

Happy New Year!

Happy Holidays from your friends at Alaska Rural Water Association

A letter from the Manager, Hilary J Currey

Fortunate~
 Only one word when looking back at the 2006 year for Alaska Rural Water Association, and you see change and growth. In the last year, there have been many changes. All these changes have been learning and growing pains of a newer organization. Gains were made. Successes felt. Losses and help extended—mending and growth.

ARWA moved the offices from Eagle River to Wasilla in June, gained 3 new employees, lost two old. Gained pride with a successful conference. Said goodbye to some old friends and gained some new.

National awards for our Source Water Specialist, Carrie Godden and doubled our membership with the help of our dedicated employees and

their motivation for success.

A Board of Directors who supports ARWA through their over 30 plus years of experience in the industry of water.

We couldn't be more supported by our parent company NRWA which has helped lend a hand in times of need.

We have seen our good friend President of National Rural Water, Bobby Scott and Trainer, Jim Sweeny.

We have witnessed success with our conference and had fun with the equipment ro-



We are a growing organization and, through support from our members and the people that surround us we are bound for success. Change is good; life is nothing without change.

The bottom line is, like any newer business, you will see success and you will see failures. However, the ones that overcome adversity and still manage to pull through that show success in the long run.

Gambell Assistance in Times of Need

Gambell called the TA Providers they needed assistance with an emergency sewer on the ground situation. ARWA answered the call. ARWA sent out our Waste Water Technician, Scott Lindsey. With over 20 years experi-

ence, Scott was able to make good judgments and help in their desperate time of need. Scott worked long and hard hours helping the operator pump sewage from the inoperable lift station and transport it to their lagoon system. He

put in over 30 hours in inhospitable conditions- temperatures reaching 62 below while he was out there, and still they trudged on. Winds blasting their faces, chilling to the bone, causing equipment to malfunction and still they trudged on. At one point, the hose from the

Honey truck broke, slinging frozen sewage in their faces, and still they trudged on. These are just one example of our circuit riders dedication to helping rural Alaskan operators in times of need. Thank you, Scott.

Inside this issue: Big Changes Ahead for 07'

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Special points of interest:

- **Big Changes Ahead for 2007!**
- **More Trainings Available**
- **Extended areas of Training**
- **More Community Outreach for Educating the Next Generation.**
- **More Circuit Rider Services to our members**
- **Emergency Response Plans**



Source Water News

During the month of December, Carrie Godden, Source Water Specialist for ARWA has been working hand in hand with the community of Bethel. Carrie has been able to provide the assistance and guidance in helping this community Source Water Protection Planning.

December marked the first Drinking Water Protection Planning Workshop for the community in which major entity representatives attended to represent their community.

Proactive planning, management, and implementation of drinking water source protection objectives will ensure that

Bethel is able to significantly reduce the risk of contamination to the drinking water wells of the area, thereby protecting their water sources for generations to come.

This is just one more example of the many areas of service that Alaska Rural Water has been able to provide assistance to rural Alaskan communities.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

- 1/28 to 1/31
Source Water Symposium, Savannah, GA
- 2/12 to 2/16
Alaska Forum on the Environment
- Begins 03/06
SWP/TAT Workshop

I shall be telling this with a

sigh

Somewhere ages and ages

hence;

Two roads diverged in a

wood, and I ~

I took the one less traveled by,

And that has made all the

difference.

~ Robert Frost

TAT News

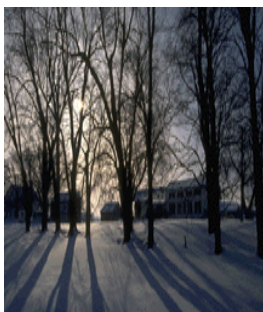
The TAT Program over the last year has been very busy providing Technical Assistance and Training to a large part of Alaska's Rural Operators.

In fact, the TAT program has helped 818 water system employees, from administrative staff to water and wastewater operators receive up to date

training to better serve the communities of rural Alaska.

James has recently visited Hydaburg, AK to provide a group training. However, due to weather conditions, the schedule for the attendees did not work out. James performed instead, some desperately needed one on one tech-

nical assistance to the system operator and provided the city with a much needed Sanitary Survey. Making his trip to Hydaburg a success story for the community and our association, he helped save the city of Hydaburg thousands of dollars. Another trip is planned to Hydaburg in the near future to help with some other areas of concern.



**Making a difference
One water system at a
time**

Managers Corner ~ Training Opportunities for Staff

Times are changing fast in the water industry, and it is our goal here at Alaska Rural Water Association to bring the water/ wastewater operators and systems of Rural Alaska the most up to date trainings and technical assistance. At ARWA, we feel it is imperative to do this by also providing education to our employees so they can pass on that

knowledge to our members. ARWA recently sent Brandon LeBaron to a training in Southern California in order to receive training on Cross Connection Control Planning. ARWA is pleased to announce that this is a new service that we are able to pass on to our members. Please remember to call in advance to schedule any of services to ensure that your community's needs will

be met. I will also be receiving financial training for small water systems that is being offered on behalf of the Rural Utilities Business Advisors Program (RUBA). This training will be offered as a benefit to those that participate in the TA Providers Group that is in conjunction with the States Drinking Water Division that we are actively involved in.

