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USACE

WILMINGTON DISTRICT NEWS

ONLINE

JULY 2007

W. KERR SCOTT DAM AND RESERVOIR NAMED U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS NATURAL RESOURCES PROJECT OF YEAR

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By Penny Schmitt

Photos by Jory Shepherd

Anglers take advantage of W. Kerr Scott's fall foliage in one of dozens of coves. It's beautiful areas like this that are magnets for locals and tourists.

Nestled in the western North Carolina mountains, W. Kerr Scott Lake exemplifies the mountain spirit that can turn a bit of wood into a hand-made instrument, fashion a work-of-art quilt from stray scraps, and raise an abundant life on the back of community cooperation and inventiveness. The staff, superbly augmented by volunteers, community organizations, businesses and contract work force members, has intensively developed every possible resource. Together, they have made the project a multi-faceted jewel, diamond-sharp in its efficiency and effectiveness and showing flashes of real brilliance in its cultural resources and recreational opportunities.

That's why the project has just been selected as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2007 Natural Resources Management Project of the Year Award winner. The project will be recognized for its achievements at the Senior Leaders Conference Banquet on 6 August with a presentation plaque. By the end of August the project will receive a $25,000 award. The intent of the cash award is to help fund one of the Project's FY 2007 unfunded

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UP FRONT

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE CORPORATE BOARD

Chris Brayman
DDE, PPM

Last week I spent time reading all the comments from the internal District survey and a LOT of them focused on "comm.-unication". I tried to think about further steps I can take to improve this. I wish I could duplicate myself 400 times to personally reach out and touch everyone, but since I don't have such magic, I decided to use the District newsletter as a way to share information that can often simply get overlooked. For now I want to talk about the "Corporate Board", a term that came into use a couple of years ago to describe the group comprising the Division Chiefs, Commander, and Deputy Commander. Every Thursday at 2:30 pm, this group – COL Pulliam, LTC Tilque, George Burch (Chief of Staff), Chris Brayman (Programs & Project Management), Hank Maser (Technical Services), Bob Sattin (Operations), Ken Jolly (Regulatory), Lou Smith (Resource Management) and Brooke Lamson (Counsel) – get together to have a staff meeting sometimes referred to as the "corporate huddle". The purpose of this staff meeting is like any of the numerous other staff meetings that take place in the District – to share information about what's going on in your organization.

Webster's Dictionary defines a "huddle" as:
1 *British* **:** to arrange carelessly or hurriedly
2a : to crowd together **b :** to draw (oneself) together **: CROUCH**
3 : to wrap closely in (as clothes)
intransitive verb
1a : to gather in a close-packed group
b : to curl up **: CROUCH**
2a : to hold a consultation **b :** to gather in a huddle in football

As many of you know, COL Pulliam likes football analogies so I'm guessing that's where the term was born. I hope the "huddle" isn't "careless or hurried" like the first definition, rather a "consultation" and gathering "in a close-packed group". The Board and its huddle aren't intended to be secretive, strategic sessions where information is close hold. It is rather a typical run-down of "this is what is going on in my organization this week". "Close-packed group" doesn't mean "close hold," rather that we trust and rely upon each other. This weekly exchange serves many purposes.

First, at the most basic level, we share information. For instance, last week Lou told all of us that HQ will now be looking at travel card delinquencies over 60 days and will require a "get well plan" to be sent to them. Hopefully that message was disseminated through supervisors to all employees.

Second, information shared by one member clues the other members in on topics that they may have a role in but aren't actively engaged in at the time. In our rush to do business and get things done for the customer, we sometimes overlook coordination with a team member. Did the Project Manager coordinate with Resource Management? Did Operations check with Counsel?

Third, by doing this and simply being together, the members gel as a leadership team – particularly the civilian members which will remain a

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District

THREE WILMINGTON DISTRICT TEAM MEMBERS OFFER THREE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES ABOUT DEPLOYMENT

Wilmington District member Neil Myers takes time out from his ueber busy schedule to give bottles of water to Iraqi children.

