



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Walla Walla District

Intercom

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Saluting the Walla Walla District for 2007

Year in Review

FROM WHERE I SIT

“You continue making a positive difference locally, regionally and nationally”



Lt. Col. Tony Hofmann

Happy New Year to all district employees and family members! I hope the recent holiday season allowed everyone to get some much-deserved rest and time to reflect on the past year.

I'm extremely proud of the Walla Walla District's accomplishments in 2007, which is the theme for this edition of the *Intercom*. Our superb workforce continues to make a positive difference locally, regionally and nationally. The District continues to be one of the top contributors among all 41 USACE districts in providing support to the Global War on Terror (GWOT), with 117 completed deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan and 11 personnel currently deployed.

District support domestically remains strong as evidenced by the recent deployment of a 10-person Planning and Response Team (PRT) augmenting FEMA to provide power generation support to the Midwest during the serious ice storms that ravaged Kansas and Oklahoma. Our volunteers for the GWOT and PRTs are phenomenal and making a difference!

Regionally, your superb efforts enhance the economic viability of the Northwest in multiple business lines, most notably in the production of hydropower and the opera-

tion of our navigation locks. Likewise, our efforts in meeting (and exceeding) our obligation to listed endangered species remains steadfast as evidenced by the Lower Monumental Removable Spillway Weir.

In numerous discussions with local leaders, your work in these areas does not go unnoticed. They recognize the work you do and its impacts to the region.

Locally, you continue to make a difference not only in the work you do but your commitment to the community. Once again you've delivered as District contributions to this year's Combined Federal Campaign totaled more than \$49,000—simply awesome!

As always, there will be challenges in 2008. But with challenge comes opportunity. There is a definite need for the skills you provide in our civil works mission and I envision a very robust future for the District in the areas already described.

Other examples of a positive future are Cost Engineering transitioning to a Mandatory Center of Expertise, establishing a Facilities and Equipment Maintenance (FEM) National Support Center, and numerous meetings with state staffers discussing our role in future endeavors.

These are just a few of many examples which confirm the relevancy and need for the great work you do.

I commend you all for your great efforts in 2007 and look forward to an equally great 2008. Stay safe, take care of each other, and stay focused on mission accomplishment.

Essayons!

Intercom

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On the Cover...

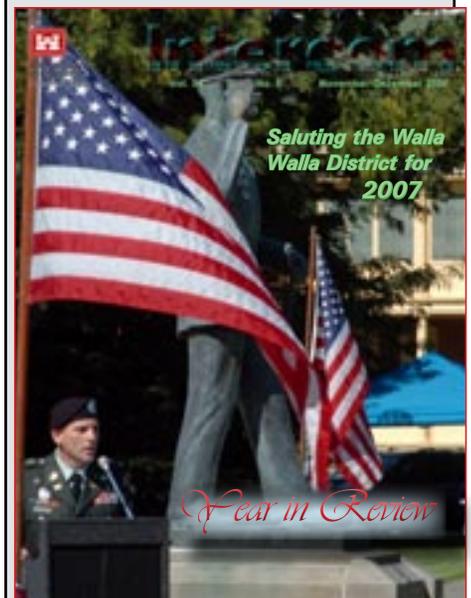


photo: Joe Saxon

Walla Walla District Commander Lt. Col. Tony Hofmann recognizes POW/MIA Day at the Wainwright Memorial Veterans Affairs Medical Center, one of the District's many highlights during 2007.



photo: Matt Rabe

Lt.Gen. (ret.) Carl Strock, former Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers joined regional tribes in observing the 50th anniversary of the inundation of Celilo Falls and Celilo Village. Here he makes a presentation to Rebecca A. Miles, Chairman Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee.

By Joe Saxon

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is dedicated to making a positive difference locally, regionally and nationally, and the people of the Walla Walla District did that in 2007. Its constant partner in that journey was the ebb and flow of change manifesting itself as the Corps welcomed newcomers and said goodbye to old friends.

