



S&K “GROUP SPIRIT”

WINTER EDITION, 2017

MOAB TAC TEAM

Tank Relocation Project

S&K PAQLI “FIREFLY”

Introducing a new feature to spotlight S&K employees

SAVANNAH RIVER

IT Support Services

SEATTLE EPA

Graphics help to tell complex stories

SPACE EXPLORATION

Native Americans that have had an impact in space exploration



Letter from the Chief Executive Officer

Tom Acevedo



Those of us living in Montana have had to contend with a stubborn and snowy winter. Likewise those of you along our southeastern coast have had to deal with some violent and rain filled storms. Just maybe the weather is reflecting the challenging political scene engulfing America at this time.

This shifting political landscape could possibly benefit our ability to win more contract awards or work counter to this ability. In any event we will have to remain nimble and alert to deal with either situation. A couple of us from the corporate office will be going to Washington DC to maintain our relationship with our Congressional delegation. Our lone House of Representatives member from Montana will be serving in the new administration as a cabinet member.

The positive news for us this fiscal year is that we are well positioned for this current business cycle. Along with performing on our existing contracts we are conducting due diligence on the purchase of an existing company. If all goes well, this company will enhance our profitability within the FMS program. Now that we have merged SKT, LLC into SKER, LLC we will also begin to work on creating another LLC for the SBA 8a program.

We expect to have one new member on our Board of Directors. Our long serving Board Chair Mr. Cottet, decided not to seek reappointment to the board when his term expired. He has been an excellent Board member and Chair throughout his tenure.

S&K Paqli “Firefly”- Carroll Thornesbery

Pronounced (Pac-Lee), S&K Paqli—Salish for Firefly—a new feature to get to know an employee that has been with the company for many years, or has a unique story that makes them stand out.

With this edition of “S&K Group Spirit,” we start a new feature where we spotlight an employee within the S&K enterprise. We thought it fitting that our inaugural journey featured an employee who has been with S&K from the start. Carroll Thornesbery starting working with S&K Electronics Inc., in support of their first service contract at Johnson Space Center in Houston in 1997. Carroll has been developing intelligent systems and designing human computer interaction with intelligent systems since receiving his Ph.D. in cognitive psychology from the University of Houston in 1981. In addition, he has been the Principal Investigator for several NASA Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR), Phase I and II, most recently as part of the Autonomous Requirements Tester (ART) and Fault Management Viewer (FMV), with S&K Global Solutions. Although the number of articles and projects are too numerous to mention here, the bottom line is that Carroll helps humans and machines communicate and interact more efficiently. As NASA’s mission expands towards Mars and beyond, the need for Carroll’s unique talents will only grow. We caught him at the right moment and asked him a few questions:

1) What is it about S&K you really like?

I like the fact that at any location, it retains the feel of a small company. I rarely do the same thing every day for more than about 6 months at a time. That enables me to learn new things, build new skills, and avoid stagnation and boredom. There is also the freedom to make new contacts to build helpful relationships across NASA without having to worry about layers of bureaucratic permissions.



2) What are some of your favorite projects you have worked on over the years?

My career is mostly about building human-computer interactions to support engineering tasks at NASA. Two really fun projects from the past involved a valuable data model concept and a tool for which I am one of the direct target users. The data model concept is a situation – all of the data in a situation encapsulated as a unit for important system events. A big example of this was with an automated system for controlling Water Recovery System Experiments. When an important event occurred, the automation recognized the event and encapsulated all the data describing that event – without human assistance. That enabled us to detect a situation (loss of data signal to the controls software) at times when we humans were sleeping, so that we could examine everything associated with that situation the next morning, when we were ready to deal with it. I was able to help define the data associated with the situations and design the displays so that we could quickly review the situation the next morning.

The other really fun project was a SBIR to support the development of a concept of operations (ConOps) and report it in document format. A ConOps tells, from the user’s viewpoint, how a new system will support a human task. There are document format specifications that describe all the contents for every paragraph. This tool goes a couple of steps further by guiding a person through the creation of the ConOps and then illustrating it with use case scenarios. As a human factors engineer, I found this one fun because it helps me to accomplish a major part of that job – integrating the software smoothly into the overall human task.

3) Your thoughts on how the space program has changed since you first started with SKT.

The biggest change I have noticed is my perception of it: NASA is strongly influenced by political changes.

