

# TEK RETIREE NEWS

Tektronix  
Retiree  
Volunteer  
Program



Web Page: [www.tekretirees.org](http://www.tekretirees.org)

A Newsletter for and by Tek Retirees

AUGUST 2004

## ISEF May 9-15, 2004

By: *George E. Edens*

The International Science and Engineering Fair is an annual event involving high school science students. It was held in the Portland Convention Center this year. Next year it will be in Phoenix. Intel is the major sponsor. There are many other sponsors this year including Tektronix and Hewlett Packard. There were about 1200 entries in 18 different categories i.e. Engineering, Computer Science, Chemistry, Math, Physics, Medicine and Zoology. All of the entrants had previously won in local and state fairs. They came from all states and forty countries.

The fair resembles a trade show and convention. A professional convention management company handles physical and administrative arrangements. Each entrant has a small 6x8-foot booth with a table and power outlet for his/her exhibit. There were a few team entrants of more than one member.

Up to 1500 judges were needed to evaluate the great variety of scientific projects. Judges had to be professionals in their fields. I was privileged to observe meetings of the Engineering judges. There were 120 judges for about that many projects. Each judge was assigned five or six projects. Judges had exclusive access to their assigned projects at scheduled times. In this manner each project was judged up to six times. Judges in each of the 19 categories had their own meeting room where they caucused before and after the initial judging. It was interesting to watch how this large Engineering group interacted to select the best projects in their category.

Numerous volunteers were needed to act as inspectors, ushers and helpers. My first job was as a safety inspector. When each entrant was prepared a volunteer would inspect his exhibit for adherence to several rules. Safety rules applied to electrical connections and presence of chemical substances, etc. Other rules applied to the student's graphic images and his attribution thereto. Serious efforts were made to assure that everything displayed was the student's own work. We issued approval certificates or required changes prior to final approval.

During the week volunteers were needed to help with public registration and many other chores including issuing passes for removal of items such as laptop computers. During judging and during some public admission hours the students were required to be in their booths. Our job was to observe that exhibits had not been altered after initial approval. At other times public visitors were allowed but students were not required to be present. We volunteers patrolled to prevent tampering with the exhibits.

Major ceremonies were conducted in a large meeting hall with 2500 people in attendance. There was an opening ceremony and two award ceremonies. We served as ushers to admit only properly authorized folks and seat them in designated areas. This got a little hectic, because the fair managers allowed only 30 minutes to admit and seat everyone. Numerous proud parents, teachers and relatives were reluctant to part with their sons and daughters during these events.

There were many awards including some \$50,000 scholarships. A team from Beaverton Technical High School won a top award for their fiber optic project.

Debbie Moberly, an ex-Tektronix employee, was in charge of recruiting and assigning up to 700 volunteers. She was a very competent and a very busy lady throughout the week.

Several universities and companies including Tektronix and Hewlett Packard had exhibits in the areas outside the student exhibit hall. Tektronix displayed several current products and a 517 oscilloscope from the 1950's. I was able to describe the features of the 517 to current employees whose parents perhaps hadn't been born when I worked in Test and as a Field Engineer. The risetime of the 517 was 7 ns, the time for light to travel seven feet. Its selling price was \$3500, the price of a new Cadillac in those days.

**Tektronix Retiree Volunteer  
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## Living on a Catamaran

By: *Julie Blachford*

Never, in my wildest dreams did I think we would be living on a boat in the SE Caribbean! We are, and it is not over rated.

My name is Julie Blachford. I worked at Tek from 1976 (former Advertising, bldg 76) to the late 80's, and '90's, in various forms and locations. My husband, Sid Blachford and I met working in Vancouver's Murdock Park, in 1988. Our first trip to the Caribbean on a friend's sailboat was in 1989, and then again in '90. In '96 we sailed from Trinidad to Margarita, an island off the north coast of Venezuela. We were smitten with the cruising lifestyle and began researching to find our boat, then gathering all the necessary equipment. Finally, in 1997 we ordered our boat for delivery in July 1998. We moved out of our home, packed all our boating equipment in a small trailer and drove to Annapolis, Maryland. We moved onboard our catamaran, a Gemini. CLASS-cat is 34 feet long with a beam of 14 feet, spending 2-1/2 months at the manufacturer's docks, outfitting our boat. Finally at the end of September, we headed south through the Chesapeake Bay for the ICW (Intra-Coastal Waterway) that begins at Norfolk, Virginia and runs the length of the Eastern seaboard through the Florida Key. We took six-weeks to get to Florida, just in time to see the John Glen shuttle take off! You cannot begin to know the feeling of a space shuttle taking off, from the water! Nearly a religious experience, what a thrill!

