bales

### Repeat Photography — A Tool for Documenting Landscape Change

The USGS is the guardian of the largest archive of “repeat photographs” in the world—the Desert Laboratory Collection— which contains images from the American Southwest, as well as also northwestern Mexico and Kenya. Repeat photography is the practice of taking photographs at different times from the same vantage points and remains an essential and cost-effective technique for scientists and researchers working to track and study landscape change. The Desert Laboratory Repeat Photography Collection, maintained by National Research Program scientist Bob Webb and photo archivist Diane Boyer, is rooted in the work of a Bavarian professor, Sebastian Finsterwalder, who pioneered the technique of repeat photography in 1889 in order to estimate rates of glacial retreat in the Alps. Before the 1950s, only a few studies used repeat photography as a scientific tool in the United States. In 1956-1957, Homer Shantz repeated images he had taken on 1919-20 and 1924 excursions from Cape Town to Cairo in Africa. This publication, the first book-length report of landscape change relying entirely on repeat photography, was highly influential in the fledgling field.

*Repeat Photography—Methods and Applications in the Natural Sciences* (2010, Island Press; <http://islandpress.org/bookstore/details6e05.html>), edited by Webb, Boyer, and retired USGS scientist Raymond Turner, provides a broad overview of this scientific endeavor. The book explores the technical and geographic scope of this important technique, with an emphasis on the intertwined influences of climatic variation and land-use practices in sculpting landscapes. Webb’s own research has focused on vegetation changes in the Mojave Desert (<http://mojave.usgs.gov/time-series/>). Late 19th century and early 20th century, settlers in the Mojave were more concerned with mineral extraction than in maintaining permanent settlements. Several areas were settled and then abandoned and have remained unused. These ghost towns and mines provide sites to study vegetation recovery through repeat photography over periods of up to 100 years. Use of repeat photographs to document changes from human disturbance, as shown in the images below.



Beginning in the late 1960s, recreational use of motorcycles and four-wheel-drive vehicles became concentrated in the western Mojave Desert. The photograph on the left was made in 1968. Only a few trails are visible on the midground hill slopes, and most of the bottomland vegetation is relatively undisturbed. The photograph on the right was made in 1999. Differences between 1968 and 1999 conditions include less vegetation in 1999, more sediment at the toe of the slope in 1999, and increased size of some of the remaining 1999 vegetation.

## LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

The Oregon WRD Retirees are a very active group consisting of 31 couples. They meet every 2 months with a different couple hosting lunch at a restaurant. Watch out Idaho -- they have been talking about heading to the WRD Retirees Reunion in Boise in 2012! Oregon retirees who attended their most recent lunch are shown in the three photos below.



**LtoR: Front:** Dick & Jo Kraus; **Back:** Kay & Ed Bolke  
Toney & Carol Laenen



**LtoR: Front:** Dave & Eilene Curtiss, Dave & Evelyn Harris  
**Back:** Lynette & Al Onions



**LtoR: Front:** Bruce Fisher, Linda Kroll, Margaret Hubbard. **Back:** Bill McFarland, Carol Kroll, Ed Hubbard

The Ohio WRD Retirees had another fun meeting in December. They meet every other month.



**LtoR: Front:** Jane Hinterschied, Bernie Sroka, Merle Katzenbach, Dean MacFadden, Al Seam, Janet Welday  
**Back:** Jerry Stewart, Steve Hindall, Wanda & Chuck Owens, Max Katzenbach

## LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

The Louisiana WRD Retirees met for a Christmas celebration on December 1.  
These folks get together 4 times a year.



**LtoR:** George Arcement (Associate Director, LA Water Science Center), Don Dial, George Cardwell, Nancy Musser, Dale Nyman, John Musser, Cheryl Johnson, Noland Johnson, Linda Knochenmus and Darwin Knochenmus.

The Texas WRD Retirees wish all of our USGS/WRD family a very Happy New Year.  
The photo shows the Texas Retiree's Christmas party group. All had a good time.



**LtoR: Back:** Helen Davidson, Emma & Paul Rettman, Frank Wells, Tish Reeves, Jayne May, Libby & Bob Burchett  
**Front:** Alicia Ranzau, Bev & Bud Anderson, CT Welborn, Paul Rohne, Francis Goodwih (CT's daughter), Joe (Owner of Ruffi's restaurant)

## LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

The Hawaii WRD retirees meet several times a year for lunch and fun.  
Photos from their November lunch are below.

John Yee is the photographer and organizer. That's why he isn't in the photos – but his better half is there!



L to R: Salwyn & Catherine Chinn, Grace Tateishi



Emi and Hideo Gushiken



Lodie Celebrado & Elaine Yee



L to R: Karen Griffon, Amy Watanabe, George & Linda Dayag



Pearl Tam, Violet Ansai, Frank & Lolita Romualdo

The HQ WRD Retirees could not function without the hard work of Andy Anderson who makes arrangements with the restaurant, sets the menu, collects money and contacts all the HQ retirees about the meeting. Thanks, Andy!



