

### **RBC CABLE NEWS** September 2015 Edition



Dan Cook with Alaska Governor at project kick off

#### Team RBC

Thank you all for efforts to make RBC a contender in a very competitive market place. We set a goal 10 years ago to be a service and project oriented contractor in the western part of the U.S. and through your effort we have achieved that goal. We now have offices in the Northwest, Rocky Mountain Region and Alaska. This could not happen without the efforts of all of you.

The future is very bright we have a steady flow of work through our MSA contracts and a substantial backlog of contracts to carry us through 2015 and well into 2016. You are our representatives and sales force in the field please continue to work safely and adhere to the rules and regulations. We will continue to do our best to support our field operations with support from our corporate office. Although you do not physically see that support on a daily basis they work diligently to support your operations. Big shout out to our support team and thank you all for your efforts!

Marvin Logistics Fleet Manager Joe Safety Manager Mark Mechanic support Martina Executive assistant Holly AP Jen AP Mary Accounting **Toland Contract Administrator** Jillian AR Abbev Frontier OR Contract Coordinator Teresa Frontier WA/ID Contract Coordinator Hope Frontier WA Contract Coordinator Kate Frontier OR Contract Coordinator Katie Payroll Caroline CO Contract Coordinator Wendy HR Valerie Estimator Project support Haley Yard facilitator Brian yard Facilitator

Mike Rakoz President

## Note From The COO Dan Cook

In the relatively short time I've been at RBC I have witnessed tremendous growth. With that growth has come the awareness that growth can be both a blessing and a curse. While we are aware of our growing pains and defects I feel that as a company we are continuing to make positive changes to better manage our rapid expansion. I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the accomplishments I've witnessed since I've been here. Being a contractor is never as easy as it looks and our projects in Alaska are testament to our ability to adapt and succeed in a very diverse marketplace.

RBC has made great strides in the energy sector over the last couple of years. Presently we are building a 19 mile natural gas distribution system for Interior Gas Utility (IGU) in North Pole Alaska which is located about 15 miles south of Fairbanks Alaska in what's known as "The Interior". The job has been an absolute success due to the hard work and outstanding performance of Joe Sutton's staff and crews. Dave Griffin has done a fantastic job as RBC project Superintendent as has Steve Welch, a recently hired Project Manager. These two men and their crews have placed RBC in the category of one of the most desirable contractors to work for in Alaska. RBC is currently working on Phase One-Zone C while consecutively two other contractors are working on Zones A & B. This project is in the first of 6 phases that will continue for the next 5 years. Due to our outstanding performance RBC will be the preferential contractor for future IGU projects. We are currently ahead of schedule and under budget making our relationship with IGU a great opportunity for continued revenue.

#### Dan Cook Cont'd. from page 1

Another project taking place in Alaska is the North Slope Fiber Optic job with New Horizon Telecom in Prudhoe Bay South to Atigun Pass. This project is 114 miles of (2) 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" conduit placement that will house a fiber optic cable in a remote arctic region with extreme conditions that the vast majority of contractors never encounter. Dave McMillen is the project manager and has been working in what could easily be considered one of the most difficult locations to work on this globe. This area is so remote that the crews are 90 miles from a flushing toilet and any sort of modern convenience or facilities. The summer has 24 hours of daylight and an overabundance of mosquitoes the size of a small humming birds. One thing about working in the Arctic is that nothing stays the same for long......the weather is changing fast and soon crews will be working in 24 hours of darkness and temperatures that can to extreme sub-zero for weeks on end. Obstacles such as weather conditions, wildlife and permafrost are what can make or break a project of this size and scope. Managing logistics is a challenge and one that requires a keen understanding of the region and its particulars.

RBC is well positioned for 2016 with a sizeable backlog of projects. The Frontier Master Service Agreement (MSA) has been steady for the past few months with recent workload increases in the following areas: Puget Sound, WA; Portland, OR; Coos Bay, OR; Tri Cities, WA and Rathdrum, ID. In the next couple of months RBC crews will begin the Zayo Central Washington project that runs from Ellensburg, WA to Umatilla, OR. Another project of significance is the BNSF Railways Task 6 Project. This is a significant award because this automatically places RBC as a qualified prime contractor on all BNSF 32,500 miles of track.