4) What are you excited about with the present NASA mission?

There is a big push for automation driven by the need to support missions beyond low earth orbit. These distances result in communication delays, which means that we cannot rely on a constant presence from mission control for quick turnaround guidance. Software will need to fill that gap. Human computer interaction design becomes more and more crucial as software performs larger portions of mission critical tasks.

5) An update on your family, hobbies and interests outside NASA?

I have two daughters who have become wonderful adults that I can take pride in. I have a year and a half year old grandson who is handsome, intelligent, and a real joy. My wife is still my best friend after nearly 45 years, and I love to spend time with her. I am a fitness buff, running 4 miles every morning at dawn. My wife and I are going on a cruise in the Caribbean at the end of February.

6) Is there anything else you would like to cover?

With these last two SBIRs, we were able to hire a couple of recent graduates specializing in human-computer interaction design. Recent developments in SKGS lead me to believe that this can be an opportunity for building a team of robotics, automation, and human-computer interaction design in the company. I find this invigorating!

MOAB TAC KLEIN TANK RELOCATION PROJECT

The Moab Technical Assistance Contract (TAC) is performed by S&K Logistics Services, LLC (SKLS). Over a year ago, the Moab TAC team began working to address the need to remove an evaporation pond on top of the uranium mill tailings pile at the Moab site in Utah. The pond was installed in 2004 to contain contaminated ground water that was extracted through wells near the Colorado River and later near the base of the pile. The contaminated water was directly evaporated from the pond, was piped to a spray evaporation system, or was pumped to a water storage tank (Klein tank) for transfer to water trucks to use for dust control. As removal of the tailings pile progressed, the excavation began encroaching upon the pond, necessitating the removal of the pond so that excavation of tailings in that area could be performed from the top down to ensure continued stability of the pile.

A suitable location could not be determined for construction of a new pond within the Contamination Area but away from the excavation activities and out of the floodplain. Therefore, the TAC and Remedial Action Contractor (RAC), along with the U.S. Department of Energy, decided the best option was to relocate the existing Klein tank from on top of the pile to a lower part of the pile and to pump extracted ground water to frac tanks that feed the Klein tank.

The RAC is responsible for excavating the tailings pile and for using the extracted water for dust control on the tailings pile. The TAC Ground Water Program staff coordinated with the RAC to cease extracting ground water in the fall of 2015 so that remaining water in the pond could be evaporated and/or sprayed on the pile for dust control.

Last winter and spring, the TAC oversaw the design and implementation of the Klein tank relocation project, which involved installing a new pump house, two frac tanks and associated piping and electrical conduit, and relocating the Klein tank to a lower area on the north side of the tailings pile. Numerous TAC staff were involved, including Ground Water Program personnel; Technical Group/Field Manager; Senior Program Manager; health, safety, and quality staff; and Revegetation Technician, as well as an off-site AutoCAD Specialist/Engineer.

While active, the evaporation pond was filled through the operation of a submersible pump installed in each ground water extraction well. Because of the large available pond storage capacity (6 million gallons), these extraction well pumps operated for long periods (weeks or months at a time) and were manually shut off once the pond reached a specified level. With the limited storage in the frac tanks (40,000 gallons), the operation of the pumps required constant oversight to ensure the tanks were not overfilled. To address this situation, the upgraded extraction system is equipped with level sensors installed in both the Klein and frac tanks that automatically control pump operation. The system is now remotely controlled by a Human Machine Interface that allows for efficient operation.

The new system was fully operational in June. As with any project with multiple components, there were some adjustments that had to be made. This fall, the TAC has greatly exceeded its monthly goals for extraction and the new system seems to be handling our water storage needs.



Klein Tank at Moab TAC Team Site



Frac Tank at Moab TAC Team Site

S&K employee helps bring to life the words of the EPA

Given the persistent barrage of mostly superfluous data we're subjected to every day, how does one ensure truly important communications get noticed and are acted on? For the EPA, 'important communications' may include information essential to the health of our planet and its inhabitants, so it's critical to grab their audience's attention and convey their message. The EPA understands that enticing visuals in an attractive presentation is the best way to accomplish this and that's why graphic design support provided by SKGS' Kevin Brown is important and well appreciated.

