



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Little Rock District

LRDispatch

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LRDispatch online at
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army.mil/thewire](http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/thewire)

Vessel fire at Dardanelle lock tests crew, Little Rock District's SOP

by **Jamie Oliver**
LRDispatch Staff

An April 24 fire in a towboat locking through Dardanelle Lock and Dam on the Arkansas River put the vessel's crew and Little Rock District's Standard Operating Procedures to the test.

Both passed, and the district learned a couple of lessons as well.

The Sioux, operated by Pine Bluff Sand and Gravel, was locking through when a grease fire started. The 15-minute blaze completely destroyed the galley, kitchen, laundry room and pantry.

Little Rock District's M/V Ozark was also in the lock chamber, with four crewmen on board repairing the lock's upstream valve.

"That situation had the potential for major loss of lives or property," Russellville Project Office Operations Manager Peggy O'Bryan said.

The Sioux's captain, James Sparks, was the first to alert Lock Operator Mike Caldwell that his vessel was on fire. Caldwell then called 911.

He said flames shot 15 feet high from the galley, and thick, black smoke engulfed the lock, making it impossible to see either vessel.

Caldwell said the Sioux's crew, which had gone through fire training a week earlier, battled the blaze and extinguished 90 percent of the fire before the fire department arrived.

"The fire chief from Russellville said that if the fire had burned another four minutes, it would have reached the engines and the fuel," Caldwell said.

"If the gas had exploded, we were facing the chance of the Ozark catching on fire since the two vessels were

only about 80 feet apart."

Since the vessel was locking through at the time, Caldwell said it was level with the lock building. Had the fire spread, that building could have been lost as well.

O'Bryan said her office has gone through the accident step-by-step to see what went well and what could be improved. This was a good test of the lock's Standard Operating Procedures, which, she said, worked like "clockwork."

One problem that needed immediate correcting, however, was with the lock's security barriers.

The fire fighters from Russellville could not navigate the "s-pattern" security barriers with the ladder truck. This truck carried foam to help extinguish the blaze had the diesel fuel caught fire.

"That afternoon the barriers were spread further apart," O'Bryan said. "This was a good lesson learned."

The after action report also pointed out that the fittings on the lock walls need to be standardized so they will fit the same fire hoses used by the fire department.

Hold on, Tackle



Toby Isbell

Bobber and Tackle are just two of the characters in a new cartoon created by district artist Toby Isbell. For full story, see page 5.

Colonel calls for troop support in war with Iraq

It has been said change is the only constant. I think that is especially true today. Things have definitely changed in Iraq, and USACE is there. Things are changing in the Federal Office Building as we get new furniture and do structural enhancements for security.

Our budget has changed with a massive \$5.8 million cut in our FY 03 budget. Even our dams are changing as we now have a sinkhole in our dam at Clearwater (see related story on page 12).

Iraq has made immense changes that are modified day-to-day. The old regime is definitely out, but our work has only begun. With little government and massive failures in infrastructure, the coalition is working hard to make a better life for Iraqis and for the world.

Southwestern Division is a major part of that effort as our personnel work to ensure all oil well fires are out and mechanisms are in place to get oil flowing safely as soon as possible.

As of this writing, all nine fires in the southern oil field have been extinguished, and there is only one known fire in the northern fields. The explosives on the numerous wellheads that were primed but not detonated are being restored to a safe condition.

Our people from Little Rock and around the division are helping make this happen.

The latest to leave left on Easter Sunday. She had an early flight. Her family and SWL sponsors met her at the airport to see her off and to pray with her.

But even at this late date as she was saying her goodbyes to her family, she had paperwork for me she was concerned about getting done correctly before she left. It is dedicated personnel like this who make our district so great.

We have more people scheduled to depart to make their mark on this great effort, and we still have openings for others who are interested. If you would like an opportunity for a 4 to 6 month deployment to help in this endeavor, please see your supervisor or **Charlie Tobin** in Emergency Ops.

Here at home, we are changing the look of our offices. After years of waiting, we are getting new furniture. Design Branch and others have moved out and back in.

Others are in the process of moving out to await the new carpet, paint, phones and furniture. Still others are biding their time as we work through this process.

The new furniture will help in many areas, but there are tradeoffs. Modular furniture does make more efficient use of space, but it does not increase the total amount of space we have for offices.

Our moves will help consolidate functions into more contiguous arrangements, but we had some tradeoffs to do this. And some units are still split up more than I wanted.

From where I sit

by Col. Benjamin Butler
District Engineer



In the near future you will see personnel working in and around the building making improvements for security. The noticeable improvements will be film on the windows that will prevent them from shattering and physical structures around the building to make it more difficult for a terrorist to get a large explosive device near the building.

We also are working to improve security at our project offices and critical facilities. The changes will be a mix of items that are obvious and items that are not noticeable but provide additional security from terrorist activities.

It terms of our budget, the good news is that SWD is providing us more money to ensure we do not have to close parks this year. However, there are no guarantees we will not be closing parks next year.

As it stands, most likely we will not be able to open numerous parks next year due to lack of funding. We are working hard to determine what is the best course of action, and which parks will be the ones not opening.

We are partnering with the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism to determine how to do this in order to have the least adverse impact. Rest assured, we are not kidding ourselves.

We are fully aware any closures will have adverse impact. But we must live within our budget, just like families do, and we are seeking to make the best of a bad situation.

