

GE Computer Department Alumni Association Newsletter

March 2006 Issue

San Francisco 2006 Reunion



Monday, Tuesday October 9 - 10, 2006

Sheraton Fisherman's Wharf

2500 Mason Street
San Francisco, CA 94133
Phone (415) 362-5500
Fax (415) 956-5275

SEND IN YOUR COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM ON LAST PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER

We've Improved the Agenda

Agenda: Monday Morning: Database Management Systems created by GE and continuing on to the present day. Charlie Bachman chairs this informative, exciting session, with his colleagues participating.

Charlie, Russ McGee and Stan Williams have put together a presentation that will remind us of the fact that GE essentially created the basis for modern data storage and processing systems. They will cover the early work at GE Hanford, Dow Chemical, and the contributions of the Share Data Processing Committee with the 709 Data Processing Package. The people and politics of MIACS and its technical development will surely be interesting.

I am looking forward to the development of GE 200 Integrated Data Store and user stories told by IDS support people. Then, there will be WEYCOS, Multiprogramming IDS and the development of GE 400/600 IDS complete with user stories.

This will be a fun session, without doubt, because we lived it. Everyone attending will be given an opportunity to stand up and contribute your thoughts and remembrances.

Lunch and the Afternoon Cruise:

We will board the boat at **12:45** and have lunch on the boat with a 2 hour and 45 min. cruise. See information on Hornblower Cruises on page 5.

This will make for better flow and use of our time: It will give us more time to relax and visit, which is what we want, and bless us, it is cheaper. Total cost for lunch and the cruise will be \$75 instead of \$114 for the original agenda. To quote the proposal from Hornblower:

"Your guests will think you are the perfect host as they are greeted upon boarding by our uniformed stewards with a glass of Hornblower Private Sparkling Wine to begin the event. This will be followed by:

- ✓ Hors d'Oeuvres - Artichoke and Spinach Gratin
- ✓ Baby Spinach Salad
- ✓ Pan Roasted Chicken Breast Stuffed with Proscuitto and Provolone with mushroom sauce
- ✓ Grilled Pork Loin with Caramelized Onion Sauce.
- ✓ Seasons best vegetables with Herb-Roasted New Potatoes
- ✓ New York Cheesecake with Berry Compote."

Cash Bar

Monday Evening: Open for your pleasure. I suggest one of the many outstanding restaurants on the wharf. The Alumni Hospitality Room will be open for visiting. If you have any **MEMORABILIA** (e.g., photos, literature, manuals, etc.) which can be displayed in the Hospitality Room, bring it to the reunion (see pictures from the Annual Sales Meeting, in Apache Junction, AZ, starting on page 4).

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Tuesday Morning: Ken Fisher Hosts:

"AND NOW - THE REST OF THE STORY"

Most all computer department veterans know the story about how the department got started. How we got the Bank of America and NCR contracts and the follow on product developments such as the 210, 225, 400 and 600 series as well as Multics. In fact we pretty well know the story until that fateful day in May when GE and Honeywell announced their intent to merge the two computer businesses with GE exiting the business and Honeywell to be the Prevailing entity.

Many questions have been raised, such as why did GE exit the business - how successful was GE's computer business - how did GE'ers fare under the Honeywell banner - what was the Honeywell culture - who ran Honeywell's computer business after the merger - which culture dominated - who were the influencers? What happened to General Electric people between 1970 and 1985 when Honeywell sold its computer business to Bull and exited the business before the end of the decade?

The "rest of the story" was lived by GE alums occupying every function in the business and literally every level of the hierarchy. These are the ones who will tell the story on Tuesday. They dedicated themselves and made Honeywell successful. You will love this.

Afternoon: Optional tours:

After the Phoenix reunion, some of you expressed interest in visiting the Bank of America's ERMA Museum in Concord, CA and others an interest in visiting BofA San Francisco Processing Center which handles 1,000,000 checks a night. If interested, please check it on the "Registration Form": at the end of the newsletter.

Evening: Social reception and banquet. *SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT WILL BE PROVIDED.*

As part of the special entertainment you will witness IBM's "Buck" Rogers (former VP of Marketing) being forcibly ejected from a major GE Computer customer's facility

Congratulations to Arnold Spielberg! He received the 2006 IEEE Computer Society Computer Pioneer Award. The citation reads: "For recognition of contribution to real-time data acquisition and recording that significantly contributed to the definition of modern feedback and control processes." We will honor him at the banquet.

We now have 63 members planning to attend with 45 spouses and significant others.

It is essential that you tell us if you are coming. If you are staying with friends tell us now. If not, make your reservations at the hotel at once.

