



San Jose IBM Retirement Club Newsletter



July, 2008

Volume XXIII

Number 7

PRESIDENT'S CHAT

Dear Friends,

The task of transitioning from an IBM-sponsored to a club-sponsored newsletter is about to begin. The newsletter for December, 2008, will be the last one IBM will print and mail for us. Club members who receive their copies via the Internet have nothing further to do. The United States Postal Service (USPS) has a service that would enable some members to continue to receive paper copies, if the club decides to use it. This, of course, costs the club money. The Club Board is planning to continue sending out paper copies via USPS to those members who cannot get it online, somehow.

One idea, if you cannot access the newsletter on a computer, is to find a relative, friend or neighbor who can, and have that person print a copy for you. Be sure to notify Ed Mueller of that person's e-mail address so that he or she is notified each month as the latest newsletter becomes available.

Let's all make an effort to somehow get on line, if we can. On-line newsletters remain on the web site and contain lots of articles of interest to IBM retirees. The pictures are in color and you have the advantage of early notification of tours and trips.

Have a Happy Fourth of July!
Art Dill, Club President

Club Address List Clean Up

While page 2 indicates the club currently has 2151 members, there is no good way to confirm this. We send out printed newsletters every month (fewer each month as more and more members get it online), but we have no idea how many mailed newsletters are delivered or read. Sometimes, newsletters are returned by USPS when the person moves, and sometimes not. So to clean up the club address list, for the first time in 23 years, the Club Board has decided to ask all members who still get the newsletter paper copy in the mail to return a form confirming this. On the last page of this newsletter is the form. It is the normal club membership application form that annual members turn in every year. You don't need to do this if you already switched to reading the newsletter on line. But everybody else should send in the form. Send no money. If we do not get this form from you by December 15, 2008, you will not get the newsletter in the U.S Mail, starting in 2009. This address list confirmation has nothing to do with club membership. You will still be a lifetime or annual member, whatever you are now, whether you turn the form in or not.

Trip Report – South America

We took off on Thursday the 29th of May prepared to learn something about South America.

BRAZIL: Arrived in Rio de Janeiro on Friday. Rio looks like a European city set upon by a group of ambitious graffiti artists armed with multi-colors of spray paint.

We found out what you do in Rio on a rainy night, but there were occasional breaks in the weather that allowed us to see the famous Christ of the Andes statue with a blue sky background. We took the cable car to the top of Sugar Loaf Mountain and looked across polluted Guanabara Bay (they're working on it, but it seems to be gaining on them). Toured beautiful Tijuca National Park in the middle of the city, the largest urban park in the world.

Whenever there were glitches in the schedule because of weather, there were always interesting substitutions, thanks to Art and Sharry Dill. Tropical Island Cruise got rained out, but we had a tour of the Imperial Museum and Petropolis instead.

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San Jose IBM Retirement Club

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www.sjpc.org/sjrc/

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georgewalker@yahoo.com

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cliffina@verizon.net

Membership Report

Ed Mueller

June 19, 2008

Membership History

The number in () shows how many folks are receiving their newsletters via the Internet instead of the U.S. Mail

Year	May	June
1998	1675(0)	1684(0)
2007	2140(332)	2152(368)
2008	2148(568)	2151(628)

Join the On-Line Revolution!

More and more club members are getting on the club's e-mail list and do not receive their club newsletters by U.S. Mail. Instead they get an e-mail every month when the latest newsletter is ready. If you are not on this list yet and are willing to join, send an e-mail to Ed at the address below. Be sure to include your name and address.

Ed Mueller's e-mail address:

ibmsjrc@hotmail.com

Change of Address

If your address label is incorrect or your e-mail address has changed, or you have moved or are planning to, please inform Ed Mueller, the Membership Director. Send your new address and phone number by mail or e-mail. Be sure your request includes your name and address so he corrects the right person.

Send mail to:

San Jose IBM Retirement Club
Dept DKTA/F005 SVL
555 Bailey Ave.
San Jose, CA 95141

Ed Mueller

e-mail: ibmsjrc@hotmail.com

Next Club Board Meeting: Thursday, July 17, 2008, 10:00 AM

IBM Almaden Research,
Bernal Road or Harry Road
Use the lobby entrance.

Sunshine Report

Gladys Snively fell and broke her right wrist and ankle. She also received a gash near her left eye from her glasses. Howard said she will be at The Terrace rehab for up to 3 weeks.

I spoke with four other retirees who did not want their names published. However, I am happy to report all are recovering from minor illnesses and injuries.

Please don't hesitate to call or send e-mail to me if you know of a retiree or spouse who is ill.

Terry Milinic'

265-5908

theresano1@yahoo.com

In Memoriam

Richard Debolt
Rita Field
Joni L. Gutierrez
Robert Howard
Ralph Inouye
James Murphy
Gene Pipkin
Charles Scott

For life changing events or other benefit questions, contact the IBM Employee Services Center:
1-800 796-9876

New Members

Jim Hart
Harwood Kolsky
Mary Paquet

The San Jose IBM Retirement Club Newsletter is intended for use by members of the Club and their families. Contributions are the sole responsibility of the authors and should not be construed to represent an official position of the San Jose IBM Retirement Club or the IBM Corporation.

