

TheQCCer

The Newsletter of the Quarter
Century Club

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Recruiting is the key ...

BUTCH SAYS; 'GO FOR IT !'

From the Corner Pocket

It's a brand new year with the promise of spring and summer coming soon, even if you are not so fortunate to live in southern California. My sympathy goes out to any who have moved back east after retirement. My hardship is not being able to retire and move to San Diego, since I am retired and live in San Diego. So I carry on.

The topic for this edition is an appeal for you and every able-bodied member to get into the vital action of recruiting new members. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read our state Secretary/Treasurer's reports with some significant numbers. Fifty-three, (53) of our members reached the age of 80 and became Honorary members. We congratulate them on their stamina and wish them well. The financial impact to the state QCC budget is that they will no longer need to be paying any dues if they get the E-version of the QCC'er. If they continue getting the paper version, they will pay less than the cost of printing and mailing, so in either case the state budget will see some loss of funds. The Honorary members are more fortunate than the additional 23 members who passed away last year, and if you add in the few others who have drifted away and have not renewed their membership, that brings the loss of paying members to over a hundred. That is offset a



small amount by the twelve new members who joined in the last year.

On a positive note, the annual budget report shows a healthy recovery from our deficit condition a few years back, with a current balance nearly \$3,000 greater than last year. But that apparent boost in the budget reflects the serious problem of nearly no recruiting efforts. The budget line of "Reimbursement for District expenses" shows that nearly \$500 was spent by Districts to keep in touch with their current members, which is good. But only a state total of \$50 was spent on any recruiting effort.

The QCC Constitution provides that Districts can be reimbursed for recruiting at twice the amount that they might spend for contacting current members, with just the one rule that the Director must claim the reimbursement. The Director does not have to be the one doing the recruiting. That person just might be **YOU**. Rather than just waiting for directions, why not drum up some recruiting ideas and take them to your Director for review and then get busy with some great new ideas. I recall the words of a departed District I hero, Mick Burk, "**DO SOMETHING, EVEN IF IT'S WRONG**, we can fix it later."

Some of the current surplus cash on hand of over eight grand will be needed to cover the small extra costs of our Honorary members but a large share of it needs to be used to shore up more recruiting efforts. Hiring a professional agency is a far out idea since our "Friendship factor" is the major feature for becoming a

QCC member. I'd hope to see a hundred new actions by our members to recruit new members so we can find which of the ideas are the most fruitful. And then turn in the bill for your costs to us, through your District Director. Recruit five new members and you win a logo watch in your choice of three styles.

Last but not least is the award of a free logo watch for the best story contribution in the last QCC'er that goes to Allen Wrenn for his Panama Canal story. What will your contribution be?

Butch Biendara
QCC President

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State & District Officers

President: Emil "Butch" Biendara
4041 Mt. Everest Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92111-2624
(858) 279-5054 EagleAyerie@hotmail.com

1st Vice President: George E. Gray
9720 Oviedo Street
San Diego, CA 92129-3827
(858)-538-3027 gray850@aol.com

2nd Vice President: Dave Weiss
10111 Canyon Ridge PL
Spring Valley, CA 91977-6915
(619)-464-6577 daveweiss@cox.net

Historian: Vacant

Secretary/Treasurer: Mike Ogilvie
PO Box 421292
San Diego, CA 92142-1292
m.ogilvie@sbcglobal.net

Editor: Chris Thomas
6121 Howell Drive
La Mesa, CA 91942-3829
(619) 241-5491 chris.thomas@dot.ca.gov

District 1 Director: Arlene Hartin
2301 E Street
Eureka, CA 5501-4126
707-443-8841 ahartin@suddenlink.net

District 2 Director: James Ceragioli
1861 Shasta Pines Way
Redding CA 96002-0306
(530) 223-0208 sirravioli@shasta.com

Treasurer: Burton Brockett
444 Basalt Court
Redding CA 96003-3331
(530) 246-4721

Secretary: Bill Belcher
18600 Quail Ridge Rd
Cottenwood, CA 96022-9058
shastaqcc@yahoo.com

District 3 Director: Dan Johnson, Sr.
901 Dennis Way
Yuba City CA 95991-6110
(530) 671-3889 boots3@syix.com

Secretary: Lib Haraughty
2225 Lincoln Rd
Yuba City CA 95993-9759
(530) 673-5587 libbyanneh2@aol.com

Treasurer: Lita Wells
4115-G Butte House Rd
Yuba City CA 95993-9676
(530) 674-5945 billlitaw@comcast.net

District 4 Director: Paul Hensley
161 Allen Drive
San Bruno, CA 94066-1602
(650) 359-5172 hphensley@gmail.com

District 5 Director: Kathleen Copeland
1255 Orcutt Rd A-2
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-0918
(805) 544-1834 BCopel4674@aol.com

District 6 Director: Terry Littleton
6675 N Woodson
Fresno, CA 93711-1132
(559) 431-8140 TerryLittleton@comcast.net

District 7 Director: William Almany III
17200 So Stark Avenue
Cerritos, CA 90703-1822
(562) 865-2440

Secretary: Kirsten Stahl
100 S Main St Suite 100 MS13
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3712
(213) 897-0470 kirsten.stahl@dot.ca.gov

District 8 Director: Wesley J. Grimes
5818 N. Sycamore Avenue
Rialto, CA 92377
909-875-5400 wesleyj38@hotmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Marsha Lotze
20250 Majestic Dr
Apple Valley CA 92308-5030
760-247-2119 mloetze12@verizon.net

District 9 Director: Lance Hinek
1642 S Valley View Dr
Bishop, CA 93514-1958
760-873-3885 hinek@suddenlink.net

District 10 Director: Stan Randolph
3672 Wood Duck Circle
Stockton, CA 95207-5262
209-957-1278 stanran3672@aol.com

Secretary: Brian Young
1056 Bradford Circle
Lodi, CA 95240-7002
209-334-6028 blyoung365@gmail.com

District 11 Director: Jösan Feathers
4025 Corte Tierra Alta
La Mesa, CA 91941
619-660-2915 Josan.dem@cox.net

Central District Director: Gary Bush
1420 Cougar Track Drive
Placerville, CA 95667-8728
530-642-8208 zbusharosa@wildblue.net

Secretary: Julie Bush
1420 Cougar Track Drive
Placerville, CA 95667-8728
530-642-8208 zbusharosa@wildblue.net

Treasurer: David Saxby
9503 Dunkerrin Way
Elk Grove CA 95758-4402

Rather read the QCCer on-line?

Go to

<http://ctqcc.150m.com/qccnewsletter.html>

A membership application and a wealth of information about QCC officers, history, and constitution are available at

<http://ctqcc.150m.com/qcc.html>

Check the current haps at Caltrans at

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews>

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION FOUNDATION

By Kathy Freeman

2012 was an outstanding year for the California Transportation Foundation (CTF). We are proud to report the following achievements and milestones:

- Provided \$44,639 in scholarship grants—much of that **money raised by Caltrans employees**. CTF takes no administration fee, instead adds money from our general fund to help fund your scholarships.
- Provided Workers Assistance and Memorial (WAM) grants for the families of two contractors killed on the job, **four Caltrans employees who were injured on the job, and one Caltrans employee who lost his home to fire**. CTF now matches dollar for dollar WAM contributions when the injury or death is job related.
- Gave a Career Development grant to **Tami McGowan of Caltrans Public Affairs**, allowing her to represent Caltrans at the AASHTO Conference. Caltrans won an award at that conference for the Carmegeddon public relations effort and donated the \$10,000 prize to CTF for Caltrans-related projects.
- Paid for pins memorializing **the 100th anniversary of the Caltrans Office Engineers**, and paid for pins and food at

Caltrans **service celebrations at HQ and in many Districts**.

