# Wilmington District News

Volume 26 • Number 7 July 2005

## Colonel John E. Pulliam, Jr. Takes Command

**Merritt Crew Saves Marine**

See page 10

Wilmington District News

Volume 26, Number 7
July 2005

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***On the Cover:***
*New District Engineer Colonel John E. Pulliam, Jr. receives the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers colors from Brigadier General Mike Walsh, South Atlantic Division Commander, during the Change of Command ceremony.*

## *Safety Message*

# *One Life Lost is One Too Many*

***By Bill Harris, SAW Safety Officer***

We were all saddened by the loss of Mr. Ed Manuele, husband of Raleigh Regulatory Field Office Chief Jean Manuele in early July. Mr. Manuele was engaged in the same type of work as our Regulatory team members. Needless to say, the incident that occurred hit very close to home and could very easily happen to any one of our team members. I understand the cause of death was heat stroke. Additionally, he got disoriented as a result of heat exhaustion.

Paragraph 01.E.06 of the Safety Manual requires that "employees working alone in a remote location or away from other workers shall be provided an effective means of emergency communications. This means of communication could include a cellular phone, two-way radios, hard-line telephones or other acceptable means. The selected communication must be readily available to the employee and must be tested prior to the start of work to verify that it effectively operates in the area/environment. An employee check-in, check-out communication procedure shall be developed to assure employee safety."

The above procedure is in place. And we must all remember that the cause of heat stroke is dehydration caused by hot days and a lack of water. Getting lost and being out of water is a bad combination. We need to ensure that team members stay hydrated. Additionally, a modified work or rest regimen could be implemented based upon the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine work/rest and water consumption table which can be found at: http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/doem/pgm34/HIPP/WorkRestTable.pdf

We would need to convert the work categories shown on the table to the type required of anyone who works alone in the field, especially our Regulatory members.

Team: During the remainder of summer and year-round for that matter please make sure you have good communication equipment be it cell phone or GPS, take plenty of fluids to drink and rest if you need to. One life lost is one too many.

## *Even in Afghanistan "Our Diversity is Our Strength"*

***Robert Dennis Writes:***

It's mid July and usually that means that I'm enjoying lazy summer days swimming in the lake and enjoying cold watermelon. But this summer I find myself in Kabul, Afghanistan. I am serving in the capacity of Chief of Logistics for the Afghanistan Engineering District (AED). My task here is to provide the supplies and materials to the projects around the country so that our missions are successfully executed. I also get to supply the great Americans serving here with the things that make life a bit more enjoyable.

Let me tell you a bit about the living conditions. The AED headquarters area is the old Iraqi Embassy Compound in Kabul. Most of the offices are located in the main building. There is also a "Day Room" where we have a big screen TV. There is a gym that is very well equipped and a dining facility that can make you spend extra time in the gym trying to keep the pounds off. We all have private rooms that come equipped with a computer that has been set up so that you can watch DVDs or surf the web. Outside there are picnic tables nestled in among the pine trees. This place reminds me of a college setting.

The biggest assets here are the people. You will never be surrounded by such great people as you will be here. All of America is represented; young, old, men, women (we're about 30% female) White, Black, Latino, Asian, Native American and all the rest. There are civilians, contractors, USACE Civilians, regular military, reserves, National Guard etc. Our diversity is indeed our strength. You will develop life long friends here. That is actually how I find myself here. A friend that I met while serving in Iraq last year convinced me to come serve in AED. Eric Aubrey is a program Manager from the Rock Island District and now we are working together again in support of the war on Global Terrorism. Though we put in a lot of hours the time seems to pass very quickly. It seems to be a universal agreement here that we all feel that no matter how much you try to give, you seem to come away with more than you gave. Supporting your country, giving something back, building a nation, providing a better standard of living, being a part of history, doing a job that is very satisfying which has a deeper meaning, there are a lot of reasons to be here. If you think you'd be interested in serving in either Iraq or Afghanistan, feel free to ask me any questions that you might have.

*Robert Dennis at Afghanistan Engineer District Headquarters in Kabul.*

*– See more from Robert on page 8*

## *"Loyalty, Honor Important to Afghans"*

***Nancy Wallace Writes:***

After two commercial flights, a two day layover in Bishkek, Kgrystan, five hours on a C-17 full of Marines and one wild, action packed convoy ride, I have arrived in Kabul. Afghanistan is one of the poorest nations in the world and riding from Bagram AB to Kabul, you see that for yourself. The once desolate country is slowly coming back to life after years of drought. The Afghans believe we, the Americans, brought the rains and an end to the drought. Even now, there is still snow on the mountains. The weather in Kabul has been no more than 102 degrees. Most evenings have a cool breeze. Most Afghans are very glad we are here. Here in Kabul the majority of folks speak Dari or Pashtu. Dari is currently being taught here at the compound. It means a lot to the people to see we are trying to learn their language. Our guards are all former mujahideen fighters. Loyalty and honor are very important to the people here. When they greet you and place their hand over their heart, they are saying that you mean a lot to them, that their greeting is heartfelt.

My mission here at AED is working as the Procurement Technician in Contracting. While I have no contracting experience, when I got the call and was asked to come, I couldn't say no. My admin and CEFMS skills have come in handy here in Contracting and I believe I am making a difference in a one-time one-person office.

