



Walla Walla District
has a new commander.
See page 3.

HOOKED on Recreation

When it's summertime,
and the living is easy,
Walla Walla District reels
in folks looking to relax.

FROM WHERE I SIT

7,000,000 select Walla Walla District



photo by Rick Haverinen

A local family gets ready to enjoy their day on Lake Sacajawea above Ice Harbor Lock and Dam July 18.

Most of us don't always think of recreation when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers comes to mind. The first image to pop into your mind is probably the enormous dams and locks we have built on the Snake, Clearwater, Boise, and Columbia rivers. But at the lakes behind those dams, and wherever you find the water we manage, you're going to find people who want to have fun with it, in it, on it and next to it. If you've ever watched a three-year-old in a bathtub, you've witnessed a perfect example of this love of water. Adults just have bigger toys.

In the Northwest, our practical, get-the-job-done civil works projects have become full-time recreation destinations. The regional economy not only benefits from navigation, power generation and irrigation, but Corps lakes enhance our quality of life. And it's a popular lifestyle. Hang around a Corps boat ramp at 5:30 on a summer Friday afternoon, and you'll see plenty of families and groups of friends eager to get out on the water and have a whole lot of weekend fun.

Did you know the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has more people visit our recreation facilities than any other federal agency in the United States? More people come to our parks each year than even all of the national parks. That adds up to a lot of visitors every year – over 400 million people nationwide and over 7

million visitors in Walla Walla District. It's possible the only face most of our recreation visitors will associate with the Walla Walla District is the face of one of our rangers or a maintenance person fixing a problem in the campground. That turns all our great employees who contact the public in the field into goodwill ambassadors for the Corps of Engineers, and those

employees are able to maintain a professional relationship, even when it takes extraordinary patience to work with those 7 million visitors.

And, certain responsibilities come with hosting the public in places where water is an attraction. The Corps actively promotes water safety for anyone in, on or near the water, and our staff takes that responsibility very seriously.

So, the most publicly-accessible mission of Walla Walla District is also one of the most interesting. We have built huge civil works projects and have developed recreational facilities around them, and with hardly a drop of promotion, have found eager year-round interest from the public.

We are offering enjoyment with a capital "E" and the support and hard work of our people makes that magic happen for the public throughout the District.

Phil Bengé
Natural Resources Specialist



Phil Bengé

Intercom is an unofficial publication authorized by the provisions of Army Regulation 360-1. It is published bimonthly by the Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It has a distribution of 1,000 copies. It is digitally printed by the Document Automation and Production Service. Contents of the INTERCOM are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Commander: Lt. Col. Tony Hofmann
PA Team Lead: Joe Saxon
PA Specialist: Rick Haverinen
PA Specialist: Gina Baltrusch
Public Affairs Assistant: Krissy Antes

For more information, contact:
Public Affairs Office
Walla Walla District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
201 N. Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362
Phone: (509) 527-7020
Fax: (509) 527-7824
E-mail: cenww-pa@usace.army.mil

On the Cover...



photo by Rick Haverinen

Diego Soto, 6, snags a trout during a youth fishing derby May 13 at McNary Lock and Dam. Diego's sister Natalie, 4, lays down her fish pole to share the excitement, while their father Neftali issues congratulations. The derby attracted 132 kids and the largest fish caught weighed in at 2.17 pounds. The stocked fish ponds at McNary provide fun for young and old alike.

NWW command passed to Hofmann

Lt. Col. Anthony J. Hofmann assumed command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, in a June 30 ceremony at the Marcus Whitman Hotel.

Brig. Gen. Gregg F. Martin, commanding general of the Corps' Northwestern Division, officiated as Lt. Col. Randy Glaeser transferred command to Hofmann.

Glaeser served as the Walla Walla District commander for the past two years.

Hofmann, a native of Brooten, Minn., holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the U.S. Military Academy and a Master of Science degree in Construction Management from Colorado State University.

He has served in active duty engineering units in the U.S. and Germany, and with the Corps' New Orleans District. He deployed to Iraq with the 937th Engineer Group (Combat) in 2003 while supporting 3rd Infantry Div. Prior to his assignment as the Walla Walla District commander, he served as the executive officer and senior engineer observer controller/trainer with the 3rd Bn., 383rd Reg. (Training Support) in St. Louis, Mo., ensuring the combat readiness of deploying Army Reserve and Army National Guard Soldiers.

Glaeser has been selected by the Walla Walla County commissioners as the new director of public works.



