APRIL PROGRAM: ROSEVILLE

April will feature the volunteer breakfast at Unisys. Therefore, no evening meeting or program is scheduled on April 11th.

NOTICE to VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEER SURVEY FORMS
ARE DUE BY APRIL 4, 2007;
(SEE PAGE 7)

VOLUNTEER BREAKFAST IS ON
APRIL 11TH

MAY PROGRAM: EAGAN

James Mossman will speak on the subject “The Importance of Mentors and Community in a Lonely World.” Just as fear is ever present in our current world, so is loneliness. James Mossman learned this from experience. His father died when he was four years old, and when his mother set up her own business, James and his sister were among “the first latch-key kids” in Minnesota. His novel, From Drying Lakes, is dedicated to the men and women who, at an early age, lost the support of a loved one through death, divorce, war, poverty, or abandonment. Their lives had to emerge as if from “drying lakes.” The book is also dedicated to the many mentors and wise ones who helped those who survived to fill again the drying lakes of their lives by guiding them in learning to love and laugh and grow.” James will share his view of the opportunities that exist for finding one’s own identity through mentors and community. He will have his book, From Drying Lakes, for sale.

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

Please send permanent address changes to Lowell Benson addressed to the VIP Club at the address given on the label page of the Newsletter.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
From: Brian Berggren

Our March program with Kent VanRoekel of Collette Vacations featured pictures big and small for the four destinations: Ireland, Italy, Costa Rica, and New York. Kent’s practiced patter made the time go so fast. What we didn’t get to see was Roger Gillette’s pictures of his Wyoming backpacking adventure; his DVD could not be read by Kent’s computer. Also, Bernie asks that you send him your
volunteer hours whether you plan to attend the breakfast or not. At our last board meeting, John Dufour visited and asked that we send Jack Farber an email at mnjack@localnet.com to say hello. Jack has been spending his time at home and the hospital, with more at the hospital. Jack took care of the club's books for years and presented many fascinating travel programs through his beautiful slides and bright commentary. We remember and thank you, Jack.

Respectfully, Brian Berggren, VIP Club President

From the Editors

Brian Berggren (651-451-9009) &
Joe Schwarz (651-698-9698)
Address: VIP Club, 1486 Fairmount Ave, St Paul MN 55105  e-mail: vipclub2003@yahoo.com
The Newsletter Editorial Staff:
Bernie Jansen, e-mail bjskj@hotmail.com
Richard Lundgren, e-mail rflundgr@aol.com
Don Naaktgeboren, e-mail donfishn@yahoo.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 2007

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Feb. 14</td>
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<td>Eagan</td>
<td>Program - Social Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 14</td>
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<td>Rsvl</td>
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<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Pot Luck Program</td>
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<td>Dec. 13</td>
<td>5:45 p.m.</td>
<td>USAF</td>
<td>Christmas Party</td>
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Note: Rsvl = Roseville, Eagan = Eagan Community Center, Park = Highland Park Pavilion, USAF = NCO Club at U.S. Air Force Base off Hwy 62

BRAIN TEASERS (Answers on page 6)
1. If there are 3 apples and you take 2 away, how many do you have?
2. How many 2 cent stamps are in a dozen?
3. How many animals of each sex did Moses take on the ark?
4. Some months have 31 days, how many have 28?

WELCOME NEW CLUB MEMBERS

Bourgeois, Erwin & Albina U St. Michael, MN.
Clang, Roland U Fridley, MN.
Faulkner, Robert & Deb U Fridley, MN.
Gibson, Ken U Minneapolis, MN.
Krack, John & Carrie U Fridley, MN.
Nelson, Kathy U Shoreview, MN.
Weinhold, Elden & Marilyn L Farmington, MN.
U = Unisys B = Burroughs L = Lockheed Martin
D = Unisys Defense Systems

IN REMEMBRANCE

Arndt, Rolland B. - Age 80, of St. Mary's Point, MN. Passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Sunday, March 4, 2007 at his home. Employed by Univac/Unisys of St. Paul for 35 years. He will remain in the heart of his loving wife of 45 years, Marjorie. Rolland was a member of the VIP club.

Bassett, Clarence P., Jr - - Age 58, of Spring Lake Park, MN, Passed away on January 12, 2007 after a
long illness. Clarence was a longtime employee of Univac/Sperry/Unisys at the Roseville facilities.

