

IGWA Bulletin

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I am pleased to be serving as your new IGWA president. Normally it is the incoming president's responsibility to provide a state-of-industry report in the first newsletter of the year. I would be remiss if I painted the picture as anything but grim. You cannot escape the fact that the economy has taken a turn for the worst. The state legislature is battling to make the budget work, and programs are being cut. Unemployment rates are surging. Unfortunately, the Idaho ground water industry has not been immune to the effects of the economy. Sales were definitely down in almost every area in the state. We have all seen a decrease in customer inquiries. Many of us feel like we are scraping to get by. Looking for ways to save money has become necessary for survival in this economy. I know many people, including myself, have had to take a hard look at participating in the "frills" of our industry this year. Can we put off buying that new truck? Do we replace or repair equipment? I am sure that some of you have even considered skipping writing the check to renew your membership dues to the IGWA this year.



President Roger Buchanan

In these hard times, it is more important than ever for people to know that they are making wise investments in their businesses. Let me take this time to assure you that your membership in the IGWA continues to be a sound investment rather than a "frill" of the industry.

Let me give you a brief overview of what your membership in the IGWA entitles you to. Your membership entitles you to vote about how things are run in the association including who serves on the board of directors, venues to voice your opinions about industry issues, a place to get help with regulatory agencies, and a way to volunteer your time to help facilitate change. The IGWA in turn provides a strong and unified voice during interactions with state regulatory agencies such as the Department of Water Resources, Department of Environmental Quality, and the Water Resource Board. The IGWA garners a great deal of respect with these agencies. People look to this organization for input, guidance, and expertise. The IGWA serves as a way to protect our members' interests in this climate of constantly changing state and federal rules and regulations. In short, there is strength in numbers, and the IGWA is a way to make your voice heard.

The IGWA also provides great continuing education opportunities. The IGWA regularly distributes information about upcoming industry concerns, such as proposed changes in legislation. This keeps you informed about state and local ground water issues. The IGWA also sponsors varied and interesting continuing education events throughout the year. Because we know that your time and money are more valuable to you than ever, these opportunities are presented across the state and for an unbeatable value. Membership dues are often recovered by the savings one associate member receives by attending one continuing education event. Another way to look at the value: IGWA members can attend the North Idaho Workshop for \$90. That is \$11 per continuing education hour, and that also includes the lunch and refreshments. Membership in the IGWA allows people to conveniently get the high-quality continuing education they need to optimally run their businesses and meet the requirements to maintain their licensure. These events also provide you with an opportunity to network with peers and competitors from across the state.

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In highlighting just a few of the ways the IGWA benefits the Idaho ground water industry, it is my hope that you will see the value of your continued membership and participation with us. We have a challenging road ahead of us and need everyone's input. Some of the upcoming issues and concerns facing the industry include: putting forth legislation to raise the low-temperature geothermal limit to a higher temperature before the geothermal well construction standards would have to be implemented; the possibility of renegotiating licensing rules to alter the substance and reduce the required continuing education hours; and alterations to the underground injection rules. So I encourage all of you to help support your Idaho Ground Water Association by continuing your memberships and active participation.

Here's hoping that we have a prosperous and safe upcoming year.

Roger Buchanan, IGWA President

WELL CONSTRUCTION RULES AND ISSUES PERTAINING TO YOUR INDUSTRY

The experience of attending the annual IGWA Convention for 2010 was a good one. You now have some new leadership at the helm of the Association. The particulars are listed in the newsletter. I thank you for your support as your past president and for your support of the Association during the past year. The Association is in good hands with President Roger Buchanan. There are several issues on the Board's list of things to do. I hope you will pay particular attention to those as they surface.

An issue has arisen that seriously lacked personal attention in the past. The issue is the formation of the new Well Construction Rules that went into effect on July 1, 2009. Everyone knew they were in progress, everyone was told they would happen for sure, and everyone was invited to participate in the Negotiated Rulemaking and other negotiated processes. We have talked about the Rules at Conventions and Workshops, posted them online as their formulations progressed, printed them on paper and into the IGWA Newsletters and handed out hard copies.

In short, the Board has done everything possible to ensure that the IDWR produced a good set of Rules. But you can't force the complainers to be actively involved. In some cases the Board has been accused of being political, selling out to the IDWR, and selling everyone except the Board members down the river. That mind-set only shows how ignorant and off-base the complainers have been. Everyone who was involved knows first-hand just how much time, effort, resources, and debate was extended to prevent certain disaster for the Drilling Industry.