TRIPS & ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Date	Event	TAR	Page	Contact	Phone
July 8, 2008	PC Club: Free Software		12	Walt Cole	972-1178
July 8, 22, 2008	KQED Behind the Scenes	2	--	Bill & Madeline Souza	356-6280
July 13, 2008	Great America Family & Friends Day		11	Frank Vitale	927-2106
July 13-16, 2008	Wild West Casino Trip Sold Out		--	Topsy Thompson	377-4314
July 16, 2008	Adopt-a-Highway		9	Doug & Evelyn Dean	264-9502
July 17, 2008	IBM Retirement Club Board Meeting		2	Art Dill	831 338-3069
July 17, 2008	An Italian Wine Affair		7	George & Isobel Nale	779-4275
July 20-25, 2008	Mammoth Lakes Big Hike		--	Gil & Julie Feller	247-6769
Aug 6-7, 2008	Reno: Hot August Nights		--	Ernie Veal	224-3584
Aug 12, 2008	California Magic Theatre & Chocolate!	2	7	Bill & Madeline Souza	356-6280
Aug 14, 2008	Adopt-a-Highway		9	Doug & Evelyn Dean	264-9502
Aug 29, 2008	Hike: Mount Madonna		9	Gil & Julie Feller	247-6769
Sep 11, 2008	2008 Santa Cruz Follies Show & Lunch		7	Topsy Thompson	377-4314
Sep 14-16, 2008	Reno: Circus Circus		8	Topsy Thompson	377-4314
Sep 25-Oct 5, 2008	Trains through Switzerland & Austria		6	Ron & Heidi Harlan	266-7639
Sep 28-Oct 3, 2008	Monterey Big Hike		9	Jim & Dottie Riley	268-5482
Oct 7, 2008	A Journey Through Time - Steinbeck	2	7	Bill & Madeline Souza	356-6280
Oct 20, 2008	Indian Casino: Jackson Rancheria		8	Topsy Thompson	377-4314
Oct 22-Nov 4, 2008	Mediterranean Cruise		6	George & Carole Walker	268-7623
Oct 28, 2008	IBM Retirement Club Annual Meeting		--	Art Dill	831 338-3069
Nov 6-20, 2008	Discover Thailand		5	George & Isobel Nale	779-4275
Dec 2-8, 2008	Branson for the Holidays		6	Ron & Heidi Harlan	266-7639
Dec 17, 2008	Holiday Party		--	George Walker	268-7623
Dec 30, 08-Jan 3, 09	New Year's In Nashville		6	Bud Souza	340-0082
Jan 12, 2009	Indian Casino: Thunder Valley		8	Topsy Thompson	377-4314
Jan 22, 2009	Ozark Mountain Jubilee		7	Topsy Thompson	377-4314
Mar 8-10, 2009	Reno: Circus Circus		8	Topsy Thompson	377-4314
Mar 12-24, 2009	Spectacular South Africa	4	5	Art & Sharry Dill	831 338-3069
Apr 6, 2009	Indian Casino: River Rock		8	Topsy Thompson	377-4314
Apr 17, 2009	California Cashmere, Ironstone Vineyards		8	Topsy Thompson	377-4314
Apr 27-May 4, 2009	Tulip Time, Europe River Cruise		4	George & Carole Walker	268-7623
June 8-9, 2009	Chukchansi, Reedley Opera House, Vineyard		8	Topsy Thompson	377-4314
July 11-18, 2009	Calgary Stampede & Canada's Rockies		4	Bud Souza	340-0082
May, 2010	Oberammergau		4	George & Carole Walker	268-7623

**TAR:
Trip
Activity
Rating**

1. Limited walking & activity
2. Walking limited to facilities within approximately 1 block to hotels & bus
3. Average walking (3 blocks or more) sightseeing in museums and attractions
4. Very active walking, may include airport departures, climbing on and off trains and attractions, may involve high altitudes (9000+) and possible weather extremes.

Travel Trips

Tulip Time! River Cruise of Europe April 27 – May 4, 2009 Wine! Cheese! Flowers!

Savor all the delights of spring on this seven-day cruise aboard the Amadeus Princess, from Basel, Switzerland, to Amsterdam, The Netherlands. We will travel on this lovely ship along the Rhine River, stopping at some of the most beautiful old cities in Europe. Our small, intimate ship allows us to travel through waterways not accessible to larger ships, while still offering the newest technology available. Excellent cuisine is offered each day for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and regional wine is served with every dinner. One of the pleasures of traveling by ship is that you unpack only once.

Strasbourg, France, is an important city on our itinerary, as it is the home of a magnificent Gothic-style cathedral, the Council of Europe, and the European Parliament. We will stroll through the old town of Mainz, Germany, where we will see the Gutenberg Museum. In Ruedesheim we will visit the 13th century fortress of Adlerturm, and walk along Drosselgasse, a popular and busy lane filled with shops. The next day we will cruise the most beautiful part of the river along the scenic Rhine River Valley and through the Loreley Passage stopping in Koblenz to admire the churches, fountains and views. In Cologne, a city founded by the Romans in 30 BC, we can visit the Cologne Cathedral and tour the old quarter. We will enjoy the lovely and scenic landscapes slipping by as we cruise to Dordrecht, Holland, with its 17th century city gate and the Gothic "Grote Kerk" church. Then we will visit Kinderdijk, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here is Holland's largest concentration of working windmills, giving us a glimpse into Holland's age-old battle with the sea. **At the seventy-acre Keukenhof Gardens, more than seven million tulips and other flowers will be on exhibit!** This should be the peak of the tulip bloom. The last stop on our adventure will be the little fishing town of Volendam whose small brick homes with traditional Dutch doors give this town a unique flair. Its fishermen still dress in traditional caps and baggy-legged pants. In Edam all of the cheese lovers will be treated to the delicious round cheese that bears its name! We leave our ship in Amsterdam to tour the most important sights and soak up the diverse architecture. By this time our memories, both in our cameras and in our heads, will be filled with wonderful pictures of springtime on the Rhine.

The all inclusive cost is approximately \$3700 per person (depending on fuel costs).

