



e-NEWS

Horst Truestedt, Editor

Content

From the Office

Contact Us

2026 Spring Walk-Hike Activities

Alumni Golf Plan for the 2026 Season

Alumni Club Mantorville Dinner Theater Event

Final IBM Rochester Alumni Club Event

Obituaries

Celebrations

Next Newsletter: Available on the website on July 8th

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 to the club at 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.

If you are seeing the newsletters, please tell your friends about events and refer them to IBMRAC.com to view or print the newsletters.

Larry Plank

Contact US

We want to hear from you about obituaries and anniversaries. Or, of course, anything else that's on your mind. We were getting information from you when you 'replied' to the emailed newsletters, but we no longer have the userid that 'sent' the newsletters. You need to send an email to rchret@aol.com or call the office at 651-377-8893 and leave a message. We will get back to you.

2026 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. Six walk/hikes remain in May 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.

1. May 20 - 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.](#)

2. May 27 - 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.](#)

3. June 3 - 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](#)

4. June 10 - 9:00 am: Chester Woods County Park, [8378 Highway 14 E, 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](#)

5. June 17 - 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](#).

6. June 24 - 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-up 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 Plan for the 2026 Season

We are planning seven events as follows:

6/01 The Bluffs
6/15 Cedar River
6/29 Zumbro Falls
7/13 Mt Frontenac
7/27 Willow Creek
8/10 St Charles
8/24 Lake City

We encourage you all to join us for these rounds!

2026 Golf Committee: *Jeff Parker (jeff.buddyscooter@gmail.com), primary contact; Bill Kleis (wckleis@gmail.com), assistant*

Alumni Club Mantorville Dinner Theater Event

This year the Rochester IBM Alumni Club will host a dinner theater event on July 17th at Mantorville from 05:00 pm to 08:00 pm. The event will be in 2 parts with dinner at the Hubbell House at 05:00 pm and the play at the Mantorville theater at 07:00 pm.

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. The price includes gratuity and sales tax. Beverages, appetizers, and desserts can be ordered, but are not included and must be paid for separately before leaving the dining room.

Part 2: The theater doors open at 06:30 pm. The play starts at 07:00 pm and lasts about one hour. The theater will hold 63 seats for us front and center. Guest will pick one of the reserved seats on a first come first served basis.

The play is "The Treasure of Shiver River."

Get ready for the freshest old-fashioned *mellerdramer* this side of the Mississippi! Although Colonel Sanders has the best cattle herd you've heard of, he needs a good return at the upcoming auction to keep his ranch! Rumor has it there's a treasure hidden on his property. Enter Rod Enreel, the snake salesman with plot (or two ... or 26?) to thwart the auction and claim the treasure for himself. Colonel Sanders, his daughter Heide Claire, and our hero Marshall Law will need to step in and save the day! With an uproarious set of characters, including a female pirate queen, grizzled old prospector, German doctor, and former gambling addict, come help the newspaper reporter Scoop O'Mally get the facts all straight!

The registration deadline for this event is July 10th. Price will be \$40 per person. Also note that registration will be capped at 63 because of limited space. The theater will hold the 63 seats for us until the cut off and then open up to the public, if we have not sold out. Cancellations cannot be accepted after July 10th.

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

To register, filling out the registration form at the end of this newsletter and mail it with your check. Keep the top portion of this form 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. The address of the Mantorville Theater is 5 5th 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

Final IBM Rochester Alumni Club Event

Wednesday, August 19th, Noon - 3:00 pm, the IBM Rochester Alumni Club will host its final event at the main IBM site Executive Briefing Center in building 25. This is the new main entrance for the site, with doors by the relocated large IBM letters sign.

The current plan is for doors to open at noon and serve the meal at 1:00 pm. This will be a sit-down, black linen napkins and tablecloth event catered by Pinnacle Catering (Canadian Honker / Hubbell House).

Meal selections and sign-up details will be in the July newsletter, with final paid signup needed by Friday August 7th.

Please plan on joining us and your former co-workers for the last ever IBM Alumni Club event before the club sunsets by year end.

Obituaries

Rita Buegler died on March 27, 2026. Rita started her employment at IBM in 1965 and continued there for her entire career, retiring in 2003. Fishing was a favorite family activity. Rita, her husband Paul and daughters Pam and Amy took many fishing trips all over Northern Minnesota and Ontario, Canada. In 1988, Paul became ill with ALS and Rita lovingly cared for him until his death in 1997. Rita was a member of the Minnesota State Horticulture Society and the Rochester Garden and Flower Club. She had a gift for planting and caring for her gardens. After retiring, Rita enjoyed traveling to places like Alaska, Hawaii, and Europe. Rita was a long-time board member and secretary of the IBM Alumni Club. She is survived by her daughters and grandchildren.

Paul M. Charlson died on April 1, 2026. Paul earned his Mechanical Engineering degree through the University of Minnesota/IBM work-study program. He then built a 40-year career at IBM and Hitachi, retiring as Director of HDD System Integration and Test. He was deeply involved in his community, serving in various functions in his church, Habitat for Humanity in Iowa, and the Rochester School District. In retirement, he continued volunteering, spending time with family and friends, and golfing. He is survived by his wife, Mary; children; and grandchildren.

Judith Ford died on May 4, 2026. Judy worked at IBM in Rochester for over 30 years. In retirement, she found joy in working at a local bookstore. She was a kind and gentle person who possessed a quiet strength and keen sense of humor. She was an avid Vikings fan and also enjoyed a good game of hockey. She also liked gardening and caring for animals. Above all else, she found great joy in supporting her children and grandchildren. Judy is survived by her children and grandchildren.

