

# VIP Club Newsletter

**VOLUME 26, NO. 07/08 www.geocities.com/vipclub2003 JULY/AUGUST 2006**

The Number to call for information on Unisys Retirement Status and Benefits: 1-877-864-7972.

The Number to call for information on Lockheed Martin Retirement Status and Benefits: 1--866-562-2363.

Wednesday, July 12	Board Meeting, Eagan	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 12	Eagan, Program & Social Time	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 02	Board Meeting, Roseville	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, August 09	Roseville, Program & Social Time	7:00 p.m.

## JULY PROGRAM: EAGAN

**DO NOT MISS** this program. This program was presented 2 years ago in Roseville and will now be presented in Eagan for those who could not attend last time.

Henry A. Oertelt, our speaker, survived five years of Nazi oppression, including two years in German death camps, Auschwitz and Flossenbürg. Almost all of us are old enough to have memories of World War II and its pain and suffering, but few were exposed to or witnessed the Holocaust

Mr. Oertelt will give us a significant oral history lesson. You may also want to read his book, "An Unbroken Chain – My Journey through the Nazi Holocaust." There were 16 links in the chain of events that allowed him to survive; had anyone of these been broken he would not have been able to tell his story. His book is highly regarded and was chosen by The American Booksellers Association This Week as a "Kids' Pick of the Lists Fall 2000". Mr. Oertelt has made many presentations to Middle School and High School Groups and stresses that "you have to do everything in your power to see that hatred will not exist anymore."

## AUGUST PROGRAM: ROSEVILLE

Our world traveler Jack Farber will again share his slides and experiences. On this trip we will visit Northern Italy. Your visit begins with many points of interest in Rome and Vatican City. You will also tour Florence, Pisa, Venice, Assisi and several other towns

including one with ancient sky scrapers built hundreds of years ago for protection.

## ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

Please send permanent address changes to Jack Farber addressed to the VIP Club at the address given on the label page of the Newsletter. Also, please remember that for temporary changes the U.S. Postal Service will forward your mail.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**From: Bernie Jansen**

Due to publishing constraints concerning the July and August issues of the Newsletter, the Board at its meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup> decided we'd issue a joint July-August Newsletter!

Our picnic on June 14<sup>th</sup> at the pavilion in Highland Park, St. Paul was a huge success! We had a warm, sunny day and everyone enjoyed visiting with old friends and did justice to all of the food prepared by the Club plus that brought by the Members. Both of our corporate sponsors, Unisys and Lockheed Martin Management were represented at the picnic: Mr. Bill Rohde from Unisys and Dick "Ole" Olson from Lockheed Martin. Special thanks are due to the

following for their work in making the picnic such a memorable event: 1). Chuck Homan for chairing the picnic committee and procuring the Park for our picnic on January 3<sup>rd</sup>; 2). Jim Larson our head chef for cooking the hamburgers – he was ably assisted by Paul Lindholm with help from Lyle Olson and Lynn Lindholm. Also Jim stores all of the Club's cooking and serving utensils, coffee pot, plastics, utensils and plates, etc. from year to year; 3). The Kitchen staff including Ruth Sanford, Marion Scott, Midge Homan, and Lynn Lindholm set up and supervised the food service and then later cleaned up the kitchen area; 4). Joe Schwarz, assisted by his wife Nancy and daughter, Anne covered all the tables with plastic cloths and set up and stocked the soft drink and water coolers with ice and later they cleaned up the whole pavilion dining area; 5). Dale Phelps for procuring the soft drinks, water, hamburger and buns and delivering all of these items to the picnic – he was assisted by Warren Becker; 6). Brian Berggren procured the various condiments for the hamburgers; 7) Lowell Benson and Dick Lundgren for setting up and manning the Legacy History Project table and displays; and last but not least, 8). Nick Benson for taking the Picnic photos presented in the collage insert to this Newsletter. There were approximately 130 VIP Club members in attendance.

After more than 15 years as the Club Treasurer, Jack Farber has decided to resign effective the end of August 2006 due to health reasons. We thank Jack for his dedicated service and the thorough job he has done as Treasurer. We are actively seeking a volunteer to replace Jack and work with him to review his files and then take over from him as soon as possible. If you can help fill this important position please notify me or one of the other Board Members!