Neil Myers– Iraq

Hope this update finds everyone back home in good health and enjoying the summer months. I'm a busy worker-bee these days; still seven days/wk, 10 – 11 hrs/day (with ½ day off on Fri mornings, which I treasure dearly). Currently the five PHC's (Primary Healthcare Centers) are under construction and I'm hounding the Iraqi Contractors to complete the final work items. They are known for getting very close to the end and then dragging out the last work items; especially if they do not have another contract to start. I've recently conducted the Pre-Work Meeting and presented the NTP (notice to proceed) on a new water treatment plant in an area that really needs fresh water. A sixth PHC contract is suppose to be let soon along with a second water treatment plant and a sewage treatment plant.

Recently, when conducting a site scope survey at one of the water treatment sites, I had the opportunity to give away one of the balls recently received from the Scott Lake Team. The group of kids was located on the opposite side of a canal, so I thought I'd just drop kick it over. Well…I underestimated the tail-wind and my steel toe boots, and kicked the darn thing over their mud huts and into the next field. Not to worry. They came back in minutes with the ball in hand and waving and smiling their appreciation. Thanks to everyone that has contributed to the ball and school supply drive. I'll try to photograph kids with them. However, I have learned that some village leaders are cautious about allowing photos with worries that they may be used to demonstrate cooperation with coalition forces and possibly cause reprisals. The local leader will know if there is a concern and they will readily give permission if it's okay.

Sure wish I could respond in length to everyone, but it may take me a few weeks to return a message to everyone that writes. However, I enjoy and value all your emails, especially with news about friends, family, events, activities, retirements, photos, etc. from back home.

April Ward Part 1– Afghanistan

After days of working inside tied to a desk, it is exciting when offered the opportunity to visit sites and see Corps team members hard at work. Eric Dolly, a senior Quality Assurance Construction Representative, was my guide for the day. He impressed me with his wealth of knowledge, ranging from Kabul popular areas of interest to Corps sites and their proposed functionality with previous history inserts provided along the way.

First stop on our agenda was Darulaman Palace which provided an educational background and insight into Kabul's history and the Afghan's struggle to gain

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W. KERR SCOTT CON'T

"The project is a multi-faceted jewel, diamond-sharp in its efficiency and effectiveness and showing flashes of real brilliance in its cultural resources and recreational opportunities."

natural resources management goals.

Mountain folks may be independent, but they know they can't 'go it alone.' That's the idea behind W. Kerr Scott's many close partnerships with community and regional organizations, its O&M contractor, and more than 400 volunteers. The values added by these partnerships have resulted in a superb outdoor amphitheater facility that instantly became the focus for heritage music and theater events, addition of mountain biking and other trails that have been designated as parts of National Park Service trail systems, and initiatives that join the project with regional heritage tourism attractions like the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area and the Yadkin River Heritage Corridor.

The community support exemplified by the efforts of the W. Kerr Scott Lake Friends of the Lake, the Wilkes County Chamber of Commerce, the Eastern National Cooperative Association, the Yadkin River Greenway Council, Brushy Mountain Cyclist Club, Golden Leaf Foundation, the Wilkes County Playmakers, and a variety of North Carolina state agencies and others are invaluable. Yet these partnerships can be measured in more than $680,000

It's definitely a four-seasons atmosphere where the forests at W. Kerr Scott appear to blossom with vivid colors.

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W. KERR SCOTT CON'T

in non-federal grants and donations to support development efforts at the lake, and more than 4,000 hours of volunteer services. These successful partnerships have also earned the project a $750,000 federal modernization grant and a $10,000 'handshake' grant, used to complete major projects like the Ft. Hamby Park modernization and theater and a stretch of National Overmountain Trail.

Water safety is a top priority at the lake.

Not satisfied to focus on just two these showcase projects, the W. Kerr Scott staff leverages every talent for the community's benefit, whether it is the skilled photographer who invited NASCAR greats to promote water safety, or the Spanish-speaking ranger who has initiated a learn-to-swim program for Hispanic visitors. A staff-initiated project offers split wood for camper purchase, putting earnings toward a new environmental education center, where rangers--now North Carolina Certified Environmental Educators-- will present interpretive programs. These and many other outstanding examples of stewardship make W. Kerr Scott the pride of its entire region, and a great credit to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. ■

Public outreach is a major selling point that the staff at W. Kerr Scott Lake and Reservoir prides itself on.