Kevin is a member of our eight-person team providing facilities management support services to EPA Region 10 in Seattle (see "A Healthy Sound" in the Spring 2015 issue of Group Spirit). He joined the company in July 2013 after SKGS was awarded the five-year EPA contract, but he has supporting the EPA since 2000, having worked for three previous contractors. Kevin discovered he had a real talent for graphics and found this 'hands-on' work more interesting than writing, so after college he began doing design work at a commercial copy center in Seattle where, he became acquainted with an EPA customer who would regularly drop off design projects. The customer recognized Kevin's talent, suggested he come to work for the agency, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Kevin's work entails a broad cut of the visual communication spectrum ranging from the creation of project logos to assembly of large annual reports for some of the EPA's regional labs. Equally varying are the end users of his work and one of the challenges facing Kevin is selecting the best presentation format and style to effectively reach the intended audience. For an annual lab report being delivered to a select group of scientists and managers, this may consist of organizing tables of data and explanatory text using stock images and formatting techniques to emphasize specific areas and add interest. Community involvement projects such as announcements and newsletters present a bigger challenge in terms of competing for the attention of the general public and this is where Kevin's talent really comes into play. A good example is the poster shown here that Kevin created to educate Seattle citizens about pollution in the Duwamish River. Using

a combination of formatting, graphics, font, and color, he provides information on what the contaminants are, what risks are present, and what part of the city is affected, as well as the who, what, how, and when of efforts to clean up the river.

Not all of the projects that Kevin supports are quite so serious. Requests for work such as designing a logo for the EPA's annual "Bike to Work Week" afford him the opportunity to express himself a bit more artistically. For such requests, Kevin creates a number of options as shown here (Right). Since the customer is always right, Kevin will develop whichever the client chooses regardless of his own personal favorite. However, in this case, Kevin was especially delighted when the client selected shown at the top right.



Cleaning Up The Duwamish

Under the Clean Duwamish Strategy, EPA is addressing the legacy of industrial and urban activity. Cleanup of the river is one of the most important priorities for EPA Region 10. The Duwamish River Cleanup Authority (DCA) is working to clean up the Duwamish River in cooperation with the City of Seattle, King County and the EPA. The EPA's role in the Duwamish cleanup is the strategy.

Cleanup Objectives

Reduce risks to:

- People who live in neighborhoods that line the river
- People who use the river for recreation and other activities
- Businesses and industries that use the river
- Partners and neighbors

What Happens Next

Key Parts of the Cleanup...

...toward a cleaner river

Source Control

Prevention of Pollution's Source Control Strategy

- Reduce illegal dumping and litter
- Reduce illegal dumping
- Reduce illegal dumping
- Reduce illegal dumping

Early Action Area (EAAs) Cleanup

- Identify areas of the river
- Remove sediment and other pollutants
- Eliminate or reduce sediment and other pollutants

Sediment Cleanup

The DCA's cleanup plan includes:

- Address sediment and other pollutants
- Remove sediment from the river
- Reduce sediment and other pollutants

What are the contaminants?

The EPA addresses chemical contaminants in the Duwamish River. The Duwamish River Cleanup Authority (DCA) is working to clean up the Duwamish River in cooperation with the City of Seattle, King County and the EPA. The EPA's role in the Duwamish cleanup is the strategy.

S&K Logistics Services providing DOE IT support services at Savannah River Operations

November 15, 2016 marked a significant day of company growth for S&K Logistics Services, LLC (SKLS) as the company commenced a contract with the Department of Energy (DOE) to provide administrative and information technology support services to DOE staff at the Savannah River Site (SRS) in Aiken, SC.

Fifty-nine permanent, full-time employees and two subcontractors were transitioned from a prior contractor to SKLS. Two temporary IT Technicians were also hired. The contract is being managed by the new Program Manager, Ken Gray, a retired US Navy submarine officer.

The services provided to DOE are far ranging and include clerical and secretarial support, administration of the SRS Citizen's Advisory Board, budgeting and accounting technical expertise to the Office of the Field Chief Financial Officer, and technical expertise to the Office of Human Capital Management.

Information technology support is provided in the areas of software engineering, system administration, enterprise content management, electronic records management, cyber security, telecommunications management, and communications security.

Additional employees provide office support services such as clerical support of the DOE Supply Room, Reproduction Center, and Mail Room as well as the receipt and delivery of Government property, management of the Government motor pool, and office equipment movement.

