

# VIP Club Newsletter

**VOLUME 28, NO. 6**

**<http://www.vipclubmn.org>**

**JUNE 2008**

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, June 04	Board Meeting, Roseville	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, June 11	Annual Picnic Highland Park Pavilion	4.00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 09	Board Meeting, Eagan	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, July 09	No Evening Meeting or Program	

## **JUNE PICNIC: HIGHLAND PARK**

**COME OUT AND CELEBRATE!** The VIP Club Annual Picnic will be held at 4:00 p.m. on June 11th. This event enjoys the largest attendance of any Club event each year. It will be held at the Pavilion at Highland Park in St. Paul. The Club will supply hamburgers, buns, condiments, coffee, and soft drinks. All attendees are requested to bring food items for the potluck portion of the picnic - suggestions of what to bring are based on the first letter of your last name: A – E Salads, F – J Desserts, K – R Hot Dishes, and S – Z Appetizers. Please include serving utensils for your dishes and mark them with your name.

## **JULY PROGRAM:**

**NO MEETING SCHEDULED IN JULY.**



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** **From: Brian Berggren**

Our May program gave about 30 of us a new look at the 35W bridge disaster and a real appreciation for the speedy planning, communication, and

coordination that made rescue, recovery, and traffic re-routing so successful. Major Al Smith of the Minnesota State Patrol was at the site within five minutes of the collapse and, as the nine-county Metro Operations leader, was tasked with getting the responding organizations assigned to defined activities. As Major Smith told us, sometimes the organizations have different philosophies: police are real good at stopping traffic, while MNDOT tries to make traffic move more smoothly.

Along with the State Patrol and MNDOT, the Minneapolis Police and Fire and U of M Police departments, Hennepin County Sheriffs, U.S. Corps of Engineers, and NOAA were involved. In addition, contractors were brought in for fencing and paving and other police departments were asked to supply personnel for perimeter security. Smith reminded us that until it was determined that explosives were not involved in the bridge collapse, the site was treated as a crime scene; following that determination, the site was still managed to document and preserve as much as possible as evidence for review.

Major Smith's audio-visual presentation included site shots from the State Patrol helicopter's real-time camera and images from the U.S. Corps of Engineers' camera at the St. Anthony Lock and Dam showing the actual twelve second collapse. He also shared how the recently acquired 800 MHz communication systems let all the involved organizations talk to each other, especially during the period when cell communication failed. Minnesotans are fortunate to have organizations with

non-political managers that function well together in emergencies and disasters. Our little group was also very fortunate to get a good look at the workings of such a fine response.

Next up is our Annual Picnic on June 11 at Highland Park. We always hope for good weather and to see some new faces. Also, remember that we will not have a program in July and that the July and August newsletters will be combined.

Respectfully, Brian Berggren, VIP Club President

**ADDRESS CORRECTIONS**

Please send permanent address changes to Quintin Heckert 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.

**From the Editors**



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**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 2008**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Jan. 10	No Meeting		
Feb. 13	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Mar. 12	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Apr. 09	8:30 a.m.	Rsvl.	Volunteer Breakfast
May. 14	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
<b>June 11</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Park</b>	<b>VIP Club Picnic</b>
July 09	No Meeting		
Aug. 13	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Sept. 10	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
<b>Oct. 08</b>	<b>11.30 a.m.</b>	<b>Rsvl</b>	<b>PotLuck Program</b>
Nov. 12	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social time
<b>Dec. 11</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**

Devine, Judy U Eagan, MN.  
 Fontaine, Lawrence & Joetta U Bloomington, MN.  
 Linszen, Mark U Minneapolis, MN.  
 Mathews, Ken & Cori U Hugo, MN.  
 Reiter, Allan G. U Roseville, MN.  
 Ross, Phil U Woodbridge, VA.  
 Wazlawik, James & Marge U Stillwater, MN.  
 Witalka, Jerome & Anne U Brooklyn Center, MN.  
 U = Unisys B = Burroughs L = Lockheed Martin  
 D = Unisys Defense Systems

**IN REMEMBRANCE**

Degendorfer, Glenn A. - Age 90, of Edina, MN. Passed away on April 6, 2008. Glenn is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Marcine. Glenn was a Univac retiree.