- Took over the **Caltrans Historic Preservation Committee**. CTF will now act as the Committee's Treasurer and help it achieve its goals.
- Co-hosted a reception to **welcome Ryan Chamberlain as the new Caltrans District 12 Director**.
- Contributed funds to **the Annual Caltrans Memorial Ceremony** on the steps of the California State Capitol Building.
- Hosted the 18th Annual CTF Transportation Education Symposium. Caltrans representatives were **Ryan Chamberlain, Director Caltrans District 12; Christine Cox-Kovacevich, Central Region Environmental Division Chief; and Christine Inouye, High Speed Rail Coordinator**.
- Elected three new Board Members. Check out CTF's website to see the new Board.

More recently, CTF was able to award four scholarships:

- Loyola Marymount University student, Charlotte Vilkus, is the winner of the CTF Education Symposium scholarship, which was \$6,000 this year. Charlotte studies Civil Engineering, with hopes of working on rail projects following her graduation this year.
- Travis Low received the \$2,500 CTF Board Scholarship. Travis currently attends Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and majors in Civil Engineering with an emphasis on transportation.
- The Scholarship in honor of the California Transportation Commission was rewarded to Ariana Allayhar, an Urban Planning major who attends California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.
- UC Davis Civil Engineering major Juliana Walton, won the \$1,500 Tim Fleming Memorial Scholarship.

Since its founding in 1988, the California Transportation Foundation has awarded over \$647,000 in scholarships. To qualify for the CTF scholarships, recipients must be intent on a career in transportation and be U.S. citizens, permanent residents or documented, international students. For more information on the Scholarship program, check out CTF’s website.

CTF is currently working with MJE Marketing Services, the Mayor of San Diego Bob Filner, San Diego Councilmember David Alvarez, and Murphy Development on an upcoming event to introduce Brown Field Technology Park, commemorate the completion of SR 905 and honor the memory of the late Randy Sanchez. Mr. Sanchez worked at Caltrans for 13 years and worked as project manager for the preliminary stages of the I-905 project from SR 805 to the Otay Mesa Port of Entry. On September 21, 2004, while riding to work on his motorcycle, he was struck by an errant motorist and tragically killed at the age of 37.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Scholarships or any other programs listed above, please feel free to check out CTF’s website (www.transportationfoundation.org).

In Memoriam

We extend our sympathy to family members and loved ones of our fallen colleagues

Name	District	Date
Marilyn Ann Hernandez	01	Jan 30, 2013
Wes Reinhardt	01	Feb 12, 2013
Albert Phillips	02	2013
Leila Hogan	02	2013
Gerry Ducey	04	Dec 25, 2013
Dudley Sullivan	04	Jul 31, 2012
Ruth E. Horton	05	Aug 28, 2012
Gilbert Rivera	05	Aug 28, 2012
Doris Metz	05	Dec 28, 2012
Kenneth Taylor	05	Jan 12, 2013
Walter Pflgebraar	05	Jan 24, 2013

Ray Harrigan	05	Jan 29, 2013
William (Bill) Todd	05	Feb 10, 2013
Joann Wilding	05	Feb 11, 2013
Robert (Bob) Hess	07	Jan 12, 2013
John Bemis	07	2013
Nick Soffa Jr	08	2013
Evelyn Erwin	08	2013
Bert Forschler	10	Feb 20, 2013
Denny Paquin	11	Feb 23, 2013
Eleanor Quiram	11	Feb 24, 2013

A Duck Hunter’s Soliloquy

By Jack Derby

(Everyone knows that duck hunters are little nuts when it comes to hunting in stormy weather. The following is a description of such a morning as I headed for our duck blind in California’s Sacramento Valley. The reason hunters put up with such conditions is the love they have for God’s great out-of-doors. If they get a few birds, that’s an added bonus.)

It was a bad night for driving. Rain drops the size of marbles splattered against the windshield and gusts of wind battered the truck. The headlights peered into the gloom barely able to show the width of the pavement and unexpected mud puddles crashed against the undercarriage spilling murky water over the hood. Always too late, I slowed to reduce the impact.

Yet I persisted, fording the overflow on Wise Road where tentacles of soupy water curled out of the creek and across the pavement. I held my breath and prayed a little as I reached the deepest spot - the water was at running-board level. At last I reached the entrance to the club’s parking lot. Reluctantly, I braved the storm and got out to unlock the gate. Back in the truck, I dried off with an old towel and chose a parking spot well away from the thrashing limbs of the adjacent eucalyptus trees.

I got out of the truck, slid into my parka and started to struggle with my hip boots. "My Lord, it seems early," I muttered. Something seemed wrong. It was too dark, even with the clouds hiding the starlight. I stole a look at my watch. "Holy cow, it's 5a.m.," I exclaimed. I'd set my alarm wrong and was an hour early. It was an hour and a half until shoot time.

I sat there for a while listening to the radio with the heater spewing warm air and the wind and rain hammering the cab. Time passed slowly so I decided to go the blind and listen for ducks. The rain was still pouring and I stumbled and slipped as I made my way along the top of the dike. The glow of my flashlight struggled against the darkness making a halo of light amid the rain and mud. When I got to the blind, I opened the lock and dropped down inside. Then I propped up one side of the lid so the gale glanced up and away from my head. I busied myself bailing an inch of water from the bottom of the blind. It was kind of messy down there with spent shells and other trash strewn around. I said some curse words, but after a few minutes had the floor reasonably dry and the trash in a plastic bag.

Then I got my gear into shape. I hung my day pack on one of the hooks I'd fashioned from copper tubing, placed my favorite calls on a lanyard around my neck and laid the others neatly on the top shelf of the divider. I drew a cup of coffee from my thermos and practiced calling. I could hear speckled-bellied geese yodeling above and mallard hens protesting the weather in an adjoining check. I tried to emulate them. The clouds parted enough to let starlight drift onto the scene and I could see the decoys dancing on the choppy water. Skeins of geese and ducks floated above. It was beautiful in a violent sort of way.

The clouds closed again and it became very dark. I could hear birds talking and the whistle of wings over the blind but no longer could see the birds. It was cold and I was wet but I found it exciting. The promise of a beautiful morning and good shooting

made up for the present discomfort. Still, I felt tired and had another 30 minutes to wait. I propped myself on a stool in the corner of the blind and dozed with drops of rain dripping from the bill of my cap. Suddenly I woke with a terrible start. Something moist, slimy and warm had found its way against the back of my neck. I banged my head on the lid as I jumped to my feet. Then I realized it was Dave's dog, Molly. She had run ahead of her master to claim the first milk bone of the morning. When I recovered my composure, I gave her a treat and patted her head. What a nice dog. She wagged her tail, licked my cheek and nuzzled my neck. She and I were bosom buddies and she had retrieved many a bird for me.

Not far behind Molly came David lugging a shotgun in one hand and a pack filled with food and gear in the other. He opened the adjacent blind and started putting his things inside.

Soon, Art and Charlie came dragging in with loads of straw, another dog, shotguns and a sack full of cookies. They rinsed the mud off their boots and dropped into the tanks. By the time they got settled, the rain had eased a bit and birds were landing in the decoys. Whispers of gold were stealing in from the east and shoot time was only five minutes away. We were ready for another exhilarating morning at the blind.

(Presented by Jack Derby at the Wise Road Duck Club End-of-Season Dinner. Circa 1995)

The Haps in District 1

Several of us retirees joined the District administrative staff for a fun holiday lunch and ornament exchange at Chapala's in Eureka on December 12. I got to see fellow retirees, **Doug and Rita Coleman, Ted Cook, Tim Fisher, Janet Bottini, and Rick Knapp.**

On February 14, I had the opportunity to give a presentation on the California State Highway Convict/Honor Camps to the local Lions Club. The Lions Club officers include Caltrans retiree **Marty Van Zandt** and current CT employee **Royal McCarthy**. They and other members shared memories of the camps.

