



FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

The Group

PO Box 94551

Seattle, WA 98124

www.backflowgroup.org

OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION

CHAIR: Tony Peredo <u>tony@rainerviewwater.com</u>	Rainier View Water Company	253 537 6634
VICE CHAIR: Chris Sutton <u>backflowsnw@yahoo.com</u>	Backflows Northwest	425 277 2888
TREASURER: Dennis McLaughlin <u>mclaughlinbackflowtesting@msn.com</u>	McLaughlin Backflow	206 364 9531
SECRETARY: Kathy Caldwell <u>kcaldwell@redmond.gov</u>	City of Redmond	425 556 2847
PAST CHAIR: Tim Cantwell <u>tcantwell@woodinvillewater.com</u>	Woodinville Water District	425 487 4125

Hi all,

The Group gathered together again in February at the Lake Hills Library in Bellevue. Those in attendance were:

Barr, Scott	City of Monroe	360 863 5545	sbarr@monroewa.gov
Baxmann, Dale	University of WA	206-795-9192	dbaxmann@u.washington.edu
Brown, Ron	RA Brown Backflow	206 226 8019	rabrown@bft@yahoo.com
Caldwell, Kathy	City of Redmond	425-556-2847	kcaldwell@redmond.gov
Cantwell, Tim	Woodinville Water District	425-487-4125	tcantwell@woodinvillewater.com
Crooks Debbie	City of Kent	253 856 5646	dcrooks@KentWa.gov
Eastwood, Robert	SPU	206-233-2635	BobEastwood@aol.com
Foreman, Fred	City of DuPont	253-377-4971	fforeman@ci.dupont.wa.us
Frederick, Paul (Fred)	Backflows Only, LLC	253 606 4104	mybackflow@gmail.com
Gonzales, Mary	Clearwater Backflow	425-773-1414	mgonzales124@yahoo.com
Holmes, Larry	FBN Testing & Repair	425 999 5546	homes117@gmail.com
McLaughlin, Dennis	McLaughlin's backflow testing	206-364-9531	mclaughlinbackflowtesting@msn.com
McMurphy, Linda	City of Edmonds	425-771-0235	Linda.McMurphy@edmondswa.gov
Nessly, Chic	Sammamish Plateau	425-392-4931	chic.nessly@spwsd.org
Salter, James	Pops Backflow	206 551 5174	popsbackflow@gmail.com
Sutton, Chris	Backflows NW	425 277 2888	chris@backflowsnorthwest.com

In Tony's absence, Vice Chair Chris Sutton called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM. Treasurer Dennis reported that we have \$18,787.12 in the account.

The first discussion was directed around the organization of the BAT Forum in March. Bob and some others are presently working on the agenda. Chris has agreed to MC the event and will start off with a few short presentations from the State CCC reps and Washington Certification Services. We are still working on the details. Dale Baxmann will be available to answer questions regarding BAT certification testing. King County Plumbing Inspectors will be available for fielding questions. We will be in the presences of a great variety of BAT professionals as well as many CCS representatives from Cities and other water purveyors. As always, the BAT Forum is an excellent opportunity for communication on all levels of expertise. It is an opportunity to meet colleagues, ask questions and seek better ways of enhancing our companies and daily jobs by implementing best practices and sharing experiences.

It will be held at La Quinta Suites in Tacoma on March 18th at 9 AM. Please bring your questions and answers to share!!

We voted to purchase of a projector for the meeting as well as some flip charts and various other needs to enhance the presentation. Chris will make the purchase and bring another laptop to use. We often need this equipment and usually becomes a last minute scramble to come up with it, so we all feel that if we can purchase it for \$600.00 or less, we should invest.

The topic of the day was irrigation systems, testing and maintenance. The Group welcomes Darin Graves from HD Fowler to share his extensive knowledge. There was a discussion on when and where to install blow outs and why they are sometimes incorrectly placed or left out entirely. Darin spoke of the dangers of using compressors that have the ability to run a jackhammer, and recommended using line pressure only for winterization. With that being said, Tim was wondering if using a compressor could create a high hazard cross connection and wondered if a double-check was adequate for the hazard presented. A thought to ponder.....and maybe someone at the Forum will address that concern.

Fred from Backflows Only gave his insight as to how to winterize a DCVA in a box. He suggested bubble wrap or other material for keeping the assembly from freezing. He further said that you could find an old couch cushion alongside the road and BAM, you have your insulation! I don't mean to poke fun at him. Fred was very knowledgeable and extremely humorous. We enjoyed having him at the meeting along with his son, Jacob. Fred has some good information to share and is planning to speak a bit at the Forum, so be looking for him!

Fred commented that purveyors should be able to make exceptions on the placement of backflow assemblies to alleviate the chances for flooding of the boxes.

Tim prompted the discussion of drip systems and faucet supplied irrigation. We discussed the potential hazards created with frost free yard hydrants as well as other creative ways folks come up with to water.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

On behalf of the Group, we would like to thank Darin Graves for taking some time to meet with us and share his knowledge.

I've attached the BAT Flyer to this email. It gives all of the details for you to come and participate. There is no charge for members who have paid 2015 dues, and morning refreshments will be served. If you have not paid your dues, plan on bringing \$10.00 to attend the meeting. This will bring your membership current. I've also attached an updated 2015 calendar, so if you've saved the old calendar, please replace it with this one.

On a different note, my job duties have changed and I am announcing that I will no longer be able to act as Secretary for the Group. The May meeting will be my last in that capacity. We are looking for someone that is willing to fulfil the role.

The duties include attending the meetings, drafting the newsletter and sending out to members. Other duties are maintaining the membership list, creating flyers and announcements, and being the communications liaison between the Group and others to assist in overall functions. I am willing to share all records, templates and the experiences I have gathered in the past five years to assist in a smooth transition.

It has been fun and an honor to serve on the Board. Thanks to all of you for your support.

Kathy Caldwell/ Group Secretary