Mary and Andy Anderson at the HQ WRD Retiree Christmas party, December 2010.

## LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

The HQ WRD retirees had a great Christmas party. Some of the 54 retirees/spouses who attended are shown below. Photos courtesy of Linda Shanton.



Tom Yorke hosted the prize presentations.



Dick Engberg, Jim Bley, Linda & Bill Carswell (visiting from KS), Nancy Bley and Dennis Sulam.



George Edelen, Tom & Marie Buchanan having fun. That's Milt Hackett and Hal Langford behind Tom.

## WRD Retiree Volunteers in Action

### USGS volunteer deepens well and installs solar pump system and windmill in Mexico for mission

By Sandy Williamson

My wife, Debbie, and I have been taking teens and adults to Mexico for 1-week mission construction trips for the last 30+ years from churches in California, Texas, and Washington. For the last 12+ years, we have been going to the same mission in San Vincent, Baja, Mexico about 3 hours south of the border on highway 1. This is a great mission run by a team started by two US ladies. They have a battered mom's shelter with 15-20 moms and their 100+ kids that they have usually for a year or more. They also started a church and an outreach to the migrant farm workers and a men's rehabilitation ranch outside of town with no electricity or water. In 2008, we started a big fundraiser to build a new building for our 2<sup>nd</sup> campus and decided to invest 10% of the donations in missions. This meant more resources and opportunity to do something more with the men's rehabilitation facility. We did recon trips and helped them craft a plan for a self-sufficient ranch operation. This included a well and water system to water the animals [pigs and chickens] and the orchard and truck garden. The system included a 10,000 gallon concrete tank at the low point in the 35 acre property where the well is and a 15,000 gallon tank at the top of the place to feed the rest by gravity.

Developing the well was quite interesting. They started digging the well with the men at the ranch in between our trips and when we got there they had an 8 ft diameter hole 30 ft deep, entirely dug by hand with shovel and buckets. That is over 50 yards or 5 dump trucks full of dirt. Pretty impressive. We poured a concrete collar in place at the bottom to prevent caving as they were in the capillary fringe. They kept digging a 4 ft diameter hole below. To prevent caving we had them put in chain link fence supported by posts 'stapled' into the walls using reinforcing bar bent in the shape of a U. This worked for a season until the winter water table rise caused caving. Fortunately we had inserted a 10 inch diameter PVC pipe as a casing that we had cut hundreds of short saw cuts with a circular saw.

The next year we planned several big tasks: a 30 ft tower holding a windmill, a solar powered pump system to pump the water up to the upper tank, and using the windmill tower to operate a make-shift cable-tool drilling operation. We assembled the tower on the ground, with 2 legs bolted to plates set in the concrete foundation pad around the well as pivoting hinges. We used two 16 ft 2x8s as a 'gin pole' and a boat trailer winch hooked from a suburban trailer hitch over the gin pole to the top of the tower. You can see pictures and videos at:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/sandeb2/09MexicoMissionJuneWindmillAndMore#>

In many parts of the world, many people do not have good water even at a village well. Some of us should help. See also:

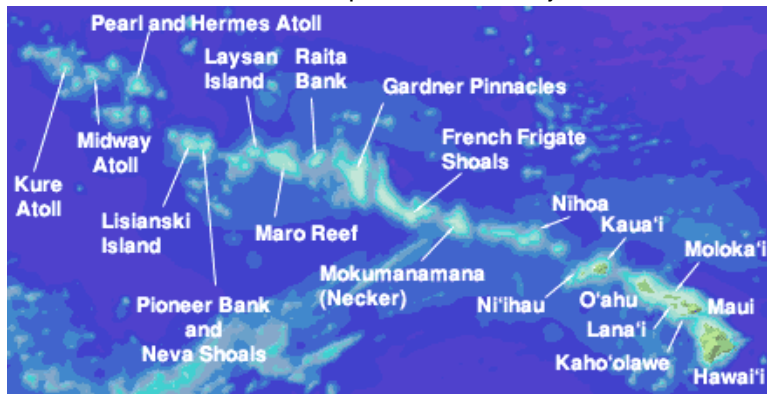
[lifewater.org](http://lifewater.org) Fighting poverty through safe water  
<http://www.ewb-usa.org/> engineers without borders

## WRD Retiree Volunteers in Action

### Working to save Monk Seals

by John Klein

The Hawaiian monk seals are an endangered species that live only throughout the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) and the Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI). Monk Seals are from the seal order, Pinnipedia and are from the earless seal family. Monk Seals have existed for almost 10 million years and are believed to have evolved from terrestrial mammals such as weasels and perhaps bears. The seals were abundant in the Hawaii region until almost hunted to extinction in the 1700's. Today there are approximately 1200 left but at present their population has shown a decline of about 4% a year. They are declining due to a low (less than 3 years old) juvenile survival rate due to starvation, shark predation, and entanglement (seals often become entangled in plastic debris in the ocean such as fishing nets and lines and fewer maturing females. We often see seals with severe propeller wounds and scars. Some seals are shot at and a pregnant female was killed last summer. That person is now in jail.