**An informational meeting will be held at
Baker's Square (Almaden Expressway at Hwy. 85)
on Tuesday, July 15, 2008, 10:00 AM.**

Contact: **George Walker and Carole Walker**
gcwalker95120@yahoo.com, or call (408) 268-7623

Once in a Decade Opportunity May, 2010 Oberammergau

When the Plague threatened the village of Oberammergau, Germany, in 1633, the residents made a vow. If they were spared from the pestilence, they would dedicate themselves to presenting the "**Passion Play**" every ten years. The play depicts the life and death of Jesus and is portrayed by the people of the village to this day. In the year 2000, the cast included 550 children and 2000 adults. It is one of the most powerful dramatic presentations on earth. We have booked it well in advance of the date because it is always sold out. The itinerary for this trip will also include Vienna, Budapest, Prague, Salzburg and Innsbruck.

We know that May, 2010, seems long way off, but as we get older it seems time goes faster and who knows who will be around the next time Oberammergau presents the "Passion Play"?

Contact:

George and Carole Walker,
408 268 7623 or e-mail gcwalker95120@yahoo.com

Calgary Stampede & Canada's Kootenay Rockies July 11-18, 2009 TAR = 3

Inclusions:

Round trip airfare & transfers
Deluxe motorcoach
7 nights accommodations
2 nights Calgary
2 nights Banff
1 night Kimberley
2 nights Nelson
12 meals: 7 breakfasts,
1 lunch & 4 dinners
Admission to included
attractions
Driver & Step-on Guide tips
Baggage handling

Highlights:

Calgary Chuck Wagon races
Banff & Lake Louise
Kootenay Rockies National
Park
Bavarian City of the Rockies
"Glass House" in Boswell
Kootenay Lake ferry ride
Hot springs
Sandon Ghost Town
& much more...

Spectacular scenery, friendly Canadian towns, festivals, great food, mountain lakes, hot springs and all at an easy pace for a practical package price: \$2,550 double and \$3155 single.

Contact:

Bud Souza
408-340-0082
email: buds2@mindspring.com

Travel Trips

Discover Thailand November 6 – 20, 2008

It may be winter here in November, but it is the optimum time weather-wise to visit Thailand. The 15 day trip features exotic destinations, beautiful world class hotels, and warm days and nights, and it is an unsurpassed travel bargain. Given the leisurely pace of the trip, it will be an outstanding vacation.

Thailand is known as one of the most fascinating places on earth, with a culture much different from ours. It has very friendly people, and is an outstanding place for shopping for jewelry (rubies and sapphires in particular), for clothing and, in this case, for Christmas gifts.

In Bangkok you will see the Grand Palace, the Emerald Buddha Temple, the Gems Factory and Thai Silk, and the famous Floating Market. Look for some of the 400 Buddhist temples and palaces, and classical dance extravaganzas.

Next stop is Chiang Mai, a historic hill city, noted for its handicraft villages and colorful ethnic hill tribes. There you will see ancient temples and pagodas, Thai handicrafts, and silk and cotton hand-weaving factories. You will also visit Borsang, famous for primitive paper making and umbrellas. There is also a night bazaar for shopping.

Chiang Mai is famous for its natural habitat elephant shows. It also features a Temple Tour, including the 700 year old Wat Chiang Mun and two other ancient wats.

We'll visit Ching Rai, known for its scenic views, and the Golden Triangle where Thailand, Laos and Myanmar (Burma) meet the Mekong River. We'll visit villages where the long-necked and big-earring people live, and see other hill tribe villages as well. There will also be some spare time to explore.

This season has the best weather. At a price of \$2399, plus airport tax and fuel charges, it is a bargain in today's travel. Insurance is included in the base price.

Contact:

George or Isobel Nale at (408) 779-4275,
or e-mail us at gr4na@aol.com

Spectacular South Africa March 12- 24, 2009

Optional 3 night Victoria Falls Extension

Experience breathtaking mountain scenery, winding coastlines, and abundant wildlife in a country that contains a world of treasures. Stays include the famous Kruger National Park, Johannesburg (a city built on gold and diamonds), Knysna and the breathtaking Featherbed Nature Reserve. Then on to Oudtshoorn, the ostrich capital of South Africa, and finally the amazing city of Cape Town with its charming coastal scenery, celebrated architecture, and traditions of French, German and Dutch influences. No Euro exchange. The US dollar is strong in South Africa.

Trip Highlights:

- Welcome dinner in Sandton.
- Language Discovery and guided tour of Soweto
- Travel the spectacular Drakensberg mountain range and Blyde River Canyon.
- Kruger National Park – Safari Game Drive. Dazzling herds of African wildlife.
- Port Elizabeth, coastal gateway to the famous Garden Route.
- Featherbed Nature Reserve and lagoon cruise and 4x4 drive into the forest.
- Visit a local township and school.
- Oudtshoorn visit and tour to oldest ostrich farm.
- Captivating Cape Town and panoramic tour of this beautiful harbor-side city.
- Cable car ride to famous Table Mountain.
- Cape Point, penguins at Boulder Beach and tour of Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens.
- Tour of Cape vineyards.
- After-hours tour of Gold Museum.
- Traditional African dining experience.

The price of the tour including airfare: \$3999, pp double.
Single Supplement \$900.

Main tour includes all air flights, transfers, entrance to shows and tours per itinerary, baggage handling, 10 breakfasts, 2 main meal lunches, 5 dinners.

An optional 4 day, 3 night Victoria Falls extension is available. Call for details.

Victoria Falls extension is \$1559 pp double.

Contact: **Art and Sharry Dill, (831) 338-3069** TAR 4

*South America, continued...*Had a bountiful BBQ dinner and a Samba show -- glitzy costumes, music and drumbeat rhythm. The young men did amazing acrobatics with their folklore dancing; the beautiful young girls could sure shake their booty.

Flew to Iguassu Falls (it becomes Iguazu on the Argentine side) to see Mother Nature showing off her splendor and power; there are about 250 separate falls, not all of them named. We hiked along the river, admiring the views. The next day, those of us brave and adventurous enough took a Zodiak trip right into the falls -- over and over -- arrived back at the hotel drenched, but triumphant and for some, it was the highlight of the trip.

