

WSRC News

Washington Savannah River Company, Savannah River Site

May 17, 2007

K Area Reaches 10 - Year Safety Milestone



NMM workers train for safe glovebox operations in the K Area Complex

The K Area Complex has seen many changes over the years but the one thing that hasn't changed is the safety commitment of the Nuclear Materials Management (NMM) Team. On April 30, they completed 10 continuous years and over 5.7 million hours since the last on-the-job injury that required someone to miss days away from work.

The most impressive part of this record is this accomplishment was reached in spite of the numerous challenges that were part of

each campaign assigned to the K Area Complex over the last decade. "This record is one that most industrial sites would envy," according to Dr. Linda Bauer, Manager, Nuclear Materials Management. She said, "Keeping safety in the forefront is a long-standing tradition in K Area. This team's value for safety and each other is truly commendable."

Due to the nature of their work, K Area Complex employees are subjected to a variety of industrial and radiological hazards. They receive, handle, package, store and ship various forms of special nuclear materials, including plutonium. Others are actively engaged in related operational support and maintenance activities.

While these workers routinely handle special nuclear materials, perform electrical tasks or operate forklifts, nothing is ever treated as routine work. Ten years has proven that safety is always foremost in their minds.

WSRC Team Receives Top American Heart Association Award

WSRC has been recognized for outstanding work with the American Heart Association (AHA) for donating more than \$101,000 to AHA this year.

WSRC surpassed the goal in its fund-raising efforts for the 2007 Central Savannah River Area Heart Walk Campaign, and is the recipient of the AHA's 1st South Carolina company to raise \$100,000 Award and the Fit Friendly Company Gold Award.

"Our employees take good health seriously," said Leo Sain, WSRC President. "I'm proud of their efforts to raise so much money for such an important cause."

WSRC becomes the first company in South Carolina and the 50th company in the nation to raise more than \$100,000 for the AHA. The money is used to fight heart disease and strokes.

In addition to its fund-raising work, WSRC added to its Wellness Program a new initiative from the AHA called Start! (See Top AHA Award, page 6)

WSRC Recognized for Outstanding Safety Record

Washington Savannah River Company has been recognized by the South Carolina Department Of Labor and the Governor of South Carolina for outstanding safety achievement during calendar year 2006. This prestigious Safety Achievement Award was received for 8,743,761 work hours without an occupational lost time injury or illness. The award recognizes outstanding safety performance in the promotion of Industrial Safety and Health during all site operations.

All WSRC employees are to be congratulated for this outstanding recognition and for their continued efforts to focus on safe work, second to none. Safety is our core value, serving as the foundation for our teamwork, mission accomplishment, and safe work.



What Counts?

16 The number of students who each won \$3,000 WSRC Family Scholarships

SRNL Device for Sampling Storage Drums Licensed

A device invented at SRNL for sampling drums of stored material has been licensed to a maker of waste storage and related equipment, for manufacture and sale to customers in the environmental and other industries. UltraTech International, Inc., of Jacksonville, Fla., entered into an agreement with WSRC for a device that safely and efficiently vents or samples storage drums remotely.

Like many SRNL inventions, this device was created to meet a specific need at SRS, but has applications well beyond the Site and its specialized operations. The Site had stored drums of heavy water, which had been used to cool the Site's reactors during the years that they operated. A method was needed to sample the headspace in the drums – the area between the surface of the stored liquid and the top of the drum – to determine what gases were present. In particular, they needed a way to perform this sampling while protecting employee safety and the environment, and without damaging the expensive stainless steel drums.

The resulting device, invented by SRNL's Kevin Counts, combines a gas collection tube with a special nonsparking punch. Workers put the device in place on the drum, then move to a safe location, where the device is activated. The gas collection tube seals against the drum plug, then the punch punctures the plug, leaving the rest of the drum undamaged. Gases in the drum flow through a slot in the punch into the collection tube, then are either captured in a container for sampling or vented through a hose assembly to a safe location.

The device would be useful in any operation that requires the sampling or venting of drums. In the environmental management field, for example, drums of waste are routinely sampled and vented. The device can also be used for checking pressure buildup in drums.