Another situation of considerable concern is the sinkhole we discovered in the upstream face of our dam at Clearwater Lake in southeastern Missouri. Testing has shown the hole does not seem to be one, that will cause the dam to experience catastrophic failure.

But it is a problem we are taking steps to correct in a very timely fashion. This hole must be fixed soon to ensure the integrity of the dam, and the money to do this means less money for the above stated projects.

Things are changing, and you are doing a fine job of reacting to all of our changes. Many of you are working more because of

(See "Colonel" on page 4.)

LRDispatch

- Col. Benjamin Butler** . . . District Engineer
- Robert G. Faletti** Public Affairs Officer
- Valerie Buckingham** . . . Command Information Officer
- Jamie Oliver** Issue Editor
- Raini Wright** Writer
- Dorothy Seals** Writer

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Family News

Send messages to those serving in war on terror

The Army has established a new World Wide Web link that makes it easier to send a greeting to soldiers serving in the War on Terrorism.

The link, called "To Our Soldiers," can be found on the Army HomePage. People who are interested in sending a message to a soldier can also access the program directly. While similar Web sites for sending messages to service members in general already existed, there was no way to send a message specifically to someone in the Army.

"This link gives people a way to be connected directly to soldiers," said Lt. Col. Mark H. Wiggins, Web director for the Army HomePage.

"To Our Soldiers" was launched during the night of April 8 and enjoyed immediate support.

Within minutes of being launched, more than 20 messages were received, and by morning, more than 200 messages were received on the web site, Wiggins said.

For more information, check out:
<http://www.army.mil/tooursoldiers/>.

Births

Brooke Ellen Boskus was born April 8 to Roger and Karen Boskus of Durham. **Marilyn** and **Don Bratton** are the proud grandparents. Marilyn is a realty assistant in Real Estate and Don retired this year as Chief of Maintenance Engineering Section.

Treys Paul Smedley was born May 2 to **Allison** and **Kenney Smedley**. Allison is a park ranger at Russellville Project Office and Kenney is an engineering technician.

Congratulations

Steve Harris, an electronics technician in Information Management Office, received certifications in A+, Network + and Cisco CCNA. He also holds certifications in fiber, wireless and data communications.

Fred Esser was recently selected as Lead CET for the Operations and Management Team for Table Rock Project Office.

Chuck Hubsch, son of Pine Bluff Project Office Park Manager **Don Hubsch**, has been selected to represent Gillett High School at Boys State this summer.

Christopher Davies married Julie

Crawford on April 12. Davies is the district archaeologist.

Deaths

Gloria Shoemaker died April 5. She was a civil engineering technician in Design Branch.

Charles E. Owens died April 8. He served as Chief of Office Services Branch before his retirement.

Farewell

Jeff Scukanec transferred to the Rock Island District April 1 from Table Rock Project Office.

Speaker's Bureau

Twenty engineering students from the University of Arkansas' student chapter of ASCE visited the Table Rock Dam Safety Project on March 29.

Dardanelle Park Rangers **Allison Smedley** and **Michael Love** conducted four water safety programs in March for 418 third graders at Dardanelle, Center Valley, Pyron and Dover elementary schools. Smedley and Love also awarded a new life jacket to Center Valley's Sarah Skelton, the grand prize winner of the 3rd

(See "Family News" on page 10.)

Tell us what you think

Editor's note: The LRDispatch staff welcomes your opinions. Letters must be signed. If you choose to have your name withheld from publication, we will honor your request.

Comments and Family News submissions must be received by May 15 for publication in the next issue. Send your comments to valerie.d.buckingham@usace.army.mil or mail them to Public Affairs Office at P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203-0867. We reserve the right to refuse publication of any letter that is deemed libelous.

Remember to keep the criticism constructive and the questions coming.

District donates computers to Little Rock schools



A student at Little Rock Central High checks out the computers Little Rock District's Logistics Management Office donated to the school.

Employees remember Shoemaker's dedication

by Raini Wright
LRDispatch Staff

"A woman of strong convictions," "always ready to help," and "concerned about others," were a few words used to describe one of Little Rock District's most



Shoemaker

beloved employees. Gloria Shoemaker unexpectedly died April 6. Funeral services were held Friday, April 11 in Little Rock.

Shoemaker, 59, worked as a civil engineering technician. She began her career

with the Corps in June, 1963. She had worked for several departments before being transferred to Design Branch in Cost Engineering. Shoemaker was responsible for providing and proofing design and assembly specifications on construction projects before they were published.

She was a model employee throughout her four decades of service. Cost Engineering Supervisor Michael Marlow said, "Gloria was a good employee. She was conscientious about her work."

Her dedication and invaluable contributions were evident in her decision to keep working beyond retirement and recent promotion to a GS-11 position. Co-worker Deborah Chapman echoed Marlow's comments.

"She was very dedicated to her job," Chapman said. "She always tried to do her best no matter what the circumstances."

Her success was also evident in her personal life. A single parent, Shoemaker worked overtime and several part-time jobs to support her family.

David Shoemaker, her son and only child, said, "My mother's greatest accomplishment was raising me to become a successful adult."

When her son was grown, Shoemaker bought her first and only house in Southwest Little Rock, another accomplishment of which she was proud.

A skilled craftsperson, Shoemaker annually entered her cross-stitch designs to the state fair, for which she won a blue ribbon one year. She also enjoyed collecting unique knickknacks and loved reading cookbooks.

