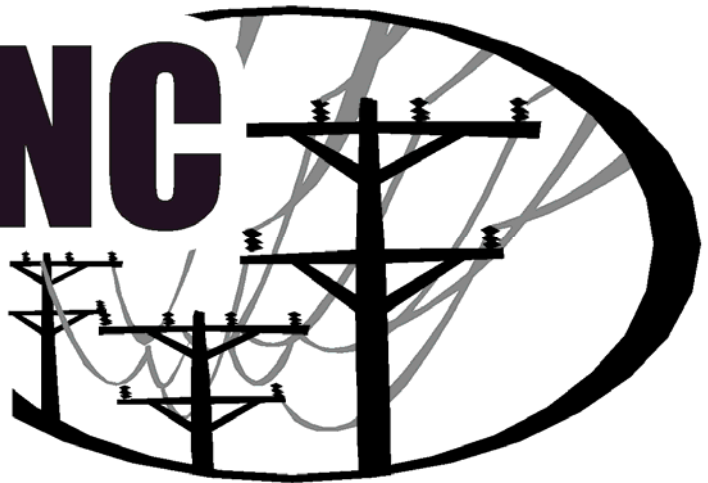


SCS/SNC OUTSIDE



Volume 22

Number 2

March – April 2010

especially like to hear your recommendations about programs for future meetings.

— Charles Goodman

PREZ SEZ

As my term begins as president of the SCS/SNC Retiree Organization, I am excited to having the opportunity to lead this group in 2010. I not only want to thank all of the 2009 officers, directors, and committee chairs but to welcome the new leadership team. These dedicated members should allow us to continue to have interesting bimonthly meetings; get updates on members through Outside and e-mail or telephone contacts; and have other fellowship related events throughout the year.

All of you should have received your 2010 membership form and in case you have misplaced it a copy is included with this issue of Outside. If you know someone who is a retiree and would like to join, do not hesitate to give them a copy or let me know and we will send them one.

I also want to encourage you to take advantage of the SCS/SNC website. Charles Hickman, the Chair of our Website Committee, has done an excellent job of making the site informative and user friendly.

Please do not hesitate to contact me either by e-mail (chgoodman@bellsouth.net) or by phone if you have comments about our organization. I would

MEMBER CARE REPORT

We have good news from **Jim Anchors** and **Jim Rooker**. Jim Anchors is back at church and singing in the choir. Jim Rooker had his stent surgery last week, is now at home and is already feeling much better.

John and **Margaret Carter** are doing well, even though John fell recently, but he has no broken bones.

Gail Rollins has been nursing her mom who had a malignancy removed from her face (14 stitches), and her mom is recuperating very well.

Carol Yeager is having some tests for back problems.

Please continue to remember Frances Williamson in the loss of her husband, **Hugh Williamson**.

Please contact me or Dora Brandt if you have a change in e-mail address, or phone number. Also we need to know if there are retirees who are confined to their home or a nursing home facility.

— Liz Winter

The only nice thing about being imperfect is the joy it brings to others.

— Doug Larson

Want to keep up with what's happening? Got a computer? Visit the SCS Retiree Website.
<http://www.scsretirees.com>

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MARCH PROGRAM

Our March meeting will be on Monday, March 8, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at Inverness building 42, Room 130. The meeting features a presentation titled "Layers of the Earth: Can the Past Be Our Future?" by Richard A. Esposito, Southern Company Research Geologist. Richard expects to receive his Ph. D. in Environmental Engineering from UAB in 2010. He is also an Adjunct Instructor in Environmental Geology at Samford University and is Chairman of the Board of the Alabama Wildlife Center.

— Charles Goodman

BIRTHDAYS

MARCH: 1-James McNeely, 2-T.D. Posey, 3-David Busby & Pat Goodman, 4-Waltraud Amos & Rita Townsend, 5-Al Stallings, 6-Ken Horton, 7-Linda Katz, Kathryn Owens & Clara Posey, 9-Danny Lofton & Gene Rollins, 11-Bill Nicholson & Mary Sue Thornburgh, 12-Ron Fowler, John Troha & Sid Varagona, 15-Robert Gehri, 16-Martha Cook, James Ewing & Lewis Williams, 18-Iris Gilbert & Mary Rimel, 19-Pat Bowman & John Meier, 20-Mary Anchors & Cheryl Baker, 21-Carol Couch, Myron Fieldler, Scott Herron & Doyal Shaw, 22-Woody Woodruff, 23-John Tilton, Joe Tyner & Clyde Wood, 24-Peggy Davis, 26-April Brockson, Barbara Mitchell & Ron Tyler, 28-Bernice Hill, Richard McRee & Joe Romano, 29-Barbara Jones and 30-Marvin Watkins.