In support of the Lockheed Martin Legacy History project a coordination meeting with LM representatives is tentatively scheduled for July 12<sup>th</sup> at Lockheed Martin. See the "LEGACY NEWS UPDATE" on page 5 of the Newsletter for more information on the Legacy History project.

Respectfully, Bernie Jansen, VIP Club President

**From the Editors**



**Brian Berggren (651-451-9009) &**

**Joe Schwarz (651-698-9698)**

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Don Naaktgeboren, e-mail [donfishn@juno.com](mailto:donfishn@juno.com)

**DINING CLUBS & GROUPS**

**Breakfast groups and get-togethers:**

**One breakfast group** meets monthly at 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Tri-City American Legion, Old Hwy 8, New Brighton. Phone: **763-416-3903**.

**Another breakfast group** meets monthly at 8:00 a.m. on the 1st Thursday of each month at Joseph's Grill, 140 South Wabasha, (Wabasha and Plato) St. Paul. Phone: **651-222-2435**.

**Luncheon Groups & Dinner Clubs:**

**One Unisys Luncheon group** meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Country Buffet, Holly Shopping Center, located at University Ave. and Mississippi St. just north of I-694. For information call **651-552-1465**.

**Another Luncheon group** (engineering/drafting) meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Country Buffet at 2000 S. Robert, West St. Paul. For information call **651-456-0750**.

**And another Luncheon group** (Unisys and Burroughs) meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. at the Mall of America 3rd floor North Food Court. We sit at the tables between the elevator and Burger King. For information call **952-854-7855**.

**Dinner Club. A Unisys Dinner Club** meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. at Champs located at 35E and Larpenteur Avenue. For information call **763-786-1044**.

**MEETING & EVENT DATES 2006**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Activity</u>
July 12	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Aug 9	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Sept 13	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Oct 11	6:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Pot Luck Program
Nov. 08	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program – Social time
<b>Dec. 14</b>	<b>5:45 p.m.</b>	<b>USAF</b>	<b>Christmas Party</b>

**Note:** Rsvl = Roseville, Eagan = Eagan Community Center, Park = Highland Park Pavilion, USAF = NCO Club at U.S. Air Force Base off Hwy 62

**WELCOME NEW CLUB MEMBERS**

**Anderson, Jerome & Karen** LM Richfield, MN.  
**Burns, Thomas & Lauri** LM Oakdale, MN.

**Jackson**, Mary Ann U St. Paul, MN.  
**Jallen**, Gale & Joan U Roseville, MN.  
**Olson**, Steven E LM Inver Grove Hgts, MN.  
**Solos**, Mark & Bonnie LM S. St. Paul, MN.  
**Townsend**, Melburne & Meredith U Anoka, MN.  
**Turba**, Tom & Virginia U Roseville, MN.  
**Wade**, Raymond & Norma U Apple Valley, MN.  
 U = Unisys B = Burroughs LM = Lockheed  
 Martin D = Unisys Defense Systems

## IN REMEMBRANCE

**Bergum**, James R. - Age 46, of Lakeville, MN. James died May 26, 2006 in a car accident that also claimed the life of his daughter, Grace. He is survived by loving wife of 25 years, GERALYNN. James was a longtime and dedicated employee of the Lockheed-Martin Corp. where he served as a Computer Systems Integration Engineer working with military applications.



**Walsh**, Richard H. - Age 68, of Bloomington, MN. Passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on May 6, 2006. He is survived by loving wife of 47 years, Jeanett. Richard was a retired Lockheed Martin

employee with 41 years of service.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLOODMOBILE INFORMATION

Thanks to the following volunteers who helped at the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Blood drive in Roseville: Loretta and Roy Dubois, Joyce Bednar, and John Dufour.

### RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES.

Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, Lockheed Martin, Eagan. No additional greeters and servers needed.

Thursday, August 24th, Unisys MACS Eagan needs greeters and servers 9 a.m.-12 p.m. & 12 p.m.-3 p.m.

Friday September 15<sup>th</sup>, Unisys Roseville Bldg.3 needs greeters and servers 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 12 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Please call Marion Scott at 651-455-7952 to sign-up.

### Syttende Mai Luncheon

The 2006 Lockheed Martin Syttende Mai Luncheon was held at Casper's Sirloin Steak House on May 12 with 94 attendees. This event has been held for 30 years. Syttende Mai is May 17th in Norway. It is Constitution Day (equivalent to US July 4th). The luncheon is open to Norwegians, Friends of Norway,

and Spouses. The percentage of retired individuals increases each year, with nearly 40% retired in 2006.