Circuit Rider News ~ Brought to you by Laren Kowallis Circuit Rider I

Significant Contact:

Shaktoolik, AK

On the 12th of January 2006 Contact with Shaktoolik was at the request of Kevin Zewiffel; Norton Sound Health Corporation. Shaktoolik needed their Sanitary Survey completed in 2006; due to bad weather at the end of December, the on site inspection visit had to be cut short and rescheduled for January. This follow-up visit was on January 12 2007. The visit was scheduled for the 11th and 12th of January but due to bad weather again the site visit had to be changed.

Shaktoolik is located on the east shore of Norton Sound. It lies 125 miles east of Nome. A piped water and sewage collection system serves most homes. 75% of households have complete plumbing and kitchen facilities. Shaktoolik is primarily accessible by air and sea.

Water is piped from Togoomenik River where it is treated and stored in an 848,000 gallon insulated tank. The storage tank is old and needs to be evaluated to determine if the tank can be repaired or if it needs to be re-

placed. Beams were installed several years to help support the roof. At the end of December three more metal sheets and insulation have blown off. A water distribution system serves 80% of houses. Every four houses share a septic tank system. It has 1 full time operator who has a Water Treatment OIT and is working towards level 1. It has full time disinfection. Of its connections have meters and does have master meters. This site visit doing the Sanitary Survey Inspection took 7 hours.

No significant deficiencies were found but there are quite a few recommendations that were made to improve operations and record keeping. This visit saved the system \$3,200, and through this process has completed its regulatory Sanitary Survey for the next three years.

Just one more of the examples how ARWA is trying to pass on the benefits to our members.

Circuit Rider II News ~ Brought to you by Brandon LeBaron Circuit Rider

On January 30th, Alaska Rural Water Association was asked to assist Matanuska Susitna Borough School District with establishing a cross-connection control program. A cross-connection is an unprotected actual or potential connection between a potable water system used to supply water for drinking purposes and any source or system containing unapproved water or a substance that is not or cannot be approved as safe, wholesome, and potable. By-pass arrangements, jumper connections, removable sections, swivel or changeover devices, or other devices through which backflow could occur, shall be considered cross-connections.

Mat-Su School district has twenty-one schools that are considered class A public non-transient non-community water systems, most of which are untreated ground water systems. The State of Alaska has no formal cross-connection program, so it is up to the water purveyor to institute a program if deemed necessary. The school district has made it a priority to institute a program to protect the health of thousands of students they provide potable water to on a daily basis. Alaska Rural Water Association is working with Randy Bonnell to complete a written blanket program that covers all twenty one schools, this program will give the schools guidelines on how to prevent cross-connections, identify cross-connections, evaluate their degree of hazard, select the proper backflow assembly and how to install and maintain that assembly.

After the written program has been accepted by, the school district Alaska Rural Water Association will work with the schools certified water operators in conducting individual cross-connection inspections. These inspections will identify cross-connections that already exist as well as educate the water operator on how to prevent future cross-connections. This will be an ongoing process, but after completing this process, Matanuska Susitna Borough School District will have a sustainable program that can be managed in house by their management and staff.

Important Note Regarding Sanitary Surveys, CCR Reports, Bacti Flow testing or any other special services

REQUEST FROM CIRCUIT RIDERS IN REGARDS TO SANITATION SURVEYS, CCR REPORTS AND BACTI FLOW TESTING Please allow 2 to 3 months advanced notice when scheduling for these wonderful membership services. We are growing so much we are beginning to fill up quite a bit in advance and while we attempt to meet everyone's request services are based on a first come first serve basis. Membership alone does not guarantee availability of all services without prior appointment. Dates & Services are subject to change due to weather and travel restrictions.



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Our Mission here at Alaska Rural Water Association is to provide the most innovative and up to date training and technical assistance to every level of Alaskan Water and Wastewater System Employees. Passing knowledge onto systems in order for the system to pass it on to the communities. If for any reason you have questions, concerns or comments, please feel free to contact us.

On the Board Level.....

Our Board is actively involved in making sure that ARWA is on the forefront of growth. ARWA was proud to announce at the annual conference that all of the Board Positions have been filled. We have taken on two new people that, combined have over 35 years in the water industry. This is a benefit to the association as well as our members because they both bring with them a business sense and a pulse on everyday issues that people in water and wastewater systems face. Welcome Jim Ridgway, Anchorage Well and Pump to our Associate Member Position and Ginger Hayden, Bethel Trailer Court and Welding, Secretary. They have made a wonderful addition to our board.

Quality on Tap!



Things to look forward to in the new year!

- Don't forget to check your mail for upcoming information regarding the 9th Annual Alaska Rural Water Association Conference.
- Further Development of Trainings to include various essential operator subjects.
- Further Development of Training opportunities coming to your area.
- More Member services offered by each program
- Outreach opportunities including possible internship opportunities.