I recently visited with Paul Dekker RBC Vice president in the Denver CO office and found that bid opportunities are beginning to pick up after a slow start to the year. Paul and his staff have been winning some level 3 and CenturyLink bids and are continuing work on some ongoing Zayo projects. Our plan for the Denver office is to try and open more doors in the energy sector with Excel Energy and other power and natural gas providers while continuing to pursue projects in the telecommunications sector.

All this being said, it has not been easy. We work and operate in a very risky business sector that requires solid hard working people to perform at a high level. We are accomplishing some pretty difficult projects and are beginning more this fall and winter. The growth has been difficult at times but we have turned the corner, the company is seeing a profit and our goal is to end the year strong. Every indication shows that we are going in the right direction and now more than ever we need to keep pushing hard and finish strong.

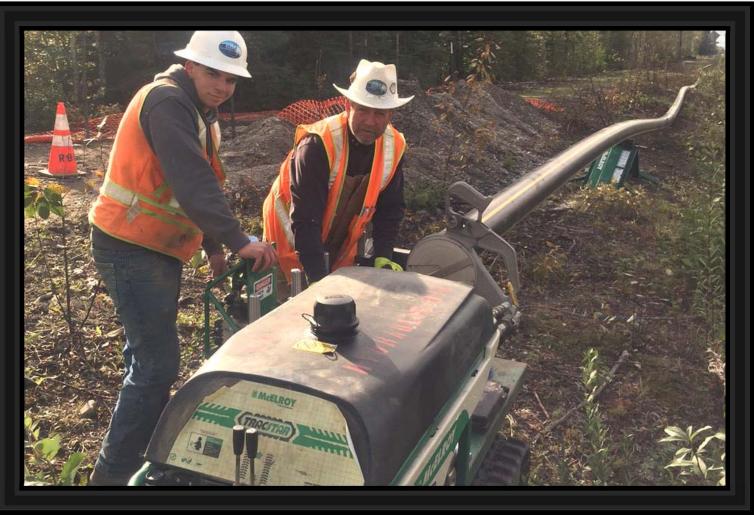
I and other executives along with the Regional Managers deeply appreciate all of your efforts over the past few months. Your continued efforts to get through these current growing pains are not only appreciated but are crucial to the future success of RBC. Sincerely,

