

A Look Back at 2013 and a Look Ahead to 2014

By Mike Lucas, Wastewater Technician

Looking back at 2013 as a staff member of NeRWA, I remember tens of thousands of miles traveled across the state. I remember and am thankful for the time spent with operators, clerks and board members. Sometimes I'm glad to just provide a listening ear from someone who has been there and done that.

I have 12 one-day training classes scheduled across the state for 2014. When possible I plan to have credit hours available for water, since the majority of you wear multiple hats. There will also be five four-day certification training classes held at Wahoo. Remember that NDEQ requires that you are preregistered with them to take the wastewater certification test at least a month in advance of the test date for the testing location that you wish to attend. Those locations and dates are available on their website and in the coalition calendar.

One of the ideas that I am working on is to have a six-hour, hands-on sewer jetting demonstration class. We would be looking at different heads, applications, safety and maintenance. Clear plastic pipe would be utilized so that you could visually compare different heads and pressures. My goal would be to have three class locations across the state. It would obviously have to be in warm weather (much warmer than right now). This is, of course, subject to approval by NDEQ for CEU hours.

NDEQ continues their participation in the one-day classes. Topics include: laboratory, the new AWIN program and addressing any compliance questions that you may have.

The sewer line video camera continues to be in high demand. At the time of this writing there are four jobs scheduled for next week. I probably do as many service lines as I do mains. It is mandatory to have the customer there when we view private service lines. Often times we are dealing with determining fault.

Thanks to the generosity of a donor I now have a second composite sampler. This is another often requested service that we provide. The second sampler is very helpful when one operator has multiple systems or I have several requests in a specific geographic area of the state and we are dealing with sample holding times and lab availability.

A new priority for USDA and EPA is capacity development. We likely will be speaking with you about this in the very near future. Again at the time of this writing I don't know enough about what we are requested to do with this to even qualify as dangerous. Randy and I are scheduled to participate in a four-hour webinar to provide us with the tools to assist you and your systems in this area. More information later.

I really appreciate and encourage your input that I may better meet your needs in 2014.

PLEASE DECIDE TO WORK SAFE THIS YEAR!