HOOAH!

Wilmington District is so proud of y'all!

A sunset like this makes yet another priceless, breathtaking sight at W. Kerr Scott.

W. KERR SCOTT'S JORY SHEPHERD IS SELECTED FOR NATIONAL USACE AWARD

Jory Shepherd, a Ranger at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, has been selected as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2007 Natural Resources Management Recreation Employee of the Year Award winner. She will be recognized for her achievement at the Senior Leaders Conference Banquet on 6 August with a presentation plaque, and will receive a $1,000 award.

W. Kerr Scott Ranger Jory Shepherd takes customer satisfaction surveys at the Bandits roost campground. Shepherd will receive a presentation plaque and $1,000.

Jory was promoted from Field Office Assistant to Ranger in 2003, and has embarked on an intensive educational and career development program, while accomplishing outstanding initiatives in her job.

> ***"Her integrity, professional skills and devotion to duty and selfless service have rendered her richly deserving of this national honor."***

She has been steadily amassing college credits in biology and natural resources management, while participating in the Wilmington District LDP program and completing a year long program that resulted in her certification as a North Carolina Environmental Educator.

She has worked with volunteer organizations to enhance services at W. Kerr Scott Lake, she initiated and helped acquire an electronic gate system for the lake's camp grounds, she has greatly improved training and mentoring for contractor Park Attendants, she has overhauled and upgraded the lake's permit management system, and has trained and mentored other rangers.

Her integrity, professional skills, devotion to duty and selfless service have rendered her richly deserving of this national honor. Congratulations, Jory! ■

CLEAN UP PROGRESSING AT FORMER WWII TRAINING AREA NEAR BUTNER

Work is progressing and contractors are still searching for possible unexploded ordnance and other munitions at the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) at Camp Butner, a World War II training installation located near Butner, NC.

Ray Livermore, a member of the Wilmington District's Camp Butner FUDS Project, said contractors have completed work at a site known as Area 1A, roughly 20 acres in size. Area 1A was a top priority clean up site two years ago because an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis indicated that the former range was used not only to train Soldiers for flame throwing, but it may also have been used for grenade and mine training. Workers found a non-explosive practice mine during a the response action of the site in late January of 2005.

Livermore said urban sprawl is uncovering much of the former Camp Butner's training areas that used to be isolated areas or farmland. Land is less expensive in Butner than in areas like Raleigh and Durham making the small town and surrounding area attractive for people looking to buy more affordable homes and real estate.

"Subdivisions are going in where there was forest or agricultural land and we haven't cleared the areas yet," he said. "Some areas were cleared after WWII and yearly in the 1960s in specific areas. However, that doesn't mean that when they said they cleared the areas that it was done completely. We want it done methodically, carefully and with the latest in technological gear."

One key point for this long-term project, Livermore said, is assuring the public that safety is first and foremost.

Former military explosives experts check out a potential hazard near a home. Urban sprawl is uncovering training areas in much of the area.

"The contractors working on this job have performed many similar projects in other locations," he said. "A lot of these folks are former military ordnance specialists. There's enough confidence in them to use their military experience combined with the best technology and techniques for handling this sensitive issue."

Livermore said proactive community involvement with such groups as the Town of Butner, Granville County and Durham law enforcement agencies and local emergency response services has helped keep Butner residents and those who live within the former Camp Butner area informed about the project.

"We're getting lots of information to the public. One of our target groups is children. Two years ago we produced a safety video that helped explain what Camp Butner was during WWII. If kids ever find ordnance or other types of munitions they know to call police or get an adult."

According to Livermore, at the rate that the project's going it could take up to 20 years to complete the Camp Butner FUDS project. There are thousands of acres to cover with limited funding.

"We have 225 houses that we've got to clear. That's excluding a few subareas that were identified based on specific range information like an old anti-tank range that are close to completion. We'll clear 25 houses this year, and it looks as if we'll clear that many each year after."

The Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) funds cleanup of sites like Camp Butner under the FUDS program. The US Army Corps of Engineers acts as the Defense Department's agent to do the work, and the Wilmington District is the organization assigned to be project manager for the Camp Butner FUDS project. ■

CARTOGRAPHER ENJOYS TECHNICAL AND ARTISTIC ASPECTS OF MAPMAKING

The Lewis & Clark expedition or "Corps of Discovery" was an Army mission of the Corps of Topographic Engineers known formally today as the *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*. A mapmaking expedition, it had three objectives; find the Northwest Passage via the Missouri River; map the territory; determine the nature and extent of the Missouri River Basin. The best maps of western North America available at the time were distinguished by a large blank area between the Yellowstone River and the Columbia River on the Pacific Coast.

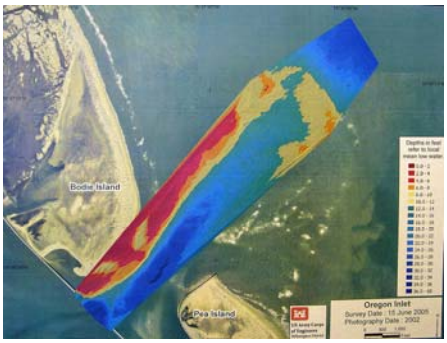
Captain William Clark was the cartographer of the expedition. The map published in the first edition of the Lewis & Clark journals was a landmark of North American cartography because it accurately depicted, not only the route of the expedition, but outlined much of the West beyond the Missouri River Basin. With this map Lewis and Clark drew the big picture of the areas west of the Mississippi River.

Maps like this one drawn by Captain William Clark fascinate Faircloth because of Clark's nearly accurate calculations.

Jump ahead from the Corps of Discovery period from 1804-1806 to 2007. The Wilmington District's Adam Faircloth is also a cartographer who is fascinated by the crude instruments mapmakers like William Clark used more than 200 years ago.

Adam Faircloth: "I like maps that tell stories."

"If you go back even further it's amazing that you can see the cartographer's calculations were not exact, but it's interesting that they got the general shape of a land mass almost right," he said. "I learned in classes that some early civilizations tried to measure the earth's circumference by digging two holes a known distance apart at a known depth. They measured the angles of the shadows at the same time of day. They calculated that arc and assumed it would continue to be about the size of the earth."



This map made by Faircloth helps managers make complex navigation decisions.

Faircloth, who majored in geography at UNCW, said what makes mapmaking intriguing for him is the combination of using analytical data and art. Although the majority of the maps he makes are hydrographic survey, he likes compiling all of the raw data and making it presentable with color, design and lots of data.

"I like maps that tell stories, maps that lay an idea or a concept that shows a spatial relationship. I love

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MAPMAKING CON'T

looking at distribution of, say, an area where there's an overabundance of reported cancer cases compared to the distribution of certain contributing factors. And I like maps that can differentiate between various cultures that are located in or near the same area."

For Faircloth each day is always challenging and never boring. What gives him satisfaction is that the work he does fits into a larger and sometimes complex puzzle that has a direct impact for inland navigation or along coastal North Carolina.

"What I like best about my job is to provide people, especially managers, information that's going to help them make a decision. It helps them see a trend in an area like a harbor or channel to see what depths they need to make. I really like to organize the data."

Faircloth said that technological advancements have made his job easy compared to the pre-computer era. He never takes for granted that he can churn out information in just a few hours.

"We're moving further away from having a static map, something you fold up and put in your pocket."

"Just 15 years ago in our office it'd take the guys a couple of days to do a survey, but a week or two to translate that data onto a map. And that was all by hand. It was very tedious and a lot of work."

One question that Faircloth gets often is, "Haven't they mapped everywhere yet?"

"People think that there's some remote corner of the world that should be mapped. I try to remind them of when they saw a new street. These are ideas that they don't really think about, but they're all around them. Just look at how much Wilmington is changing."

If it had been available, Lewis and Clark most likely would have welcomed a handheld GPS device and pitched their crude cartographic instruments to help them with their expedition. Faircloth said with that type of technology they wouldn't have needed good, old-fashioned maps.

Three dimensional software helps give Faircloth a better understanding of underwater terrain. Constantly shifting currents means a high degree of accurate information.

