

# ON TAP

Plymouth County Water Works Association

[www.pcwwa.org](http://www.pcwwa.org)

February 2008—Issue 101

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**NEAL MERRITT**

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## *Merritt Points*



Dear Members:

As I sit here writing this month's newsletter, the outside temperature is a balmy 11 degrees Fahrenheit with a wind chill of -6°. Fortunately, cold weather has so far been the exception more than the rule as we have experienced near normal to above normal temperatures the past two months. More importantly, according to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, December precipitation for the southeastern part of the state was above normal (approx. 1.5") for the first time since July 07. Our portion of the state currently has a 12-month rainfall deficit of 1.6" down from 5.2" in November. Hopefully, this trend will continue and we will see our aquifers and reservoirs recharged as we head into the summer months.

I have good news regarding the licensing of certified operators. The Department of Professional Licensure has developed new testing procedures that involve the use of computerized exams offered at various locations throughout the year. Better yet, the examination fee is now \$84.50. For further information, go to the Division of Professional Licensure web site or [www.goamp.com](http://www.goamp.com).

I look forward to seeing you all at our February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Chateau in Norton where the topic of discussion will be pipe bursting. This subject should be of interest to many of us as we explore different methods of replacing old and undersized water mains. See you on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,  
*Neal Merritt*  
President



*Happy  
Birthday!*

PCWWA would like to wish the following members a happy birthday.

## **February Birthdays**

Ralph M. Marks (2) Bourne Water District + Sheila Sgarzi (3) Town of Plymouth + Robert F. Woodbury (4) + Joshua H. Ford (6) Easton Water Division + Roy Maher Jr. (6) Plymouth, Town of (Water Department) + Larry Wile (6) L. Wile & Son Drilling Co. + Richard F. Kramer (10) Woodard & Curran + Robert L. Noone (12) Abington/Rockland Joint Water Works + Paul E. Galego (16) Dartmouth Water Division + Jeanne Sullivan (16) Regan Supply & Testing Service + Lee Azinheira (17) Town of Mansfield + Norbert J. Fredette (19) + JoAnne E. Hall (19) Abington/Rockland Joint Water Works + Daniel F. Callahan (20) Rockland/Abington Joint Water Works + Richard D. Muncey (20) Pembroke Water Division + John E. O'Brien (20) Haley and Ward, Inc + Michael Roderick (24) Dartmouth Water Division + Carl M. Finton (26) + John A. Sanna (26) + Paul J. Daigneault (28) NPI + William T. Nicholson (28) Mattapoisett Water and Sewer .

Congratulations to **JoAnne E. Hall** for winning the February birthday gift drawing.

All winners receive a \$25.00 Hess Card courtesy of Ti-Sales Inc., Sudbury, MA.

**Ti-SALES** INC.

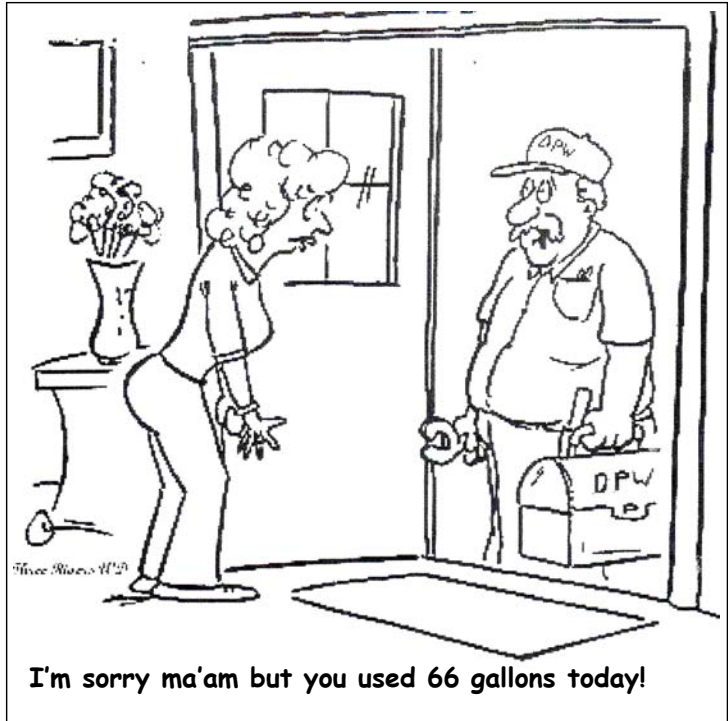


WATER and WASTE WATER SUPPLIES



# New Members

- Chris Walsh  
*Plymouth Water Department*
- Patrick Murphy  
*Plymouth Water Department*
- Gerry Putney  
*Plymouth Water Department*