The work of the AED spans the full spectrum of engineering. At one time or another AED has been responsible for everything from erecting tents and filling sandbags to construction of entire installations. AED is directly responsible for the day-to-day quality of life for the fledgling Afghan National Army (ANA) as well as building their new facilities throughout the country. AED is also beginning to build new and improve existing bases for U.S. Forces. We also participate in other economic development and humanitarian projects sponsored by USAID, other donor nations, and our Department of Defense. Rebuilding the transportation infrastructure will enable the movement of people, aid resources and trade goods, all of which is essential to Afghanistan's development.

*Nancy Wallace (right) poses with two fellow USACE Civilians serving in Afghanistan.*

We work six days a week for 12 hours a day. Thursday and Fridays are our weekend here. On Friday, Islam's holy day, we work four hours. It takes some getting used to when you are used to your weekend being Saturday and Sunday.

Robert Dennis is here now. It's good to have another Wilmington District person here. Many Districts are represented here. I would love to see more of our District folks come over. I know we can make a difference here.

# Colonel John E. Pulliam, Jr. Becomes 53rd District Engineer

Wife Jacque Pulliam with twin daughters Katie, left, and Alex.

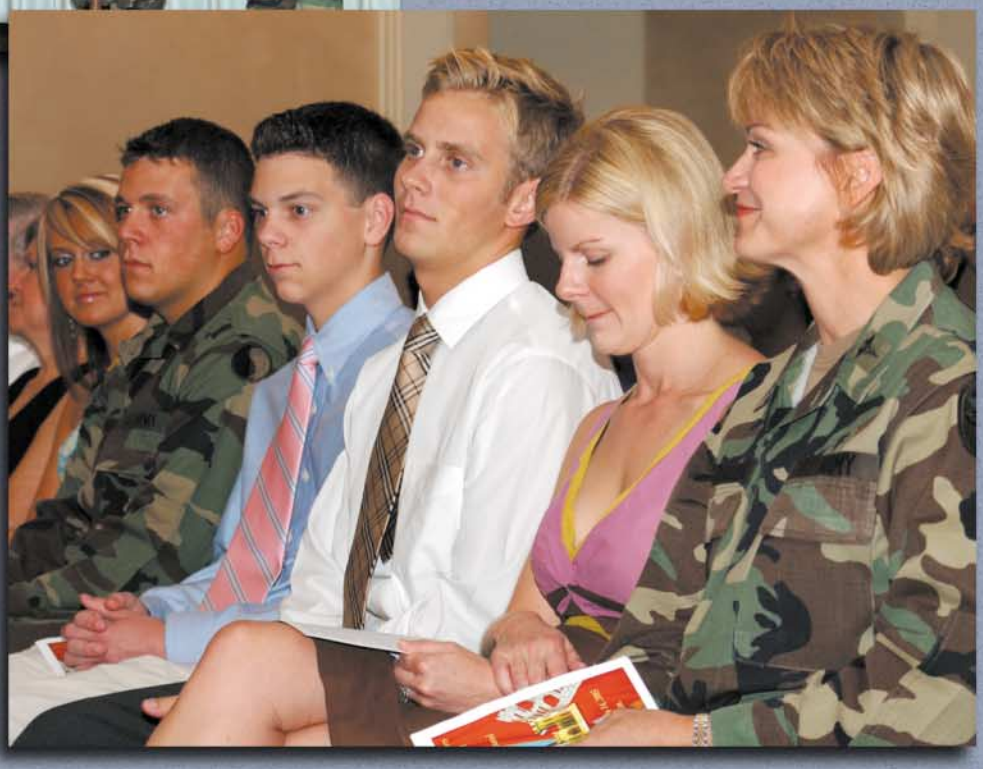
Colonel Pulliam is a 1982 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management Ben Wood passes the Corps of Engineers colors to Colonel Alexander during the final act of the 52nd District Engineer's relinquishment of command.

South Atlantic Division Commander Brigadier General Mike Walsh presents the de Fleury Medal to Colonel Alexander who was recognized for providing significant contributions to Army Engineering. The medal is named in honor of Francois Louis Tesseidre de Fleury, a French engineer, who in 1777 volunteered to serve with the American Army in its fight for independence from Britain.

Soldiers of the 20th Engineer Brigade (Airborne) from Fort Bragg provided the presentation of colors during the Change of Command ceremony.

*(Photos by Scott Maners, Information Management)*



Watching the ceremony from front row seats is the Alexander family. From right to left: Colonel Jettaka Alexander (wife of Colonel Ray Alexander), daughter Jennifer, and sons Aaron, Sean, Ryan and his girlfriend, Allie Stoneman. Ryan holds the rank of private first class and is assigned to Charlie Company, First Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment of the 29th Infantry Division, Virginia Army National Guard.

# "We remain ready to do our mission every day"

*(Editor's note-The following is the farewell speech of Colonel Ray Alexander, Jr.)*

Three years ago, when I took command of this District, I stood in this room and said that I had heard that the Wilmington District was 'the crown jewel of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers." Whoever told me that, told me nothing less than the truth. Flaws and imperfections? Like every jewel, we have a few. But does this team of Soldiers and Civilians burn with a 'hard, clear, gem-like flame'? You bet.

As I turn over command of the Wilmington District, I can confidently say to you, General Walsh and Colonel Pulliam, I leave with you a superb team for the future. I can promise the leaders of the states, counties, and communities we serve, you will continue to have an expert human resource at your doorstep. If the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army or our Commander in Chief were present today, I would also say to them: I leave a battle-tested cadre of patriots in your care.