Nelson, Willard "Bill" - Age 79, passed away on 4/26/08. Bill was a 35 year employee of Sperry Univac



Newton, Daniel E. - Age 76, of Aitkin, MN (formerly of Richfield, MN). Passed away on Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at his home near Aitkin. Dan is survived by his wife Frances. Dan joined Univac in October of 1959 and retired from Unisys in August of 1988.



Sund, Elaine - Age 73, of Coon Rapids, MN. She passed away on April 26, 2008. Survived by her loving husband of 32 years, Bob. Elaine retired from Unisys after 11 years of service.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 12th ANNUAL OLD TIMERS PICNIC

Mark your calendar for the Old Timers Picnic on the 3rd Saturday of August (August 16th) from noon to 5p.m. at the same place as usual- 5 miles west of Hastings at Spring Lake Park Reserve/ Schaars Bluff. Golf prior to the picnic around 9am. More details will be in the next VIP Newsletter.

Contact Curt Anderson for questions or suggestions at [anderscurt@comcast.net](mailto:anderscurt@comcast.net) or call (651) 438-9851.

### BLOODMOBILE INFORMATION AUGUST RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES.

Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> Unisys MACS Eagan needs greeters and servers 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. Lockheed Martin, Eagan 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.

### UNIVAC ROSEVILLE The Good Old Days

For any of you that attended the Good Old Days get together in Roseville on April 25th, you know it was a great success. There were over 250 people in attendance. For those of you from Roseville that missed it, you may want to think about it for next year. Many people that had not seen each other in over 20 years had a great time eating together, having a drink, and just sitting around talking. Although a date has not been set, it probably will be in late April again in 2009. It will again be announced in the VIP Club Newsletter. If you want to be put on a list for more information, send an email to Tom Turba at [TNTurba@Comcast.net](mailto:TNTurba@Comcast.net). People that attended this year and gave their email address are already on the list.

### THANKS FOR A TEAM EFFORT Real Synergy at Work

The VIP Club thanks our 'Sesquicentennial Team' for bringing our *Legacy* to the Minnesota public on the Capitol Mall exhibition May 17th and 18th. The 8' x 24' booth was setup at UNISYS the week before then at LMCO the week after. The team is Dick Lundgren, Quint Heckert, Ron Q. Smith, Tom Turba, Larry Bolton, and Harvey Taipale with support from Lowell Benson, John Westergren, and numerous behind the scene individuals. Special thanks to Quint for doing the majority of the draft layout of the booth's artwork and trucking the display between venues. Also, we thank the family

of Harry Wise for their artifact contribution of a 1950's vintage drum memory [representing invention of the world's first hard drive] and a 1950's vintage Antenna Coupler - both of which are part of the display. Submitted by LABenson.

## LEGACY NEWS UPDATE

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

### Legacy News Update - Web Site – Report and Request

Our Club/Legacy web site consists of four information levels: 1) Main tab level, 2) Secondary tab level, 3) sections within individual pages, and 4) documents, slides, spread sheets, or pictures which open in a separate window as linked from text within section 3s of the various pages.

The structure of our Legacy web site enables the collection of statistics regarding site visitors for this year. The year-to-date visitor “hits” are reported in the following table.

Month	New Visitors	Visitors
January	487	704
February	822	1298
March	1304	1803
April	1262	1866
May week 1	258	343

In April, webmaster Lowell Benson created a person index to facilitate readers finding where people are mentioned in various mini-bios or project articles. There are approximately 1,200 names of people now on our site; you may be there! Look at main tab *Home*, sub-tab *Index/Acronyms*, Section 4 to locate your name followed by the page numbers on which you are mentioned (or contributed to an article.) Then, scroll up to section 3 of this page to see titles (tab names) of the individual pages along with other UNIVAC-ers listed on that page. Most of the mini-bios and a few of the technical articles have had a grammar and spelling review by John Skonnord of LMCO. Much of the introductory material and tidbits sent directly to me have not had such a diligent review.

A request of you, the reader, is to participate in a web site Quality Control check. Please read the web site pages on which I've located your name. If you notice any spelling or gross technical errors in the paragraph/section with your name mentioned, please send a 'correct it' message to [labenson@usfamily.net](mailto:labenson@usfamily.net). Thanks for your help to reduce errors in these parts of our written Legacy.

