



**MARCH 20 TH 2013**  
**NEWSLETTER**

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Hi everyone,

The annual BAT Forum meeting was called to order by Chair Dennis McLaughlin at 10:15 AM. We started a little late due many late arrivals because of torrential rain and bad traffic. To kick off the meeting, the vendors all introduced themselves and their products. We would like to thank them for their participation and for bringing the gift of really nice door prizes that were won throughout the meeting:

JACK ALLENFORT

COAST TO COAST

BMI

HUMBLE & DAVENPORT

BAVCO

HOLLABAUGH BROTHERS

PROCTOR SALES

GORDON & ASSOCIATES

THE PART WORKS

Thanks to all of you for helping to make the Forum a success. Speaking of making things a success, we also would like to thank Tyler Himmelman, our Vice Chair, for supplying the venue, and for hours spent organizing and coordinating our speakers, agenda and lunch. Regretfully, Tyler will be leaving the officer position to move on to greater horizons. He has been an excellent part of our team and he will be missed. We do wish him the best and hope to see him become involved again sometime in the future. If anyone is interested in filling his position, please contact Dennis. We then made introductions around the room. We had a great turnout, 75 attendees, not counting vendors and officers. It was pretty much a full house with folks from a wide variety of locations.

Terri Notestine from the Department of Health spoke briefly. She spoke to the mission statement for the Office of Drinking Water which is probably very close to what any of us would write about ourselves; is to protect the health of the people of Washington State by ensuring safe and reliable drinking water. She explained the "multiple barrier concept" which includes many facets of care in the protection of our drinking water from the source all the way to the distribution system and the critical roll we play as CCS's and BAT's. Terri gave an update on the Operator Certification Rule Revisions and specifically on the section pertaining to the CCC related draft rules. The first stage of review is finished and there will be a few more steps in the process. Purposed changes are in the process to enhance the State's ability to take enforcement action against drive-by testing and or negligence on the part of a tester. They are attempting to clarify and define the roles of CCSs and BATs, and what the minimum test report form content will be. She shared some details with us regarding all of the changes and the goals that they are

working toward. You can check out all of here information at this link; <http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/RegulationandCompliance/Rulemaking.aspx> There will be a chance for us to make comments sometime, hopefully this fall. Next there will be a public hearing process, and then hopefully the new Rule will be adopted. They are shooting for early 2014.

You can order the updated USC list in CD format free of charge by going to the Office of Drinking Water Page at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater.aspx> and request PUBLICATION #331-137. However, The USC foundation for Cross Connection Control called them a couple of weeks ago to say that they have decided to make their list available to the public. There will be no membership necessary. Hopefully, sometime in April you should be able to go the USC website and see that USC assembly approved assembly list on line with no password. The State will probably put the link on their webpage when this information becomes available. Dennis asked if the purveyors have the ability to not allow a tester in their jurisdiction if they suspect drive-by testing. Terri believes that as long as the purveyor has legal authority to manage their program, they would have the authority take enforcement action. The DOH also has the ability now to take enforcement action. If you suspect the lack of integrity of a BAT, contact the DOH with your information.

Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, everyone should be on board with the 10<sup>th</sup> edition field test requirements. Rachel Neville from Washington Certification Services had a power point on the 10<sup>th</sup> edition implementation requirements. The transition is nearly complete. There are about 1,600 BATs, and about 100 of them may be waiting in queue to take their examination. They have not lost their certification, but cannot test until they pass the hands on 10<sup>th</sup> edition procedures test. Purveyors need to watch closely to make sure all of the reports they accept are only from 10<sup>th</sup> edition certified testers. She discussed the details of the reporting periods and professional growth requirements. If you would like to check your status or have questions regarding anything pertaining to BAT certification or testing you can go to: [http://www.instruction.greenriver.edu/wacertservices/bat/cert\\_verification.asp](http://www.instruction.greenriver.edu/wacertservices/bat/cert_verification.asp). If you are planning to take a hands on test, you are welcome to practice on the simulator that was purchased jointly by The Group and Partworks free of charge. Please call Partworks in advance to make an appointment. If you would like a copy of Rachel's power point presentation from the Forum, give her a call at Washington Certification Services.