Because first, before I speak to the great things our team has accomplished at home, I want to talk to you about what my Soldiers and Civilians have done for our Nation around the world. I normally command one military officer, who is now serving in Iraq, and about 400 Civilians. Some of those Civilians have another role in life. They are members of the National Guard or the Reserves. In the past three years, they have been called to active duty, some for as many as three deployments overseas. They have voluntarily traveled a weary way from home, put on battle dress uniforms and set up offices or rebuilt electrical power grids or restarted the flow of oil, or rebuilt destroyed communities in Iraq and Afghanistan. Wilmington District contributed most of the members of the first Forward Engineer Support Team to enter Baghdad.

These people stand for something more than just their outstanding service and courage. They are a human representation of the enormous changes that have come about in our world over the past four years. We in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proudly claim it is our mission to perform the full spectrum of Engineer Operations in peace and war. That used to be something we remained ready to do. Now it is something we do every day, and carrying out that mission has motivated us to make major changes in the way we do business.

The Nation's resources have been refocused to meet the demands of the Global War on Terrorism, one in which—as last week's attacks in London show—is subject to the opening of new fronts on any given day. Our challenge is to meet those wartime demands, yet continue with our vital missions to support a strong national economy and sustain a thriving natural environment. Homeland security doesn't just mean guarding the homeland, but making our Nation as prosperous and healthy as it can be.

So we have continued, and will continue to move forward with major infrastructure projects and environmental restoration projects and other work that contributes to the quality of your lives here, now, and the quality of life for our children and grandchildren in generations to come. I am very proud of the accomplishments my Wilmington District team has achieved in these last three years along with our sponsors and stakeholders. Especially, we can be proud of *The Wilmington Harbor Project*, which met its scheduled milestone to bring deep water to the Port of Wilmington, is now yielding economic benefits to our region and stands poised to move forward into the Northeast Cape Fear River phase

*The closure of a breach in Hatteras Island following Hurricane Isabel in 2003*. Our emergency response team pulled together a project delivery that filled more than a half-mile breach in 55 days. It was a massive project that reflects great credit on our Wilmington team and all of the many state and federal agencies who participated in this effort.

*Colonels Ray Alexander, Jr. and John Pulliam, Jr. chat casually*

*Award-winning environmental work completed by the District since 2002* includes the Island 13 site now thriving with bird and marine life in the Cape Fear River, a joint program with the state of North Carolina called the Ecosystem Enhancement Program that will ensure better environmental quality side by side with a better road net for our state, a Coastal Federation award to our

– Continued on page 13

# *Wartime conditions, Regionalization are top of the list!*

## *By Colonel John Pulliam, Jr., District Engineer*

I am proud to be a part of this organization! And there's a good reason why, beyond the fact that the Corps as a whole has a long history of giving great service to our Nation. What's that reason? It's all that I have been hearing about Wilmington District and experiencing about you since before I arrived.

Months ago, I started hearing about the incredible talent here from people all over the Corps. It is a rare thing to have so much excellence gathered in one place. If Wilmington District was an active duty unit, you wouldn't all get to stay together long. The Army tends to take concentrations of excellent people and distribute them all over the map. I have already seen you at work, and I am impressed!

It's great to be presented with such a great team, because we have some great challenges ahead of us.

PHOTO BY SCOTT MANERS

*during the Change of Command rehearsal.*

> *"It is a rare thing to have so much excellence gathered in one place."*

First and foremost, we *are* a Nation at war. When that happens, some critical resources for day-to-day missions can be stretched. We have to take care of the people who are out there in Iraq and Afghanistan doing vital missions for us. We have to pick up the slack while they are away and give them any reach-back support they require. I see it as my personal job to make sure that our volunteers overseas, and you here at home, have the basic things we need to do our missions.

Second, but maybe first on our minds most days, is the Regionalization effort that is under way. I'm aware this is a major culture shift, and that it is going to take some time to make it work right, along with all the other systems and changes on the horizon. The only possible successful attitude is a positive one.

I need you to be 400 scouts looking for a way to take advantage of all these changes, truly perceiving risk as opportunity.

I want us to be the 'indispensable partner for everybody' throughout the region, whenever there's an issue to be addressed or a project to be advanced. That's my rough vision for us.

At the same time, I believe that the Regional Centers *must* work well for all our districts for us to succeed. This is not about setting up winners and losers, but about ensuring that Wilmington, Charleston, Savannah, Jacksonville, and Mobile Districts are all winners. We have to work together to cut through the control and culture issues, and to establish effective communication.

How do we make that happen? I challenge you all to think one or two levels above where you are used to working and thinking. Take a more global view. I understand that we all feel overloaded in our extremely fast-tempo world. As we look at adopting an Expeditionary mindset, Regionalization, P2, A76, and NSPS among other big changes, I can imagine that you are thinking "too many rocks for my rucksack!"

If you can see a useless or impracticable 'rock in our rucksack' I expect you to bring attention to it. If we can stop carrying an unneeded rock, let's DO IT and focus on what is truly important.

As to how we will work together, the Army Values are my compass. I think those values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage are America's values. This is my lens, my way of judging myself and others. I know you have been living these values with Col. Alexander, and I know I can expect you to continue to live them with me. I thank you all for a great welcome to Wilmington, and my family and I look forward to working with you as we all continue to ride the waves of change.

