

# The 2009 Sun Valley Retreat Highlights

Editor's Note: The following is a synopsis of the Alumni Connect write-up minus a bunch of photos that we can't include due to space limitations. Another good reason to join Alumni Connect, as mentioned in last article of the news letter. Please check it out!

The Sun Valley Retreat was a great success. Ninety two people enjoyed four days of absolutely beautiful weather. The Sun Valley Lodge and Resort staff did a wonderful job taking care of all our needs. The resort was a wonderful place for the Retreat, providing an extraordinarily relaxing setting, beautiful accommodations, and excellent meals. The nearby town of Ketchum, a delightfully small town with an upscale western motif, offered many options for shopping and eating. The committee and event staff designed a great agenda that gave everyone an opportunity to enjoy a variety of different activities including a bus tour of the area, golf, horseback riding, a company update, a time to learn about our new retiree/alumni relations program, and of course, personal time to catch up with old friends.

## Tour of the Valley

*CONTRIBUTED BY MIKE ANGLEA & DAVID BENNION*

The Sun Valley Bus Tour Company provided an outstanding bus tour around Sun Valley and the Stanley Basin.

Our first stop was a surprising visit to small hot springs that used to serve as an old stage stop. It was surprising in a couple of ways. First of all, most anyone driving along the stretch of road would miss the hot spring all together. It's unmarked and set back off the roadway. But what was even more surprising was that, as we walked to the springs, we had a bit of an uncomfortable moment when we passed a woman who obviously had been enjoying a morning swim. Luckily, she'd heard us coming and had enough time to redress and head home. None of us, on the other hand, were brave enough to get in further than our toes.



John Filbert

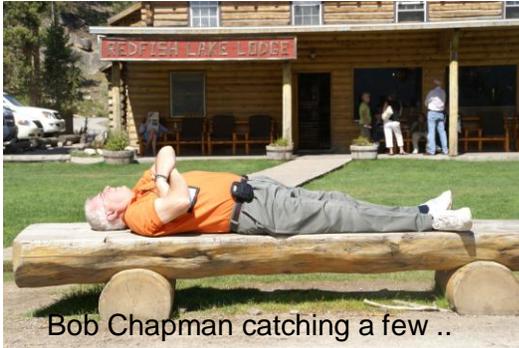
We had a continental breakfast along the highway near the Galena pass summit. It was a little chilly and the valley below was filled with fog. As the sun came over the mountains the fog began to dissipate, and by the time we continued down to the floor of the valley the fog had cleared to reveal the Sawtooth Mountain range, which is spectacular.

On the way to our lunch at Redfish Lodge, we stopped at the Sawtooth Fish Hatchery. This is just one of the many hatcheries

that Roy Taylor and the Boise staff designed during his career in the Boise Office. We



were given a thorough tour by hatchery staff that included a tagging trailer where fingerlings are implanted with GPS tracking devices. The program tracks hundreds of thousands of salmon and steelhead that run in the Salmon River Basin. It was a proud moment knowing that several people on the tour were involved with the early days of this remarkable recovery program.



During the afternoon, we browsed the Redfish Lake shoreline and enjoyed the spectacular Sawtooth Peak views. In Stanley, located at the confluence of Valley Creek and the Salmon River, we toured the historical museum, which is the old restored Sawtooth Forest Ranger Station and includes stables and ice house. The view of the Sawtooth Mountain Range and the Stanley Basin from the museum grounds was spectacular. By the end of the tour, we were all ready to head home for the evening festivities.

## Evening Events

*CONTRIBUTED BY KAREN HANCOCK/DEN*

The first night we had a welcome reception and barbecue at the Trail Head Restaurant. Bill Dehn, who is currently serving as the firm's Executive Vice President – Special Projects, gave an excellent overview of the company and where it is headed. Everyone appreciated the open discussion and the chance to hear that the firm is in good hands and headed in a positive direction. Tuesday evening, Mark Bowen chaired the evening's recognition program for honoring Earl Reynolds and the Boise office. It's incredible to realize that this successful office all began when Earl Reynolds had the bright idea to expand CH2M HILL's footprint by opening up the second office. It was fun to remember that the office was built day by day, relationship by relationship, and project by project. It took the dedicated staff led by Earl and the leaders who've followed in his footsteps to make it the office it is today. [Mark Bowen's Presentation](#)

## The BIG Valley Ride

*CONTRIBUTED BY TIM HASSETT*

Eight of us braved the wild wilderness of Sun Valley by horseback on Wednesday. Tim Hassett, Mary Koblitiz, Megan Snider, Patricia Graham, Art and Sharon Storbo, and Mike and Sharon Anglea. We all met at the stables around 10:30 a.m. to receive our sturdy mounts and head out into the wilds of Idaho.