Photo by Gina Baltrusch

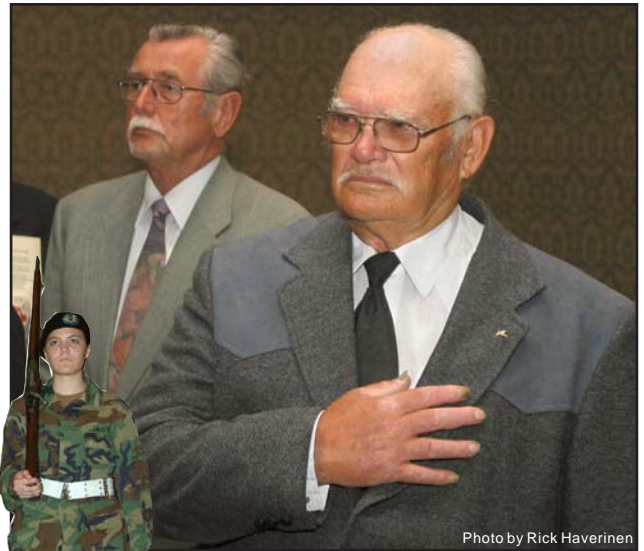


Photo by Rick Haverinen

Top right, audience members salute as the national anthem is played. Center right, Brig. Gen. Gregg Martin, left, commander, Northwestern Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, presents the colors to Lt. Col. Tony Hofmann, incoming commander, Walla Walla District. Lower right, Lt. Col. Randy Glaeser, outgoing commander, greets guests following the ceremony.

Above, the ceremony color guard was provided by the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps at Walla Walla High School, commanded by Lt. Col. Gary G. Banks. Below, music was performed by the 104th Infantry Division Band, U.S. Army Reserve, from Vancouver Barracks. The 104th is commanded by Maj. Gen. T. K. Moffett.



Photo by Gina Baltrusch



Photo by Gina Baltrusch



Photo by Rick Haverinen

Way-out dock



photo by Paul Pence, Natural Resources Manager, Dworshak Dam

Dworshak Dam in Idaho attracts visitors with six floating "destination" docks anchored in the reservoir. Boaters can tie up to one of the docks and passengers can swim, sunbathe or picnic. The docks have proven to be very popular since the first two were installed in 1998. Several more "safe harbor" docks have been installed in out-of-the-way coves and bays.

Journeymen complete training

Four students graduated June 15 from Walla Walla District's Apprentice Program during a ceremony at McNary Lock and Dam. Nick Jarosch, a three-year program graduate and Air Force veteran from Spokane, Wash., works at Lower Granite Lock and Dam as a power house electrician. John Riser, a three-year program graduate from Rosalia, Wash., works at Lower Monumental Lock and Dam as a power house mechanic. Valerie Corteville, a four-year program graduate and Navy veteran from Pleasant Hill, Ore., now works at McNary Lock and Dam as a power house electrician. Sam Schlachter, a three-year program graduate from Panama City, Fla., and Navy veteran, now works at McNary Lock and Dam as a power house operator.

Corps leadership students named

Walla Walla District has announced the next class list for the eight-month Leadership Development Program due to begin in September. The program develops leadership and management skills through a retreat, field visits and team projects. Topics studied include coaching, conflict management, teambuilding, public speaking, strategic planning and financial management. The trainees participate on a part-time basis while assigned to their regular positions

The selectees for the 2006-2007 program are: Debra Norton, park ranger, Dworshak; David Alexander, lead mechanical engineer, McNary; Mark Plummer, fishery biologist, Ice Harbor; Gary Dahl, contract specialist, Contracting; Stuart Mellick, power plant mechanic, Little Goose; Gail Hicks, electrical engineer, Lower Granite; Tracy Schwarz, civil engineer, Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch, Engineering; Danielle Stephens, civil engineer, Structures, Engineering; Robert Wall, electrical engineer, Operations; Cindy Boen, landscape architect, Planning Branch, Planning Programs and Project Management Division; Glen Matlock, civil engineer, Construction; and Dale Rinker, power plant mechanic, McNary.

Results announced for A-76

Following an 18-month competition of its Information Management/Information Technology (IM/IT) functions, the initial performance decision of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is to retain the work in-house for performance by the Most Efficient Organization, it was announced June 21.

The Government's Most Efficient Organization was selected based on lowest cost technically acceptable. As part of the competition process and before implementing the results of the competition, the unsuccessful offerors are afforded an opportunity to protest the decision in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

The competition began in June 2004 and involved work performed by more than 1,300 employees and more than 500 contractors at Corps locations throughout the United States.

The IM/IT services included in the competition are: (1) automation services and systems support, (2) communications services and systems support, (3) information assurance service and support, (4) record management services and support, (5) printing and publication services, (6) visual information services, and (7) IM/IT Administration and Management.

Lyons Ferry Park has new operator



photo by Gina Baltrusch

Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, signed an agreement June 29 with a new operator of Lyons Ferry Park, located on the lower Snake River near Starbuck, Wash.

The 15-year lease with Port of Columbia adds the park to their responsibilities in the area, as they already operate Lyons Ferry Marina, right across the river. The park was previously leased to Northwest Land Management, which relinquished its lease in May 2005. During the past year, the Corps has kept the park open with limited services while a new lessee was sought.