*Essayons!*

# Corps Deployees Share the Language of Friendship in Afghanistan

***By Robert Dennis***

So, here's the joy of this week. We went to hand out school supplies. The funds for the supplies were a memorial gift sent to us by a lady who lost her husband and asked for school donations instead of flowers. This is a school of 4,600 students and 112 teachers. They have three shifts.

We arrive and we have to go to the "Office". Yep, we may be on the other side of the planet but going to the "Office" is still going to the "Office". We go in and get to meet the principle and our interpreter Omar's dad {A teacher of 35 years who makes $80.00 a Month}. They are very grateful that we have come.

The school has a building but there are a lot of tents outside being used for classrooms. It still sounds and feels like a school. Lots of laughter and the buzzing noise up and down the halls.

AED PHOTO BY MAJ. EDWARD CHAMBERLAYNE

*Heidi Cherry, a program engineer for primary roads projects, poses for a fun photo with a couple Allahuddin Orphanage kids. Who knows which American slang they'll pick up while practicing their English? Maybe "Whaaa-zuuuuuup!!"*

So now it is time to hand out the school supplies. I thought we were going to just drop them off, but noooo. We put together a little package of two notebooks, a pencil, a pencil sharpener, a pen and an eraser. Then the kids lined up and we hand them out individually. Yes, it was long, hot work and I loved every minute of it. To move fast enough we had to dump the pens and pencils out so that we could grab them quickly. The only "buckets" we had for this use was our helmets. Wonderful feeling to be using these things for a purpose other than intended. I made sure the kids coming through my line had to approach me from my right side so that they would get to see the "Old Glory" patch on my uniform.

They are learning English in school. So the kids come by {Yes, I'm talking about the thousands of them} and they try out their English {"How you doing man?", "Thank you" and several other phrases. And yes, I've done a terrible thing... I taught them a phrase... WHAAA-ZUUUUUPPP!! Well the other lines pick up on it and now thousands are sounding off. The teachers were not amused... It's probably time to scoot before I'm sent to the Office.

Well our hands are tired from the assembly line and shaking hands and there is such a complete sense of joy in the air that we hate for it to end. We then drop off a few boxes of better grade supplies for the teachers. We assumed that they would open the boxes and carry on. But they want to line up and come through and have us give them their little packet and get a handshake.

So, OK. The look on their faces is one of such gratitude. The women who are teachers actually lower their veils {That just DOES NOT happen} so they could speak to us. Of course being an American, I don't understand a word but I do get their meaning. One dear lady does say what I guess is "thank you" and then leans in close and with a smile very quietly says "whaaazuuup". Yes, that is a lifelong memory event!! Some days make all the misery of a deployment just melt away....

So we return and the evening hours are spent with the telling of special little episodes during the day's events. I'm giving the'"probably shouldn't have taught them the phrase" speech. Sherri says "That's not too bad, watch this"... She hollers over to our guards at the main gate (These are battle tested mujjahadeen fighters) and says a phrase that sounds just like "Got Chicken Pox". Well in Dari that means "How ya doing?" Our guard smiles and says {I kid you not} "I'm chillin like Bob Dylan"... What a day.....

*Robert Dennis is a civilian currently serving as Logistics chief for Afghanistan District, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division. His stateside job is at John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir, in Wilmington District.*

## Burch Receives Surprise de Fluery Medal

Outgoing District Commander Colonel Ray Alexander, Jr. surprised everyone at the change of command ceremony, especially the District's Chief of Staff George Burch, by presenting him with a de Fluery Medal. Burch has been recognized for excellence by Division Commanders, Chiefs of Engineers, Congressional representatives, and numerous federal, state, and local officials. His selfless service has directly contributed to the success of the Wilmington District and the positive reputation and relationship the Corps of Engineers has with the State of North Carolina and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

# *District Welcomes New Lakes Branch Chief*

*"It's so easy to be mono focused in management technique and style and attitude and process. I've been there before and the next thing you know is three or four years of being at the same project you start seeing things one way."*

So says Neil Myers, SAW's new Chief of Lakes Branch, about things he's learned in his 26 years of managing reservoirs as a park ranger or park manager. This new position with overall responsibility for the lakes projects was created by the Operations Division reorganization. An out-of-the-box thinker, he hopes to instill in folks at the projects a willingness to continue to grow professionally, even if it means having to move to a new job.

"If there's anything that I encourage rangers, as well as operations managers, is whenever possible, try to seek another place to work, try to move to another reservoir to expand your knowledge, your experience, your horizons," he said. "You will grow every time you do that. I've managed five individual projects over my career, worked at eight, and every three or four years I moved to another one it was just amazing how much I had overlooked because of my focus at the previous project."

Always looking down range Myers feels that having teams that are well-rounded at all of the projects, to include the locks and dams, makes them that much more able to come up with solutions to potential challenges in the not-too-distant future.

"The big challenge is managing visitation so that it doesn't degrade the resource to a point where we could lose that resource or parts of it because of over-visitation. And it will happen as more and more people visit the lakes. The Triangle Area is growing tremendously and that's going to be a big impact, not only by visitors, but the environmental resource impact of just having that many people living around the reservoir and having some negative effects."

