



e-NEWS

Horst Truedstedt, Editor

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Next Newsletter: (email and US mail) May (about the 20th)

From the Office

If you need to contact the club, please call 1-651-377-8893 -- the call will be forwarded to a board member. Emails sent to the club at rchret@aol.com are checked weekly.

Larry Plank

Newsletters

Just a reminder that newsletters can now be found on our website IBMRAC.com. For the remainder of 2025, you will still get the email link to the newsletter but starting in January of 2026, the newsletter will only be available on the website. Please take a look to become familiar with the newsletters on the website.

Also, if anyone has ideas for articles to include in the newsletters, please submit articles or let us know what ideas you have.

Status of Club End

We are still working on ending the club at the end of 2026 but are also still planning on sending out newsletters and having some events in 2025. There will be a Picnic and Christmas in 2025. Whether these will also be held in 2026 will depend on interest and attendance in 2025.

We asked for input on what you wanted to see for activities in 2025, but we did not get a single response. There will be more information in the next newsletter on what we have planned but we would really appreciate your input on what would be good activities and, especially, on how far you are willing to drive to attend.

Spring Walk-Hike Activities

Join IBM Alumni members, spouses, and guests for Walking/Hiking events this spring to get some exercise while enjoying nature and the outdoors. Eight walk-hikes will start the first week in May and continue through June and include trails in city and county parks. The trails are moderate with some inclines and will take about 1 ½ - 2 hours with the trail leader pointing out interesting geological features and history of the parks and wildlife and flora along the routes.

1. **May 7- 9:00 am: Quarry Hill city park**, 701 Silver Creek Road NE Rochester which is accessible from County Road 22 (East Circle Drive), meet at the parking lot by the Nature Center. The Park offers more than eight miles of trails. Paved, grassy and some incline provides a variety of options of trails through meadows, woodland, oak savanna, quarry ruins and overlook of Rochester. [Park Info and trails map.](#)
2. **May 14 - 9:00 am: Essex city park**, 5455 West River Road NW, Rochester. Meet at the parking lot by the picnic pavilion. Essex Park, located on the north edge of Rochester, has many trails that loop through prairie, woods and meadows providing a great opportunity to enjoy nature and the outdoors. Some trails are paved, others are grass or dirt trails. [Park Directions](#)
3. **May 21 - 9:00 am: Indian Heights Park, 1800 Terracewood Drive NW, Rochester.** Meet at the parking area at the end of Terracewood Drive. Indian Heights Park is a little-known gem situated between Assisi Heights to the west and the Zumbro River. Trails wind through woods, oak savanna, around an old quarry and offers a hilltop overlook of the city of Rochester. The name “Indian Heights” was coined by pioneers who recognized this as an Indian burial ground in the 1800’s. The trail leader will talk about the Indian and Pioneer history of the area. [Park info and map.](#)
4. **May 28 - 9:00 am: Oxbow County Park, [5731 County Rd 105 NW, Byron.](#)** Meet at the 2nd bridge picnic area parking area. Oxbow Park, consisting of 572 acres, offers a great variety of hiking trails that wind through a landscape of wooded hills and meadows. We will hike on the North Meadow Trail and part of the Zumbro Trail. [Park Info.](#)
5. **June 4 - 9:00 am: Root River County Park, [4012 80th St SE Rochester, MN 55904.](#)** Meet at the parking lot. The 125 acres of Root River Park offers many secluded areas to hike. A 2-mile looped hiking trail winds through the meadows and wooded hills along Root River providing visitors with a variety of options of beauty and natural history. Great scenery with towering limestone bluffs along the Root River. A section of the trail is on a 1800’s wagon trail used by early settlers. [Park Info and map](#)
6. **June 11 - 9:00 am: Chester Woods County Park, [8378 Highway 14 East](#)**

Eyota, MN 55934. Meet at the parking lot by the boat ramp. There are about 12 miles of primitive trails through a variety of inviting natural habitats in the undeveloped areas of the park. The trail leader will select a route of about 2 to 5 miles depending on weather and desires of the hiking participants. [Park Info](#)

