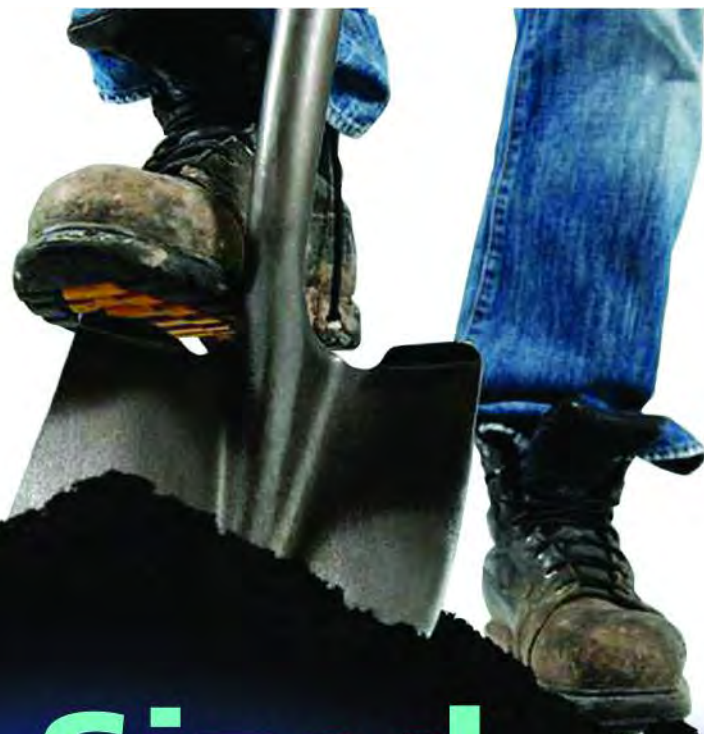




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Volume V – Summer 2009





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Volume V - Summer 2009

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## MISSION STATEMENT

“Protecting and preserving the water and wastewater resources of Rural Illinois through education, representation and on-site technical assistance”.

*Pictured on the cover is a tiger lily in bloom  
taken in Taylorville, Illinois by Heather McLeod,  
Membership Services Assistant.*

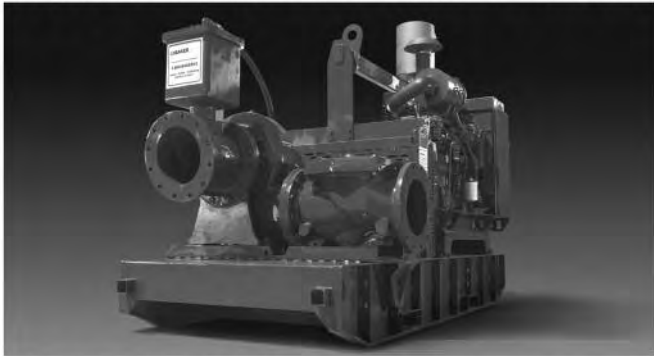
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## *A Lifetime Devoted to Rural America* by Frank Dunmire, Executive Director

Every year a couple thousand rural water folks from all over the country will take time out of their busy schedules and travel to Washington DC to attend National Rural Water Association's "Rural Water Rally". It's at this time rural water's unified messages are delivered to every Congressional office and this year was an especially unique experience for a few of us.

Illinois' NRWA Director (Steve Fletcher), Board President (Greg Bates), Board Member Jeff Tumiaty and I were invited to attend a special presentation for Senator Robert C. Byrd, the longest serving U.S. Senator in the history of the country. According to his website, throughout his career, Byrd has cast more than 18,523 roll call votes — more votes than any other Senator in American history — compiling an amazing 98 percent attendance record in his more than five decades of service in the Senate.



*(L-R) Steve Fletcher, Greg Bates & Jeff Tumiaty in the Senate Appropriations Committee Room*

During his tenure, Senator Byrd made sure that funds were inserted into appropriation bills making it possible for the former FMHA and current RUS Rural Development fund countless water and wastewater projects from the East coast to the West coast and all points between. For this, he was being awarded the lifetime achievement award from NRWA.

On Tuesday, April 21st, about twenty-five rural water people made the long

walk up the hill to the nation's capitol — for this presentation was not going to be made in the Senator's office. Instead, the presentation was going to take place in the Senate Appropriations Committee room. A room that the Senator had spent many years in as Chairman of the Committee.