This year's speaker was Dr. Odd Sverre Lovoll, a well known St. Olaf College professor, and an author of several books, including one to be published, in English, this August. This book is an in depth study of a small Norwegian Community (Benson), the book is a first of its kind. Dr. Lovoll immigrated to Washington State at age 11. Dr. Lovoll has taught both at St. Olaf and in Norway.

## OLD TIMERS FIELD ENGINEERING PICNIC

Mark your calendars for the OLD TIMERS FIELD ENGINEERING PICNIC. This picnic will be at Spring Lake Park Reserve /Schaar's Bluff on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August from noon to five. This picnic is arranged and sponsored by Curt Anderson. If you need more information or directions contact Curt Anderson at 651-438-9851 or email [anderscort@comcast.net](mailto:anderscort@comcast.net).

## HEALTH ISSUES

### Disease of the Month

Both Twin Cities papers had articles about Intermittent Explosive Disorder, the once-thought-rare but now-considered-common psychiatric condition. The study says 5 percent of us are short of serotonin and that prescribing antidepressants might help. The Star-Trib article concludes with the observation that "most sufferers had other emotional disorders or drug or alcohol problems." I'm reading Greg Critser's book, "Generation Rx" and as a token will mention the once rare but now common condition known as GERD or gastrointestinal esophageal reflux disease. This used to be known as heartburn; you watched what you ate and took a TUMS. Our "cure" is to take a pill to suppress stomach acid and continue eating fatty and sugary foods. Critser cites researchers who are finding links between constant users of GERD drugs and the consequences of a stomach that is out of pH balance; too little stomach acid can be worse than too much. But Nexium and the like keep the drug company coffers full. Submitted by Brian Berggren.

### Energy Policy Leadership

Energy policy, whether local or national, corporate or federal, has again moved to the theatre of the absurd. It doesn't matter whether it's about wind power, electricity, gas, or ethanol, the goofiest decisions get moved to the front and the decision-makers seem to be immune to ridicule, criticism, or penalty.

We learned on June 2 (Star-Trib) that in early 2004 Xcel Energy could accept only 56 percent of the 466 megawatts the Buffalo Ridge wind generators could

produce. By contract Xcel is required to buy power from the wind farms when available. This unused power is paid for as "curtailment payments" and cost the utility more than \$10 million over a 16-month period including 2004; estimates for 2006 and 2007 are for \$8.5 and \$10 mil.

A spokeswoman for the St. Paul renewable energy non-profit Wind on the Wires suggests that utilities are planning for only half of the transmission capacity expected to be needed by 2020. A subsequent article on three new transmission lines said Xcel would start negotiations for tower easements in 2008 and begin construction in 2010.

Holy High-Voltage, how can the regulators slow wind farm expansion and slow growth of curtailment payments? Invoke "national security." The FAA has done just that (13 June Star-Trib) by sending "hold letters" to wind farm developers denying permits for new installations where towers may interfere with radar signals. (Some of the new generators were to be added to current farms that are already over sixty miles from any radar.)

Still on electricity, the June 9 NOW program on PBS interviewed Chris Paine, director of Sony Pictures movie, "Who Killed the Electric Car?" General Motors EV-1 was the principal subject; their all-electric car had an energy cost per mile of four cents, adequate speed and range for commuting, and a rabid user group. The commentators thought the auto executives considered the electric cars a product that needed virtually no maintenance or replacement parts, had no real place in its product line or advertising, and didn't use the all-American fuel of choice. Most of the automakers, including Ford and Honda, had electric vehicle programs and all seem to have had perfectly functioning cars ground for scrap. This has cost us all five years of progress and left us with only some boutique electric vehicles with little advancing technology.

Sticking with GM, the June 2 Star-Trib had Thomas J. Friedman taking the automaker to task saying, "Its plan to subsidize gas guzzlers is a step in precisely the wrong direction." The GM program will "guarantee you gasoline at a price of \$1.99 a gallon for one year-with no limit on mileage." Tom quotes a GM manager who says, "This program gives consumers an opportunity to experience the highly fuel-efficient vehicles GM has to offer in the mid-size segment." The cars: Hummers, Suburbans, Cadillac SRXs. But only to the lucky people in California and Florida.