7. **June 18 - 9:00 am: Oxbow County Park, [5731 County Rd 105 NW, Byron.](#)** Meet at the 2nd bridge picnic area parking area. Oxbow Park, consisting of 572 acres, offers a great variety of hiking trails through a landscape of wooded hills and meadows. We will hike on the Maple trail and part of the Zumbro Trail. [Park Info.](#)
8. **June 25 - 9:00 am: Quarry Hill Park, [701 Silver Creek Road NE, Rochester](#)** which is accessible from County Road 22 (East Circle Drive), meet at the parking lot by the Nature Center. The Park offers more than eight miles of trails. Paved, grassy and rugged terrain provides a variety of options of trails through meadows, woodland, oak savanna, quarry ruins and overlook of Rochester. [Park Info and trail map.](#)

NOTE: All hikes will meet at 9:00am. A reminder email for those who have signed up will be sent a few days prior to the walk-hike date with directions to the park meet-up area. To Sign Up [CLICK-HERE.](#)

Dave Lind - your walk/hiking activity leader

Alumni Golf Season

Golf details and online registrations should be ready by the first of May. The information we have is listed below and we will be sending the details for each event in the reminder notices prior to the events. If you are not on the golf email list and would like to be, drop me an email and I will add you.

Below are the events we have scheduled for this year. Once registration starts in May, you can sign up any time at least 5 days in advance of the event. The events are all on Mondays with either a 9:00am shotgun or tee times in the neighborhood of 9:00am.

May 19	Pine Island
June 2	The Bluffs at Coffee Mill, Wabasha
June 16	Cedar River GC, Adams
June 30	Zumbro Falls
July 14	Mt Frontenac
July 28	Willow Creek
August 11	Lake City CC
August 25	St Charles (new for 2025!)
September 8	The Jewel

Jim de Longpre, Bill Kleis and Jeff Parker - 2025 IBM Alumni Golf Committee

Obituaries

Bernice 'Sally' Bymers died February 8, 2025. Sally worked as a secretary in many locations throughout the country before settling in Rochester and marrying Ron Bymers. She and Ron loved bowling, square dancing, playing bridge, and watching the MN Twins. She volunteered with many charitable organizations including Meals on Wheels. Her greatest joy was being with her family. Sally is survived by her husband, Ron (an Alumni Club member); children; grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Nathaniel Calvert died March 15, 2025. In 1969, Nathaniel joined IBM as a computer programmer. He had a distinguished 40-year career, playing a key role in the development of new technologies and earning 13 patents for his inventions. He was passionate about mentoring and community service, devoting countless hours to BOPA by mentoring and coaching students. He was an active church member. Nathaniel is survived by his wife, Jongy; children; and grandchildren.

Virgil Clark died January 26, 2025. After being drafted, Virgil spent two years in the US Army. With a degree in Electrical Engineering, Virgil began his 35-year career at IBM. He was a dedicated church member, a 30-year member of the Rochester Male Chorus, and director of the Junior Olympics program. He followed the Minnesota Vikings and Kansas City Chiefs football teams. He was an avid Elvis fan, enjoyed Sudoku puzzles, and caring for cats. Virgil is survived by his wife, Margaret; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Vera Elgin died January 22, 2025. Vera married Bob Elgin in 1954 and, in 1965, the family moved to Rochester where Bob worked at IBM. In Rochester, Vera worked at United Way for over 21 years, first as office manager and then as Associate Executive Director. In 1988, Vera and her husband Bob retired and moved to Arizona. There, she volunteered at a Genealogy Society for over 20 years. She was also Chairman of the Property Management Committee and then Property Manager until retirement in 2019. Vera became an Alumni Club member when her husband, Bob, died in 2014. She is survived by 3 daughters, a grandson, and 2 great grandchildren.