Upon acceptance of the award, Senator Byrd treated all in the room to one of his poignant speeches that he is famous for. Following are excerpts from his acceptance speech.

"Thank you very much for this important recognition. I am honored. It means a lot to me to know that my work is so appreciated."

"I am humbled by your selection of me for this award, but I am also proud of my efforts to bring safe drinking water to millions of rural Americans. I want to stress that there is still much to do!"

"Water is essential to life on this planet. Next to the air we breathe, water is the most vital element for life! A human being can live a month or more without food, but we cannot live many days without water!"

"Yet today, millions of Americans, especially rural Americans, are forced to depend upon drinking water that is dirty and even dangerous — water that is contaminated with toxic chemicals and disease-breeding bacteria."

"According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, more than two million rural Americans have needs for safe, dependable water supplies that can be called critical, and more than five million more have needs classified as serious."

Senator Byrd went on to say "It is high time that our water and sewer systems supply each and every American, the powerless as well as the powerful, the impoverished as well as the wealthy,



rural Americans as well as Urban Americans, with good, clean, potable water. Decency demands it. Common sense demands it. Morality makes the task imperative."

"I thank you again for this fine award, but I can assure you that, while this is a lifetime achievement award, my work in attempting to ensure clean and abundant water to America's rural areas is far from finished! God bless all of you...and thank you for your necessary and humanitarian work."

As Senator Byrd enters the twilight years of his career, we should all take just a moment and let him know how much he has meant to rural America. Please consider sending a simple thank you card to his office in DC expressing your gratitude for all that he has done. Cards can be sent to Senator Robert C. Byrd, 311 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510. 💧



*(L-R) Jeff Tumiaty, Senator Byrd, Steve Fletcher*



**ILLINOIS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION  
6TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING**

The 6th Annual Illinois Rural Water Association Golf Outing will be held on Friday, September 4, 2009 at Edgewood Golf Club located in Auburn, Illinois. (about 15 miles south of Springfield) Directions to the course are located on the last page. The golf format will be a shotgun start at **10:00 a.m.** Please check in at the registration table no later than 9:45 a.m. Please fill out the registration form below and send it along with your check to the address listed below. You may also pay by credit card online at [www.ilrwa.org](http://www.ilrwa.org). **Registration must be received and paid by Friday, August 21, 2009 in order to reserve your spot. We are limited to 120 golfers for this event.**

**Course Rules:**

- Dress must be in good taste keeping with golf tradition.
- Only non metal spikes are allowed.

**EDGEWOOD GOLF CLUB—16497 KENNEDY ROAD—AUBURN, ILLINOIS 62615**

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**Registration Form**

**Friday, September 4, 2009—10:00 a.m. (Shotgun start—4 person scramble)**

**Single Golfers will be teamed with a foursome.**

**NAME(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**SYSTEM NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**# OF GOLFERS**

**Operators / City Officials @ \$50.00 = \_\_\_\_\_**

**Associate Members / Vendors @ \$65.00 = \_\_\_\_\_**

**(If Associate members are sponsoring the golf outing (please see next page), then the fee to participate will be \$50.00).**

**Total = \_\_\_\_\_**

**(includes lunch, gift bag, green fees & golf cart)**

Please make all checks payable to Illinois Rural Water Association. Return your completed registration and payment to: **Illinois Rural Water Association—P.O. Box 6049—Taylorville, Illinois 62568**

If you have any questions, please contact **Denise** at Illinois Rural Water Association at 1-800-762-3547 or email her at: [ilrwadb@ilrwa.org](mailto:ilrwadb@ilrwa.org).



## Sponsorship Form

Lunch Sponsorship	-	\$500.00	(limited to 3 sponsors)
Beverage Cart Sponsorship	-	\$500.00	(limited to 2 sponsors)
Hole Sponsorship	-	\$150.00	(limited to 18 sponsors)
Hole in One Sponsorship	-	\$300.00	(\$5,000 cash)
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		\$250.00	(Golf Clubs)
		\$250.00	(\$500.00 golf shop credit)
Prize Sponsorship	-	\$300.00	

**Gift Bag Sponsorship** Your company logo (one color) will be imprinted on an item to be placed in each gift bag. **Since there can only be one sponsor, your company has to be the first company that contacts Denise for this sponsorship.**

**LUNCH SPONSORSHIP:** Lunch sponsors will have their sponsorship sign posted by the table where the box lunches will be set up reaching all of the golfers and two free registrations to participate in the golf outing.