...continued on page 8

Travel Trips

New Year's In Nashville

December 30, 2008 - January 3, 2009

4 Nights in the Opryland Hotel,
one of the most fanciful and unforgettable man-
made
wonders of the world
You owe it to yourself
to be there once in your life.

Featuring:

New Year's Eve Masquerade Gala Dinner/Dance
New Year's Day Brunch
General Jackson Dinner Cruise
Grand Ole Opry Performance

Included:

Roundtrip Airport Transfers
Roundtrip Air to Nashville
6 meals
Baggage handling/1 suitcase per person
All Taxes, Resort Fees & Gratuities

Price Per Person:

\$1440 Double Occupancy
\$1720 Single Occupancy

For reservations & complete brochure,
contact: **Bud Souza, (408) 340-0082**
e-mail: buds2@mindspring.com

Presentation at Mama Mia's
200 E. Hamilton Ave, Campbell
July 17, 3:00 PM

Branson for the Holidays

December 2-8, 2008

Back by popular demand:

Holiday Music and Fun in Branson, Missouri

Included:

- Air and motor coach transportation
- All breakfasts and dinners
- Tips, taxes, baggage handling
- Harry Truman Library
- Brunch at Big Cedar Lodge
- Silver Dollar City
- Eleven (11) music shows in the entertainment capital of the world, including Shoji Tabuchi, Yakov Smirnoff, and Acrobats of China

Price is \$1995, deposit \$250.

Seats are limited and can only be held with a deposit.

Contact:

Ron or Heidi Harlan for a brochure and application at (408)266-7639.

Mediterranean Cruise, Athens to Rome

Stopping in the Holy Lands

October 22 - November 4, 2008, Sold Out

The cruise is sold out but we are taking names for a wait list in case any spaces open up. If you want more information on this exciting cruise, please contact:

George Walker at (408) 268-7623 or by email at gcwalker9120@yahoo.com

Switzerland and Austria - Trains of the Alps

September 25 - October 5, 2008

Discover breathtaking Alpine vistas as we journey on some of the most dramatic railway lines and roads that pass through Switzerland, Italy and Austria. Experience Swiss train travel in all its glory, renowned for its special engineering and impeccable service, as we travel on four great Alpine trains. Enjoy the stunning beauty of the magnificent Alps, charming traditional villages, and grand castles, and the distinctive cultural treasures found in this pristine corner of Europe.

Trip Highlights Include:

- Glacier Express
- Golden Pass Panoramic Train
- Gornergrat Cogwheel Railroad
- Bernina Express Train
- Geneva, Montreux, Lausanne, Gstaad
- Zermatt, St Moritz, Innsbruck, Salzburg
- 16 meals: 9 breakfasts, 7 dinners

Price of the tour including airfare is \$3799.

Land only price is \$2299.

Contact:

Ron or Heidi Harlan at (408) 266-7639 or Bob Martinez at (408) 927-1307 for brochures and arrangements. Seats are limited.

Day Trips

A Journey through Time

Tuesday, October 7, 2008

Trip Activity Rating-2

Visit the National Steinbeck Center with a docent-led tour and experience the world of John Steinbeck, where literature jumps off the printed page and into your imagination. Discover Steinbeck's works and philosophy through interactive, multi-sensory exhibits, priceless artifacts, entertaining displays, educational programs and research archives.

Lunch is at Phil's Fish Market at Moss Landing, which has been in business since 1982. Then you will visit the museum at the Watsonville Agriculture History Project. Enjoy a docent-led tour and discover the history of agriculture in this area, including the crops, people, artifacts and farming practices that have made the Pajaro Valley what it is today. Last on the itinerary is Gizdich Ranch for a no-host sweet stop. Tour this family ranch and breathe in the country atmosphere. Purchase a jar or two of fresh homemade berry jam and enjoy a slice of the best pie this side of the Rockies. Visit the antique shop next to the barn.

Tour Includes: Deluxe Motorcoach, All Gratuities, Hosted Lunch, and Docent Tours. All this for \$71.00 per person.

These trips fill up fast so don't wait.

Contact: **Madeline or Bill Souza**
at (408) 356-6280 or
bsouza6280@aol.com

An Italian Affair

Thursday, July 17, 2008

If you fancy good Italian food and wine in a Tuscan setting, join us from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Guglielmo Winery in Morgan Hill. Their patio is a perfect place from which to gaze out over the vineyards at the foothills and imagine you are in Italy. More than 60 of us were there last year and it was a great day.

The menu is Italian sausage, pasta, salad, bread and dessert, with many of Guglielmo's better wines being served. Cost is \$25 per person and reservations can be made by calling:

George or Isobel Nale at (408) 779-4275
or e-mail us at gr4na@aol.com

California Magic Theatre and Chocolate

Tuesday, August 12, 2008, Trip Activity Rating-2

This trip is sold out. Currently taking a wait list.

You are off to "the best place to eat, relax, and be amazed" -- the **California Magic Dinner Theatre**. We will enjoy a hosted lunch and magic show. Amazing fun! After the show we will visit the **Scharffen Berger Chocolate Factory** in Berkeley, for a private docent-led tour of their factory. All this for \$76.00 per person

Contact:
Madeline or Bill Souza at (408) 356-6280 or
bsouza6280@aol.com

Ozark Mountain Jubilee

Thursday, January 22, 2009

The Woodland Opera House presents, direct from Branson, The Ozark Mountain Jubilee, featuring Branson's funniest comedian and world-class fiddler, Doofus Doolittle. Doofus will have you rolling in the aisles with his unique style of hillbilly humor. You can expect some of the best fiddle music anywhere. Prior to the show we will enjoy a hosted private buffet luncheon at Ludy's Main Street BBQ adjacent to the opera house. After the show we will make a non-hosted stop in Vacaville at Fenton's Creamery. Tour includes deluxe motorcoach, all gratuities. All this for \$88.00 per person.