"We're moving further and further away from the need of having a static map, something you fold up and put in your pocket. Road maps…more and more vehicles are getting GPS devices. As far as walking around you have cell phones with GPS enablers. So we have to keep up technology." ■

CALL TO DUTY CON'T

From left- April Ward and Afghanistan Engineer District friends Eric Dolly, Kate Harper and Sergeant First Class James Smith take advantage of learning Afghan history up close at Darualam Palace.

freedom. Eric had to call the General of the Afghanistan Nation Army to allow the group entrance into the Palace.

April Ward Part 2

The difficulty with being deployed is finding time to relax and unwind after a long 12-hour, six-days-a-week, four hours on Friday work week. But when an element of fun and play is added to a hard and busy week, the experience becomes personalized and much more memorable. The compound we live on, called Qalaa House, is located in Kabul and is relatively small and space is limited. After only a few weeks the walls start closing in and that is when you start looking within to find your center energy. The joke here is "welcome to Qalaa Prison". It's not so bad, but you have to prepare to adapt to having fewer freedoms. We have a curfew, driving restrictions, clothing restrictions, food and drink restrictions to name a few. Putting that aside, we live in a small utopia called Qalaa. We do not have many holidays in which we are authorized holiday leave, but recently we celebrated Independence Day. I participated in basketball, volleyball. Looking on the bright side, one of the best aspects about being deployed is making new friends easily.

Deborah Rowell– Afghanistan

I haven't had many experiences here to write back home about. Before I even applied for this assignment, I asked a few people who came before me and they gave me some idea of what to expect. One of the individuals told me that it would prove to be an experience I'll never forget. She was right. She said that the Afghans were very warm people and that's exactly what I noticed.

Throughout the in-processing instructions they stressed the importance of taking care of ourselves. That is, eating balanced meals, getting some exercise, and getting sufficient rest. Although we have a mission to accomplish, the safety and health of people are foremost. That's something that has stuck with me throughout my stay here so far. I make sure I eat balanced meals. I try to walk as much as possible to get some exercise, and I try to make sure I get a good's night sleep. The good night's sleep part is what I really have to work on because I have bouts of insomnia. I've been here in Afghanistan for three weeks and still have not seen much on the area. The only sights I saw were while I was coming from the airport to our compound. It was amazing to see for myself just how poor this country is. The Corps office is on the Afghanistan National Army compound and the Corps living quarters are on the U.S. Army compound. To get to the U.S. Army compound, we go through the ISAF (International Security Armed Forces) compound. It's not as complicated as it sounds. The Corps did a wonderful job making sure that we had as many comforts as possible. My living quarters are very nice and private. Our office is pretty nice too. We have a total of 16 people working in the office: One lieutenant colonel, one sergeant, four

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CALL TO DUTY CON'T

USACE persons, and 10 local nationals. I am the only female. To me, the camaraderie is no different than at home. There is one Afghan local here who talks to me on a regular basis and he is the Deputy Resident Engineer. When I first arrived here in the office I was introduced to everyone. I noticed a few of the local nationals didn't seem comfortable shaking my hand and then I thought they probably are not use to working with women. After that initial meeting, I stopped extending my hand to shake theirs and just smiled and acknowledged them and they did the same. It's funny watching them warm up to me because they seem nervous or somewhat hesitant to say something to me. Every morning they come in and say "good morning Debora" and smile and ask "how are you today?" and then they move on and greet one another according to their custom. Every evening before leaving they say "see you tomorrow, Debora." They are very polite and very respectful.

My job here is an Administrative Assistant. In addition to the usual administrative duties, I have two local nationals that I give assignments to. Since USACE admin people come and go, the two local nationals are here to ensure the Resident Office has administrative support. In addition to administrative duties, I am learning how to use Resident Management System (RMS.) My job is to help the construction representatives and Resident Engineer by receiving submittals, pay estimates, letters and other official correspondence. In the future, there will be additional duties to perform in RMS as I become more knowledgeable and comfortable with the system. ■

UP FRONT CON'T

guiding force as the Deputy Commander and Commander change every two and three years. The Huddle is to "draw ourselves together", not to exclude others. During the last Corporate Board we had two guests, Tony Young and Tracey Wheeler, both of this year's Leadership Development Program. If you see them, ask them their impressions of the Corporate Board meeting.