"Gloria's words of wisdom usually had something to do with food," former co-worker Paris Embree said.

In addition to one son, five sisters,

many nieces and nephews, and a miniature Schnauzer, Sadie, survive Shoemaker. In the words of her son, Shoemaker's family, friends and co-workers will always remember her as "someone who never stopped caring."

Colonel

Continued from page 2.

our personnel overseas. Others are moving while trying to keep all of their work on schedule.

Still others are working hard to move monies to the correct pot so can get the most for the funds we are allotted. To all of you I say, "Thanks."

Speaking of thanks, Memorial Day is at the end of the month. We need to remember those who have served and given the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

We need to appreciate the families who no longer have that special person in their life, and must live with only their memories. As we have just seen in the Iraqi war, these military personnel are indeed professionals who have chosen to dedicate their lives so we may live free.

Let us use that freedom to pay tribute to them on this special day.

Memorial Day

Sacrifices made by heroes should be recalled

by Bob Faletti
Special to LRDispatch

As I write this commentary, video images are flashing on the television showing Iraqi citizens defacing statues and portraits of Saddam Hussein. This act of disrespect would have meant instant death a few days ago.

Freedom-loving people everywhere are joyful for the people of Iraq. Relatives and friends of service members serving in our Armed Forces are jubilant because they perceive them to be in less danger.

As I intently watched the war coverage these past weeks, my emotions had highs and lows. My emotions soared to their highest point when those soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines rescued PFC Jessica Lynch from her Iraqi hospital prison room.

My emotions sunk to their lowest point when the news reported the rescuers also recovered nine bodies.

While Iraq joins the free countries of the world and PFC Jessica Lynch enjoys her favorite turkey dinner with her family, more than 100 new heroes of this nation will be buried in ceme-

teries around the country.

With events fresh in our minds, we remember the sacrifices of all those military and civilians, several from Little Rock District, who served or are serving in this latest conflict.

But we must never, ever forget those who paid the ultimate price for freedom.

This Memorial Day, make the effort to attend one of the ceremonies held.

Fly the flag. Watch a parade.

And say a prayer for the families mourning our heroes.



Courtesy of Army Public Affairs
Army Flag and Streamers

Cartoon brings water safety message to kids

Bobber the Water Safety Dog combines animation, talents of 3 SWD employees to help put different spin on old water safety message

by Dorothy Seals
LRDispatch Staff

Park rangers, safety officials, and public affairs specialists typically spread the US Army Corps of Engineers' water safety message.

But three employees from different Corps districts, none of which have "public safety" in their job descriptions, have joined forces to produce an award-winning tool for the National Water Safety Program.

The Adventures of Bobber the Water Safety Dog is an animated cartoon created by Toby Isbell, a visual information specialist for Little Rock District, and Michael Jordan, a civil works program manager for Southwest Division in Dallas. Don Harris, Chief of Management Support Branch in Ft. Worth District, supplies the voice characterizations.

Programs in water safety education are much needed education tools, especially for inexperienced and younger lake partrons.

"I have worked with the Corps for 24 years and enjoy visiting different projects," Jordan said. "But I always cringe when I hear of drownings, especially children on our lakes. This is something that I want to do something about."

The idea to use Macromedia Flash Animation Software as a tool to spread the water safety message was created after Jordan viewed some of the work Isbell had sent to Paris Embree, a mutual friend and former SWL employee who currently works at Southwestern Division with Jordan.

Impressed with what he saw, Jordan set the wheels in motion.

"I contacted Lynda Nutt, manager of the National Operations Center for Water Safety, in Walla Walla District, to see if this was something she would help us with," Jordan said.

Using animation to reinforce water safety is an un-alarming and creative way to get across an important message.

Nutt said she loved the idea because of the "edutainment" value of it.

"As a former interpretive ranger, I've learned that you have to entertain your audience before you can educate them," Nutt said. "This is fun and entertaining, so it will be watched."

With support from Nutt and their respective supervisors, Isbell and Jordan ran with the idea, and within six months, Bobber emerged.

"The overall mood is fun and lively just like when you visit one of our projects," Jordan said. "It has a happy feeling with the positive characters. There is always a happy ending."

Isbell said the cartoons consist of different characters getting into trouble while boating and swimming, but "Bobber the Water Safety Dog is always around to rescue them and encourage them to be safe."

Two puppies, Corkey and Sinker, and an old, grumpy bulldog named Tackle are Isbell's star performers. The puppies demonstrate swimming safety lessons.

"Corkey sets the good example, while Sinker, as his name implies, has a tendency to sink and has to be rescued by Bobber," Isbell said. Tackle, a retired football mascot who lives in a doghouse boat and fishes for catfish, demonstrates boating safety, or lack thereof.

"Tackle does not wear a life jacket while he is fishing, but he has one in the boat," said Isbell. "It is not against Arkansas law to fish without wearing a life jacket, so a lot of fishermen don't."

But by Tackle not wearing one and getting into trouble, he shows how important it is to actually wear it and not just have it with you."

As the graphic artist and designer, Isbell said that he is excited about the project.