The Corps said goodbye to Lt.Gen. Carl Strock, Chief of Engineers who retired, as well as to the Northwestern Division Commander Brig.Gen. Gregg Martin who transitioned to the Assistant Commandant position at Fort Leonard Wood. The Corps welcomed its new Chief of Engineers Lt.Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, in May.

Meanwhile, the Walla Walla District said goodbye to Maj. Don Pincus, as he rotated to his next assignment, as well as Paul Wemhoener who retired.

The District welcomed their replacements, Maj. Chad Niedig, the new Deputy

Commander and Alan Feistner, the new Deputy District Engineer for Project Management.

The District also mourned the loss of two close friends, Steve Torretta and Tonia Elsey in 2007.

The Corps' top priority continued resonating with District personnel as volunteers remained steadfast in deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan supporting the Global War on Terror. To date, 117 supporters have completed their deployments, with 11 personnel currently deployed.

The District trotted out its model trebuchet-building program to area schools during National Engineers Week in Feb.

In March the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers joined regional tribes in observing the 50th anniversary of the inundation of Celilo Falls and Celilo Village near the Dalles Dam.

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Also in March the Walla Walla District launched the first of two prototype surface-bypass innovations at McNary Lock and Dam. The temporary spillway weirs are being used to collect valuable research for improving passage conditions for out-migrating juvenile salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River.

Dworshak Dam Park Ranger Deb Norton was selected an Award of Merit by the National Water Safety Congress and the National Safe Boating Council in 2007 for "her creativity in getting the water safety message out."

In addition, the Intercom earned seven

Continued on page 18

Emergency Operations



Power Team responds to storm-ravaged Midwest

By Gina Baltrusch

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers power team from Walla Walla District supported the state emergency operations center (EOC) in Topeka, Kansas, after that region was buffeted by severe snow and ice storms.

Walla Walla District sent a 10-member emergency power team to Kansas City, Kan., Dec. 14, to assist FEMA Region VII efforts in restoring power to tens of thousands of people hit by ice storms earlier that week.

More than 100,000 Kansas power customers were without power after the record ice storms. After arriving in Kansas City to provide emergency power technical assistance at FEMA's Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC), half of the Walla Walla District's power team went to augment the state EOC in Topeka.

Power Team Action Officer Dave Coleman (operations manager at Ice Harbor Lock and Dam near Burbank, Wash.) said the team's activities in Kansas were not typical of past power team deployments. During 2005 hurricane recovery efforts in the Gulf region, the power team did much of the delivery and installation of emergency generators. This mission called for the power team to support state and FEMA operations in more of a coordination and technical-advisory role.

"We worked with the state to ensure proper generator match before the state releases a generator. In the past two days, the team has provided technical assistance and installation trouble-shooting

for more than 30 emergency generators sent out to power public facilities all across Kansas," said Coleman. "When you look at a map of where the generators have been placed, the dots make a line all across the state. Our team members also made some installation inspections to ensure safe generator operations."

The team supported emergency operations in Kansas for about two weeks. In addition to Coleman, the Walla Walla District's emergency power team included:

Rob Wall, mission manager (NWW HQ, Operations Division, electrical engineer), Mike Deccio, mission specialist (NWW HQ, Operations Division, engineering technician), Craig Rockwell, mission specialist (Lower Granite Natural Resource Management Office, natural resource specialist), Judy Turner, mission liaison (Little Goose Lock and Dam, power plant operator), Patti Record, contract specialist (NWW HQ, Contracting Division, contract specialist), Lee Harmon, logistics specialist (Ice Harbor Lock and Dam, electrician), Jim Lyerly, logistics specialist (Little Goose Lock and Dam, power plant electrician), Ken Wandersheid, power quality assurance (McNary Lock and Dam, electronic system control craftworker-in-charge), John Brennan, power quality assurance (NWW-HQ, Cost Engineering Branch, electrical engineer).