Signing the lease are Gene Turner, Port of Columbia manager, and former Walla Walla District Commander Lt. Col. Randy Glaeser. Left to right standing are: Bonnie Williams, Port of Columbia auditor; Ed and Karen Merritt, sublessees of the Port who operate Lyons Ferry Marina; and Jana Brinlee, Management and Disposal Chief, Real Estate Division, Walla Walla District.

Reenacting The Corps of Discovery



photos by Rick Haverinen

Craig Rockwell, playing Capt. William Clark, shows the contents of the Corps of Discovery's medicine kit June 7 in Lewiston, Idaho.

Left to right, Edward Shirley, Sam Rayburn Lake; Jon Carlson, The Dalles Dam; and Robert Henderson, Lake of the Pines; show "recruits" Joel Andersen (yellow T-shirt) and Jacob Magee how to drill with flintlock rifles.

by Rick Haverinen

While you've heard "All the world's a stage," at least a big swath of the United States has been the venue for a cast portraying members of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery.

Craig Rockwell, from the Walla Walla District's Lower Granite Natural Resources Management Office in Clarkston, Wash., has for the past decade been bouncing around the Northwest, the Midwest, and as far away as New Hampshire with his portrayal of Capt. William Clark.

"If I had a nickel for every day I've been involved, I'd be a very rich man," Rockwell said. "I've been researching the Lewis and Clark story since 1980."

Rockwell and a squad of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees, roughly split evenly into uniformed rangers and

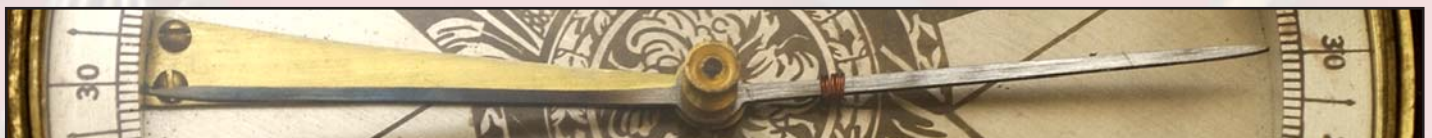
costumed roleplayers like Rockwell, have been touring an improvised show of living history and displays to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the landmark journey of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark from Missouri to the Pacific Ocean. The original exploration had about 50 people in the party and started out May 14, 1804. The explorers sighted the Pacific on Nov. 7, 1805 and returned home by Sept. 23, 1806.

"Our group came together initially in Louisville, Ky. in October 2003, on the 200th anniversary of the expedition being at that location," said Edward Shirley, an environmental specialist at Sam Rayburn Lake in Texas. Shirley portrays Pvt. Richard Windsor, of the 1st Infantry Regiment. "Since then, we've done all of the signature events along the route, at

each location on the 200th anniversary of the expedition getting to a given place."

Rockwell said the experience of studying and portraying Clark has been so involving, he won't be able to shut the character down after September, but will continue to play it anywhere he can.

"When I started researching the history of the agency, I realized that Lewis and Clark were pivotal to the formation of the Corps of Engineers as we know it today," Rockwell said, "and a very important part of the history of the U.S. Army in general. I started working within the Corps to say, 'Hey folks, this is the greatest opportunity we will ever have to tell the history of our own agency.' You can't tell a story about the history of the United States without talking about the U.S. Army and the Army Corps of Engineers."



Water safety program



photo by Krissy Antes

The beach at Fishhook Park on Lake Sacajawea attracts kids on a summer afternoon.

Rangers teach one-on-one

by Rick Haverinen

The park rangers who work for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are the one-on-one advocates for water safety as they encounter dozens of visitors recreating any day at one of Walla Walla District's parks, lakes and beaches.

Pasquale Anolfo preaches the water safety message in his park ranger job at the McNary Natural Resources Management Office.

"I go with the Corps of Engineers party line, which is the use of a lifejacket whenever you're in, on or near the water," Anolfo said. "Children of all ages, even up to the age of 12, need to wear a lifejacket."

Anolfo substitutes content when he's talking water safety with adults.

"The strongest message is the avoidance of using alcohol, whenever you're in, on or near the water," Anolfo said, "because if it's illegal to drink and drive a car, the same things that will get you in trouble driving a car are going to get you into trouble whenever you're operating a boat or swimming. From the standpoint of statistics, alcohol is usually a leading contributor to boating accidents because it does impair your judgment and response time. Alcohol affects the physical ability to operate a boat, and the damage is made worse because of exposure to the elements. The combination diminishes your

ability to respond. Leave the alcohol at home when you're recreating on the water."

Anolfo also advises boaters to make sure they have a Coast Guard-approved lifejacket for everyone on board.

