



## e-NEWS

Horst Truestedt, Editor

## Content

**Attention – change in Newsletter Distribution**

**From the Office**

**2025 Alumni Golf Season Wrap-up**

**2025 Alumni Club Annual Summer Picnic**

**2025 Fall Walk-Hike Activities**

**2025 Alumni Club Christmas Party**

**Obituaries**

**Celebrations**

**Next Newsletter: (email and US mail) November (about the 8<sup>th</sup>)**

## ATTENTION

**Starting in January 2026, links to newsletters will no longer be emailed. Newsletters can be found on our IBMRAC.com website. Please take a look at the website and find all the valuable information that is there – events and photos along with the newsletters.**

## 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](mailto:rchret@aol.com) are checked frequently. We hope to staff the office from 11:00 to 12:00 Tuesdays and Thursdays. We will see if this is a benefit to club members.

*Larry Plank*

## 2025 Alumni Golf Season Wrap-up

Another wildly successful season of Alumni Golf has been completed. We put on nine events, starting with a chilly, windy outing in Pine Island in May, to a very pleasant fall day of golf at the Jewel in Lake City in September. Our outings spanned much of southeast Minnesota from Lake City and Wabasha in the east to Adams “out west”. We averaged about 20 golfers per event, and I think just about everyone who attended had a great time.

Although I will be stepping away from organizing the Alumni Golf group next year, my able assistants, Jeff Parker and Bill Kleis, will continue the group for one more season. I do hope to attend and play occasionally, but I will be switching my focus to the MGA Senior Tour and volunteering at MGA events as a rule's official.

Here are some pictures from our outings:



Rainy Adams turned into a nice day.

Two great shots in the same group!



Several golfers having a great time on a beautiful day at Mt Frontenac

We want to thank everyone who attended even one outing. It is the enjoyment of the golfers that makes our efforts worthwhile.

*Jim de Longpre ([jim@delongpre.com](mailto:jim@delongpre.com)) , Bill Kleis ([wckleis@gmail.com](mailto:wckleis@gmail.com)) and Jeff Parker ([jeff.buddyscooter@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.buddyscooter@gmail.com)) - 2025 IBM Alumni Golf Committee*

## 2025 IBM Alumni Club Annual Summer Picnic



The Alumni Club Picnic was held on August 13, 2025 at the Maywood Stone Barn. It was a beautiful day with sunshine, low humidity, and appropriately warm August temperatures. It was also nice to be inside the air-conditioned Stone Barn.

A fairly small group of 78 signed up and only one did not come. We sent him his food. It was a very friendly group and all had a good time just eating and talking. The food and service, as usual, was great. It was good to be back at Stone Barn.

There were also some 'things from the past' like IBM clothes to be given away and some ornaments. There was a photo album to review which went back to the days the club first started.

Thanks to all who attended and to all who helped. We'll see how things go but here's hoping we can have another picnic next year.

*Seig Hoepfner, Picnic Chair*

## 2025 Fall Walk-Hike Activities

Join IBM Alumni members, spouses, and guests for Walking/Hiking events this Fall to get some exercise while enjoying nature and the outdoors. Nine walk/hikes will start the first week in September and continue through October and include trails in city and county parks. The trails are moderate with some inclines and will take about 1½ - 2 hours with the trail leader pointing out interesting geological features and history of the parks and wildlife and flora along the routes.

**1. Sept 24 - 9:00 am: Oxbow County Park, [5731 County Rd 105 NW, Byron.](#)** Meet at the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.](#)

**2. Oct 1 - 9:00 am: Root River County Park, [4012 80th St SE, Rochester.](#)** 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](#)

**3. Oct 8 - 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](#)

**4 Oct 15 - 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 offer 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.](#)

**5. Oct 22 - 9:00 am: Oxbow County Park, [5731 County Rd 105 NW, Byron.](#)** Meet at the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.](#)

**6. Oct 29 - 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 trails map.](#)

**NOTE: All hikes will meet at 9:00 am.** 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*

## 2025 Alumni Club Christmas Party

Please plan to attend the 2025 Christmas Party for IBM Alumni Club members and their guests. This will be a sit-down, served lunch. A time for good food and fellowship.

**When: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 11:30 am to 4:00 pm. Meal served at 12:30**

**Where: Charlie's Eatery & Pub, 1654 Hwy 52 N, Rochester MN**

Enter through either the Bar entrance to the West or Restaurant entrance to the North.