**BEVERAGE CART SPONSORSHIP:** Beverage cart sponsors will have their sponsorship sign on the courtesy carts that will be on the golf course driving around with bottled water, beer and soda compliments of your company. They will also receive two free registrations to participate in the golf outing.

**HOLE SPONSORSHIP:** Hole sponsors will have their sponsorship sign **off the tee**. This is a great opportunity for visibility.

**PRIZE SPONSORSHIP:** Prize sponsors will have a sponsorship sign and prizes will be given out compliments of your company at the end of the golf outing.

**GIFT BAG SPONSORSHIP:** Gift bag sponsors will have a sponsorship sign by the registration table so when the golfers check in, they can pick up a gift bag compliments of your company.

## Sponsorship Registration Form

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship Level: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return the Sponsorship registration form and payment to:  
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If you plan on participating in the golf outing, please fill out the registration form on the previous page and return with this form with your payment. If you plan to attend but not golf in the outing, please let us know on this form.

# USDA Rural Development Loan & Grant Program — ARRA Funding

by Bill Dowell, ARRA CR

USDA Rural Development has been able to fund the state-wide, low-interest loan application backlog. Funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, (ARRA), made this major accomplishment possible. Additional ARRA funding has allowed Rural Development to offer new low-interest loans and grants for water, sewer, and wastewater treatment systems. Applications for these loans are being accepted on a continual basis.

Illinois Rural Water Association will be working closely with Rural Development in their efforts to inform systems and assist with application for these loans and grants. Two ARRA Circuit-riders began traveling the state during the second week of June. Don Craig, Deputy to the Executive Director for IRWA, is also ARRA circuit-rider for east-central and southern Illinois. Bill Dowell will be the ARRA circuit-rider for west-central and northern Illinois. Feel free to contact either Don, (cell #217-561-1061), or Bill, (cell #217-820-1562), should you have questions about the ARRA program.

And keep an eye on the mailbox, as notices will be coming soon listing the times/locations of ARRA Funding Workshops. These workshops will be short programs, (about 2 hours), presented by USDA Rural Development, with IRWA assistance. They will provide interested systems with walk-through information for the low-interest loan application process.

Some of the basic information for the USDA Rural Development – Water & Waste Disposal Loans and Grants, (ARRA Funding Program), are boxed below.

Once a system receives a permanent loan commitment from Rural Development, the Illinois Rural Water Association Interim Financing Program can assist with financing the capital construction project. In conjunction with First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust, IRWA has created an interim loan program to cover the project construction period. Once the construction period is complete or funded, the interim loan is paid off with Rural Development funds. A



stream-lined application process for Interim Financing can be completed after pre-application for permanent financing with Rural Development. More information on the IRWA Interim Financing Program can be obtained by contacting Mr. Frank Dunmire at 800-762-5011. More detailed information will also be provided at the upcoming ARRA Funding Workshops.

During these difficult economic times, please consider and investigate this funding mechanism for your long-term infrastructure needs. Again, feel free to contact IRWA with any questions you may have on this information. 💧

- Eligibility:**
- Communities with a population of 10,000 or less.
  - Any public body – city, county, district or other political subdivision.
  - Organizations operated on a not-for-profit basis. (Associations, co-operatives, private corporations.)
- Loan Interest Rates:**
- **4.375%** Median Household Income of \$48,821 or more
  - **3.500%** MHI of \$48,821 or less
  - **2.625%** MHI below \$39,056 and documented health or sanitary standards require project.
- (Will change quarterly – based on market yields for municipal obligations.)**
- Grants:**
- Can assist in the development of essential water/waste projects.
  - May be available for up to **75%** of project costs.
  - May be used in cooperation with other federal assistance.
- Terms:**
- Maximum loan term is 40 years.
  - Repayment term cannot exceed borrowing limitations or the useful life of the facility or equipment.