Door prizes are always exciting! 50.00 bucks from Hallabaugh Bros., Mechanical Agents, BMI, and Jack Allenfort (BAT Data Base). Thanks again folks!

Mike Patten was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from The Group for years of commitment in training CCSs and BATs. I'll bet 90% of the folks in the room have had the opportunity to hear Mike at one time or another in the training room at WETRC or more recently. Mike's presentation consisted of his perspective on the history, present day, and future of the cross connection control program. Here are some interesting dates in history; originally the BAT & CCS program was combined where if you were certified as a CCS; you were also able to test backflow assemblies. Wow, that seems like it was a hundred years ago! But, really that program was started in 1974. In 1994, the CCS and BAT certifications were separated. Around 1997, the State switched over to using USC testing procedures. 1998 CCC

regulations were adopted. He reviewed some troubleshooting procedures and spoke of the technology of the future which will include electronic filing of reports with the purveyors, and even the possibility of continually monitoring of assemblies for proper function. That is hard to imagine, but....who knows for sure! We thank Mike for his presentation, his years of devoted training abilities, and most of all, we wish him the best and offer a huge congratulation on his retirement. His name will remain an Icon with all of the seasoned vets in the industry.

More door prizes from Partworks; screwdriver sets, Proctor Sales; 50.00 gift card for Cabelas, Bavco; free calibration and a yellow manual on CD (there were some really nice gifts, huh?)

At that point, we broke for lunch, visiting the vendor tables and visiting with friends.

After lunch, we had a quick appearance from Ken Carlson, Bellevue Fire Marshall, who talked a bit about monitored fire systems. There were some questions and answers and that completed the 2013 BAT Forum. Thanks to all of you who participated.

I was asked to add a special note from Chair, Dennis McLaughlin. If you would like to respond, please email or phone him:

I have received some negative vibes from several attendees concerning the 2013 BAT forum.

We would like to be more informative for the BATs but if you don't tell us what you would like (or expect) to see and hear, it is difficult to help you.

During the question and answer periods, not **one** of you had anything to say. Please let me hear from you or this may have been the last BAT forum.

**-AGAIN-**

*Please* feel free to send any and all comments or suggestions to me, (good, bad, of indifferent).

DENNIS P. MCLAUGHLIN [mclaughlinbackflowtesting@msn.com](mailto:mclaughlinbackflowtesting@msn.com)

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The next meeting will be held at the Washington State Patrol Fire Training Academy in North Bend on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

This facility is self-contained, meaning that they have their own source of water and operate their own WW treatment plant. They are required by the State to have a Cross Connection Control Site Survey. They contacted Dennis. We as CCSs will perform a full site survey, free of charge. This will give the veterans of The Group a chance to sharpen their skills and

at the same time, provide a relaxed atmosphere to assist and train the less experienced members of the Group. The plan is that we will meet there at **9AM** and go to their meeting room. We will get preliminary information and then split into groups. Each group will work independently on their survey. When everyone is finished, we will meet up again and discuss our findings. As a whole, we will then compose a written survey to present to our hosts.

## **Driving Directions**

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50810 SE Grouse Ridge Road  
PO Box 1273  
North Bend, WA 98045

**Eastbound** - take exit 38 off I-90, turn right off the exit. The road will run parallel to the freeway approximately two miles, and then curves left back under the freeway and through a yellow pole gate. Follow the one lane access road approximately 2.5 miles to the Fire Training Academy administration building. Speed limit on access road is 20 mph.

**Westbound** - take exit 38 off I-90, turn right off the exit. Follow road through the yellow gate to access road. Follow the single lane access road approximately 2.5 miles to the administration building. Speed limit on the access road is 20 mph.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THIS MEETING STARTS AT 9AM AND WILL FINISH APPROXIMATELY AROUND 1PM.**

You are welcome to bring a guest or two. See you there! Shoot me a line if you have any questions.

Kathy ([kcaldwell@redmond.gov](mailto:kcaldwell@redmond.gov))

Group Sec.