We met up with friends from England, after we sailed west through Lake Okeechobee and in 1998-99 we sailed together with them throughout the Bahamas from the northern Abaco's, south to Nassau and Georgetown and back to Florida again. On New Years Eve, '99-2000, we sailed across the Gulf Stream one more time and island hopped until we reached Grenada, in the southeastern Caribbean, 6 months later! Since that time, we've become 6-month live-aboards, from November to June. When it's time for the flannel sheets to go on the bed, it's time to make flights to head south . . . way south!

(See *Living* continued on Page 2)

## Living (continued from page 1)

CLASS-i-cat has always been a boat at anchor, we do not live at a dock. All our groceries, laundry and garbage, etc. have to be taken aboard or ashore via our dinghy. We are totally dependent on the sun and wind for our energy use. We have a wind generator and solar panels. We do not run our engine every day. We depend on bottles of propane for our cooking and refrigeration and this is our most tenuous link with local services. We hire a car about once a month to tour the island and re-supply our stocks at a big grocery store. You've never lived until you bring all your groceries back to the dock in a driving rain, during darkness, then get soaked in the process. The local small town provides most of our daily needs.

The people we meet, both on the islands and other cruisers, are definitely some of the nicest people on earth. It is a wonderful sharing community. We've spent the past four seasons, or parts of them on the island of Martinique and up the whole of the Windward Islands from Grenada to Martinique. This season, with the value of the Euro having gone up, we're contemplating a move to less expensive territory. We are keeping an eye on the political situation in Venezuela and possibly next season, '04-'05, we may head west. (see P5)

## A Tek Retiree Moment

*By: George Smith*

The 21st Tek Retiree reunion at the Beaverton Elks went well, with a sustained party atmosphere, and Marge Livermore, Hattie Kelly and helpers keeping it running. Pretty darned good organizing for the first time out of the chute. I don't think anyone got through the gatekeepers without kicking in their entry fee, then getting a name tag, with the right size type for older eyes. There was some earlier confusion about starting time, both 3:00 PM and 4:00 PM had been mentioned, but it didn't seem to matter. I got there at 2:30 and the bar was already going. The affair was not as noisy as it may have been in the past; maybe due to a more dignified or pooped group of people. The head count about 120, a bit less than the attendance of previous years. Maybe some retirees didn't show because their walkers were still being serviced and not available in time for the event, and then there may have been others who didn't want to face Canyon Road traffic on a Saturday afternoon.

Some of the attendees put in a bit of travel to make it. One faithful pair from Sun City AZ, and even a small contingent of retirees now living in central Oregon. All were well

tanned and glowing, naturally, not from a tanning booth. The pale ones were of course from our wet, cloudy valley.

At mid-point Bill Walker did his thing by noting everyone's appreciation for the efforts of Pat and Ron Lowry that caused the start of this annual event and then its continued success for 20 years. A plaque and a plant (my wife tells me that it was a fuschia) were presented. Bill also noted the influence that Tek has had in the past years, causing the same atmosphere and flavor in newer companies that felt they wanted to duplicate its success with both personnel and product.

All in all, a good group of people with a lot of handshakes and hugs and much conversation. (If there's doubt, I was the hand-shaking type.)

## The gift of mobility...make a community connection

Ride Connection invites you to bring your community closer for a senior or neighbor living with a disability. Volunteers provide door to door rides to medical appointments, shopping, senior activities and other essential destinations. Help people stay connected in their community. Mobility is an important gift you can give as a volunteer driver.

Ride Connection asks you to consider becoming a volunteer driver with one of our community agencies. Important skills for this volunteer position are: reliability, good driving record, courtesy and flexibility. A criminal background check is required for volunteer drivers. Training, support and recognition are available to volunteers.