UltraTech International, Inc. manufactures over 350 products in the areas of radwaste management, spill containment, facility protection and stormwater management. SRNL's sampling device will help expand UltraTech's line of radwaste filters designed for transuranic waste drums. The device will allow end users to have an important option when seeking to sample head space in drums without any filter or bung openings. The product addition will also help enhance UltraTech's position as a one-stop shop for filter vents for DOE applications.

Consolidation Improves Liquid Waste Ops

Consolidating and upgrading waste tank control room systems will add efficiencies, save money and enhance safety at SRS

Until recently, WSRC had maintained five separate, process control rooms located throughout H Tank Farm. Phase two of a multi-year effort to consolidate the various functions performed by each of these five into one control room is now complete.

This new approach, using a state-of-the-art, digital control system will have a big impact on the labor costs needed to operate five widely separated control rooms. The changes will also allow Liquid Waste Operations to support an increasing amount of critical work without increasing control room staffing.

Conduct of operations will be greatly streamlined and

enhanced with this consolidation and modernization project. Replacing 1950s era control systems with this new technology will improve the safety of our workers and reduce future maintenance costs.

With the completion of phase two, the functions performed by three control rooms have been moved into the 3H Evaporator facility control room.

In the past, individual control room operators had a partial view of the H Tank Farm processes with command and control functions being spread out across several control rooms and control systems. Moving to one, highly-integrated control system, located in a single centralized control room, will dramatically improve the efficiency of waste tank operations.

Give Your Opinion on Employee Development

The Site Employee Development Steering Committee is interested in your opinion on how SRS is doing in regards to employee development. Please complete the short survey and submit your results by May 25. This is a baseline survey that will help the Site trend progress on your opinion as we continue to focus on development.

The survey can be found at <http://hr-net.srs.gov/mgmt/ed.htm>.



The number of SRS employees who have given and continue to give of their time to help others less fortunate through the various United Way Projects throughout South Carolina and Georgia is heartwarming. **Project SERVE** is the United Way effort of the CSRA. Project SERVE coordinator was Craig Baptiste, and Bruce Bolineau was the photographer. The following SRS employees participated in the Project SERVE effort.

At Heritage Academy: Kaye Atkins, Ruth Douglas, Pamela Fair, Janine Hepner, Tom Huckabee (Team Lead), Tom Kotti, Tom McCarthy, John Pareizs, Laura Reeves, Susan Sweat, Jim Wiegand, and Walter Wilson.

At Boy's and Girl's Club: George Wisner (Team Lead), Delores Beasley, James Harris, Donna King, Stuart Overton, Hugh McGovern, Charlotte Johnson, Richard Tillman, Sandra Tolbert, Skip Wiggins, Anthony Williams, William Morrison, Cindy Crawford, Phyllis Garner, Jeannie Phillips.

At Friendship Community Court: Ronnie Rutherford (Team Lead), Cindy Anderson, Shirley Brunson-Brown, Surinder Chahal, Teresa Eddy, Paul Filpus-Luyckx, Kevin Kalbaugh, Mira Malek, Don Pak, Gloria Turner, Nike Turner, Thomas White.

At St. Stephens Ministry: Charles Crawford (Team Lead), Lowell Bartlett, Kerri Crawford, Holly Hall, June Hart, Keisha Martin, Steve Wilkerson, and Bernadette Williams.

At Family Y, Wilson Branch: Brian Higby (Team Lead), Tony Brinson, Al Brown, James Graham, Keith Johnson, Wendell Phillips, Steve Safford, Jerold Hook.

At Girl Scout Camp T: Denis Altman (Team Lead), Larry Atkinson, Steve Driyer, Sandra Hightower, Charles Jackson, Kevin Jenkins, Troy McGahee, Trina Minis-Carter, Robert Moody, Bryan Morris, Ravi Muruqappan, Kamlesh Patel, Loretta Phiniezy, and Pauline Stevens.