APRIL: 1-Tim Petty & Shirley Rutherford, 2-Lowell Brothers, 3-Don Turner, Mahal Khan & Dean Koch, 4-Vicki Garner & Frances Johnson, 5-James Cofield & Jean Shaw, 6-Joe Spears, 7-Jeanette Crane & Geraldine Lofton, 8-Paul Cone, Lodema Evans, Eugene Johnston, Ken Kopecky, Sarah Ann Michlewright, Stokely Morgan & Jerry Ray, 9-Geraldine Holmes, 10-James Legg, 11-Nancy Carr, Henry Garrett, Susan Goertz & Ron Letson, 12-Richard Rivers, 13-Don Jackson & Rhoy Swearingen, 14-Ken Damsgard & Charles Kirk,

15-Jerilynn Sansom & Hoy Taylor, 16-Leonard Bates & Lewis Williams, 18-Jack Goertz & Patsy Schmith, 21-William Brown & Judy Sanford, 22-Don Irvin, Lou Ann Kaster & Bill Rowe, 23-Don Walker, 24-Doug McCary, 25-Janet Smith, 27-Dewey Atkins & James Baldone, 28-Ken Mooney & Ritchie Winkler, 29-Billie Greenhill & Judith Heatherly and 30-Joyce Ehrensperger, Bill Garner & Hugh Turner.

— Jay Dorrance

OBITUARIES

Robert L. Davis, 84, of Trussville, Alabama, died on Thursday, January 7, 2010. He retired from the SCS Electrical Design Department after 3 years at Alabama Power Co. and 35 years with SCS for a total of 38 years of service to the Southern Company. Bob Davis was a Project Manager at the time of his retirement in 1986. He was a decorated World War II Army veteran with two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart, a Boy Scout Master and an Alumnus of the University of Alabama.

Bob is survived by his wife of 61 years, Billie; a son, Larry; two daughters, Nancy Davis Powell and Carol Davis Cameron; six grandchildren, one great-grandchild and a sister. Funeral services were held for Bob on Monday, January 11 at 1:00 p.m. at Rideout's Valley Chapel.

Hugh I. Williamson, 83, of Trussville, Alabama, died on Sunday, January 24, 2010. Hugh served with General Patton's Third Army during World War II. After the war he attended the University of Alabama where he obtained a Civil Engineering degree. He began his civil engineering career with TVA and later accepted a position with SCS where by the time of his retirement in 1986 and after 36 years of dedicated service he was the Manager of the SCS Civil and Architectural Design Department. Hugh is survived by his wife of 62 years, Frances; a son, David; two daughters, Rebecca Williamson Miller and Amelia Williamson King; six grandsons, two granddaughters, one great-granddaughter and a brother. Funeral services were held for Mr. Williamson at the South Roebuck

Baptist Church, Wednesday, January 27 at 11:00 a.m.

— Jay Dorrance

ATTENDANCE

Jay Dorrance reports that the attendance at the January membership meeting was 35 members and guests.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Henry Garrett reports that SCS/SNC Retirees had \$5918.12 in the bank as of February 9.

A SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT THE MAY MEETING

PLEASE NOTE the date and the day of the week. The May meeting will be **Friday**, May 14 at the Pelham Civic Complex. Registration will begin at 11 a.m. with lunch and program to follow.

— Jay Dorrance

A BRIEF INTERMISSION

When my husband and I were first married, he moonlighted doing remodeling work in people’s homes. One day, we stopped by at the house of an elderly couple he was working for, and the husband joyfully insisted we join them for some ice cream and cake because it was their 50th anniversary.

“Fifty years!” I exclaimed. “That’s a long time with one person.”

It would have been a lot longer without her,” the husband replied.

— Karen Jones (Houston, Texas)
Reader’s Digest, December 1984

How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives.