The details are:

When: Monday, Tuesday October 9, 10, 2006.

Location: Sheraton Fisherman's Wharf -- A Four Diamond Hotel.

- **Special GE Rates:** \$139.00 + taxes per night single/dual occupancy (\$20.00 for additional person) from Sunday night, Oct. 8th, through Saturday night, Oct. 14th.
- **Parking:** Special GE rate of \$15 per day.
- **Advance reservations are required for this rate.** If you plan to come in earlier you must pay the higher prevailing rate because it is "Fleet Week" with the Blue Angels putting on a show both Sat. the 7th and Sun. the 8th.
- **It is very important that you make and guarantee your reservation right now to ensure room availability.** The guarantee amount is for the first night (just \$139.00) and you can use a credit card.

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You can cancel without paying a fee up to 72 hours of your arrival date. Check in is 3:00 p.m., check out 12:00 p.m.

You must make your own reservation by calling **1-888-627-7024** and stating that you are with the **GE COMPUTER DEPARTMENT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** ... The magic word is "**GE.**" If you have a problem, call or e-mail the details to ... Warren Prince at 408-245-7884 or wprince525@aol.com.

The hotel is providing a room with cash bar where we can meet, talk and drink, on both Sunday and Monday evenings.

"Our Legacy Continues On..."

Come To San Francisco



- **Come** because it's a beautiful city, beautiful bay, and unbelievable bridge.
- **Come** see the "city on the hill", the bay and the bridge from the deck of the Yacht while sipping your favorite libation with your arm around your special companion.
- **Come** and enjoy memories and camaraderie with the team that "changed the world."
- **Come** and top this all off with a couple days of vacation in the wine country.

There is so much to do in San Francisco that I cannot list it here. Contact either or both of these services and they will send you one copy of their visit planning guides.

San Francisco Visitors Planning Guide
San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau
201 Third St. Suite 900
San Francisco CA 94103-3185
Tel: 415.974.7722
Web site: www.sfvistor.org

Bay City Guide
2720 Taylor St. Suite 450
San Francisco, CA 94113
Tel: 415.929.7722
Email: request@guideyou.com
Web site: www.baycityguide.com

Make your hotel reservations NOW! 1-888-627-7024

On the enclosed "*Registration Form*," we are asking you to complete it and send a check to **George Sniveley** **before May 31, 2006**. We need your completed form to better plan and to meet the contract commitments with Sheraton and Hornblower.

We have to send a 50% deposit to Hornblower by this date. Is it better to ask you to put up 50% or have 50% of us put up 100%? Hopefully, we can get a 100% of you to put up 100%. If later you have to cancel out, we will refund your registration fee.

SEND IN YOUR COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM NOW!

If you have question, contact Warren Prince: Phone: 408-245-7884 – Email: wprince525@aol.com

A special thanks to Wes Zimmerman for his work on the *GE Computer Department Alumni Association* newsletters ... *Thank You, Wes!*

MEMORABILIA



Bob Dilweg, Warren Prince, Tom O'Rourke
& Joe McGoldrick (L to R)
Annual Sales Meeting, Apache Junction,
AZ



Bobbi Johnson, Miss USA of 1964



Jim Pompa & James Doyle (peeking from
behind curtain)
Annual Sales Meeting, Apache Junction,
AZ



Roger Norris, Bobbi Johnson & Vern
Cooper
Central Region Sales Meeting in 1966
Skit where we captured an enemy agent
from INBURC (IBM, NCR, Burroughs,
Univac, RCA, & CDC)



The screenshot shows the Hornblower Cruises & Events website. At the top left is the logo with the text "HORNBLOWER CRUISES & EVENTS". To the right are navigation links: "home", "reservations", "gifts", "about hce", and "contact us". Below this is a "PORTS:" section with buttons for "San Francisco", "Berkeley", "Marina Del Rey", "Newport Beach", and "San Diego". Underneath are buttons for "Fleet", "Dining Cruises", "Yacht Charters", "Weddings", and "What's News".

The arresting skyline of the "City by the Bay" includes the landmark TransAmerica Pyramid, Embarcadero Center's four "fingers", and Coit Tower on Telegraph Hill. Sail under the magnificent Golden Gate Bridge and enjoy the festive lights adorning the Bay Bridge at night. Review the information on our products listed above to determine which suits your needs.

San Francisco

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At the end of World War II, Chester W. Nimitz, then the Chief of Naval Operations, ordered the formation of a flight demonstration team to keep the public interested in naval aviation. The Blue Angels performed their first flight demonstration less than a year later in June 1946 at their home base, Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville, Florida. Flying the Grumman F6F Hellcat, they were led by Lt. Cmdr. Roy "Butch" Voris.