During the 2 1/2 years of negotiations there were 17 Negotiated Rulemaking meetings with IDWR and the Industry (more Rulemaking meetings than any other organization has had in IDWR's history). There were also 32 individual IGWA Board meetings and conference calls to debate and discuss each DRAFT of the Rules and how they might impact the Industry. These meetings were held during evenings, weekends, and off-regular working hours to help the drilling industry.

If you will remember, the IGWA Board absolutely refused and killed the first Rules proposal by IDWR to the Idaho Water Resource Board in June of 2007 in Burley. Because the IGWA was so opposed to the proposed Rule changes, IDWR withdrew the proposal and we all went back to the drawing board, or was it the blacksmith's shop to "pound out" a new set of Rules. And after six more months of Negotiations and meetings, we have what we have today. Are they perfect Rules? Absolutely not, but then again no Rules are perfect Rules.

The Board is going to propose some revisions of the Well Driller Licensing and UIC Rules to the IDWR following the 2010 legislative session. During this time, it will be your chance to step up and participate in this process. If any of you have an issue with any of these Rules and have not previously spoken, now is your chance! It takes no brains to complain and even puppies can whine. So, if you want to be heard and be taken seriously, you are invited to at least make a phone call or better yet, write down



Past President Henry Baker

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WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR ASSOCIATION AND WHAT IS THE IGWA BOARD DOING FOR YOU?

How many of you believe that you are better off now compared to 4 years ago? How about 10 years ago? How about 20-30 years? To what do you attribute this betterment? Have you made the decisions for your life to get where you are today? Has someone else made these decisions for you? Is what you have today because of what was passed down to you? Is it a combination of all factors?

President Ronald Reagan once said, "Each generation goes further than the generation preceding it because it stands on the shoulders of that generation."

At this very moment in history, we have more opportunity than any other generation before us. We have stood on many shoulders of past generations to get where we are today. Our freedom does not limit us on how much we succeed, prosper, set goals, and achieve what we set our minds to do. We have the choice to decide what to do with our day from the moment we wake up. And because we all have the ability to choose what to do and not to do on a daily, hourly, and minute-by-minute basis, that makes us a unique and special society. It makes us a people of decision-makers, thinkers, and doers and a people that want things better for the next generation.

The forefathers of Idaho's ground water industry believed that creating and maintaining a strong organization made up of numerous members from the well construction industry would create a unified and powerful voice of reason for the well-drilling community. They believed that this organization would be passed down to future generations to help preserve and protect the integrity of the industry and the resource. They believed that this unified voice would be strong enough to influence legislation and government regulation. That voice of reason today is the Idaho Ground Water Association, and it has been successfully passed down for over 60 years.

First and foremost, it is the Association's duty to protect its members, the ground water industry, and the ground water resource. It is the IGWA's mission to ensure that the industry is represented and protected from unnecessary rules and regulations, while promoting the industry and those in it. That being stated, an IGWA Board of Directors has been duly elected by the membership over generations to ensure that the IGWA's mission and objectives are met. Has the IGWA Board of Directors done its job? Well, that depends upon who you talk to. It also depends upon whether the information you receive from who you talk to is true, false, hearsay, rhetoric, or ignorance.

The truth is, starting in 2007, the IGWA Board of Directors diligently worked with the Idaho Department of Water Resources over a 2½-year period to conduct 17 Negotiated Rulemaking meetings and held 32 individual Board meetings to debate and draft the latest Well Construction Rules. To put this into perspective, these volunteers forewent over \$1.5 million in potential jobs and revenues. They shut down their drilling rigs and dedicated countless hours of personal time to ensure the rest of the industry you belong to did not get steamrolled by more stringent rules and government regulation. The Board did all of this without receiving a single penny for their efforts. The Board conducted their fiduciary duties to the IGWA with honor, honesty, and integrity. They never asked for anything in return, but what they received from some members of the industry was not much of a simple "Thank You," but instead angst, false accusations, and utter disdain.

The bottom line is that being elected to a position to serve on a Board for an industry such as the IGWA means making tough choices. It means that serving on a board requires personal sacrifices, selfless perseverance, and the willingness to know that no matter what decision you make, someone is not going to like it. It also means that you are making a difference for the industry because you have chosen to become involved. And it means you are involved because you have a passion for the industry and a willingness to pass down your knowledge to others.

Over the last year, the IGWA Board of Directors has held 8 Board meetings and conference calls to conduct IGWA business. Members of the Board have worked diligently on issues including Low Geothermal Temperature (an issue that will be worked on throughout 2010), UIC Rules and Well Driller Licensing Rules (to be conducted through Negotiated Rulemaking following the 2010 Session with IDWR). In April 2009, the Board replaced the IGWA Scholarship Program with an Idaho Ground Water Education Program to create more awareness and outreach to future generations. This program will go into Idaho schools to promote the industry. Now is your time to become involved in these critical industry issues and programs!