Ride Connection's mission is "linking accessible, responsive transportation with community need." Volunteers provide an important link in our community. Seniors and people with disabilities want to be involved and active. Volunteers help provide accessible, responsive transportation in a very personal way.

You are invited to get involved. Call 503.528.1734 or email Susan Tingley, Ride Connection Volunteer Recruiter/Coordinator at:

[stingley@rideconnection.org](mailto:stingley@rideconnection.org)

Visit our website at:

[www.rideconnection.org](http://www.rideconnection.org)

Ride Connection offers many more volunteer opportunities. We are affected by our community elders and people with disabilities and their transportation challenges. We need many advocates to continue the good

work of alternative transportation in our community.

If you are interested in mobility issues for seniors and people with disabilities, please call to introduce yourself.

## Partners of the Americas

Those readers intrigued by Costa Rica after reading the excellent article by Judy Watkins about that beautiful country will be interested to know that Oregon and Costa Rica offer "home stay" cultural exchange programs of one month for senior adults. The exchange is one of many programs offered through the Partners of the Americas program, which pairs Oregon with Costa Rica.

Oregonians in Portland, Hood River, Salem and/or other cities will host about 22 guests from Costa Rica in October 2004. Coordinators in each city plan activities for their guests and coordinate dates and times for exchanges among one another. Portland hosts greet their guests at the airport and after two or three days of planned activities to acquaint them with the city transport them to the next city in the plan. This proceeds through the month until a few days before the guests are to depart for Costa Rica, at which time they will have been scheduled to return to their Portland hosts and the flight home. Hosting these charming people is a delightful experience; moreover, it qualifies host members of Partners to apply for a month of reciprocal hosting in Costa Rica when the Oregon group travels there in January-February of subsequent years. This manner of travel pro-

*(See Partners continued on page 4)*

## Calendar

### Marconi's Cronies

Meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month:  
12:00 a.m.

at J.J.North's Buffet Restaurant  
Northeast Halsey at 105th  
Portland, OR

Contact: Jack Riley for details  
Phone: 503-235-5267

### CRT Luncheons

3rd Tuesday of each month at 11:30 AM  
at the Home Town Buffet located at  
13500 SW Pacific Highway in Tigard, OR

Contact: Jack Neff for details  
1301 East Fulton St., Apt. 24 1  
Newberg, OR 97132-1870  
Phone: 503-538-5130

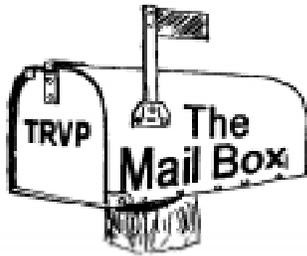
## Retiree Deaths

Date: May, June, July 2004

**Akamatsu, Taeko** – d. 4/15/2004  
At Tek: 12/8/1960 to 4/16/1981  
**Anderson, Clifford** – d. 4/8/2000  
At Tek: 12/11/1978 to 1/6/1989  
**Armentrout, George** – d. 10/10/2003  
At Tek: 6/27/1973 to 1/5/1999  
**Bailey, Leon** – d. 5/27/2004  
At Tek: Not Available  
**Balsillie, Dougald** – d. 4/17/2004  
At Tek: 9/22/1969 to 4/17/1986  
**Bergendahl, Betty** – d. 4/21/2004  
At Tek: 1/21/1957 to 7/16-1980  
**Bringas, Elizabeth** – d. 7/23/2004  
At Tek: Not Available  
**Bjorkman, Nova** – d. 4/27/2004  
At Tek: 9/17/1980 to 5/26/1995  
**Brandt, Virginia** – d. 4/29/2004  
At Tek: 7/15/1961 to 9/26/1980  
**Brune, Georgia** – d. 6/17/2004  
At Tek: 10/13/1969 to 12/31/1990  
**Collins, Carolyn** – d. 5/2/2004  
At Tek: 8/19/1974 to 3/14/1988  
**Dickey, Jack** – d. 6/30/2004  
At Tek: 2/23/1959 to 7/29/1983  
**Genzer, Earl** – d. 7-22-2004  
At Tek: 8-22-1960 to 11/12/1976  
**Harrison, Owen** – d. 5/31/2004  
At Tek: 5/19/1958 to 7/19/1976  
**Heisler, Donald** – d. 5/23/2004  
At Tek: 1/5/1959 to 6/30/1989  
**Howard, Charlotte** – d. 4/12/2004  
At Tek: 2/27/1961 to 4/28/1995