Dan Cook Chief Operating Officer

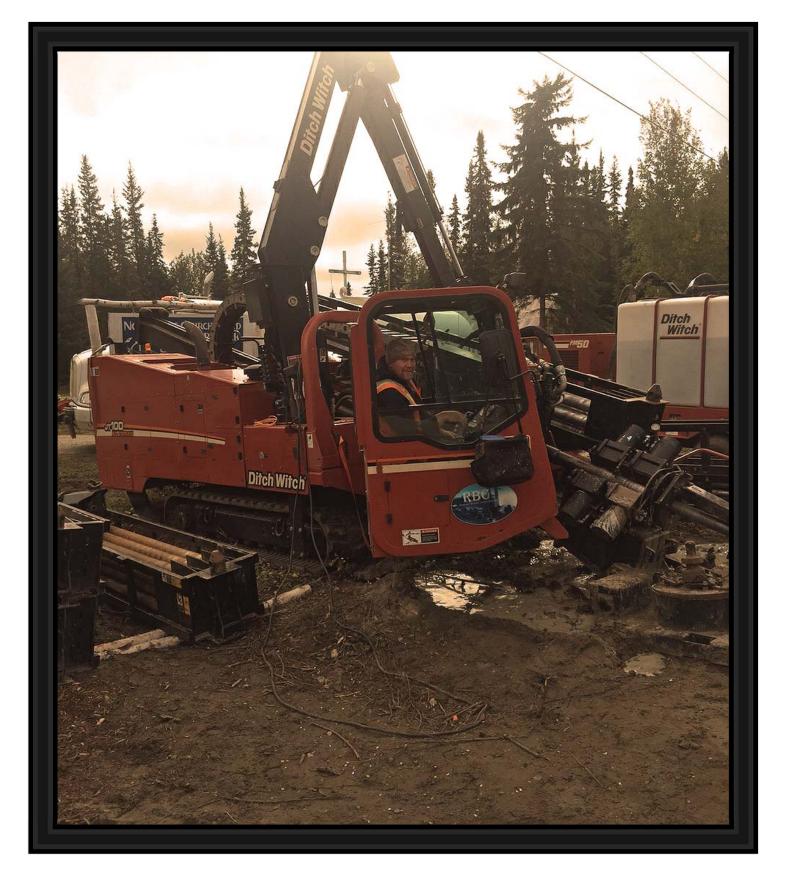




Dave Griffin Project Manager North Pole Gas Line



Ralph Griffin & Tyler Sepesi-Benson fusion 8" piece with a pulling eye to pull back a 800' bore in the morning



Andy Morgan drilling 800 ft shot with new JT100 Drill



The picture of the staff starting from Back row left to right; Bill McCoy, Marvin Porfily Toland Severson, (The Handsome Bald guy) Dan Cook, Abby Davidson, Wendy Normand, Holly Akimseu-Leitgeb, Jennifer DeLano, Martina Tarango and Brian Edwards. Front Row left to right, Standing Katie Myers, (kneeling) Joe Bergren, Chris Keksi, Standing Mary Turner.

## ATTENTION ALL EMPLOYEE'S \$500 REWARD

This is a program we have implemented to try and add new employees to our team. If you as an employee recommend someone to RBC and they are hired and stay a minimum of 6 months you will receive \$500.00

**IT'S THAT EASY** 

# From The CFO

**RBC** Corporate Office Expansion Completed

We recently completed an expansion/remodel of our Vancouver corporate offices and maintenance facility. We were bursting at the seams due to the rapid growth of the company. In the past year RBC has opened five new remote offices in four states (WA, OR, ID, CO, & AK) and more than doubled our number of employees. Due to all the growth in our field operations, we have had to bring on additional administrative personnel at the corporate office to better support everyone.

The remodel consisted of converting one bay of our warehouse into five new office spaces. This bay had previously been our maintenance facility. Having our maintenance team running impact wrenches and grinders next door to the office made it challenging to hear at times so we also increased our warehouse space and relocated our maintenance facility into an area at the end of the building. RBC now occupies the entire 7,500 square-foot warehouse space and has a total of 3,200 square feet of offices.

The new spaces were a huge improvement. Operations, Administrative, and Executive team members spent most of the past year crammed into a modular office trailer temporally placed in the parking lot of the office. The expansion has allowed everyone to spread out into quieter and more productive work spaces.

The growth of our company has necessitated that we add specialized personnel to our administrative team. Recent additions to our team include:

Wendy Normand who is responsible for administrating our HR, new hires, employee benefits, and DOT compliance. This was a much needed position that combined duties that were being performed by multiple administrative team members into a single position. Wendy shares office space with Katie Myers, our new payroll specialist.

Katie Myers processes a payroll for up to 180 RBC employees located across the western US every week. Our payrolls can be very complex, with different requirements for non-union, union, and prevailing (Davis Bacon) as well as differing state requirements to meet. She performs her duties with a positive attitude and a smile on her face.

Jillian Young-Rader recently joined our team, she is responsible for the set-up of all projects in our accounting system (they number in the thousands per year), as well as entry and tracking all receivables and cash collections.

Jennifer DeLano joined us after working several years in the trucking industry. She is assisting Holly with processing our Accounts Payable and qualifying our new vendors.

I appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation during the project. Expanding our office space and increasing our administrative team will enable us to better support our field operations now and into the future.

Craig Sorenson Chief Financial Officer

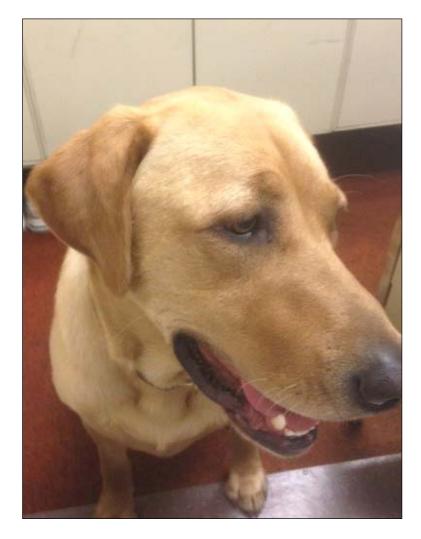
# **Update on Kennewick**

From Teresa Flores Contract Cordinator

Things are progressing nicely in Kennewick we are staying plenty busy and have several new jobs coming down the pipe that will keep us hopping for the next few months. We have a local road move that should be a great job as well as a new fiber for the FBI that should be interesting work. We have been very careful and have had not had a recordable injury. We lost one lineman to Frontier but welcomed back a lineman we had lost to another company. Welcome back Carlos Guizar. Our Office Mascot is Jim Cooper's dog; Trigger, you can't get to frustrated with Trigger around.