Web Site FAQs –

- What's new since I last looked at the web site? Section 4 of the *Home Page* lists all additions and updates since the site's inception.

- Who has written technical articles? Each of the second level *People pages* lists authors of articles, section inputs, and other contributions. Specific \*.pdf formatted articles are listed on main tab *Legacy, LMCO*, sub-tab *Documents*.
- How do I get in touch with the VIP Club Board or Legacy committee? Use the topical e-mail links or the general form on the Contact Us page.
- I want to do my own research, where do I start? The main tab *Links* will lead to many other computer history web sites.

We always welcome new mini-bios or articles about your project. We are short of general descriptions of facilities that we've occupied outside of the Twin Cities, i.e. who is willing to collaborate on articles about Winnipeg, Pueblo, Clearwater, Valencia, Johnsville, Patuxant River, etc.

In the next couple of months, we'll be providing articles about our Computer Aided Design development and the Evolution of Environmental Test Laboratory – stay tuned!

Submitted by LABenson, edited by RFLundgren.

## TRAFFIC SAFETY, 5 OF 9

**Toward Zero Deaths (TZD):** The TZD program is a multi-agency partnership including the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety (DPS/OTS), the Minnesota State Patrol, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Center for Transportation Studies at the University of Minnesota. As part of this program, DPS/OTS coordinates several initiatives that are implemented by the state patrol and local law enforcement, including many that employers and communities can use in conjunction with their own safety programs to raise awareness of traffic safety issues and ultimately reduce traffic deaths and injuries in Minnesota. **1) Click It or Ticket:** A federally funded program, Click it or Ticket, seeks to increase seat belt usage in Minnesota, which has risen from 57 % to 83% since the program's inception in the mid-1990s. **2) HEAT (Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic):** this speed enforcement program is credited with significantly reducing travel speeds on roadways targeted as having the highest number of fatal and life-changing injury crashes. **3) NightCAP:** The State Patrol has directed additional resources to the 15 Minnesota counties with the highest rate of crashes due to impaired driving. In 2006, Minnesota recorded a record low number of alcohol-related deaths. **4) Move Over:** A state law requires drivers to move a lane away or, if they can't, to reduce their



speed when they see any vehicle with flashing lights on the side of the road, promoting the safety of law enforcement, emergency medical workers, firefighter, and tow truck drivers who work on the shoulders of our roads. [www.dps.state.mn.us/patrol](http://www.dps.state.mn.us/patrol) has more information.

Next issue, we'll address highway design for older drivers - BUCKLE UP for safety! LABenson

## FUN AND FREE

This section occasionally provides suggestions for grandparents (that's most of us) to have entertaining "bonding" experiences with grandchildren or other youngsters. The criteria are that the experience is generally fun and free (or almost free) and takes place in the greater Twin Cities area where about 85% of the VIP Club members live. All members are invited to submit suggestions, hopefully based on their fun and free personal experiences.

How about introducing your young friend to the socio-mechanical icons of your youth? I'll bet they've never heard of Bugs, Buses, Things and Cabriolets. How about split-windshield vans, Rabbits, Karmann Ghias, Foxes, or Polos? Throw in sit-ins and flower power, and you have the making for a historical encounter with VW. On Sunday **June 1<sup>st</sup>** from 9:00 to 3:00, the Twin Cities Volkswagen Club sponsors their 22<sup>nd</sup> annual "Bug-in" at Luther West Side VW ([westsidevw.com](http://westsidevw.com)). Refreshments are available, but mostly it's the collection of nostalgic VW models on display in the car corral, especially those that played historical roles (the Führer-designed "Peoples Car") or Hollywood roles (Herbie in *Love Bug* flicks and the idiosyncratic VW bus in *Little Miss Sunshine*). The more modern models (Golf, Jetta, Passat, Toureg, Tiguan, etc.) are also not overlooked. Learn about Hamburger Runs and other VW-related events too.

