



NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN RETIREE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2018

Northern Rocky Mountain Retiree Association Information

Our Articles of Incorporation state that our purpose is to be a local club organized for pleasure, recreation and other non-profitable purposes. These include: perpetuate and preserve the traditions and esprit de corps of the Forest Service, communicate between members and with

We produce a newsletter to help keep people in touch and share stories and information. The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 11:30 for lunch at Jakers Bar and Grill at 3515 Brooks Street in Missoula. This gathering includes a short program to keep retirees informed on what is going on in the region.

**IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2018. A
MEMBERSHIP FORM IS ENCLOSED AT THE
END OF THE NEWSLETTER.
NEW MEMBERS GET A FREE YEAR!**

the Forest Service, maintain contacts and good fellowship among retirees, keep members informed and help advance forest and rangeland conservation.

The retirees group has produced the “Early Days in the Forest Service” books, a five-volume series which is a collection of memoirs and stories dating back to the early 1900s. In addition, they have published a history of the Bungalow Ranger Station and a book called “What Did We Get Ourselves Into” which is a collection of stories by Forest Service wives from the days before there were professional women in the Forest Service.

NEW EDITOR

Vicky MacLean

Since I am new to this “job” and not very computer literate I will aim to get out two issues this year and if all goes well can perhaps aim for three issues next year. Or just two longer issues. As many as possible will be sent electronically, that way we can afford color and it's easier and cheaper.

I welcome news, stories or short anecdotes of your days with the Forest Service, photos, information on upcoming events and so on. If readers don't submit stories and information I will bore you with mine and you will hear more about old ranger stations than you



Vicky MacLean with friends at the Sun River WMA

REMINDER

Monthly luncheon meeting is held on the first Tuesday of the month at Jakers Bar and Grill located at 3515 Brooks Street in Missoula at 11:30 AM.

ever wanted to know. If possible, items should be in a “word” format.

I retired in 2008 from the Helena National Forest where I was the range management specialist on the Helena District. I had started out planting trees in 1976 on the Helena District, took another career path with a natural resource consulting firm and eventually went back to school in range management and then back to the

Helena District in 1988. I have the distinction of being the only (I am guessing) person in the FS ever reprimanded for swearing at a horse, who happened to be standing on my foot at the time. I recently relocated to the Mission Valley (Ronan) where I enjoy a lot of time training and competing with my retrievers at various retriever trials as well as researching the histories of the region’s ranger stations and volunteering on historical restoration projects.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION, ARTICLES AND REMBRANCES CAN BE SENT TO VICKY MACLEAN AT AGILLABS@MCN.NET OR TO P.O. BOX 608 RONAN MT 59864.
DEADLINE FOR THE FALL NEWSLETTER IS OCTOBER 1st.

IN THE BEGINNING

Phil Schlamp

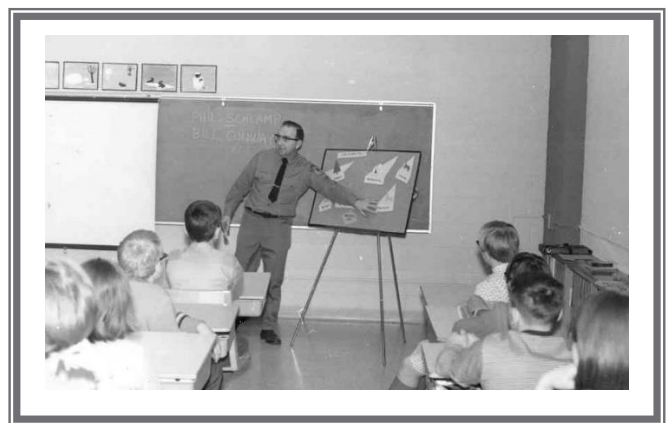
In the early 1940’s I had the opportunity to attend a Sportsman Show in Milwaukee with my sister and her boyfriend. He liked the out of doors and he invited me to go with them. As a youngster and having an opportunity to attend something of this nature in downtown Milwaukee was a dream for any kid.

