

CenterLine

FEBRUARY 2009



Districts in North Arkansas Deal With Recent Ice Storm

The January ice storm that hit northern Arkansas is being called the worst one of its kind in many decades. Even worse than the double dose of ice Arkansas received in 2000.

Storm warnings and preparations began days in advance of the storm's arrival. For residents, that meant stocking up on groceries, chainsaws and generators. For AHTD crews across the state, it meant completing the stockpiles of abrasives and deicers, and getting machinery ready. It also meant long days and nights trying to keep the roads clear of the frozen precipitation that the storm brought.

Forecasters predicted that up to two inches of ice was possible before the storm exited the state. The system spread across Oklahoma on January 26th bringing freezing rain to northwest Arkansas. Department personnel in northern Arkansas began preparations more than 24 hours before the storm hit by pre-treating some bridges and overpasses.

The storm swept across Arkansas on the 27th leaving up to two inches of ice in some northern counties. More than 300,000 homes across the state were without power. Numerous counties were declared state disaster areas and President Obama declared a federal emergency in Arkansas.

See page 4

Ice covered power lines on Highway 103 near Compton.

-
- 2** • The Staff Minute • Rodeo Dates **3** • Service Awards and Retirements • Construction Corner **6** • Around the Department **7** • Four Day Work Schedule
8 • AHTD People

The Staff Minute



Employee: Roxanne Karnes

Job Position: Resident Office Technician, Monticello Resident Engineer's Office, District Two.

Length of Service: 26 ½ years

Job Duties: I prepare all current, final and materials estimates generated by our office. This includes comparing pay items to plans and specifications, checking for accuracy in calculations, making sure that contractor/supplier material certifications are in order and maintaining appropriate files. I also prepare daily reports for various items such as Aggregate and ACHM Courses, and enter these items for payment. I am responsible for maintaining critical dates, equipment lists, change orders and miscellaneous information. In addition, I assist our crew with laptop updates and maintenance.

Favorite Part of Job: I feel a sense of accomplishment with every job completed and with every final estimate submitted. I also enjoy working with, and having contact with, so many people throughout the state (including the great crew that we have in Monticello).

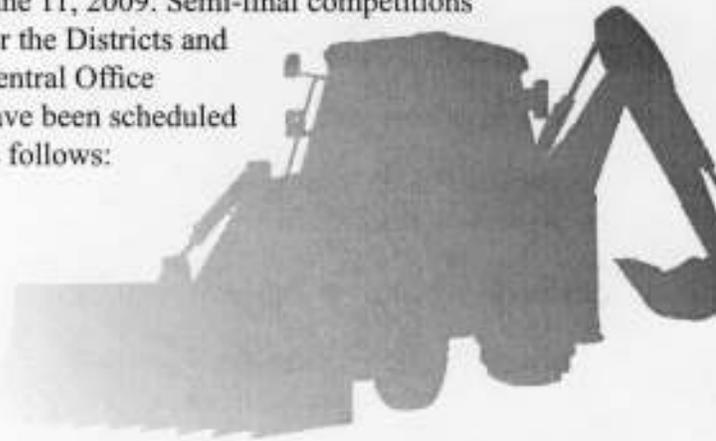
Background: I graduated from Drew Central High School in 1976 and attended the University of Arkansas at Monticello. I was hired by the Department in June of 1982 as a Field Clerk I. At the time of my employment, there was no Resident Office Technician on staff, and I trained simultaneously in both positions. I was promoted to Field Clerk II in March of 1984, and Resident Office Technician in May of 1990.

Family: I have been married to my husband Chuck since May, 1978. We have two beautiful daughters, Megan, 20, and Sarah, 19. Both are students at the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

Hobbies: My hobbies include reading, gardening, traveling, quilting (a skill that my 100-year-old grandmother taught me) and spending time with family. I am an active member of the Greenhill United Methodist Church. I have served as a teen youth group leader and Bible School teacher.

The 2009 AHTD Equipment Operators Rodeo Finals...

...will be held at the Central Shop in Little Rock on June 11, 2009. Semi-final competitions for the Districts and Central Office have been scheduled as follows:



District 1.....	April 16
District 2.....	March 26
District 3.....	March 12
District 4.....	May 14
District 5.....	April 23
District 6/Central Office.....	April 2
District 7.....	March 19
District 8.....	April 9
District 9.....	April 30
District 10.....	May 7

Appropriate Division Heads and all District Engineers will be contacted by the Training and Safety Section to coordinate the semi-final competitions.

Where Is This?

See answer at bottom of last page.