The Idaho Ground Water Association developed a Membership Directory and held two Regional Workshops in Pocatello and Post Falls, a Summer Retreat in Cascade and an Annual Convention in Boise. All events offered Continuing Education Credits for



Exec Director Roger Butt

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exactly what you would like to see changed AND suggest one or two solutions to the issue and send it to the Board or the IGWA's office in Meridian.

May I suggest that you send your proposed changes to the Board in writing and be prepared to defend your suggestions and solutions. That way you will not be expecting someone else to fight your battles this time. Proposed changes will need to be in the legislative mill early this year in order to go to the 2011 session, so time is of the essence.

The IGWA expects to continue making positive changes for the industry. The intent is to keep up with new scientific data, technology, techniques, and better ideas and not let needed changes stack up for 20 or so years as they have in the past. At least some of the "new" should come from the drilling industry. Certainly, we wouldn't want someone else telling us everything we need to know and do. Let's do some of our own thinking. Your very existence today is evidence you do know how to think. Let's keep a good thing going.

There are some very good heads on the IGWA Board and within the IGWA membership. It has been harder each year to find volunteers to serve on the Board. We encourage you to consider the value of your input by being on the Board. My experience here has been invaluable to me. I've learned to appreciate the effort, the depth of experience and wisdom, the enthusiasm, the passion for the cause, and talents of the members and the Board. The experience was not without a price, but has been a worthwhile step up for me. Talk to any member of the Board or call the office and "throw your hat in the ring." You, we, and the whole of the state of Idaho will be better because of it.

Let's make 2010 a good year. It doesn't have to be a record year to be a good one. A positive attitude will be crucial. That in itself may be a huge task. At least dare to be successful. I don't claim to be a great wizard, but I am confident there are some changes each one of you can make to create better conditions. At times an outside perspective will lend new insight that will make the difference.

Henry Baker, IGWA Past President

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The IGWA Board of Directors is honored to have Eric Forsmann (Stuivenga Vessey Drilling – Grangeville, Idaho) and Rod Hendricks (Independent Drilling – Blackfoot, Idaho) elected as the IGWA's newest Directors to the IGWA Board. Both gentlemen offer the knowledge and expertise critical to meeting the IGWA's mission and goals for the Ground Water Industry. The IGWA appreciates Rod, Eric, and the other IGWA Board of Directors for stepping up to serve the rest of the industry.

Eric Forsmann (photo top right) was born and raised on a farm in Idaho County where he has lived his entire life. After completing high school, he went on to Lewis Clark State College and earned a degree from the industrial tech school. Eric worked as a millwright in the local saw mill for several years before it closed. In 1997, he began employment at Stuivenga Vessey Drilling in Grangeville, Idaho, as a Class I drill operator. Today Eric is Stuivenga Vessey Drilling's principle driller, a position he acquired in early 2009. He is responsible for drill rig operations, estimating, quality control, scheduling, and personnel.

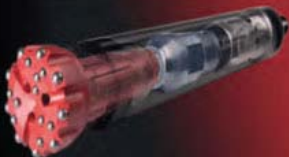


Rod Hendricks (photo bottom right) was destined to be involved with water in one way or another. He inherited his love for the drilling business from his father, who has been drilling since 1959. Rod started his drilling career when he was 12 years old, helping his dad on an old cable rig. Every summer after that he worked full time in the family business. After graduating from high school, Rod went to college for a couple of years studying geology and business. After returning from school he became "the pump man," and held that position for the next 12 years. For the past several years, he has been the general manager of Independent Drilling in Blackfoot, Idaho. Rod and his wife, Robin, have 3 children.





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IN THE NEWS

Introducing the New XR32 Thread Design for Drifting and Tunneling Operations



Rockmore International has announced a revolutionary new thread design, XR32, to improve precision and efficiency in drifting and tunneling operations, and to extend thread life.

This new thread design is the product of Rockmore's in-house R & D and manufacturing facility, in response to demand from underground drillers for a stronger and more powerful drill string. Extensive lab and field testing has demonstrated the effectiveness of the

XR32 thread system in providing more efficient energy transfer, higher bit penetration rates, and longer thread life for both bit and rod. The new XR32 thread is employed at the bit connection end for hex drifting and tunneling rods, and is used for both male and female components - both tunneling bit and rod. The other end of the rod, connected to the coupling or shank adapter has a standard thread such as R38 or T38. That means smooth integration into your existing drill string. [More](#)

MultiPoint - The Next Generation of Carbide Inserts for Button Bits

Rockmore International, a global manufacturer of rock drilling tools, has developed a revolutionary new carbide insert design for their button bits, the MultiPoint.