Carlos Guizar Gekler Lane La Grande, OR



Our Office Mascot is Jim Cooper's dog; Trigger



Tom Gear Kennewick

# Wave Broadband Project-Ferndale

Aaron Diedrichs

Attached are some jobsite photos from the Kickerville Rd bore job in Ferndale. We are boring approx. 3800' by the refineries. We crossed a 24" 125 PSI water line feeding the refinery which was pushing approx. 8000 gallons per minute (according to the inspector).

Drill Crew is Justin Whitmire & Marty Mazur.





# Safety Note

To all RBC employees,

First I would like to congratulate everyone on the attention payed to the extreme fire danger in almost every region, the fact there have been no fires caused or contributed to by our employees is proof that everyone is aware and alert to the present and ongoing danger.

There have been near misses, property damage and minor accidents since our last newsletter, through reporting and discussion within our weekly tailgate meetings, JHA'S and monthly safety committee meetings I am sure together we can mitigate the number going forward. I would also personally like to thank everyone who supported and stayed in contact with Brian Edwards through his recent medical issue. In conclusion the Pole Top rescue training is close to scheduling for all the different regions, thanks again for the ongoing commitment to Safe Operations. ~Joe Bergren, Field Safety Supervisor.

## **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**:

### Vancouver Yard:

Dave Beardslee, 2/19/15 Received gift card for Excellent walk around inspection on 12006 and red tagging vehicle until proper weight registration was acquired for Idaho and setting truck up with required logs.

Kris Raimer, 3/23/15 Received gift card for Excellent walk around inspection on 11043 and load securement, clean vehicle.

Jake Hinderliter, 3/23/15 Received gift card for Excellent walk around inspection on 11029 and load securement, clean vehicle.

Ron Hansen, 5/5/15 Received gift card for Excellent walk around inspection on 11004.

## **Oregon Coast:**

Jim Pulley, 3/19/15 Received gift card for clean organized 1 ton and jobsite. Nick Cheser, 5/4/15 Received gift card for fantastic work attitude-always finds a safe way to make jobs work. Brett Wright, 7/13/15 Received gift card for consistently clean, well kept truck and perfect DOT paperwork.

## **Central Washington:**

Jerry Pearsall, 6/1/15 Received gift card for excellent walk around's, record keeping and vehicle cleanliness. Dominic Viggiano, 6/1/15 Received gift card for efficiencies in the field, keeping cost down & vehicle cleanliness Devon Cooper, 6/1/15 Received gift card for clean work truck and excellent walk around Tony Jensen, 6/1/15 Received gift card for clean work truck and excellent walk around

## **Puget Sound Region**:

Cornel Rascol, 6/8/15 Received gift card for clean work truck and excellent walk around. Don Archie, 6/8/15 Received gift card for clean work truck and excellent walk around.

## Northern Idaho & Eastern Washington Region:

Rob Martin, 6/22/15 Received gift card for excellent traffic control set up at 4 way intersection in Post Falls Idaho.

## Mid West Region Colorado:

None Issued

## A Note From Marvin Porfily Fleet Captain

In the last edition of the RBC Cable News I wrote to our staff regarding the importance of regulatory status and our need for improvement in our fleet safety performance. As our world of construction continues to turn so do the wheel on our fleet, our equipment needs and vehicle count continues to grow along with the staff needed to operate. While minor improvements have been seen in DOT status we are still bounds away from our goals.

I am again reaching out to the RBC team for continued support and additional oversight to reach those goals. We need to address better driver awareness and fitness in the operations of our trucks. As it currently stands our biggest downfall is the ownership our operators are taking in ensuring proper paperwork and safe operations of their vehicles. People should be assuming the same concern for our equipment as they do for personal vehicles. After all, I think it is safe to say most spend more time in RBC rigs than their own.