The atmosphere in the building was that of evergreen trees as many of the concessions used evergreen branches for decorations. This was one of those “Moments in Time” that one does not forget. I liked that. I guess I thought that all evergreen trees produced an aroma like I experienced.

My folks were immigrants that divorced when I was fairly young. I was raised primarily by my Mom and she was tough on me. We lived on the south side of Milwaukee just across the street from the city dump. That tells you a lot about our economic status at that time.

A month before Christmas, a city ordinance of Milwaukee allowed Christmas tree vendors to set up their sale lots. The ordinance also required vendors to remove all trees not sold afterwards. These had to be taken to the city dump for disposal and were later burned.

As an eleven-year-old, I got the bright and brilliant idea of having my own Forest. I was sure my Mom wouldn’t mind. So, I decided to bring the Forest to our house as we had a fairly good sized back yard. I started to drag some of the discarded trees from the dump to our house. I brought them over two at a time, one in each hand. I set up between 20 to 30 trees. That was my Forest. Then I made a cardboard sign with a crayon that said “National Forest” I was now a Forest Ranger in my own National Forest. Every time I walked through those trees I had one of those euphoric feelings that just made me happy. My goal at that time was to be a Forest Ranger.



Phil Schlamp giving a classroom presentation.

The winter set in and the birds of the area seemed to be happy about a new forest in the area. I'm sure they thought that was OK. I never had any complaints from any of them.

Then came April and my Mom needed the area where the trees were for her garden. Getting me to take the trees down didn't go well. However, I did wind up taking them back to the dump, two at a time. As a result,

this event was the beginning that gave me a pathway to a sterling career of 35 years with the Forest Service.



PHIL SPENT MOST OF HIS CAREER IN THE NORTHERN REGION. HE WAS A RANGER ON THE SHIELDS DISTRICT ON THE GALLATIN FOREST IN THE 1960S AND ON THE CANYON FERRY DISTRICT ON THE HELENA IN THE 1970S. HE RETIRED FROM THE REGIONAL OFFICE AS THE INTERPRETIVE RECREATION SPECIALIST. YOUR EDITOR "FOUND" HIM THROUGH A LETTER HE WROTE TO THE VALLEY JOURNAL AND RECOGNIZED HIS NAME FROM OLD FILES AND PHOTOS ON THE HELENA. PHIL LIVES IN POLSON

WRITING YOUR MEMOIR

With the hopes that readers will send me interesting stories to publish I got on the internet to get some ideas. Not only would some memoirs help fill up pages of this newsletter they would be much appreciated by your children and grandchildren. Some ideas follow, in no particular order.

Narrow your focus. A memoir is a snapshot of some themes or stories from your life. It is not an autobiography

1. Include more than just your story. Note the details – bring the readers into your life by putting them in your shoes.
2. Create an emotional journey, not a story of “just the facts”.
3. You don't need to begin at the beginning, go back in time or travel between the present and the past.
4. Stick to it. Set some goals or schedules for accomplishing your project. Sign up for an adult education class or an on-line writing class.
5. Some themes that might relate to your Forest Service career: How you got started in this line of work; your first Forest Service job; special places you worked; special people you worked with; have you reinvented yourself in retirement?



If you do a little surfing on the internet you can find several books of the “how to” variety on writing your memoir. On line publishing is available through Amazon's Create Space and other sites. They have support personnel that will help you, and while you will not get a coffee table quality publication, it's inexpensive and a great way to document your story and preserve it for your family. You need not print a huge number of copies because you can order as needed. You can also periodically update or make corrections to your publication.

RECENT ARCHIVE DONATION TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FOREST SERVICE HISTORY

John F. "Jack" Hamblet, was an engineer in the Northern Region (R-1) during World War II. He was the Construction Superintendent for the 12.5-mile Pierce-Musselshell timber access road, extending from the highway at Pierce, Idaho, to the Musselshell work center. This project provided timber for the war effort. The old Brown's Creek CCC camp was used.