First a bit of geography--The Hawaiian Islands are a large archipelago (group of islands/atolls) that is 1550 miles long running from northwest (Midway) to the southeast (The Big Island/Hawai'i). The (NWHI) are uninhabited islands and made up of 132 very small islands/atolls that are populated by a large number of seabirds. While the state of Hawaii includes all of these islands, the NWHI chain is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a large wildlife

refuge/breeding habitat for sea turtles, seabirds, and Monk Seals. There are no full-time human residents on the NWHI. In the illustration, you can see that the inhabited MHI in the southeastern corner of the state of Hawaii (Kauai, Oahu, Moloka'i, Maui and Hawai'i) occupy a very small area of the entire State.

Most of the time Monk Seals spend time on the tiny island/atolls in the NWHI chain. But lately, seals are now being seen "hauling out" on several of the inhabited islands such as Kauai, Oahu, and Maui. Kauai generally at any time has around 30 seals on its beaches or in the surrounding water.



The Fish and Wildlife Service in conjunction with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is conducting a significant amount of long-term research on the life of Monk Seals, including tagging new pups so they can be easily identified. In addition, researchers are now trying to attach satellite tracking devices, video cameras, and cell phone data loggers to the seals so they learn more about their foraging behavior and migration patterns around the island chain.

There are beaches that get a lot of visitation in Kauai and then there are others that are known only by the locals, previous veteran visitors, and Monk Seals. It is a search for Monk Seals that draws Joyce and I to a remote location at Larsen's beach; we are on a mission to find them. We worked this beach last year and so we are familiar with the preferred sleeping spots.



## WRD Retiree Volunteers in Action

A NOAA research team is on Kauai this week to try and find as eligible seals who will qualify to have cell phone tracking devices attached on their backs. We are part of the team that will be locating potential candidate seals. We have several restrictions/criteria. The research team is looking for seals that are resting in relatively sandy and flat locations. Such locations are safer for both the seals and the individuals involved in the catch/restraint process. They are looking for seals that are at least 3 years old, not pregnant, not nursing, and not molting. Therefore, Joyce and I first need to spot and note the above criteria, and if possible list identifying characteristics such as tags or identifying scars so the seal can be identified. Larsen's beach extends for slightly over a mile along the northeast side of Kauai. One of the favorite sandy areas where we can anticipate seeing seals is as far away as possible from the trail head. While there are rough trails to walk, they are not on the beach, and so to minimize the danger of missing any seals, we have to walk the beach. The waves are intense right now, and the sand size is coarse. It does not compact well and walking is very tiring. Each day we make the loop several times.

On the second day out, we spot two seals at the extreme north end, one is a pup born last year (tagged AF5) and the other is a large untagged male. We notify the local coordinator, and we find out the research team is in the area. Now—I need to add that cell phones are great, but obviously at a remote beach location there is no cell phone service, so the process of calling a sighting in requires a hike up the hill out to a site where a phone signal can be found. It takes the NOAA team of 6 several hours to carry all their gear in to our location. They note the large seal is named KO2, a bit of a troublemaker, but a good candidate for attaching a tracking device. They have a good history on this guy, and they know he won't start molting for about 3 months, about the life of the battery on the cell phone data logger. Why is molting an important variable in determining the feasibility of a seal? Once a seal starts to lose their old skin, (or molting) the cell phone tracking device will fall off. So they know the expected battery life and the start of his molting is about the same. A great candidate!

The restraint plan that has worked well for the team with is to slowly approach the seal, staying out of the line of sight. Once the team is in place the lead researcher will quickly place two large poles on either side of the seal's head. Between these poles is a very coarse net. The second the net is in place the veterinarian will give the seal a shot of valium to calm it down and the men in the team will get on the seals back to hold it in place while a number of fluid tests are made, blood taken, etc. The tracking device is then quickly attached with epoxy to the back, and they jump off and wait. In about ½ hour the seal will start to retain it's sense of what is going on and it will slowly drag itself into the water and take off, probably wondering what had just happened.