**Beveridge, Fredrick C., Jr.**
(October 14, 1931-February 7, 2007)
Beloved husband of the Late Phyllis Bjornstad Beveridge. Fredrick retired from Unisys Roseville in 1991.

**Doroff, Stanley A. Sr.** - Age 73, of Roseville, MN. Died on 2-21-2007. Survived by wife of 46 years, Norma. Stanley was a 30 year employee of Univac.

**Holmberg, Vernon D.** - Age 74, of Mpls. Passed away Feb. 8th from complications of cancer and myasthenia gravis. He is survived by his wife, Karen. Vernon worked at Remington Rand, Univac, and Unisys, as an illustrator, technical editor and writer.

**Joseph, Earl C., Sr.** - Age 80, of Minneapolis, MN. Died on February 23, 2007 at Hennepin County Medical Center. Resident of St. Paul for over 70 years. He was an early programmer of the first Engineering Research Associate's 1101 computer, and worked for ERA, Remington Rand, and Sperry-Univac Corporations for over 32 years. He was a cofounder of the Minnesota Futurists and was an adjunct professor at Walden, Metro State and The University of St. Thomas for many years. Preceded in death by his loving wife, Alma. Earl was a VIP club member.

**Kidder, Corbin Sherwood** – Age 84, of St. Paul passed away on March 11. He is survived by his wife, Ann Meissner. Corbin was a Unisys retiree and a member of the VIP Club.

**Malloy, William J.** – Age 83, passed away Feb. 23, 2007. William is survived by Renée, his loving wife of 61 years. William was a Unisys retiree.

**Thein, Harry William** - Age 90, of White Bear Lake, MN. Preceded in death by wife, Marjorie. Harry was a Unisys retiree.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ANNUAL NORWEGIAN SYTTENDE MAI LUNCHEON PLANNED – MAY 17, 2007**

Celebrate your Norwegian heritage, or that of your friends or associates, by attending a luncheon in recognition of Norway’s Constitution Day, Syttende May (May 17th). This event, a tradition for more than 30 years, will again be held at Casper’s Cherokee Sirloin Room, 4625 Nicols Rd, Eagan on Thursday, May 17th. (at Cedar and Cliff). The price of the lunch is $13 which includes a delicious buffet, beverage (coffee, tea or milk), salad, rolls, and dessert, tax and tip. The buffet opens at 11:15, so come early. A great program is planned. Contact Dale Phelps (952-831-7843) by May14 if you would like to attend.

**2007 VOLUNTEER BREAKFAST REMINDER**

As noted in the past two issues of the Newsletter, Unisys will again host the annual “Volunteer Recognition Breakfast” for members of the VIP Club on Wednesday, April 11th at Unisys, Roseville. Volunteers - please complete and return the survey form by April 4th and be recognized for your charitable and civic efforts. To date, forty responses to this year’s 2006 survey have been received versus seventy last year. Also, based on the surveys submitted, approximately 45 members are expected to attend the breakfast versus last year’s attendance by 70 members. Entertainment at the Breakfast will be provided by Humorist, Vicki Snyder. As previously noted, all members who submit the “Volunteer Hours Survey Form for the Year 2006” are invited to the recognition breakfast. Details about the Breakfast and directions for completing the survey are provided on page 7 of this Newsletter. Submitted by Bernie Jansen.

**LEGACY NEWS UPDATE**

Submitted by Dick Lundgren, rflundgr@aol.com.

**What are those things? What are they good for? How do they work?**

These were questions heard at the Eagan facility at “engineering legacy day” during the recent National Engineers Week. And what was the subject of interest? Well, of course, the collection of slide rules that was part of our legacy exhibit. Some younger employees had obviously never seen one, so it made the more seasoned employees feel a bit dated. One oldster commented to one youngster, “Real men went to the moon with these (pointing at the slide rules)” The “How do they work?” question was met with “It’s too long to explain here.” Slide rules, programming templates, and
repertoire cards joined many other artifacts spread over eight large display tables in the Plant 8 courtyard. Easels held our computer genealogy charts and a large picture representing 50 years of Air Traffic Control. Although the target of the exhibit was younger engineers, it was clear that it was an irresistible magnet for the experienced employees as well. People could not just walk by without stopping at a photo, a printed circuit board, a metrology item or special tool, an engineering drawing or other document without commenting on where it intersected with their own histories. Memories triggered conversations and conversations triggered more memories. Everybody could relate to a piece of history, and the variety of connections showed the breadth of the teamwork involved. A major attention-getter and conversation-starter was an operable U1600 (AN/UYK-20). This computer was recently acquired by the legacy team thanks to the efforts of Bob Kubat. Thanks too to Harvey Taipale and Gary Hokenson for the loan of many artifacts, and to Ralph Werner for providing and explaining Q20 design drawings that were generated by such “primitive means.” We are also grateful for retiree contributions – Bernie Jansen (missile pictures), Larry Bolton (hardware cards), and Lauren Conrad (1K memory and engineering documentation). Legacy team members, Ed Nelson, Lowell Benson, Dick (Ole) Olson and Dick Lundgren also provided stories and interacted with many exhibit visitors. Overall, the legacy exhibit certainly drew a lot of interest from the experienced engineers who lived through so much of it, but it’s the younger engineers who will inherit it and move it forward.