So what other information was shared at last week's Corporate Board meeting…Bob Sattin always tells us where the fleet vessels are located and usually tells us about a grant or award the W. Kerr Scott project received. He also talked about getting phone calls on recreation area closures, a new lease for the marina at JH Kerr and elections for the Friends of Philpott. Ken discusses some hot topic for Regulatory – Bonner Bridge and EEP (Ecosystem Enhancement Program) this week – Rapanos and ORM2 many other weeks. George wants all of us to remember to use the Regional Calendar for meetings SAD needs to know we are having. In Hank's long-term absence, the three person team of Wayne Bissette, Coleman Long and Phil Kadala sit on the Corporate Board. They, or their acting representatives, talked about the meetings with stakeholders on the Drought Contingency Plan and work on the Wilmington Harbor General Re-evaluation. Brooke told us that our mandatory training for Ethics would require less hours this year than last. I talked about status of contracts at Roanoke, Harkers Island, Stanly County and Eagle Island. We talked about MOAs (Memorandum of Agreement) with the state and about a national model MOA. COL Pulliam closes out the meetings. He reminded us that we are coming in the heart of Hurricane season and that every District team member should be prepared to work elsewhere for a while in event of a Category 3 Hurricane or above. He asked if the employees had their laptops and critical paper and electronic files ready to take home with them. We closed with a discussion about awarding our people – doing it often and in a timely manner for work well done.

I hope this gives everyone a flavor of what happens at our weekly meeting. Sometimes our discussions are less "typical" and result in decisions being made like selections for the Leadership Development Programs, selection of the Employee of the Year or composition of the NSPS Pay Pool Panel.

My door is always open. Let me know what you think or what you might like to hear about. ■

CUDDLING UP IN A QUILT OF COSMIC GAMMARAY STARS

Note– COL Albert Costanzo, US Army Retired, was SAW District Engineer from 1971-1974.

The Compton Gamma Ray Observatory may be gone, but its memory lives on -- in a quilt museum in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Unbeknownst to Compton astronomers, a retired couple in rural Virginia took two gamma-ray images that their son received from NASA way back in 1993 and turned them into spectacular quilts.

One image, of the Crab and Geminga pulsars, is on display through September 18 at the Virginia Quilt Museum. The second, of a gamma-ray quasar called 3C 279, graced the celebratory symposium of the Compton mission on July 19 at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md.

"I can't say I know much about quilt-making, but these are fabulous reproductions of the original Compton images, right down to the smallest detail, or data point," said Dr. Neil Gehrels, a Goddard astrophysicist and project scientist for the mission. "We could use them as view graphs at meetings if the electricity should ever fail."

The cosmic quilt makers are Rose and Albert Costanzo, a retired couple who manage a Christmas tree farm in Elkwood, Va. In their ten years of quilting, they have never made an astronomy-themed quilt. Nor do they consider themselves amateur astronomers. Mrs. Costanzo was simply struck by the gamma-ray images that her son showed her, captured by a Compton instrument called EGRET.

Mrs. Costanzo wrote to Goddard in June after hearing about the end of the Compton mission via controlled reentry over the Pacific Ocean. "I saw in the paper that their satellite was deliberately crashed in the ocean," said Mrs. Costanzo. "I just wanted them to know that one of EGRET's many images can now be seen as a quilt hanging in a museum." EGRET is short for Energetic Gamma-Ray Experiment Telescope, one of four main instruments aboard Compton. The Compton Observatory, launched in 1991, burned up in the earth's atmosphere during a controlled reentry on June 4, 2000.

Mrs. Costanzo first caught the astronomy bug when images from the Hubble Space Telescope of swirling and bulging false-colored galaxies began to appear in popular newsmagazines such as Time and Newsweek. Early attempts at quilting these images didn't go far.

In 1993, the Costanzos' son, Daniel, now a volunteer coordinator for the Albert Einstein Planetarium at the National Air and Space Museum, thought that new Compton images he had seen would lend themselves perfectly to a quilt design. Such gamma-ray images are blocky or pixilated, by nature of the telescope technology and the physical nature of gamma rays.

