

# 2012 Operations Challenge Recap

*By Chad Clay, Operations Challenge Committee Chair*

TWO TEAMS represented PNCWA at WEFTEC 2012 in New Orleans this fall, Clean Water Services' River Rangers and the Poo Fighters of King County WTD. The River Rangers took the 18th spot in Division II, and the Poo Fighters placed 21st overall and broke into the top ten in the process event. The process event is a State certification test split between the four team members with no formula sheet, just a pencil, a calculator and 25 minutes to answer all the questions as accurately as you can. The River Rangers also brought home the award for best uniform, stylishly dressed as Pacific Northwest loggers. Look for the feature article in the December issue of WE&T magazine. Both teams will represent PNCWA at WEFTEC 2013 in Chicago.

The two teams went head to head at the PNCWA conference in Boise, with the Rangers coming in first place. In a display of camaraderie and sportsmanship, they split their teams for a first run at the dynamic new collections event, competing before a large crowd of spectators gathered for the afternoon break. Team 2 captained by Justine George with team members James Moors, John McMillin and Jim O'Reilly posted a time of 1:42, while Team 1 with captain Suzanne Potts and Jon Randall, Delaney VanLoo and Sean Burke posted 1:55. Both are very respectable times compared to the winning times at WEFTEC 2012, 1:37 for Division II and 1:18 for Division I.

All the team members deserve a lot of credit for effort and willingness to step outside their comfort zone. It's one thing to



River Rangers at WEFTEC



Poo Fighters at WEFTEC

compete with your regular team where you know their every move or tendency, and everyone has a specific task at a specific time. To throw off those elements and still post the times they did is a testament to professionalism. Ops Challenge demonstrates that we can perform at a high level responding to emergency or unusual situations using critical thinking and improvisation.

Of the new collections event, Justine said, "Having two members from each team provided an opportunity to share years of practice and a new-found enthusiasm to the competition."

It took great concentration from the two team Captains to coordinate this effort in a short period of time. Suzanne said "It builds camaraderie with the other participants, and gives the conference participants another chance to witness the Ops Challenge."

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