I am urging each one of you to take a close look at your daily driving procedure and verify you are taking all the proper steps to meet the required standards. Please address questions and concerns with your area manager and make sure you get the answers and help needed to ensure you are in good regulatory status. We depend on the rubber that hits the road to keep the RBC globe spinning. This company has hit a very critical juncture. If we cannot reach our regulatory goals, the negative impact will inevitably take a sever toll on the RBC environment.

Keep your heads up and be proud of the team and company we have created. Continue to support each other and ask questions. Together we can reach milestones we need for safe fleet operation.

Marvin Porfily



Shop Crew Mark Vermeulen, Marvin Porfily, Brian Keksi, & Haley Primley



What makes a great TEAM? In the last 12 weeks I have learned the true meaning. Starting with a hoarse voice to a vocal cord biopsy and in the end a diagnoses of cancer. With the loss of both my vocal cords and half my larynx I was not sure how I would recover and how to cope let alone understand. With an amazing wife by my side the TEAM began to rally with prayers, donations, support, encouragement, hospital visits, flowers, and with visits to the house. R.B.C has an amazing group of people that make up one heck of a TEAM that can do great things. I am glad I am part of this team. With every txt, call or visit I knew I was going to beat this with all of you by my side, one cannot stand alone and be as strong as a team. With this support I have been given a clean bill of health and the ability to speak, eat and drink as normal as possible. Thank you all so much for all that you have done it has been amazing and means a lot to me and my family. Susan and I want to send our thoughts and prayers to all who are fighting , have won or have lost the battle with cancer.

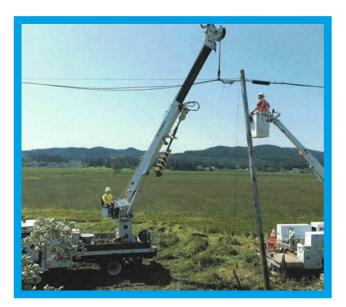
Thank you, Brian Edwards Superintendent

# **Tales from the Southland**

Tucked away in an old school building just south of town lives the Coos Bay yard for Robinson Brothers Construction. Our group joined up with Robinson Brothers when we won the Frontier Contract in this area. There were a few challenges in starting an entire group with a new company, but we got past those pretty quickly and are very happy to be a part of the RBC family. We range over a wide expanse of over 7000 sq miles, from Reedsport on the north coast of OR to Orick, CA on the southern end. To the east we work the I5 corridor from Roseburg to the CA border. Our entire territory is made up of mostly rural areas and this means that we have to be a small but versatile group, with all of our highly competent crews having the ability to jump from underground to aerial jobs in all types of terrain and all kinds of weather. Winter is typically our busiest time of the year due to the frequent storm damage we incur on the coast. Our foreman have been working in this area for a number of years and along with their laborers have the experience and skills to get the job done right, and do it in a timely manner. Frontier is not our only customer, we are always ready and willing to take on any extra work that comes our way, and have established relationships with some of the key operations in our areas including Comspan & Orca Communications as well as doing some of the local work for AT&T and Level 3. We are currently working out a deal with Charter Communications that will enable us to take over the unit work in our core areas, and should have that finalized soon. Our goal is to continue to expand operations in our areas as much as we possibly can, to learn and to grow with this great company and continue to improve profitability and possibilities for Robinson Brothers on the southern Oregon coast.



**Pulling Fiber Near Cave Junction** 



Nick Cheser & Brett Wright Setting Poles in Coquille

These pictures are of an emergency outage in Index. A pole damage left frontiers cable hanging near the water line. Due to fluctuations in the water level from rain RBC had to time the project accordingly in order to pull new cable across the river. Cornel Rascol is pictured wading the river to get our new pull line and cable across. Extra safety precaution were taking with rented gear from the local rafting shop in the event someone would end up in the water.









For future newsletter publications please email articles, pictures and or comments to Merle Sorenson Chairman & editor at msorenson@rbc-utility.com or Janna Nigro at <u>rbccablenews@gmail.com</u> we would like to hear your feedback.