The all-volunteer team can provide backup electrical power generation anywhere an emergency requires. Team members agree to be in an on-call status, ready to deploy on short-notice when disaster strikes.



***“Anywhere, anytime,
any task -- nothing but
excellence”***

Walla Walla District motto

Year in Review 2007

Emergency Management staff had their hands full in coordinating deployments for those heading to Iraq and Afghanistan in support of the Global War on Terror, managing flood risk, running Continuity of Operations exercises, and tracking the status of area levees. They also took the lead in getting the District up to speed on the Corps’ Readiness XXI initiative and sent a 10-member Power Team to the Midwest to help get power systems on-line following severe ice storms.



Top: Walla Walla District Power Team member John Brennan, power quality assurance, matches generator capabilities with emergency power requests. ***Above:*** Walla Walla District Power Team members Judy Turner, mission liaison, and Ken Wanderschied, power quality assurance, provide on-site technical assistance for a generator being installed north of Topeka, Kan. ***Left:*** Ice storm damage near Topeka, Kansas. ***Right:*** A coat of ice glazes over the region.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photos

Fish Recovery



photo: Gina Baltrusch



photo: Rick Haverinen



photo: Rick Haverinen

Top: The District's third Removable Spillway Weir passes through McNary Dam, enroute to Lower Monumental Dam. **Above left:** One of McNary Dam's two temporary spillway weirs (TSWs) being installed. **Above right:** Jerry Harmon, Fisheries Research Biologist, National Marine Fisheries Service at Lower Granite Dam, carries a female steelhead from the anaesthesia tank to a recovery tank at the new adult fish trap system. The facility's upgrade in 2007 tripled its former tank capacity. **Top right:** a fish being prepped for research as part of the Anadromous Fish Evaluation Program study. **Right:** McNary Dam spillway with two TSWs installed.



photo: Rick Haverinen



photo: Rick Haverinen

photo: Gina Baltrusch

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The Walla Walla District is pioneering some of the most advanced fish research in the world that helps juvenile fish migrate downstream past dams en-route to the ocean, and helps them return to their original spawning grounds three to five years later.

Fish ladders, barging, fish screens and spilling water all play a vital role in this process.

The District spends about \$60 million annually on fish operations, and District scientists, biologists and engineers devote enormous amounts of time and energy studying and devising methods to recovering fish species.

In Oct., the results of all those efforts culminated in the arrival of a spillway weir at Lower Monumental Dam. This ten-story tall, 84-foot wide, two-million pound giant “fish slide” helps provide young fish with a less stressful journey downstream, while using less water, which allows for increased power production.

Earlier this year, operators installed and tested two types of temporary spillway weirs at McNary Dam. Also, the decision was made to pursue a temporary spillway weir at Little Goose Dam vice a removable spillway weir.

The District continues striving to balance the needs of nature and humans with the goal of the “win-win” for both.

Hydropower



photo: Gina Baltrusch



photo: Sue Walton

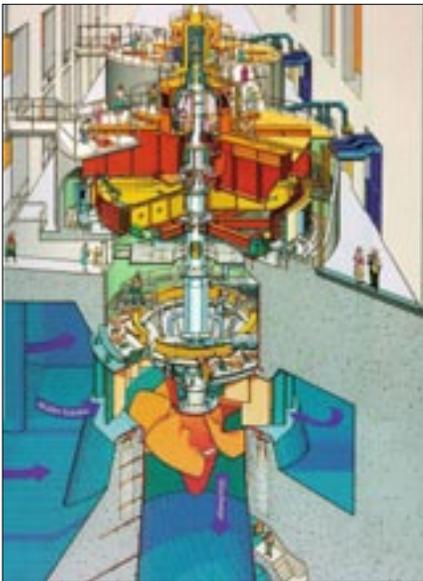


photo: Rick Haverinen



photo: Rick Haverinen

Top left: Members of broadcast and print media from Tri-Cities record events at McNary's powerhouse during McNary Dam's 2007 Media Day. **Bottom left:** Crews maintaining power production. **Above Center:** Apprentice Power House Operator Lisa Krieger controls a turbine prior to switching its generator on-line. The Apprentice program, which can take three to four years to complete, held its graduation in June. **Above right:** Housekeeping at McNary Dam on a generator brush. **Next page top left:** Turbine generator. **Top right:** Transmission lines carry power to the grid. **Bottom:** Ice Harbor Dam.