— Annie Dillard

**SCS RETIREE LEADERSHIP
FOR 2010**

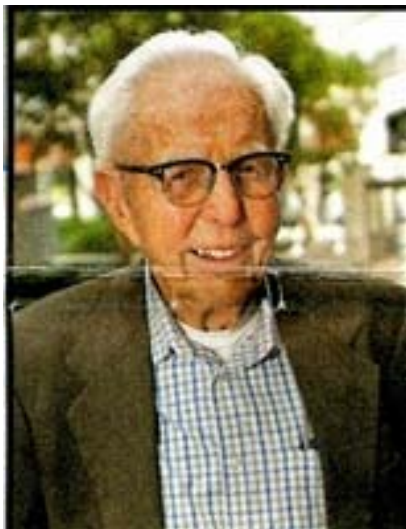
Officers	
President	Charles Goodman 823-5187
Vice President	Wayne Walton 822-1875
Secretary	Linda Griggs 823-7950
Treasurer	Henry Garrett 853-6079
Directors	
Jim Coleman	991-7403
Mike Griggs	823-7950
Don Irvin	491-3841
Gray Murray	871-5194
Jim Rooker	287-3210
Carol Yeager	822-5506
John Brandt	956-0502
	(ex-officio)
Committee Chairs	
Arrangements	Jay Dorrance 663-2828
Audit	Mike Griggs 823-7950
Fellowship	Joe Leamon 870-5637
Finance	Henry Garrett 823-6079
Member Care	Liz Winter 822-6142
Membership	Dora Brandt 956-0502
Newsletter	Dan & Myrna Wise 942-2336
Nominating	Fred Ehrensperger 655-2725
Program	Open
Website	Charles Hickman 823-4597

**RETIREE SOLVED VILLAGE CREEK
PROBLEM**

Editor's Note: The following article appeared in the Summer 2009 edition of the Alabama Power Shorelines Quarterly Report. It was written by Donna Cope, co-editor of Powergrams.

Most people just want to relax on a Sunday afternoon drive.

Not APCO retiree Richard “Woody” Woodruff. His purposeful afternoon road trip 10 years ago solved the mystery of 90 years of flooding on Birmingham’s Village Creek.



Richard “Woody” Woodruff

“I wanted to find the root cause of the problem,” said the 96-year-old hydro expert, who recently re-retired after 23 years consulting for Hendon Engineering Associates. That Birmingham office closed in June [2009].

Since the early 1920s, Village Creek has overflowed its banks, leaving behind muddy land—and often decimated homes and distressed homeowners. Between 1983 and 2000, 136 houses in the creek’s flood plain were removed as part of a flood-mitigation program by the city of Birmingham, with funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

But no one knew all the factors involved in the flooding until Woodruff set out for answers.

The stream surfaces as a huge spring in Roebuck Park, then flows north through Birmingham into Thomas, Moro Park Ensley/South Pratt to Bayview and into the Warrior River. Woodruff drove to every crossing to determine the characteristics. He discovered the creek overflowed at the ‘20s-era bridge at Avenue F in Ensley, which has several concrete piers that catch floating trash.

The Village Creek Society, of which Woodruff is technical director, is raising money to build a gabion wall into each bank to improve flow and decrease flooding. The group also wants to rebuild about 3800 feet of the Ensley creek bank from Avenue F to Avenue W, and spruce up the creek with footpaths and trails. The 75-acre site from Avenues F to W is maintained by the city and is available to be re-used for recreational purposes as the Village Creek Greenway project.

A Yankee Worth Keeping

During his Alabama Power career, Woodruff worked on planning, design, operations, maintenance, and construction and reconstruction of the company’s 14 hydro dams, as well as working as a transmission lines engineer. He formally retired in 1978.

Woodruff grew up in Binghamton, New York. As a high school student, he was lured to the University of Alabama upon seeing pictures of the campus.

Though 1100 miles away from home and family, Woodruff liked the university. “Alabama and the South kind of appealed to me,” he explained. “I liked the winters down here. The first year when I got back from Christmas vacation, I was in shirt sleeves.

In college, Woodruff chaired the St. Pat’s Society, an engineering club. A 1937 civil engineering graduate, Woodruff didn’t actually apply for a job with Alabama Power. Instead, one of his professors wrote then-Vice President Jim Barry, saying: “Here is a Yankee worth keeping.”

It is no surprise Woodruff would solve the Village Creek problem with old-fashioned legwork. His first job with the company was working as a stake carrier for a survey crew, marking the locations of poles, anchors, guywires and other equipment. “I walked from Plant Gorgas to Northport on a survey crew, helping build a 115-kilovolt line. I was a little put off, at first, because I was an engineer. But I made them the best stake carrier they ever had,” he said, grinning at the remembrance.

Woodruff’s first connection with hydro came during winter 1942, when he was tapped to catalog cracks that had appeared in the deck of Mitchell Dam in Clanton. Woodruff worked two weeks identifying the locations of cracks and adding them to drawings of the dam. By 1948, he was a head engineer for Structural and Mechanical Design. When the company decided to increase its hydro generating capacity by adding units at Mitchell and Martin dams, Woodruff gradually drifted into the hydro planning and design.

