

## Steve Van Tuyl Retires After 17 Years

By Lori Froehlich

“It’s been a great opportunity and a great bunch of people to work with,” says Steve Van Tuyl.

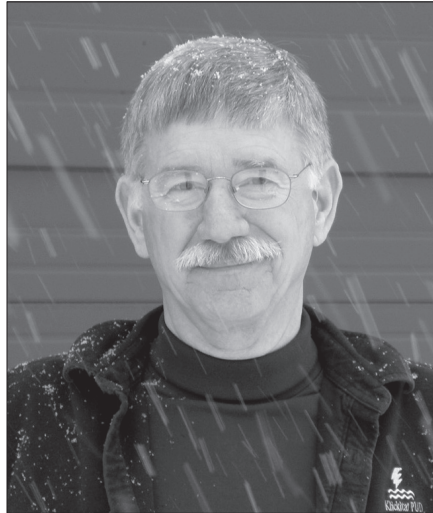
After 17 years in Klickitat PUD’s information technology department, Steve is ready to move on to the next journey in life and see what is in store for him and his wife, Donna.

Steve graduated with a bachelor’s degree from the University of Missouri at Kansas City and attended graduate school at Washington State University in Pullman. While getting his graduate degree in agriculture, his interest in computers was triggered as he worked through financial models with PCs.

Steve’s work history included banking for 15 years and working as a PC specialist before he and Donna moved to Goldendale. They fell in love with the area on a vacation to the Columbia River Gorge, where Steve could enjoy his favorite hobby, windsurfing.

When the PUD put out the job advertisement, Steve said it seemed to be tailor-made for him. The list of job skills and requirements included everything he had done, and was a perfect fit for a new chapter in their life.

When Steve started at Klickitat PUD, there were five stand-alone PCs, one



printer and two IBM system 36s (main-frames). Steve had built a network at a prior job, so he was ready to tackle the job of building one for the PUD.

In his 17 years, he created and built a remarkably diverse and redundant IT system. General Manager Jim Smith refers to it as a “nontraditional IT system,” as it includes virtualized servers, a state-of-the-art computer facility, offsite storage, fiber communications, websites, Internet mapping, a redundant fiber communication system and phone system to the PUD’s 230-kilovolt substations and HW Hill Landfill Gas. This system is not normal—or simple.

Steve was the entire IT department for many years. He worked weekends and after hours, and handled the stress of the technical needs of the entire PUD with integrity and a straightforward approach.

After 12 years, Chris Evans was hired. Recently, Rick Adams joined the crew. Steve says the IT department is well prepared for his departure.

“I worked with Steve for 16 years,” Jim says. “Partly because there are similarities between IT and electrical engineering, we talked about many issues and potential solutions. I hope in that time, I provided at least a small portion of the help he provided me with over the years.

“He has probably been the most autonomous of my management team. He exemplifies what it means to just go quietly and effectively about getting business done. He made decisions when they needed to be made and without complaining. He moved us forward, learned and advanced the PUD for the benefit of the ratepayers. This is what we are all about.”

Klickitat PUD wishes Steve and Donna the best in retirement. The two plan to spend many days on the river for Steve to windsurf and amidst beautiful landscapes for Donna to paint. Thanks go to Steve for all his efforts, support and guidance throughout the years. His accomplishments at the PUD will not be forgotten. ■

### Plan Ahead For New Electrical Services

Are you planning a new project that will require electrical services? Klickitat PUD encourages you to plan ahead and coordinate your electrical installation projects with us as soon as possible.

New electrical service requests are currently running two to three weeks out, once you are placed on the construction schedule.

To make a request:

- ▶ Contact the engineering department to schedule an appointment to discuss installation options.

- ▶ Buy an electrical permit from Washington State Labor and Industries.
- ▶ Provide a state electrical inspector’s approval of your electrical service installation.
- ▶ Pay for line extension costs, as determined by KPUD.
- ▶ Provide signed and notarized easement(s), if required.

Within a week of completing all of the requirements above, you should be placed on the construction schedule. Service installation will proceed within approximately three weeks.

For more information, call (800) 548-8357.