2008 Service Awards and Retirements

District Two



25 Years: (front, l. to r.) Elvin Mustiful and Roy Parker. (rear, l. to r.) Assistant Chief Engineer - Operations Emanuel Banks, Assistant to the Director Ralph Hall and District Engineer James House.



30 Years: (front, l. to r.) William Kendall and David Hutchins. (rear, l. to r.) Assistant Chief Engineer - Operations Emanuel Banks, Assistant to the Director Ralph Hall and District Engineer James House.



Retiring: (front) Thomas Smith. (rear, l. to r.) Assistant Chief Engineer - Operations Emanuel Banks, Assistant to the Director Ralph Hall and District Engineer James House.

CONSTRUCTION CORNER

Crews are hard at work in Saline County on a pair of new railroad overpasses on Highway 35. The project is located in Benton and was let to contract in January of 2008. The job was awarded to M.J. Lee Construction Company of Tulsa, Oklahoma, for \$15,150,002. One of the new overpasses being built is located on Highway 35 just west of the intersection with Highway 183. The second one is located on a new location of Benton Parkway as it crosses the tracks to the east of the Highway 35/Highway 183 intersection. Completion of the improvements is expected in late 2009.



DISTRICT 6

(Continued from page 1)

The ice brought trees and power lines down onto highways in many locations bringing traffic to a standstill.

"From January 26th to January 30th, we had many highways that were blocked periodically due to trees and power lines, many for several hours," stated District Engineer Joe Barnett from District 10. "On the 26th and 27th, these blockages became common. Movement of traffic over the entire region was significantly hampered due to downed trees and power lines."

Even where there was no debris on the highways, the ice covering the roadways made travel difficult. The AHTD's 500 chemical spreaders, 300 snowplows and 200 motor graders were out around the clock working to make the situation easier to deal with.

The storm meant hard work for District employees but it also affected their families.

"Most District 10 employees left their homes with families in them that had no power, limited heat and in some

cases damage to report as they made their way to work," stated Barnett. "We had every available employee out working with chain saws, dragging limbs, driving escorts doing other tasks for most of the week. The effort on the part of our employees was exceptional!"

In some areas of District 4, employees fought the storm without the advantage of having electricity. The Wash-



Ice covers Highway 156 east of Hogeeye.



Traffic is slowed by downed power lines in Gainesville.



Crews remove fallen trees on Highway 16 near the Benton County line.



ington County Area Headquarters at Lincoln was without power from Tuesday until early Friday morning. The Area Headquarters and Resident Engineer Office at Fayetteville lost power on Tuesday night and spent most of the week without it. In Crawford County, the Area Maintenance Headquarters at Mountainburg was without power for four days.

"Employees faced hardships at home as well," stated District 4 Engineer Joe Shipman. Approximately 75 were without power during the week. "Despite not having power at home, and in some cases, damage to property, employees continued to report to work" Shipman added.

In the aftermath of the storm, Governor Beebe asked for a presidential disaster declaration for 25 Arkansas counties. The storm caused an estimated \$77 million in damage statewide.



A grader works on Highway 377 near Witt Springs.

(right) A Department truck makes its way down Highway 71 near Mt. Sherman. At times, trucks would radio in that they couldn't move forward or move backward due to trees falling in the roadway. Crews with chain saws had to help them cut their way out.

(below) A fallen tree lays on Highway 23 near Withrow Springs State Park.



Utility poles lie on Highway 135 at Gainesville.



District 6: Haley Creppel bagged her first deer, a 7-pointer. She is the daughter of Matthew Creppel, Multi-Axle Truck Driver.



District 8: Allen Spinks, Maintenance Aide II, bagged this 12-point buck in November.



District 6: Estel Taylor, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, killed this 8-point buck in November.



District 10: Jade Price, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, killed this 12-point buck in November.



District 2: (l. to r.) David Alverson, Motor Patrol Operator - Finish, his three-month old grandson, Easton Lane Ashcraft, and his daughter, Brandy Ashcraft.



District 5: Dakota Maddison Barker was born October 2nd. She weighed 7 lb., 2 oz. and was 20-1/2 in. long. She is the granddaughter of Bill Barker, Multi-Axle Truck Driver.



Construction: Scarlett Dougan's first birthday was on January 8th. She is the granddaughter of Jerry Rogers, Staff Construction Engineer.



District 2: Dallas Collins, son of Kristie Fowler, Fuel Clerk, placed first in the Young Writers Contest in which five schools participated.



District 5: Daniel Carlson, grandson of Lisa Carlson, Maintenance Aide II, and great-grandson of Donald Harwood, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, was born on November 15th, weighing 6 lbs., 11 oz. and measuring 19 inches.



