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**e-NEWS**

Horst Truestedt, Editor

**Content**

**From the Office**  
**Spring Road cleanup**  
**Spring Walk-Hike Activities**  
**Alumni Golf Season**  
**IBM Alumni Club Mantorville Dinner Theater Event**  
**IBM Alumni Club Annual Summer Picnic – August 13**  
**Obituaries**  
**Celebrations**  
**Next Newsletter: (email and US mail) July (about the 20<sup>th</sup>)**

## 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 are going to try to staff the office as we are able. We plan to start mid-June and have someone in the office from 11:00 to 12:00 Tuesdays and Thursdays. We will see if this is a benefit to club members.

*Larry Plank*

## Spring Road cleanup

On April 26<sup>th</sup> we did our Spring Road clean-up. Saturday was a perfect day for it, sunny and not too warm - sandwiched between two days of rain. We cleaned up the first 2 miles of county road 2 north of Douglas. There were six of us that did the cleanup. We got a surprising number of bags of trash. We started at 10am and finished near noon. The participants were, left to right – Larry Plank, Judy Plank, Mark Anderson, Kent Bruinsma, Dana Duffield - Bill Kleis took the picture. Many thanks to all who helped.

We plan to have one more pickup later this fall.

*Larry Plank*



## 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. Five walk/hikes remain through June 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.

Quarry Hill Park May 7, 2025

1. **May 28 - 9:00am: 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. **June 4 - 9:00am: 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. **June 11 - 9:00am: Chester Woods County Park, [8378 Highway 14 E, Eyota.](#)** 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. **June 18 - 9:00am: 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.](#)
5. **June 25 - 9:00am: 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

The golf committee, Bill Kleis, Jeff Parker and Jim de Longpre, have completed planning for the remaining 2025 Alumni Golf season.

We have worked with each of the golf clubs to pencil in the dates, prices and food. One of us will send out a sign up reminder about 10 days prior to each event, the first of which has already happened as you read this. If you are not on the golf email list and would like to be, drop me an email and I will add you.

One change we have decided on for 2025 is to change the standard length of each outing from 9 to 18 holes. We will still have a 9-hole option for those who cannot play 18, but this will move the lunch to after the 18<sup>th</sup> is complete, around 1pm in most cases.

Registration is open for all the events, and you can sign up any time at least 5 days before the event. As is normal, the events are all on Mondays and we will either be having a 9am shotgun or tee times in the neighborhood of 9:00am. Use this link to register:

<https://ibmrac.com/ibm-rochester-alumni-club/publicEvents>

You can also send me a note and I will sign you up. Please include the number of people you are bringing, their names and whether you are playing 9 or 18.

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 (jim@delongpre.com) , Bill Kleis (wckleis@gmail.com) and Jeff Parker (jeff.buddyscooter@gmail.com) - IBM Alumni Golf Committee*

## IBM Alumni Club Mantorville Dinner Theater Event

This year the Rochester IBM Alumni Club will host a dinner theater event on July 11<sup>th</sup> at Mantorville from 05:00pm to 08:00pm. The event will be in 2 parts with dinner at the Hubbell House at 05:00pm and the play at the Mantorville theater at 07:00pm.

**Part 1:** The Hubbell House will be offering a choice of 4 entrees to be made the night of the meal:

1. 8 oz petite sirloin
2. Salmon with citrus butter sauce
3. Pork chops with cinnamon apples
4. Raspberry chicken breasts (8 oz)

All dinners include Hubbell House chopped salad and baked potato with sour cream and garlic toast. Beverage and desserts can be ordered but are not included in the price. The price includes gratuity and sales tax.

**Part 2:** The theater doors open at 06:30pm. The play starts at 07:00pm and lasts about one hour. The theater will hold 50 seats for us front and center. Guests will pick one of the reserved seats on a first come first served basis.