"Make sure you understand how to use your equipment, and you know the weight capacity of your boat," Anolfo said. "Before you go out, have an idea of what the weather conditions are like. Tell somebody where you're going and when you think you're

Camp host tries to save drowning victim

by Rick Haverinen

It would be much better if this story had a happy ending, but there is none.

Gordon "Red" Goodwin was sitting at his camp site with his wife Martha at Lucky Peak Lake May 30, when he was alarmed to see a pleasure boat running at high speed toward the nearby dock. A volunteer host at



"Red" Goodwin

the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recreational area, Goodwin immediately recognized possible distress and rushed

to meet the craft. A middle-aged man got out of the boat carrying a limp 22-month-old boy. The man explained to Goodwin that their family was unloading their boat at a nearby campground when they found his grandson floating in the water.

Goodwin took the unconscious boy, began CPR and actually observed signs he might be saved. At one time, the boy looked up at Goodwin.

A paramedic crew arrived to take over the life-saving procedures and a helicopter took the boy to a hospital. Sadly, the boy died five days later.

A retired sheriff's deputy, Goodwin has seen more than his share of drowning victims.

"It's not something you like to see," Goodwin said, "but it's going to happen when you have water and you have people. Unfortunately, this happened to be a small boy."

Even though the lifesaving effort was not successful, Goodwin is happy he was nearby to offer help gained from his training and experience.

"It shows the benefit of having camp hosts in these parks," Goodwin said. "I think a majority of volunteers have done some type of (emergency) training."

The American Red Cross in Walla Walla offers courses for a fee in first aid and CPR several times per month. Their phone number is (509) 525-7380.

combats distraction



photo by Rick Haverinen

park ranger Pasquale Anolfo gives a water safety coupon exchangeable for an ice cream cone to a young boater for being "buddy" wearing a lifejacket.

going to be back. So, if you're not back within an hour or two, they'll be thinking about you, and in a couple hours, they might call and check on you. If you're getting off the water, let them know that you're safe and you had a good day."

Anolfo said that kind of communication is an extension of the water safety "buddy system."

"Everybody should go swimming with somebody else," Anolfo said. "If you get into trouble, you've got somebody who can possibly save you or go for help. Stay within the buoy lines with your buddy. When you go out to recreation areas or

swim beaches and see lots of people using those inflatables, the mats, the inner tubes, the floating rings, those are fun to play with, but they can't be relied on as a lifejacket because they puncture easily. If you're going to use them, stay within the swim beach buoy line. We don't want people to float out into the river because they can get caught up in the current and be swept away. We encourage people to know their limits. If you're a good swimmer, great. If you're not that good of a swimmer, stay close to shore, use the buddy system and wear a lifejacket. Take lessons and learn to be a good swimmer."

Anolfo cautions swimmers to remember the river is not like a swimming pool.

"There are no lifeguards," Anolfo said. "The pool is a static environment. The river is constantly changing. The temperatures go up and down. The water levels go up and down. There's a changeable current out there. There's debris out there. It's essentially like being out on the ocean. The river's going down hill to the Pacific Ocean, and there's that slope, and we're spilling water, and that maybe impacts the flow, but it's a moving body of water. It doesn't appear that way on the surface, but it is. You see the boats drifting when they're stopped, so it's a moving body of water. So, they need to treat a river with a greater level of caution than they would treat a pool."

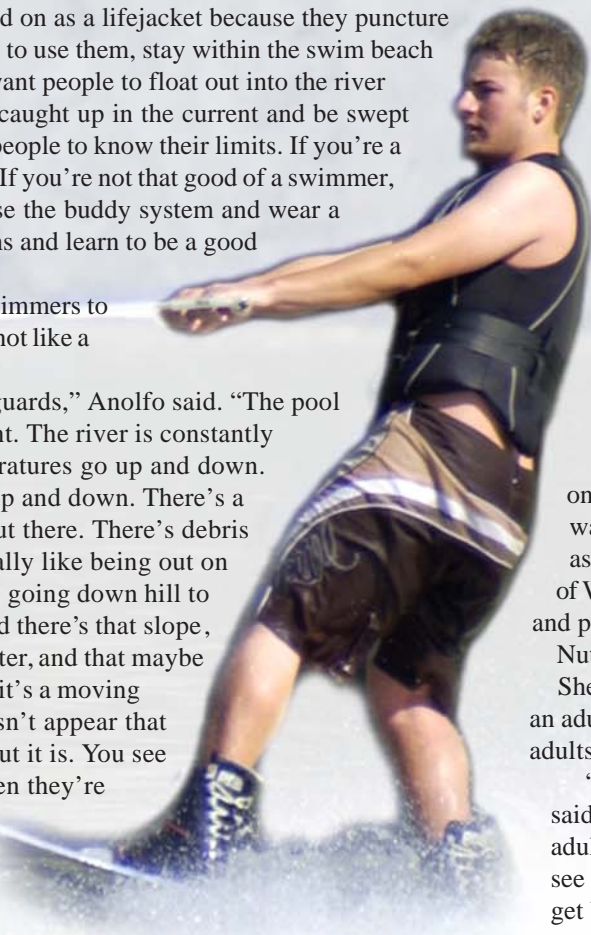


photo by Rick Haverinen

A visitor to Walla Walla District's Lucky Peak Lake gives his wake board a workout June 2.