Italian Internees clearing road Right-of-Way of the Pierce-Musselshell Road, Clearwater National Forest, 1943. K.D. Swan photograph

In 1943 Italian internees from Missoula were assigned to the project. All the men were merchant seamen whose ships were in U.S. ports when the U.S. entered World War II. They ran the mess hall, maintained the camp, did most of the office work and provided all of the project labor force. It was remarkable how fast they learned to fall timber, deck logs, install culverts,

Ship's pursers provided excellent office help, barbers insisted on giving us a weekly hair trim, and the cooks ran the mess hall. The meals they served, despite rationing limitations, were beyond description. The cooks delighted in frequently serving delicious Italian dinners and always had an endless variety of fancy pastries for dessert. Waiters, in immaculate white jacket and trousers, served each table while the head chef for the day kept a close watch nearby.

Jack's family donated maps, photos, and engineering manuscripts that he collected during his career with the Forest Service.

Information provided by Dave Stack.



NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FOREST SERVICE HISTORY

Thanks to a generous donation the museum will be building a stage and amphitheater this summer. It will be used as an outdoor classroom, lecture venue and a

place to tell stories along with other events. There will be some fundraising events to match the donation and volunteers are needed on the events' committees.

The visitor center will be open this summer from Memorial Day to Labor Day from 10:00 to 4:00. Volunteers are needed to help staff the center as well as help with maintenance such as mowing, weeding, painting, cleaning and so on.

The museum has many volunteer opportunities and welcomes people with all levels of skills and interests. Dave Stack can use help with managing the collection archiving.

If you would like to volunteer contact Lisa Tate: Lisa.tate@forestservicemuseum.org or Dave Stack at dave.stack@forestservicemuseum.org

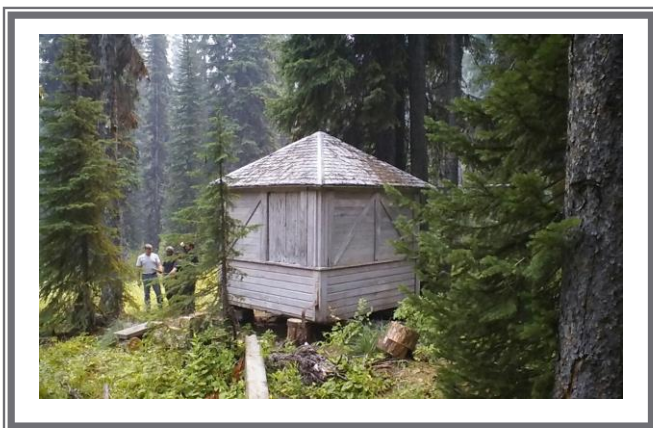


The new amphitheater and stage will look similar to this one at the Mirror Lake State Park in Wisconsin.



THE LITTLE LOOKOUT

In 2015, ahead of the Jay Point fire, Kirby Matthew of the Historic Preservation Team, Doug Hunt, Nez Perce facilities maintenance, and a fire crew rescued a little lookout from the west side of road 360 at Savage Pass about a third of the way from Highway 12 toward Elk



The Little Lookout at Savage Pass.

Summit on the Powell Ranger District. They jacked it up, loaded it onto a flatbed trailer. The original plan was to bring it to the Powell Ranger Station, but upon reaching the highway, Doug figured that nothing would be done about it there, so brought it into the Forest Service facilities on 14 Catlin Street in Missoula where, to quote Doug “putting it at 14th in front of Cathy's door she would have to look at it every time she came out. I also thought it would make great class room project. It worked!” It now resides inside the warehouse/shop building that houses the offices of the Historic Preservation Team.