Later, his design group was assigned to add a fourth generator at Mitchell and Martin Dams. “I liked hydro—it was a fun job,” Woodruff said. L. M. Smith, who later became company president and Smith Dam’s namesake, encouraged Woodruff to obtain his engineering license.

Woodruff’s career was not without excitement. He’ll never forget the day he investigated foundation cracks at Bankhead Hydro Dam. Working with construction plant superintendent Ed Wagner, Woodruff was notating the position of the cracks on drawings, as he and Wagner stood below the dam. Suddenly the dam’s bypass gate opened.

“First, it was just a trickle, then water hit us full force,” Woodruff said. A moment later, thunderous water flushed Wagner into the Warrior River. Woodruff held onto the foundation with all his might as water pounded his body, for at least seven minutes, until a log hit him in the head. With that, Woodruff let go of the concrete. The water was so powerful, he could barely catch a breath as he was pushed out into the river. Luckily, a man fishing in the middle of the river picked up Wagner, then Woodruff.

“I was so weak, I couldn’t get in the boat,” said Woodruff, who had to be pulled in. “I had to get seven stitches in my head.” The next day Woodruff was back at work, as usual. “I was in the cafeteria when our company president, Walter Bouldin, came up and asked me what I was doing at work,” he said. “He’d heard what happened.”

These days Woodruff stays busy with the Advisory Board of the Village Creek Society, planning the group’s annual cleanup and other activities. Forever enamored with things hydro-related, Woodruff owns a 30-foot express cruiser and enjoys boating on Lake Guntersville as often as possible.

“I loved my years with Alabama Power and as a hydroelectric consulting engineer in industry,” he said. “I wouldn’t change a thing.”

A LITTLE OF THIS, A PINCH OF THAT

More Than You Probably Want to Know About Shamrocks

The beautiful 3 leaved clover looks like three hearts joined by one stem. St. Patrick, a Christian missionary, used this plant as a symbol in his teachings for an analogy of the holy trinity. At the time, the Irish Celtic folks were lovers of nature with many pagan gods. How could one god be more powerful? By using nature and the trinity symbol, he showed how the three could be seen as one powerful force. Since he died on March 17th in the mid 5th Century, the shamrock has been associated with the inner spirit and joys of the wonderful Irish people and their Emerald Isle. And luck, of course. This lovely symbol of the Irish shamrock clover is seen all over America every March and brings forth springtime, happy blessings, lucky surprises and the green. You can associate it with the fresh green color on the new growth of spring shoots. American kids have fun with interactive games in school where if you are not wearing some green, watch out, you will get pinched!

The first St. Patrick’s day celebration in the United States was in 1756 in New York City at the

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Crown and Thistle. While the Irish shamrock symbol is used in Ireland, the thistle symbol represents Scotland and the rose is the emblem of Britain. The Irish shamrock symbol is used by the Irish tourism board and on their national airline, but another earlier symbol, the harp, is used in Ireland for coins or in government.

A shamrock is said to be any 3-lobed leaf plant. The Irish shamrock is thought to have originally been the common white clover that grows throughout Europe and the world. It is a charming little plant called *Trifolium* which makes a white flower blossom that bees love. Clover honey is a delicious variety made from these shamrock (clover) plants. Clover is used as a cover crop to replenish spent soils. Like alfalfa, their roots go very deep to help break up and aerate hard-packed clay earth. Clover sprouts (the red clover variety) are delicious and sold as seeds ready to sprout or already sprouted to eat. Another plant grown from bulbs resembling the 3-lobed shamrock heart leaves is called Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*). Still another oxalis plant is called the “Lucky Shamrock”

(*Oxalis deppei*) because it has four leaves (the 4-leaf clover). With the original Irish shamrock, the 4-leaf clovers are rare, so if you find one, you are very lucky.

In Irish the word *seamara* means clover and *og* means young. Together they mean young clover and the word pronunciation sounds like “shom-ruh-og,” which becomes Americanized into our word, shamrock.

— Senior Living, March 2009

Some Product Labels

In a US guide to setting up a new computer:
TO AVOID CONDENSATION FORMING,
ALLOW BOXES TO WARM UP TO ROOM
TEMPERATURE BEFORE OPENING.
Sensible, but the instruction sheet was *inside* the
box

On a Taiwanese shampoo:
USE REPEATEDLY FOR SEVERE DAMAGE
— From the Internet

SCS RETIREES

P.O. BOX 2625

BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202

MEETING DETAILS:

When: Monday, March 8, 2010

Where: Inverness Building 42, Room 130

Board Meeting: 11 a.m.

Membership Meeting 1 p.m.

***Lunch on your own in the company
cafeteria, if you choose***