



# IBMSFQCCAA IBM South Florida Quarter Century Club and Alumni Association

<http://www.ibmsfqccaa.org>

## President's Message

This newsletter is produced by the *IBM South Florida Quarter Century Club and Alumni Association* (IBMSFQCCAA), a non-profit organization established in 2011 and based in Boca Raton, FL, for our dues-paying membership.

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep members informed of IBMSFQCCAA-sponsored social and volunteer activities as well as general items of interest. Newsletter content is provided in the spirit of camaraderie to help foster IBM alumni connections.

**Circulation:** The Newsletter is circulated via the IBMSFQCCAA website to most of our members and friends. It is also sent by mail to members who do not have Internet access. Please provide feedback to: [info@ibmsfqccaa.org](mailto:info@ibmsfqccaa.org) or mail to:

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**Disclaimer:** *IBMSFQCCAA*, its Board members and Newsletter staff are not legally liable for any material submitted to us in good faith and are not responsible for any errors and/or omissions. If a member feels any content correction is needed, please let us know as soon as possible.

*IBMSFQCCAA* Bylaws can be found at [www.ibmsfqccaa.org](http://www.ibmsfqccaa.org).

**WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT.  
PLEASE HELP US MAKE  
THIS A GREAT ORGANIZATION.**

**PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER ON TO A FRIEND WHO MIGHT ALSO BE INTERESTED.**

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Here we are at the end of Summer and members with kids or grand-kids are getting ready for another year of school. For those living in Florida, the summer has been hot, but so far we've avoided any really bad weather.



In spite of the summer heat and vacations, a lot has been going on in IBMSFQCCAA. We've sponsored or participated in six interesting and fun events, with 169 members and guests attending. In April, we sponsored a golf weekend in Naples, a walking tour of the historic Boca Raton Hotel and Pete Martinez led the second of three meetings to discuss IBM's history in Boca Raton. In May and June, we had three social events, including the first Meet 'n' Greet in Delray Beach.

Coming up in the next three months, there will be a 1-day golf tournament in Delray Beach, the third IBM History segment, the Oktoberfest celebration in Delray, and another quarterly IBMSFQCCAA lunch get-together. Later in the year, we're planning to get together for Oktoberfest and another FAU Football Game outing.

In early September, we will be sending out a letter soliciting volunteers for next year's Board of Directors. Since submissions must be received by early October, I

wanted to give you some advance notice of the election, so you can begin thinking about volunteering for the Board. Four Board positions will be open in this election.

We continue to look for suggestions for future events that would be of interest. We also still need volunteers to help with the various tasks that are involved in making our events happen. If you have any suggestions or want to get involved, send an email to [info@ibmsfqccaa.org](mailto:info@ibmsfqccaa.org) and we'll take it from there.

To assist in setting long-term goals to maintain IBMSFQCCAA's vitality, we are also establishing a Membership Committee whose mission will be "To provide guidance which will keep IBMSFQCCAA relevant and attractive to our membership and potential membership." [Click here](#) if you are interesting in participating on, or providing input to, the Membership Committee. For more information on the Membership Committee, see [page 4](#).

Thanks again for all your support – without our membership and their involvement, IBMSFQCCAA would risk becoming a mere shell that could not continue to exist. We look forward to seeing you at some of the upcoming events. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and have a great Fall!

*Justin "Jud" McCarthy*

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## Upcoming Events:

**Note: the Sebring Golf Weekend scheduled for September 7-9 was cancelled, due to lack of interest.**

**Saturday, September 22: Delray Golf Tournament:** Join us for a golf scramble tournament at the Boca Delray Golf and Country Club, 5483 Boca Delray Blvd, Delray Beach, FL. Tee time is 8:30 am, shotgun start, followed by lunch. Total cost is \$30, including golf, lunch and prize fund. To confirm a tee time, send a \$30 check to *Fred Goetz* by September 10. Non-golfers can also just come for lunch, and pay cash for menu items to *Judy Goetz*. For more information, contact *Fred Goetz* at (561) 865-2105 or via email ([frdg777@hotmail.com](mailto:frdg777@hotmail.com)).

**Thursday, September 13, 11:30am: Lunch at Millers Ale House, 1200 Yamato Rd.** Join your friends for the quarterly IBMSFQCCAA lunch. Thursday is Meat Loaf day at the Ale House, so be sure to bring a healthy appetite.