**Legacy Website Continues to Expand**
(http://www.usfamily.net/web/labenson/Legacy.htm)

The legacy website is continuing to add new material and to update existing material. To check recent contributions, have a look at the “What’s New” section at the top right of the legacy home page. You may have to scroll right to see this area. The first article focusing on a peripheral device has been provided by Dick Kuhns. Everybody loved the DEAC (Data Exchange Auxiliary Console) in the 70s and 80s. It was a mainstay peripheral to the AN/UYK-7. Dick chronicles the DEAC story through the phases of requirements specification, pre-proposal and proposal efforts, contract award and production. He adds interesting insight regarding the DEAC form factor and its ability to withstand shock and vibration. Other major career summaries are provided by Gene McCarthy, Don Moe, and Rollie Schwitters. All three of these are must-read histories within our legacy. Their common denominator is breadth – breadth in major programs worked, in engineering disciplines, in customer variety, in calendar years (of course), and more. They are insightful, engaging, and instructive. Also intriguing is Lou Schluter’s historical synopsis of MAPPER which adds to Gerry Del Fiacco’s tour de force description of MAPPER development from initial need to current products.

**The Proven World Leader**

Last month’s newsletter quoted a proven world leader as follows. “History will be kind to me for I intend to write it.” This leader also coined the term, “the iron curtain,” at a 1946 speech delivered in Missouri. The history he wrote was entitled *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples*, and the writing process was interrupted during WWII because the author, the Right Honorable Sir Winston Churchill, had other duties to attend to at that time. Note that this is not just a history of England, but of all English-speaking peoples. If you are reading this, it is your history too. The value of this work and of many others by Churchill was underscored with the awarding of the 1953 Nobel Prize in Literature.

**CURRENT ISSUES**

Submitted by Brian Berggren

**Locally**

The Minnesota Council of Health Plans reported that members of Minnesota’s eight health plans spent $10.7 billion on health care in 2005, averaging $3,270 per person. MRI and CT scan costs were $189 million, up 13 percent from 2004. Prescription drug costs totaled $1.9 billion: 12 percent more prescriptions were filled and 12 percent higher average prescription costs in private plans. HealthPartners plan members used generic drugs for 64 percent of prescriptions, up from 50 percent in 2004. Also reported was the average prescription cost: $23 for generics, $130 for brand-names. (Minnesota Physician, February 2007)

**Nationally**

For-profit private insurance consolidation continues. Even before UnitedHealth bought Sierra Health in early March of 2007, the 2005 buy of Pacificare for $8 billion led United’s revenue in 2006 to $64 billion, with an enrollment of 28 million. Number two is Wellpoint, the result of the 2004 merger of Anthem and Blue Cross of California, which then bought New York’s Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Wellpoint now has the Blues in 14 states, with revenue of $52 billion and enrollment of 34 million. The next four are Aetna, Humana, Cigna, and Health Net; revenues total $75 billion and enrollees total 42 million.
The above are just numbers. Over 100 million of America’s lucky insured. Over $10 billion in profits for the big six. (The non-profits such as Kaiser Permanente with 8.6 million members, Group Health of Washington, Minnesota’s HealthPartners, and the yet to be consolidated for-profits account for much of the other insured.) We are told that consolidation will improve quality and efficiency. Pay attention! Wellpoint in 2006 spent $9 billion for marketing and administration, $9 BILLION. About one-quarter what it paid out for real benefits. (Philip Mattera, Corporate Research Project of Good Jobs First, from The Progressive Populist 15 March 2007)

The Medical Arms Race

The National Institute of Health Policy, led by David Durenberger, had its annual meeting February 22 at the St. Paul Hotel with Prof. Uwe E. Reinhardt as the program speaker. Reinhardt is a medical economist at Princeton University and his talk was titled, “Buying Life-Years from the Health System: At What Price and for Whom?”