Daniel Costanzo contacted Dr. Dave Thompson, a Goddard astrophysicist who works closely with EGRET data. Dr. Thompson quickly sent off two photographs of EGRET images to Daniel, not knowing what they would be used for. That's the last that Dr. Thompson heard of the Costanzos... until June 12, 2000.

Rose and Albert Costanzo display their quilt of the Crab and Geminga pulsars based on a CGRO EGRET image. (Photo by James Roy)

Mrs. Costanzo letter to Dr. Thompson -- written in an "FYI" manner -- contained a photograph of the Crab and Geminga quilt. The EGRET team members at Goddard were so impressed that they asked the Costanzos to join them at the Compton symposium and to bring the second quilt, not yet on display. The Goddard visitors center would also like to display both quilts. "My husband and I are completely bewildered by these snowballing events," said Mrs. Costanzo. "This is certainly exciting."

With the success of the Compton quilts, the Costanzos plan to attempt yet another celestial image, perhaps from the recently launched Chandra X-ray Observatory.

Rose Costanzo is a former school teacher and one of the first women to graduate from St. Bonaventure University. Albert Costanzo, a veteran of three wars, is a retired Army colonel and was a West Point classmate of Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin. Mrs. Costanzo designs and pieces together the quilts; her husband helps with the final stitching, which is called quilting. ■

KNICKS AND KNACKS

RETIREMENTS

Linda Andrews, left, Procurement Tech of the Savannah Regional Contracting Center - Wilmington, NC Office, retired on August 3, 2007 with 28 years and 7 months of federal service. A retirement reception was held in the Wilmington District Office. Linda served 12 years with USACE; seven years with the Alaska District; three years with the Wilmington District; and two years with the Savannah District. She also had previous years of service with the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Marine Corps and Department of Defense Dependents School System (DODDs).

Margaret Schools, right, of the Savannah Regional Contracting Center - Wilmington, NC Office, retired on May 31, 2007 with 16 years of federal service. A retirement reception was held in the Wilmington District Office. Margaret served 14 years with the Wilmington District Contracting Division and 2 years with the Savannah District - Regional Contracting Center. Margaret was the Chief, Supplies/Services & Contracting Officer (KO) with the SAW Contracting Division and was a Contracting Officer (with $50 million authority) for the Savannah Regional Contracting Center Her primary KO responsibilities were for Operations Division acquisitions (supporting the SAW vessel TEAM and the five lake and dam locations, environmental/ archeological acquisitions, and supported the SAW administrative offices. She also performed Contract Specialist/Contracting Officer duties for hurricanes FRAN, GEORGES, and FLOYD. (Submitted by Sherrill Bunn)

Terry Brown welcomed his first grandchild July 31st around 5:30PM. Ava Marie Bazonski weighs eight pounds, one ounce. Ava measured 19.5 inches long at birth and is doing well.

Miss Emily Phaile Davis, daughter of Kris and Katy Davis and granddaughter of Tom and **Patricia Prentiss**, was born Friday, 27 July at 11:20AM. She weighed in at eight pounds, two

WEBSITE HIGHLIGHTS

WITH BARBARA EKELUND

Dear Readers,

I was bemoaning the fact that I didn't know what would interest this column's readers, when I had an epiphany moment. Reference tools! I thought. What tools would prove useful for internet users? Some of these may seem obvious, but you may not know of others. So here are some of my favorite online tools.

Newspapers are a great source of info and I have found it interesting to go the local newspapers of places where I once lived or plan to visit, to learn about what is going on in those communities. www.newspaperlinks.com/home.cfm is the link to NewsVoyager, a site that can connect you to local daily and weekly papers around the country.

Need a dictionary or thesaurus? Dictionary.com (http://dictionary.reference.com/) or Your-Dictionary (www.yourdictionary.com/) offers both. Both provide links to foreign language translation dictionaries too.

The U.S. Postal Service has a zip code directory online at http://zip4.usps.com/zip4/citytown_zip.jsp that helps you find a zip code by address, city, or company.

Two online phonebooks I often use is Switchboard.com (www.switchboard.com/) and AnyWho.com (www.anywho.com/). Do you want to locate a company's 800-number? AnyWho has that too.