Contact:

Topsy Thompson at (408) 377-4314 or
e-mail: topray4314@cs.com

2008 Santa Cruz Follies

Show & Lunch

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Don't miss this outstanding day trip. We will have an ocean front luncheon at the historic Cocoanut Grove and see the 2008 Santa Cruz Follies production, "Lullaby of Broadway."

Price: \$67.00 per person

9:00 AM pick-up: St. Martin of Tours parking lot, 200 O'Connor Dr. (near #880 & Stevens Creek)

9:30 AM pick-up: #87 & Capitol Expressway Park-N-Ride Sec. G

Arrive at the historic Cocoanut Grove for an 11:00 AM luncheon. Then on to the show!

Contact:

Topsy Thompson
(408) 377-4314 or e-mail: topray4314@cs.com

Day Trips

Chukchansi Reedley Opera House Underground Gardens

June 8-9, 2009

- Reedley Opera House, tour, show, luncheon
- Chukchansi, overnight hotel room plus bonuses
- Underground Gardens tour and admission
- Price: \$158; Bonus: \$10, EZ Play, \$10 Food Credit

Contact:

Topsy Thompson (408) 377-4314

or e-mail: topray4314@cs.com

California Cashmere - Ironstone Vineyard

Friday, April 17, 2009

Learn how cashmere is harvested, graded, sorted, and de-haired. Then we will go on to Ironstone Vineyards in Murphys for a guided tour of the old wine caverns, gardens and other exhibits. The visit to the winery will include wine tasting, with canapés, and a private group luncheon.

Price \$85.00

Contact:

Topsy Thompson (408) 377-4314

or e-mail: topray4314@cs.com

Indian Casino Trips

**Circus, Circus, Reno, Sunday-Tuesday,
September 14-16, 2008**

Price: \$99.00 per person, double occupancy & \$38.00 single supplement.

Casino bonus: \$30.00 cash & \$7.00 food credit

Jackson Rancheria

Monday, October 20, 2008

Price: \$25.00, \$10.00 cash & coupons

Thunder Valley Casino

Monday, January 12, 2009

Price: \$ 28.00, \$5.00 Match Play, \$5.00 Food

**Circus, Circus, Reno, Sunday-Tuesday,
March 8-10, 2009**

Price: \$114.50 per person, double occupancy & \$40.00 single supplement.

Casino bonus: \$37.00 cash & food credit

River Rock Casino

Monday, April 6, 2009

Price: \$29.00, Bonus \$20.00 Cash

All single day Indian casino trips will be at least a 5 hour stay.

Parking: Capitol Expressway and Hwy 87
Park-n-Ride, South Lot, Section G
Depart: 8:00 AM

Contact: **Topsy Thompson (408) 377-4314**

or e-mail: topray4314@cs.com

continued from page 5... ARGENTINA; Drove into Argentina where the mud puddles were startlingly red because of iron in the soil. We viewed the falls from that side, took the cogwheel train to Cataratas Station and walked over catwalks spanning acres and acres of water, took the train again and arrived at "Throat" station and peered right into the Devil's Throat, an awesome sight.

Flew into Buenos Aires, a beautiful city with exceptional and varied architecture, many statues in squares liberally scattered throughout the city, and an impressive urban forest with many jacaranda trees that must make quite a show of purple flowers in the spring. Some trees were very old with convoluted root systems. We made the requisite visit to Evita's tomb.

Had an Argentine evening out with another lavish dinner, a tango lesson and a tango show. This is an intricate, sexually combative, dramatic dance. The show included dancers, singers and a wonderful demonstration of skill with the boleadores, stone-filled balls at both ends of a rope. We were especially taken with one of the instruments played, a sort of two-row Andean flute.

Next day was a trip to a ranch, with more good food, another traditional Argentine show, and demonstrations by the gauchos. We rode horses on the Pampas! And the gauchos demonstrated their skill by spearing suspended rings one inch in diameter as they rode by at a dead gallop.

CHILE: Flying into Santiago, we had beautiful views of the Andes. We learned that the Andes are the youngest mountain range in the world, still growing, and that Chile has a surprisingly strong economy and a stable democracy. Some of us got very fond of those Pisco Sours, which seem to be the national drink of choice. Santiago is a city of very modern architecture; it's expensive to build there because of frequent earthquakes.

Toured the Veramonte winery and had lunch at a restaurant right on the sea shore with spectacular views of the ocean. Traveled on to Valparaiso, a city built on steep slopes, with streets of steps,

...continued on page 10

Hikes

Monterey Big Hike

September 28 – October 3, 2008

There are openings for a few more participants for our 2008 Howard Lewis Big Hike in Monterey. Although this trip is titled Big Hike, we actually provide a choice of 2-3 short to intermediate scenic hikes (3-5 miles, and mostly flat) each day. We have also scheduled an optional 2 hour boat ride on the Elkhorn Slough. This safari trip is led by a naturalist who will be pointing out the abundant wildlife of the slough.

We will be staying at the Bay Park Hotel in Monterey. It is adjacent to the Del Monte Shopping Center. The cost of the trip is \$620 for two people to a room, or \$570 for one person to a room. This includes a Thursday evening banquet and miscellaneous trip-related expenses. Breakfast will be on your own. However, the rooms are equipped with refrigerators and coffee makers and there is a dining room in the hotel if you wish to purchase breakfast. Payment is due when you sign up for the trip. Checks are to be made out to the "IBM Retirement Club." Please contact Jim or Dottie if you are interested in participating or would like more information.