*Neil Myers comes to Wilmington from the Louisville District.*

Experienced at having to tackle difficult decision-making processes, Myers says he's ready to help lead SAW's projects through some challenging times. "All of the lake managers are going to take care of their immediate projects. They'll do the best they can for their lake, their people and their customers. But there are five of them and somebody has to say 'what's the balance? Give me your priorities.' Somebody's got to balance the resources to see that that the best use of the money is going to the right place. That's going to be one of my biggest challenges working as a team with the operations project managers at the lakes and locks and dams, especially in an era of dwindling resources which we don't see changing any time soon."

# Merritt Crew Rescues US Marine

*By Connie Pletl and Fred Lehman*

**N. TOPSAIL BEACH –** A US Marine was rescued from the New River Inlet Saturday, July 9, by the crew of the dredge Merritt after being caught in the swift ebb tide current.

US Marine Tony Frey was with several of his friends at the northern most end of Topsail Island when he decided to take a swim.

"I was out in the water, and it wasn't that deep, when all of a sudden I couldn't feel the bottom," said Frey. "I started getting sucked out."

One of Frey's friends said he briefly thought about going after Frey but then thought better.

"I was going to go after him but then I thought I'd get sucked out too and wouldn't be able to help," he said.

Instead, Frey's friends started waving and yelling to the crew of the dredge.

The Merritt was inbound at New River Inlet after working for 12 hours on the inlet bar when Second Mate Tommy Bourbeau and Dragtender Robbie Page saw several people on the shore waving and pointing astern of the vessel.

Scanning the surface of the ocean, they spotted a swimmer in distress about 800 feet from their ship. Taking quick action, the mate turned the ship around and proceeded to the area to offer assistance.

Captain Ray Bleam, alerted by the vessel's turning, returned to the pilot house and took charge of the rescue operation by sending all hands to the bow.

> *"I was out in the water, and it wasn't that deep, when all of a sudden I couldn't feel the bottom. I started getting sucked out."*

*The dredge Merritt safely brings US Marine Tony Frey to shore after he was rescued from the New River Inlet. (Photo by Connie Pletl, Topsail Voice)*

Captain Bleam quickly maneuvered his ship close to Frey by overcoming the ebb current and falling tide. With the rest of the crew on the bow, Page tossed a life ring to Frey, who managed to grab it and hold on.

Page and the other crewmen, consisting of Bourbeau, Assistant Chief Engineer David Cribbs, Assistant Engineer Van Sellers and Deck Welder Willie Blackman, then pulled Frey closer to the ship with the tag line, which was fastened to the life ring.

The crewmen next lowered the eye of a mooring hawser over the high bulwark on the starboard side. When Frey was able to get a leg into it, all five men hoisted him up and over the rail to safety.

Frey expressed deep gratitude toward the Merritt captain and crew. He was then brought back to shore and reunited with his friends.

North Topsail Beach Police Officers Timothy Mitchum and Rob Davis, as well as the rescue squad, were also on the scene.

"There are 'no swimming' signs posted at the access," said Officer Davis. "It is a dangerous place to swim."

The New River Inlet has claimed several lives throughout the years. The most recent was last year on July 14 when Octavio Lopez Aargon, 17, of Holly Ridge went swimming in the inlet with his brother and four friends after work.

He was apparently caught in the current and went under before he could be rescued.

North Topsail Beach, along with approximately one dozen agencies looked extensively for the teen using helicopters, boats, personal watercraft, divers, sonar, dogs, divers and personnel who searched the beaches and wetlands on foot and on four wheelers.

They searched for Aargon for several weeks, but he was never found.

*(Story reprinted permission Topsail Voice newspaper. Fred Lehman is Second Mate aboard the dredge Fry.)*

# Partners for a Safe Summer

*By Miriam Fleming*

With ever-shrinking budgets, the community of Wilkes County has stepped forward to ensure the summer passes at W. Kerr Scott Lake without a water-related death. Not only have Burger King and Wal-Mart joined in the effort, the local community has also answered our call for support.

This year, Anita Vannoy, manager of the local Burger King, donated surplus Kid's Meal Toys and coupons for use in the Ranger Trading Card program. While talking with Ranger Larry Harris one morning, Vannoy mentioned she had surplus toys from their Shark Tales promotion. Ranger Harris asked if she would be willing to provide the excess toys for one of the water safety initiatives at the lake. From that discussion was born the partnership with Burger King.

"Our trading card program has seen its most successful year so far," said Outreach Coordinator Miriam Fleming. "In fact, the number of children participating in the program has increased almost 30 percent over the previous two years." Children receive relevant safety information printed on the back of the cards. They also earn prizes as they collect. "We encourage the children to learn with the cards." Fleming said. In fact, the grand prize this year requires the children to use the messages on the cards to create a water safety poster. "By requiring active participation in order to be eligible for the grand prize," Fleming said, "we are encouraging the children to really think about what the messages mean." This number is expected to increase by the end of the recreation season and can be attributed to the participation of Burger King in the program.

Wal-Mart manager Steve Penlands has long been a strong supporter of programs at Scott Lake. Penlands often supports water safety and other programs by providing discounts, lifejackets, and toys. Last year, he signed a partnership agreement with Scott Lake to support the Lifejacket Loaner Program. Under the agreement, Wal-Mart provides ten new lifejackets annually to help replace lifejackets taken out of service.