**Friday, September 21, 2:30pm - Maple Room at Sugar Sand Park, Boca Raton: IBM Boca History (Continued)** A continuation of the February and April meetings. *Pete Martinez* will continue the open discussion of IBM's activities and accomplishments through the years at the Boca Raton site, including products such as System 3, System/7, Maritime, Series/1, IBM PC and Related Products, Robotics, Manufacturing and Automotive Systems, SEDAB, Fort Knox, OS/2, Internet Division, Special Needs Products, Speech Systems, Project Checkmate, LA Grid, etc. *Pete* also will discuss IBM's huge impact on the community past and present (including the work of our retirees). In *Pete's* words, "we will be continuing our trip through memory lane where we would once again bring up all of these products and ask the audience if anyone had worked on these and if they could tell a short story. This will continue our structured navigation through IBM history." Light refreshments will be provided by IBMSFQCCAA.

**Note: this topic may be moved to November 9, so look for an email blast announcing the September 21 event.**

**Saturday, October 13, 1pm: Oktoberfest:** Details will be announced in an upcoming email blast.

## Future Events -Details will come later:

**November 9: Sugar Sand meeting or event - TBD**

**November: FAU Football Game – date TBD.**

**Monday, December 3: Annual IBMSFQCCAA Meeting at Sugar Sand Park**

**Thursday, December 13, 11:30am: Lunch at Millers Ale House, 1200 Yamato Rd.** Join your friends for the quarterly IBMSFQCCAA lunch. Thursday will be Meat Loaf day at the Ale House, so bring an appetite.

## Recent Social Activities

**Friday through Sunday, April 13-15 Naples Golf Weekend** 23 IBMSFQCCAA members and guests traveled to Naples for two days of golf and after-hours camaraderie. There were three Tournament Winners on Saturday: *Pat Ferrante*, *Janice Ferrante*, and *Jud McCarthy*. On Sunday, the winners were *Ed Hecker*, *Barbara Hecker*, *Fred Goetz*, and *Sandy Ruh*.

**Tuesday, April 17: Walking tour of Boca Raton Hotel & Resort** – 13 IBMSFQCCAA members attended this 1½ hour guided tour of the historic Boca Raton Resort & Club, which featured highlights of the Hotel's history, including the story of *Addison Mizner*, his architectural inspiration, and a look at the hotel's evolution since the 1920s.

**Friday, April 20: 2:30pm: IBM Boca History (Continued) at Sugar Sand Park** – This was a continuation of the February 13 meeting. *Pete Martinez* continued the open discussion of IBM's activities and accomplishments through the years at the Boca Raton site, including products such as System 3, System/7, Maritime, Series/1, IBM PC and Related Products, Robotics, Manufacturing and Automotive Systems, SEDAB, Fort Knox, OS/2, Internet Division, Special Needs Products, Speech Systems, Project Checkmate, LA Grid, etc. He also continued his discussion of IBM's impact on the community past and present (including the work of our retirees).

50 IBMSFQCCAA members and guests attended. We continued our trip through memory lane where we once again discussed all of the Boca products and asked the audience if anyone had worked on these and if they could tell a short story. We went further into our structured navigation through IBM history, which began in February. We will be scheduling another meeting in the fall to finish our discussions and remembrances of IBM's rich history in Boca Raton.

**Tuesday, May 8: Meet 'n' Greet at Duffy's Sports Grill, Delray Beach, FL** – 31 IBMSFQCCAA members, spouses and friends attended this event at the Duffy's Grill on Federal Highway in Delray. After meeting for early refreshments, many stayed for dinner and more conversation. Considering this was our first Meet 'n' Greet outside Boca Raton, we were pleased with the turnout. We'd like to do more events such as this, and are always open for suggestions on where to hold the next event.

**Thursday, June 14: Lunch at Millers Ale House on Yamato Rd.** 29 members and 4 guests attended the summer session of the quarterly IBMSFQCCAA lunch. Among the attendees was *Larry Rojas*, who drove up from Miami to be at the luncheon. As always, everyone had a good time, and many IBM "War Stories" were exchanged.

**Thursday, July 19: Meet 'n' Greet at Blue Martini, Boca Raton** – 32 members and guests met at the Blue Martini in Town Center Mall for cocktails. As usual, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.



***Where Are They Now?***

**Where is Bill Sydnes?** Since leaving IBM in 1983, I have worked in many jobs and moved around the country many times. The following paragraphs discuss the companies I've worked for and the positions I've held. I married my spouse, Janice M Rolnik, in August of 1983.