How electricity is generated

Water flowing downstream at dams produces electricity. As the water passes through the dam's powerhouse, it falls from the upstream level behind the dam to a lower downstream level. This water is moving with tremendous force and is guided down to the turbine. As it strikes the blades of the turbine, the water turns the turbine like a propeller. The turning turbine spins coils of wires inside a large generator mounted above it, converting the mechanical energy of falling water into electrical energy. Transmission lines then carry the electricity to homes and businesses.

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the largest hydropower producer in the U.S.

The Walla Walla District is the Corps' second largest power producer.

The Northwest gets about 50% of its energy from hydropower, a clean, reliable, renewable, efficient, flexible power source.

The Walla Walla District operates and maintains six hydropower facilities at Ice Harbor, Little Goose, McNary, Lower Monumental, Lower Granite and Dworshak dams.

These facilities are capable of producing 4,400 megawatts of energy, enough to power a city the size of Seattle.

Annual production equals about 17 million megawatts, which equates to about \$792 million.

Kaplan Turbines are the main workhorse of the District. They are approximately 90% to 95% efficient and have adjustable blades allowing operators to tilt them in response to changing water conditions. While they are a little more complex than other turbines, they turn at only 87.5 rpm and are designed to have a long service life.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photos

NWW's Hydro Projects

| Project | River | State | Service | Rating |
|------------------|-------------------|-------|---------|--------|
| Dworshak | N/Fork Clearwater | ID | 1973 | 400 MW |
| Ice Harbor | Snake | WA | 1962 | 603 MW |
| Little Goose | Snake | WA | 1970 | 810 MW |
| Lower Granite | Snake | WA | 1975 | 810 MW |
| Lower Monumental | Snake | WA | 1969 | 810 MW |
| McNary | Columbia | OR/WA | 1952 | 980 MW |

Gates's mentoring and coaching and electricity flowing at Haditha

By Kevin Casey

Gulf Region Division Central district

Haditha Dam, Iraq – Shortly after Scott Gates arrived at Haditha Dam in March 2006, technical demands forced everyone to play a game of musical chairs with the living and working quarters inside the dam itself. When the music stopped, Gates was left without a place to sleep, so he built himself a plywood room next to the air-handling system in the bowels of the facility.

“I constructed my own bed,” he said with a grin, “and I made my own cabinets.”

This is a guy who could survive on a desert island, which is how some U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) employees might think of being assigned to Haditha Dam in Iraq's Al Anbar Province.

For most of his 20-month tour, Gates was the only USACE employee at Iraq's second-largest hydro-electric dam. He's quick to point out, however, he could not have succeeded without developing a close working relationship with the dam's Iraqi staff as well as the coalition forces safeguarding that facility.

Located on the Euphrates River, Haditha Dam has a reservoir capacity of 8.2 billion cubic meters and would generate 660 megawatts of power if it hadn't suffered from years of neglect under Saddam Hussein. As the USACE Haditha Dam operator, Gates helped keep the water and electricity flowing by prioritizing needed repairs, implementing new initiatives, and vocalizing the importance of a comprehensive maintenance program.

“Scott served as an advisor, coach, mentor, trainer, encourager and sheep herder,” Col. Bob Vasta said during an awards ceremony that recognized Gates' significant contributions. He positively interacted with the 800 Iraqi workers and an equally large security

force of U.S. Marines, U.S. Navy Seabees, and soldiers from coalition partner Azerbaijan. (Hundreds of soldiers and civilians live within the 18-story structure.)