Former ranger directs water safety program

by Rick Haverinen

Linda Nutt became passionate about promoting water safety because of her experience as a park ranger with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"I was the person who went out on drownings and accident investigations," Nutt said, "and the turning point came when I was involved in a drowning and recovery of a five-year-old child at one of our beaches in Walla Walla District. Something went through me as a mom, and I just thought, 'We've got to do more.' So I made a commitment to myself that I would do everything I could to improve people's awareness of the risk of open waters and teach parents to be responsible about watching their children."



Lynda Nutt

Nutt developed a reputation as a person concerned about water safety, so that when she became an outdoor recreation planner, she was assigned water-safety responsibilities with that job.

"I was probably one of those rangers who would pick up the phone and say, 'You're not giving me what I need. I'm having this kind of a problem — people falling out of boats, and I don't have a poster that addresses that theme.' And, fortunately, those calls made headquarters very aware that I did have high interest in water safety."

Nutt was beckoned to Washington to consult on a water-safety video and other materials being produced at the Corps' headquarters. By 1993, she was invited to serve an internship at headquarters by the person who was running the Corps' national water safety program.

"That was the transition point where they asked me to take on the program," Nutt said. "It would be part time, and I didn't want to work in D.C. So I came back to Walla Walla District and asked if they would allow me to help manage the program out of Walla Walla with their support. So I worked part time for them and part time for headquarters, and that's how it evolved."

Nutt now is running the program full time working at her home.

She urges children who will be using water for recreation to tell an adult where they will be, but her program also targets the adults.

"We want to put the responsibility back on the parent," Nutt said, "and a lot of fatalities involving children happen when the adult stepped away from the child and got distracted. And, we see that in our campgrounds or picnic grounds. The parent will get busy setting up the picnic table, and children are naturally attracted to water, and that's the first place they will try to get to if they're let loose in a park. So, that momentary lack of attention can be devastating and result in a drowning."

Ranger job title accurate



photos by Rick Haverinen

Park Rangers Jamie Howard, left, and Holly Wright confer while crossing patrol paths June 3 near the Back Bay boat

launch at Lucky Peak Lake, a heavily-used U.S. Army Corps of Engineers aquatic recreational area near Boise, Idaho.

by Rick Haverinen

The job title is taken from a verb. Webster's says it means "to roam at large or freely." That definition is spot-on. Rangers do exactly that.

To get an idea of the range a ranger can range in a single day, follow a couple U.S. Army Corps of Engineers park rangers. In this case, we'll try to keep up with Jamie Howard and Alex Urquhart at Lucky Peak Dam and Lake near Boise, Idaho. The date is Saturday, June 3, and highlights are reflected in Howard's logbook.

1230 – Patrol: Turner Gulch, Red (Goodwin) on duty; Barclay Bay, dog off



Park Ranger Jamie Howard makes friends with young boaters June 3 at Lucky Peak Lake near Boise.

leash, compliance; Barclay Bay Beach no one; Back Bay ramp, quiet.

1330 – Office: pick up boat and gas; Barclay Bay, launched boat.

1600 – Lake patrol: towed disabled boat to Barclay Bay and boat traffic, one half hour.

The Golden Rule

"Boating's what I do in my spare time," Urquhart said, "so it's an aspect of the job I really enjoy. And then, when you get a chance to help out other people, it's really important, too. I've definitely been the dead boat in the water in my private boat, and whenever

you get some help, it's always appreciated."

Camaraderie

"For example, these guys right here, they're dead in the water but they're still smiling," Urquhart said. "When you're out here, you're not being inundated with TV, radio, traffic, all the problems, so it's a relaxing time. Now for us, sometimes it gets stressful. I enjoy the job. Within every job you're going to have aspects not

as fun as others. But all in all, I can't say there's a day when I've really regretted going in to work."



Park Ranger Alex Urquhart helps a boater with a tow back to shore.

1900 – Spring Shores, moored boat; Barclay Bay, quiet; Turner Gulch, quiet; Foote Park, unattended fire at pit, dogs off leash. Visitor was livid about his unattended fire being put out. I explained I was sorry – not about putting out the fire, but that he was so upset. He didn't care.

"We see the gamut of emotion up here," Howard said. "We've seen people when they're having problems within the family and bickering. We've seen them when they've been drunk. So we've seen them in all sorts of emotional states. But for the most part, people come here to have fun and enjoy the outdoors."

2100 - Office: finish log and go home.