At Community In Schools: James Laurinat, (Team Lead) Jeffrey Holder, Scott McWhorter, John Mickalonis, Al Papa, Donita Papa, and Mark Schmitz. (see *United Way*, page 4)



Girl Scout Camp Tanglewood



YMCA, Wilson Branch



Community In Schools



Shiloh Community Center



Salvation Army

Project SERVE *(cont from page 3)*



Boy's & Girl's Club



Heritage Academy



Friendship



St. Stephens Ministry

United Way *(cont from page 3)*

At **Shiloh Community Center**: Kim Wierzbicki (Team Lead), Kathleen Bell, Dave Captio, Brett Cederdahl, Brian Geyer, Brenda Green, Keith Harp, Kim Hauer, Steve Gentry, Walter Isom, Rudy Jones, Casey Knapp, Bill Lenartz, Jim Lovekamp, Shannan Lucero, Jon Lunn, Stan Masciaszek, Gordon Meek, Dave Olson, Frank Sinclair, Les Sonnenberg, Manan Vakil, Anatia Whittenberg, George Huff, and Perry Stanley.

At the **Salvation Army**: Jessie Fields (Team Lead), Annie Bell, Cynthia Boler-Melton, Emerson Bussey, Randall Cates, Melinda King, Jackie Robinson, Jimmie Stuberfield.

Project VISION, the Aiken County United Way Day of Caring, will be featured in the next edition of WSRC News.

United Way is a Winner

On April 27, Infrastructure and Services sponsored a golf tournament at Cedar Creek Country Club. Eighty players from across the site enjoyed a Captain's choice round of golf and lunch. Hole sponsors and tournament day sales collected over \$6,650 for United Way. Thanks to the volunteers and golfers that made this happen.

Congratulations to the Winners

1st Place

Roger Martin
Gary Smith
Phillip Singletary
Bobby Tanner

2nd Place

Dan Plyer
Eric Alexander
Fred Evans
David Powell

3rd Place

Brian Tripp
Jason Rider
David Sumpter
Doug Sumpter



Project CARE

Project CARE is the Barnwell County United Way Day of Caring effort. Each United Way Project was a huge and gratifying success.

Pam Cuny, Project Care Coordinator, had this to say to the Project CARE volunteers. I would like to say a great big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who helped make the 6th Annual Day of Caring in Barnwell an overwhelming success. There were approximately 43 volunteers who started out the day with a breakfast and Kickoff at the Gail Reyes Senior Center. Our United Way of Barnwell County Director, Fred Geier, expressed his gratitude to all the volunteers who came to use their talents to better our community. Brant Morowski spoke about his experiences working with Project Vision in Aiken.

Some of the many jobs accomplished included enclosing a carport; power washing, painting, staining; planting shrubs; rebuilding porches; building furniture; and repairing concrete. Much of this work was accomplished with donated money and materials.

The following SRS employees participated in the Project CARE effort.

At **Veterans Park**: Tom Cuny (Lead) and Eddie Hair (retired).

At **Axis I**: Fleming McMaster (Lead) Vanessa Baxley, Michael Phillips, Jim Satkowski, Jimmy Winkler, Tim Barnes.

At **Generations Unlimited Fitness Centers**: Paul Ringus (Lead), Bill Dixon, Don Frazier and Wendy Peak.

At **American Legion Hut**: Marc Williamson (Lead), Jan Folk, Ken Goode, Lenora Howard, Dana Jones, Robin Utsey, Virginia Vaughn.

At **Ashleigh Place**: Jan Folk (Lead).

At **First Steps**: Mike Jackson (Lead), Kirby Ashe, Sherman Brady, Shirley Whitehead.

At **Generations Unlimited Senior Center**: Scarlet Jones (Lead)

At **Cumbee Center**: Kathy Sargent (Lead) and the Girl Scouts (no picture). (cont page 6)



Veterans Park Crew



Axis I Crew



Generations Unlimited Fitness Center Crew



American Legion Hut Crew

Tritium Golf Tournament to Benefit the United Way

The 2007 Tritium Golf Tournament to benefit the United Way will be on Friday, June 22, at the Golf Club at Cedar Creek with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. The entry fee is \$60 per person, which includes green fee, cart, range balls, lunch and prizes.

The tournament will be a four-person captains choice. Please try to have an "A, B, C and D" player or as close as possible. You may sign up your team or individually (and we'll put you on a team) by sending an email to Howard Jones/BSRI/Srs or phone, 8-1876. Please pay Howard Jones, 235-H, prior to the tournament.