**Holtznagel, Melvin** – d. 6/27/2004  
At Tek: 6/22/1959 to 2/17/1984  
**Hunsaker, Carol** – d. 5/15/2004  
At Tek: 11/30/1986 to 5/29/1995  
**Kneubuhl, John** – d. 12/19/2002  
At Tek: 7/5/1983 to 10/27/1989  
**Korpi, Jack** – d. 7/2/2004  
At Tek: 8/28/1956 to 7/11/1986  
**Lafreniere, Aimee** – d. 5/23/2004  
At Tek: 10/3/1966 to 3/18/1988  
**Laramie, Paul** – d. 4/16/2004  
At Tek: 7/1/1974 to 2/27/1998  
**Levens, Virginia** – d. 6/16/2004  
At Tek: 12/21/1949 to 9/17/1976  
**Lewis, Carmen** – d. 4/10/2004  
At Tek: 6/28/1973 to 6/11/1982  
**McEwen, Ruth** – d. 4/11/2004  
At Tek: 1/22/1962  
**McFadden, Margaret** – d. 7/3/2004  
At Tek: 9/24/1979 to 7/24/1991  
**Meyer, Nancy** – d. 4/9/2004  
At Tek: 6/21/1965 to 1-31-1984  
**Moeller, Walter** – d. 6/19/2004  
At Tek: 7/2/1973 to 7/29/1992  
**Morgan-Waters, Norma** – d. 5/13/2004  
At Tek: 6/6/1977 to 7/6/1987  
**Mulvey, John** – d. 4/17/2004  
At Tek: 11/18/1952 to 6/9/1976

**Nelson, Jon** – d. 5/2/2004  
At Tek: 2/2/1981  
**Oren, Horris** – d. 5/9/2004  
At Tek: 11/3/1969 to 5/31/1985  
**Osburn, Helen** – d. 6/18/2004  
At Tek: 2/23/1959 to 3/18/1977  
**Persons, George** – d. 5/2/2004  
At Tek: 12/19/1977 to 5/27/1994  
**Raun, Cecilia** – d. 4/17/2004  
At Tek: 1/23/1957 to 4/29/1983  
**Renton, Marcelle** – d. 7/7/2004  
At Tek: 8/1/1955 to 4/28/1978  
**Riedel, Margaret** – d. 5/27/2004  
At Tek: 9/16/1974 to 5/24/1990  
**Rude, Carlene** – d. 6/9/2004  
At Tek: 1/3/1977  
**Simpson, Bob** – d. 7/15/2004  
At Tek: 12/13/1976 to 6/21/1985  
**Snapp, Charles** – d. 12/24/2003  
At Tek: 5/24/1976 to 8/24/1987  
**Stewart, Elveatta** – d. 4/4/2004  
At Tek: 7/26/1975 to 8/28/1985  
**Sugden, Harriett** – d. 5/10/2004  
At Tek: 8/16/1965 to 11/28/1975  
**Taylor, Edwin** – d. 5/12/2004  
At Tek: 7/7/1952  
**Ward, Marion** – d. 5/10/2004  
At Tek: 7/22/1959 to 3/31/1978  
**Wood, Richard** – d. 5/19/2004  
At Tek: 7/16/1962 to 5/16/1991



**Ron Staples** – I worked at Tektronix from Feb 11, 1963 until Dec 31, 1999. (36.9 yrs) I was a part of the Xerox acquisition, and I am still working here in Wilsonville (now over 41 years total). For some reason a couple of my people here are considered “Tek retirees” (they are only in their 40’s), and I am not. They always bring me their copy of the “Tek Retiree NEWS”. I would love to be included. If you were to see my cube, you would know that I am a Tekie. I have aerial pictures of the Beaverton campus and the original Heerenveen campus. I also have coffee mugs and name tags scattered around. In fact, remember back when they gave everyone a milk glass coffee cup on their first day of work? Well, I still have mine sitting here. I would be happy to have access to the “NEWS” on line in order to save the time and expense associated with US Mail.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Dorothy J. McRenolds** – Thanks for the return newsletter, please keep me on your mailing list.