The Lifejacket Loaner Program is the most successful water safety program at W. Kerr Scott Lake. Each station has approximately 25 lifejackets available and on weekends, all of the lifejackets are checked out. The Hispanic population uses the program more than any other group. "Because our Day-Use area usage has increased over the last three years," said Recreation Ranger Jory Shepherd, "there often are too few lifejackets for visitors wanting to use them. We want everyone who wants one to have a lifejacket available."

In addition to the lifejackets received by Wal-Mart, during the month of July, the staff challenged the community to help replenish the supply of lifejackets used for the Lifejacket Loaner Program. This community answered that challenge in a strong way. Just one day after the article appeared in the local newspaper, one longtime Wilkes County resident presented a check for $100 to purchase new lifejackets. The generosity has not stopped there. Halfway through the month, 27 lifejackets have been contributed with another 16 pledged.

Rangers reach out daily to the local community through the lake report broadcast daily on the local radio station WKBC. The lake report concludes with a safety tip encouraging responsible water recreation. Rangers recently used that same station and Winston-Salem's news station WXII 12 to transmit flood control information during Tropical Storm Cindy. News personalities transmitted live reports throughout the day from different locations at the facility.

Scott Lake closes out the month of July with the "Children's Summer Safety Fair." Our House, an organization dedicated to the prevention of child abuse, sponsors this event. This day will address issues such as fire and water safety, latch key children, as well as providing child identification kits.

Summer is always a time of heightened awareness for the rangers at Corps lakes. This summer, the staff of W. Kerr Scott Lake has worked diligently to share that awareness with the local community. The best part of all is the community has shown its willingness to be a part of making their place of recreation safer for all who visit. For that, we thank them.

*Anita Vannoy, Burger King Manager, presents $40 in coupons to Larry Harris for the Ranger Trading Card program.*

# *Partnership Ensures Good Habitat for Wild Turkeys at Kerr Lake*

Halifax County, Virginia hunters donated funds, time and equipment to enhance wildlife habitat on Banister River North Unit wildlife management area through a partnership between the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Volunteers used prescribed fire on a 100-acre field and then planted a 20-foot strip of grasses and broad-leaved herbs beneficial to wildlife around the field.

"We wanted to do a project in an area where people would benefit and see what the NWTF is doing," said David Vaughan, volunteer for the NWTF Halifax Local Chapter.

*Volunteers were able to plant new vegetation after controlled burning.*

The project will provide valuable food sources for wild turkeys and other wildlife and was funded through the NWTF Virginia Hunting Heritage Super Fund and the Army Corps of Engineers. It will be an ongoing project with new projects started annually.

"With 50,000 acres of land in the John H. Kerr Dam & Reservoir Project, habitat enhancement opportunities are endless," said Will Harlon, Army Corps of Engineers forester. "Partnership projects benefit wildlife, the Army Corps of Engineers and the people in the area."

**About the NWTF:** In 1973, when the National Wild Turkey Federation was founded, there were an estimated 1.3 million wild turkeys and 1.5 million turkey hunters. Thanks to the work of wildlife agencies and the NWTF's many volunteers and partners, today there are nearly 7 million wild turkeys and nearly 3 million turkey hunters. Since 1985, more than $202 million NWTF and cooperator dollars have been spent on over 31,000 projects benefiting wild turkeys throughout North America.

The NWTF is a nonprofit organization with nearly 525,000 members in 50 states and 12 foreign countries. It supports scientific wildlife management on public, private and corporate lands as well as wild turkey hunting as a traditional North American sport. For more information about the NWTF, or its projects in Virginia, call 800-THE-NWTF, or go online at http://www.nwtf.org.

# Free Computer Information on the Web...

*Shannon Rinehart*

Can't tell your ActiveX control from your mutating virus? Troubles determining where your Batch File ends and your backups begin? Is your home computer protected as well as your work computer? How do you make sense of the entire virus this and virus that, don't do this, and don't do that…?

Let me share a couple of web sites that I find invaluable in my quest for the secure and happy computer.

First off, let's start with the Symantec (Norton) security response site.

**URL: http://securityresponse.symantec.com/**

All sorts of goodies are available here. You will find:

- Latest worldwide virus threats
- Security Advisories from leaders in the data/communications world
- Virus definitions (what is it, what does it do, and how do I kill it?)
- Security updates
- Verify your protection level
- Virus removal tools
- Top virus threats
- (And, one of my favorites) Reference Area, which contains up to date information regarding HOAXES, virus encyclopedia, virus calendar, white papers, etc…

Next stop on our whirlwind tour of the computing world is the McAfee security site glossary section at:

**URL: http://us.mcafee.com/virusInfo/default.asp?id=glossary**

Here you will find definitions of computer jargon that will enable you to impress friends and family and allow you to keep up with the most computer literate conversations:

For instance; What is a URL? What is password sniffing , and, does this permanently damage one's nose?), What is a Sparse Infector, and why does it deserve such a cool name? What is a vaccination, and will it hurt to sit down if you have one? The list goes on from ActiveX to Zoo Virus…

These are only two of the many free educational sites available on the web. The key is to visit only reputable sites that have established names in the computer/security world. Computer security at home (and at work) requires a holistic approach with a combination of quality anti-virus programs, adherence to established security procedures, and personal computer savvy. I hope this article helps in these areas. Happy surfing!