This lookout had been sitting there for many years and was used by Fish and Game as a check station at some point in time. Nobody knows where it came from originally or when it was built. Nobody is sure when it was moved to the location at Savage Pass. Jack Puckett, who was the ranger at Powell from 1957 to 1963, said the building had been there at least since the days of

Bud Moore who was the ranger who preceded Jack. Back then it was used as a patrol cabin and for snow surveys. Bill Moore, Bud's son, remembers that hunters would use the cabin after highway 12 was built. There is some speculation that it was originally located on Mount Sentinel, east of the University of Montana campus.

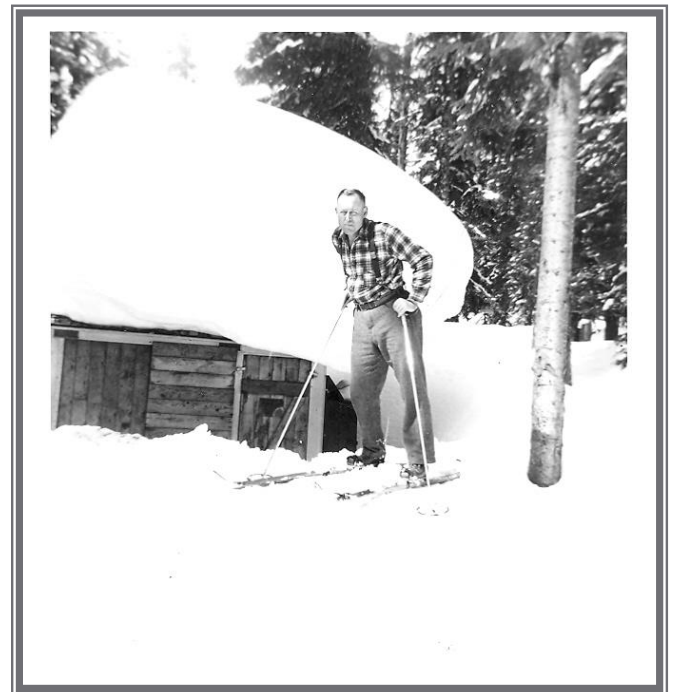
This little lookout is only 8x8' which probably makes it an L6 model. None of the lookouts documented in Ray Kresek's book "Lookouts of the Northwest" in this area fit this description. The lookout was painted gray which is unusual and the paint tracks still remain along the window openings. All of the windows are missing and two of the shutters and the maple floor and interior siding are original. It was originally on some sort of foundation or tower as the metal attachment plates are still on the building.

The Historic Preservation Team plans to restore this little lookout. They have the L6 plans but are seeking more information about this lookout.

If any readers have any information about this lookout please contact Cathy Bickenheuser of the Historic Preservation Team at cbickenheuser@fs.fed.us or your newsletter editor. Thanks to Cathy and Doug for the information about this little mystery building.



The Little Lookout at inside location.



Heading out on a snow survey from the Little Lookout. Bud Moore collection, University of Montana, Mansfield Library archives.



The old Lolo Hot Springs ranger's residence now located near Lolo Pass.





FROM RANGE BABES TO WRITERS

Vicky Maclean

The summer of 1988 I worked as a range tech on the Townsend District of the Helena. Sam Redfern was the range con – the last guy standing in the range program on the district as the gals slowly, but surely took over. By that fall I had moved up to the Helena district. Diane Johnson was a range tech and was eventually joined by Shelley Douthett and Rachael Feigley (range & wildlife) who is now the district ranger in Seeley Lake. A strong and energetic group, they knew how to work hard, wrangle horses, build fences and have a good time. Shelley says that the name came from the realization at orientation in the early 1990s, that all the range folks on the district were female. Part of the criteria to be a Townsend Range Babe was that they had to be blond and or left handed! This was not a sexist label, but rather something to celebrate. I was a bit of an outsider – still a range gal, but also one of the “guys” on the adjacent district. There was a lot of good natured back and forth bantering and an assortment of posters depicting the Range Babes appeared in public places like the Cenex farm and ranch store in Townsend. “Lost, Range Babes - last seen riding the Crow Creek range. If seen please report to district ranger”. These were accompanied by funny pictures copied from various note cards. The blame always fell to my boss who I don’t believe ever snitched on me for producing them.