(Additional information about **all** of the Community Programs from USDA Rural Development can be obtained at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/il](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/il) by clicking on “Utilities”.)







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# Networking

by Jeff Tumiati, District #5 Board Member

The following is a short story that I'm sure anyone that's been in the utility business very long at all can relate to. Your phone rings for the fifth time since you arrived home at 7:00 pm. The vil-lage is letting you work half days – you know the half that runs from seven am to seven pm. It's now midnight and as you rub the sleep from your eyes while searching for the phone the first thing you think of is what can it be this time? Is it the water plant or maybe a lift station alarm? Good Lord - I hope it's not a water main break. It's not that you can't fix it, but as the phone continues to ring, you suddenly realize that both your co-workers are out of town on vacation. Why did I let them both go at the same time?

When you finally take a deep breath and answer the phone it's your neighboring community a few miles up the road and it seems they have had a run of bad luck of their own. The voice on the other end explains that they have a leak and realized they used their last clamp of that size a few days ago and, like we all have done at some point in our careers,

got busy and forgot to restock the part. Of course, without hesitation, you say no problem I can bring it up. "Since you are coming up any way," the operator continues "can you help me fix it, my helper has been off sick and he said he would come in if something came up, but I'd rather not ask him if you can send someone up to help."



By now you're dressed and out the door heading to your truck and you say "no problem, I'll be there in ten minutes." On your drive up, you realize that this is like no job you have ever had.

While, at times, it might put huge strains on personal and family time it is a very satisfying yet trying career. It's almost like you have two families. The

one you hope to go home to every evening and your "utility family". Because of the networking and knowledge sharing between you and your fellow opera-



tors this utility family becomes unbelievably strong.

It is times like this when you realize that nobody can do most jobs by themselves and you appreciate the importance of being involved in networking organizations such as your local operator groups and/or Illinois Rural Water Association. There is no better place to learn than from others who are, or have been doing, the same things you are currently toiling at. I don't know about you, but I have never met an operator that wasn't eager to share their knowledge and experiences with you. Those of you that are involved in networking efforts know the comfort level, fellowship and trust gained from the efforts put forward by your peers.

I guess the moral to this story is stay involved or get involved and anytime you get a chance, encourage a young person to consider exploring a career in the water/wastewater industry. We all know that without safe water and good sanitation it would be a very miserable existence. Quality on Tap...Our Commitment, Our Profession. 💧

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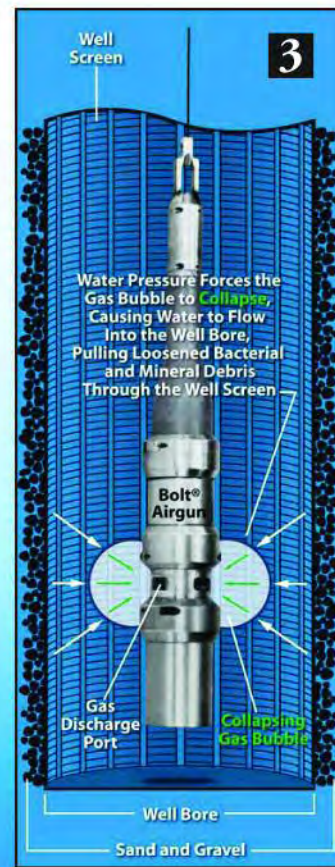
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# Pictures of Splash in Southern Illinois



Splash waiting out storm in Nashville, Illinois



Splash @ Devil's Lake



Splash at Crab Orchard Lake



Splash, Curt & Marge at Murdale Water District



Splash & Dave at Staunton on water leak



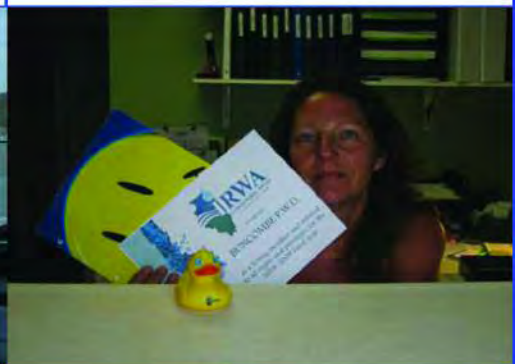
Splash & Tim at Devil's Kitchen Water District