I lost my husband three years ago, so my Mexican trips have ceased. I still donate to the group we traveled with, six trips to different areas each time. Always to an area where we supplied school supplies, food, clothing, also personal items like tooth brushes, shampoos, and toothpaste.

We traveled with as many as 100 RV’s. All trips were planned by our group. We paid for dental work, eye glasses, tuition for students to continue education. There were teachers with just a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education. Tuition was paid so they could get a high school education.

This group is part of a larger one called Escapes. We have members world wide. The chapter I belonged to is called Mexican Connection with about 800 members. I’m proud to have been part of a group that has a record for charity. We do not solicit from outside of our group.

Now I volunteer 4-8 hours a week for an organization called Pillar. This organization has many classes for senior citizens at a reasonable fee.

I also volunteer four hours a week for the Colorado Springs Visitor Center. I work with the public at both places and enjoy this very much.

Send some of your rain this way. We are so dry, three tenths of an inch in May and below snowfall for a number of years.

Fires are a big worry, there have already been several. Two years ago my son had to move for several weeks – pretty scary.

I miss friends from Tek.

**H.Derr Kleintob** – I am uncertain whom to contact with this message, so I’ll try sending it to you.

My friend [R. Larry Fuller of Hermiston, OR] and I attended the Tek Retirees picnic last Saturday held in Shute Park in Hillsboro. Although we both are Tek retirees, neither of us had attended a Tek Retiree function since we left Tektronix. My retirement was in 1993 and Larry’s sometime later.

However, we both appreciated the warmth & hospitality shown us by the other Tek Retirees who were present last Saturday. Although neither of us personally knew

(See **Mailbox** continued on page 4)

## Tek Retiree News

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## Editorial

*By Louis Sowa*

Welcome Millie Scott to the TRVP staff. She will be responsible for maintaining the email list for those of you who have agreed to opt out of the hard copy TRN (see below). On the web TRN page past the usual page four, as I will be adding some pictures in most issues. This time look for pictures from the "Living on a Catamaran" article and from the Shute Park picnic.

Thanks to those of you who have submitted articles and letters. These contributions not only make my job easier, but more importantly have contributed to an improved TRN.

### Christmas Gathering

Mark your calendar and invite your friends and ex-coworkers to meet you at the annual Christmas gathering at:

Beaverton Elks  
3500 SW 104th

Beaverton, OR

Date: December 10, 2004

Time: 11:00 a.m. to ?

Organized by: Al Foleen

Phone: 503-651-2031

### Get your Newsletter on Line

A number of retirees are now getting their newsletter from our Web Site.

**[www.tekretirees.org](http://www.tekretirees.org)**

If you would like to join them send an email to Millie Scott at:

**[mlscott@easystreet.com](mailto:mlscott@easystreet.com)**

### Partners (continued from Page 2)

vides a unique opportunity to really get to know the people and the country you are visiting.

The programs planned in Costa Rica ensure that Oregon travelers stay with families in many different cities and towns of Costa Rica. While in these homes the Oregonians will sample local cuisine, visit national parks, swim at the fabulous beaches, see crocodiles and other exotic wildlife and make lots of new friends. Since travelers will be staying with families, the cost of this trip is very inexpensive and totally different from a guided tour. Oregon travelers get a true "insiders" look at this beautiful country.

Partners of the Americas was founded in 1964 and today is a private, non-profit organization which has enjoyed the endorsement of every U. S. president since John F. Kennedy as well as many government leaders throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. The Partnership works by pairing 45 U. S. States and the District of Columbia with 31 Latin American and Caribbean countries. This is the 17th year of the Oregon-Costa Rica senior cultural exchange program. If you would like more information about the national organization it can be

found at: [www.partners.net](http://www.partners.net)

If your readers are interested in this exciting look into the cultures of another country, they can contact Con Ruff in Portland at 503-282-1104.

### Mailbox (continued from Page 3)

any retiree there, that old Tek warmth was very much in evidence.