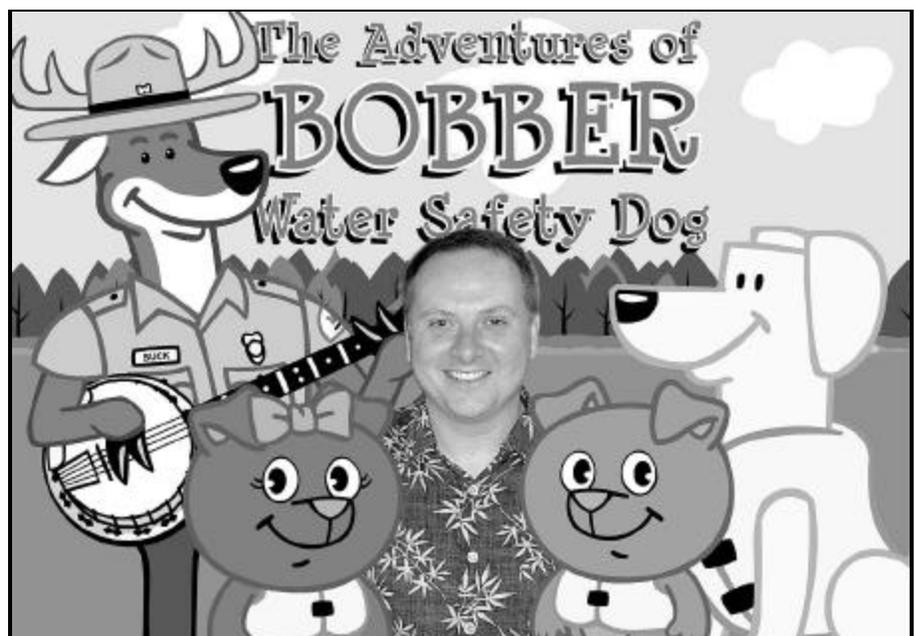
"We are taking advantage of new technologies to put a fresh spin on the basic water safety message," Isbell said. "This helps keep people interested and aware."

The first Bobber episode featuring Corkey and Sinker shows the importance of wearing a life jacket in open waters. Nutt said, however, there are other important messages within this section.

"Other subliminal messages are built in nicely," Nutt said, citing knowing your limits and importance of parental supervision as examples.

Isbell said that he expects this first episode to be finished in time for this swimming season. Two other episodes are being developed as well.

(See "Bobber" on page 8.)



Graphic by Toby Isbell

Isbell surrounded by his friends, Ranger Buck, Corkey, Sinker and Bobber.

SWL offices help raise safe boating awareness

District launches efforts to coincide with National Safe Boating Week

by Dorothy Seals
LRDispatch staff

The National Safe Boating Council and the National Association of Safe Boating Law Administrators have designated May 17-23 as National Safe Boating Week.

This is the time to begin raising water safety awareness before Memorial Day weekend, Beaver Project Office Park Ranger Alan Bland said.

“Since the campaign began four years ago, we have seen a decrease in the number of boating accidents and alcohol-related incidents on our lake,” Bland said.

One way the project office uses to capture the visitors’ attention is a wrecked, 18-foot recreational boat.

“We bring it to our busiest parks and put it on display near the launching areas

with a banner that reads ‘boating and alcohol don’t mix,’” Bland said. “We also fill it with empty bear cans and bottles, which unfortunately are not hard to find. Everyone who goes out on the lake sees it.”

Bland said the boat has drawn such comments from visitors as, “Is that a real boat?” or “I didn’t realize a boat could look like that!”

“It is a great opportunity to lead into a water safety discussion,” Bland added.

Other district project offices are also taking advantage of this opportunity to promote water safety.

Mike Richards, a park ranger at Table Rock Project Office, said he and his co-workers are constructing a display to exhibit at stores in the area, as well as signing a proclamation with Branson Mayor Louis Schaefer for official observance of National Safe Boating Week.

Employees at Greers Ferry Project Office are also constructing an exhibit in their visitor center to provide water safety information, Park Ranger Chris Roark said.

But no matter what the office, or what the week, the message is clear: Wear your life jacket, he said.

“We have had 100 drownings on

Beaver Lake,” Bland said. “But I have yet to see anyone drown wearing a life jacket.”

He also added that not having a life-jacket is not an excuse.

“If you have an extra person in your boat, or you just don’t have enough life-jackets, you can borrow one from the marina and drop it off at the end of the day,” Bland said.

Other tips for safe boating include: avoiding alcohol when operating a boat, taking a boating safety class and having your boat inspected to ensure that you have all necessary safety gear.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary offers free boat safety inspections. Bland said auxiliary members check to make sure the lights are working properly and fire extinguishers are on board.

The boat must have a life jacket for everyone on board, a horn or alternative sound-making device, proof of insurance and state validation, among other items, he said.

Boat safety classes are offered by USCG Auxiliary, U.S. Power Squadron and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

Bland recommends taking the AGFC course to learn the basic fundamentals and follow it up with the other courses to become more experienced.