Now it’s 20 plus years later and three of us have managed to transform ourselves into . . . writers! I was always an avid reader but had always hated writing. Both my parents had, at various times in their lives, been English teachers. Every time I opened my mouth as a kid my grammar was corrected. I could not, and still cannot spell and how can you “look it up” when

you don’t know the first letter? In about 6th grade I brought home a composition with a comment written in the margin “you are either very stupid or very lazy”. My father went ballistic and called the headmaster (private school teachers were allowed to be abusive to us kids). I do not remember the outcome, but I hated writing for a long time. I also hated history. The only test I ever cheated on was in elementary school when we had to know all the presidents in order, including first names. What was the point of that anyways?

Skip forward many years (I retired in 2008 as the district range management specialist on the Helena District) and somehow, I have managed to write three books on Forest Service history with a fourth one in the works. Finding old photos and correspondence from the early 1900s just grabbed me, as did visiting with old timers. I loved the eloquent, to the point letters I found in old files. I thought this history should be shared before it was all tossed into a dumpster on a district cleanup day. I love the research end of projects, but I am not a disciplined writer at all. Files sit in piles on every flat surface in my house and I write sporadically. My books, which cover the histories of the Montana ranger stations and cabins, can be found at the Museum of Forest Service History, through Amazon or on my web site montanarangerstations.net (currently under construction).

Diane Johnson retired in 2012 after 32 years on the Townsend district as a seasonal then as a full-time range tech. She is an artist as well as a writer. She said “I enjoyed writing for the Forest Service, even such mundane things as end of season grazing reports or

specialist reports for NEPA documents. None of this made me think of writing for any other reason. “

Diane’s writing career started in 2012, when she wrote a stride by stride story about an endurance ride to her Daughter in Law’s mother who was so enthusiastic about the story that Diane decided to sign up for a writing class provided by the Old Baldy Adult Education project through the local Broadwater County School system.

About five people came to the first class. It grew to about eight regulars, and with the help of the class leaders, it became the First Wednesday Writers Group. The group has been going strong for at least five years, and includes another of the Range Babes, Shelley Douthett.

Diane has self-published three children’s books. Most of her books are written with “reluctant readers” in mind. Her children’s books include lots of pictures and paragraph divisions. Diane is nearly done with a fourth book, “*Desolate*”, an historical fiction based loosely on the life of the old woman, Charity Dillon, of Old Woman’s Grave road near Radersburg Montana. The story takes place in Radersburg in 1867. The final should be out by the end of April. She has several more books in manuscript form nearly ready to publish.

Diane said she is a fairly disciplined writer and artist. She goes to work in her cabin, about 25 yards from her house, most mornings about 10:00 and works until 2:00 or 3:00. Diane has illustrated some of her own books and used her photographs for others. Her books are available at Amazon.com and through her website Toston Sunshine Press.

Diane still rides horses a lot and helps her neighbors move cattle. She has joined Broadwater County Search and Rescue and keeps a horse shod most of the time in case it is needed for a search. She is still involved in biocontrol efforts for the Townsend district as a volunteer.

Shelley Douthett headed up the range program on the Helena Forest for a while and retired in 2011 as the

Inter-regional rangeland specialist. She said she didn’t have an official title and had 4 bosses “none of which could control me”. Shelley got started writing when she wrote a letter to an aunt who said she loved Shelley’s letters and that she should be a writer. When she retired, Shelley joined the First Wednesday Writers Group in Townsend. She claims that her writing is completely hap hazard, she has no special times for writing and does it as it comes to her. She has several stories in an anthology, “The Asparagus War of Mustang Road and Other tales by Montana Authors” published by the Wednesday Writers Group. Her book “Did I Say That Out Loud, Ramblings in Retirement” which is a collection of 25 stories, should be out in May. It will be available through Amazon.

