

VIP Club Newsletter

Electronic
Version for
October, 2010

VOLUME 30, NO. 08 <http://www.vipclubmn.org>. OCTOBER 2010

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, October 06	Board Meeting, Roseville	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, October 13	Roseville, Program & Ice Cream Social	6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 03	Board Meeting, Eagan	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, November 10	Program and Social Time	7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND PROGRAM: ROSEVILLE

The October meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. with ice cream, pie and coffee. The October program will feature Dr. Tom Misa, Director of the Charles Babbage Institute at the University of Minnesota who will present "Origins in the Engineering Research Associates" at our Club's October 13th 30-year celebration. This presentation was the keystone of a year-long University lecture series (2008/09) covering "Minnesota's Hidden History in Computing". Dr. Misa holds the Engineering Research Associates Land-Grant Chair in the History of Technology. He is also an advisor to our Legacy Committee. Come and hear about the very significant role of our founding company, ERA. This is also a second chance for those who couldn't get to Eagan to hear Tom's excellent presentation last September.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM: EAGAN

We've all heard of fixer-uppers, but what if the "it" to be fixed up is the MSP International Airport? What if about \$3B has already been spent and it still takes \$2B+ to finish the job? Well, that's the task of Dennis Probst, the Deputy Executive Director of Planning and Environment for the MACS (Metropolitan Airports Commission). Denny will be our speaker for the November 10th program. He will outline what's already been accomplished for \$3B at **your** airport and also review the plan for developments in the 2010-2030 timeframe. Denny's background is in Architecture, Energy Systems Engineering, and Civil Engineering, and besides airport development, he has managed the planning for Light Rail Transit projects in the Twin Cities and three other major

metropolitan areas in the U.S. His responsibilities for MACS include supervision of all engineering, architectural and construction activities, oversight of all environmental issues, and liaison with local, state and federal agencies.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE **From: President Tom Turba**

The September program meeting was full of Blue Skies, Black Birds, and roses as Bud Kraehling, his wife Shirley Lockwood and their accompanist Marilyn entertained everyone with old time music and stories from the early days of radio and television from the Twin Cities. It was a well-attended event, and if you know of any similar people you would like to have at a future meeting, please let us know. The program meetings should be as entertaining, enjoyable, and informative as we can make them.

In October, mark your calendar for Wednesday, the 13th, when we will be having another ice-cream social in Roseville. We will be celebrating the past 30 years of the retirement Club and will have Tom Misa from the Charles Babbage Institute there to talk about the

history of computing in Minnesota. This should be another fun-filled event with lots of members present.

It's amazing how fast the time roles by. Before we know it, it will be December and time for the Christmas party, which will again be at the Fort Snelling Service Club (i.e., NCO Club). Mark your calendars for Thursday the 9th and be sure to send in your reservation early. We will again have great hors d'oeuvres, music and a good meal to enjoy with friends.

I look forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming events. Until then, enjoy life and keep thinking about the good things that are yet to come. Respectfully, Tom Turba, VIP Club President

From the Editors



Joe Schwarz (651-698-9698) &
Brian Berggren (651-451-9009)
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, from September through April, on the 4th Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. at Champs located at 35E and Larpenteur Avenue.

MEETING & EVENT DATES 2010

Date	Time	Location	Activity
Oct. 13	6.30 p.m.	Rsvl	Social Program
Nov. 10	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program – Social time
Dec. 09	5:45 p.m.	USAF	Christmas Party

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

WELCOME NEW CLUB MEMBERS

Courneya, Arlene & Eugene U Cross Lake, MN.
Lenvik, John & Ola L Rosemount, MN.
Kinard, Jon U Waconia, MN.

U = Unisys B = Burroughs L = Lockheed Martin D = Unisys Defense Systems

IN REMEMBRANCE



Furnas, Paul Joseph _ Age 80, of St. Louis Park. Paul died peacefully, surrounded by his family. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Cynthia. Paul spent many years as a technical writer for Unisys in Eagan.

Sherek, James A. – Age 72, of Burnsville, MN. James was surrounded by loved ones when he passed away after a courageous battle against kidney cancer. James is survived by his wife, Murtice. Jim was a Unisys retiree and a member of the VIP Club.

Zustiak, Harry - Age 86, of Fridley, MN. Passed away on September 6, 2010. Preceded in death by his wife Florence. Harry was a Unisys retiree.

Van Hilst, Ruth B. - Age 92, of Sunny Isles Beach, Florida, formerly of Minneapolis. Passed away peacefully on September 1, 2010. Ruth joined Remington Rand Univac in 1956 and retired from Sperry Univac in 1982. She was also a member of the VIP Club.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UNIHOGS/UNITURKEYS – Mark your calendar for Friday, November 19th. Mail your \$18 reservation check to Lowell A. Benson, 1040 Ingerson Road, Shoreview, MN 55126 before November 12th. Please specify your lunch choice of Spur-burger or Chicken Caesar Salad. Hosts again will be Fred Vihovde and Jack Ross,

complete announcement is on-line, see section 2 of <http://vipclubmn.org> or [\[http://vipclubmn.org/Documents/Announcement10.pdf\]](http://vipclubmn.org/Documents/Announcement10.pdf).