Splash in the Trenches



Splash crossing the Brussels Ferry



Splash & Karen at Buncombe Water District



Splash & Ron from Gillespie on leak detect



Splash in aftermath of southern Illinois storms



Splash & Tracy from Equality on leak detect

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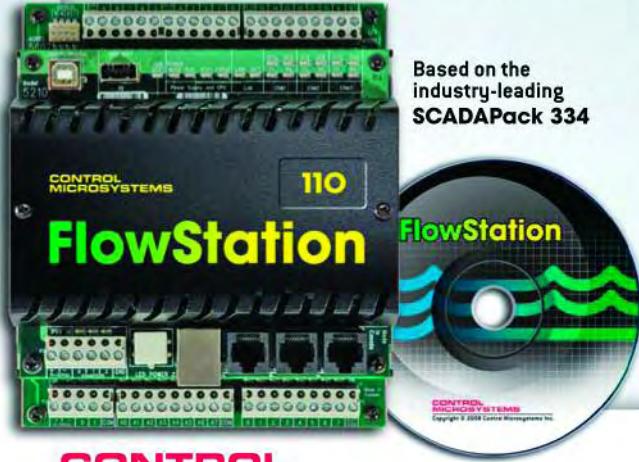
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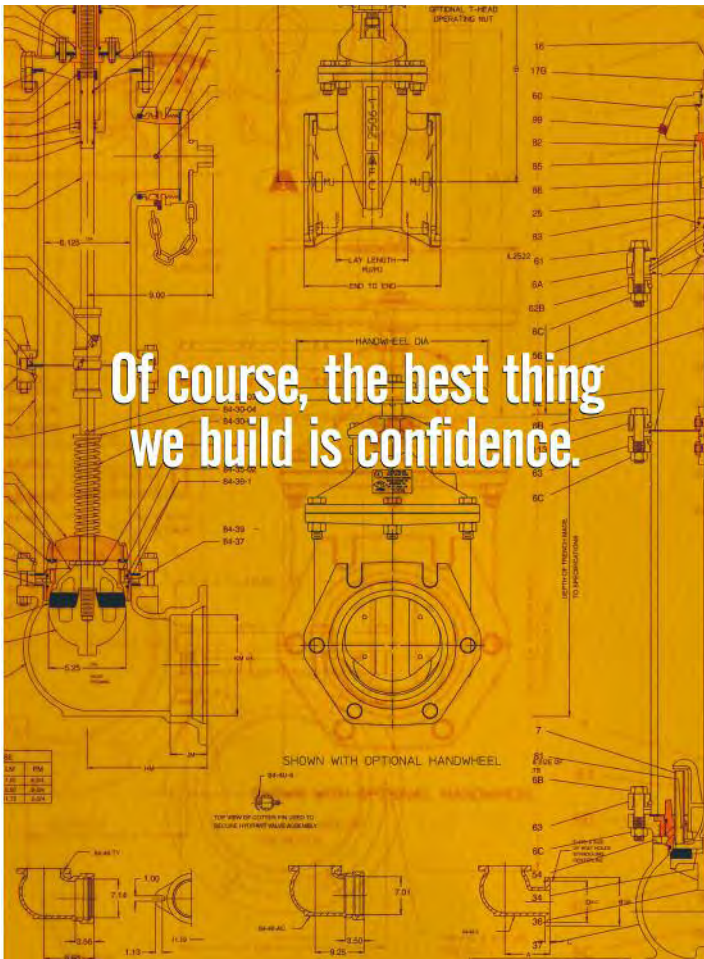


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# Funny Questions About Life

by Hal Lacious

Ever had one of those funny questions about life? Then please read on. When it comes to funny questions and thoughts about life, every time I think I've seen them all I find one I've never seen before or come up with more of my own. The following are some of the ones I've discovered or written however, I know there's more because that's, well... life. So, if you find while reading these funny questions and thoughts about life make you smile, pass them along. All right, let's get started!

## Funny Questions about life - Group 1

Why does Hawaiian pizza also contain Canadian Bacon? Grape Nuts cereal. No grapes - no nuts. Huh? What's the difference between regular ketchup and fancy ketchup? Do Dutch people always split the bill? If you use Miracle Whip on Wonder Bread, do you have to use Heavenly Ham?