Cheryl Willis, our DDD of Planning retired recently and we had a delightful party at Gallagher's Restaurant in Eureka on February 15. Our District Director, **Charlie Fielder** served as MC. Some of the retirees at the party included **Marty Van Zandt**, **Rick** and **Jean Knapp**, **Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Spellenberg**, **David & Beverly Chang**, and soon to be retired **Alan Radford**. Cheryl received many honors from Caltrans and the other community organizations that she worked with. They will also miss her expertise and wise counsel. She and her husband, Roy, are looking forward to enjoying their retirement. Several of us had a chance to visit with another retiree, **Bob Murdock** and his wife, who also happened to be in Gallagher's and were pleasantly surprised to see several Caltrans retirees coming in.

We were saddened to lose two more of our retirees. Marilyn Ann Hernandez passed away January 30, 2013 at age 70. She is survived by her husband, Larry, also a District 1 retiree. She enjoyed many happy times with our ladies lunch group. We will miss her.

Wes Reinhardt passed away on February 12, 2013 at age 89. He had a long career with Caltrans in both Southern California and in District 1 as a Landscape Specialist. He enjoyed a long retirement. He was a good photographer, specializing in plants and flowers. He travelled extensively and enjoyed hiking.

Our deepest sympathies go out to the families and friends of **Marilyn** and **Wes**.

- **Arlene Hartin**

The Haps in District 2

Many thanks to District 2 Director, **John Bulinski** for his presentation at our last luncheon. Everyone in attendance gave rave reviews for the manner in which he brought us up to speed regarding the upcoming projects and developments along the S.R. 299 / Buckhorn corridor. The turnout was substantial considering the time of year and the weather forecasts.

The next **QCC District Luncheon** will be held at Lulu's Eating Establishment in Redding on Wed., April 11th at 11:30am. All QCCers, their guests, and any 25 year recipients are welcome to attend. Event is order from the menu. Announcements will be sent out prior to the luncheon. Contact Bill Belcher at shastqcc@yahoo.com or at (530)-347-9546 for information and attendance.

Mark your calendars for September 7th! That Saturday will be our annual QCC picnic at Anderson River Park. We once again have the gazebo reserved. Details will be sent out prior to the event. As always, all past and present Caltrans employees are invited to attend.

Bill Belcher has been selected by Heinz Heckeroth as the Northern Area Representative for the California Transportation Foundation. For general information about the CTF, you can contact Bill at shastaqcc@yahoo.com or at (530)-347-9546. An alternate CTF e-mail address will be set up for Bill at a later date.

Jim and Sandy Ceragioli tell us that since their last writing for the QCCer, they have had a bit of excitement. October 20 was their wedding in Reno NV. That date was chosen so he could not forget their anniversary as it is his birthday too. They had 20 family and friends in attendance and did the deed at Tamarack Junction Casino and Restaurant. They chose that location because his son knows the

Executive Chef. It was a wonderful choice and a good time was had by all.

Their honeymoon ended up being a trip to Australia and New Zealand. They left Redding on November 13 to drive to S.F. with friends Chris and Jerry Brown, boarded a flight to L.A., then off to Sydney at 9:30PM for a 14 hour flight arriving on Nov 15 at about 1PM. After arrival, they left their luggage at Sandy's time share and went to a local memorial park for the vets of Australia and New Zealand from the various wars starting with WWI. After being thoroughly impressed, they left the park via a different entrance than they entered and promptly got lost. He says that he just could not read the map and get directions straight in his head. After wandering around for over an hour, they decided to take a cab back which dropped them off one block away from the hotel. Although the driver pointed it out to them, they just stood there and could not see it. After much staring, they finally looked up and saw the sign and knew where they were. They spent 6 days in Sydney and had a wonderful time. Everyone was friendly and willing to help them find their way around. Sydney has a great free bus system for going around the core area. They saw the famous Opera House and went up in the Sydney Eye (which is similar to the Space Needle in Seattle), and took the outside tour, which required them to suit up in coveralls and harnesses.

Back aboard the cruise ship on Wednesday bound for Tasmania, the Tasmin Sea, and New Zealand. They visited 7 ports along the southeastern coast, returning to Sydney on Dec. 5 to fly back stateside, leaving Sydney at 3PM and landing in LA on Wednesday Dec. 5 at 9:30AM on the same day. After a very long flight, they spent the night at the El Rancho Best Western near the airport. Best deal in town as they left the car there for the entire 3 weeks and just had to pay \$5.00 per night for one week. Also, their restaurant served very good food and drink. That night they slept for 12 hours straight. Then, for New Years Eve, they spent 4 days on the Mendocino Coast at a little place called Irish Beach, north of Point Arena. Dinner on the 31st was at the Lost River Inn, which was excellent but a bit pricy.

We in District 2 were saddened to learn of the passing of two Quarter Century Club members, **Albert Phillips** and **Leila Hogan**. Our condolences are expressed to their families during this time of remembrance.

- **Bill Belcher**

The Haps in District 3

The annual Spring Party will be held on April 14th at the Peach Tree Gold and Country Club in Marysville. Social hour will be at 1:00 PM with a business meeting at 1:45 P.M. followed by a buffet luncheon at 2:00 P.M. For more information contact **Director Dan Johnson, Sr.** at (530) 671-3889 or **Carleen Hagen** at (530) 674-9026.

The District Office History Room is really coming together thanks to the efforts of Lead Person **Libby Haraughty** and volunteers, mainly **Carleen Hagen**, **Bob Mulcahy** and **Palmer Haug**, along with the cooperation of District 3 Personnel. Anyone interested in getting involved in this very worthwhile project is asked to Call Libby at (530) 673-5587.

Our condolences go out to those who have been ill and to those who have recently lost a loved one.

Lita Wells has stepped down as Treasurer. Lita held that position for many years and much appreciation and thanks go to her for an outstanding and dedicated job. She has advised she will still be involved whenever she is needed. **Carleen Hagen** has stepped forward and volunteered for the position in addition to her responsibility as Membership Chairperson. Thank you, Carleen.

Membership applications may be acquired by contacting Carleen at the above phone number or emailing her at hcdhagen@aol.com. In addition dues may be paid through her as well.

Spring is just around the corner which will bring many trips and vacations to other lands and new places as summer follows. We wish all happiness and health on your adventures and a safe return home. Please send me updates and stories so we can all share your experiences.

- Dan Johnson Sr.

The Haps in District 4

Jerry Hauke has been named Volunteer of the Year by the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts. I think most of us remember Jerry's work in Marin County on the international renowned Dipsea Race before he retired and left for Trinity County. I'll have more information on Jerry's post retirement career in the next Qccer.

I'm back after a six month hiatus. My wife and I have entered into a post retirement career of providing day care 4 days a week, from 8 am to 7 pm for our granddaughter, Gates. On Wednesday my wife spends the day with her ninety-two year old mother. This only leaves us Saturday and Sunday to do what we used to do in seven days. Our daughter, Eden, when she learned she was expecting was told by every one that finding day care so she could turn to work would be no problem. However when Gates was born my daughter found out there were no openings in quality day care centers and all she could do was get onto waiting lists and hope there would be openings during the year. She was told it could be as long as eighteen months before a slot became open. So my daughter and her husband went with Plan B: her grandparents! This is not to say my wife does not enjoy caring for our granddaughter. I think she will be heartbroken when Gates goes into day care.

I'll try to catch up with what's going on but things will be hit or miss until Gates is in day care.

Over the past year we have seen the passing of **Gerry Ducey** and **Dudley Sullivan**.

Gerry Ducey died on Christmas, 2012. He was eighty years old. He was born in South Dakota on March 9, 1932. He attended school in South Dakota, graduating from the South Dakota School of Mines. He came to California in 1957 and when to work for the California Division of Highways. He retired as Deputy District Director of Construction in 1993. After retiring he got his Realtor's and Surveyor' Licenses and started his own business, Dakota Associates and worked in Calavaras County. Even with the new career he still found time to go RVing with his wife Donna. Gerry's greatest dedication was to his family. He is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife Donna, his son, Terry and three daughters, Corrine, Sherrel, and Becky.

Dudley Sullivan passed away on July 31, 2012 at the age of Ninety. Dudley worked for Caltrans for 38 years before retiring. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Eleanor, his four children and five grand children. He was a native San Franciscan, attending St. Ignatius High School and City College of San Francisco where he obtained a degree in Civil Engineering. He was a World War II Veteran. But what he was most proud of was his Irish roots.