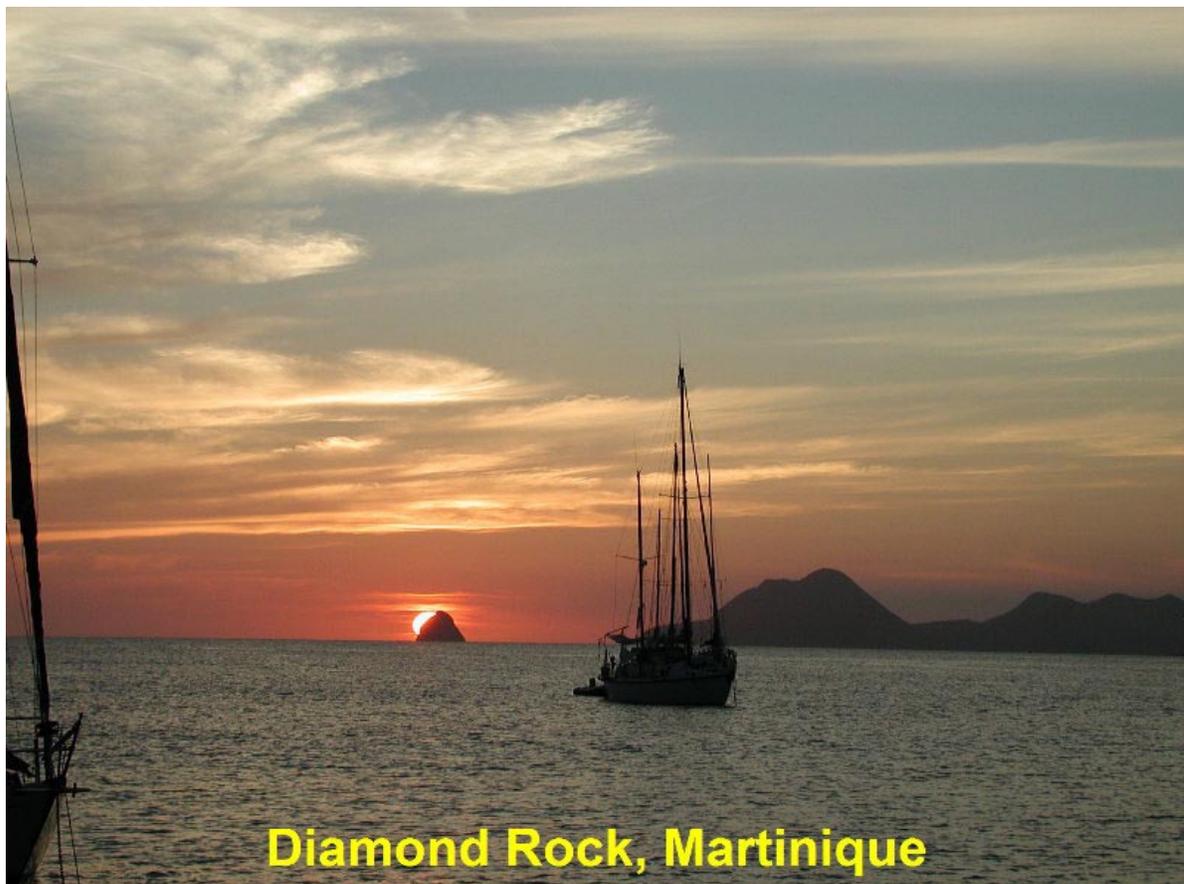
I have wanted to attend the picnics held in past years; but they were usually on Saturdays while I was always working on my job with the U.S. Post Office in Wilsonville, OR.

This year Larry and his wife Rebecca [a Tek RN in past years] were here in Hillsboro visiting with my wife Kathleen and me. I suggested to them that I thought the opportunity to attend the picnic was an added bonus to their visit and Larry agreed. That is why we attended.

Therefore, I want to express my thanks for the warm conversations, recollections, the excellent lunch and the time spent being with people of a like mind. For me it has been too long since I felt so comfortable with a group of Tekkies whom I didn't know.

Thanks again for a splendid afternoon!

## Some photos from the “Living on a Catamaran” article



# Shute Park Picnic in June