Project CARE

(cont from page 5)



Midway Through Cold Runs At ARP

More than just meeting the halfway point for completing cold runs at 241-96H, the Actinide Removal Project (ARP) is on the brink of completing all of its cold runs activities.

A major component of the Interim Salt Disposition Project (ISDP), the ARP consists of two operations in two separate facilities – 512-S and 241-96H. Both facilities are designed to work together to remove actinides and sludge solids from tank farm waste before it is transferred to Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Unit (MCU) for cesium removal, and then on to Saltstone for final disposition.

The cold runs activities in 241-96H are midway through their four week schedule and are expected to be completed by the end of May. Earlier this year, cold runs were completed for the ARP process in 512-S. Following the 241-96H cold runs and completion of the cold runs for MCU and DWPF, the entire Interim Salt Disposition Project – Tank 49, ARP, MCU, Waste Transfer Lines and Tank 50 – will begin “simulated hot operations,” referred to as proficiency runs.

To be ready for proficiency runs, cold runs must be complete, significant plant issues addressed and all equipment under Operations control. Proficiency runs will include a wide range of normal operations, abnormal operations and some maintenance activities, and are used to exercise the plant equipment and to build operating and maintenance proficiency.

Top AHA Award *(cont from page 1)*



Start! is a national movement that encourages all Americans to live longer, stronger lives through a comprehensive walking and nutrition program.

WSRC won the Gold Award from the AHA for being a fit friendly company that supports health awareness and wellness programs for their employees through the Start! program.

In addition to the WSRC Team, employees and families from Wackenhut Services Inc., Washington Safety Management Solutions and the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory participated in the fund-raising work.

A victory celebration was recently held for all participants in the American Heart Walk. The American Heart Association recognized the top three walkers and Super Star Walkers. Teresa Eddy, SRNL, was the top walker and raised \$4,115. Second place was Pam Basey, who raised \$2,720; and third place was Sudha Bhattacharjea, who raised \$2,305.

Avoid Heat Stress

- ⌘ **Eat lightly**
Eat light, nutritious meals, preferably cold. Fatty foods are harder to digest in hot weather.
- ⌘ **Rest often**
Rest in the shade or in a well ventilated room.
- ⌘ **Take advantage of cooling systems and shade**
Use fans, ventilation systems, and shade whenever possible.

Recognition & Awards

Appointment to GNEP Science and Engineering Council

C. R. Goergen was appointed to the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) Science and Engineering Council, established to provide the DOE GNEP Program Office with technical insight and information in support of ongoing and emergent issues. Nine members were selected from DOE National Laboratories to serve one- or two-year terms to review a wide range of nuclear energy and technology development issues regarding GNEP objectives.



Election to Chair

Mike Brisson recently was elected to a three-year term as Chair of the Beryllium Health and Safety Committee.

Appointment to CBD Chairman

Steve Jahn has agreed to accept the chairmanship of the Chronic Beryllium Disease Prevention Subcommittee. This subcommittee is part of the larger Beryllium Health and Safety Committee.

SRNL Scientist also to work with USC

SRNL Senior Scientist Christopher "Kitt" Bagwell, who has a doctorate in Biological sciences, will work in the Department of Biological Sciences as a Research Associate Professor with the University of South Carolina's College of Arts and Sciences. This is the first time such an appointment has been made at the University of South Carolina.

A particular area of focus will be mechanisms used by soil-dwelling bacteria for coping with environmental stress and cellular damage.

"This is an excellent opportunity for both of our institutions," said SRNL Laboratory Director Dr. G. Todd Wright. "It will bring SRNL staff closer together with USC's in work in the area of applied bacterial genomics, it will open up opportunities for mutual research and will hopefully attract more USC graduate students to the many collaborative opportunities offered at SRNL."

Dr. Bagwell joined the Environmental Sciences and Biotechnology Department of SRNL in 2002. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of South Carolina and held a post-doctoral position in bacterial ecology and genomics at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Exercise and Physical Fitness

There are 1,440 minutes in every day. Schedule 30 of them for physical activity! Regular exercise is a critical part of staying healthy. People who are active live longer and feel better. Exercise can help you maintain a healthy weight. It can delay or prevent diabetes, some cancers and heart problems.