Only two months later on August 25, 1946, the Blue Angels transitioned to the Grumman F8F Bearcat and one year later, the 1947 team, led by Lt. Cmdr. Robert Clarke, introduced the now famous "Diamond Formation."

By the end of the 1940's the Blue Angels were flying their first jet aircraft, the Grumman F9F-2 Panther. In response to the demands placed on naval aviation in the Korean Conflict, the team reported to the aircraft carrier USS Princeton as the nucleus of Fighter Squadron 191 (VF-191), Satan's Kittens, in 1950.

The team reorganized the next year and reported to NAS Corpus Christi, Texas, where they began flying the newer and faster version of the Panther, the F9F-5. The Blue Angels remained in Corpus Christi until the winter of 1954 when they relocated to their present home base at NAS Pensacola, Florida. It was here that they progressed to the swept-wing Grumman F9F-8 Cougar.

The ensuing 20 years saw the Blue Angels transition to two more aircraft, the Grumman F11F-1 Tiger (1957) and the McDonnell Douglas F-4J Phantom II (1969).

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In December 1974, the Navy Flight Demonstration Team began flying the McDonnell Douglas A-4F Skyhawk II and was reorganized into the Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron. This reorganization permitted the establishment of a commanding officer vice a flight leader (Cmdr. Tony Less was the squadron's first official commanding officer), added support officers and further redefined the squadron's mission, emphasizing the support of recruiting efforts.

On November 8, 1986, the Blue Angels completed their 40th anniversary year during ceremonies unveiling their present aircraft, the new sleek McDonnell Douglas F/A-18 Hornet, the first dual-role fighter/attack aircraft now serving on the nation's front lines of defense.

In 1992 more than one million people viewed Blue Angel's performances during a 30-day European deployment to Sweden, Finland, Russia, Romania, Bulgaria, Italy, the United Kingdom and Spain. This was the first European deployment in 19 years.

The 2005 show season brought out more than 17 million spectators. Since 1946, the Blue Angels have performed for more than 414 million fans.

The Blue Angels' mission is to enhance Navy and Marine Corps recruiting efforts and to represent the naval service to the United States, its elected leadership and foreign nations. The Blue Angels serve as positive role models and goodwill ambassadors for the U. S. Navy and Marine Corps.

A Blue Angels flight demonstration exhibits choreographed refinements of skills possessed by all naval aviators. It includes the graceful aerobatic maneuvers of the four-plane Diamond Formation, in concert with the fast-paced, high-performance maneuvers of its two Solo Pilots. Finally, the team illustrates the pinnacle of precision flying, performing maneuvers locked as a unit in the renowned, six-jet Delta Formation.

The team is stationed at Forrest Sherman Field, Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida, during the show season. However, the squadron spends January through March training pilots and new team members at Naval Air Facility El Centro, California.

The Blue Angels are scheduled to fly nearly 68 air shows at 35 locations in the United States during the 2006 season.

Last season brought out more than 17 million spectators. Since its inception in 1946, the Blue Angels have performed for more than 414 million fans.

PARADE OF U.S. NAVY SHIPS / SHIP VISITS

Get a FREE topside tour of several Naval ships conducted by ship crewmembers!



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2500 Mason Street
San Francisco, California 94133
Phone (415) 362-5500
Fax (415) 956-5275

Name: _____

Spouse / Guest: _____

Street Address: _____

City / State / ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Program Selections:

I / We will be staying at **Sheraton Fisherman's Wharf**. Yes No

Tuesday, October 10, 2006, is a "Free Afternoon," you may participate in:

1. I / We would like to visit Bank of America's **ERMA Museum**, in Concord, CA: Yes No
2. I / We would like to visit B of A's **San Francisco Check Processing Center**: Yes No
3. "On Your Own" sightseeing around San Francisco and the Bay Area Yes No

Registration Fees:

<u>Events:</u>	<u>No. Attending</u>		<u>Total Amount</u>
Monday, October 9, 2006 – Lunch and S.F. Bay Cruise	_____	x \$75 =	\$ _____
Tuesday, October 10, 2006 – Banquet	_____	x \$85 =	\$ _____
Registration Fee (<u>Alumni Members ONLY</u>)			\$ 25.00
Total Amount Due <u>Before May 31, 2006</u>			\$ _____

Make Check Payable to: **GE Computer Department Alumni Association**

Mail Check and Registration Form to: **Mr. George Snively**
1906 East Hearn
Phoenix, AZ 85022-4514