Great plan! The team talks it over several times to make sure everyone knows their role (this monk seal weighs 400-450 pounds). They approach quietly and slowly, get in place, and prepare to start the sequence. But, all of a sudden KO2 is awake, very defensive, and barking obscenities at the team. He does not cooperate, he will not keep his head down, and after a stand off of several minutes he suddenly charges the team, finds an opening and slips into the water. They later comment they have never seen a seal move that fast on land. We wait several hours to see if he will return but he is gone and so they pack up their gear and haul it back (several miles) to their vehicles. We eventually return to our timeshare, hot, dirty and tired, but glad we had found a good candidate for the team even though they were not successful. The next Saturday, Joyce and I again spot KO2 at about the same location. He is aware of our presence, but does not pay much attention to us as he hauls out onto the warm sand and immediately falls asleep. We notify the team; they quickly arrive and get set up. They figure this guy got away once; this time they will make sure they are successful. But the second chapter of this adventure turns out to be a repeat of chapter 1. KO2 takes charge, he does an about face and before they could get the net in place he is in the water and gone. He was very mean this time and once again the team declares him the winner. They are stressed; this was a close call for them as he went after them with considerable noise and lots of teeth. They gather their equipment, declare it an OK week, in spite of losing twice to KO2 and they return to Oahu. It was great to watch the intensity of both the team to tag KO2 and his intensity to not be tagged. His mean reputation will continue, and he now has two research emblems painted on his side as evidence that he is ahead in this little game.

**MEMORIAL**  
**Raymond S. "Ray" George**  
**1933-2010**

Ray George, 76, died on June 11, 2010, in Palmer, Alaska, from complications of leukemia. Ray was born in Wilma, WA, in 1933. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1952 - 60, received a degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Idaho in 1961, and later that year was hired as an Hydraulic Engineer with the USGS in Boise. In 1965, Ray transferred to Alaska, where he spent the remainder of his USGS career. He began his Alaska work as the Engineer for the Susitna River Basin region, and went on to serve in several positions in the Alaska District over the next 25 years, including SW specialist on the long-term Anchorage Geohydrology Program, Anchorage Subdistrict Chief and Associate District Chief. Ray's leadership and extraordinary personal effort in maintaining and expanding the scope and technical level of District programs during his tenure as Acting District Chief (1980-81) were recognized via a Special Achievement Award from the Director of the USGS.



A few reminiscences by Ray's long-time friends and former WRD colleagues provide some insights to and a measure of the man. From Jim Meckel (Fairbanks Subdistrict) – "I met Ray in 1957 when we were first-year Agricultural Engineering students at the University of Idaho. We studied together and hunted together, and our GPA's had a parallel pattern in that our grades were better in the spring semester than in the fall, when the hunting was good. Our families developed and maintained a close relationship through the years that we were part of WRD and continued beyond retirement." From Larry Leveen (Anchorage Subdistrict) – "Ray was always considerate of others' situation and feelings; he was a pleasure to be around when you had a bad day or were confronted with a tough decision, as he was quick with a smile and a good word of comfort or advice." Derrill Cowing recalls his phone interview with Ray when Derrill applied for a job in Alaska – "A deep, firm, and authoritative voice, like somebody who 'had it together'. Ray lived up to that first impression as long as I knew and worked with him."

And some personal recollections: I met Ray in February 1968, on my first day with the USGS, as a brand new hydrologist in WRD. We began that day and continued to develop a lasting professional as well as personal relationship. On the job, we first worked together on the staff of the Anchorage Geohydrology Program. I recall his showing me the "ropes" of making discharge measurements, in the winter-cold water of a local stream. Ray later was my supervisor, when I became coordinator of the Anchorage Program, and we eventually worked together closely at the District's senior staff level, when he guided me through the finer points of District-level program management and budgeting. Regardless of our "official" positions and titles, Ray always treated me as a full partner and professional in whatever task we were working on.

Off the job, Ray's family and mine go back to the "beginning." Ray and Nancy met my future wife before I did, as Merrilee taught kindergarten in the elementary school near their home, and she eventually had three of their children in her classroom. After Merrilee and I were married, and both before and after our children were born, we shared many a meal or party at the George's, first in Anchorage and later in Wasilla, in celebration of a holiday, birthdays and other life events in both families, or perhaps just to enjoy each other's company with a game of cards around the table or an invigorating outing on cross-country skis or ice skates. And because we were so far away from our own families in the "lower 48," holidays often took us to the house on the hill in the Matanuska Valley, where we became part of Ray and Nancy's family.

Ray was a member of Sacred Heart and St. Michael's Catholic Churches, and served for many years on the building committee at Sacred Heart. He enjoyed Seawolf (University of Alaska) hockey matches, moose hunting, halibut fishing off Deep Creek, and camping and fishing on the Kenai Peninsula. [Ray's knowledge of the Kenai River fishery lead to his hosting former Chief Hydrologist Phil Cohen on Phil's quests for the giant Kenai Kings!]

Our appreciation of the warmth of Ray's personality echoes that of his family, "...a gentleman who never uttered an unkind word, one who set a positive example by his commitment to faith, family, and country."

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---Ray was preceded in death by his wife of 48 years, Nancy, in 2003, and by three brothers. He is survived by four sons and two daughters and their spouses, two sisters, 19 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild.

