

Meet Bob Flint, Recreational Groups representative

Recreational Groups are represented on CIRCAC's Board of Directors by Bob Flint, who has participated with CIRCAC in a range of roles over many years. He first became familiar with our organization through his job at the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and, following his retirement, has participated on committees as a public member and most recently as a Board Director.

Bob was raised in an Army family, and grew up in several states and Germany. Bob's family ultimately settled in California, where he went to college and earned a degree in biology. But it was his altruistic nature that brought Bob to Alaska as a VISTA volunteer in 1971, where, among other things, he dispensed advice to job seekers that if you can find a job, you can find a better one. In 1973, he took his own advice and accepted a non-permanent job as an environmental tech with the ADEC—a decision that would lead to a career with the department that spanned more than 30 years.

Bob began working for ADEC when the department consisted of 80 employees, who covered three regions. As a regional director, Bob's area of responsibility included Icy Bay, Denali Highway, the Aleutian Chain, and Glennallen. Prince William Sound became a fourth region after construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline. By the time he retired from state service, Bob had worked for every ADEC commissioner but the current one and devoted most of his time to oil spill prevention and response, including Contingency Plan review, inspections of the Valdez Terminal, and oil spill cleanup. He now works as a consultant in the Incident Command System for oil spill drills, exercises and actual responses and also worked on the Deep Water Horizon Spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Bob's background and continued experience in oil spill prevention, response, and cleanup, as well as his knowledge of industry regulations, have made him a valuable asset to CIRCAC. He first served as a public member on the Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety (PROPS) Committee, while concurrently serving on the Prince William Sound RCAC's Oil Spill Prevention and Emergency Response (OSPER) Committee. In 2010, Bob was elected to the CIRCAC Board of Directors to represent Recreational Groups, and currently sits on the Environmental Monitoring, PROPS, Protocol Control and Executive Committees.



Bob is a former scuba diver and instructor. He enjoys sport fishing and practices the art of wood turning. He's made bowls, cups, ornaments, boxes, and pipes (see photo, above right), among other things. His current challenge is to make a fire piston--sometimes called a fire syringe or a slam rod fire starter--which is an ancient, primitive fire starter used to light kindling.

Serving on CIRCAC's Board of Directors, he says, has provided him with enormous educational opportunities, but more importantly has shown him that if you have a concern, you can play a role—something Bob has done for more than 30 years.