

Time is Flying By!!!!  
By Ken Widhalm, ARRA Circuit Rider

At this time of writing it is July already. It seems the first three months that I have been a NeRWA Circuit Rider have gone by fast. That's the way it seems when you're having fun.

I really don't have any one "Special Topic" to report on, but I can tell you this, I have really enjoyed visiting the parts of the state that I haven't seen before. I know why we have a great state. All of the communities, big and small, play a major role in this state's heritage. More important are ALL the OPERATORS of all the cities and villages. You folks are the people that make it all happen.

I have really enjoyed this position with NeRWA and I look forward to the upcoming months. I have spoken to and met with a lot of operators, clerks, board members, etc. from different areas of the state, and I still have a lot of people to meet. My goal is to try and make contact with every community under a population of 10,000 before Nov. 1, 2010.

I have learned a lot. It seems like I pick up something new every day. It is interesting to share experiences with operators and I have found out some things that were new to me, also. Finding out ways for a quick and easy fix are the things that I try to pass along. For instance, if your system has a fire hydrant that will not drain back after operated, give me a call at 402-380-1424, or call Don Christen at Burwell. We know the solution that works. It's like cleaning a coffee pot.

I have been busy trying to get the valve exercise machine towards the east end of the state. We have several towns that want to take advantage of it as it is coming through and that also saves running it back and forth across the state. After transporting it to an area, I get it started at one town and when they are finished with it, they can work with the next town in the area to move it on or they can call me. So far, all the people have been very good to work with, very willing to work together to use this machine and to transport it between towns. We do have a long list of communities that want to use this machine. The NeRWA is asking for your cooperation in moving it along as quickly as possible. We know that things come up that are much more important to do, so do the best you can. A phone call gets you on the list, but you may have to wait awhile unless we can work you in when it is in your area. This machine is a neat little outfit, operator-friendly, and simple to use. Don't be afraid to call to use it or if you have questions about it.

The valve exercise machine is a very expensive machine and NeRWA is asking for a \$5.00 donation per valve. Please take good care of it. Everyone has taken good care of it so far and that is appreciated. If you have a problem, please give NeRWA a call or give me a call. Your water mains are a very important part of your system. Even valves at your wastewater plants can be very hard to operate. This machine can help ease the task in both areas.

I hope to meet and speak with a lot more of you operators, or someone connected with your village or city within the upcoming months. See you out there.