Ranger uses road signs to promote district’s water safety message

by Dorothy Seals
LRDispatch Staff

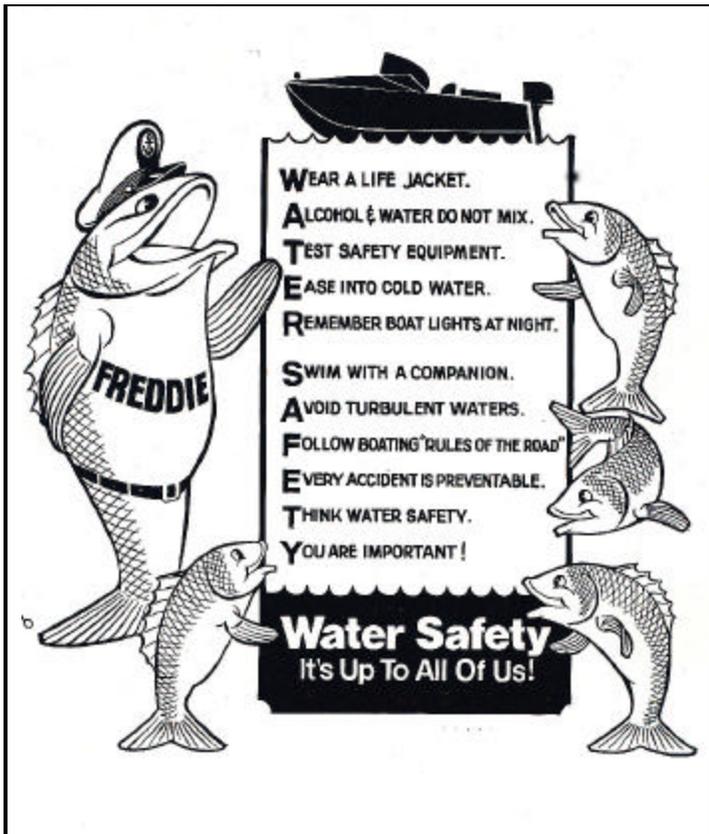
“Always Wear a Life Jacket,” is the message posted across billboards welcoming visitors to Norfolk and Bull Shoals Lakes.

However, this isn’t just your typical billboard. This is the artistic work of Harrison Elementary third-grader Mike Schaffer.

Three years ago, Schaffer and hundreds of other elementary students entered a contest started by Mountain Home Project Office Park Ranger Tyrone Fowler.

With inspiration from his daughter, Fowler developed this innovative way of updating billboards, which he said have been around since the “dawn of time.”

“I have a six-year-old daughter, and all she does is color,”



(See “Poster” on page 8.)

Knowing differences among life jackets essential to proper

by Peggy Paulsen
Special to LRDispatch

If your family enjoys boating, swimming, fishing or just being around water, your children should wear a properly fitted life jacket.

Several different sizes and shapes are available to choose from.

Youth life jacket approvals are based on the child's weight, so check the user weight on the inside label. The US Coast Guard has approved four types.

Type 1 life jackets float best and are designed to turn most unconscious people who are in the water from facedown to an upright and slightly backward position.

It helps the person stay afloat in that position for a long time. These should be used in open water and the oceans and are only available in two sizes.

One size is for adults weighing more than 90 pounds. The other is for children who weigh less than 90 pounds.

Type 2 devices can turn a person upright and slightly backwards though it may not always help keep an unconscious person floating face up.

This jacket is comfortable and comes in various children's sizes.

Type 3 life jackets are designed for conscious users in calm, inland water. They are comfortable and are available in many styles.

This is often used for water sports and should be used only when it is expected that a rescue can be done quickly.

Life preservers are not toys and should be used in a rescue situation only. Check the label to make sure it meets US Coast Guard regulations.

You should use only life preservers that are tested by Underwriters Laboratories and approved by the US Coast Guard.

If they have been approved, it will be written on the label.

Remember that your children should wear life jackets at all times when riding in a boat or playing near bodies of water.

When they are old enough, teach your children how to correctly put on their life jacket. The life jacket should be a comfortable fit, and should be worn as instructed.

Never substitute blow-up water wings, toys, rafts or air mattresses for a life jacket.

Adults should also wear a life jacket for their own protection and to set an example for their children.

Pop Quiz

See how much you know about water safety

Which of the following is not one of the major causes of drowning?

- A. Not wearing a lifejacket
- B. Hypothermia
- C. Knowing how to swim & swimming with a buddy
- D. Abuse of alcohol

Approximately 6,000 people drown in the US each year. Of these, most drown within how many feet of safety?

- A. 50 – 75 feet
- B. 5 – 10 feet
- C. 10 – 30 feet
- D. Over 75 feet

Which of the following describes hypothermia?

- A. A condition in which the body produces more heat than it needs
- B. A condition in which the body loses heat faster than it can produce

What is the first sign of hypothermia?

- A. Sweating
- B. Fainting/passing out
- C. Vomiting
- D. Shivering

Which of the following should you always do when you're on the water?

- A. Have enough life jackets on hand for everyone in the boat
- B. Drink excessively and party it up
- C. Dive head first off the cliffs
- D. Have a friend on hand when swimming, never swim alone
- E. Answers B&C
- F. Answers A&D

Quiz answers are located within the pages of the LRDispatch. Good luck and always remember to wear your life jacket



Poster

Continued from page 6.

Fowler said. "So I thought if I brought a coloring contest to schools in the area, I might be able to get a new billboard message out of it."

Fowler said he visited more than 3,200 students that year and gathered almost as many entries.

"My instructions were brief," he said. "I told them I wanted a picture of their favorite water scene with a safety message about life jackets, swimming, boating or just whatever they wanted."

Fowler waded through the entries with the help of Sgt. Ralph Bird, the Drug Abuse Resistance Education officer for Mountain Home Elementary.