If you're planning an international vacation, try Oanda.com (www.oanda.com/converter/classic) for currency exchange rates. Just select the U.S. dollar and the other country's currency and pop in any amount to see the exchanged value. It works in reverse, too.

Along the same line, http://www.worldtimeserver.com/ connects to WorldTimeserver.com, where you can determine the time differences around the world. It also takes into account Daylight Saving time for those places that observe it. A particularly cool feature at this site is a meeting planner that compares the time of day across multiple time zones.

And, just for fun, I like Brainy-History.com (www.brainyhistory.com/) to gather 'today in history' –types of info. You can view births, deaths and notable events by month and day. ■

JUST WHO IS THIS GENTLEMAN OF NOTE?

If you know, then stop by public affairs and you'll be eligible for *free chocolate items* during the next recreation committee fund raiser to be held this month.

Your clues: He's not American, and he served as the nominal head of the government of England from 1742 until his death in 1743. He was merely a figurehead to the true leader of the government, Lord Carteret, the Secretary of State for the Northern Department. (Source– Wikepedia.com)

PASTOR BILL

LIGHTS IN THE DARK

Bill Adams

Taking a late evening walk in the summer is one of my favorite things to do. It's so quiet and peaceful, a great way to unwind at the end of the day. Many kinds of crickets and katydids sing in the brush and trees, lightning bugs blink intermittently, and an occasional bat will flit through the cone of light cast down by a streetlight. Embraced by the warmth of a night breeze off of the sea, it's as close to Eden as I'll ever be.

The other night I was walking, connecting the dots of illumination formed by the streetlights on the pavement; darkness to light, darkness to light, and so on. It could just as well have been fear to light, fear to light, for while we believe ourselves to be modern and educated, there is still a part of us that is uneasy in the dark. Much like a campfire in a wilderness, the streetlights in our suburban lives provide us with a feeling of security. We need that oasis of light. While it is intended to keep what scares us at bay, I sometimes feel those lights just deepen the surrounding darkness.

As I strolled along, I noticed another person walking toward me. They were in an unlit area and I couldn't tell who it was. I immediately

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became apprehensive. It's funny how the light can change our perception. In the daylight they'd just be a neighbor taking a walk; but at night, they're unknown, possibly someone to be feared. But I realize to them I'm also unknown; to them I am the very thing I fear. Soon we pass in the night, pleasantries are exchanged, pulses return to normal, and all is well.

How primal and strange is the part of me that fears things in the dark. I do not like it. It is deep, deeper than I like to acknowledge. When I'm walking in the woods at night with no light, I fear most meeting something in the darkness. I can rationalize, I can whistle in the dark, but I can't make that fear go away. There is a part in each of us that will always need campfires or streetlights. We stray from the light at our peril.

And so, in the name of rest and relaxation, my neighbors and I go through a nightly ritual of spooking each other under the stars. It's not so bad really; otherwise we wouldn't keep walking. We know the fearsome wild animals were driven from the land long ago. Now the only beasts left to fear are the untamed ones that lurk within human hearts - and they are the ones that scare us the most. I don't know theirs and they don't know mine, but everybody has one. The Apostle Paul lamented an untamed presence in his heart (Romans 7:19) "For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do - this is what I keep on doing." We need the light to guide us. We need the light because dark hearts are real and we don't know where they are or what they'll do.

My walk was soon over and I stopped to take a few minutes to sit on a park bench in my yard. It is in a dark place so I could see the stars above. A glow in the east let me know the moon would soon rise. Lost in the beauty of the night sky, a love of creation swelled in my heart and I was at peace with the light and the dark. Both are a part of me, like the blood that enters and exits my heart. In the fullness of love I have the freedom to choose when and where I walk. I was reminded of the words of Jesus (John 12:35) "The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going." How true. So in life, as on walks, I need the dots of light that are defined by the dark.

Soon I went inside and I settled into my easy chair to read my nightly devotions. Before I went to bed, I looked out the window. A full moon had risen and its light beamed over the land. All was safe until, in bed, I closed my eyes. Then I had to face the darkness within. ■

William F. Adams