The dam is the biggest employer for miles around, and Gates' role gave him a stature in the community he never expected.

“When people were arrested in town, I was the first guy the Iraqi employees went to,” he said. “It's not just a case where one man wants information about his family. Everybody comes to you. And if they talk to you and the person gets released, even without your help, they turn around and say, ‘I talked to Mr. Gates, and he got him released.’ If they get stopped at a checkpoint,

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Nothing kept water Haditha Dam

in Review
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they say, 'I work at the dam. I know Mr. Gates.'"

With characteristic inventiveness, Gates came up with a way to speed needed repairs at the dam.

"The Iraqi plant manager wouldn't allow anyone to fish," he said. "But we were swamped on electrical issues that first year, trying to keep everything safe and flowing. So to get these guys to come in to work on their day off, we promised them they could do a little fishing, too. We'd address some plant issues in the morning, keep them working, then we'd let them throw a net into the river in the afternoon."

Getting through some new initiatives like rewiring the plant's low-voltage system was made harder by other issues that emerged

on a daily basis.

"You're the point of contact for Al Anbar," Gates said.

"Anything that happens outside the wire gets redirected to you. Guys call up and say, 'Hey, how come the power's off here?'"

"If

you can get through an entire day without any problems, that's a milestone in itself," Gates said. "We put out as much power as we can according to the situation. During the peak hours, we may be producing 350 to 380 megawatts. During the off-peak hours, we may be producing 160 megawatts. That's all affected by water levels, as well."

Slow and steady improvement inside the dam has kept pace with the steady progress of the war as a whole. Gates believes the surge has helped, especially now that the residents of Al Anbar have joined with coalition forces in peacekeeping efforts.

"I think people got tired of



the Al Qaeda doctrine and started shoving them out," Gates said. "I'm seeing things change for the better for the people and for the Marines. The Iraqis believe it's getting better and better. The folks are starting to get actively involved in their future and that's the whole key.

Gates had only signed on for a six-month tour in Iraq, but he stayed for nearly two years. "I hadn't really planned on being here this long," he said. "But in my heart, I knew it was the right decision."

Gates acknowledges it's a team effort. "All of the players have to commit to progress, and they did: the Iraqis, the Marines, the Seabees and the Azerbaijanis. It takes more than one person to make anything happen," he continued.

Their commitment was evident in the dam's optempo. "You run until you drop, and you do it again the next day," Gates said. "I watched only one movie and read two books in the last 20 months. There's very little downtime. And when you do have downtime, you usually just want to sleep."

He firmly believes the rewards were worth the sacrifice. "I've met a lot of incredibly intelligent and really amazing people."

Col. Vasta commented, "There isn't anybody else in the district who could have accomplished what Scott did. The mentoring and coaching he provided is irreplaceable."

Gates is returning to Washington State and plans to enjoy some free time such as visiting the gun range and riding dirt bikes with his two sons, both in their early 20s. He works at USACE's Walla Walla District where he helps maintain the Ice Harbor Dam near Tri-Cities, Wash.

There's a slot over here waiting for you if you're thinking about making a difference, Gates says: "It's definitely worthwhile."

Far left: Haditha Dam Power Manager Scott Gates. Above left: Gates and Mr. Darfur, Haditha Dam's Operations Engineer. Above: Scott Gates visits the Ministry of Electricity Office at South Dam Village. Left: Iraqi youngsters near Haditha Dam.