Tim was on Budweiser, Megan on Ug-Bug, Patricia on Name Unknown, Mary on Big Enough, Art on Stormy, Sharon on Oreo, and Mike on Foghorn, and Sharon on Blondie. Our trusty guide was Wayne.



We had a wonderful ride with awesome views of the valley and surrounding area. Although we were only gone an hour and a half it was still very memorable.

## **A Challenging Day on the Golf Course**

*CONTRIBUTED BY JOHN ECHTERNACH*

Sixteen of us had the pleasure to play the Trail Creek course. Jean Ann went along for the ride as well. The course is long and narrow due to evergreen and spruce lined fairways. And when that was out of the way, there were numerous small creeks meandering throughout. The course is very picturesque, with vistas of Mt. Baldy and the surrounding mountains. It's in immaculate shape. No formal competition was arranged, and I can only vouch for my own score, an 80, which is 4 higher than my handicap, but indicative of the challenges faced. Vern Nelson's wife, Carol Ann, scored a 92. She played very well. Many holes presented daunting elevation changes, blind approaches, and slick greens. Yardage from the blue tees was approximately 6,700 yards, but at that elevation distance is secondary to direction. The club house is new, and absolutely stunning. The staff was very courteous. All who went on the bus tour saw the beautiful homes featured at the start of the tour. The golf group received a "double tour" as we saw all of those homes from the golf course side. Don't know who owns the home with seven chimneys, but one of my better drives is in his back yard. Oh, well. Deer pranced across fairways, thus the general feeling was certainly one of communing with nature in beautiful Sun Valley.

## **New Retiree/Alumni Relations**

*CONTRIBUTED BY KAREN HANCOCK/DEN*

The retreat was a terrific opportunity for me to get to know many of the great people who have built CH2M HILL. I left the retreat feeling incredibly proud and filled with a great sense of purpose. I am humbled to do what I can to help the firm's retirees stay connected to each other and the company. About 20 retirees and their spouses spent time learning about the Alumni Connect social networking website. I know many were nervous entering this new realm, but by the end, it sure seemed like they were enjoying themselves. It was fun searching the membership profiles for others who live and work in the same area and are interested in the same things like gardening, genealogy, aviation and travel. Keep those profiles updated and keep checking back to see who else has joined the site!

As we move forward and begin building out meaningful ways for retirees (and their spouses) to stay engaged in the firm, I can't emphasize enough that we're going to need your support. It's going to be fun and rewarding. We welcome all who want to get involved. If you think you might be interested, get in touch with either Gordon Koblitz ([Gordon.koblitz@ch2m.com](mailto:Gordon.koblitz@ch2m.com)) or me ([Karen.hancock@ch2m.com](mailto:Karen.hancock@ch2m.com)).

## **Wrapping Up**

*CONTRIBUTED BY PATRICIA GRAHAM*

We had breakfast on Thursday morning with some 60 hearty souls in attendance. The wrap-up portion was lively, with discussion on the pros and cons of this year's retreat. Including suggestions to be considered for future retreats:

Our thanks go out to the eight gentlemen who volunteered to help with the 2011 Retiree/ Emeritus Retreat – Mike Anglea, Bob Chapman, Bill Irving, Pat Klampe, Gordon Koblitz, Don Marske, Ron Ott, and Gene Suhr. If anyone else is interested in helping out, please get in contact with Gordon Koblitz at [gordon.koblitz@ch2m.com](mailto:gordon.koblitz@ch2m.com) or [alumnirelations@ch2m.com](mailto:alumnirelations@ch2m.com). See you in two years!



The 2009 Retreat Group ..