By *Chester Zenone*

## **A brief summary of the careers of the winners of the Hydrologic Technician Scholarships**

The Hydrologic Technician Scholarship program is one of the most popular activities of WRD Retirees. Hydrologic Technicians enjoy a well-deserved reputation of delivering high-quality data products that meet local, state, and National needs. They are often referred to as the "backbone" of the water program. To honor these fine folks, WRD Retirees created a scholarship program for Hydrologic Technicians. WRD Retirees presented a proposal in the May 2006 Newsletter to establish an annual \$1500 Scholarship for Hydrologic Technicians. The membership showed overwhelming support for the Hydrologic Technician Scholarship with 96% of the voting members in favor. Beginning in 2009, WRD Retirees decided to award two scholarships annually; one for \$1,500 and a second one for \$1,000. In 2010, the scholarships were increased to \$3,000 and \$2,000. Students from schools offering a 2-year program leading to an Associate Degree as a Hydrologic Technician are eligible. Each applicant must have also served as an intern in a WRD office. Each eligible student is asked to answer: What are your career goals? Why do you want to work for the USGS? Where are you willing to accept USGS employment? What has been your best experience during your internship with the USGS? In addition to the answers to these questions a selection committee of WRD Retirees evaluates each student's academic performance and the evaluation of their USGS supervisors. Jim Blakey has served as Chairman of the Committee. We have been awarding scholarships since 2006 and a brief summary of the careers of the winners is shown below:

2010: **Travis Gibson**, a student at GateWay Community College in Phoenix, AZ, and a summer intern in Utah. **The intent of the USGS is to convert Travis to a full time position when he graduates in 2011.**

2010: **Michael Blumberg**, a student at Vermillion Community College in Ely, MN, and a summer intern in Virginia. **The intent of the USGS is to convert Michael to a permanent position when he graduates in 2011.**

2009: **Lisa Ashmore**, a student at GateWay Community College in Phoenix, AZ and a summer intern in Montana **Lisa was converted to a permanent position with the Texas Water Science Center.**

2009: **LaShawn Nohrenberg** who attends Vermillion Community College in Ely, MN, and a summer intern in Nebraska. **LaShawn is currently a student employee in the North Dakota Water Science Center. It is the intent of the USGS to convert LaShawn when she graduates in 2011.**

2008: **Claire Bunch**, was a student at GateWay Community College, Phoenix, AZ. She was a summer intern in Sacramento. **Claire was converted to a permanent position with the California Water Science Center.**

2007: **Gretchen C. Anderson** of Vermillion Community College and an intern in the Oklahoma District. **Gretchen transferred to the Minnesota Water Science Center and was pursuing a higher degree. She has since resigned.**

2006: **Jacob B. Dayley** of GateWay Community College in Phoenix, AZ, and a summer intern in California. **He has graduated and accepted a position of Hydrologic Technician in the Carnelian Bay, California office of WRD.**

The Hydrologic Technician Scholarship program is meeting its objective of attracting and helping to pay for the education of some very well trained WRD employees. Hopefully, they will become longtime WRD veterans!

Note: Many thanks to Carole A DeHerrera, USGS, Denver for providing the personnel data for these winners.

## **A story that will make WRD Retirees feel very well**

### **“Rose, the mature college student”**

The first day of school our professor introduced himself and challenged us to get to know someone we didn't already know. I stood up to look around when a gentle hand touched my shoulder. I turned around to find a wrinkled, little old lady beaming up at me with a smile that lit up her entire being. She said, 'Hi handsome. My name is Rose. I'm eighty-seven years old. Can I give you a hug?' I laughed and enthusiastically responded; 'Of course you may!' and she gave me a giant squeeze.

'Why are you in college at such a young, innocent age?' I asked. She jokingly replied, 'I'm here to meet a rich husband, get married, and have a couple of kids...' No seriously,' I asked. I was curious what may have motivated her to be taking on this challenge at her age. 'I always dreamed of having a college education and now I'm getting one!' she told me. After class we walked to the student union building and shared a chocolate milkshake.

We became instant friends. Every day for the next three months we would leave class together and talk nonstop. I was always mesmerized listening to this 'time machine' as she shared her wisdom and experience with me. Over the course of the year, Rose became a campus icon and she easily made friends wherever she went. She loved to dress up and she reveled in the attention bestowed upon her from the other students. She was living it up.

At the end of the semester we invited Rose to speak at our football banquet. I'll never forget what she taught us. She was introduced and stepped up to the podium. As she began to deliver her prepared speech, she dropped her three by five cards on the floor. Frustrated and a little embarrassed she leaned into the microphone and simply said, 'I'm sorry I'm so jittery. I gave up beer for Lent and this whiskey is killing me! I'll never get my speech back in order so let me just tell you what I know.'

As we laughed she cleared her throat and began, 'We do not stop playing because we are old; we grow old because we stop playing. 'There are only four secrets to staying young, being happy, and achieving success. You have to laugh and find humor every day. You've got to have a dream. When you lose your dreams, you die.