Natural Resources & Recreation



photo: Greg Watson, Natural Resource Specialist, Lower Granite Lock and Dam



photo: Greg Watson



photo: Donna Bryant, Natural Resource Specialist, Dworshak Dam



photo: Rick Häverinen



photo: Rick Häverinen



photo: Jeanne Newton



photo: Jeanne Newton, Park Ranger, Ice Harbor Lock and Dam



photo: Richard Carlton, Real Estate Division



photo: Russ Davis, Wildlife Biologist, Dworshak Dam



photo: Paul Hoffarth, Washington Dept. Fish and Wildlife

Top: Moon over Ice Harbor Dam. **Above center:** Lucky Peak Dam and Spring Shores. **Above:** Scenic photo of Elkberry Creek on Dworshak Reservoir. **Above right:** Fisherman Mike Hepper holds his Washington record setting 19.3 pound walleye caught in Feb. in the Columbia River above McNary Dam. **Next page top:** Osprey on a nesting platform downstream of Lower Granite Lock and Dam. **Above left:** young bull moose grazing near Lower Granite Dam. **Above Center:** Dworshak Dent Campground. **Left:** Sailboat in Snake River near Charbonneau Day Use area. **Bottom Center:** Fish stocking at Bennington Lake. **Bottom Left:** Sand Dunes near Lower Granite Dam.

Year in Review 2007

In 2007 the Walla Walla District oversaw the operations for 149 recreation areas and 111 habitat management units.

Seven million guests visit the District's parks and recreation sites each year where they spend just over \$100 million, generate about \$250 million dollars in revenue locally and help create about 3,000 jobs.

Outdoor opportunities include camping, fishing, wildlife viewing, strolling and jogging, hiking and boating.

Hunting runs the gamut from upland gamebirds to deer and elk.

Visitors Centers at most of the Districts dams feature close-up views of fish ladders, movies, interactive displays and brochures.

Infrastructure Maintenance



Year in Review 2007

Maintaining \$2.5 billion worth of infrastructure isn't easy, but the Walla Walla District's maintainers were up to the task in 2007. They went at it full bore during the year, particularly during the annual maintenance lock outages.

Although presented with multiple challenges in 2007, maintainers worked round the clock and quickly brought facilities back into operation to overcome these challenges.

Top left: Workers at Little Goose Dam prepare to lock through vessels via the floating bulkhead. *Center:* Turbine runner from Lower Granite Dam's Unit #2. *Left above:* Welder Nate Johnson radios for electrical gear. *Bottom left:* A worker preparing to lift a fish screen. *Bottom center:* 3000-horsepower electric motor, one of three at McNary Dam that helps attract fish up fish ladders. *Bottom right:* A refurbished fish screen. *Above:* Apprentice Electrician Scott Jones threads electrical conduit. *Below:* Little Goose Dam's Tainter gate.



photos: Rick Haverinen

Lower Granite NavLock repaired

By Gina Baltrusch

The navigation lock at Lower Granite Lock and Dam returned to service on Dec. 23 after closing when several key gate-hoisting cables broke on Dec. 17.

The cables on the north side of the upstream lock gate broke while the gate was being lowered into an open position.

The gate successfully completed its controlled-descent opening operation with the remaining functional cables on the south side.

Immediately afterwards, dam personnel deployed the floating bulkhead allowing workers to assess the situation, and structural engineers responded on-site and inspected the gate and hoist equipment.

Dam operators were able to lock through commercial craft using the floating bulkhead while the navigation lock was closed to recreational traffic as replacement cables were installed.

Five plastic-sheathed Kevlar cables on each side of the lock's upstream submersible

Tainter gate are used to open and close the gate for lockages. The cables sustain wear and load-bearing stress as they are used to raise and lower the 80-ton steel gate.

Maintenance officials at the dam regularly inspect the cables and had planned to replace any worn gate cables during the upcoming annual lock maintenance period in March. New cables had already been stocked, facilitating a shorter period of time in which the floating bulkhead needed to be used to lock vessels past the dam while workers made the unplanned repairs.

"Our floating bulkhead allowed us to continue commercial lockages while our maintenance team replaced the cables," said Marty Mendiola, operations manager at Lower Granite Lock and Dam. "We were able to fix things relatively quickly so that we could continue providing safe, efficient passage up and down the river. My hat's off to all who helped in the repair effort because this facility is a key part of an infrastructure system that aids the region's economy."