Jim & Dottie Riley
1160 Calle Ventura
San Jose, CA, 95120-5504
(408) 268-5482
e-mail: jrriley@prodigy.net

Mount Madonna Hike

Friday, August 29, 2008, 10:00AM

Our August hike takes us to Mt. Madonna County Park, one of the most majestic of the county's regional parks. The hike was featured in the "Healthy Trails" booklet issued by the Santa Clara County Parks. Our 5-mile loop hike will be strenuous with a 1000-foot elevation gain. The first part of the hike is a steep uphill climb. The grade will vary throughout the hike. We will go through redwood forest, oak woodland, and chaparral – all typical of the Santa Cruz mountain range. Since this hike will be in August and could be hot, we recommend that you bring PLENTY of water.

To get to our meeting place, travel south on Highway 101 and exit Highway 152 West (Hecker Pass Road). Travel about 8 miles and turn right onto Sprig Lake Day Use Area, where you will find dirt parking. Note that this area is before you get to the main park entrance.

People wanting to car pool should meet at the Cottle Road Park & Ride (Cottle & Hwy 85) at 9:00 AM. Bring lunch and lots of water.

Contact:
Gil & Julie Feller
247-6769

Adopt-A-Highway

June 12, 2008

It only took an hour and a half to finish the clean-up. That was good since the day was hot. CalTrans had been out again to help us. There were many "tree frog" green bags they had already filled, so we didn't have to pick up quite as much litter as usual. This time of year, the litter increases, since some vehicles have their windows down to let in fresh air. Fresh air makes highway litter reproduce. The increase is not as much as decades ago, when autos had no air conditioning. Of course, a few decades ago, Highway 85 had almost no litter, only weeds and small animals. It was an open space.

From time to time we find litter items that do not fit in bags. This time there was a garage door lower panel (it probably did not come through one of the open car windows mentioned above). There was also a heavy, large round table top. If CalTrans gave us bags big enough for items like these, we wouldn't be able to lift them.

The 14 bags collected in June bring the total to 2322 since we started doing this. We are on our way to one million. Our grandkids or their descendants will be picking up the litter then. We see no evidence of litter going away.

Schedule:

Third Wednesday, July 16, 2008
Second Thursday, August 14, 2008

Meet in the VTA Parking Lot at 8:45 AM

Callers: Alice Czerniec 224-6230

Barbara Pugh 265-2466

Contact: **Doug & Evelyn Dean 264-9502**, e-mail: dougnevie@comcast.net

Club 2008 Annual Picnic Wrap Up

We had 411 club members and friends registered for this year's annual event.

The success of this event was due to following volunteers:

Topsy's Team --

Gift Certificates -- Marian Wisbar, Ed Henchel, Art Dill, Helen Wehner, Mel Olson, and Madeline Souza. Joan Yoder, for a wonderful lap robe; Dorothy Mead, who gave those beautiful cookie jars. Doug Turner who said "Yes" when asked if he would manage the horseshoe game. Bingo Friends -- Beverly Turner, Marian Wisbar, Shirley Snyder, Jean Riley and the guys who helped Topsy -- Hank Riley, Carl Wisbar.

Terry Milinic' and her registration team.

Gil and Pam Wuebker- Database and name tags

Ron and Heidi Harlan and their food servers and soft drink attendants.

Jim Riley -- for leading the walk at the park.

Andy LaScola and Don Johnson -- golf putting game.

Ed Klaus and his setup and cleanup teams.

. . . and all those who stepped in to help where needed.

Donations:

Los Gatos Roasting Co.—Main Street Los Gatos--Donated all the coffee, condiments, and cups.

The following merchants donated gift certificates:

Deepcliff, Ridgemark, Boulder Creek Country Club, C.B.Hannegans, Willow Street Pizza in Los Gatos, Safeway (Union Ave., River Mark Plaza-Santa Clara and Branham Lane stores), Outback (Blossom Hill Rd.), Red Lobster (Almaden Exp.), Black Bear Dinner West (Leavesley Rd.-Gilroy), Original Pancake House (Saratoga/Sunnyvale Rd.), Tony DiMaggio's Pizza (Monterey Rd.), Goodies (Bascom Ave.), Domino Pizza (Branham Lane), Britannia Arms (Almaden Exp.), Holder's Country Inn (Monterey Rd. & Camden Ave. locations), La Playita (Redmond Ave.), Sonoma Chicken Coop (East Campbell Ave.), Tomato Thyme (Hamilton Ave.), Coco's (Blossom Hill Rd.), Hick'ry Pit (Campbell Ave.), Olive Garden (Blossom Hill Rd.), Trader Joe's (Almaden Exp. and Morgan Hill), 300 San Jose (Oakridge Lanes)

As you can see it takes a lot of people to make this event a success and to continue to offer our members an opportunity to visit and see old friends. If anyone is interested in helping next year or has suggestions, contact Bill Souza—(408)356-6280 or bsouza6280@aol.com.

Thanks, Bill, for heading up the picnic crew again. You even made the weather nice. But I assume you delegated that job...the editor

continued from page 8....and visited the home of Pablo Neruda, the poet laureate of Chile. We returned to Santiago and rode the funicular up San Cristobal Hill for a great view of the city.

PERU: Flew into Lima where it doesn't rain, only drizzles. Peru has 28 political parties; therefore many politicians; therefore many political problems. Its major resources are minerals. The architecture shows European influence with balconies everywhere; renovation was going on in preparation for a large meeting of 100 presidents this September.

Flew to Cuzco, a city at 12,000 feet, and toured the Sacred Valley of the Incas, a beautiful and fertile valley. Peru grows hundreds of different varieties of potatoes. We were able to visit a local farmers' market.

Took the train to Machu Picchu, another highlight of the trip. The train ran along a river, one of the headwaters of the Amazon. At Machu Picchu, the stonework was amazing, views were impressive and our guide was very knowledgeable.

Returned to Cuzco. Peru is home to one of the most ornate and impressive cathedrals in the world because of all that Incan gold. Rococo décor, gold leaf everywhere, many altars, statues and religious icons. Had another look at Incan ruins, saw the site of depressing slaughters and learned that the Incas had perfected the art of mummification along the same lines as the Egyptians.