Michael Benson, Materials Engineer, presents Terry Hardison, Laboratory Coordinator, with a 35-year pin.



Michael Benson, Materials Engineer, presents Mike Limbird, Staff Materials Engineer, with a 30-year certificate.



Michael Benson, Materials Engineer, presents Donnie Thomson, Geotechnical Drill Operator, with a 15-year certificate.



District 6: (l. to r.) Jerry Zuber, Maintenance Job Superintendent, presents Roger Starling, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, with his 5-year service award.



Maintenance: (l. to r.) Rex Spurlock, District Maintenance Engineer, presents Curtis Aud, Area Maintenance Supervisor, with his 20-year service award.



District 6: (l. to r.) Roy Johnson, Crew Leader, presents Matthew Creppel, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, with his 5-year service award.



District 10: Receiving their 10-year service awards were (l. to r.) Darsha Tipton, District Bookkeeper, and Reggie Pickney, Multi-Axle Truck Driver.



District 10: Receiving their 20-year service awards were (l. to r.) Billy Mitchell, Area Maintenance Supervisor, and James Adams, Assistant District Bridge Inspector.



District 10: (l. to r.) Walter McMillan, District Construction Engineer, presents Evelyn Watson, Maintenance Aide I, with her 20-year service award.



District 10: Receiving their 5-year service awards were (clockwise from top left) Levar Brown, Construction Aide II; Kristie Mott, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; Corey Reed, Construction Aide I; Angie Fender, Single Axle Truck Driver, and Rochelle Moore, Distributor Roller Operator.



District 5: Receiving their service awards were (l. to r.) Jason Seaton, Hydraulic Excavator Operator - Finish, 10 years; George Baird, Maintenance Aide I, 5 years; Charles Tate, Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 years; and Ernie Hunt, Maintenance Aide I, 10 years.

Four Day Work Week Schedule

Effective March 12 through November 4, 2009, the following AHTD personnel will work a four-day, ten-hour schedule Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with a half hour lunch:

Field Maintenance Personnel, District Shop Crews, Storeroom Personnel, Area Maintenance Supervisors, Job Superintendents, Shop Supervisors, Equipment Maintenance Supervisors, Signing, Striping and Profiling Crews, Traffic Engineering Personnel, Sign Shop Personnel, Surveys Division Survey Parties, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Crews, Facilities Management Personnel, Radio Maintenance Specialists, Safety Inspection

5 → 4

Officers, Equipment and Procurement Shop Personnel and Technical Services Section Field Personnel.

On those weeks containing a holiday, the work schedule will revert to a five-day, eight-hour work week. Vacation or sick leave for a ten-hour day will be charged as ten hours. Half days will be charged as five hours.

The Districts will rotate the service station personnel so that one person will be on a five-day, eight-hour work week in order to keep the station open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday.

The Equipment Preventative Maintenance Program is to be carried out fully during the four-day work week period.

Register Now for AHP Bass Classic

The 15th Annual Arkansas Highway Police Bass Classic will be held on March 28th and 29th at DeGray Lake in Arkadelphia. This is a great way to welcome the spring season and you are invited.

All AHTD employees and their families can fish in the tournament. Department retirees are also welcome. In addition to what is hopefully great fishing, there will be a meal provided on Saturday afternoon and door prizes

to be given away. On Sunday, all winners will be announced. Awards will include first through fourth place and Big Bass.

Lodging is plentiful around the lake and in the Caddo Valley area. Camping is also available in the State Park, located on the lake.

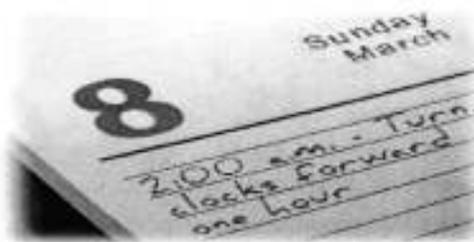
For information and registration, contact Ned Ward at 870-703-6328 or 7205 Highway 371, Prescott, AR, 71857.



Participants in the 2008 Bass Classic at Lake DeGray.

Spring Forward: Daylight Saving Time

For 2009, Daylight Saving Time will begin at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 8th. Clocks should be turned forward one hour Saturday evening.



Graduation Photos 2009

Please submit your graduation photos **BY 5 P.M. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1ST** to be included in the "2009 Graduates" issue of the May *CenterLine*. Information to be included with photo is as follows: Student name, school name (high school, college or military only), relation to employee, employee name, and employee District/Division. Photos will be returned after the May issue is printed.