'We have so many people walking around who are dead and don't even know it! 'There is a huge difference between growing older and growing up. 'If you are nineteen years old and lie in bed for one full year and don't do one productive thing, you will turn twenty years old. If I am eighty-seven years old and stay in bed for a year and never do anything, I will turn eighty-eight. 'Anybody can grow older. That doesn't take any talent or ability. The idea is to grow up by always finding opportunity in change. Have no regrets. 'The elderly usually don't have regrets for what we did, but rather for things we did not do. The only people who fear death are those with regrets.'

She concluded her speech by courageously singing 'The Rose.' She challenged each of us to study the lyrics and live them out in our daily lives. At the year's end Rose finished the college degree she had begun all those months ago. One week after graduation Rose died peacefully in her sleep. Over two thousand college students attended her funeral in tribute to the wonderful woman who taught by example that it's never too late to be all you can possibly be.

**REMEMBER, GROWING OLDER IS MANDATORY. GROWING UP IS OPTIONAL. We make a Living by what we get. We make a Life by what we give.**

## IN MEMORIAM

**Florence Ann Archer**, 80, of Latham, NY, passed into Eternity on December 22, 2010. Florence was born in Massillon, OH, and a graduate of Capital University in Columbus, OH, where she received her B.S. degree in Mathematics. She enjoyed 25 years at their summer home on Hadlock Pond with family and friends. Florence was a faithful member of the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection where she was the organist for over 40 years. Surviving is her husband of 58 years, WRD Retiree Roger J. Archer; four daughters: Suzanne d'Aversa, Connie Fedden, Linda Moore, Alice Archer; and son, James Archer; 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Roger had a 35-year career with WRD starting as a Chemist in Columbus, OH, in 1951. He transferred to Albany, NY, in 1962 and worked there until his retirement in 1986.

**Edward "Ed" Bradley** died at the Potomac, MD, home of his daughter, Sandra Bradley on November 14, 2010, due to complications from pneumonia after a long illness. He was born February 25, 1922, and received a BS in Geology from the University of Wisconsin in 1943 and a U.S. Air Force Certificate in Meteorology from the University of Chicago in 1944. During WWII, he served as a U.S. Air Force Weather and Flight Control Officer. In 1949, he earned his MS in Geology from the University of Minnesota. His career as a ground water geologist for the USGS stretched from 1950-1979 with assignments in Nebraska, Kansas, Wyoming, New Hampshire, North Dakota, New York, Maine, and Massachusetts. In 1958 -1960, Ed and his wife and four children traveled overseas, where he advised on ground water resources in Iraq and Jordan, on loan to the U.S. Agency for International Development. In 1969-1972, he and his wife lived in Austria, where he served as hydrogeologist for International Atomic Energy Agency. Subsequent to his retirement from USGS, he and his wife settled in Maine, where he continued working as a consultant. He was a member of the National Ground Water Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Institute of Hydrology. Ed was married to Ruth Louise Brown from 1942 through 1987, when she succumbed to lung cancer. His marriage to Sally Whitcher in 1993 ended with her accidental drowning death in 1998. In 2002, he married loving wife Phyllis DeRose. He is also survived by his four children: son, Rodrick, and daughters Sandra Bradley, Kim Bouchard, and Jan Stevens, seven grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

**Rulon C. Christensen** died on December 6, 2010, at age 87. A Utah native, Rulon was a WW II veteran, having served in the U.S. Navy. In 1947, he received a BS in Civil Engineering from Utah State University. Following graduation he was employed by the Soil Conservation Service and began his USGS career with the SW branch in Salt Lake City as a Hydraulic Engineer. During his WRD career as a Surface Water Engineer he also served in Elko, NV; Little Rock, AR; Huntsville, AL; Denver, CO; and finished his career in Salt Lake City. Rulon attended Stanford University in 1969, participating in the WRD Graduate School Training Program. In the Colorado District he was in charge of the study of flood hydrology and in Utah he finished his career in charge of the surface water part of a study of Salt Lake County. He is survived by his wife Floretta and daughters Lonnette, Charisse, and Mary Kay, 12 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

**Claire Ellen Davidson** died October 21, 2010, in Mitchellville, MD, at age 86. Born in 1924, in Quincy, IL, she was raised in New York City and Boston. She was a 1946 graduate of Mount Holyoke College and received an MS in geology from the University of Colorado. She spent her professional career with the USGS from 1948 until her retirement in 1989. She served with the several GD organizations: Alaskan Branch, Geochemical Exploration Branch, Office of International Geology, Office of Resource Analysis, and Geological Names Committee. She served on an interdivisional committee on Geological Names and reviewed any water report that required a credibility check on Geologic Names. She was a coauthor on a chapter on Geologic Names for Waters 7th edition of Suggestions to Authors. She was a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and a member of the American Geophysical Union, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Geological Society of Washington, and Colorado Scientific Society. She was predeceased by her husband of 47 years, David Francis Davidson, who died in 2000. Survivors include her daughters, Nancy and Leslie, a son David and 4 grandchildren.