"The hardest thing was to get a picture that someone driving by at 60 mph would understand," Fowler said. "And to get a good short message that would stick with the parents as well as with the children going to the lake."

Fowler said he plans on holding the contest again next year.

But unlike the billboard, the water safety message "Always Wear Your Life Jacket" will never grow old.

A few reminders..

- Take a safe boating course.
- Check the weather forecast, file a float plan with a friend.
- Put on your life jacket and leave your alcohol behind.
- Check your boat for all required safety equipment.
- Check your electrical system and fuel system for gas fumes.
- Carry a navigation chart and know your waterway.
- Never rely on toys such as inner tubes and water wings to stay afloat.
- Don't take chances by overestimating your swimming skills.
- Swim only in designated swimming areas. Never swim alone.
- Never dive into lakes and rivers.
- Remember, it only takes a few seconds for a small child to wander away, so please watch your children at all times.
- Your safety is our concern. Have fun, be careful and enjoy everything our district parks have to offer.

Bobber

Continued from page 5.

"After the first one is finished, production of others will move faster because the characters have already been drawn," Isbell said. "It is not like traditional cartooning where everything is redrawn over and over. These characters are like puppets, so I can move them around without having to redraw them."

Both Isbell and Jordan said that the biggest problem creating the Bobber cartoons is working from different zip codes.

If overcoming the distance between Little Rock and Dallas wasn't enough, Isbell and Jordan must also coordinate with Harris, the voice of Ranger Buck.

"Don is such an important part of this cartoon," Isbell said. "His participation is necessary because he defines the voice of Ranger Buck. He is the only character who talks in every episode."

"We are truly a virtual team," Harris said. "We've had conference calls to work out details of how the total project should look and feel. We don't have to be together to get the work done, but we do have

to be in agreement on the process and concept."

Jordan added that the common goal of water safety makes it all much easier and worthwhile.

"Everyone working with us has strong



Graphic by Toby Isbell

Bobber gives a life jacket to his friend Sinker.

feelings because we are dealing with life and death when it comes to water safety," Jordan said. "We can make an impact by educating people on the importance of

learning to swim and wearing life jackets."

Distribution plans for the Bobber cartoons include a website where Corps districts nationwide, as well as other organizations spreading the water safety message, could link from their respective homepages, Isbell said.

He said that he hopes the cartoons will encourage more positive interactions between park rangers and children.

Isbell and Jordan were presented the Lifeline Award on April 14 for the project during the International Boating and Water Safety Summit in Las Vegas.

This award is given annually by Corps headquarters for significant contributions to the National Water Safety Program. Isbell described the award as an honor.

"It is great to have received this award so early in the project's development," Isbell said. "Hopefully, this will draw more attention to it and help spread the message even more."

Having fun makes work seem less like work

One hot August afternoon, the 12 new PPEP members held our first meeting. At that meeting, we were informed we would be working on 100 hours of independent study, conducting meetings, writing articles for the Dispatch and completing developmental assignments and numerous projects.

Most of these added requirements would have to be completed in our own time away from work. After all this, one last thing we were told to was "have fun."

How could anyone have fun with all of these added duties?

But as we all have learned, it is possible to have fun while doing even the toughest of jobs.

We experienced a unique situation at the 4-H Center in Ferndale on our second day together. Our group participated in the ropes course that day.

The ropes course is an obstacle course about 50 feet in the air among the tree-tops. You can take several different paths to move around the course.

While one path may have you walking a log, another may have you swinging from tire-to-tire like a monkey.

Although some of the group was apprehensive about the height, we all agreed the ropes course was fun and would love

to do it again.

One of the requirements for our monthly meetings is an evening activity. These activities are designed to help the group grow and learn about each other away from work.

A hockey game, shows in Branson and a heated game of pool are only some activities the group has experienced together this year. We also attended an SAME function on the Arkansas River aboard the district's inspection barge.

These activities away from the work place have helped us during our meetings, and have helped us understand and learn more about each other.

This new understanding has, in turn, helped us overcome obstacles we face in our meetings. And as we learned later, we each have different personality types.

These different personality types sometimes make it difficult for 11 people from different backgrounds and jobs to agree on important issues.

But with our new experiences, we were able to just stop during these difficult times and laugh at ourselves.

Fun, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. We've also had fun during training like the Leadership and Development Course. Some members of the group can



PPEP 2003
High Performance
Leadership
by Kyle Clark

even find fun visiting Little Rock's River Market District for gyros during our meetings.

Developmental assignments can also be a great place to have fun. You should try spending two months in Regulatory Branch and not having fun.

All the requirements of the program that seemed impossible to reach six months ago have been achieved by simply having some fun along the way.

An easy way to add fun to any situation is to simply smile. Taking the time to smile helps most people lighten up and enjoy their work.

A smile can also help calm a tense or difficult situation. The PPEP group has learned to smile as much as possible during our meetings.

We have learned as a group that if we take the time to smile and laugh at ourselves, we are able to conquer difficult situations with greater ease.

Spring cleaning helps remedy potential problems

The arrival of spring will probably bring spring cleaning to your home. Remember, safety doesn't have down time, and it must be practiced 24 hours a day.

Statistics show that when you practice safe behavior on the job fewer off the job injuries occur.

While you are cleaning, it is probable that you will climb ladders to spruce up the exterior of your home, examine gutters, paint or perform other necessary tasks associated with spring cleaning.