LaVonne Gerber died on March 19, 2026. LaVonne worked at a number of jobs before starting a family. Once all the children were in school, she went to work for IBM and remained until early retirement. She was an active church member and volunteered for many activities. She enjoyed spending time up North at the family cabin. She collected many items, her favorite being her Beanie Bear collection. Most of all, LaVonne loved cooking and baking. She was best known for her breads, cookies, gravy and potato salad. She is survived by her husband, Dave; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Glenn Hawley died on March 21, 2026. Glenn served in the Minnesota National Guard and then worked at IBM as an electroplater for 35 years. At the start of retirement in 1987, he moved to Texas and quickly grew to love life there. He spent the last 23 years of his life in Midland, Texas. He volunteered at the Petroleum Museum and the local food pantry. He enjoyed treasure hunting, red wine, and old westerns. He is survived by his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and long-time companion, Dixie.

Darold Heddlesten died on April 26, 2026. Darold began his career at IBM in 1958 and worked there until his retirement in 1992. He enjoyed bicycle repair, garage sales, fixing electronics, jigsaw puzzles, gardening, yard-work, and recording music. He was a skilled carpenter and took pride in working with his hands. Darold is survived by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

John Lideen died on April 15, 2026. John served in the US Army and was proud to hold the highest marksman award. He worked at IBM from 1962 until 1993. Then, he worked at Hardware Hank for 12 years. He was renowned for his love of anything mechanical. He could fix and build anything and frequently built and repaired items for family and friends. John especially enjoyed collecting and tinkering with farm toys, toy trucks, and remote-controlled cars. He enjoyed driving his father's restored 1967 Chevy pickup in a car club. Survivors are his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Thomas Noble died on April 23, 2026. Tom began his career with IBM in 1965 and worked for 30 years until retirement in 1994. After his retirement, he continued work at another company until his second retirement in 2010. He and his wife, Ann, moved to their cabin on Northstar Lake and they lived a peaceful life filled with activities like boating, fishing, gardening, games on the porch, and s'mores by the fire. Tom sang in the church choir, worked on fundraisers, and was always part of the entertainment. He converted numerous vans and restored a 1967 red convertible VW Bug. He is survived by his wife, Ann; children; and grandchildren.

Joseph Nordby died on March 23, 2026. Joe worked at IBM for 30 years, retired as an Advisory Engineer, then came back and worked 24 more years. He was known for his warm spirit, quick wit, and the many stories and jokes he shared with all who knew him. He traveled the world. Joe is survived by his wife, Wanda; son, Steven; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

James Randolph died on April 17, 2026. Jim served in the US Army, stationed in Fairbanks, Alaska. He was hired as an engineer with IBM in 1968 and worked for 30 years until finally taking early retirement. Jim was a loving husband, father, engineer, carpenter, artist, and historian. He and his wife, Judy, cooked, traveled, and gardened together. Jim is survived by his wife, Judy; children; and granddaughters.

Lenard 'Jerry' Steinke Jr died on March 24, 2026. Jerry served in the US Army for four years, spending three of those years stationed in Germany. In 1968, he started with IBM in Rochester and worked for 25 years, until retirement. Jerry was always busy outside cutting wood, mowing the lawn, feeding birds and other wildlife, and plowing their long steep driveway in Winter. He was known for his witty one-liners. He enjoyed music and the outdoors. He volunteered in the community and helped friends with his handyman skills. Jerry is survived by his wife, Susan; children; and grandchildren.

Russell Schnell died on March 31, 2026. Russ worked at IBM, retiring as a Senior Project Manager in 2023. He loved the outdoors, fishing, hunting, being on any type of boat, skiing, golfing, ATVing, snowmobiling, swimming, and hot tubbing. He had a passion for smoking BBQ. He traveled. Russ is survived by his wife, Sandy; daughter, Nana; and siblings.

Joan Titus died on March 29, 2026. In 1966, Joan and her husband came to Rochester and Ralph began a career with IBM. Joan devoted herself to her family, caring for others through her cooking and sharing of food. When her children were grown, she worked at a dental clinic, served as an election clerk, and a devoted church member. Joan enjoyed traveling, especially trips 'Up North' in Wisconsin and Virginia Beach. Joan became an Alumni Club member when her husband, Ralph, died in 1999. She is survived by 5 children, 15 grandchildren, and 21 great-grandchildren.

Donald Weller died on March 27, 2026. Don served in the US Army. Originally from Endicott NY, he and his wife Jan, moved to Rochester where he spent 35 years at IBM before retiring. He enjoyed traveling, perfecting his golf swing, and also building his downhill skiing skills. He was always busy with house and yard projects, working on his cars, and fishing with friends. Don was an active member of the Elks. His wit, humor, kindness and strong guidance will be missed. Don is survived by his wife, Janet; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren

Our deepest sympathies to family and friends.

Celebrations

55th Anniversary: Dave and Donna Sippel – March 27

65th Anniversary: Hack and Joyce Tobin – May 27

50th Anniversary: Bob and Kim Owens – June 5

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

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ROCHESTER IBM ALUMNI CLUB RESERVATION FORM
Mantorville Theater Event

EVENT DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 17TH 2026; 05:00 pm to 08:00 pm

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JULY 10TH

Member Name: _____

Spouse/Guests Name (limit of 3) _____

E mail: _____

Phone Contact (if you do not have e-mail): _____

Handicap Parking Required: Yes_____ No_____

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

Mail form with your check made out to:

Rochester IBM Alumni Club
20 1st Ave NE
Rochester, MN 55906