In percussion drilling, penetration rates depend on efficient crack propagation. With a conventional hemispherical insert,

there is a single tangent point striking the rock, resulting in the rapid development of wear flats. Rockmore's exclusive new carbide insert design provides multiple strike points for more efficient rock fracture and longer insert life.

Extensive rock-drilling trials showed that Rockmore's button bits with MultiPoint inserts last up to 20% longer than the standard hemispherical design, and increased penetration rates by 10%. Wear flats appeared slower and later in the insert life than with hemispherical inserts. Testing also revealed that the MultiPoint inserts provided smoother bit rotation and advancement. [More](#)



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DRILL LOGS



Director Rob Dawson

There seems to be a problem with filling out Drill Logs. Or maybe I should say some drillers seem to have a problem filling out Drill Logs correctly. I am sometimes guilty of not making the 30-day requirement. I do, however, attempt to fill out a Well Log completely and accurately.

Recently I was drilling in an area with a wide variation of depths and water production. I had drilled to 400 feet and was producing .25 gpm. Many changes in the formation were encountered, and I had already entered 32 changes on the Log. About a month later it was decided to deepen this well. Drilling went to 851 feet and still produced .25 gpm with 32 more changes entered on the Log. Curious to see what others might have encountered in this area, I looked up 12 Drill Logs on some test holes that had just been drilled about a mile away, hoping to find enough information that might help in a decision to move or go deeper yet. Of the 12, I found that only three had more than five entries, the other nine had three to five entries. These holes were not shallow; in fact, they ranged between 500-760 feet except one, which was only 400 feet (6 entries).

Only one log had the required information about production (gpm), or where it was encountered. Only two recorded temperature. Two showed that they had flowed before the casing was removed and holes sealed up. In this case, these wells will probably never be opened back up, and so the owner was not concerned about saving (or making this information public) about the water in these holes. It may not have helped my customer either, as they are a distance off from where I was drilling.

The fact is, required information based on Statute and Rules needs to be placed and recorded onto the Log. If a driller is not interested in helping himself, at least do it for the customer or the neighbors that may find this information useful in the future. Last fall, I received a call from a pump installation company about having a pump stuck in a well. 4.5" pvc was coming up with the pump, then all stopped coming up at all. The Drill Log showed an 8" bore from 0' to 250', a 6" casing + 1' to 40' without a drive shoe, and 2 1/2' of pvc from 38' to 250' with perforations from 180' to 250', and 2-4 sacks of Bentonite from 0' to 40'. We were not able to identify where the 1' of 6" was added, and were unsure what was holding the 6" casing from falling down the 8" bore to 250'. After working the pump, pipe, and wire from the well, we decided to measure the hole before leaving with the rig. The weight stopped at about 160' then went to 180' where it stuck completely. We knew the liner needed to be removed. What we found was collapsed and telescoped pvc at about 160'. Much time was involved in removing the pvc, along with a few fishing tools and weights and a hammer.

Another story.....One would probably find it difficult to stand over a piece of 6" casing and drop a hammer in it 50% of the time. (I can do it in one throw from about 3 feet away.) We found the hole diameter reduced drastically at about 200'. A short piece of pvc, about 1' long had been split into 2 pieces and screwed to each side of the pvc at the bottom of the pvc. This was apparently to stop the pvc at the reduced hole size at 200' when said pvc was air-mailed down the hole. Of the 2 1/2' of pvc with 70' perforated reported on the drill log, we could only find 160' total with 40' that had been perforated. When cleaning hole, besides finding reduced bore diameter at 200' we hit bottom at about 234 ft. This log was so far from accurate (maybe even a little fraudulent), it was not even funny. It did produce the 30 gpm reported.

I have worked on other wells that also had poor Well Log reports, and it does create problems. Yes, logs are a pain to fill out, even if you have someone else compiling the one that goes to the state, and maybe the customer. That person has to rely on the rig copy brought in by the operator to be legible and accurate. The signing supervisor should review it close enough to question irregularities before signing and sending it off. Do we make mistakes? Sure we do, but we need to be more accountable for our actions, follow the guidelines that are set, and fill out Well Logs much better than we are currently doing in Idaho. Thanks for your time, and keep turning right.

Rob Dawson, Rob Dawson Drilling