OLD TIMERS – Mark your calendar for Thursday, December 2nd. If you are willing to help with the phone/e-mail notification process, please send a note to webmaster@vipclubmn.org on or before November first.

VIP CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE – Mark your calendar for Thursday, December 9th. The site will again be at the Ft. Snelling Service Club with listening and dancing music by the Connie Villars Quartet. A full announcement and reservation form will be in the November and December newsletters.

SUCCESSFUL RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE A special thanks to Hank Dotzler, Gene Achterberg, Dale Kenyon, Dick Ney, Nancy Gountanis, Gary Herman, Jim Drabek, and Gene Webster who greeted and served at LMCO on August 10th. The Red Cross collected 80 units of blood, the most at a single event in several years. The Club, LMCO, and the Red Cross certainly appreciate the volunteer service by the above listed individuals. Submitted by Marion Scott.

RE-LOCATING?

Please send permanent address update information to our database Membership Director at, VIP Club - P.O. Box 131748 - Roseville, MN 55113. Also, please remember that for temporary address changes, (vacations/snow birds, etc.) the U.S. Postal mail forwarding service should be used. Submitted by Quint Heckert

WEB SITE REVIEW by Lowell Benson.

This is the eighth in a series of articles for the 40% of our members who don't have immediate internet access. Three more "Articles for the Month" are summarized hereunder:

In December 2008 we posted two Serial Input/Output papers from Marc Shoquist, a technology [doublet](#). These papers provide the background of the Naval Tactical Data System's 50's parallel interfaces followed by the evolution through the 10 MHz serial interface (Type D) and the Low Level Serial (Type E) to the fiber optic transmission systems at the beginning of 1980. Development of fiber optic interfaces at Sperry facilitated the Navy's use of fiber optic interfaces in the AN/UYK-43 and AN/UYK-44 computers. The STANAG 4153 standards developed in parallel with U.S Navy standards also brought Low Level Serial and fiber optics to NATO ships.

In January 2009 we posted The [BEA reservation system](#) by Michael Knight. Michael Knight recalls Beacon - the pioneering reservation systems developed by British European Airways (BEA) and UNIVAC. Despite achieving so much with so little, Beacon did not survive the BOAC (British Overseas Airways Corporation)

merger, but its ghostly legacy lingered on for a while in unexpected places. Beacon was British European Airways' computer online network, initially developed in 1963-7, to provide a full-scale passenger reservations service. Subsequently, the hardware was upgraded, and further applications added on an integrated basis. Later, following the merger with BOAC to form British Airways, these services were progressively taken over by Beacon's old rival system Boadicea. The memory of Beacon thus began a long evaporation.

In the mid-1960s, BEA carried over 7,000,000 passengers a year, and was 5th largest 'carrier' in the world. [BOAC carried over 1,000,000 a year and was ranked 35th largest]. By today's airline standards, these numbers are very modest, but they presented very demanding data processing challenges. The real-time solutions to these challenges were the ancestors of today's all pervading call-centres. *Article Editor's note: This article is an abridged version of a talk given by the author to the Society at the Science Museum in February 2008.*

In February 2009 we posted [It's A Wrap](#) - A project report about our Sesquicentennial Team activities. The Sesquicentennial Team set up a UNISYS/LMCO display on the Capitol Mall in May, 2008. At the request of the State Sesquicentennial Commission, most of this display was then set up in their tent during the 12 day state fair. Seven volunteer speakers also told our Legacy story at A morning State Fair forum in the Commission's presentation tent. Our speakers were Dr. Peter Patton (ERA history), Jack Sater (ATC), Marc Shoquist (Antenna Couplers), Bernie Jansen (Space Age systems), John Westergren (NTDS), Ron Q. Smith (Commercial Systems), and Brian Toren (future). Dick Lundgren and Lowell Benson with their grandsons witnessed the sealing of the Minnesota Bi-centennial time capsule which contains a few hardware artifacts and documents relating our 60+ year Legacy history.

NOVEMBER ELECTION

Officer, Director, Volunteer - Make up your own title. Your club wants you to suggest activities, coordinate events, find speakers for programs, write articles for the newsletter, and run for office. Many of the current board are deeply involved with Legacy tasks, and Bernie, Dale, and I need some new help to both run the club and organize activities. We just had a successful outing at the Air National Guard Museum and members would like similar adventures organized. Some suggestions include the Chanhassen Weather Center, the Bakken Museum, and a Paddleford cruise. We also may have associates who volunteer at the Science Museum and Minneapolis Institute of Art. Whatever you interests, you can help. Please call or email Brian, Bernie, or Dale and help improve your club.