Not to be outdone is a new initiative from Oregon. A fifteen second clip on the noon Channel 5 News described a dashboard device that will be used to compute the "gas tax" based on miles driven

between each fill of the tank, not on the number of gallons put in the tank. Whether you drive a Hummer or a Prius, you will pay the state tax on some per mile average to keep the state's gas tax revenue constant. This almost sounds like something that could happen in our state. Why raise an actual tax rate when you can penalize drivers of the more efficient cars and subsidize drivers of the least efficient?

People that make these decisions and the press that reports them without comment frighten me more than any terrorists. The June 5 Star-Trib had a mini-editorial about an Energy Department program dealing with Industrial Technologies that was just cut. The program was responsible for reducing 2004 oil consumption by 122 million barrels and saving \$9 billion. For each dollar spent, the program saved seven dollars in energy costs. Drill in ANWAR, idle wind generators, subsidize the least efficient vehicles.

I almost forgot about ethanol; it used to be priced near \$1.40 per gallon as an agricultural commodity. Now it looks like E85 vehicles that use fuel that is 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline might not save motorists much. Ethanol, with 85 percent of the energy of gasoline, was priced at about 85 percent of gasoline's cost per gallon. This was fine for farmers when unsold corn was piled on the ground. With gas near \$3 per gallon, ethanol is now worth maybe \$2.50 per gallon as an energy commodity and corn farmers with shares in ethanol plants will be our new energy barons. How fortunes change.

I can't keep up. Just before closing this article I read in the June 15 Star-Trib business section that ethanol futures on the Chicago Board of Trade went from around \$2.50 per gallon at the start of May to \$3.70 at mid-June. If the energy content of the ethanol can be valued at \$3.70 somebody's crystal ball must be showing gasoline above \$4.30 per gallon soon. Submitted by Brian Berggren.

## **TRAVEL**

### **TRAVEL NEWS FOR SPORTS FANS**

Did you know there are exciting travel packages available to VIP Club members for every major sports event? Your dream of attending Super Bowl XLI or the Daytona 500 next February, the Masters Tournament in April, or even the Beijing Summer Games in August 2008 can be a reality. This August 9 to 13<sup>th</sup>, a "Baseball Hall of Fame Tour" is being offered. It includes preferred seats at four games in four different famous stadiums--Toronto, Yankee Stadium, PNC Park, & Jacob's Field. Plus, you'll be treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of Yankee Stadium, enjoy the sights in midtown Manhattan,

and visit the Cooperstown National Baseball Hall of Fame. Your hotels (one overlooking Niagara Falls) and motor coach transportation to the various sites is included. Your adventure begins in Toronto. See details on the flyer on our club website, [www.geocities.com/vipclub2003](http://www.geocities.com/vipclub2003). For questions, or to reserve your spot, call or email Yvonne Cecchini at 651-437-9278 or [ycecchini@earthlink.net](mailto:ycecchini@earthlink.net)

## **LEGACY NEWS UPDATE**

### **LM Corporate Legacy Initiative Team to Visit Egan**

Members of the Lockheed Martin Corporate Legacy Initiative Team are planning a visit to the Twin Cities in July or August. Team members are from Corporate Headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland and from a west coast location. They are interested in our efforts to date on the Legacy History Project (ERA to Lockheed Martin) and also in the computer industry archival resources found locally at the Charles Babbage Institute at the University of Minnesota. They have recently been exploring archival data from Lockheed Martin in Palmdale, California.

### **The Eleventh Commandment, almost**

Thou shalt not use transistors! Imagine what our world today would be like if this commandment had been heeded. In fact, a very careful engineering study performed in 1950 came to this conclusion. The exact words were: "In view of the foregoing individual characteristics of transistors, their non-uniformity and easy burn-out, their adverse temperature effects, and their poor matching qualities, the present use of transistors as elements of computing circuits is believed to be inadvisable. High cost is at present a further deterrent to their use in lieu of vacuum tubes." Well, an "inadvisable" admonition is perhaps not as strong as a fundamental proscription, but the message was clear. The future of computers did not lie in the use of transistors.

Fortunately for all of us, not all commandments are religiously obeyed. Early transistor transgressors (among them Seymour Cray at Univac) saw beyond the copious problems of early transistors and set about designing computers using more idealized (and soon to be productized) versions of the new device. The rest is history. Discrete transistors evolved into integrated circuits with the level of integration getting continuously more and more complex. And it continues today.