Keep it working, make it look good

by Rick Haverinen

It takes an army of many to keep recreation areas tidy, functional and better-than-ever in the Walla Walla District.

“We never do the same thing twice in a row,” said Charles Krasselt, a maintenance worker at the Lower Granite Natural Resources Management Office in Clarkston, Wash. “We will be doing irrigation one day. The next day, we’ll be doing construction. The next day, we can be doing concrete, plumbing, heating and air conditioning. We’ve got so much variety of stuff that we do. It’s very fun, and you’re always outside. We very seldom ever work in the shop, unless it’s really foul weather, and if it slacks up, we’re out there again. Any minute we can be headed to do something different.”

Although you might not think of maintenance specialists as front-line troops who engage visitors at U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers recreation areas, Krasselt said he gets plenty of opportunity to rub shoulders with park patrons.

“What we do is try to keep it presentable so that it’s neat and clean and easy to get to,” Krasselt said. “It’s very enjoyable to see people using all of our things that we do for them. Even in the maintenance section, we greet a lot of people because we’re out here working all the time, and the visitors are very pleasant about what we do for them. They really like what we’re doing.”



Monte Crawford cooks up a hinge from scratch at Lucky Peak Dam.

Photos by Rick Haverinen



Doug Weldy spiffs up Lyons Ferry Park.

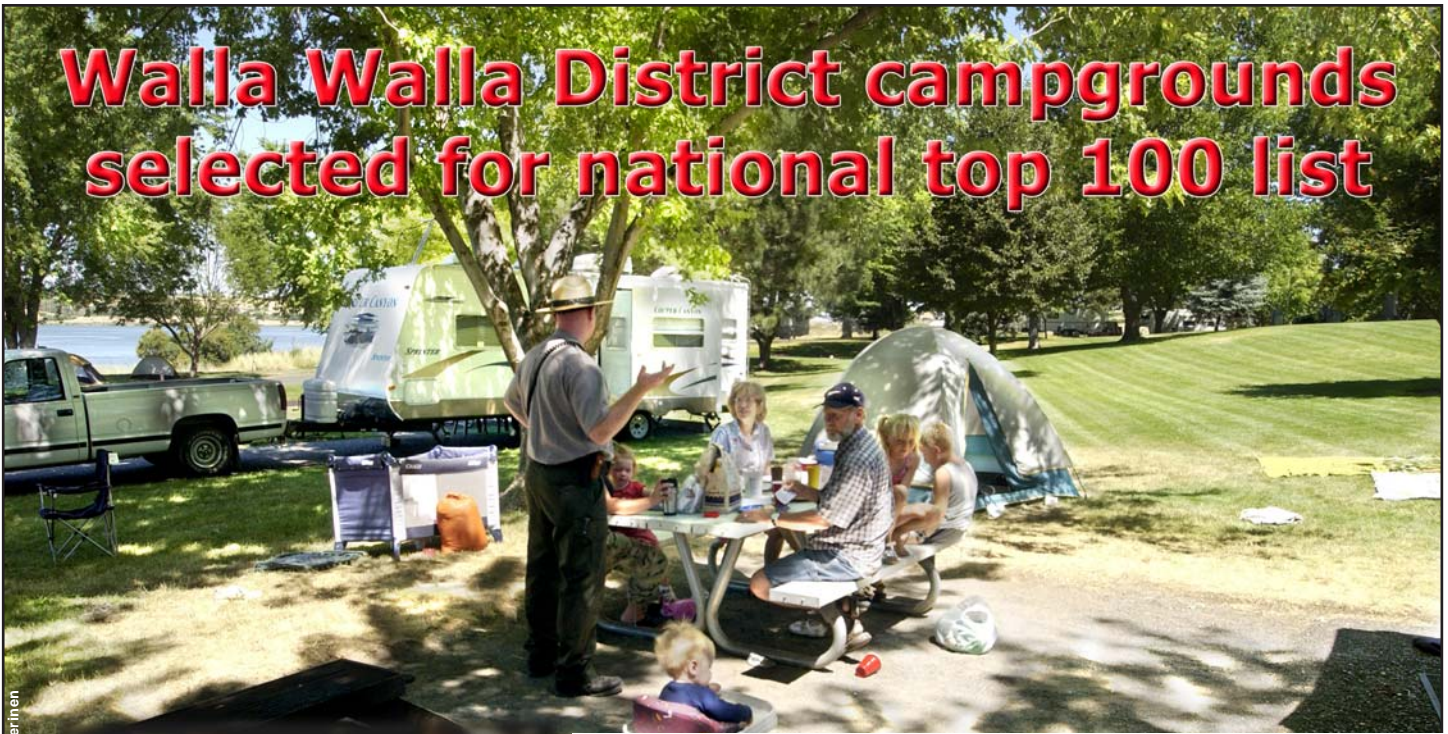


Charles Krasselt swaps out computer memory along the Clarkston levee.