"We provide the DOE staff the support they need to oversee the many different operations taking place here at SRS." — Ken Gray

When asked about the transition to SKLS, IT Service Center Coordinator Michael Anzalone said, "S&K is a great company to work for. We are excited to be a part of its growth."



From left, Cindy Bitting, Michael Anzalone, Greg Weaver, and Frank Zabala

Did you know?

**Native American people
have made many
contributions to NASA
and space exploration.**



Mary Golda Ross, Cherokee, was the first Native American female engineer. Starting out as a math teacher in the Cherokee Nation Capital of Tahlequah, OK, Ross was then hired by Lockheed Martin in 1942 as a mathematician during World War II. After receiving her Engineering Certificate from UCLA, Ross became one of the 40 Founding Engineers of Lockheed's Skunk Works—which developed concepts for interplanetary travel and satellites.



Cdr. John Herrington, a retired Naval Aviator and member of the Chickasaw Tribe, was the first Native American in Space. Cdr. Herrington was aboard NASA's space shuttle Endeavor for the STS-113 shuttle mission to the International Space Station in 2002. Cdr. Herrington made three space walks totaling 19-hours. Cdr. Herrington carried the Chickasaw Nation Flag during his space travel.

Moab Project Hosts International Meeting on Uranium Mining and Remediation



The visitors pose for a group photo on the disposal cell cover at the Crescent Junction site.

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. – More than 40 people from around the world met recently for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) meeting to share lessons learned and address environmental aspects of uranium mining and remediation projects.

EM's Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project hosted the meeting and provided a tour of EM's project sites in Moab, Utah, to the environmental project managers, operators, researchers, and regulators from the U.S. and 13 other countries in attendance.

The meeting at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction highlighted the local academic institution, which offers degrees in environmental science and geology and is expanding its engineering programs. University President Tim Foster welcomed the group.

Dr. Peter Woods, IAEA's organizer, considered the meeting a success.

"I have had very positive feedback from participants," he said. "With 26 technical talks involving over 40 participants from 13 IAEA Member States, the meeting was diverse and well attended. This shows the wide interest in the topic of the remediation of former uranium mining and milling sites."

The participants toured the site where 16 million tons of mill tailings, the remains from the former uranium-ore processing mill, are being excavated, conditioned and placed in metal containers for shipment by rail to Crescent Junction for permanent disposal.

S&K Global Solutions golf it up in Houston



(L-R) Marty Tucker, Dave Dean, and Barb DeBernardo

S&K Global Solutions (SKGS) participated in the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP) Golf Tournament in Houston, TX. SKGS sponsored the seventh hole in the tournament by erecting a teepee. Marty Tucker, Mike Monahan, Dave Dean, Barb DeBernardo, David Fretz, and Casey Frisbee all pitched in and helped put up the teepee.

The Golf gods were not very kind to Mike Monahan and Marty Tucker, who "Did not play very well," according to Mike. Mike and Marty played the tournament with their buddies from Boeing Space Exploration.



S&K Aerospace Charitable Sponsorship

About 30 years ago, PROS IV Country Coordinator Employee, Lori Hufnagel's husband, Richard, started a corporation called "Christmas Wishes" - a non-profit corporation that brings Christmas to struggling families in the Houston County area. Although he is still the "figurehead" of the organization, he has turned over the majority of the responsibility to Judy Cornwell. Christmas Wishes was established in 1993 to provide for families having difficulty meeting basic needs. These families have suffered from situations such as family violence, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, or economic troubles. Christmas gifts are provided to Family Promise, Salvation Army, Dove Center (Macon Rescue Mission), and local community families.

S&K sponsored a struggling family this year and presented Christmas Wishes Coordinator, Mrs. Cornwell, with a check for \$500. Mrs. Cornwell struggled to hold back her tears as she informed S&K that this sponsorship would help more than one struggling family this Christmas.



Pictured left to right: Staff Support Manager, Melinda Taylor; Country Coordinator, Lori Hufnagel and her husband Richard; Christmas Wishes Coordinator, Judy Cornwell; Director of Operations, Richard Petty.

S&K Aerospace (SKA) supports Peach County Sheriff's Office

After the fall of two deputies on November 6, 2016, SKA employee's Courtney Oplt and Paige Powell helped raise money for the families of Sgt Patrick M. Sondron and Deputy Daryl "Tank" Smallwood in their honor by selling "Back the Blue" shirts.