*– continued from page 6*

Regulatory team for their tireless work following hurricane damage in the Outer Banks area, an EPA award to a project team for their outstanding cleanup of EPA facilities in Research Triangle Park

*Intensively managed navigation operations and maintenance work* done by our District Fleet and navigation project delivery team that has made the very best use of increasingly scarce resources to maintain federal channels and to keep the public fully informed of navigation conditions. I can truthfully say that no other group of folks has ever managed to get so much work and value out of every available dollar of federal resources.

As our sponsors and stakeholders in the audience know, our forward motion on projects and our maintenance of existing projects has at times required us to become more resourceful and creative than ever before in the past. It has caused us to work ever more closely with you to find strategies that will bring us to our mutual goals. Mutual understanding and willingness to make sacrifices for the good of all have characterized your work with us.

Services that in the past were considered a 'given' today have come to look like luxuries an embattled nation may not be able to afford. Your voices and participation and commitment to the goals you have for your communities will be more crucial than ever before in the future of water resources management and development for our region. Your contribution to a wider, fully accurate understanding of the real economic impacts of navigation infrastructure and coastal infrastructure will be a vital element in the fate of existing and proposed projects. We all have to be willing to evaluate the genuine ground truth of each situation. I believe that you can count on the Corps of Engineers, embodied in this District, to be an honest partner with you in the search for true answers and optimum strategies.

In our turn, the Corps has taken some important steps to make itself more flexible, effective and economically viable in carrying forward our peacetime Civil Works missions. The people COL Pulliam will command from this day forward will be leading efforts to do engineering and planning work that reaches across the entire South Atlantic Region. That's just one of many changes under way to restructure ourselves as a more efficient and seamless organization to serve your needs.

Again, I turn this district over to COL Pulliam's command, confident in his great capabilities, and convinced of the tremendous skills and commitments of the entire team that will continue to serve him and you.

***Essayons!***

*Jan Wutkowski*

# Website Highlights

**Sloan Career Cornerstone Center**
***HYPERLINK "http://www.careercornerstone.org/math/math.htm" \t "_top" http://www.careercornerstone.org/math/math.htm***

The Sloan Career Cornerstone Center is "a non-profit resource center for those exploring career paths in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics." The website includes a collection of profiles of individuals working in these fields, including details on their educational background and job descriptions as well as video footage of interviews. Other features include ranges of compensation for jobs in the field and descriptions of the sectors in which they might work. The Day in the Life section reviews some typical problems, work environments, skills, activities, and offers additional advice for career seekers. The Center offers all this information on a variety of engineering careers including Aerospace Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Engineering Technology, and Nuclear Engineering. Contributions are from various national organizations and associations.

**UCSD: ROADNet**
***HYPERLINK "http://roadnet.ucsd.edu/index.html" \t "_top" http://roadnet.ucsd.edu/index.html***

The ROADNet project at the University of California at San Diego aims to bring "the information superhighway to the dirt road and the high seas." In other words, ROADNet researchers are working to build wireless networks to stream remote field data and then develop an integrated information management system to deliver the data in real-time to multiple users. Field studies in California include ecological and hydroclimate studies as well as projects on coastal and ocean monitoring. Information on the project's data management tools and technical advice for those working to develop sensors is posted here. Publications, presentations and photos provide additional information.

**The Hurricane Hunters–**
***HYPERLINK "http://www.hurricanehunters.com/" \t "_top" http://www.hurricanehunters.com/***

At this website, the Hurricane Hunters promote their work investigating hurricanes by flying "airplanes right into the eye of the hurricane." Visitors can find amazing images of the eye of hurricanes, crew members, weather, and the plane. During active storms, individuals can find the latest reports by the Hunters and by the National Hurricane Center, although at print time it did not appear the site had been updated since last season. The website presents the history of the Hurricane Hunters, which is a Department of Defense organization created in 1944 and is the only association still flying into storms.

**DARPA Grand Challenge 2005**
***HYPERLINK "http://www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge/" \t "_top" http://www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge/***

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the central research and development organization for the Department of Defense (DoD), sponsors the annual DARPA Grand Challenge, which is "a field test intended to accelerate research and development in autonomous ground vehicles that will help save American lives on the battlefield." Individuals and organizations from industry, the R&D community, government, the armed services, academia, students, backyard inventors, and automotive enthusiasts are invited to enter the challenge. The team that develops an autonomous ground vehicle that is the first to finish the designated route within 10 hours wins $2 million. When the race was first held in 2003, the most successful team managed to cover only 7.4 miles of the desert terrain featuring natural and man-made obstacles

**Theme Park Insider**
***HYPERLINK "http://www.themeparkinsider.com/" \t "_top" http://www.themeparkinsider.com/***

As America goes into full Summer swing, many people will travel to America's amusement parks and traveling carnivals. One would do well to take a look at the Theme Park Insider website for reviews of various parks and the best (and worst) attractions at each particular place of amusement before they venture onto the open road. Edited by Robert Niles, the site contains reviews of new amusement park rides, an "Accident Watch" (which documents the latest accidents at each park), and reviews of theme park hotels as well.

**Women Tech World**
***HYPERLINK "http://www.womentechworld.org/" \t "_top" http://www.womentechworld.org/***

Women Tech World is "the online home" for the Women's Technician Club, which connects women technicians with each other. In the section featuring Role Models, the organization posts biographies, stories and photos of "wonderful women who have succeeded in occupations ranging from auto technician to computer network engineer to detective and more." The website and projects are run by the Institute for Women in Trades, Technology & Science (IWITTS); Center provides an overview of careers for technicians, such as engineering, telecommunications, or installation maintenance and repair.