Most adults need at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity at least five days per week. Examples include walking briskly, mowing the lawn, dancing, swimming for recreation or bicycling. Stretching and weight training can also strengthen your body and improve your fitness level.

The key is to find the right exercise for you. If it is fun, you are more likely to stay motivated. You may want to walk with a friend, join a class or plan a group bike ride. If you've been inactive for awhile, use a sensible approach and start out slowly. Taken from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

WSRC Briefs

⌘ A special computer-based general employee training course for Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) personnel was developed to expedite access to SRS so the NRC can conduct no-notice inspections of the MOX facility as it is being constructed.

⌘ State and federal regulators signed a Record of Decision for the L Area Southern Groundwater Operable Unit. The formal approval marks the first time monitored natural attenuation (reduction) has been selected as the final remedial action for groundwater contaminated with tritium at a DOE facility. It represents the final remedial decision for a major portion of one of 13 plumes of contaminated groundwater at SRS.

⌘ Sixteen students have each won \$3,000 WSRC Family Scholarships. The winners are sons and daughters of WSRC and Washington Safety Management Solutions employees. The program rewards graduating high school students on the basis of general ability, leadership, scholastic assessment and achievement.

⌘ The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control approved the Savannah River Site 2006 Site Treatment Plan update, a regulatory agreement executed in October 1995 to address compliance issues for long-term storage of radioactive mixed waste.

⌘ DOE-Headquarters requested that the WSRC Analytical Laboratories Project assume leadership of the Beryllium Health Research Agenda from the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

⌘ SRS reached agreement with state and federal regulators on an innovative strategy to effectively close four site evaluation waste units on an accelerated schedule.

DWPF Replaces Original SME

For the first time in its 15-year history, the slurry mix evaporator (SME) at DWPF is being replaced.

Last week, DWPF entered an outage to replace the SME, located in the Chemical Process Cell. The SME is one of two primary vessels used to prepare sludge feed for vitrification by mixing treated waste with glass frit to form a sludge-frit slurry. The slurry is then concentrated to adjust the solids/liquid ratio. This mixture is transferred to the melter feed tank and fed into the melter at a controlled rate. Several years ago, extensive repairs were made to the original SME. One of the repairs involved fabricating and installing a removable coil guide. The original coil guides had eroded to the point they were unable to fulfill their function of stabilizing the cooling coils inside the tank.

In early April, a leak developed in the SME steam coil, necessitating another facility outage for repairs. The failed coil was removed and attempts were made to install a refurbished coil into the vessel. Unfortunately, the refurbished coil would not fully seat in the vessel, requiring the SME to be pumped down and inspected with cameras to determine the interference. The inspection identified that tabs holding the coil guides in place had eroded and were no longer anchoring the removable coil guide. In fact, the removable coil guide had shifted out of position and become lodged under guide tabs that are welded to the tank.

Attempts to remotely dislodge the removable guides were unsuccessful. In addition, the inspection revealed that erosion of tank internals and permanent coil guides had ended the SME's operational life, requiring it to be replaced with the spare SME. Outage activities are expected to be completed near the end of May, enabling DWPF to resume canister production.

The primary consideration during this difficult activity is to ensure the work is performed safely.



Supplier EXPO 2007

Record crowds attended the 2007 EXPO. There were 58 suppliers, and at least 557 Site employees registered. Scenes from the EXPO are below.



An Inquisitive Mind Made a Difference

If you saw a fire or smoke as you were driving on site would you think to call about it or assume it was a controlled burn? Experienced volunteer fireman Bill Harlow decided to call. On May 1, while driving on Hwy. 125, Bill noticed smoke and decided to call the SRSOC and report what he saw. With all the dry weather and fires in Georgia, his instinct said he better check it out. It was a good thing he did. In a remote area, vine growth around a pole and fuse created a short and caused the fire. Forestry was called and contained the fire.