The play is “**One Last Train Ride To Nowhere**”

The daughter, Sirena Scattergood, of railroad tycoon, Tucker D. Fortune, is traveling in her private luxurious railroad car to an undisclosed rendezvous, accompanied by her French parfumeur, Cologne De Peu and Constance Fortune, her lady's maid. They are joined by two characters, Buffalo and Roue Runa-muk, who obviously have plans to derail the train to capture the gold destined for settlers in Lost Canyon. But they discover the gold is missing, Sirena's plans and Roue's plans are certainly going to be derailed at the junction.

The registration deadline for this event is July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Price will be \$40 per person. Also note that registration will be capped at 50 because of limited space. The theater will hold 50 seats for us until the cutoff date and then open up to the public, if we have not sold out. Cancellations cannot be accepted after July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Paid reservations will be checked in at the door. There is handicapped parking on the side of the building and a ramp for wheelchairs.

You can register by filling out the registration form below and mail it in with your check. Keep the top portion of this announcement as your reminder. If you have any questions, please call Ken Kiefer at (507) 288-1827. Or send an e-mail to [kenkiefer@aol.com](mailto:kenkiefer@aol.com). The address of the Mantorville Theater is 5 5<sup>th</sup> St W, Mantorville. The Hubbell House address is 502 N Main St and is an easy walk to the theater or you can drive over.

We look forward to seeing you at this event!

*Ken Kiefer* - Event Chair

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IBM ALUMNI CLUB ANNUAL Mantorville Theater Event RESERVATION FORM

EVENT DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 11<sup>TH</sup> 2025

**ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JULY 3<sup>rd</sup>**

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

Spouse/Guests Name (limit of 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Contact (if you do not have email): \_\_\_\_\_

Handicap Parking Required: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Ticket Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$40 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Mail form with your check made out to:

**Rochester IBM Alumni Club  
20 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NE  
Rochester, MN 55906**

**Please Note: There are two signup forms for two events. If you are signing up for both events, you send the forms in the same envelope but please write separate checks and attach them to the forms.**

## IBM Alumni Club Annual Summer Picnic – August 13

**This year the Rochester IBM Alumni Club hosts our Summer Picnic on Wednesday, August 13th, at the Mayowood Stone Barn from 2:30pm to 5:00pm.** This Picnic is for Alumni Club members and their guests. The menu will be BBQ pork and chicken sandwiches, vegetarian baked beans, and assorted salads. Desserts will be Bunny's Coconut Cake and Chocolate Raspberry Cake. Coffee, lemonade, and water will be provided. There will be a cash bar available.

The address of the Mayowood Stone Barn is 3385 Maywood Rd SW, Rochester

The Picnic is going to be held rain or shine. **Entry will begin at 2:30pm and food will be served from 3:00pm to 4:00pm.** Remaining time, until 5:00pm, is for socializing. When you arrive, go to the registration table and get your name tags which will serve as your meal tickets.

**The registration deadline for this Picnic is August 6<sup>th</sup>.** Price this year will be \$20 per person. Late registrations or 'walk-ins' on day of the Picnic will be charged \$23 per person.

Questions: Call the office 1-651-377-8893 or email [rchet@aol.com](mailto:rchet@aol.com). We'll get back to you quickly.

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### ROCHESTER IBM ALUMNI CLUB ANNUAL PICNIC RESERVATION FORM

PICNIC DATE: WEDNESDAY, August 13th, 2025

**ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY August 6<sup>th</sup>**

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Contact (if you do not have email): \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name (Limit of one): \_\_\_\_\_

Handicap Parking Required: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Ticket Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Mail form with your check made out to:

**Rochester IBM Alumni Club  
20 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NE  
Rochester, MN 55906**



## Obituaries

**Richard Armstrong** died April 10, 2025. From 1967 to 1970, Dick served his country in the US Army. He was hired by IBM in Rochester as a technical software writer and, over the next 30 years until retirement, worked in market planning. He loved acting at the Rochester Civic Theater. He loved sports, engaging in softball, bowling, golf, broomball and curling. He belonged to the Rochester Shrine Club, Elks Lodge, Eagles, American Legion and Masonic Lodge. Dick is survived by his wife, Flo; two sons and their two sons.