Derek Meyer wires a restroom building at Swallows Park in Clarkston.

Walla Walla District campgrounds selected for national top 100 list



Charbonneau Park, just above Ice Harbor Lock and Dam, lures visitors with its lush landscaping, marina and full camper hookups.

photo by Rick Haverinen

Charbonneau Park on Lake Sacajawea and Dent Acres Campground at Dworshak Reservoir have been recognized as two of the "Top 100 Family Campgrounds" in the nation according to Reserve America.

Reserve America is a partner company with the National Recreation Reservation Service which manages most camp ground reservations for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and several other federal agencies. The "Top 100 Family Campgrounds" were selected based on criteria requested by family campers including park amenities, beautiful outdoor scenery and educational facilities.

Charbonneau Park, just two miles upstream of Ice Harbor Lock and Dam near Burbank, is the only park in the state of Washington to be listed in the "Top 100."

Similarly, Dent Acres Campground, in Northern Idaho's



Visitors enjoy the relaxed atmosphere at Dent Acres Campground at Dworshak Reservoir in Idaho.

File photo

Clearwater Valley near Orofino, is the only campground in the state of Idaho to receive the recognition.

For a complete list of the "Top 100" parks, go online to <http://www.reserveamerica.com/jsp/homepage.jsp?goto=/home/top100list.html>.

Corps of Engineers rangers more like Smokey Bear than McGruff



Photo by Rick Haverinen

by Rick Haverinen

Corps of Engineers park rangers in the Walla Walla District are more likely to remind you to be safe around the water than take a bite out of crime. It's not that their bark is worse than their bite, but that they're more likely to purr than growl.

"There's an element of law enforcement there, but (rangers are present) mostly to provide visitor safety," said Scott Moore, outdoor recreation planner. "We have the authority to issue cita-

tions, and that comes with fines or sometimes a court appearance, but we're not out there to do the law enforcement stuff. That's why we have contracts with law enforcement folks."

Moore said Corps park rangers often use humor as goodwill ambassadors.

"Humor is a great deterrent," Moore said. "You take the aggression out of people. It can diffuse a sensitive situation, turn it around and make it something the public can deal with."

Ice Harbor employees help at accident

by Joseph B. Saxton

It's not every day that you get to wake up and be a hero or a heroine.

Ice Harbor Dam's Biological Science Technician Joyce McDonald and Park ranger Don Disbro were at Charbonneau Park June 17 with a sheriff's deputy, when the radio informed them of an accident. The deputy left for that mishap, but soon another call came in about a more serious accident of a tractor-trailer slamming into a train near Burbank, Wash.

"We knew the deputy would be on the wrong side of the tracks to help, so Don and I took off," McDonald said.

When they arrived at Monument Drive, they were the first responders. The truck was dragged about a quarter-mile before the mile-long train stopped.

"The cab was on the front of the train, and there was a brush fire about 400 feet from the truck's fuel tank. We grabbed a fire extinguisher and the medical kit, and went to the truck," she said.

"I leaned through the truck's window and saw a man suspended upside down.



photo by Rick Haverinen

The familiar job description phrase says "other duties as assigned," so Joyce McDonald, a fisheries biological science technician, helps maintenance worker Bill Rose carry a heavy gearbox down to the fish bypass channel at Ice Harbor Dam.

He was alive, but had head trauma and other injuries and was covered in blood.

"I kept his head elevated and prevented blood from running into his air passages so he wouldn't drown while Disbro directed traffic," McDonald said.

"Once the Highway patrol and the paramedics arrived, they unbolted his seat and airlifted him to St Mary Medical Center in Walla Walla," she said.

She said she "felt great," following the ordeal. "It was a good day all around."