This year, we offer the following entrees:

- Beef Tips
- Chicken Breast Parmesan

Both options will be served with noodles. Included are: Salad with choice of dressing, Breadstick, Roasted Carrots, and Dessert. Included beverages are: water, lemonade, and coffee. Chicken can be ordered without the cheese.

There is a Cash Bar. Alcoholic and soft drinks can be ordered from the servers.

**The price is \$15 per person in advance or \$20.00 at the door.**

**Please ensure that your reservation is received no later than November 25.**

Questions? Call the office 1-651-377-8893 and leave a message or send an email to [rchret@aol.com](mailto:rchret@aol.com). We'll get back to you quickly.

### **Rochester IBM Alumni Club Christmas Party December 3, 2025**

**Registrations must be received by November 25.**

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of: beef entree: \_\_\_\_\_ chicken entree: \_\_\_\_\_ chicken no cheese: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Payment

Mail this form with your payment to:

**Rochester IBM Alumni Club  
20 1st Avenue NE  
Rochester, MN 55906**

## Obituaries

**Lyle Bacon** died August 15, 2025. Lyle served in the US Marines from 1954 to 1957. Then, he went to work at IBM, retiring after a long career. Lyle enjoyed hunting, fishing and woodcarving. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; sons; 9 grandchildren; and 8 great-grandchildren.

**John Bernhardt** died July 3, 2025. John worked at Di-Acro and IBM. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and storytelling. John is survived by siblings, nephew, cousins and many friends as well as Jake, his faithful dog buddy.

**Douglas Ferguson** died July 26, 2025. Doug served in the US Army National Guard for 3 years. He was employed at IBM for 35 years, working as a programmer and manager. After retirement, he continued as a contractor for several more years. Doug's life centered around his family, taking care of them and spending quality time with them. He loved camping, fishing, grilling, and hosting large holiday gatherings at his home. He is survived by his wife, Jean; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

**Paul Gunderson** died August 28, 2025. In 1963, Paul received a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering and moved to Rochester to work for IBM. In retirement, he volunteered at Mayo Clinic for over 12 years. He enjoyed boating, fishing, computers, and cheering at football and hockey games. He is survived by his wife, Bonnie, and his children.

**Pat Hurley** died September 11, 2025. Pat came to Rochester in 1959 to start working at IBM. After retirement, he was a fieldman for Plainview Milk Products and also drove a school bus in Stewartville. He was an active church member. Pat and his family were involved in 4-H activities for over 50 years. He spent 20 years on the Olmsted County Fairboard. He played softball and coached 4-H softball. He was an avid Twins and Vikings fan and supported all sports and activities for his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Pat is survived by his wife, Dorothy; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

**Bruce Jeske** died July 19, 2025. Bruce worked at IBM until retirement in 2017. He was a classic car enthusiast with a passion for speed. He also enjoyed riding through the mud on his side-by-side and snowmobiling. He is survived by his wife, Terry; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

**Robert R. Murphy** died July 18, 2025. In 1962, Bob took a job at IBM in New York. Shortly thereafter, he was drafted and served for 6 years in the Navy Reserves. He continued to work for IBM in Rochester from 1969 until retirement in 1994. He was then a founding partner of Pemstar, retiring again in 2002. Bob then worked at his son's business, Kathy's Pub, from 2003 to 2020. He was an integral part of the Rochester Royals baseball team. He also enjoyed doing cross-stitch, needlepoint, Sudoku, cross-words, and watching British mysteries on PBS. He is survived by his wife, Patricia; children and grandchildren.

**Bradley Mussman** died July 28, 2025. Brad served in the US Army for 2 years and worked briefly at IBM in Rochester. He worked in China and Germany and also with the Army Corps of Engineers in Red Wing. Brad was a traveler, hunter, and avid reader. He is survived by his father, siblings, nieces and nephews.