**Robert Becker** died April 12, 2025. Bob was employed at IBM for 36 years as a quality engineer. "Bob the Builder" was a terrific handyman and loved working on projects. He was a long-time member of the Elks and Eagles Clubs. He and his wife, Donna, spent time traveling, dancing, working in the yard, golfing, and spending time with family. Bob is survived by his wife, Donna; children; 12 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

**Jean Braun** died April 19, 2025. In 1964, Jean moved to Rochester and began a 30-year career at IBM. After retiring in 1991, Jean embraced her love of travel, spending time in Florida, Texas and Arizona. Jean taught swimming and tennis in her younger years. She sang with the Sweet Adelines, the IBM Chorus, and her church choir. She was a gifted cook, published two cookbooks, and was known for her incredible garden and beautiful flowers. She was very active in her church, serving in many capacities. She is survived by her children, grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

**John Copple** died April 23, 2025. John was employed at IBM in Rochester for 36 years until retirement. He enjoyed this 'hobby farm' and gardening. During his retirement years, he did custom wood sawing and had a woodworking shop. He was a member of the SE Minnesota Bee Association. He created sleeping mats for homeless people. He had a life-long passion for reading, hunting, and fishing. John is survived by his wife, Ardis; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

**Jennifer Dervin** died April 4, 2025. Jenny moved to Rochester in 1989 and spent the next 32 years as a software engineer with IBM until going on disability leave in 2021. She enjoyed the technical and project management aspects of her job as well as interacting with customers at workshops and conferences. She volunteered with several programs working with young people including IBM's Lego Robotics program, EXITE camp, and Technovation. As a family, they enjoyed hiking, biking, playing games, watching movies, and going on vacation. Jenny is survived by her husband, Jim, and their two children.

**Theodore Dunnington** died April 18, 2025. Ted joined the US Army reserves after serving in ROTC and rose to the rank of Captain. He moved to Rochester when he was hired by IBM in 1961 and worked until his retirement in 1993. He then taught at St. Mary's College for 17 years. Ted loved his family, playing tennis, and watching the Twins and Vikings as well as the Iowa Hawkeyes football and basketball teams. He is survived by his partner, Sally; children; and grandchildren.

**Timothy Fairclough** died April 3, 2025. Tim served for 4 years in the US Marine Corps. He was employed at IBM from 1983 until 2010 and then worked at Mayo Clinic for 12 years. He enjoyed time in nature, fishing, photography, coaching soccer, and sitting on the deck watching the lake. He enjoyed cooking and taking charge of holiday meals. He took many fishing trips with a core group of good friends and took pride in watching his grandchildren love the lake and fishing. Tim is survived by his wife, Kari; children; and grandchildren.

**James Fugleberg** died March 18, 2025. Jim served in the US Army Reserves for 8 years. He worked as a computer programmer for IBM for 33 years. Jim was able to retire at a very young age. He and his wife, Lyla, had wonderful times boating and golfing at their cabin in Shell Lake during the summer and enjoying Tucson AZ in the winter. Jim was a kind and caring soul with a beautiful gift of gab and a wonderful sense of humor. He is survived by children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and special friend Elli.

**Jon Glarner** died April 9, 2025. Jon started at IBM in 1957 and worked for 35 years until retirement. He was drafted into the US Army and deployed to Germany. He loved boating on the Mississippi, golfing, fishing in Canada, going to the Elks Club and going out for breakfast. He rooted for the MN Vikings and Twins and loved having family stop by for visits. Jon is survived by his wife, Joan; daughter, Lori; 4 grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

**Robert Grabau** died April 26, 2025. Bob was employed at IBM in Rochester from 1957 until retirement in 1990. The family moved to Arizona in 1990, but spent summers in Stewartville. They moved back to Stewartville in 2004. Bob was a woodworker, creating furniture and crafts for family and friends. He enjoyed fishing, playing cribbage and sharing his love of singing. Bob is survived by 3 daughters, 1 son, 11 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren.