Generosity is in the air!



The Moab Technical Assistance Contract (TAC) team once again showed its giving spirit this fall with its annual turkey drive and United Way in-house campaign. Eleven turkeys topping out at almost 180 pounds of fowl were donated to the Grand Junction (Colorado) Catholic Outreach, who greatly appreciated the help in feeding many in need during the holiday season. In keeping with the United Way of Mesa County theme of "I Heart MC" (I Love Mesa County), TAC employees wrote why they love Mesa County on heart-shaped papers and sang, Karaoke-style, the Beatles' "All You Need is Love." Employees and corporate contributions totaled \$3,280 to help United Way-funded agencies.

HOLIDAY PARTIES

Moab Holiday Party



(L-R)



Savannah River Site Holiday Party



SRS Montana Trip Winners:

(L-R): Howard Gnann, Mikki Morgan, and Donyelle Henley

PROS IV Halloween Winners

Best Costumes: PROS Maintenance Department



(L-R) TOP: Melanie Brooks, Lakeesha Blasingame, Kathryn Pinkley, Lynne Hughes, MJ Gowin, Adrienne Decesare, Holly Seidler, Paul Headrick. BOTTOM: Amber Mathe, Emily Winkle, Jennifer Thomason, Heather Berkley, Cynthia Small.

Best Office Decoration: Holly Seidler



Best Office

(L-R) FRONT: Holly Seidler and Emily Winkle. BACK: Lakeesha "Photobomber" Blasingame



Savannah River Site Holiday Party - Bingo!

SKGS Bremerton Halloween Party



(L-R) BACK: Kate Guerrero.

MIDDLE: Lisa Blair, Ann Tikunoff, Ashley Snell, Clyde McFadden.

FRONT: Kaitlin Perrin.

COSTUME WINNERS

First: Ashley Snell as Alice in Wonderland

Second: Kate Guerrero as Day of the Dead

Third: Clyde McFadden with lederhosen

Awards and Recognition

Employees of the Quarter

 S&K LOGISTICS SERVICES

 S&K TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

 S&K GLOBAL SOLUTIONS



Jeff Sumrow
Technical Lead

Jeff is the Technical Lead for the USMC Tech Manual Division where his dedication and exceptional performance is constant while overseeing the MK154 MOD 1 Mine Clearance System.

Jeff's strong work ethic and incredible knowledge of the MK154 weapon system is the reason why the customer relies on his insight to ensure the development of the firing and maintenance procedures are correctly written. Steve Hartley, VP Operations, said that Jeff's perseverance will guarantee the success of the MK154 program.



Audi Moran
HR Manager

Nominated by Patty Wilson and Kathryn Brown of SKLS, Audi was recognized for her assistance onboarding 60+ employees for SKLS after the DOE win at the Savannah River Site.

During the busy and face-paced week, Audi kept at it every day. She not only put together a spreadsheet with employee information that could be uploaded into CostPoint, but she helped with InfinityHR and the in-service dates for the SCA employees.

Patty Wilson and Katherine Brown wanted to nominate Audi for her extra work this quarter.



Josh Horton
Finance Management Specialist

Josh received SKGS' Employee Recognition for his development of a pivot table for the AFDCGS funding execution information. This pivot table allowed IPT members to sort data as needed to quickly assist critical resource allocation decisions.

He also provided training on the use of pivot tables to C2ISR Financial Management coworkers. Josh also volunteered to help with updating FRM data for several reporting periods that allowed the AFDCGS Sustainment Financial Manager to focus on processing funding documents and assisting program managers in prioritizing requirements.

Lana Rouse, SKGS, awarded EPIC Team awards

Lana Rouse was the recipient of the Light Bulb Innovator award for the S&K EPIC Team. It will save the Engineering Directorate at JSC NASA \$5,800 annually. The improvement was: Created SharePoint page that tracks all opened/closed Qualification anomalies.

She was also the recipient of the Innovator of the Month for the S&K EPIC Team. It will save the Engineering Directorate at JSC NASA \$126,144 annually. The improvement was: Created configuration management method for Capsule Parachute Assembly System (CPAS) Qualification Procedures.



S&K Global Solutions' Eva Tindal recognized by CDC for work with the American's with Disabilities Act (ACA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities, celebrated the 26th anniversary of the law.