- Paul Hensley

The Haps in District 5

Hope the first few months of 2013 have been good to you. "Spring has sprung, the grass has riz..."

The annual District 5 Holiday BBQ was not quite as crowded this year, but still well attended. A delicious meal was prepared and served by **Richard Gonzales** and his expert crew. It was nice to see our old friends, even if we couldn't remember everyone's name. Our suggestion to the committee is name tags for all guests next year. **Sarah Von Schwind** was introduced as the new DDD-Project Management, and we learned the

district's construction program was a whopping \$467 million. WOW!

Congratulations to **Herb Filippini**, who celebrated his 80th birthday on New Year's Eve. The party was held in Pismo Beach at Scotty's Restaurant, owned by his daughter and son-in-law Dana and Scott Milstead.

Please think good thoughts for **Bill Harms** who is recovering from a recent illness.

I'm sorry to tell you that we have lost several D-5 friends the past few months:

Ruth Elaine Horton , widow of Oliver "Bud" Horton	August 28
Gilbert Rivera Doris Metz , widow of Bill Metz	August 28 December 28
Kenneth Taylor Walter Pflughaar	January 12 January 24
Ray Harrigan William Todd	January 29 February 10
JoAnn Wilding , wife of Dave Wilding	February 11

Knowing and working with them was a pleasure, and our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

- **Kathleen Copeland**

The Haps in District 6

District 6 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

The Haps in District 7

The Annual Holiday Luncheon at the Miyako Inn on Saturday, December 1, 2012 was a great success. This year saw several regulars and some "new" faces as more 25-year+ veterans become involved, including: **Tom and Linda Albany, Nicolas and Nicola Angeopolis, Lou and Ruth Bedolla, Walt Bowman, Bob and Irene Goodell, Heinz Heckerroth, Carol and Dick Huntwork, Mary and Carlos Jaramillo, Stan Lisiewicz, Chuck and Loreta Mathews, Paul McElwin, Mike Miles, Ken Miller, Doris and Ohe Nakamura, Dale Neumen, Jackie Nicoles, Marie Martin and Bob Walters, Al Reece, Judy and Dennis Reynolds, Bob Sassaman, Carol Schumaker, Dick Smith, Kirsten and Stewart Stahl, and Millie Yamada.** There were enough past District Executives to have a District Director table this year!

Mike Miles shared insights into District 7 successes and challenges, such as several Exec staff departures, replaced by new invigorated people, Carmeggeddon II, "swarm" maintenance closures and the looming Design-Build and Public-Private-Partnership trends.

Bob Sassaman's winery is keeping him busy. He had enough of a grape harvest at Skunk Hollow this year to produce a case of wine. How much fun is that? He says that some years the grapes are more productive than others, but don't expect to see his vintage at Trader Joe's any time soon.

Among the missing were **Paul and Maxine In** who were on another cruise, and **Dave and Marjorie Roper**, due to car trouble (as we understand it).

Thanks to **Doris Nakamura**, there was a delightful array of tempura, teriyaki chicken, rice, mizo soup, salad and fresh fruit. The festive centerpiece was varying sizes of hat boxes, with seasonal pinecones, ribbons and roses. The "gift exchange" included

candy, wine, cookies, movies, and bath and beauty items.

Tom and the District 8 QCC Director, will coordinate the 2013 luncheons on December 7th and 14th respectively, to avoid conflict with District 8's party (usually the week after ours), so mark your calendars now, to be with District 7 for the holidays!

MONTHLY GROUP MEETS

If you missed the holiday lunch, here's another opportunity... The **Tom Fera** Lunch Group is full of thought provoking dialog! These activators meet on the second Wednesday of each month, except December. The next several meetings are: **April 10, 2013** at Joselito's West; **May 8, 2013** at the Steer N' Ale; and **June 12, 2013** at the China Olive. The remaining 2013 dates and addresses follow below.

RESTAURANTS AND PROPOSED LUNCHEON DATES FOR 2013

[Second Wednesday of every month except December]

April 10, 2013	Joselito's West
May 8, 2013	Steer N' Ale
June 12, 2013	China Olive
July 10, 2013	Joselito's West
August 14, 2013	Steer N' Ale
September 11, 2013	China Olive
October 9, 2013	Joselito's West
November 13, 2013	Steer N' Ale
December 7, 2013	QCC Luncheon

China Olive Chinese Restaurant;
9224 Reseda Boulevard, Northridge, CA 91324;
(818) 998-3688

Joselito's West Mexican Restaurant;
7308 Foothill Boulevard, Tujunga, CA 91042;
(818) 951-2275

Steer N' Ale Restaurant;
3644 E. Foothill Boulevard, Pasadena, CA 91107;
(626) 796-2278

For more information about meetings, etc., contact: **Chuck O'Connell** at (661) 253-3428 or chuckoconnell@prodigy.net, or **Tom Gildersleeve** at (661) 259-6226 or tgilders@pacbell.net.

King for a Day

Mardi Gras went to the dogs earlier this Month at the L.A. Farmers Market at 3rd and Fairfax. **Marie Martin**, entered her dog **Bismarck**, an enormous New Foundland dog, in an event where dogs in costume compete for prizes. Marie wrote, "I dressed in a black faux fur coat and put a white equally faux fur scarf around my neck - exactly the same color scheme as Bismarck. We both wore mardi gras beads. Bismarck won "King of the Mardi Gras", big dog division! We got two goody bags for prizes. Bismarck got a bag of gourmet lamb dog food, [four] bags of treats, including those specialty bakery ones that look like yummy people cookies, a jar of 'dogsbutter'... peanut butter specially formulated for dogs, and doggie "candy" bars[; as] for me[, I won a] \$25 gift certificate for any Farmers' Market shop, a Farmers Market baseball cap, a \$25 gift certificate for dinner, and the Farmers' Market cookbook." Marie's friend, **Salene Weatherwax**, from the famous family who trained "Lassie", is credited with the idea to enter, and "is already thinking up costumes for next year."

Recent Sightings and Retirements

Kiumars "Ken" Pahlevani, of the Permits Office, retired with 25 years of state service, with a celebratory luncheon, October 30, 2012, at Shiraz restaurant, in Glendale.

After 37 years of state service, "**Carter**", in Building Facilities, hung up his tool belt, while his 7th and 8th floor cohorts held a coffee celebration for him December 17, 2012, in the DO.

After 34 years of state service, **Barbara Levis**, from Public Information, is embarking on another adventure in life: retirement. A coffee celebration in her honor was held December 19, 2012, in the DO.

Robert “Bob” Diaz, Caltrans Electrical Supervisor, with Special Crews/Electrical Region, retired with 37 years, celebrated his last “10-10” on December 28, 2012.

Linda Wright, Senior Transportation Planner, wrote, “My dear District 7 colleagues, I am retired from Caltrans as of December 29, 2012 after 32 years, all of them here in D7 and 30 years in Public Transportation. It has been quite a ride, and I’ve met and worked with some amazing people here, in HQ and our other districts over these years. Thank you, all of you, and especially the “old Romans” among us who always find a way to network with each other and work around obstacles to solve problems and to help our fellow Caltrans colleagues, our partner agencies and most of all, the California public -- even when they don’t appreciate us for all we do! Wishing you all health, wealth and happiness in all the years to come! A few of the “old Romans” met at the T Room in Montrose, to celebrate accordingly.

Marie Martin, Bob Walters, and Judy and Dennis Reynolds, and Stewart and Kirsten Stahl, rang in the New Year (and Marie’s Annual Birthday Bash) at the Glendale Center Theater, with champagne, cherry cheese cake and the play “*Heaven Can Wait*”.

Mike and Pat Perovich at the Sea Fare Inn, on Taco Tuesday, in Whittier.

Paul and Maxine In at Kaiser Permanente in Baldwin Park. As a retired co-worker, we probably know something about **Paul**, but what about **Maxine**? While chatting, she shared how she worked for many years in the justice profession, and enjoyed another lengthy career at Disneyland; and then they were off to a local Denny’s for breakfast.