Don Erdman died January 7, 2025. Don served in the US Air Force during the Korean conflict. He worked for a time at IBM Rochester, then moved on to a career in radio broadcasting, working at a news station in Rochester, KOLM. In 1967, he joined a biodynamics research unit at Mayo Clinic where he remained until retirement in 1994. He was an active church member, a Boy Scout leader, and an outdoorsman. Don is survived by his wife, Jean; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Harold Helleck died February 5, 2025. Harold spent time in the US Army serving as a medic in France. He joined IBM Rochester and worked as a Senior Engineer/Project Manager, retiring after 37 years of service. He enjoyed hunting and fishing as well as spending summers at a cabin in Northern Minnesota. In his retirement years, he and his wife Susan traveled abroad and spent winters in Arizona. He is survived by his wife, Susan; daughters; and grandchildren.

Elna Knutson died March 6, 2025. Elna worked at IBM in various administrative positions, retiring after 20 years of service. She was very active in her church, serving in many different capacities including Superintendent of Sunday Schools. She loved getting the family together and made special meals and creative birthday cakes. Elna is survived by children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Roger Loken died February 13, 2025. Roger joined the US Navy, spending much of his time in a submarine, the USS John Marshall. He lived for a time in Groton CT, then returned to Minnesota and eventually settled in Rochester where he worked for many years at IBM. Diagnosed with MS, Roger lived as independently as possible for as long as possible. Roger is survived by children and grandchildren.

Marilyn Morem died February 12, 2025. Marilyn worked in the Publications department at IBM and was loved by many. She was a strong advocate for women's (and human) rights. She was, for a time, President of the Rochester chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Marilyn is survived by many friends.

David E. Nelson died March 12, 2025. In 1954, Dave enlisted in the US Navy and spent time in Pearl Harbor, Formosa, and Japan. In 1959, he started his career at IBM and worked for 38 years until retirement in 1997. After retiring, he worked part time for an additional 4 years. Dave was an avid fan of both the Minnesota Vikings and Twins. He was also a coach for the Rochester Youth Football and Baseball Associations. He enjoyed fishing, building campfires, and spending time with family. Dave is survived by his wife, Carole; children; grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Arlan Scharberg died February 16, 2025. Arlan served in the US Army, spending his tour of duty stationed in Korea. He worked for IBM for 37 years, retiring in 1994. He lived in Hayfield MN on a small acreage near his parents. He loved living in the country and helping his dad with farming. He was a member of the Hayfield American Legion, serving in various positions for more than 50 years. Arlan is survived by children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Robert Sharp died February 25, 2025. Bob joined NROTC in 1954, began naval service in 1959, and remained in the reserves until 1965. He worked as a math teacher at the US Naval Academy and later had a long career at IBM, including assignments coordinated with the US military. Bob and his family lived all over the US, settling in Rochester in 2018. They wintered in Arizona. He loved his grandchildren and was a gifted bedtime singer and storyteller. He loved tennis, history, genealogy, math tutoring, wildlife, and traveling. Bob is survived by children and grandchildren.

Sandra Soltis died January 25, 2025. Sandy moved to Minnesota to work in Cannon Falls at the same time that her future husband moved to Rochester to work for IBM. She paused her career for a time to raise three boys and then started a long and impactful career with Rochester Public Schools. She worked as a learning disability teacher, high school English teacher, assistant principal and principal. She served on the Rochester School Board. She loved cooking, gardening, and traveling. Sandy is survived by her husband, Frank (an Alumni Club member); sons; and grandchildren.

Leslie Thronson died March 8, 2025. Les worked at IBM for 35 years, retiring in 1992. He then worked part time at Mayo Clinic guest services department for 26 years. He helped friends on their farms, worked on the Olmsted History Farm with his restored 1953 Ford Jubilee tractor, and was an active member of his church. Les enjoyed dining out, coffee with friends, card club, bus trips, country music, and following sports. He is survived by his wife, Judy; a son; and two grandsons

Peter Tuinstra died January 24, 2025. Peter worked as a mechanical engineer at IBM until retirement. He was an avid outdoorsman, gun collector, and active volunteer for many organizations. He was a blood doner, worked with local churches and the Exchange Co-op. Peter is survived by children and grandchildren.

Our deepest sympathies to family and friends.

Celebrations

60th Anniversary:	Gerald and Joann Richter	February 6
67th Anniversary:	Bob and Marlene King	February 8
	Wayne and Audrey Livingston	March 23

Please continue to let us know about obituaries and celebrations. We appreciate hearing from you.