**Gary Jacobson** died May 14, 2025. Gary served in the US Air Force from 1959 to 1963. He then enjoyed a long career at IBM, retiring in 1991. He loved reading, fishing, and playing poker. He loved traveling, especially trips to Las Vegas with his wife Connie. He was a life-long Green Bay Packers fan. Gary is survived by his daughters, 5 granddaughters, and 2 great-grandchildren.



**Thomas L. Johnson** died March 18, 2025. After going through the ROTC program, Tom was commissioned in the US Air Force and assigned to Greenland. He earned the Airman's Medal for Bravery and rose to the rank of Captain. In 1961, he started a 36-year career at IBM. He developed several patents and received numerous awards for performance excellence. Tom was active in the Rochester Rotary Club and served on the board for Habitat for Humanity. He became a signature member of the Minnesota Watercolor Society. He enjoyed the great outdoors, hunting, fishing, and golf. Tom is survived by his wife, Jo; children; and grandchildren.

**Eugene 'Gene' Jones** died April 14, 2025. With a 2-year degree, Gene accepted a position at IBM Rochester in 1961. He took an educational leave from IBM, moved to Fargo and earned a degree in electrical engineering. In 1970, Gene moved back to Rochester and continued to work at IBM until retirement after 30 years. Gene and his wife, Jan, went on a mission trip working to help refugees fleeing from Rwandan Genocide in Zaire. They did service work through Mission Aviation Fellowship. Their volunteer work took them to Haiti, Afghanistan, Venezuela and Papua New Guinea. Following their missionary work, they made their home in Fargo. He enjoyed hiking, canoeing, tennis, and telling funny stories. Gene is survived by his wife, Jan; 2 daughters; and a granddaughter.

**Luella Mae Kastella** died April 8, 2025. Luella married Donald Kastella (an IBM employee) in 1959 and they lived in Whitefish, Montana. Luella taught first through sixth grade in the country school. They moved to San Jose CA in 1962 and then to Rochester MN in 1967. Luella volunteered at St. Marys Hospital Gift Shop and was active at Christmas Anonymous. When they moved to Lake City, she was a member of the Bittersweet Garden Club. She loved to play Bridge, do needlepoint, and belonged to different book clubs. Luella is survived by her husband, Donald (an Alumni Club member); children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

**Robert Lueck** died January 27, 2025. Robert served in the US Army Reserves for 7 years and worked for IBM for 30 years before retiring. He was a devoted father, friend, and grandfather. He was particularly proud of his role as Papa/Pops and attended countless baseball games, basketball games, football games, volleyball games and concerts. He was selfless, hardworking, funny and kind. Robert is survived by 2 sons, 5 grandchildren, and loving companion Patty.

**Donald R. Nelson** died October 25, 2024. Starting in Chicago, Don enjoyed years of cross-country moving with his wife and daughters, courtesy of IBM. They ultimately settled in Minnesota. Don spent several decades at IBM, gaining life-long friends. His passion was fishing, and while he loved traveling worldwide, his favorite places were Gull Lake, Lake Puckaway, and Berry Lake, on a fishing boat of course. Later in life, Don took up skiing and served on the ski patrol for many years. He is survived by 4 daughters, 9 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild.

**Darrell 'Curley' Oelkers** died March 31, 2025. During his working career, Darrell worked at a number of different companies, including IBM in Rochester for 31 years. He loved playing baseball, hunting, fishing, and playing cards. He enjoyed his trips to the casino. He was a hard-working man who lived independently and was still cutting wood at 84 years old. He was active in the community in various roles including president of both the Zumbro Falls Lions Club and Zumbro Falls Sportsman Club. He was active in his church. Darrell is survived by 3 children, 13 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren.