On Sunday **June 8<sup>th</sup>**, 11:00-4:00, it's the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Parade of Boats of the Edina Yacht Club. You don't have to be a club member (most of us aren't anyway), and in fact it's really the Edina Model Yacht Club ([emyc.org](http://emyc.org)). It's held at the Centennial Lakes Park, 7499 France Ave. S., and it's free to the public. Youngsters admire the variety of boats as they sail, cruise, race, collide and sometimes refuse to respond to RC commands. It's a great introduction to a fascinating hobby. Even USN ships are on hand, controlled of course by mini versions of our AN/UYK computer family.

Another idea is to ride the rails. Not far from the old Dog Track outside Hudson, Wisconsin is the St. Croix Railroad ([www.stcroixrr.org](http://www.stcroixrr.org)). Kids of all ages love this one. You know it's a winner when they ask repeatedly to "Go Wisconsin?" You actually ride on, not in the cars. You sit on box cars or flat cars or cabooses (foot rests provided), and the



live steamers pull long trains of kids and adults through a great scenic layout – up and down hill, through a pine forest, over and under bridges, and through tunnels. There are no entry tickets to buy, although the St. Croix Railroad Club does provide donation boxes to help with fuel, repair costs, and other operating expenses. They are open to the public the last Sunday afternoon of the predictably pleasant months (May to October) from noon to 4:00. You can get more info by email from [info@stcroixrr.org](mailto:info@stcroixrr.org).

If riding on the cars sound too risky, how about riding in them? Not far north of the Twin Cities is Don Johnson's spread in Ham Lake. Don's scaled-down wood-fired live steamer builds up his steam pressure, blows his whistle, and offers unique rides on the three major summer holiday weekends (Memorial Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, and Labor Day). Take a picnic along and make a fun day of it.

### **THE LIGHTER SIDE**

A man walks into a restaurant with a full-grown ostrich behind him. The waitress asks for their orders. The man says, "A hamburger, fries and a coke," and turns to the ostrich, "what's yours?" "I'll have the same," says the ostrich. A short time later the waitress returns with the order. "That will be \$9.40 please," and the man reaches into his pocket and pulls out the exact change for payment.

The next day, the man and the ostrich come again and the man says, "A hamburger, fries, and a coke." The ostrich says, "I'll have the same." Again the man reaches into his pocket and pays with exact change.

This becomes routine until the two enter again. "The usual?" asks the waitress. "No, this is Friday night, so I will have a steak, baked potato, and salad," says the man, "Same," says the ostrich. Shortly the waitress brings the order and says, "That will be \$32.62." Once again the man pulls the exact change out of his pocket and places it on the table.

The waitress can't hold back her curiosity any longer. "Excuse me, sir. How do you manage to always come up with the exact change out of your pocket every time?" "Well," says the man, "several years ago I was cleaning the attic and found an old lamp. When I rubbed it a Genie appeared and offered me two wishes. My first wish was that if I ever had to pay for anything, I would just put my hand in my pocket and the right amount of money would always be there." "That's brilliant!" says the waitress. "Most people would wish for a million dollars or something, but

you'll always be as rich as you want for as long as you live!" "That's right. Whether it's a gallon of milk or a Rolls Royce, the exact money is always there," says the man. The waitress asks, "But, sir, what's with the ostrich?" The man sighs, pauses, and answers, "My second wish was for a tall chick with long legs who agrees with everything I say."

### **A MEALS ON WHEELS LOVE STORY**

This 80 year old woman was arrested for shop lifting. When she went before the judge, in Cincinnati, he asked her, "What did you steal?" She replied, "A can of peaches."

The judge then asked her why she had stolen the can of peaches and she replied that she was hungry. The judge then asked her how many peaches were in the can. She replied 6. The judge then said, "I will then give you 6 days in jail."

Before the judge could actually pronounce the punishment, the woman's husband spoke up and asked the judge if he could say something. The judge said, "What is it?" The husband said, "She also stole a can of peas."

### **Pastor's Business Card**

A new pastor was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. Therefore, he took out a business card and wrote "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it and stuck it in the door.

When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, "Genesis 3:10."

Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter. Revelation 3:20 begins "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked."

### **Dress up**

A little girl was watching her parents dress for a party. When she saw her dad donning his tuxedo, she warned, "Daddy, you shouldn't wear that suit." "And why not, darling?" "You know that it always gives you a headache the next morning."

### **Kids**

How can a stranger tell of two people are married? You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.

