

## First Year on the Job

By Scott Finke, Circuit Rider

I have been to a lot of towns in the first year of my employment seeing a lot of familiar faces and meeting a lot of new operators. Going to the Nebraska Rural Water Association's spring and fall conferences have been a lot of fun (if you have never been to one of these conferences, I urge you to attend one). Traveling around the state I have been helping water operators by finding water lines, doing leak detection, vulnerability assessments, and emergency response plans. I have also been going around the state with the new valve machine, exercising valves with Mike Stanzel, we have been to many different towns this last summer.

I've been working with a town that has lost a lot of water each month. They are going to be buying water from another town so they asked NeRWA to help them find some leaks. All our circuit riders have been there trying to find their leaks with Leak Detection. We had found a couple of small leaks but nothing big until one day I went there and found noise screaming from a couple of valves. Mike showed up and we correlated the leak and found it under the railroad tracks, the leak never did surface. The town had somebody come in and put a new line in under the tracks. The town's water consumption went down over one million gallons. Where did all that water go, that they had been losing so much water for over a year? Being down to one million gallons that they cannot account for, we will have to keep listening to valve boxes to see if we can find any more leaks. Just because they do not surface doesn't mean you do not have any leaks.

This is just one of the many new jobs that I have had to learn how to do in my first year of working at NeRWA. I enjoy working with all the people at Nebraska Rural Water Association. They are a great group of people that have experience in a lot of different things. I am looking forward to meeting other operators in the coming months and years. If you are in need of our assistance please let us know by calling the office or getting ahold of me at 402-607-2249.