



CHAIR'S CORNER

Alvin Langstaff

I just returned from a very enjoyable and informative ASQ World Conference held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The program was top notch with keynote addresses from Howard Behar of Starbucks coffee fame, Jerry Greenfield of Ben and Jerry's ice cream, and Wally Amos of Famous Amos cookies. Each of these gentlemen spoke about the people side of quality. I'll try to put together a few of my favorite bits from these talks for next month's newsletter.

In fact, it appeared to me that much of the conference program emphasized more about the reasons we promote quality; that is for the improvement of people's lives, rather than the tools and techniques we use to bring that about. For those of us who are six sigma junkies, there was also plenty of emphasis on those aspects as well.

This was my first real trip to Minneapolis and I was wowed with the quality of lifestyle that I observed. As a runner and bicyclist, I was in awe of the multitude of designated bike and jogging paths that seemed to be everywhere throughout the city. And they get used also. The people are friendly, helpful if you need help, and there are plenty of pubs for socializing or just lunch. I realize I sound like an airplane magazine travel writer but it really was different than I expected. The one thing that was very familiar (and I thought maybe I had brought it with me from Pasco) was plenty of wind. It turns out that Minneapolis is also blessed with rapidly moving air molecules on a regular basis, just like eastern Washington. Fortunately there is an extensive series of enclosed second level walkways connecting the downtown areas that allow access from place to the next without having to endure the breezes. I can't vouch for wintertime conditions but all in all, spring is a great time to visit.

As I mentioned last time, details for the June 6 tour of the Wild Horse Wind Farm near Ellensburg, which boasts wind and solar electricity generation, are firmed up. We are anticipating an 11:00 am arrival at the wind farm, which means we'll need to leave Richland about 8:30 am. Information about the tour has been sent out so get your reservation in soon. I've had some inquiries from the Seattle area as well so we may get to meet some of our fellow ASQ members from the west side. Hope to see there. - Alvin

VICE CHAIR'S CORNER

Jo Haberstok

It's finally really looking like Spring, and I like it a lot. Well, okay, I don't particularly always like all the added yard work that comes with spring and summer, but gardening is good exercise, right? And I definitely enjoy seeing the bursts of color, from dianthus to lilies to petunias and more.



We had another great site visit in May, with a behind-the-scenes tour provided by Wendy Gehrig at Kadlec Medical Center in Richland. Those who participated got to see the helipad up close and visited several areas and rooms in the different parts of the hospital. We learned a lot about Kadlec's recent expansion as well as how they are already planning even more additions of rooms and services in the future. Wendy mentioned that their website features some virtual tours, so I am providing the link here for those who may be interested: http://www.kadlecmed.org/facilities/vr_index.html

The World Conference on Quality and Improvement (WCQI) will probably be over by the time this newsletter is published. Some of our members were planning to attend the conference in Minneapolis this year, and we can look forward to hearing all about it from them, perhaps in the next newsletter. I have not been able to attend one of these conferences in a number of years, but I noticed this year's keynote speakers included Howard Behar (former president of Starbucks) and Jerry Greenfield (co-founder of Ben & Jerry's). I had an opportunity to meet not only Jerry but also Ben Cohen at the Association for Quality & Participation (AQP) conference in San Antonio, Texas, in 1995. I even got my picture taken with them after their talk! Oh yeah, they also gave out ice cream bars to everyone... talk about a real treat! (Cherry Garcia has always been one of my favorite flavors)

Our final meeting of this section year is the upcoming trip to Ellensburg to see the Wild Horse Wind Farm on Saturday, June 6. A lot of time and effort have gone into planning for this meeting, as well as making sure there will be "lunch" available, so please be sure to sign up and join us. Consider making a day of it with your family – it should be very educational for everyone!
- Jo Haberstok, EnRep, Inc.



June 6, 2009 Meeting American Society for Quality Columbia Basin Section 614



Saturday,
June 6, 2009

“Kittitas Wild Horse Wind Farm” Ellensburg, Washington

LOCATION:

The Wild Horse Wind Farm is located at 25901 Vantage Highway, Ellensburg. Check-in at the Wind Farm will commence at 10:30 a.m., with the tour/presentation starting at 11. There is no charge for the tour, but for those wishing to partake in the catered lunch afterward, the cost is \$15 for ASQ members and \$20 for non-members. For planning purposes, reservations for either/both the tour and the lunch are required and must be received no later than May 28. Send an email to panda_2@charter.net with your name, phone number, company affiliation, and type of reservation, or call Alvin at 371-2221. For more information about this meeting, including driving directions, or about other section activities: <http://www.asq614.org>. Attendees wishing to carpool to the Wind Farm will meet at the Shilo Inn/Richland parking lot, ready to leave by 8:30 a.m.

This special field trip on June 6 will offer on-site exploration of the eco-magnetism, regional economic potential, engineering, and management quality of this successful project.