GENERAL; There were street dogs in most of the major cities, but they seemed more numerous in Chile and in Peru. They survive with a sort of street-wise air about them, living carefully among the humans. ...continued on page 11

IBM Club

IBM Club Discounts

Movie passes

AMC: silver \$6.00; gold \$7.50
Regal/United Artists: \$6.00
Cinelux: \$6.00 - no restrictions
Century/Cinemark: \$7.00 - no restrictions

Universal Studios

Gate price: \$64.00, ages 3 and up
IBM Club price: \$54.00 two day ticket!

Disneyland single day-one park

Gate price: \$66.00 3-9 years: \$56.00
IBM Club price: \$52.80 3-9 years: \$44.80

Disneyland 1-day park hopper

Gate price: \$91.00 3-9 years: \$81.00
IBM Club price: \$72.80 3-9 years: \$64.80

Disneyland 2-day park hopper

Gate price: \$132.00 3-9 years: \$112.00
IBM Club price: \$105.60 3-9 years: \$89.60

Disneyland 3-day park hopper

Gate price: \$189.00 3-9 years: \$159.00
IBM Club price: \$151.20 3-9 years: \$127.20

Disney World single day-one park

Gate price: \$75.62 3-9 years: \$63.90
IBM Club price: \$60.50 3-9 years: \$51.12

Disney World 3-day park hopper

Gate price: \$264.12 3-9 years: \$230.04
IBM Club price: \$211.30 3-9 years: \$184.04

6 Flags Discovery Kingdom

Gate price: \$51.24, parking: \$15.00
IBM Club price: \$25.61, parking \$10.00
Print tix online: \$27.66 + \$3 order fee
www.sixflags.com, promo code: 'ibm', click 'go'

Raging Waters

Gate price: \$29.99 Season: \$59.99
IBM Club price: \$21.99; Season: \$39.99

Gilroy Gardens

Gate price: \$41.99
IBM Club price: \$23.00

Great America

Gate price: \$51.99; season pass: \$69.99
season pass w/ GG: \$84.99
IBM Club price: any day \$29.99; season: \$59.99
season pass w/ GG: 74.99, parking: \$6.00

Legoland

Gate price: adults \$59.00 3-12 years \$47.00
IBM Club price: \$40.00 all ages, 3 and up

SeaWorld

Gate price: \$59.00 3-9 years: \$49.00, 2 days
IBM Club price: \$46.50 3-9 years: \$41.00, 2 days

See's Candy

IBM Club price: \$11.50 - 1 pound gift certificate

Payment by check or money order only,
no cash, no credit cards.
Checks or money orders should be
made payable to IBM Club

IBM Club Office Main Contact:

Frank Vitale - (408) 927-2106

e-mail: tcsports@us.ibm.com

IBM Club Office Alternate Contact:

Valerie Cowing - (408) 927-3059

Ticket Hours: Wednesday: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
SVL Lobby (old STL) on Bailey Road

Great America Family and Friends Day

**Sunday, July 13, 2008, 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM, \$28.50 (limit 6), Parking \$6.00
includes all you can eat BBQ**

Deadline for buying tickets at SVL: Wednesday, July 9

IBM Employee Service Center: For any IBM benefit question: **(800) 796-9876**

*continued from page 10...*In all of the countries we visited, there was a less than obsessive concern with level sidewalks and streets. It even extended into the buildings, which were mostly very old. In one hotel (not so old) there was a step immediately behind the sliding door of the closet, thus creating a trip-in closet rather than a walk-in closet.

The people in South America were unfailingly courteous, helpful and friendly. They have their political problems (as do we), and we saw a couple of demonstrations, but they appeared to be well regulated complaints about the system. Throughout the trip, the food was excellent, especially the tropical fruits. Our guides shared information with enthusiasm and took care to see to our comfort and safety.

This was a well-thought-out adventure, and one that we all enjoyed!

LaNell Byram

Bowling

One More Time League at 300 San Jose (formerly Oakridge Lanes) 2008 Summer League

1st place: Team #4, **"Ten in the Pit"** Chila Miller,
Jim O'Neill, Barbara Pugh, Eddie Fahrner
2nd place: Team #8, **"No Big Deal"** Sally Nicholls,
Diego Nicholls, Carl Wisbar, Marian Wisbar

Individual Achievements

Ladies

Men

High Scratch Game

202 Chila Miller	243 George Zagelow
200 Pat Falkowski	243 Sal Garcia

High Scratch Series

576 Pat Falkowski	636 George Zagelow
540 Aloma Lazatera	630 Sal Garcia

High Handicap Game

256 Pat Falkowski	274 Sal Garcia
253 Chila Miller	267 Jim O'Neill

High Handicap Series

744 Pat Falskowski	723 Sal Garcia
693 Aloma Lazetera	717 Carl Wisbar
678 Shirley Nicholls	694 Jim O'Neill

High Average

180 Pat Falkowski	204 George Zagelow
168 Chila Miller	192 Ernie Veal

Come and visit us at 9:30 Wednesday mornings.
Maybe you'll get the bug to join us!
Summer secretary-Ann Wilson 269-1892

PC Club Meeting

**Tuesday, July 8, 5:00 PM, SVL, Room K222
(rear of cafeteria)**

Walt Cole, Club President and SeniorNet instructor, will demonstrate a few of his favorite pieces of software, not revealed previously: Portable Apps, Notepad++, Simple Sudoku and PDF XChange Viewer. All this software is free for personal use. None of us really needs more software, but Walt can't help trying more stuff.