## January Web Winner Drawings

- Leonard Boyce  
Fireport Services
- Tina Bragga  
Dighton Water District
- James DeLuca  
Aqua Solutions, Inc.
- David Geddry  
Abington/Rockland Water Works
- Kevin O'Donnell  
Town of Mansfield
- Michael O'Malley  
The Shaw Group
- Bert Tighe  
Ti-Sales, Inc.

ONE WINNER

[www.pcwwa.org/webwinner](http://www.pcwwa.org/webwinner)



## Raffle Winners January Meeting



**\$50 Home Depot Gift Card**

Donated by: Environmental Partners,  
Quincy, MA

Winner: *Huw Evans*

**Boston Bruins Leather Jacket**

Donated by: Vellano Bros., Inc.

Winner: *Wayne Travis*

**1 box Titanium golf balls and Pub 99 gift card**

Donated by: Bartlett Consolidated, Inc.

Winner: *Sean Osborne*

Total raised from the raffle: \$238.00

## Notice

Ted Kaegael from Fall River Water Dept. has a pallet of bagged sodium thiosulfate and a pallet of powdered activated carbon, which they no longer have use for. If anyone is interested and can use these, call Ted at 508-324-2725

## What Does \$6,500 Buy? A Healthier, Happier Village

By *Khaled Hossenini*

(as printed in *The New York Times*, Sunday, December 23, 2007)

Qarabatur is a small village nestled on a mountain in Kunduz Province in northern Afghanistan. Like many Afghan villages, it is impossibly remote.

To get there during my visit this September with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, we had to make a bone-crushing one-hour drive on an unpaved track across a sun-scorched desert, and then take one hairpin turn after another up a winding gravel mountain road.

The drive is trying, but well worth it. From the village, the view below is stunning: desert and soft mountain ranges, the sky topaz blue, the air still and cool. The village leader, Daoud, told me that in spring, the mountainside explodes with bursts of yellow, purple and red flowers.

“You should come see for yourself,” he said proudly.

Qarabatur is a village of Farsi-speaking ethnic Hazaras, a minority group in Afghanistan. Like millions of other Afghans, the people of Qarabatur abandoned their village when the Soviets invaded in 1979. As Shia Muslims, they chose not to flee to Pakistan, but to Iran, where they lived as refugees for two decades. They worked manual labor, mostly construction, for \$5 to \$8 a day.

“Life was good in Iran,” Daoud said. They had homes, steady pay, food, heat and water.

When the United States invaded Afghanistan in fall 2001 and the Northern Alliance forced out the Taliban, the villagers packed their bags and returned.

“We were happy to come back,” Daoud said. “Afghanistan is our home.”

But their optimism was dealt a devastating blow when they came face to face with the reality of restarting life in a

country reeling from nearly three decades of war, extensive displacement, anarchy, drought, famine and destruction.

In comparison, life in Iran had been luxurious .

“There was no one to help us here,” Daoud told me as we ate rice and lamb along with 20 other villagers. “No one.”

The most daunting problem facing Qarabatur was that it had no water. This is common in Afghanistan, where more than half the population does not have potable water.

Every day at dawn, the children of the village loaded donkeys with empty canisters and antifreeze jugs, and rode down the mountain and across the desert to the nearest city where there was a clean well. The trek took hours.

Once they had waited their turn in line and their animals had been loaded up, the children rode back across the desert and up the mountain, careful not to spill the water they had walked all day to fetch.

When they finally made it back to Qarabatur, they would unload the donkeys, collapse somewhere and do it all over again the next day.

Then, last fall, a miracle. In 2000, the United Nations refugee agency built a gravity-fed water system for the village, using a spring that was a 10-minute walk up the mountain. But the yield from the spring was meager—it often took an hour to fill a single bucket.