After leaving IBM, I joined Franklin Computer Corp. as Engineering VP. Franklin was producing Apple II clones and involved in a copyright infringement lawsuit regarding the BIOS and operating system. While at Franklin, we solved the copyright issue, and developed several new systems, including a high-speed processor and a "luggable" system that would run both IBM and Apple code.

Shortly thereafter, Janice and I founded Fast-Trac Products, Inc. and began developing products for the IBM PCjr. When Franklin failed, we began running our company full-time and subsequently sold it to Xebec Corporation in 1984.

Next, we founded Systems Development Inc. and signed a development contract with Coleco Industries (noted for the Cabbage Patch dolls). After developing a system for Coleco, they bought SDC; however, Coleco had financial problems and never brought our system to market.

We then founded Systems, Networks, and Peripherals, Inc. (SNAP) to develop products for the IBM PC. We created a custom chipset for the PC that substantially reduced the number of chips that were needed to build a system. We contracted with Tandon Corporation to buy rights to the intellectual property for this product line, while allowing SNAP to retain joint rights for our own use.

I also helped Tandon's owner transition the company from a disk drive manufacturer to an IBM PC compatible company, and recruit a top-notch team to manage the transition. Team members included *Dan Wilkie* (President), *Sparky Sparks* (Sales/Marketing VP), and *Joe Sarubbi* (Manufacturing VP). I joined Tandon as Engineering VP and moved to California. While in California, Janice and I were blessed with the birth of our first son, Benjamin Earl Sydnes.

In 1987 I negotiated a technology licensing agreement with Tandon for a "luggable" computer and we returned to New Jersey to market the system to the Federal government. SCI Corporation produced the unit for us. This was a very successful product for SNAP and provided funding for us to develop numerous other products. In 1988, I joined DGM&S in Mount Laurel, New Jersey as General Manager of Communications Technologies.

In 1990, I joined Commodore International Services Corporation as President, and we moved to our present home in Bryn Mawr, PA. Commodore was very successful for several years; but it began to fail. I was recruited in 1994 to join Sarnoff Realtime Corporation (SRTC) as President

and CEO. SRTC developed a massively parallel video processing system and was subsequently "bought out" by the Chairman of the Board.

In 1998 I joined Sensar, Inc. as Product Development VP and COO. We developed iris recognition systems for the banking industry and other personal identification applications. But Sensar had licensed the technology from another firm and they did not allow us to use the technology in the high potential markets. Consequently, funding dried up and the company was forced to close.

In 2001, I joined Microvision, Inc., a public company in Seattle, WA as COO. Our family moved to Seattle and found the area to be quite pleasant. Microvision had a contract with the Federal government to develop heads-up displays for the Apache helicopter system. In addition, we used a spinoff of this concept using MEMS technology to develop heads-up displays for the commercial and personal marketplace as well.

In 2003, I joined the Science Center in Philadelphia as SVP and we returned to our home in Bryn Mawr which we had retained. While at the Science Center, we provided funding of over \$300,000,000 to start up and early-stage companies in all fields from biomedical to waste management. One of the companies identified, which the Science Center elected not to fund, was intriguing to me so I left the Science Center to join this company.

In 2004, I joined Realtime Games as President and COO. We successfully developed a product for scoring tennis matches; unfortunately, the capital markets dried up and we were unable to put the product in the market. We continue to seek funding even until now for this exciting company.

In 2006, we formed an "entertainment company" focused on providing children's entertainment in malls and have been running this company since then.

During the above timeframe, Janice focused on real estate and has built quite a portfolio of rental properties which we own and she manages. Her primary focus is renting to college students in the local area (there are 31 colleges within a 15 mile radius of our house). Parents guarantee the lease, the lease payments, any damage repairs, and any lost rent while the damages are being repaired. It is quite a lucrative operation, and Janice has provided exceptional management for this difficult task.

We are the proud parents of four children:

- Benjamin Earl Sydnes, 25: received a scholarship and acquired a BS degree at Temple University and an MBA at Drexel University. Ben now works for Lockheed Martin as a financial analyst in government contracts.
- Catherine Elizabeth Sydnes, 20: Kate is enrolled in a pre-med program at Temple University and has a full

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scholarship plus numerous outside scholarships including one for golf. She was team captain of her golf team at Radnor High School and lettered consecutively for four years.