## Funny Questions about life - Group 2

Is there ever a day that mattresses aren't on sale? They make bullet proof vests, why not bullet proof pants? Why are oriental rug stores always going out of business? Is there any difference between partly cloudy and partly sunny?

## Funny Questions about life - Group 3

If it only takes one match to start a forest fire, why on earth does it take me a whole box of matches and a can of lighter fluid to light my grill? When they ship those styrofoam peanuts, what do they pack them in? How do you know when pickles or sour cream has gone bad?

## Funny Questions about life - Group 4

How does one know when their bagpipes need tuning? Allstate Insurance has

a disclaimer that reads: not available in all states. What? If Donkey Kong's main character is a monkey, why isn't it called Monkey Kong? Why does the word lisp have an "s" in it?

## Funny Questions about life - Group 5

How come you never read the headline, "Psychic Wins Lottery"? The next time someone says, "Now I've seen everything", ask them if they've ever seen a UPS truck parked in a parking space. Has anyone ever really seen a Jolly Rancher? If you get a club soda stain, how do you remove it?

## Funny Questions about life - Group 6

Has anyone (besides Donald Trump's wife) ever been fooled by a comb over? Is it really possible to change the direction of a bowling ball by waving your hands? There's senior citizens, so why aren't there junior citizens?

## Funny Questions about life - Group 7

They say laughter is the best medicine - so who came up with the phrase, "I died laughing"? Why do doctors leave the room when your getting dressed? After all, they've already seen you naked. What's wrong with the United States? They only have two choices for President, but fifty for Miss America. Any reason they nail down the lid of a coffin? When butterflies get upset or nervous, what do they get in their stomachs?


## Funny Questions about life - Group 8

Where do they put price stickers on non-stick pans? If it's called lipstick, why is it always coming off? When they sing, "Take me out to the ball game" they're already there. Why? Who's idea

was it to make the word abbreviation so long?

Yes, these are just a few of the Funny Questions about life that try men's -and women's souls. And there's a ton more funny questions about life not listed here. Some of them come to me during the course of a day. For example, why does every shampoo bottle say, lather, rinse, repeat? I'm sorry, did I miss my head entirely the first time or do you just want to sell more shampoo? If you have or have thought up any funny questions of life yourself, feel free to send them along and thanks for wasting a few minutes of your life pondering these funny questions of life. Now get out there and do something good. Like figuring out what people in China call their good plates...

*About the Author:* Hal Lacious is an award winning copywriter, author and proud co-owner of <http://www.kiddiekort.com>.

To read more mindless questions, please go to <http://funnyquestions.blogspot.com>. 

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## The Adventures of "Splash"

by Patricia Gammill, Circuit Rider

Greetings peeps! Well... I am now in my 10th year as a Circuit Rider for Illinois Rural Water

Association. I know...right? Pretty amazing! And to tell ya the truth I couldn't have asked for a better position. Being a Circuit Rider is exactly that. I ride the Circuit assigned to me and assist our members in a wide range of issues. My territory is pretty much all of Southern Illinois. I travel just a little south of Springfield to the bottom of the state and the area between the east and west borders of the state.

Over the past 10 years I have had the opportunity to meet some of the most awesome folks in the water/wastewater industry.....YOU GUYS!...the operators, clerks, mayors, board members, vendors, instructors, EPA personnel and my fellow staff members...

All of which are out there doing the same thing... Providing safe drinking water for the people of Illinois. Putting away all the negative aspects that occur in any job or position, just think how cool it is to know, that at the end of the day you have done a great service. Not only for your own family, but for your whole community. Water is our most precious resource, and if it weren't for you out there taking care of it, we would be in a bad state of affairs.

So I got to thinking....I know scary right? Anyway...I thought it would be nice to share some of my experiences and photos with all of you. This way you

get to meet and see your fellow peeps in the business. I have recently taken on a new passenger. He rides on my dash and navigates me through the state. I thought why not have some fun and let him be in some of the photos. Hence....THE ADVENTURES OF SPLASH!

In this article I hope to remind you of the great services provided by IRWA in case you have forgotten or maybe just didn't realize we could assist with a certain issue.