**Wayne Hammond** passed away on December 28, 2010. Wayne began his career with the Geological Survey working in the Raleigh, NC District Office as a part-time streamgager. He graduated from North Carolina State University in 1961 with a BS in Civil Engineering and was assigned to work full time in the Statesville, NC, office. In 1968, Wayne moved to Cumberland, MD, where he was the sub district chief. Wayne next moved to Reston, VA, where he worked in the Operations Section. His first duties were as the

## IN MEMORIAM

WRD instrumentation coordinator with the Administrative Division which at that time purchased or fabricated the instrumentation the WRD required. Later he was promoted to work as the WRD Safety Officer and on the international stream gaging program on the Canadian border. In these positions, Wayne interfaced with WRD personnel in Districts nationwide. Wayne retired in 1989. Wayne is survived by his wife Blendon, his daughter Elizabeth Ames, and 2 grandchildren.

**Frank “Breezy” Letellier.** The USGS lost a valued family member December 12, 2010. He was killed when his single engine airplane crashed near Waveland, MS. Breezy lived a full and active life, loved travel and learning, and did more in his 44 years than most of us can ever hope to do. He was an avid and skilled pilot with over 20 years experience, and died doing something he truly loved. He and his family were still rebuilding after having lost almost everything to Hurricane Katrina in 2005. In his 17 years with USGS, all spent at the Hydrologic Instrumentation Facility (HIF), Breezy did an outstanding behind-the-scenes job of maintaining the HIF automated inventory, warehouse management, and ordering systems. He also played a major role in developing and maintaining the Instantaneous Data Archive (IDA). He will be dearly missed by all those who encountered his energetic and joyful approach to life. Breezy is survived by an older brother, Rudy Letellier.

**Dorothy Meyer**, 95, passed away in Baton Rouge, LA, on January 4, 2011. She was the widow of WRD Retiree Rex Meyer, Chief of the Ground Water program of the Louisiana District from 1952-71. Rex also served as Assistant Regional Hydrologist in St. Louis and Atlanta (1971-74). After Rex’s death in 1997, Dorothy returned to Baton Rouge. Even in her 80s she was a very active woman. At Louisiana State University she promoted and attended college classes for senior citizens on many topics. She was a regular attendee at the WRD Retiree functions in Louisiana. She is survived by 2 sons and their families.

**Mary Jane Keller Norris**, 91, passed away November 25, 2010. She was the wife of WRD Retiree Stan Norris. Born in Grove City, OH, on July 19, 1919, graduated from Grove City High School in 1937, and attended The Ohio State University. She was a lifelong member of St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church and taught Sunday school there for over 50 years. Mrs. Norris was an avid volunteer and donated over 4400 hours of service at The Ohio State University Medical Center spanning 20 years. Her memberships were many and included the friends of the Southwest Public Library, the Florence Grossman Cancer Ray, the Columbus Cancer Clinic, the Grove City Women's Civic Club, and the Ohio State University Mother's Club. Mrs. Norris is survived by her husband of 70 years, Stanley E. Norris; her children, John, James, Robert, and Molly Norris Cooke; 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Her husband, Stan, was a ground water specialist for WRD from 1946-81, serving his entire career in the Ohio District.

**Marilyn N. Powell**, widow of William J. 'Bill' Powell, former District Chief of Alabama, died July 9, 2010, in Tuscaloosa, AL, of unspecified causes. She was 89 years old. . Bill worked for WRD from 1945-80 and served as the District Chief, Alabama. Following his USGS retirement, he served as senior hydrogeologist of P.E. LaMoreaux and Associates. Marilyn is survived by two sons, Jimmy and Doug, and two grandchildren Kenneth L. “Ken” Walters died at his home in Auburn, WA, on December 10, 2010, at age 88. A Kansas native, he attended Kansas State University and obtained a BS in Agricultural Engineering in 1942. Ken was a WW II veteran having served in the U.S. Army Air Corps as an airplane mechanic. After his discharge, he reentered Kansas State and earned a BS in Geology in 1948. After graduation he began work for the Kansas Geological Survey and married the love of his life, Evelyn Lewis Rees. The family transferred to Tacoma in 1958 where he spent the rest of his career. Ken worked in ground water studies throughout Washington and his work is noted for his work with deep observation wells which eventually led to dramatically improved irrigation wells in eastern Washington. His last WRD assignment was working on the impacts of the Mt. St.Helens eruption. After retiring, he discovered his talent in woodcarving. He volunteered for many wonderful causes. His trademark sense of humor and dry wit were with him until the end. Ken is survived by his wife of 62 years, Evelyn; son, Larry; daughters, Cheryl Gower and Cathy Cooper; 3 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

**Adelaide “Addie” Yost** passed away on December 10, 2010, at age 89. Addie was the widow of WRD Retiree Dale Yost. Dale died in 1988 and served WRD for 32 years as a Hydraulic Engineer, retiring in 1980 as the District Chief, Texas. Dale joined WRD in 1948 as a Hydraulic Engineer in Austin. Addie is survived by a daughter, Susan.