Prior to climbing the ladder, inspect the ladder for flaws and proper leg placement. Do not use a painted ladder. You will not be able to see possible flaws.

A thorough spring cleaning can mean much more than simply the great look and feeling that comes with maintaining the appearance of your home. When properly done, spring cleaning can dramatically improve the safety of your home and your family in the event of a fire.

One of the most important ways that annual cleaning around your home can improve safety is by reducing the clutter inside and around your home and garage.

Clutter doesn't start a fire, but it might become the fuel for one. It may also make it difficult for those in the home to escape if a fire occurs.

Another important step in the spring cleaning process is to reduce the amount of or eliminate chemicals from around your home and garage.

Household cleaners, paint, gasoline and other common household chemicals can add fuel to a fire and are hazardous to your health.

The Material Safety Data Sheet on the back of the product will tell you how and where to properly store the product. Some chemicals react with other chemicals.

The MSDS provides the information you need to determine placement and storage. You should keep only the amount needed for the task at hand. When finished with the product, dispose of excess materials in the manner outlined on the back of the product. Take care not to mix chemicals even when disposing of them.

Spring cleaning will help to improve the safety of your home. If you have additional questions about reducing the risk of fire in your home, contact your local fire department.



Preventing accidents means less paperwork

by **Judy Baker**

Special to LRDispatch

Little Rock District is already experiencing a number of accidents in FY03. Reportable accident or incidents include nine first aid injuries and four government "lost time" accidents to date.

We must continue to improve our safety performance for the rest of the year.

Accidents can be controlled through the use of training, proper tools and protective equipment, and by not taking short cuts.

It is necessary for team leaders and managers to continually emphasize accident prevention through weekly safety meetings, activity hazard analyses and

proper safety practices.

Remember that if an accident occurs, care for the person and proper medical attention is mandatory.

Supervisors must go to the hospital with the injured employee to answer necessary questions, and to point out that we can accommodate an injured employee when they are able to return to work.

SWL leaders have always stressed the need for proper reporting. An accident investigation form, ENG3394, must be filed for any injury, job-related illness or occupational disease requiring medical treatment where a Notice of Traumatic Injury, CA-1, or a CA-2, Notice of Occupational Disease, form is generated.

Authorization for Examination or

Treatment forms must be forwarded through your chain of command to the Safety and Occupational Health Office within five days.

The safety office is required to record the forms before they are forwarded to the Human Resource Office. Several forms have been sent directly to SWD in the past, which has caused delays.

These delays must be avoided because we are required to send CA-1s to Workers Compensation within 14 days.

Proper procedures for these forms can be found in the SWLR 385-1-1, Safety and Occupational Health General Policy, section six, titled Procedures, and Appendix E, the Accident Notification and Reporting section.

Family News

Continued from page 3.

Grade Water Safety Poster Contest.

Welcome Back

Mike Smith, chief of transportation in Logistics, returned to SWL since being deployed last year in Guam and Ft. Polk.

Thank you

I would like to thank all of you who sent cards and flowers, and telephoned during my recent surgery. It was so uplifting, and it made my recovery time go by faster. The Corps of Engineers is really like a big happy family, and I am pleased that I am part of it.

Thank you again,

Elaine Whitlow

My name is **Beverly Glanville** and I am a co-op park ranger at Millwood Project Office. My son, Dillon Beard, is graduating this year and will attend Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia on a football scholarship. He was invited to play football and represent the state of Arkansas in the Outback Bowl in Sydney, Australia, but declined due to the expense and me being a single mother. Dillon was named in Who's Who in Sports the last two years and has been acknowledged in Hooten's book of Arkansas football players the last three years.

He averaged 13 unassisted tackles per game and had 17 during his senior year, the highest number of his career. His position was middle linebacker. Not only was he the heart of his team, he was the team motivator. Athletic Director Todd Ledford told his team, "If half of this team had the heart Dillon Beard has, we would be unstoppable." Dillon is known to all of his opponents and friends as "Big D" and stands a proud 6 feet tall and weighs a solid 235 lbs. Dillon's little sister Brittany, age 13,

wants to play football and be "Little D," but Mom says, "no way." His dream since he was five-years-old was to play professional football. The way things are looking, he still has his childhood dream. One day we will all look back to this notice and say hey, there's "Big D" playing in the NFL! Thank you for this opportunity to share one of the joys of my life with others.

Sincerely,

Beverly Glanville

Wings N' Things



Laurie Driver

Despite weekend showers, 1,400 people participated in the 3rd annual Millwood Lake "Wings & Things" Nature Festival in Ashdown, Ark.

Leadership, survival guides added to library

Russellville Project Office has an eight-volume video set on Marine Survival Equipment Training Program that includes such titles "Inflatable Life Raft," "Immersion Suits," "Visual Distress Signals," "Personal Flotation Devices," "Emergency Radio Procedure," "Conducting Onboard Drills," and "Marine Fire: First Response."

The set also includes "The Cold Water Survival Handbook." Reviewed by the US Coast Guard, the training program provides a flexible instructional resource for sea or shore-side sessions.

Russellville has also added "Onboard First Aid: Immediate Actions" to their training programs. The three video set provides vessel operators the tools for comprehensive treatment of injuries and illnesses that commonly occur at sea.

The videos are based on actual incidents from Maritime Health Services. The set covers basic safety training in a step-by-step guide for managing medical emergencies.