Tom Almany and Chuck Webster on a road trip to Ventura to evaluate some failing “warm mix additive” chip seal. All agreed the inclement weather provided a great opportunity to highlight all

the pavement cracks and other deficiencies. Yes, we know, highway folks are like this. :)

Attending the Black History Month Celebration in the DO, was **Paul Perez**, former training officer and Engineer, and as a scheduled speaker, **Deborah Robertson**, retired as Deputy District Director of External Affairs, in her new role as Mayor of Rialto. While the inspirational *Expressions Dance Company*, “Let Freedom Ring” panelists, and a moving portrayal of **Dr. Martin Luther King** by **Actor Ernest Harding, Jr.** gave us food for thought, we joyfully munched the real food - fried or baked chicken, green beans, mac-n-cheese, and strawberry-banana parfait.

Tom Zawistawski, a retired RE, at the Downey Construction Office, the first RE in District 7 to build precast pavement, on the I-10, in El Monte.

Road Last Traveled



Robert “Bob” Hess, passed away at home Saturday night, January 12, 2013. Born February 18, 1942, he grew up in Ventura, and worked as a Surveyor, until his retirement from Caltrans two years ago. **Bob** was also involved with Little League and Jobs Daughters, where he

touched so many lives.

Tom Gildersleeve reported the passing of **John Bemis**.



Art Salazar wrote, “**John Bemis** worked for **Dock Wong** in old Project Development Branch B and then in Branch D when District 12 was formed and took Branch B with them.

Back in the day we considered **John** one of the greatest design minds of our time. The major expansion of I-5 in Orange County (from the LA County line to Jamboree Road) was largely **John's** brainchild. I had the privilege of working with him on my 5/55 Interchange project.” Others attributed to getting the word out, were: **Chuck O’Connell, Ray Higa, and Bob Sassaman.**

Be Like Tom, Chuck, Marie, Ray, Bob, and Art!

Retired but not Tired? Then get on board and write a few words of your adventures. A post card, text, or e-mail now and then would be easy enough, yes? Don’t just stay in touch – get in touch! Please send your items, to: **Caltrans, attn: Kirsten Stahl, 100 S. Main St. Suite 100 MS 13, Los Angeles, CA 90012.** Phone 213-897-0470, or e-mail: kirsten.stahl@dot.ca.gov.

Tom reminds you that the District 7 QCC Director and Treasurer are available, and you can reach him directly at 17200 So. Stark Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90701-1822.

Please send **DUES (checks), membership applications and honorary member status information, to Statewide QCC Secretary/Treasurer Mike Ogilvie** directly...

WAKE UP!

It is time to send in those vacation/gardening/concert/train travel details you’ve been hoarding. If not you, then who? (Hey, I’m creative, but I’m not that creative!)

Many thanks to those who forwarded information and who were not otherwise mentioned above – **Lauren Wonder, Kathleen Ledesma, and Millie Yamada,** with profuse apologies if I forgot to mention you or misspelled your name(s).

- **Kirsten Stahl**

The Haps in District 8

Our annual District 8 Christmas Luncheon was held on Saturday, December 5, at Hannah’s Restaurant in San Bernardino. We had over 70 reservations from retirees and guests who enjoyed great camaraderie and food as always.

Those members in attendance were: **John & Kay Anderson, Jim & Joanne Balcom, Loren & Margaret Barnett,** guest **Bill Bengtson, Mary Bermudez, Dennis Blakkolb,** guest **Dick Barrett, Morgan Choate, Gil & Jeanette Daab, John & Doris Estrada, Janice Feenstra, Bill Feenstra, Les Franz, Jim & Jan Geller, Linda & Wes Grimes, Angela Hall, Harold & Pat Herring, Doug Hogue, Phil & Miriam Holdaway, Al & Judi Hudgens, Carolyn Johns, Allan & Jane Kirst, Jim & Pam Landfried, Frank Lehr, Stan & Ina Lisiewicz, Dick Longstreet and his guests, Don & Eudene Troy, Marsha Lotze, Phosie Lotze, Gerald Lunt, Jim & Linda Miller, Maxine Nelson, Ernie Parke, Bob & Linda Pester, Sybille Phillips, Joe Potwardowski, Tom & Bonnie Powell, Virginia Reed, Linda Salmond, Bob Sassaman, Bud & Judy Smith, Taylor & Katie Smith and guest Jim Moore, Roy Smoot and guest Marge Bruhn, Ken Steele, and Linda Supernaw.**

Heard around the room were **Bob Sassaman** talking of his trip to Cuba... **Stan and Ina Lisiewicz** talking of their trip to Holland to visit her family... and completing the Los Angeles Marathon 2012 and training for 2013... we all sang Happy Birthday to **Andy Anderson** decked out in Christmas red...

Honorary QCC Certificates were presented to **Jim Balcom** and to **Joe Potwardowski**... **Wes Grimes** and **Marsha Lotze** were “reelected” to be District 8 QCC officers... **Loren Barnett,** our oldest member, was present and full of good cheer... **Bill Feenstra** has a “coupon”... **Tom Powell** and **Bonnie** were present, despite Bonnie’s recent illness... **Bob “Gordo”** and wife **Hannah Viveros** were absent, but always make a

reservation and keep dues up... **Hal Herring, Jim Moore** and **Dick Barrett** (all former District 8'ers) were special guests of **Taylor Smith**. Taylor gave a news roundup to the crowd... We received Honorary QCC Certificates too late for the Christmas Luncheon so **Bud Smith, Gil Daab,** and **Andy Anderson** will have to wait until our summer event for their presentation.

Many door prizes and poinsettias were won by members and guests. Those winning \$25.00 cash prizes this year were **Taylor Smith, Linda Miller, Bonnie Powell,** and **Maxine Nelson**. And a great time was had by all.

Taylor and **Katie Smith** returned from Washington, D.C. where they enjoyed Christmas with family. Their grandson, Collin Kelly has done three "tours" in Afghanistan as a photographer for Gannett News... **Jim Balcom's** "County" group held a holiday luncheon at The Spaghetti Factory in Redlands. Those attending included **Morgan Choate, Doug Hogue, Wes Grimes, Wes Knoch** (all former Caltrans) as well as several other "County" folk... **Richard Haight** had hip replacement surgery late in December, but after returning home for a week, developed an infection and had to be readmitted to the hospital for treatment. Cheers, Dick...

Got a note from **Ralph Wheeler** (former District 8'er) still living in Maryland (after layoffs in the 70's) and working in the Baltimore County Highway Design and Construction Section... vacationed in Utah and visited with Duane Sharp (retired District 8 Construction) among other activities.

The monthly Retired Caltrans Ladies Lunch was scheduled for February 20, at Nena's... attendees planning to attend at press time included **Janice Feenstra, Charlotte Shehan, Linda Supernaw, Mary Bermudez, Linda Grimes** and **Marcy Cagle**...

Tom and **Bonnie Powell** hosted a Valentine's luncheon at Granlund's Restaurant in Yucaipa on

February 12... Attendees included **Jim** and **Pam Landfried**. They are planning trips to Colorado and Hawaii... **Jim** and **Linda Miller** planning trips to Boston and Hawaii... **Dick Longstreet, Wes & Linda Grimes** and the **Powell's** all wishing for trips to Hawaii as well!

Janice Feenstra is showing off a photograph of her first great grandchild, a beautiful baby named Hayle Beth.

Taylor Smith, our beloved District 8 QCC Director for many years, has been hospitalized with an infection. He has been receiving aggressive treatment and is expected to make a full recovery, much to the relief of his wife, Katie, son Paul and his family on the East Coast. Not to mention his many friends across the State... UPDATE: Taylor has been moved to Reche Canyon Rehabilitation Hospital for further treatment of his infection. He is doing well and a full recovery is expected.