For directions to the meeting see: www.sjpc.org

Contact for questions:

Walt Cole 972-1178 or opawalt@gmail.com

Short 18-Hole Golf

Deep Cliff Golf Course in Cupertino

June 5, 2008 – Format for the day was "4 clubs and a putter." 22 golfers showed up. Some good scores were made and everyone enjoyed the day. Winners were:

MEN

1st Les Harlow 53
2nd Dick Gehman 57
Neil Rowland 57
3rd Dave Fitting 59
Neil Keever 59
4th Don Johnson 60

WOMEN

1st DeDe Corral 56
2nd Clara DePaul 58
3rd Marge Condensa 66
4th Helen Brock 67

Closest to Pin #10

MEN

1st Darrel Jensen 2' 11"
2nd Jerry Condensa 13' 8"
3rd Bob Rootsart 19'
4th Don Johnson 27' 2"

WOMEN

Marge Condensa 8' 6"

Congratulations to all the winners.

The next fun golf dates are Thursdays, July 3 and August 7, **at 10:00 AM, sharp. Please be there by 9:30 AM to sign in and to pick up your lunch coupon from Helen.** Please send your check for \$22 **15 days in advance** of our golf date (or sooner) to:

**Helen Wehner
1561 Park Crest Ct.
San Jose, CA 95118**

Or call Helen to let her know you'd like to play that day. Sign ups will be on a first-come-first-serve basis, since there is a limited number of players allowed. Make your check out to the **"IBM Retirement Club"** and on the memo line write **"Short 18 Hole Golf."**

If it rains, call the golf course to find out if we have canceled. Phone 253-5357, extension 5.

Happy Golfing,
Clara, DeDe and Helen

Contacts: Helen Wehner	264-6296
DeDe Corral	378-6470
Clara De Paul	294-7041

SJ IBM Retirement Club Web Site:

www.sjpc.org/sjrc/

Par Tee Golf

Santa Clara Golf & TC, June 16, 2008: The "Shot-of-the-Day" goes to Flemming Mathis. On Hole # 3, a par 4, he chipped his third shot into the cup for birdie. Nice shot, Flemming! We had a good turnout of 42 golfers. The format of play was "Two Best Ball Foursome". Here are the results.

<u>Place/Score</u>	<u>Team</u>			
1 / 119	Eric Schrader	Milton Loo	Len Procker	Ray Jelesky
2 / 122	Rich Campbell	Larry Rosseland	Mel Rodinsky	Chris Oba
3 / 124	John Grewohl	Tony Scalora	Al Carlson	Lynn Watkins

<u>Closest-To-Pin</u>	<u>#4</u>	<u>#8</u>	<u>#13</u>	<u>#17</u>
<u>Men</u>	Graham Kelly 16' 4"	Eric Schrader 5' 2"	Rich Hiser 15' 0"	Tony Scalora 10' 6"
	Nick Nomm 24' 8"	Al Carlson 8' 5"	Ray Jelesky 30' 4"	John Grewohl 11' 4"
	Bill Avery 41' 3"	Jerry Condensa 12' 7"	Andy La Scola 34' 8"	Peter Gunderson 37' 3"
<u>Ladies</u>		Clara DePaul 40' 3"	Marge Condensa 51' 9"	

There were sixteen bogey golfers (gross score of 90 or better) and they are Nick Nomm, John Grewohl & Fleming Mathis 77; Rich Hiser 81; Peter Gunderson & Willie Abraham 83; Jerry Condensa & Graham Kelly 85; Eric Schrader, Lou Tolbert & Tony Scalora 86; Andy La Scola 88; Don Johnson, Carl Mendel & Henry Gibson 89; and Johnnie Smoot 90. Congratulations to all the winners.

Looking ahead at our schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Cost/Due</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Jul 14	Boulder Creek	\$40.00/Jun 27	Cart optional. Format = Scramble, includes box lunch
Aug 25	Poppy Hills	\$80.00/ <u>July 9</u>	Includes cart. Format = individual play-Bob Slater Memorial
Payment must be received at Poppy Hills by July 18--Get your payment in early!! 68 players MAX! No Cancellations!			
Sep 22	Sunnyvale Municipal	\$55.00/Sep 3	Includes cart. Format = 2 best ball foursome

Notes:

- Proper golf attire is required at ALL the courses we play. That means "Jeans" or "Levi's" are NOT allowed.
- The "Par Tee Golf Schedule" and "Golf Rules" for 2008 can be seen on the IBM Retirement Club web site: www.sjpc.org/sjrc
- The membership fee to join Par Tee Golf is \$50.00.
Contact Don Johnson @ (408) 997-9452, or send an e-mail to: maxdonmar@comcast.net
- Prices and dates are subject to change. Be sure to check the newsletter or club web site or call Andy La Scola for latest information.
- Make all checks payable to "Par Tee Golf" (not the "IBM Retirement Club"). Please make your checks for only one tournament at a time. (If you are signing up for two tournaments, send two checks.) Send to:
Par Tee Golf
P.O. Box 53535
San Jose, CA 95123-0535

Include your GHIN number, and your e-mail address (if I don't already have them on file). Indicate which foursome you wish to play with, or I will assign you to one. If you do not sign up as a foursome, your group may be split up.

Contact: Andy La Scola @ (408) 371-3329 or alascola@earthlink.net

Application for membership or renewal of annual membership

Send to: SJ IBM Retirement Club IBM Corp DKTA/F005 SVL 555 Bailey Ave. San Jose, CA 95141

The Code after your name on the mailing label identifies membership. LT for lifetime or 2008 for a paid up annual.

New Member: _____ or Renewal: _____ or Address Confirmation: _____

Dues Enclosed: _____ \$25 for lifetime _____ \$3 for annual

_____ IBM Retiree? ___Y ___N
Applicant Name

_____ IBM Retiree? ___Y ___N
Spouse Name

Interests: ___ Bowling ___ Community Service ___ Golf ___ Hiking ___ RV Camping ___ Travel
--

_____ (_____) _____
Address City State Zip + 4 Phone

If you are a new member may we list your name in the next newsletter? ___Y ___N

Will you read the newsletter on line to save the club printing and mailing expenses? ___Y ___N

e-mail address