Eva Tindal, SKGS-CDC employee, works with the Disability and Health Data System (DHDS) team, which provides an interactive data system that provides national, as well as regional and state-level data on measures of health for adults with disabilities.

DHDS works with other programs across CDC to provide technical assistance in surveillance, research, and public health program participation to make sure that people with disabilities are included in these initiatives.



★ ★ ★ PROS Star Performance Awards ★ ★ ★

August - 2016
Arthur Sullivan



August - 2016
Kim Hipple

September - 2016
Rebecca O'Brien



September - 2016
Dwayne Wilson

October - 2016
Jennifer Thomason

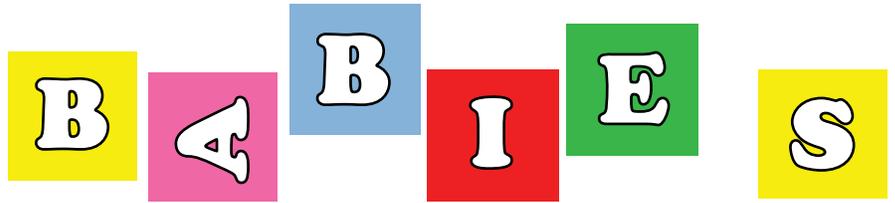
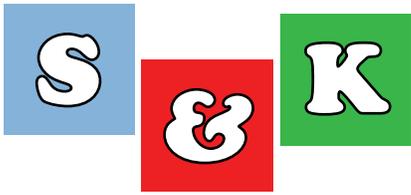


October - 2016
Kendra Williams

November - 2016
Jennifer Walden



November - 2016
Allyson Herrmann



Gretl Gabrielle joined the family of Matt and Crystal Schumacher on 22 December. Gretl weighed in at 7 lbs. 14 OZs. and is the grandchild of Ken Schumacher from the Bremerton office.

Tyrone and Schalye would like you to meet their baby sister, Khierani Vikennlei Moran, born October 24, 2016, to Mandy Moran. Mandy is the daughter of Corporate HR Manager Audi Moran.

Rich and Darlene Smalley were blessed with the birth of their first grandson on December 28. Russell Charles Smalley weighed 8 lbs 15 oz and was 22 inches long. Both parents Jeremy M.D. and Holly PharmD Smalley are doing great. Rich is the Lead Integrator at SRS with S&K Logistics Services



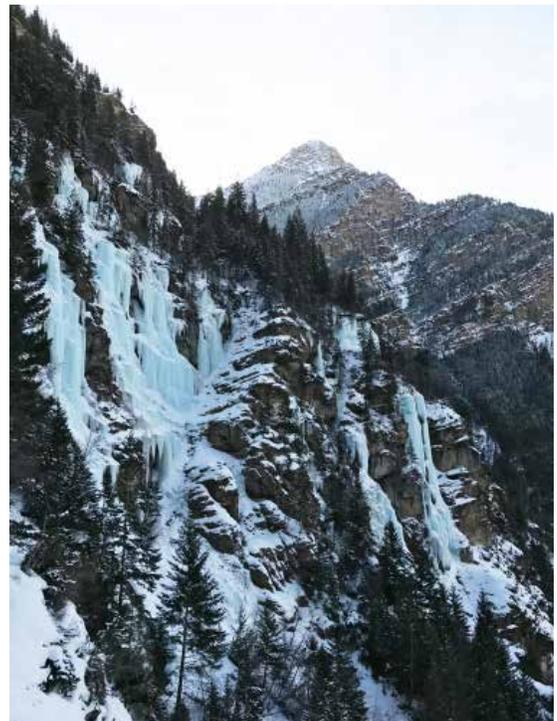
Editor's Note:

If there are stories, photos, or videos that you feel would be a great edition to any of our social media profiles, send them to Marketing@sktcorp.com.

Here is a list of items that we are looking for to feature on our social media profiles:

- ◆ **Project News**
- ◆ **Company-Related Events**
- ◆ **Employee/Company Awards**
- ◆ **Goodwill**
- ◆ **Local Pictures**

We, for example, share Shawn Wheeler's photo (Right) from his hike in the Mission Mountains and Mission Falls on our Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook accounts.



facebook.com/sktcorp

[@sk_technologies](https://instagram.com/sk_technologies)



[@sk_technologies](https://twitter.com/sk_technologies)

youtube.com/sktcorp