Roy and Marcy Cagle are making two round trips to Tennessee before summer arrives and later this year are going on a river cruise in Europe. They will start in Vienna and end in Amsterdam. Sounds like a great trip! They will be traveling with Roy's cousin who has previously done the same trip. Wow, must be great to go twice.

Roses to **Les** and **Vera Franz** in the loss of their son, Jerry. He passed away suddenly early in February. He had been living with them for some time and his passing so suddenly is a shock to family and friends alike. Yours truly remembers bowling with Jerry and Les in the Caltrans Bowling League many years ago. Graveside funeral services were held Friday, February 22, at Montecito Memorial Park in Grand Terrace.

Sympathies also to the families of;

Nick Soffa (Jr.), 81, who worked for the Division of Highways for 12 years in the "Golden Era", leaving to join Kasler Corporation (highway construction) as an estimator. Nick retired from them as Vice President after 22 years. Nick is survived by his wife and a large

family and was active in civic affairs and the Greek Orthodox Church.

Evelyn Erwin, wife of **Jim Erwin**, retired Caltrans Resident Engineer passed away recently. Jim and Evelyn were married 62 years until her passing. Evelyn was a kind and loving person, and is survived by Jim and a large family; including six great great grandchildren.

REMINDERS: Our annual summer luncheon will be in July. Please keep your calendar open. The luncheon is usually around the middle of July on a Saturday to be determined soon.

Dues are now due for 2013. If you haven't sent them yet please do so to Statewide Treasurer **Mike Ogilvie** or District 8 Secretary/Treasurer **Marsha Lotze**.

- **Marsha Lotze**

The Haps in District 9

District 9 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

The Haps in District 10

At the January 29, 2013 breakfast, **Tom Rasmussen** drafted up a quick Super Bowl pool (sorry Tom its spelled Bowl not Bowl). Anyway **Tom Wright** won the \$100 pool. He said it was one of the last squares and he just took it to help fill it out. Understand that **Russ Jackson** won a \$60 pool.

From **Chris Wendland**:

I departed from New Orleans in 80 degree weather on a cruise of the Western Caribbean. New Orleans has such wonderful historic sites, wonderful people, good food, and of course great cocktails. I would return and stay for a week, so much to see and do. Cruise to Costa Maya for a wild ATV venture, really tested my driving skills, and explored the Mayan ruins. Then to Belize, such wonderful tropical adventures, including an outstanding butterfly farm. Next port of call was Roatan, Honduras, great beaches and lots of animal adventures to tour. Last port was Cozumel, shopped till I dropped and scarfed up on great authentic Mexican food and cervezas. My favorite port was Roatan, really suited for a week stay or more.

From the **Biffels**

Hello all. Five of us took off for a 2 week cruise around South America from Santiago, Chili, to Buenos Aires, Argentina, from SF. Our daughter **Bonny** shared a Mini suite with us, while Bob's sister Ginny and husband Gary had their own cabin.

In Santiago, we were bussed 50 miles, through rolling hills of grapes, like Napa Valley, to Valparaiso on the coast, and the Star Princess. And no luggage for Bonny. It did finally arrive at our door after we had sailed.

The scenery is agricultural and pretty; volcanoes, mountains and vintage like clothes, and houses in many areas. A few animals we normally do not see here in the States. Money was very different. Their Pesos were like in the thousands etc. So we never knew what we were paying, but was high. In our money, \$ 4.00 to just mail a Post Card, so nobody got any this trip. LOL.

The cruise through the Chilean Fiords is like cruising up in Alaska, through the Ice fields. Glaciers right down to the water, but melting so fast, like big rivers. We took a few side trips at some of the ports. To celebrate Bob's 82 birthday while at Ushuaia, we all rode on a narrow gage

Railroad that was built by prisoners . Ushuaia, Argentina, calls itself the most Southern Town in the Americas. Punta Arenas, Chili is right on the Beagle Channel and they claim to be the Southernmost CITY . They fight over that distinction. The border line between the 2 countries runs through a part of Ushuaia.

As we rounded the Cape Horn area into the Atlantic, the weather got a little rough. The tenders couldn't be put in water at the Falklands, so we missed going ashore there this trip. We know there are buried land minds from the war between Argentina and England a few years back. We did get into Puerto Madryn for Bob to finally get to visit the Dinosaur Museum, which was our main destination on our first trip, but then weather conditions wouldn't let us go in . We also saw lamas and a huge herd of sea lions while there. Also Penguins and many birds.

We all were glad to get to Buenos Aires and 1 last cruise on the Tiger River. That is a small river where people go to get away from life. In fact the stores are really BOATS that tie up along the way and people come buy their goods from the boat stores. School boats come to pick up children and take them to many small schools all over. No roads, electricity, or cars; everything is done by boat. Even commuting into the city.

We are looking forward to the next cruise even though we got sick toward the end of the trip. We are still trying to regain our strength. Have a great safe summer. Till next you hear from us.

The Traveling **Biffels**.

From **Bill Selling**

On January 2, 2013, **Allan** and **Anne Wells** and **Bill** and **Darlene Selling** flew out of San Francisco to Auckland, New Zealand. We took a tour of Auckland with a stop at the Botanical Gardens for tea and then toured the awesome gardens. From there, we did some more sightseeing on our way to board our ship, the Celebrity Solstice, for a 12-day

cruise around New Zealand, Hobart, Tasmania and ending up in Sydney, Australia.

Our first port of call was Tauranga on January 5th. We took a tour via the Pyes Pa route to Rotorua, where we visited the Te Puia Maori Culture Center. Here we viewed the Kiwi Bird, weaving, woodcarving and walked through the thermal area with geysers like "Old Faithful". Then we traveled to the Government Gardens stopping at the Rotorua Museum. On our return trip to the ship, we went by Okere Falls where we viewed white water rafting and stopped at the Kiwi 360 farm. Saw how the Kiwis are grown and had some kiwi wine and some awesome Kiwi ice cream.

From there, we traveled the beautiful waterfront and beaches back to our ship. Then Monday, January 7th, we arrived in Wellington and we went to the New Zealand National Museum Del Papa which is one of the most awesome museums you ever want to see. We took a short stroll to the cable car to go to the top of the mountain to see the botanical gardens, and walk the area of Zealandia sanctuary, then a short walk to the bus back to our ship. Tuesday, January 8th, we stopped at Akaroa, a small inlet we had to go into because the harbor at Christchurch was basically destroyed during the earthquake. We took a small tour van on our way to Christchurch with a stop at a local Cheese factory for some samples. Then on to an art gallery, craft shop, and then drove up to Port Hills above Christchurch where we could see across to the Southern Alps and over to the Canterbury Plains.

From there, we drove down into the city of Christchurch where we saw the Cataberry Museum, botanical gardens, and the art center. We toured around Christchurch which was mind-boggling by the damage that was done by the earthquake. Turns out that our guide, works in a building that was basically totally destroyed with over 100 of his friends and colleagues dying that day. It happened to be his day off; he gave us a real moving first-hand experience of what the earthquake was like.

It is a beautiful town even as they rebuild it now. There were parts of the town where they had no plumbing for up to eight months. Parts of the downtown shopping stores are now made up of sea land containers. From there, we took a scenic drive back to our ship. Wednesday, January 9th, we docked in Dunedin and we took a tour of the Port Chalmers Harbor and on to Baldwin Street which is the steepest street in the world. Then on to Signal Hill where you could see all over the city and drove by the Otago University. We stopped at Dunedin Rail Station, a gem to say the least, on our way to the Larnach Castle and the beautiful gardens.

For lunch, we stopped at a local kiwi pub with magnificent harbor views. Food was awesome as was their own ice cream, Hokey Pokey!! Then a scenic tour of Lococo Peninsula on our way to get some bird watching along the Otago Peninsula and ended up at the Albatross center where there's more birds than you could ever imagine seeing.