Photo Format:

Emailed photos should be scanned at 300 dpi. Paper photos should be at least wallet size. To ensure quality, do not send a printout of a picture. CDs and floppy disks will be accepted as well.

Submit the Photos:

In person, by mail or by email. Please call or email questions to Shelli Russell, Public Affairs Office, Room 1002, 501-569-2573 shelli.russell@arkansashighways.com

new employees

CONSTRUCTION - Ryan Acker, Construction Helper I, RE 23 - Amanda Brewster, Field Clerk I, RE 21 - Jay Tooke, Civil Engineer, RE 21

HUMAN RESOURCES - Ty Vaughan, Admin. Aide III

MATERIALS - Troy Frazier, General Laborer

PLANNING & RESEARCH - Gary Zekis, Cartographer I

SURVEYS - Nicholas Wommack, Surveys Helper

DISTRICT 1 - Gregory Freeman, Single Axle Truck Driver - Darren Henderson, Single Axle Truck Driver - Alvin Jones, Single Axle Truck Driver - Susan Kennedy, Single Axle Truck Driver - Jason Pippenger, Single Axle Truck Driver - Arnold Williams, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 4 - James Vaughn, Mechanic

DISTRICT 6 - Christopher Chamberlain, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 7 - Curtis Hamilton, Gen. Laborer - Monte Launik, Welder - Peggy Walthall, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 8 - Timothy Tyra, Rest Area Attendant

promotions

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE - Franklin Edwards, Patrol Officer First Class - Edwin Johnson, Patrol Officer First Class - John Lamb, Patrol Officer First Class - Eric Morris, Patrol Officer First Class - William Smith, Patrol Officer First Class

BRIDGE - Joseph Parker, Civil Engineer I

ENVIRONMENTAL - Yulissa Rogers, Administrative Aide II

HEAVY BRIDGE - Samuel Barnwell, Bridge Rep. II - T.J. Brown, Bridge Repairer II - John Knappenberger, Bridge Repairer II

MAINTENANCE - John Bettis, Staff Maintenance Engineer - Joshua Musick, Maintenance Aide II

PROGRAMS & CONTRACTS - Erica Michael, Programs & Contracts Engineer II

RIGHT OF WAY - Barry Cruz, Utility Coordinator II

DISTRICT 2 - Rickie Bratton, Jr., Asst. Dist. Bridge Inspector - Gregory Loomis, Construction Project Coordinator - Gary Morton, Inspector - Vincent Sanders, Single Axle Truck Driver, Boone County - Maurice Wade, Senior Mechanic - Samuel Washington, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, Boone County

DISTRICT 3 - Corey Chandler, Asst. Dist. Bridge Inspector - Matthew Emberton, Civil Engineer I, RE 32 - John King, Asst. Dist. Bridge Inspector - Charles Rogers, Dist. Bridge Inspector - Mindy Simmons, Construction Aide I, RE 31

DISTRICT 4 - Larry Hancock, Maintenance Aide II - Jeremiah Jackson, Maintenance Aide II, Crawford County - James Kohler, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, Logan County - Ralph Trusty, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, Logan County

DISTRICT 5 - Jonathan Bacon, Construction Aide III, RE 53 - Rodney Barnett, Backh/Fr. End Loader Op. - Brian Beach, Construction Aide III, RE 53 - Kenny Bowren, Resident Engineer, RE 52 - Phillip Dearen, Distributor/Roller Operator, Cleburne County

DISTRICT 6 - Kevin Busick, Multi-Axle Truck Driver - Jerry

Denley, Motor Patrol Operator-Finish, Lonoke County - Ruben Gregory, Multi-Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 7 - Tim Ferrell, Maintenance Aide I, Bradley County - Andrew Hoggard, Construction Field Engineer I, RE 76 - William Pritchard, Rest Area Attendant, Clark County

DISTRICT 8 - Cedric Cursh, Street Sweeper Operator - Jerry Lairson, Inspector, 82 - Julie Storbakken, Construction Aide II, RE 86 - Jose Villasenor, Roller Operator - Franklin Willford, Backh/Fr. End Loader Opr, Faulkner County

DISTRICT 9 - Abel Arellano, Distributor/Roller Operator, Baxter County - Michael Carlton, Distributor Operator

DISTRICT 10 - Levar Brown, Construction Aide II, RE 05 - Deric Wyatt, Assistant Resident Engineer, RE 05

service

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE - James Moore, First Lieutenant, 25 yrs.

BRIDGE - David Ball, Staff Structures Engineer, 30 yrs.