We want to thank Bill Harlow for his inquisitiveness and willingness to check out something that did not seem quite right. If you see something that doesn't seem quite right, take the time to call and check it out. It may mitigate something big.

Service Milestones

Congratulations to the following SRS employees, who are celebrating service milestones in **May**.

40 YEARS

Calvin Lark, Jr.
Anton M. Soosaipillai

35 YEARS

Jean Y. Baladi
Joyie C. Bradley
Larry Cohen
James P. Moore, Jr.

30 YEARS

Burgess Allen, Jr.
Terry Baxley
Dennis T. Conrad
John C. Cox
Willie T. Davis, Jr.
Milfred T. Foreman
Joann Gore
Rebecca M. Green
Wanda B. Hayford
Terri L. Haynes
Juandail Kirby
Lillie H. Lewis
Steven A. Martin
Dwain G. McMullin
Gerald E. Meadows
Geoffrey P. Netzley
Lewis S. Smith
Gurney Wiggins, Jr.

25 YEARS

David L. Chapman
Noel F. Chapman
Ronnye Anne Eubanks
Cynthia L. Griffitt
John Philip Snead
Debran W. Tibrea

20 YEARS

Waddell Adams
Michael Alimpich
Walter H. Barnes, Jr.
Alvin L. Baughman
Dunbar H. Bolen, Jr.
Angela V. Bowman
James F. Bramlett, Jr.
James G. Broome
Jack A. Brower, Jr.
Samuel D. Burke
James D. Byrne
Norma L. Camp
Charles P. Carter
Craig A. Chevrier
William H. Clifton, Jr.
Samuel Cooper, Jr.
Daniel A. Day
Anthony A. Flowers
John R. Foster
Philip W. Frederick, Jr.
Hazel B. Gracey, Jr.
Leroy Griffin, Jr.

Daryl F. Gunter
Bobby C. Hall
Eric S. Hamrick
Larry D. Harris
Tillman Jackson, II
William D. James
Alvin Jeffcoat
Eulis G. Johnson, Jr.
Rita C. Johnson
David B. Johnston
Edward W. Judy
Donald R. Kears
Cindy H. Key
Timothy S. Key
Linda A. Lange
Ronald J. Lebert
Walter H. Lord, Jr.
Shirley A. Lott
Robert L. Lowry
Charles F. MacKie
Howard J. Martin
Cecil G. May
Steven L. Mayle
Gregory A. McKie
Douglas R. Melton
Billy Morris, Jr.
Dennis Moseley
Teddy W. Odom
Edward A. Powers, III
Martha F. Quarles
John O. Radeck

Thaddeus L. Reown
James L. Richardson
Ernest M. Rogers, Jr.
Lisa J. Sandifer
Thomas P. Scott, Jr.
Carlvel Smith
Vincent S. Smith
Robert G. Still, Jr.
Timothy R. Stovall
Sally G. Thomas
Wilhelmina Thompson
Lisa D. Walsh
Glenn Washington
David L. Wright
Tammy M. Wright
George H. Yeldell
John B. Yonce
Clarence Zeigler, Jr.
Emma J. Zeigler

15 YEARS

Michael B. Bizzell
John R. Bozeman
Robert R. Craig
Daniel Critchfield
Jerry Druce
Norman G. Dyer
Terri L. Fellingner
George Fowler, Jr.
Darryl L. Giles
Larry H. Hancock

Sara S. Jones
William M. Key
Henry H. King, Jr.
Dennis C. Knapp
Scott A. McChesney
Bernard M. Pella
Robert G. Rush
Tyrone G. Salley
Frank A. Simonetti
Robert V. Tanner, Jr.

10 YEARS

Ted A. Hopkins

5 YEARS

Michael Lee Autry
William Y. M. Cheng
Wade T. Gordy, Jr.
Tomasita B. Ray



Spotlight On Core Values

- ⊙ Safety
- ⊙ Integrity
- ⊙ Teamwork
- ⊙ Results

The *WSRC News* is published by WSRC's Public and Employee Communications Department, Office of the President.

Questions, comments or a submission? Contact:

Kelly Way
730-1B, room 3145
2-9172, pager 15547

Fran Poda
730-1B, room 3144
2-8671, pager 11085