January 10th, 11th & 12th were at sea sailing through Dusky Sound, Doubtful Sound, and Milford Sound for the most awesome scenery you will ever see in your life and boy can it rain there, thundering and lightning and the seas were a little on the rough side going in that area but well worth the trip! On January 13th, we arrived in Hobart, Tasmania. We took a tour to the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens and strolled through the beautiful flowers and trees, they even had California Redwoods. From there, we toured up to the Rosny Hill Lookout and saw two wild kangaroos hop across the street in front of us. The view at Mount Wellington of Tasmania's southeastern coast opens up before you.

We arrived in Sydney on Tuesday, 15 January, and immediately took a tour around the Sydney area. Sydney is probably one of the most beautiful large cities you will ever see any place! You could spend easily a week to 10 days there and still not see everything. We toured the Royal Botanical Gardens and took beautiful pictures of the Sydney Harbor, the Opera House, and the bridge you see on

television with the fireworks all the time with our ship is the background. At Sentinel Park our tour guide, that was just phenomenal, stopped and her daughter had a table set up for us to have tea with all kinds of Australian goodies. Then on to Central Park which overlooks the whole harbor; she broke out the champagne and we all celebrated the beautiful scenery and the beautiful tour. For lunch, we headed to Bondi Beach for an awesome lunch.

January 16th was our last day on board ship. We disembarked in the morning, claimed our luggage, and took it on the tour bus with us. We took a panoramic tour of the highlights of another part of Sydney which included The Rocks, Harbor Bridge, flotilla of yachts, mansions of Watson's Bay, and Manley Beach. After viewing the Harbor Bridge up close, we boarded our tour bus and headed for the airport where we unloaded our bags and started through the custom process. Once completed, we were into the main terminal which is like no other terminal I have ever seen any place that I've ever been, awesome place!! We went back to reality and had lunch at McDonald's and it tasted great.

Overall it was a trip of a lifetime. We were fortunate to have two other awesome couples at our table and we just had a ball. We were the party table of the dining room, grand time by all!

Anne Wells did all of the planning for our tours and let me tell you, there is no better tour guide than her!! It's because of her that the trip was such a success and we're forever grateful for her putting everything together!! We just really thoroughly enjoyed New Zealand and I'm sure if we got to see the outback and scenery of Australia, we would fall in love with it too. Awesome people and an awesome trip!! **Bill and Darlene Selling**

On a sad note; **Bert Forschler** passed away on February 20, 2013.

William E. "Bill" Todd, died on February 10, 2013. Bill worked for the California Department of

Transportation for 30 years. He was an Administrative Right of Way Agent, but was most proud of his work as a Team Builder/Facilitator.

- **Brian Young**

The Haps in District 11

The annual banquet luncheon at the Barra Barra Saloon in Old Town State Historic Park in mid-January was another success. There were over 80 attendees and everyone appeared to be having a good time and enjoying the Mexican buffet. The QCC members unanimously supported returning to Barra Barra for next year's luncheon. Our raffle was fun and profitable with many people donating wonderful gifts. There were also lots of happy winners leaving with great treasures. We had folks traveling far and wide for the event including **John Haydon** who came all the way from Chino Valley in Arizona. Both **Doug Tugwell** and **Sharon Mills** found their way down to San Diego from Orange County. **Jösan Feathers** was re-elected as the San Diego Section Director.

Next on our calendar is our Annual BBQ at Santee Lakes on Saturday, September 14, 2013 so save the date!

Our monthly Romeo meeting continues to be well attended with anywhere from 30 to 40 attendees. Come join us on the third Wednesday of every month. We start gathering at 8 AM and place our orders by 8:30 AM at the Denny's at the corner of Fletcher Parkway and Navajo Road.

Road Last Traveled:

On February 23, 2013 **Denny Paquin** passed away. He began his career in 1964, in what was then known as the Division of Highways as a Construction Field Tester in Construction Surveys. He went on to become a Project Field Tester and ultimately a Plant Inspector in the Materials Lab where he retired after

more than three decades. He was a member of the QCC.

Eleanor Quiram passed away on February 24, 2013 in Rockaway Beach, Missouri. Eleanor worked for the Maintenance, Administration and Planning Divisions and retired in 1987 after more than 30 years with the District. She was an honorary QCC member.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of **Denny and Eleanor**.

On a brighter note, please send me your stories, notes or updates so I can include in the next edition.

- **Jösan Feathers**

The Haps in Central

Hope this finds everyone healthy, happy and enjoying this awesome weather! Central District had a great holiday party in December. Over 80 participants enjoyed a yummy lunch, fun-filled raffle and lots of laughs and good cheer. We hope our luncheons continue to be so successful.

Our next get-together will be on Thursday, April 25, 2013 at the Dante Club. Please circle the date! We will celebrate summer at the Dante Club on Thursday, August 22, 2013. Turn around twice and it will be time for our Holiday Luncheon on Wednesday, December 11, 2013!!

Julie and I welcomed our fifth grandchild, Drake Thomas Estonillo, on December 20th. Our youngest daughter, Lauren, is the proud mommy! Our eldest grandson, Josh, graduated from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, also in December! The last few months have been busy and we're lovin' it. We stayed in our timeshare in Del Mar the first week of December. We always visit the Zoo,

Safari Land and the harbor this time going via ferry to Coronado. In January, we visited Pacific Grove and the Monarch butterflies. We saw a pod of whales while picnicking on the beach along 17 mile drive.

On February 23rd, we are sailing round trip from Los Angeles to the Hawaiian Islands. We'll visit Oahu, Kauai, Maui and the Big Island. In May, we're heading to Alaska. We're sailing out of San Francisco up to Juneau and back visiting fun spots along the way. On September 21st, we will officially celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary on the Big Island. Oh, happy day! It has been and continues to be a great ride! – **Gary and Julie Bush**

The Central District welcomed the following new Honorary Members:

Davis, Derwin H
Graebe, Frederick
Greenlee, Joy
Kwolek, Carol D
Reeves, John E
Smith, Walter P

From **Ray Fisher**:

I'm 92 and still running tours for our Church group. Two last year; one to Branson, MO with 45 of us---and another 45 to the Singing Christmas Tree in Portland. The next one will be to the Wildlife Safari at Winston, OR---another 44 and overnight. I'd like to get down there for one of the luncheons--but my families are either in WA or Tahiti so we go in those directions when we can. Thanks for your contact.

- **Gary and Julie Bush**

The Red Baron and Me

By Jim Kitchen

Only this Red Baron's name is John Bowman, Lead Pilot for the Red Baron Stearman Squadron. I was a winner in a contest to "Fly with the Red Baron," sponsored by Red Baron Frozen Pizza and Raley's and Belaire Markets.

I arrived at Mather Field (formerly Mather AFB), Sacramento to see 4 Red Barron Stearmans parked in a row on the apron. I checked in with the flight coordinator and was introduced to John Bowman who would be my pilot. Bryan Regan who normally flies the slot will be our wingman for today's sortie. Bryan carries another contest winner.

I climb into the forward cockpit. John runs down the safety check list, and straps me into the parachute harness. Parachute?? Whoa, now!! John explains that the parachute is a FAA Requirement. He's never bailed out, nor has a passenger. John locks the lap belt in place. And, I put on the helmet/headphones. He points to a red button labeled intercom on the instrumental panel, and tells me to press the button to talk to him.

John starts the 450 hp Pratt and Whitney engine, and gives thumbs up to Bryan in Red Baron #2. I hear the tower giving the Red Baron Team takeoff clearance over the intercom. John pulls out onto the apron with Bryan following us, and says "I can't see over the nose, so I have to weave while taxing." We reach the end of the runway, John swings wide, and Red Baron #2 tucks in on our right wing. All 450 horses roar to life as we start down the runway.

We head South East away from populated areas, climbing to 2500 feet. "Would you like to do some mild aerobatics," asks John over the intercom. "Sure" I answered.

"Here goes an aileron roll" says John as the nose dips to build up some speed. We enter a right roll, the horizon rotates and I'm momentarily hanging upside down as we pass through inverted, and roll back to level.

"Now for an inside loop." The nose pulls up, I lose the horizon before seeing it again upside down, before returning to level flight.