## **USGS National Surface-Water Conference and Hydroacoustics Workshop**

**WRD Retirees are cordially invited to attend**

**WRD Retirees will have a booth at the conference**

The 2011 National Surface-Water Conference and Hydroacoustics Workshop will be held March 28-April 1, 2011, in Tampa, FL, and is sponsored by the USGS Office of Surface Water and the Hydroacoustics Work Group (HAWG). All WRD Retirees are familiar with the Office of Surface Water. HAWG is an in-house USGS group of technical experts formed to develop standard methods and procedures in the use of hydroacoustic techniques. HAWG members represent a cross-section of recognized experts in the use of hydroacoustic instruments.

As all WRD Retirees are aware, the USGS has been collecting streamflow information for the Nation's streams since 1889. The USGS has been involved in developing and using acoustic flow measurement technology since the late 1960s to improve streamflow measurements. Since the early 1980s, the USGS has worked cooperatively with manufacturers to develop and enhance the use of acoustic Doppler instruments.

The sponsors of the National Conference and Workshop cordially invite members of WRD Retirees to attend. WRD Retirees will have a booth at the conference to explain the mission and activities of WRD Retirees to these working folks. Hopefully, we can encourage many of these folks to become members of WRD Retirees when they join the ranks of the retired workforce.

This conference and workshop follows those convened in St. Louis, MO in 2007; San Diego, CA in 2004; and San Antonio, TX in 2003. These previous meetings were extremely successful in bringing together surface water scientists and program managers to share information and promote technology transfer.

The Tampa conference and workshop will explore issues in hydrology that are critical to the Nation's social, economic, and resource security. This joint conference is intended to provide scientists and managers (both hydrologic technicians and hydrologists) an opportunity to learn about and to share their experiences, research, and analysis in surface water related topics such as surface water hydrology, hydraulics, geomorphology, and hydroacoustics. In addition, training will be provided and field trips will be offered.

Meeting details are available online at <http://water.usgs.gov/osw/conference2011/>.

## TREASURER' S REPORT, FOURTH QUARTER 2010

Treasurer Celso Puente reports that the organization had \$20,744.43 in its treasury at the end of the fourth quarter for calendar year 2010. Receipts for the quarter were \$4,955.40 from dues and contributions from 214 members. Distributions for the quarter were zero. During the quarter, a total of \$805.00 in contributions was received from 49 members.

Special thanks for contributions above dues go to: Kenneth Lindskov, Richard Swisshelm, Gil Bertoldi, Marjorie Martin, Ben and Mae Jones, John C. Briggs, John R. Crippens, Claire A. Richardson, Ted Arnow, Douglas Manigold, Celso Puente, Arthur G. "Pete" Scott, Robert E. Steach, Frank T. Hidaka, Gale Mc Murtrey, William F. Hardt, Richard and Debbie Lumia, Gerald Rockwell, Leroy Knobel, Charles Berkstresser, Harold G. Golden, Douglas Posson, Robert Melvin, Joan Ferguson, Linda McMullen, Gordon D. Bennett, John P. Monis, Leslie Arihood, Harold Gill, Charles R. Showen, Sulo Wiitala, Rick T. Iwatsubo, Kenneth Vanlier, Albert T. Rutledge, Mary Jo Baedecker, Philip Cohen, Robert Blazs, John W. Wark, Colleen Babcock, Myron Lys, Harry Koester, Henry Trapp, Gary L. Gallino, Elinor Handman-Bugli, Joel O. Kimrey, LaRue Baker-Odenbach, John E. Cotton, and Irene Leauffer-Levine.

During December 2010 and January 2011 WRD Retirees made a concerted effort to get more retirees to have their Newsletter delivered by email instead of US mail. Nearly 300 retirees were contacted, either by telephone or email. We are pleased to report the about 120 more retirees have agreed to have their Newsletter delivered by email. We are quite positive they will like this method – remember the email version is delivered up to a month before the paper version and it is in full color. We now have about 820 retirees who read the Newsletter electronically. That really helps our organization!

Because of this effort, there are the many "Directory Changes": phone numbers, email addresses, and other changes in member's personal information. In fact there are so many that we are not including a list of "Directory Changes" in the February 2011 edition of the WRD Retirees Newsletter. To include all of these changes would take up to 3 full pages and we don't have space for that. The May 2011 Newsletter will be accompanied by the 2011 edition of the WRD Retirees Directory, which will include all current information. For any member who wants to update a phone number, address, or email address, please contact Bill Boning at 703-435-0031, or [cwboning@verizon.net](mailto:cwboning@verizon.net) for that information. The request can also be sent to WRD Retirees at 703-648-5641, or [wrdretirees@usgs.gov](mailto:wrdretirees@usgs.gov). Thanks!