Recommended Leadership Materials

As suggested by a PPEP 2002 member, the TRC has added the video, "Whale Done: the Power of Positive Relationships" (HF5366 .W52 2002).



Based on killer whale training at Sea World, the author teaches viewers a technique that increases employee effectiveness at work.

The companion video, "Whale Done in Action," applies the lessons to real life business situations in the work environment.

The video emphasizes skills that have immediate, positive effect in the workplace. Just for fun, "Accentuate the Positive" (HF 5386 .A22 2002) is a music video of the animals at Sea World. The video set includes a facilitator guide.

DVD Training Added

The first DVD purchase for the Technical Resource Center, "Would I Follow Me," can be used with a laptop to provide training.

The work presents one leader's behavior and the results in two different situa-

tions, once as a new leader followed by leadership five years later. The product demonstrates the positive effects of good leadership techniques.

Section 205 Studies Cataloged

In an effort to better organize district documents, the library has begun cataloging section 205 small flood control projects. Some are reconnaissance reports and some are definite project reports.

The TRC has documents on Howell Creek, Spadra Creek at Clarksville, Jacksonport, Little Massard Creek, Cato Springs Branch and Town Branch and Mill Creek.

If you have copies of any other projects, please call the TRC. We would like to make copies to have in our collection.

Hot Web Site of the Month

www.infoplease.com

Online dictionary,
almanac and information
site

Privacy settings can help control Internet cookies



Teresa Thompson
Customer Assistance &
Applications Section

Some Web sites copy information called a cookie in a small text file onto your computer.

A cookie may contain a password, information, such as which pages you visited at that site or even your e-mail address if you provide it.

You can control whether you allow cookies to be copied onto your computer or to be asked if you will accept a cookie.

To change your privacy settings, select *tools*, *Internet options* and *privacy*. Then move the rule bar up for higher security or down for lower security. Some sites require that you accept their cookie in order to view other parts of the site.

While some cookies are temporary and are deleted when you end the session, some are permanent. To delete a cookie in Internet Explorer, on the *tools* menu, click *Internet options*, *general*, *settings* and *view files*. Next, select the cookie you want to delete and on file, hit delete.

The cookie directory is stored on the *c: drive* under documents and settings so you can manually delete cookies.

Your computer has the ability to limit or delete your Internet history and to clear temporary Internet files. Before you clear your history, remember to save sites that you may wish to visit later to your favorites list.

Once you have cleared the Internet history, files cannot be accessed again until you return to that site.

Temporary Internet files are stored under documents. Files can be manually deleted from both directories.

By limiting the cookies and temporary files on your system, you help maintain your system's integrity.

This will also help with the operating manageability of your computer system, save you more disk space and help applications run more quickly and efficiently.

Water safety quiz answers:

1. C
2. C
3. B
4. D
5. F

Quiz found on
page 7

Investigation continues into sinkhole at dam

Officials of the Army Corps of Engineers continue their investigation of a sinkhole that appeared in mid-January in Clearwater Dam.

Meantime, early findings have caused officials to increase vigilance on the dam structure during periods of high lake levels until they can complete their investigations.

Initial investigations have not found any significant structural problems but officials suspect high lake levels last year were a factor in causing the sinkhole to form.

The damage under study sometimes occurs on dams and is unlikely to affect their structural integrity.

However, this type of distress has, on rare occasions and with little warning, developed into more serious situations. Therefore, officials are assuring interested persons that they will closely follow the operating plan that calls for regulating releases up to a 10.5-foot stage on the Black River at Poplar Bluff whenever water is stored in the lake's flood pool.

The goal is to maintain the lake as close as possible to the seasonal pool elevation of 500 feet. If heavy rain causes the pool

to increase to 525, Corps personnel will constantly monitor the dam to detect any abnormalities or seepage. However, in the interest of safety, officials might regulate releases to a higher stage depending upon circumstances.

Should releases be required that would cause the stage to rise above 10.5 feet, as much advance notice will be provided as possible. Corps officials do not think it is likely, though they want to alert people downstream, especially the farming community, of the possibility.

The Corps decided to take these safety measures while experts from the Little Rock District and the Kansas Geological Survey conduct additional tests.

Initial testing did not reveal any structural damage to the core of the dam so additional tests are necessary to determine what caused the sinkhole and help to determine the best solution to provide a long-term fix.

Corps officials emphasize that the dam is in no imminent danger and is functioning normally.

Clearwater Operations Manager James Beard said that on Jan. 15 during a routine inspection of the upstream side of the

dam, the sinkhole was discovered. The depression was 10 feet across and eight to 10 feet deep.

Soon after the sinkhole was discovered, it was excavated to 25-foot depth where its diameter had constricted to 3 feet. No void was found. The excavated hole was re-filled with compacted clay. No significant settling has occurred since.

The Corps brought in a drill rig in April to take subsurface samples to further investigate. Once all the data is in and reviewed, experts can determine what corrective measures need to be taken.

A timeline to complete the investigations and to make repairs has not been set and depends on the conclusion of ongoing analysis of the damage.

Meantime, geologists and engineers continue examining piezometer readings to monitor water tables below the dam to ensure public safety.

Piezometers are a series of small diameter wells used to measure groundwater levels and detect changes.

Also, the Clearwater Lake staff is conducting regular visual inspections of the entire dam and associated structures.

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