**Frances 'Pat' Mussman** died July 26, 2025. Pat came to Rochester with her husband, Don, where he was employed at IBM for over 30 years. She was a homemaker, then was employed with the Stewartville School District and later worked as a medical secretary for 15 years at Mayo Clinic. She enjoyed reading and volunteering with reading programs. She loved spending time with family. Pat is survived by her husband, Don (an Alumni Club member); children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

**Dorothy Ogg** died July 28, 2025. After living in Wisconsin, New York, and Maryland, Dorothy came to Rochester in 1970 when her husband, Jay, was transferred by IBM. Dorothy was an excellent cook and enjoyed baking cookies. She was a leader in Brownies, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts. She was involved in the PTA and her church. Dorothy was known to always remember everyone's birthday, anniversary, or special event and to send a card. She became an Alumni Club member when her husband died. Dorothy is survived by children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Cletus Pollack** died August 27, 2025. Clete joined the US Army and served 2 years in California. In 1961, after the Army, with an Engineering degree, he started working at a new R&D division of IBM built in Rochester. He worked there from 1961 until his retirement in 1991. His main passion project was restoring a 1957 Retractable Hardtop Ford Skyliner. His engineering mind enjoyed problem solving, especially if there was a specialized tool he could make as the solution. He loved joyful things like dancing, music, good jokes, and puns. Clete loved puzzles and assembling intricate models. He was a member of the Rochester Senior Center and the Korean War Veteran's Club. He is survived by a son and daughter as well as grandchildren.

**Francis Reardon** died September 15, 2025. Fran worked at IBM in Rochester for 33 years. He had a Master's Degree in Computer Science. His family was always his first priority and he shared his love of learning with them. He loved learning how everything operated and he was skilled in woodworking and carpentry. He was a self-taught expert in plumbing, electricity, auto mechanics, and sailing. Fran is survived by his wife, Mary; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

**Griffith Rees** died July 28, 2025. Griff enlisted in the US Air Force for one year of active service followed by 9 years in the Reserves. He started his 30-year career with IBM in Endicott, NY. He worked in NY, Minnesota, Florida, and finally came back to Rochester MN. Griff enjoyed various hobbies like building Heathkit electronics kits (including a first color TV set), building and flying radio-controlled airplanes at the Rochester Aero Model Society. He continued a life-long interest in radio by learning Morse code and being an amateur radio operator. He is survived by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren as well as special friend Marge.

**Ralph S. Smith** died August 16, 2025. Ralph enlisted in the US Air Force and served for 3 years in Germany and France. He and his family came back to the US but in 1961, he joined the US Army and returned to Germany. In 1965, Ralph moved his family, for the last time, to Rochester MN. He worked at IBM for 27 years. During this time, he also completed his career with the Army National Guard and retired as a Supply Sergeant. Ralph and his family enjoyed 30 wonderful summers at their river home. He is survived by his wife, Launie; sons; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

**Eileen Thorpe** died August 14, 2025. Eileen spent some time working at IBM in Denver and Milwaukee. In 1976, she married Erik Thorpe and took on the full-time roles of wife, mother, and homemaker. In 1984, the family moved to Rochester and settled in while Erik worked at IBM. Eileen was an adventure-lover including activities like skydiving, parasailing, paddleboarding, downhill skiing, and water skiing. She had a creative side writing witty poems and coming up with 'unique' solutions to just about any mechanical problem. She enjoyed reading, crossword puzzles, Sudoku, and watching Hallmark movies. Eileen is survived by her husband, Erik (an Alumni Club member), children, and grandchildren.

**Alvin Wendt** died July 18, 2025. Al worked as a part-time mechanic and also farmed, teaching his children about crop farming, milking cows, and raising beef cattle. He was also employed at IBM, for 13 years, from 1980 until retirement. He was an elder at his church and treasurer of the High Forest Township Board for 44 years. He enjoyed fishing 'up North' and visiting with neighbors and friends. Al is survived by his wife, Alice; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

**Lanny Witter** died July 11, 2025. From 1963 to 1965, Lanny served in the US Army with a year of duty in South Korea. After 32 years of service in Finance, he retired from IBM in 1998. He later worked at Rochester Technical Services, Celestica, Pemstar, and Frist Student. He was a member of the American Legion, VFW, Vietnam ERA Veterans, and Korea Veterans Club among others. He served on the Board of Directors of United Way and the Veterans and Emergency Services Museum. He enjoyed traveling, genealogy, canoeing, camping, golfing, biking, woodworking, and researching Civil War topics. Lanny is survived by his wife, Marcy; children; and grandchildren.

## Celebrations

### **50th Anniversary:**

Justin and Lori Michalski – October 18

### **58th Anniversary:**

Larry and Judy Plank – October 14

### **60th Anniversary:**

Dick and Pat Koenigs – September 18

Steve and Carol Pectorious – September 18

### **63rd Anniversary:**

Jim and Pat Kenyon – July 7

Harlan and Betty Engen – August 11

Tom and Irene Holan – October 20

### **65th Anniversary:**

Jack and Marilyn Igel – August 6

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