**Frank Richason** died May 16, 2025. Frank served in the US Air Force for 4 years during the Korean War. After the military, Frank embarked on an engineering career with IBM in Detroit. In 1974, he was transferred to Rochester where he continued his IBM career for 35 years, retiring in 1991. He served in numerous specialized positions. Frank enjoyed outdoor activities like trout fishing, deer hunting and time spent at the cabin in Shell Lake WI. He was an avid reader and made time for travel. Past hobbies were skiing, bowling, and golfing. He was a member of the Southern Minnesota Sportsman's Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion. He held a Ham Radio technician license. Frank is survived by 6 children, 6 grandchildren, a great-grandchild and long-term companion Jean.

**Donald Sabatke** died May 7, 2025. Don spent 4 years in the US Air Force, including 2 years during the Korean War. He worked at Rochester Dairy for 10 years, then was employed by IBM for 25 years, retiring in 1991. Upon retirement, he worked in many capacities at his church and also as an usher at Mayo Civic Center. Don is survived by his wife, Carol; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

**Nathan 'Nate' Sikkink** died April 24, 2025. Nate served in the US Navy and then worked at IBM for 30 years. He and his wife ran several small businesses and enjoyed time with a large circle of friends. He enjoyed RV camping, trips to Mexico, winters in Arizona and country and bluegrass music festivals. He was known for his happy demeanor, wood carvings, love of country, grilling of savory meats and a quick wit. He is survived by a daughter, a son, and grandchildren.

**Dale Slindee** died March 27, 2025. Dale worked at IBM in Rochester, in the warehouse distribution center, starting in 1965 and continuing until retirement in 1993. He and his brother formed Normandale Lawn Services and worked this company for 10 years until 2008. Dale loved fishing, automobiles, gardening, home repairs and maintenance. For years, he participated in family fishing trips to Canada. He was a dog lover and a feeder of birds. Dale is survived by his brothers and nephews.

**Donnie Solomon** died April 7, 2025. Don served in the US Air Force from 1953 to 1957. He then embarked on a 34-year career at IBM where he held various positions ranging from engineering to management. Don and his wife, Irene, shared a passion for travel, especially in their RV. They spent winters in Florida. They enjoyed camping. Don never missed a game, recital or special moment with his grandchildren. He was a sports enthusiast, especially fond of NFL football and the Minnesota Vikings. Don is survived by children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

**Marian Wilke** died March 29, 2025. Marian worked as an executive secretary at Rochester Dairy prior to becoming a homemaker. She enjoyed cooking, sewing, traveling, and camping. She was an active church member. Marian and her husband, Myron, attended many Alumni Club events over the years. Marian became a member of the IBM Alumni Club when her husband, Myron, died. She is survived by her sons and a granddaughter.

**Our deepest sympathies to family and friends.**

### Celebrations

<b>30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:</b>	<b>Elaine Case and Bill Wiktor</b>	<b>April 1</b>
<b>54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:</b>	<b>Dave and Donna Sippel</b>	<b>March 27</b>
<b>55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:</b>	<b>Barry and Sharon Knapp</b>	<b>June 20</b>
<b>60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:</b>	<b>Marv and Candy Ramsey</b>	<b>May 1</b>
	<b>Tom and Ann Noble</b>	<b>June 19</b>
	<b>Steven and Carol Pectorious</b>	<b>September 18</b>
<b>61<sup>st</sup> Anniversary:</b>	<b>Joe and Carol Hennessey</b>	<b>February 8</b>
	<b>Walt and Rita Miller</b>	<b>April 20</b>
<b>70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:</b>	<b>Gene and Shirley Lewison</b>	<b>June 11</b>
	<b>Ed and Mary Lou Rauen</b>	<b>June 28</b>
	<b>James and Darlene Vowels</b>	<b>May 21</b>
<b>75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:</b>	<b>Ken and Lois Yule</b>	<b>April 16</b>

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