CONSTRUCTION - Timothy Lovett, Construction Aide I, 21, 5 yrs. - Joseph Pierson, Striping Crew Supervisor, 10 yrs. - Michael Ricardo, Construction Aide I, RE 61, 5 yrs.

DIRECTOR - Doris Mixon, Administrative Assistant I, 35 yrs.

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT - Dale Womack, Senior Mechanic, 15 yrs.

HUMAN RESOURCES - Larry Copeland, Maintenance Aide I, 5 yrs.

MAINTENANCE - Roger Mahan, Crew Leader, 20 yrs.

PLANNING & RESEARCH - Christopher Hanning, Civil Engineer IV, 10 yrs.

ROADWAY DESIGN - Micah Bryant, Design Engineer, 5 yrs. - Mark Earl, Advanced Design Engineer, 5 yrs. - Eric Phillips, Staff Traffic Engineer, 35 yrs.

SURVEYS - Maria Atchley, Surveys Aide III, 5 yrs. - Jordan Hoffman, Surveys Aide II, 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 1 - Robert Gray, Distributor Operator, 10 yrs. - Phillip Hunt, Senior Mechanic, 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 2 - Stacy King, Storeroom Assistant I, 5 yrs. - Sandra Pendergrass, Office Administrative Asst V, 10 yrs. - Maurice Wade, Mechanic, 10 yrs.

DISTRICT 5 - Timothy Hurlt, Maintenance Aide II, 20 yrs.

DISTRICT 6 - Alfred Langhorn, Crew Leader, 30 yrs.

DISTRICT 7 - Michael Barnett, Motor Patrol Operator-Finish, 25 yrs. - Joe Mason, Crew Leader, 30 yrs. - David Wages, Station Attendant II, 10 yrs.

DISTRICT 8 - Debbie Matchett, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 10 yrs.

DISTRICT 9 - Gabriel Hensley, Motor Patrol Operator-Finish, 5 yrs. - Terry Sartin, Multi-Axle Tr. Dr., 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 10 - James Keasler, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 5 yrs.

retirement

DISTRICT 2 - Robert Poston, Crew Leader, 28+ yrs.

DISTRICT 3 - Erie Collums, Parts Runner, 13+ yrs.

DISTRICT 5 - Jim Leggett, Resident Engineer, 32+ yrs.

DISTRICT 7 - Carley Bledsoe, Jr., Maintenance Aide II, 21+ yrs. - Betty Ethridge, Fuel Clerk, 17+ yrs.

DISTRICT 9 - Ronnie Faight, Sealing Job Superintendent, 33+ yrs.

memorials

MAINTENANCE - Ferrell "Gene" Cagle, 1/20/09, retired

DISTRICT 2 - Raymond H. Ferguson, 1/21/09 - Roger D. Turner, 2/2/09, retired

DISTRICT 5 - Thomas E. Vines, Jr., 2/5/09, retired

DISTRICT 8 - Ruben McConnell, 2/4/09, retired

DISTRICT 9 - Johnny Cline, 1/21/09, retired

active duty

As of 2/15/08, the AHTD had 19 employees serving active duty in the United States military. Dates denote the deployment date.

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE - Shawn Foust, Sergeant, 8/4/07

MATERIALS - David Kraft, Geot. Drill Party Chief, 1/2/08

DISTRICT 1 - James Barle, Senior Inspector, 2/19/08

DISTRICT 4 - Nathan Reed, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 10/3/05 - Kevin Tucker, Bridge Repairer I, 10/1/07

DISTRICT 5 - Greg Helfmann, Inspector, 10/1/07 - David Smith, Inspector, 10/1/07

DISTRICT 6 - Shirley Hammett, Area Hq. Att., 7/20/04

DISTRICT 8 - Michael Burton, Asphalt Tank Truck Driver, 10/1/07 - James Harris, Motor Patrol Operator, 10/1/07 - Cornell Newsome, Single Axle Truck Driver, 05/07/08

DISTRICT 9 - Ashley Hale, Ferry Boat Pilot, 9/5/07 - Douglas Henry, Single Axle Truck Driver, 10/1/07 - Joseph Ragland, Maintenance Aide I, 10/1/07 - Cameron Whitney, Sign Erector, 10/9/07 - Randal Williams, Ferry Boat Pilot, 9/10/07

DISTRICT 10 - Donald Evance, Con. Aide I, 10/1/07 - Rufus Mitchell, Rest Area Att., 10/1/07 - Elvis Richmond, Sr. Construction Mat. Inspector, 10/1/07

"Where Is This?"

The new Highway 82 Bridge over the Mississippi River near Lake Village, in Chicot County.