Lower Granite's navigation lock, located at Snake River mile 107.5 on the lower Snake River, is part of the federal inland channel system that provides navigation from the mouth of the Columbia River near Astoria, Ore., to port facilities on the rivers in Lewiston-Clarkston. Transporters shipped 19 million tons of products through the Columbia-Snake rivers channel system in 2006. Between 800-900 lockages are performed at Lower Granite each year.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo



photo: Joe Saxon

Top: Cargo barge near Lower Granite Dam. **Left:** Workers repairing the gate-hoisting cables. **Next page bottom:** Little Goose lock. **Bottom left:** Commercial vessel during a night lockage. **Top right:** Burny Hill, an Environmental Protection Agency aquatic environmental scientist talks with Walla Walla District civil engineer Dale Lentz at a Programmatic Sediment Management Plan public meeting, one of four such meetings held last spring. The District is identifying and evaluating ways to manage sediment within the lower Snake River reservoir. It includes examining sediment sources and transportation methods, and will include possible changes to structures and operations.

Navigation

Year in Review
2007



Navigation locks enable commercial and recreation vessels to transit from Lewiston and Clarkston to Portland. About 19 million tons of cargo transit the Columbia/Snake River system annually.

On average, locks are 674 feet long, 86 feet wide and are just over 100 feet high, placing them among the world's tallest lifts. The gravity dependent locks have a 46 million gallon capacity.

A tow of four barges equals about 538 semi-trucks or 140 railroad train cars cargo carrying capacity.



Continued from page 3

awards in the USACE annual journalism competition, more than twice as many as any other USACE District, and Rick Haverinen was named winner of the USACE Locke Mouton Award for Command Information.

In April, the Leadership Development Program graduated its most recent class, and the Mill Creek Project got some help with an Earth Day project when Whitman College students pitched in to level ruts and low spots there.

In May, Lucky Peak Dam's Operations Manager Dave Brownell retired after serving there for 32 years and Lower Monumental Dam's Operations Manager Roger Golladay said goodbye later in the year.

Also in May, Dworshak Reservoir in Ahsahka, Idaho was named one of ReserveAmerica Camping Club's Top 25 Scenic Views in the nation. Dworshak's Dent Acres was the only campground in the state of Idaho honored as one of ReserveAmerica's "Top 100 Family Campgrounds," in 2007 as well.

Jim Newbauer was named the USACE Cost Engineer of the Year for his work in New Orleans following the wake of Hurricane Katrina. He worked on infrastructure estimates and as a contracting officer's representative in building a medical clinic.

Dworshak Reservoir returned to the center of attention as the Walla Walla District teamed up with Idaho Fish and Wildlife to improve the

reservoir's ecosystem and food sources for fish.

The Walla District's Annual award winners included the Engineering Excellence Award to John Lomeland, Outstanding Achievement Non-Engineer went to Scott Dunmire, the Outstanding Achievement for Trades and Crafts award winner was Niel Carlson, and Larry Walker was added to the Gallery of Distinguished Civilians.

As the summer heated up in June, Corps employees from Ice Harbor Dam took the water safety message to 200 students at Amistad Elementary School in Kennewick. Ice Harbor Dam received a facelift when a mother-daughter artist team created a life-like mural for visitors at the fish viewing room and the Powerplant Apprenticeship Program welcomed its newest graduates later that month.

Local Cub Scouts got into the act and created a tree nursery by planting 50 cottonwood trees near McNary Dam.

When an outboard marina cable broke free from the floating winch platform at the Big Eddy Marina on the Dworshak Reservoir, maintenance crews responded and successfully reattached it in June.

In Aug., a trio at Lower Monumental Dam, Harold Clemens, William Newton and Jeff Heffling, came to the rescue of a fisherman and his son whose boat was in danger of capsizing.

Sand Creek Bypass in Sandpoint, Idaho received a green light from the Regulatory Division in Oct., a breakthrough in a 50-year dispute among Idaho citizens and state regulatory agencies.