- Abigail Elizabeth Sydnes, 17: Abby is a junior at Radnor High School and is interested in pursuing an engineering or computer science degree upon her graduation.
- Michael Williams Sydnes, 14: Mike is in the seventh grade at Radnor Middle School and thinks everything sports is wonderful.

In net, life has been good for the Sydnes/Rolnik family and we are enjoying life in Bryn Mawr, PA. We would welcome hearing from any of our prior business associates and friends. Best wishes and happy retirement to all of you! Due to the age of our children, I will probably be able to retire at slightly over the age of 100.

Feel free to contact me as follows: *William L. Sydnes*; PO Box 1063; 708 Haviland Drive; Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-7063; Phone/Fax: 610-525-0151; Mobile: 610-909-1248; [bsydnes@comcast.net](mailto:bsydnes@comcast.net).

**Where is John Magnon?** I lived IBM for 32 years and retired through the “FAP” program in November 1988 at 59 years of age. I had targeted age 60 for retirement, so 1988 wasn’t at all traumatic.



It was time to pursue my second avocation, private aviation. Prior to retiring, I earned my various advanced pilot’s ratings, providing an opportunity to be an authorized instructor for the Pompano Senior Squadron Flying Club. This became the basis for many hours of flying pleasure in sunny South Florida and several trips elsewhere.

In August, 1999, I gave myself a 70th birthday present of one hour of flight in a WW II fighter, the North American P-51, Crazy Horse, based in Kissimmee, FL. Five years later, just for kicks, I added the single engine Sea Plane rating to my license.

My wife Lois, our son and daughter, and I left our roots in New Orleans, LA in 1960. Great food and the sound of Dixieland music called us back in 2003. This was a questionable move and we thought of returning to Boca Raton, but real estate prices and taxes were prohibitive, so we stayed in Metairie a suburb of New Orleans.

Age was catching up with both of us. Our daughter and son-in-law thought that as a precaution we should be closer to them. At their behest, we moved into their home in Fairhope, AL in November 2009. What a blessing? Both Lois and I began a variety of serious illnesses in 2010, but we have survived and are still around to talk about it.

As chronological age 83 approaches, I can also joke about being just 2 years old this coming November due to “cheating the grim reaper” as my son-in-law described the

event following a total blackout while driving on the evening of November 5, 2010. In the emergency room for that incident I just went “flat line” and our cardiologist had to use the paddles to restore my heart beat.

Flying was no longer safely feasible, so I returned to my first avocation of boating. I don’t do any boating, but I do instruct small boat handling and navigation for inland and coastal waters.

I am active in a number of flying organizations and organizations that provide support and public education about the Naval services of our great country.

Summing up, we are still around and look forward to a few years yet ahead of us. Best of luck to all past, present, and future IBMers.

We are available by mail at 104 Sand Hill Court, Fairhope, AL 36532, by telephone (251) 990-8976, and by email at [cfriai@prodigy.net](mailto:cfriai@prodigy.net).

## Welcome 10 New Members since our last Newsletter

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Pedro del Sol  | Jack Sams       |
| Fred Johnson   | Sandy Steinruck |
| Sally Langford | Barry Stofan    |
| Toby Maners    | Jean Talbott    |
| Bruce Miller   | Ray Trombly     |

## Credits

- Newsletter Editor: *Bill Gee*  
Newsletter Review: *Sy and Barbara Schulman, BOD Members*  
Email Blast Administrator: *Dave Johnson*  
Content: *Bill Gee, Jud McCarthy, Fred Goetz, John Magnon, Larry Salerno, Bill Sydnes,*  
Photography: *John Magnon*

## Farewell

*We have learned of the following members of the IBM Family who have passed away.*

- Dick Roegiers, April 2012
- Steve Davis ~2007

## Volunteer for the Membership Committee

**Objectives:** Enable ongoing IBMSFQCAA membership vitality, promote membership growth and ensure Association longevity. 3-5 IBMSFQCAA members are on the Committee.

**Mission:** Provide guidance which will keep the Association relevant and attractive to members and potential members.

**Primary Activities:** 1) Reach out to members and eligible people who have not yet joined. 2) Establish and maintain relationships with current IBM employees and their organizations to promote the Association. 3) Guide the Board of Directors to maintain the Association as relevant, visible, attractive and competitive to members and potential members. 4) Establish geographical sub groups as appropriate.

**Interested in participating?** Send an email to [Membership](mailto:Membership).