## One For Fun!

**History Explorer**
***HYPERLINK "http://americanhistory.si.edu/explorer/index.cfm" \t "_top" http://americanhistory.si.edu/explorer/index.cfm***

The inventive people at the National Museum of American History have recently developed the History Explorer allowing those surfing the Web to browse through an interactive timeline of American history. The interface is composed of items from the Museum's various online collections, exhibitions and programs. Visitors can zoom in and out through the timeline and its objects and also elect to toggle on or off various themes, such as "Arts and Culture", "Peopling America", and "Politics and Reform".

Park Rangers Justin Elmore (pictured) and Shannon Maness visited LaCrosse Elementary School for a water safety presentation. Pupils learned several tips that could save a life: use Personal Floatation Devices (PFD) when in or around water; if someone in the water is in trouble, REACH out to the person to help; if reaching doesn't work, THROW a floatation device out to the person; have an adult ROW out to the person if possible; if all else fails, GO for help. The Eagle volunteers participated in a "simulated" boat ride and found out the proper and improper use of PFDs. (Photo courtesy of Mecklenburg (VA) Sun newspaper and LaCrosse Elementary School.)

# *Reaching Out*

Rangers **Jory Shepherd** and **Miriam Fleming** spent three days present environmental education programs for the Wilkes County Girl Scouts Day Camp. Held at Fort Hamby Park, the 77 participants enjoyed a Bug Hunt, experienced North Carolina wildlife through an extensive natural collection, and learned about the physiology of American Black Bears.

**Rangers at W. Kerr Scott** presented water safety programs to over 400 visitors in the two weeks leading up to the Fourth of July holiday.

**Miriam Fleming**, Outreach Coordinator at W. Kerr Scott, and Safety Sam attended the Festival en la Biblioteca at the Wilkes County Regional Library on June 11. Safety Sam passed out coloring books and other water safety material. He was the belle of the biblioteca.

# *Corps Family News*

**Penny Schmitt** is delighted to announce the engagement of her son, James Harpold, and Lara Michelle Cullins of Falls Church, Virginia. Penny reports that James 'arranged fireworks' by proposing at the National Capital Independence Day celebration. James is a 2nd year law student at the University of Oregon. A summer 2006 wedding is planned.

Michael and **Angie Pennock** are the new parents of Gavin Lee Pennock (left) who was born July 2nd. Gavin weighed in at six pounds, seven ounces and was 20.25 inches. New Mom Angie is with the Asheville Regulatory Field Office.

Jonathan and **Jennifer Frye** of Regulatory are the new parents of Henry Alexander Frye. Henry was born at 12:35 July 30th. He weighed in at seven pounds, four ounces and measured 19 inches long.

# *Retiree Report*

Jean and Dan Grimsley, Gloria and Paul Woodbury, Kay and Buddy Johnson, Ken Old, Augustus B. Moore, Joe Lewis, Betty and Eric Matzke, Sylvia and Rex Phillips, Charlie and Dorothy Hollis, Ed Shuford.

Gus Moore was commenting on the house at the corner of 6th and Dock Street, noting that it is for sale at a price 104 times what it sold for in 1975. This was, of course, a house which he said he had sold about 20 years too soon. It makes one think when we look to those good old days.

Paul and Gloria Woodbury now have 10 grandchildren with the addition of Simon and Sophia, and they have seen 9 of the 19 in the past 2 months. They are terrific, of course, as noted in the registration book. They have made trips to the Bahamas, New York City, West Bend, IA, and Vermont. .

Betty and Eric Matzke made a trip to Branson Missouri recently.

It was good to see that Joe Lewis was able to get out once again.

Betty and Bob Swart were not present because Bob was participating in the funeral of a lifetime friend from his church.

# *Lifeguard Two for Two at Philpott Lake*

***By Susan Traxel***

*Robbie Stevens, Philpott Lifeguard*

When William Byrd High School student Robbie Stevens went camping with his grandmother Janet Bingham at the US Army Corps of Engineers Philpott Project, little did he know the water safety life guard course he just completed a month ago would be put into use. Twice in two days, 15-year-old Robbie Stevens rescued people at the Goose Point swim area of Philpott Lake.

The first rescue occurred when Robbie heard desperate parents calling for him to help catch their preschooler who had drifted too far out in his inflatable toy. The following day Robbie noticed a young man in his twenties who seemed to be struggling in the deep water near the swim area boundary line. Watching carefully, he observed the man go down for the second time. When he came up again he frantically called out "Help me".

Robbie didn't waste any time. He called to his grandmother to get the ring buoy and dived out towards the man who had gone under the water for the third time. Another bystander handed the ring buoy to Janet and she threw it in the direction of her grandson, where he had just reached the struggling victim. Robbie was able to pull the person to the surface of the water and then bring him back safely to the shoreline, where others were anxiously waiting.

Philpott's Operations Manager Carl Smith has recognized Robbie's outstanding lifesaving efforts and presented him with a certificate of recognition, complimentary water safety products, and a free camping pass. Mr. Smith said "The Corps of Engineers places a great emphasis on water safety. We are very proud of Robbie Stevens. His keen observations and quick response in this life-threatening event very likely saved another person's life. Sometimes in situations like this, a person can be drowning and no one will notice, or want to get involved. Robbie was able and willing to help two other people who needed his help."

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