Years of planning and design efforts came together when the District's third Removable Spillway Weir was launched up-river to Lower Monumental Dam in Oct. The spillway weir, or giant fish slide, is designed to attract juvenile fish and assist them over the spillway in a less stressful, more efficient manner than a traditional spillway.

The Anadromous Fish Evaluation Program held its conference at Whitman College to review findings of the multitude of fish studies conducted in 2007.

The District enhanced its readiness capability through the Corps' Readiness XXI initia-



Dave Brownell looks over the Lucky Peak Reservoir one last time before retiring from the Operations Manager position after 32 years of service.

tive. That capability was successfully put to the test in Dec. when the District deployed a 10-member power team to the Midwest to assist with power production following severe ice storms in the region.

Other critical transitions in 2007 included revamping Information Management services under ACE-IT, the District's logistics staff redeployed under Logistics Activity, and Contracting transformed to a National Contracting organization.

District employees showed their generosity by contributing over \$49,000 to the Combined Federal Campaign in 2007.

It wasn't all work and no play in 2007

as District employees took time out to have some fun as evidenced by the Corps Day activities, the Water Safety Fashion Show, and the Corps Ball in the Fall. Also, nearly 60 District employees stepped forward and participated in the Corps display at the Walla Walla Fair.

All in all, it was a pretty good year to be in the Walla Walla District.



Children's Corps Day tug-of-war



SeaMoor, the water safety sea serpent, encourages Liam Neidig to always wear safety vests near water. Seamoor was a big hit with many of the 87,000 attendees at the Walla Walla Fair held near Labor Day at the Walla Walla Fairgrounds. In addition to Liam, the District welcomed the new Deputy Commander, Maj. Chad Neidig, his wife Amy and daughter Hailey.



NWW leadership successfully brought the overbuilt Imeson Haul Road, Jackson Hole Flood Protection Project, into environmental compliance in Nov. The road was initially constructed in 2001.



Above: Rob Lustig displays one of the three booster seats that he constructed for his young sons. **At right:** Some of his handiwork and toys including a wooden combine and grasshopper.

LUSTIG WHITTLES WITH WOODWORK

Story and photos by Joe Saxon

When it comes to carving wood, Rob Lustig sticks to the numbers. Two, four and six to be precise because these are his children's ages and the reason he spends weekends carving wooden toys.

"I'm into wood because I have three young boys, Brandon, John, and Seth, and they enjoy pulling out a toy train and other toys I made and playing with them," he said.

Lustig, the Chief of Tech support and Lead Engineer at Lower Granite Lock and Dam has been doing woodworking since junior high school, where he started by "making picture frames for my Mom."

"I took wood shop and learned basic shop safety in junior high and high school and learned to respect the tools," he said.

"I've built a small picnic table, booster seats, wooden trains, pickup trucks, combines and grasshoppers. The last couple of years I've concentrated on wooden toys because of my kids and the neighborhood kids. I did a table and chair for the boys so they could have

their own area to do homework or play. It's neat taking a piece of wood, working on it for a while and then trying to turn it into an heirloom that will be around for generations."

"When I lived in Orofino, our neighbor built a house and he and his family made that house a home by furnishing it with all hand-made items. That included everything from a wooden rocking horse to nicely framed hand made mirrors with the family brand hand-carved in it," he said.

"They made their door and when you walk up to it you can see it's handcrafted and includes elk on the hinges," he said.

"My wife, Heather and I are using these experiences and memories as models for raising families. You don't need a million dollars to live and be happy. You can do it for a lot less depending upon what you emphasize in your life," he concluded. All while leaving a legacy.



photos: Greg Watson



photo: Donna Bryant

Seasonal Colors

From early spring to late autumn, an array of vibrant colors are visible at the Walla Walla District's parks and reservoirs. *Top right:* Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*) upstream of Lower Granite Lock and Dam. *Top left:* Picture of Indian Paintbrush (*Castilleja*) below Lower Granite Dam along the south shore. *Above:* Dent campground.