"Hammerhead turn next!" After we pull to vertical, John kicks in right rudder just before the stall, and the

tail whips over. Then we're going straight down, soon pulling out to level.

We head back towards Mather Field, and John requests landing clearance for the Red Baron Team. As we fly parallel to the runway, John says, "We are going to make a steep turn to land," wings tilt left at 50 degrees as we began a 180 degree turn to line up with the runway. We came out of the turn at 50 feet; lined up on the centerline, and gently touched down. Taxing back to the holding area with Red Baron #2 close behind, we turn to line up with the two Stearmans already there, and coast to a stop. Thanks, Red Baron for the thrill of a lifetime!!

Epilogue: In 2007, the Red Baron Pizza Squadron was retired by its owner. The Squadron which flew vintage Boeing PT-17 Stearman World War II primary trainers conducted more than 2,000 performances over the past 28 years.

2012 Year-end Report

Beginning Balance, 1/1/2012		\$19,325
Income:		
Dues*	11,130	
New member fees	22	
Donations	187	
Total Income		11,339
Expenses:		
QCCer newsletters	4,552	
Postage	687	
Editor	998	
Sec/Treas	1,115	
Secretary expenses	375	
Dist expenses reimbursed	490	
District recruiting expenses reimbursed	50	
QCC web site	100	
Total expenses		-8,367
Ending Balance, 12/31/11		<u>\$22,297</u>
Less Future Obligations**		-13,724
Excess of cash on hand		<u>\$8,573</u>

* Contains dues paid for years beyond 2012

** 1152 membership years paid in advance

Events

Got a group that meets regularly? Let your director know and we'll add it to the event calendar.

District 1 -

Caltrans retirees and QCC members meet on the 3rd Thursday of the months of January, April, July and October at 11:30 am at the Samoa Cookhouse.

Contact **John Sherman** at
jsherman1@Humboldt1.com
or call (707) 498-2629 for details.

District 2 -

Retired Caltrans Ladies Lunch Bunch meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11:30 AM, location varies.

Contact **Judy Tucker** at
linedancerjudyt@citlink.net

Retired folks meet on the 3rd Monday of each month between 7:30 and 9 am at the District Office snack bar at 1657 Riverside Drive Redding.

District 3 -

Weekly Tuesday Coffee/Breakfast at 8:30 am at the "Green House" in the Raley's Shopping Center in Placerville.

Contact: **Doug Becker** 530-622-1665,
doug.becker@att.net

District 4 -

The Caltrans Lunch Bunch meets on the second Tuesday of every month.

Contact: **Ed Coble** 925-645-4219,
edcoble49@astound.net

Administration Retirees Lunch meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the Mexicali Rose Restaurant in downtown Oakland at 11:30am.
Contact **Anita Appiano** (aappiano@pacbell.net) or **Kathy Freeman** (kathy.freeman1@att.net).

The North Bay Caltrans Retirees meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

Contact: **Jim Boulter** 707-546-3097,
jboulter@comcast.net

District 5 -

Contact **Kathy Copeland**: 805-544-1834
bcopel4674@aol.com

District 6 -

The Caltrans Retiree Breakfast meets at 9 am on the third Wednesday in March and September at the Waffle House on Route 68 in Lindsay. Contact: **Don Phillips** 559-781-2057

Informal Coffee at 8 am on Thursdays at Country Waffles at the NW corner of Herndon and Cedar.

An informal District 6 bunch meets at Santa Fe Basque Restaurant at 3110 N Maroa Ave, south of Shields in Fresno the first Monday of the month.

District 7 -

The Tom Fera Monthly Luncheon Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month (except December) in Los Angeles.

Contact: **Chuck O'Connell** at (661) 253-3428 or chuckoconnell@prodigy.net, or **Tom Gildersleeve** at (661) 259-6226 or tgilders@pacbell.net.

April 10, 2013	Joselito's West
May 8, 2013	Steer N' Ale
June 12, 2013	China Olive

See **D-7 Haps** for addresses and phone numbers

District 8 -

Every Wednesday morning at 9:00 Construction Retirees and anyone else interested meet at Coco's Restaurant in San Bernardino.

District 9 -

Contact: **Lance Hinek**, 760-873-3885,
hinek@suddenlink.net

District 10 -

For details on events contact **Brian Young**

209-329-3445 cell or blyoung365@gmail.com.

Lenny's Huddle meets at 7:30 am on the last Tuesday of the month at Denny's, I-5 and March Lane in Stockton.

Contact: **Stan Randolph**, 209-957-1278,
stanran3672@aol.com

District 11-

ROMEOS (Retired Old Men Eating Out) meets at Denny's, Navajo Road at Fletcher Parkway at 8:30 am the third Wednesday of every month.

Contact: **Butch Biendara**, 858-279-5054
EagleAyerie@hotmail.com

Annual Picnic
 Saturday September 14, 2013
 At Santee Lakes
 More details to follow

Central District -

Contact **Gary or Julie Bush**
 530-642-8208
zbusharosa@wildblue.net

New 2012 Honorary Members

NAME	DISTRICT
Kay, Alton R. (Bob)	1
Quigley, Thomas F	1
Drennan, Jerry	2
Gough, Harley M	2
McGee, Lucile	2
Bundock, Davis C	3
Burrow, Robert O	3
Emmons, Betty C	3
Haug, Palmer D	3
Mulcahy, Robert A	3
Parker, John A 'Jack'	3
Sanger, John E	3

Wright, Wilbur C	3
Young, Richard C	3
Browne, Joseph	4
Crockett, Robert W	4
Hansen, Ethlyn Ann	4
Johnson, Joseph W	4
Bland, Gifford M	5
Filipponi, Herb W	5
Schultz, Gary E	5
Cartwright, Mary-Ann G	7
Cooper, Lois L	7
Joe, Robert W	7
Medina, Angel	7
Miyataki, Haruto	7
Nakamura, Doris T	7
O'Connell, Charles J	7
Anderson, John W	8
Daab, Gilbert	8
Smith, Rensselaer	8
Jones, Harold E	9
Bettencourt, Gordon R	10
Bunch, Douglas A	10
Deiro, Robert R	10
Gagliano, John	10
Bradfield, Donald L	11
Culver, Melvin P (Tom)	11
Demetre, Manuel M	11
Frederick, George (Cal)	11
Gaunt, Cathy	11
Gerfen, Arnie	11
Jackson, Howard E	11
Lee, Roy	11
Lindamood, Victor A	11
Martin, Tarbell C	11
Davis, Derwin H	Central
Graebe, Frederick	Central
Greenlee, Joy	Central
Kwolek, Carol D	Central
Reeves, John E	Central
Smith, Walter P	Central

To Honorary Members

Have you seen this option-

FREE PRINTED COPIES

on the membership renewal form? Many of you have and didn't know exactly what it was for, or thought it was just a free subscription if you checked the box. Well, here is the rest of the story.

If you are at least 80 years of age, you are classified as an Honorary member of the QCC. Being an Honorary member qualifies you for a discounted rate for the printed QCCer, or the electronic version of the QCCer for free (if you have a working email address). These dues rates are less than our cost of producing and sending the QCCer to you, so it's a pretty good deal. The other free option is for Honorary members who cannot afford the \$5 or \$10 rate and do not have a working email account. In other words, paying the dues would be a hardship for them. In this case, the QCC Constitution allows for the free delivery of the printed QCCer, IF the Honorary member makes a confidential request to their QCC District Director, AND the Director provides written approval. This written approval is best sent along with the completed renewal form to the QCC Secretary/Treasurer.

So, if you think this may apply to you, don't hesitate to contact your QCC District Director. We don't want any QCC members to be left out.

New 2012 Members

NAME	DISTRICT
Wilson, David	1
Moore, James	2
Pollock, Dennis	2
Drosendahl, Richard G	7
Goodell, Bob	7
Brannick, Tom	8
Pester, Robert J	8
Yamashita, Kenneth	10
Deyoe, Chuck	11
Seifert, Linda	11
Gizinos, John	Central
Solander, O. J.	Central