

The 2007 Orlando Retreat Highlights

Wow, What a Trip!

BY STEVE AASHEIM

The CH2M HILL Retirees Retreat went off without a hitch in Orlando, Florida from May 22 thru May 25 this year. The weather was better than might be expected in May in central Florida (mid-80's, no rain), and a good time was had by all. Approximately 48 people participated, from as far away as Corvallis, Portland, and Boise.

The retreat began Tuesday evening with a reception and dinner at the core venue, Disney's Coronado Springs Resort. Steve Aasheim and Gordon Koblitz greeted the contingent of retirees and even a few alums. After dinner, former INC President Lyle Hassebroek briefly shared how CH2M HILL came to the southeast through the acquisition of Black, Crow, and Eidsness (BC&E). Bob Bailey, Southeast Regional Manager and current Board Member, then followed up with an interesting presentation of current happenings in the Southeast and the size and scope of the present operation. After sharing information on "what's going on in the Southeast," Bob offered his perspective on the key things going on in the firm today. He mentioned several items, including the tug-of-war for talent and our ability to continue to capture large programs worldwide, such as the role we are now playing in London to prepare that



L to R Gordon Koblitz, Megan Snider, Lyle Hassebroek, Steve Aasheim, Bob Bailey, and Cari Strouse

city for the 2012 Olympics. He also mentioned the firm's acknowledgement that we must strengthen our energy business. Lockwood Greene's addition helped with that, and an additional energy acquisition (VECO), with ties to both Alaska and Siberia as well as the Middle East, is in the final stages of due diligence as this is being written note: see accompanying article by Lee McIntire].

Wednesday was the day of the "Big Adventure." Most of the attendees climbed aboard a brand new Disney Cruise Line bus and headed out to Cocoa, Florida for a visit to NASA. Cocoa, by the way, is a community of less than 20,000 people that provides water to nearly 200,000, including the Cape and Patrick Air Force Base. BC&E and CH2M HILL have provided almost all of the City's water utility consulting for over 40 years, helping the City make the most of local groundwater and surface water supplies and positioning the community solidly for the future. Part of the integrated resources solution offered to Cocoa by the firm includes using more than a billion gallons of underground treated



Are we there yet?

water storage during peak demand times (known as aquifer storage and recovery, or ASR). Thanks to Ed Davis and Al Aikens of the Orlando office for arranging our visit with the City and being great tour guides. And thanks to the City of Cocoa (Ed Wegerif and Troy Howell in particular) for their gracious hospitality.

From Cocoa, the group headed off to Kennedy Space Center and NASA's complex there. Box lunches were eaten on the way from Cocoa. Ignacio Garcia Bengochea/ GNV, working with Hector Delgado, a longtime friend and over 30-year NASA employee, put together a no-holds-barred tour of the NASA property. The group was able to see the shuttle Atlantis on the pad (from a distance—the shuttle was being fueled for its June 8 launch); an empty shuttle pad; the Vehicle Assembly Building where the rocket stages are put together (3rd largest building in the world based on volume); the Space Station assembly building, including a chance to see some of the next pieces to be sent into space for installation in the International Space Station, and the Saturn visitor center. One of the highlights was to see the “crawler” that carries the shuttle and booster rockets to the pad at 1 mile per hour. As transported, the shuttle and boosters weigh more than 12 million pounds. Each cleat or “shoe” on the crawler's tread weighs about one ton; try carrying just one shoe in your half-ton pickup! The visit to the Cape was special, and for most the highlight of the Retreat—outside of seeing old friends and making new ones.



It was a REALLY big building!

Editor's note: Our amateur photographers could not do justice to the incredible scale of the Shuttle Project. Thanks to Bunny (Whiteman) Scott, we invite you to view an amazing PowerPoint tour of the pre-launch/launch activities of the Shuttle Program. [See the attached.](#) (PDF, 2.7MB)

On Thursday a smaller group (about thirty) went to Winter Park for a tour of the Swoope Water Treatment Plant. This plant, which uses groundwater supplies, is located in the middle of a residential neighborhood only blocks from the trendy Park Avenue area of the City. This plant, which looks nothing like a typical plant from the outside, blends nicely into its surroundings. Through an award-winning public involvement process, Winter Park was able to remove a blighted area and relocate eligible low income families to much nicer new housing a short distance away. This plant was a design-build by CH2M HILL. Thanks again to Ed Davis of the Orlando office for making our arrangements, and a special thanks to Dave Zusi of Winter Park for being such a terrific host.

After the tour of the Swoope plant, the group “scattered.” Steve and Carol Aasheim, Steve and Yvonne Lee, Dave Evans, and John Echternach joined Bob Bailey at

Orlando Country Club for lunch and a round of golf. Others wandered downtown Winter Park and found lunch at a recommended French café, and some visited the Morse museum, home to the largest private collection of Tiffany glass. Despite heavy breezes, a few even went on a pontoon boat ride through the lakes and canals of Winter Park, enjoying beautiful views of fine homes and gardens.



A nice farewell breakfast meeting on the patio.

Friday came all too soon for most. Breakfast began early as people were beginning to either head home or continue their Florida excursion. For example, Les and Myrna Wierson headed to Key West to enjoy the Memorial Day weekend there. Two topics of business were briefly discussed at breakfast: where and when the retirees would meet next, and “what does the retiree group want/need to be when it grows up.”

On the first topic, Mike Anglea agreed to be chair of the committee to decide on the next venue, and to see to it that local arrangements are made. John Echternach and Mary Koblitz also volunteered to help with this. It was generally agreed that the next retreat will be in approximately 2 years, and likely will be “west.” Some of the suggestions were Boise, Texas, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Hawaii, and even a cruise ship.

On the second topic, Steve Aasheim volunteered to head the effort to identify key issues facing the sustainability of the retirees group and structural/organizational issues it must deal with. For example, should it be a not-3 for-profit? Does it need legal standing? Does it need officers? Should it have a mission or “cause?” What are the demographics of the retirees over the next 10 to 20 years? Where do they live, and what part of the firm do they represent? Don Marske, Ramona Richards, and Gordon Koblitz agreed to help with this topic. Dave and Carol Evans had to leave early to catch their flight, but Dave followed up by volunteering for a committee assignment. As always, more volunteers are welcome!!

In conclusion, a special thanks to Nancy Tuor and, through her, CH2M HILL for their financial support of the retreat, and to Cari Strouse, Megan Snider, and Amy Drotar, from the Denver office, for their assistance in “everything.” They made the retreat work, and ensured everyone’s well-being and enjoyment.

Stay tuned for updates on the next retreat in future newsletters! If you were in Orlando, thanks! If you weren’t, you missed a great time (and we missed you)!

More photos. Smile!



Gary & Pamela Triplat



Sharon & Mike Anglea



< Bunny & Jim Scott



< Marge & Mike Mynhier



Gordon & Mary Koblitz



Les & Myrna Weirson