His informal subtitle was, “Misuse and Mispricing of Technology.” Our MRI and CT scanners, in fact all the new tools and devices on which our leading hospitals and clinics depend, need to be used 80 percent of the time to allow for reasonable amortization. At a talk in Canada, Reinhardt tells of informing his audience that mammograms cost $140 in the U.S. rather than the $40 charged in Canada because the U.S. had four times as many imaging machines that were only used 20 percent of the time. The U.S. clinics simply had to charge more to pay for the machines. He said he had to explain it twice.

Reinhardt gave us some pre-2000 spending per capita comparisons in developed countries: U.S. - $6102 vs. Japan - $2249. Next came life expectancies: U.S. – 77.5 years vs. Canada – 79.7 years. The message was, regardless of our spending and technology, the U.S. is below average for most categories of health measurement.

He next presented some U.S. regional differences in per capita spending from 1996: McAllen TX - $9033 vs. Appleton WI - $3403. Reinhardt then mentioned a 2006 medical journal article that said states with a primary care emphasis had the lowest care costs and states without good primary care the highest costs. Texas, with 25 percent uninsured and poor primary care, is an example of the latter. Too many Texans only see a doctor in an emergency room and have to be hospitalized for something that could have been taken care of with a clinic visit.

His next comparisons were for administrative expenses. The U.S. for-profit system uses 24 percent of the healthcare dollars vs. 10 percent in the other developed countries vs. 2 percent for Medicare. He goes further and says information technology makes possible much of the administrative complexity that is so costly. Even worse he says is our new medical technology – “it kills attempts to explore cost-effectiveness.” Both patients and medical professionals must have the latest technology regardless of cost.

In the U.S., cost shifting is used to cover the high costs: small insurance programs pay 130 percent of costs, large programs pay 120 percent, Medicare pays 89 percent, Medicaid pays 80 percent, and the uninsured pay (or are billed) some multiple of costs.

Now back to Reinhardt’s topic of buying life-years. He speaks of QALYs, or Quality-Adjusted Life Years. A quality medical intervention, such as cataract surgery, joint replacement, or heart repair, will maintain or improve life at a cost. It then becomes the job of the physician and hospital to get efficient QALYs, and the job of the politicians to set the maximum price.

The U.K. seems to have a public sector limit of $50,000 for medical interventions (private insurance can be bought to raise this amount). In the U.S. the Wall Street Journal scolded the FDA for delaying approval of the colon cancer drug Erbitux, which costs about $250,000 for a treatment that may only gain a few months of added life. Rationing becomes a consideration in almost ever costly case. Do we “age-adjust?” Do we value humans differently, such as a violinist more than a bum? Do we use the person’s ability to pay?

Americans spend public money on “utterly hopeless heroic and technically advanced medicine” while refusing to spend for high-yielding preventive care for children. He asks, “Are we going to have a fee market for health care or a find a more egalitarian approach. In Germany the rich take care of the poor, the healthy take care of the sick, the employed take care of the unemployed, and the young take care of the old.

CLUB GOVERNANCE TIDBITS

Submitted by Lowell Benson.
(The second of a 2007 series):

The VIP Club Constitution was last updated in April 2000 to merge the sponsorship of Lockheed Martin - Eagan with the previous UNISYS sponsorship. Constitution amendments require a favorable vote of at least 2/3rd of the membership voting. The Constitution requires that the Bylaws be in conformity with the policies and practices of the
Club's sponsors. The Bylaws updated in Oct. 2000 were revised in 2006 to reflect the current operating modes of the Board. A synopsis of Board responsibilities are: 1) Conduct the business of the Club; 2) Meet periodically to plan activities for club members; 3) Address issues sent to the Board by members and 4) Respond to sponsors’ requests for staffing of community ‘volunteer’ events.

BOARD PROFILES

Thomas N. (Tom) Turba Vice President

I first became interested in computer programming and wrote my first program while serving as a Spanish linguist in the US Navy at the National Security Agency. The program was written in FORTRAN II and did cryptanalysis on a Univac 4 x 494 timesharing system with 85 tape drives and 500 teletype terminals. This was before timesharing existed at universities and in the commercial world.