Two other conclusions from that early study reflect the state of the art of the technology at that time as well as where it was to go. The first: "The results of this investigation indicate that it is possible to build

computing circuits using transistors of current manufacture. To achieve maximum reliability, however, it is necessary to carefully select only the units with favorable characteristics. Then each circuit must be tailored around the characteristics used." Laborious handpicking of components and tedious circuit tailoring was a long way from standardization and a bottleneck for mass production. The second conclusion revealed more optimism: "Improvement of transistors in the course of time is to be expected. The recent announcement by Bell Telephone Laboratories of the coaxial, filamentary, and p-n-p transistors is evidence of continuing effort in transistor development. A device as new as the transistor will undoubtedly undergo many improvements and changes. Future developments should produce transistors of a quality and uniformity suitable for computing circuits."

The conclusions quoted above came from a Report called "The Potentialities of Transistors in Digital Computing Circuits" by Ron Toth, dated 12 July 1950. It was prepared under a contract between Engineering Research Associates and the Navy Department Bureau of Ships. The report is on file at the Charles Babbage Institute.

If transistor technology had been totally rejected, a major anchor on progress would have been instituted. It would have been akin to a commandment such as "Thou shalt neither invent nor use the wheel," a major stagnating limitation in certain historical societies.

Submitted by Dick Lundgren, [rflundgr@aol.com](mailto:rflundgr@aol.com).

## **THE LIGHTER SIDE**

An old pastor lay dying. He sent a message for an IRS agent and his lawyer to come to the hospital. When they arrived, they were ushered up to his room. As they entered the room, the pastor held out his hands and motioned for them to sit on each side of the bed. The pastor grasped their hands, sighed contentedly, smiled, and stared at the ceiling. For a time, no one said anything. Both the IRS agent and lawyer were touched and flattered that the old man would ask them to be with him during his final moments. They were also puzzled because the pastor had never given any indication that he particularly liked either one of them. Finally, the lawyer asked, "Pastor, why did you ask the two of us to come here?" The old pastor mustered all his strength, then said weakly, "Jesus died between two thieves, and that's how I want to go."

The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back in your pocket
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**VIP CLUB – MS 4003  
P.O. BOX 64942  
ST PAUL MN 55164**

**VIP CLUB OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS FOR THE YEAR 2006**

\* = A/C 651, + = A/C 612, @ = A/C 763, # = A/C 952

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:  
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Red Cross Blood Drive  
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**ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS**

Membership.....Dick Mullins \*552-8837  
Programs - Eagan and Roseville.....  
Dale Phelps #831-7843  
Newsletter Editors Brian Berggren \*451-9009  
& Joe Schwarz \*698-9698

**WEBMASTER** Joe Schwarz \*698-9698  
email address: vipclub2003@yahoo.com

**ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS**

Christmas.....Dorothy Becker #881-3516  
Picnic.....Chuck Homan \*699-5180

Metro Sr. Fed.....Brian Berggren \*451-9009  
John Dufour \*639-8289  
Jim Larson \*698-3963

Sunshine.....Lynn Farris Lindholm \*484-1030

Travel Opportunities  
Roger Gillette +926-7214  
& Yvonne Cecchini at \*437-9278

UNISYS Liaison, Roseville .....Sue Carrigan \*635-7955  
Printing & Mailing UNISYS Print Shop, Roseville.....

Lockheed Martin, Eagan Liaison.....Tierney Helmers \*456-4963

**Directions to Eagan Community Center.** Take Hwy 35E south or north to Pilot Knob Road. Turn left (north) on Pilot Knob Road. Turn left on Central Parkway (which is also the North entrance to Lockheed). The Eagan Community Center is at 1501 Central Parkway.

**Directions to Unisys in Roseville.** Take Hwy 35W south, or north, to the Industrial Way / St. Anthony Blvd off ramp. If coming north or south on Hwy 35E go west on Hwy 36 which will take you to the Industrial Way / St. Anthony Blvd. off ramp of 35W (Hwy 36 becomes Hwy 35W where it joins Hwy 35W). Go north on St. Anthony Blvd. to Walnut St. (the first street on the right). Turn right and go to Highcrest Road. It is the first place where you can turn left. Past the stop sign, Bldg 3 is on the right. Gate 5 is in the center of the building. From Hwy 280 northbound, use left lane exit just past Cty Rd B for Terminal road access (St Croix St.). Turn left at Terminal Rd, then turn right at Highcrest Rd to building entrance.