In September 2006, Alix Mundt, a young American who runs the United Nations refugee agency’s office in Kunduz, visited the spring with a water engineer. They surveyed the site and found that there were actually three springs in proximity to one another, and that if they were

joined together, the water flow might be sufficient to sustain the village.

Under Mr. Mundt’s guidance, a cash-for-work project was implemented. For three months, using pickaxes and shovels, the villagers dug a pit 10 meters deep. When they hit solid rock, the Christian Children’s Fund provided dynamite to blast the rock.

The three springs were joined, and pipes were renewed and connected to the pool at the base of the springs. Suddenly, clean water was running uninterrupted down a pipe from the spring and out of a faucet in the village.

The project cost only \$6,500. But the impact on the people of Qarabatur was enormous. The villagers could plant their pistachio trees and resume their animal husbandry trade. They could cook, wash their dishes and bathe without fear.

The bounty has affected others as well. Ethnic Uzbeks from a nearby village now come to Qarabatur to fetch water. “they are our brothers,” Daoud said. “We are happy to share our water.”

There it is, then, the gift of water, the most indispensable element of life. And, coincidentally, the excavation was completed just days before Christmas.

As for Qarabatur’s children, they no longer have to endure the exhausting daily journey down the mountain and across the desert. Now that the village has water, they can attend school.

In fact, the villagers have built a small school in the center of the village. All they need is a qualified teacher and some books.

And that, perhaps, is a gift for another season.

## *PCWWA Scholarship Awards for 2008*

Application forms for the PCWWA Scholarship Awards for 2008 are now available. Eligible candidates for scholarship awards include high school seniors accepted at a college/university and/or current college students continuing their education. Preference for scholarship awards is given to PCWWA members, relatives of PCWWA members or relatives of their employees.

Application forms may be obtained on-line at [www.pcwwa.org/scholarship](http://www.pcwwa.org/scholarship) or from the following PCWWA Scholarship Committee Members:

George Block, Tibbetts Engineering Corp.	tel. 508-822-6934 e-mail <a href="mailto:gblock@tibbettsengineeringcorp.com">gblock@tibbettsengineeringcorp.com</a>
Parker Stiles, Stiles Company	tel. 781-769-2400 e-mail <a href="mailto:parker@stilesco.com">parker@stilesco.com</a>
Brian Stonkus, Stonkus Hydraulic	tel. 508-883-3105 e-mail <a href="mailto:stonkus@aol.com">stonkus@aol.com</a>
John Tetrault, Avon Water Dept.	tel. 508-588-0414 e-mail <a href="mailto:avonsup@yahoo.com">avonsup@yahoo.com</a>

Applications must be completed and submitted to George Block, PCWWA Scholarship Chairman, by April 7, 2008. Applications received after that date will not be considered.

Applications may be mailed to: George Block, PCWWA Scholarship Chairman  
c/o Tibbetts Engineering Corp.  
716 County Street

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## *Monthly Meeting* *Wednesday, February 27, 2008*



**Location:** Chateau Norton  
48 Bay Road, Norton, MA 02766

**Agenda:** 10:30 a.m.—Registration / Coffee  
11:00 a.m.—Main Presentation  
11:45 a.m.—15 Minute Break  
12:00 noon—Lunch  
12:45—Vendor Presentation  
1:00 p.m.—Business Meeting  
2:00 p.m.—Meeting Adjourn

**Speaker:** Ric Micelotta  
Ric has been with TT Technologies for the past 11 years and in the field of underground technologies for over 20 years. His presentation will teach the basics of pipe bursting and will include job stories from New England and around the country.

**Meal:** **Chicken Supreme**  
served with rice Florentine, butternut squash  
**Baked Seafood Nantucket**  
served with roasted potatoes, green beans  
**Sirloin Tips**  
served with mashed potato, green beans

**Cost:** \$20.00 Honorary Members / Retirees  
\$25.00 Regular / Active Members\*  
\$30.00 Walk-ins, Non-Members or Late Registrations\*\*

\*Registration on or before Wednesday, February 20, 2008  
\*\* Any registration after Wednesday, February 20, 2008

**To Register:**  
Register on-line [www.pcwwa.org](http://www.pcwwa.org)  
Call the Tighe & Bond, Inc. at 508-563-5643

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