The Wild Horse Wind Farm provides approximately 230 megawatts of affordable, pollution-free electricity to the Northwest, which is equal to the annual energy requirements of 69,000 homes. In addition to power generation, the project has brought new jobs and approximately \$1M annually in local property tax revenues to Kittitas County. Horizon Wind Energy initially installed approximately 127 wind turbines over 8,600 acres of open range. Wild Horse Wind Farm was subsequently sold to Puget Sound Energy. The turbines, underground power lines, roads, and substation blend well with other land uses, and the wind farm itself takes up only about 165 acres.

A recent article in *Quality Digest* by Terri D. Lind, a freelance writer and researcher, noted that energy generation is a multifaceted industry comprising dozens of major discrete technologies and thousands of companies. Much has been written about these huge wind turbines and their impacts that are political, economic, and environmental. Alternative energy resources, such as photovoltaic modules and wind turbines, represent a particularly fast-growing segment of the industry. Quality assurance, safety testing, and environmental effects such as that to bird populations are important concerns for producers, as well as consumers, of alternative energy.

Join ASQ and our host David Bowen of Puget Sound Energy on June 6 to learn even more!

NOTE FROM DENNIS ARTER

Where are our Books?

Way back in 2003, we had a bunch of professional books in a box. It was sort of a Lending Library for our members. The box was heavy and seldom used, but the books were good. So we came to agreement with WSU Tri-Cities to keep these books in their technical library and provide access to our members. Then they just sort of faded away.

We need someone to do some research.

- 1) Where are the books now?
- 2) What books are in the collection?
- 3) How do members (local and remote) access the books?

Once you have some answers, we need a short article for our newsletter. That way all our members are aware of this resource.

For more details, contact Dennis Arter, Section Historian, at 509.783.0377 or dennis@auditguy.net

Prepared May 1, 2009

SECTION MEMBERSHIP

As of April 3, 2009 we have 82 members in our Section. Our newest Section members are:

Ash T. Morton of Benton City WA
Marina Tiede of Kennewick WA

As new members, you are entitled to one free dinner meeting of the section. Please make your reservation for an upcoming meeting soon!

EDITOR'S NOTES

Steve Prevette
Fluor Government Group

Happy Memorial Day! Summer is finally here, with some very good weather. I have received my official job offer to Savannah River from Fluor, and have accepted it. Now the saga of moving from Washington State back to South Carolina begins. I moved to the Tri Cities from Charleston SC 16 years ago, which was my last duty station in the Navy. It is amazing how much "STUFF" you accumulate in 16 years, and we have been sending out two garbage cans full a week to Basin Disposal.

I held my last official "operating session" on my model railroad Friday before Memorial Day, and my Memorial Day weekend has primarily been spent dismantling the layout. The original pieces were designed to be moved. But as I added on here, I became more confident of "never moving again". So some sections were quite a fight to get out. I'm about half done now and the "train room" is once again starting to look like a "room" again.

I was at a Department of Energy "EFCOG" conference in Oak Ridge in early May. The DOE Headquarters Quality Assurance folks brought up that they were hoping to partner with some commercial entities on Quality efforts in the DOE. Interestingly, ASQ was not on their power point slide. I have made the suggestion that DOE and ASQ partner on quality issues, and it does look like the idea may take root. Jim Rooney, the incoming national treasurer of ASQ was also at the meeting, and he is helping out considerably with his Board contacts to facilitate some form of cooperation between ASQ and DOE.

It's been a good run for me with ASQ here in the Tri Cities. From Steve Byers' Deming Discussion Group to our now firmly established Section 614. It's been a great pleasure working with you all to help improve quality here in the Tri Cities. My official start date at Savannah River is August 3, and my wife, our two dogs and I will hit the road to head east about July 15. I will be attending the Ellensburg meeting and hope to be able to say goodbye to you there.

This has been my last Section 614 newsletter, Robert Boykin will take over as your editor for the next newsletter. Good luck, Robert.

- Steve

WEBSITES FOR OTHER ASQ SECTIONS

Seattle Section (#606) www.asq-seattle.org
Spokane Section (#619) www.spokaneasq.org
Southwest Washington –
Vancouver Section (#627) www.asqswwa.org
Portland Section (#607) www.asqpdx.com

PUBLICATION INFORMATION



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The ASQ Columbia Basin Section 614 newsletter is published on a regular basis to inform members (and

potential members!) about Section 614 activities and other news/information we feel may be of value to quality professionals. To be considered for the next newsletter, input must be received by the 22nd of the month.

CAREER CONNECTIONS

To be considered for posting in the newsletter, announcements must be submitted by an ASQ member and be of potential service to other members. Announcements may include job postings, training opportunities, or requests for assistance. Due to space limitations, please keep them brief.

2008-2009 SECTION 614 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Section Chair and Publicity	Alvin Langstaff	Audit	Clark Beus
Vice Chair and Programs	Jo Haberstock	Division Liaison, Web Team Lead, Section Historian, and Examining	Dennis Arter
Treasurer	Howard Rew		
Newsletter Editor and Secretary	Steve Prevette	Certification/Recertification	Steve Prevette

You can find out more about Section 614, including contact information for Leadership Team members, on our website at www.asq614.org. If you are interested in helping with any of the Section teams, please contact the team lead or an officer. We are always looking for willing volunteers!