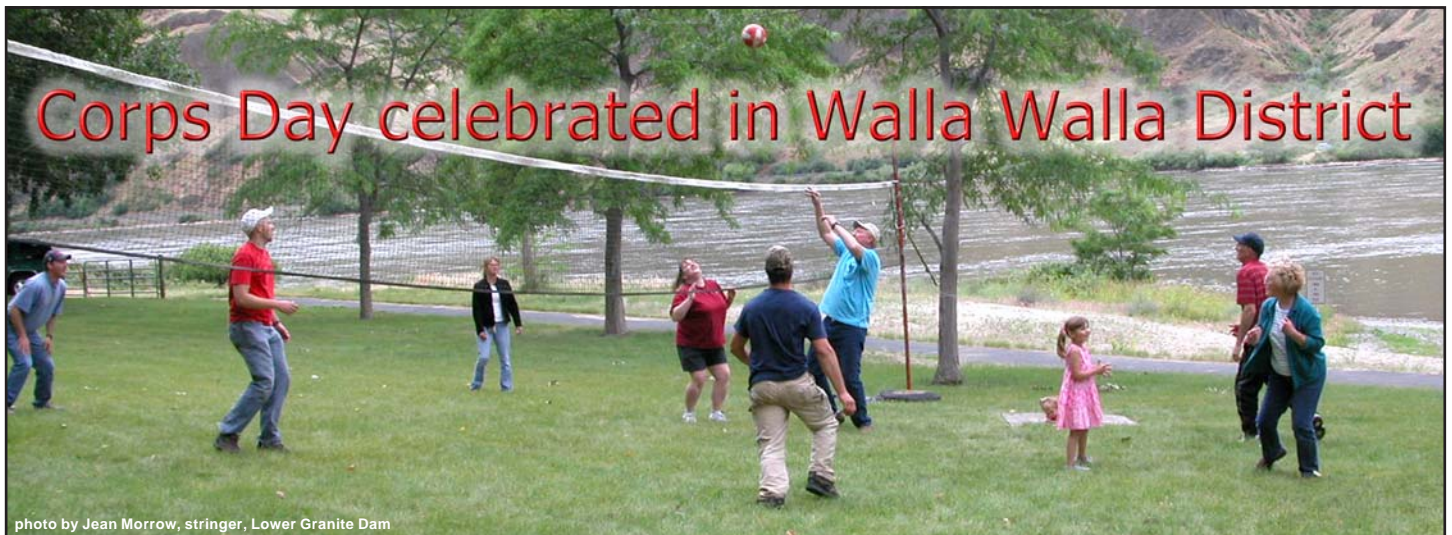


photo by Jean Morrow, stringer, Lower Granite Dam

Corps Day celebrated in Walla Walla District



photo by Rick Haverinen

Corps Day or Engineers Day provides camaraderie and team-building along with conspicuous food consumption. From above, counterclockwise: employees at Lower Granite Dam net some fun June 15 at Boyer Park, just a volleyball's serve away from their project; while the crew at District Headquarters does the same thing the following day at Rooks Park in Walla Walla; the fun run draws two walkers and two well-traveled nappers at Mill Creek Dam; and Ruth Johnson meets Ray Quinn's best friend, Jake.



photo by Gina Bahitusch



photo by Rick Haverinen



Aguilar lends helping hand around the globe

photos by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Above, Fernando Aguilar, a civil engineer contract manager for Walla Walla District, works with a crew refurbishing a warehouse near Kabul, Afghanistan in the spring of 2003. Below, Aguilar visits a ziggurat in the old city of Ur, Iraq, last summer.

by Joseph B. Saxon

Fernando Aguilar is a world class traveler with a gold star on his global citizenship resume.

A civil engineer contract manager for the Walla Walla District's Construction Division, Aguilar has a habit of helping people stand up around the world, including nearly 10 years serving communities in Thailand, Korea, Afghanistan and two tours of Iraq.

He began globetrotting in the late 1970s in Thailand.

"I worked 2 1/2 years with the Peace Corps there, and the remaining two years were on my own as a field rep for CARE (Community for American Relief Everywhere)," Aguilar said. "We were building maternity centers at the Khoai Dang camp along the Cambodian Border with CARE, when 180,000 refugees streamed into Thailand following a Khmer Rouge attack on their own people (eventually killing an estimated 1.7 million Cambodians) and a Vietnamese counterattack on the Khmer Rouge. We had literally only days to get the camps built, up and running."

It was an experience that taxed him, yet taught him to reflect on his own blessings.

"Up to that point, I had never experienced poverty like that," he said, "and even though people may seem different, when you open up to them, they will give you everything they could, even though sometimes it was all they had."

The Sunnyside, Wash., native joined the Corps' Walla Walla District in 1982, spent four years working for the Corps in Korea and recently returned from Ur in southern Iraq where he concluded his second tour of the country.

While there he worked on constructing a new \$450 million water treatment plant for Nasiryah "that will benefit people in the region."

He said he was amazed at how much of the world's history comes from that region. "Some of those people have family histories dating back 4,000 years."

His previous tour of Iraq took him to Mosul "which is a like lot Walla Walla, Wash.," he said, "with rolling hills, agriculture outside of the city, and lots of wheat, grains and livestock."

"We lived on the economy, in a 4,000 square foot home, with about 18 other people," he said.

Although he was in a semi-arid region, he was surprised to see "snowflakes the size of my fist during the winter."

While there he helped rebuild and refurbish a Russian base built in the 1980s that contained a lot of Yugoslavian architecture.

"Anything of value was pilfered following the fall of Saddam Hussein," Aguilar said.

Prior to his Iraqi experience, he spent 4 1/2 months in Kabul, Afghanistan, in 2003, as the quality assurance and project engineer overseeing construction at the Kabul Military Training Center.

Of his world travels Aguilar said, "We made good friends with people from different (Corps) districts, different agencies, different countries and non-governmental organizations who were making a difference. Some of those people were real heroes, citizens of the world."

Add one more to that list.