When Shelley is not writing, which is a lot of the time, she enjoys traveling. Her Facebook page is likely to have photos of the desert, Thailand, the Sierras, her pack of dogs, golf courses, her little camper, rocks. The abundant photos are generally accompanied by hilarious commentary and mostly wild selfies with an added critique of her hair-do or whatever strikes her as humorous at that moment. Then it’s off to another place and another frame of mind.



Camas bloom at Packer Meadows, Lolo Pass. A great place to visit in early summer.

WE REMEMBER



David Adelbert Graham (Dave) passed away Wednesday, April 4, 2018, in Mesa, Arizona, from complications following surgery. Dave was born March 27, 1930. He graduated from Missoula County High School in 1948. A few years later, while working in a Forest Service Blister Rust control camp in northern Idaho, he met the love of his life, Geraldine Gould (Gerry). The two were married on September 20, 1953, in Moscow, Idaho. Dave and Gerry resided in Missoula, Montana, while he completed his degree in Forestry at the University of Montana. After graduating in 1954, he served as a Lieutenant in the Air Force in Sioux City, Iowa, for two years. In 1956, he joined the United States Forest Service in St. Madries, Idaho. For the next 33 years, Dave and his family had the good fortune to travel and live throughout the United States, including Idaho, Montana, Washington, California, Oregon, Washington DC, and Utah. While living in Ogden, UT, he retired as Director of State and Private Forestry in 1989, ending a long and successful career in the US Forest Service. His respect for the woods, however, kept him active, and he continued to work part time as a consulting forester. In retirement Dave enjoyed attending Forest Service reunions with old friends and colleagues. He also enjoyed volunteering with the Victor Public Schools, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and the National Museum of Forest Service History in Missoula, Montana.

There will be a graveside service at the Victor Cemetery on July 5, 2018, at 2pm, followed by a gathering to celebrate his life at his Victor home. Donations in his name can be made to the National Museum of Forest Service History PO Box 2772, Missoula, MT 59806, or the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Donor Services PO Box 98018 Washington DC 20090



Dick Haines passed away on March 13th after a long battle with prostate cancer. He graduated from high school in Helena in 1954 and from MSU in 1959 with a degree in mechanical engineering. In 1962 he started his career with the Forest Service and worked on the Kootenai, Kaniksu, and Clearwater NFs. He was Forest Engineer on the Deerlodge Forest in Butte and on the Siskiyou NF in Oregon. In 1988, he accepted a supervisory position at the MTDC. Dick retired in 1993. He later served 3 terms in the Montana House of Representatives and 8 years on the Missoula City Council. He always found time to enjoy many outdoor recreational activities and hobbies. He was an avid backpacker, hiker, birdwatcher, and life-long road racer with three full marathons to his credit.

He was honored with a military ceremony at 11:00 am on Friday April 6th at the Western Montana State Veterans Cemetery followed by a Celebration-of-Life and reception at Heritage Hall at Fort Missoula.

Dick's full obituary can be viewed at BrothersMortuary.com/Hamilton.

Northern Rocky Mountain Retiree Association

P.O. Box 3215
Missoula, Montana 59806

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NEWSLETTERS WILL BE SENT BY EMAIL UNLESS YOU DO NOT HAVE EMAIL. THIS IS MORE COST EFFICIENT AND WE CAN PRODUCE A BETTER NEWSLETTER BY KEEPING DOWN PRINTING & MAILING COSTS.

2018 MEMBERSHIP DUES

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

DUES ARE \$10 PER CALENDAR YEAR. DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

I AM INCLUDING A \$ _____ DONATION.

MY MEMBERSHIP CHECK FOR \$ 10 IS ENCLOSED _____

NEW MEMBER _____ (NO FEE FOR FIRST YEAR) ALREADY LIFE MEMBER _____ (NO FEE)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN RETIREE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 3215, MISSOULA, MT 59806