This past month I got to visit with Darrin Apkin from the Village of Marine and Melvin Mohs from the Village of Palmyra. They both requested some assistance with the CCR. Yep, we do that...so remember for next year.

I got the opportunity to work with Rusty Harper from the Village of Louisville, Hank Fey and his crew from City of Staunton ( which was an emergency situation. Yes, we will assist even at night or a weekend if need ). Tracy Jones from Village of Equality, and Bill Yates from Village of Marissa. All of which needed assistance in a leak detection. Keep in mind we now have new leak detection equipment that helps us pinpoint your leak more efficiently. Just give me a call if need.

I got to visit with Curt Mezo from Murdale Water Dist., Tim Yancy from Devil's Kitchen and Karen Dunn from Buncombe Water Dist. These were routine visits where we discussed various issues along with loans/grants. We can provide you with information on funding for any water/wastewater projects you may have. There is stimulus money



available, so give me a call and I can lead you in the right direction.

I got to meet with Roger Johnson from Western Wayne Water Dist., and Penny Pinkstaff from City of Lebanon. Remember, we loan equipment to our members. When Roger was finished with the electric valve exerciser I picked it up and delivered it to Penny. This service is great for you guys, whatever you need to borrow from our list will be delivered, you can use it for 30 days and it will be picked back up when you're done.

I also got to attend the Southwest Central Water Plant Operator Association's annual picnic hosted by Flo-Systems in Troy. SWCWPOA holds an operator meeting every other month. The officers for the Association are Executive Director, Patti Schaaake, President, Dan DeSherlia, Vice President, Marty Reynolds and Treasurer, Doug Booten. The morning meeting is held in Maryville and an operator of the year is announced. This year Chris Schlobaum from the Village of Bunker Hill accepted the award.

This just in...have to add my leak

*continued on page 21*

# The Adventures of "Splash"

continued from page 20

detection at Gillespie the last day of the month. This was an emergency situation. Don Shuey the operator was having a very high water usage and having a hard time keeping up. Ron Fritz and his distribution crew and I were able to pinpoint the leak. The water was pouring into the basement of an abandon bank building. Therefore the water was not surfacing for anyone to notice. So remember... we do come out on emergency situations. And remember... if you have a leak that is not surfacing, check abandon services or buildings. I have seen this scenario quite a few times.

These are just a handful of the people and systems I have the pleasure of working with. Without all of you I would not have a job and Illinois Rural Water Association would not exist. Thanks to you as members my fellow staff and I get the opportunity to meet and assist you with your water/wastewater needs. I hope in our visits we are able to provide you with the necessary assistance and information you need to accomplish any water/wastewater issues. Please note the services provided in this article are just a few of the services provided by IRWA.

So remember to take advantage of your membership dues and call for whatever reason you may have. I plan to keep the *ADVENTURES OF SPLASH* going. Some photos of everyone are not available since I just started this quest. But be prepared at my next visit to your system, because you just may be in the next... *ADVENTURES OF SPLASH!*

See ya in my travels! (Well... me and Splash)

Patricia Gammill 



*(See pictures of where Splash traveled on page 14!)*



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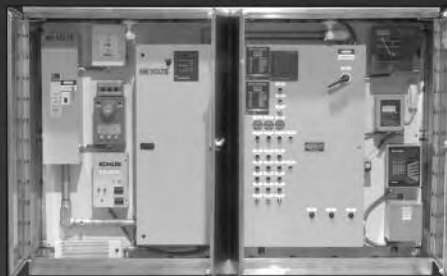
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	Water	Wastewater	Water	Wastewater
9:00 – 10:30	Welcome/RD Update/EPA Updates		Reducing Main Breaks w/Surge	Lagoon Microbiology
10:30 – 11:00	Break		Break	
11:00 – 12:00	IEPA Reg. Update	T.V. Inspection	Disinfection using Calcium Hypochlorite	Infrared Thermography for Electrical Troubleshooting
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch		Lunch	
1:00 – 2:00	SCADA	IEPA Update	Troubleshooting Meters	Using the Proper PPE
2:00 – 2:30	Break		Break	
2:30 – 4:00	Antennas & Water Towers	Sewer Lining	Energy Savings in Your Plant	Proper Lab Procedures

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