After leaving the Navy, I obtained Bachelors and Masters degrees in Computer Science from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. I then went to work at Sperry Univac in Roseville, Minnesota, where I worked for 34 years.

Some of the early work included building compilers, parsers, macro processors, spelling checkers, and other tools that are still in use today. This work included designing languages as well as implementing them. I was chairman for the definition control board for PLUS (Programming Language for Univac Systems) and chairman of the Pascal Standards Committee as well as being on several other language committees.

The latest work was designing and implementing browser based point and click graphical tools for the Internet Commerce Enabler (Cool ICE) that are used for building service oriented applications.

Through the years, I have written dozens of technical papers and patent applications, gave presentations at many technical conferences, and was chairman for an ACM technical conference here in the Twin Cities.

Some of the volunteer activities I am still involved with include: the International Representative and a member of the President’s Cabinet for the Northern Star Council, Boy Scouts of America; assistant Scoutmaster for the troop my boys were in; president of the Roseville Sister City Association; president of the Friends of Lexington Area Parks; and co-chair for the Roseville 2025 visioning project for Open Space and Recreation.

TRAVEL

Upcoming Travel Opportunities
Through Collette Vacations
1. New York City
   May 24, 2007 - 5 days, $1749
2. Shades of Ireland
   August 14, 2007 – 10 days, $2723
3. Rome & the Amalfi Coast
   November 1, 2007 – 10 days, $2189
4. Tropical Costa Rica
   February 13, 2008 – 9 days, $1899

Brochures will be available at meetings, or you can call or E-mail Roger Gillette and tell him which brochure(s) you would like mailed to you. Call 612-926-7214 or E-mail RG5628@hotmail.com. Please provide a mailing address.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

A wife was making a breakfast of fried eggs for her husband. Suddenly, her husband burst into the kitchen. "Careful," he said, "put in some more butter! Oh my GOD! You're cooking too many at once. Turn them, You never listen to me when you're cooking! Never!" The wife stared at him. "What in the world is wrong with you? You think I don't know how to fry a couple of eggs?" The husband calmly replied, "I wanted to show you what it feels like when I am driving the car."

Sally was driving home from one of her business trips in Northern Arizona when she saw an elderly Navajo woman walking on the side of the road. As the trip was a long and quiet one, she stopped the car and asked the Navajo woman if she would like a ride. With a silent nod of thanks, the woman got into the car. Resuming the journey, Sally tried in vain to make a bit of small talk with the Navajo woman. The old woman just sat silently, looking intently at everything she saw, studying every little detail, until she noticed a brown bag on the seat next to Sally. "What's in the bag?" asked the old woman. Sally looked down at the brown bag and said, "It's a bottle of wine. I got it for my husband." The Navajo woman was silent for another moment or two. Then speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder, she said, "Good trade."

Brain Teaser Answers (from page 2)
1. Two, you took them.
2. There are 12 two cent stamps in a dozen.
3. None, Moses did not have an ark, Noah did.
4. Twelve, all months have at least 28 days.
VIP Volunteer Services Areas with Samples of Organizations in each Category

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On your Volunteer Hours Survey Form select one of the above codes that best represents each Organization Served.

**VIP Club Volunteer Hours Survey Form For Year 2006**

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<tr>
<th>Member/Spouse Names</th>
<th>Your City</th>
<th>State</th>
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<tr>
<th>Service Area Code (1-7)</th>
<th>Organization for which volunteer Services was performed</th>
<th>Member and Spouse Total Hours per line</th>
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Cut out and Mail this form to: Bernie Jansen

848 Ivy Lane

Eagan, MN 55123-2425

Total Hours ______________

OR

Email this information to Bernie at bjskj@hotmail.com

Survey results will be published in the VIP Club Newsletter.

The VIP Recognition Breakfast will be at 8:30a.m. on April 11th at Unisys, Roseville.

Your Volunteer Survey Form must be received by April 4th for you to be listed in the Breakfast Program.

Please indicate how many will attend the volunteer breakfast. Enter 0, 1 or 2: ____. 
VIP CLUB OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS FOR THE YEAR 2007

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Joe Schwarz *698-9698  
e-mail address: vipclub2003@yahoo.com

VIP CLUB P.O. BOX 131748  
ROSEVILLE MN 55113-0020

**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.