August 2013 News-at-a-Glance

EVENTS: Upcoming & Recap

- Volunteer with SOAR 55 near Maynard-Marlboro
  - DECconnection and SOAR 55 have agreed to merge our two events planned for September/October. We will now be joining SOAR 55 in presenting "The New Volunteering: Purposeful, Flexible and Meaningful" on Wednesday, October 9th at 7:00pm at the Goodnow Library in Sudbury.
  - Members of the DECconnection Board will be present to discuss the program and to meet with DECconnection attendees. We will also be looking for your feedback on our plans to hold a follow-up session specifically for DECconnection members in late October/early November. Please join us to hear more about this very interesting and worthwhile program.
    - If you plan on attending please drop a note to barrie.hunter@earthlink.net or loislevick@earthlink.net
    - Goodnow Library
      21 Concord Road, Sudbury, MA 01776
      Phone: (978) 443-1035
    - Click here for a bit more about SOAR 55 on our website.

- Announcing October Event at the Sudbury Senior Center with showing of Digital_Man/Digital_World
  - Have all our DECconnection members seen the PBS publication of "Digital_Man/Digital_World, The story of Ken Olsen and Digital Equipment Corporation"?
  - You are invited to an event on Saturday, October 19 from 2-5 P.M. at the Sudbury Senior Center, 40 Fairbank Road, Sudbury, MA 01776.
  - There will be a showing of this wonderful documentary, and opportunity to visit with DEC pals after the movie. You do not want to miss this afternoon of fun with old pals from Digital. There will also be punch and refreshments to enjoy.
  - Please register with Marilyn Goodrich, marilyngoodrich@comcast.net, or call Marilyn at 978-443-6865.

- Event Recap: Our NH Chapter Dinner & A Movie on Wed eve, Aug 21, was a blast!
  - dinner by Villa Banca was delicious and the 1967 movie The Graduate was pure nostalgia (do you remember using rotary dial phones?). The weather was perfect. It was great fun watching outdoors while enjoying an after-dinner drink. See photos above.

Also planned:

Contact Zul Abbany, at email zabbany@nc.rr.com with interest for this event, or to be on his mailing list.

SW Florida Chapter Meeting postponed until snowbird season in Naples FL. All DECCies welcome. Contact Sally Hering, at email: sahering@msn.com  Click here for information.

Reunion With Your Peers - click here for information about running your own reunion locally with DEC Connection support.

DEC Connection Member News

Welcome to our new members Jim Chamberlain, Carol Irvin Mitchell, and Norma Oakes.

Membership Renewal Procedure:
Best method to renew: Click this link to see if your membership is current in our Member Service Center and pay online with a credit card. If you have paid dues since 2010 you will be there - use the email address we have on file for you - no leading or trailing spaces and it should work - email webmaster@decconnection.org for help.

- You can also join us (or renew) at www.deconnection.org/join.htm
- You can also send a check to The DEC Connection, c/o Bob Moore, 28 Fernglade Rd., Burlington MA 01803. $10 for 1 year, $25 for 3 years.
- If you prefer to use your PayPal account directly (not via our website), use our payment address: registrations@decconnection.org - please do NOT use any of the Board members' personal email addresses.

Staying on our email list: Our newsletter contact manager removes names if the recipient mail server sends a rejection notice. If you notice you haven't received DEC Connection's News-at-a-Glance in a while, or changed your address, sign up again for our free e-news at: www.deconnection.org/mail.htm

DEC Connection Member NewsBytes: send yours to:
webmaster@deconnection.org. See our new NewsByte archive page.

- Ray Humphrey, who travels worldwide consulting on corporate and government security recently sent in this photo. He's president of the International Security Management Association. He kept our corporate security tight and runs a tight meeting too! rayhumphrey@earthlink.net

- Marge Paul writes: Worked at DEC 1965 to May 1992. Four digit badge number. Met many wonderful people in those years. Am still meeting people who worked at DEC and all speak glowingly of their time there. Many of us have done volunteer work since leaving Digital. I've just concluded 20 years of volunteering at Emerson
News from Digital DOWN UNDER - DEC Australia - by Barrie Hunter

The ex-Digital community is alive and well “downunder.”

In Sydney, Max Burnet (mburnet@bigpond.net.au) hosts a “computer old timers” lunch early in November each year and has just announced details of the 2013 event.

Dear Computer Old-timer,

This has been sent to you as a computer old-timer, who has attended our famous annual Sydney lunch in the past. This is an early advice so you can make a diary note and perhaps combine it with other business in Sydney.

The 20th annual Computer Old-timers lunch will be held at noon on Friday 15th November 2013.

Yes, all golden-oldies are invited to gather at The Little Snail Restaurant, 50 Murray Street, Pyrmont, NSW.

If you used punched cards or paper tape in your career, you qualify. And if you used 8” floppies you qualify too!!

Les Hayman, our guest speaker, was hired into DEC Australia by Max Burnet almost 40 years ago. Over his career Les worked for DEC, Xerox, Data General, Wang, Sun and SAP. Every time he managed to join each company during its most prominent growth phase. As a result, he now lives in a Chateau in the Bordeaux region of France. He is a prominent speaker on the management of I.T. in Europe.

Once again you can enjoy a wallow in nostalgia, a welcoming drink and a splendid 3 course meal for just $60. Cash bar available during lunch.

For more information or to confirm your attendance please send email to mburnet@bigpond.net.au

Mick Duncan (mduncan3@bigpond.net.au) hosts an ex-Deccies lunch in Sydney each Thanksgiving Day. The genesis for Mick’s event is:

“I was having lunch with a few friends on the last day at Digital and suggested that we get together once a year to keep in contact. This developed into a full blown annual reunion, which became known as the "Divorced Digits Reunion". Not that we needed to be divorced, only that we had separated from Digital. We then expanded it to include all current Digital/HP employees.

It is held on Thanksgiving Day (fourth Thursday in November) every year at the Oaks Hotel, Neutral Bay, in Sydney. No bookings required - just turn up on the day (possibly something poetic about having the reunion on Thanksgiving Day, as I have never met anyone who ever regretted working for Digital.)

Pat Molloy is always threatening to get over from Florida for the next reunion – a bit of publicity in the Deconnection Newsletter may help entice others to make the journey.”

Alan Williamson (alan.williamson@senetas.com) hosts an ex-Deccies lunch in Melbourne at times. Contact Alan for more information.

And if you plan on visiting Australia or New Zealand, and or just want to get in touch with an ex-Deccie the best person to contact is Max Burnet. He has a mailing list for about 330 people and is always prepared to attempt to locate others.
Sad News Department - details on our Memorials Page

Our condolences to friends and family of former DEC employees who worked in Colorado Springs, who recently passed away: Dan Schlagel and Emil Kobylecki.

Website Updates:

- Read about Barb Finer, our featured Member Entrepreneur.

- Know someone who is leaving HP? Please pass the word to anyone leaving HP to use the HP Alumni Association’s "ASAP Checklist" immediately. It has advice and mutual help -- developed by HPAA members -- on the many things you have to do before you lose access to HP’s internal systems. Thanks to Curt Gowan for this posting. Go to http://www.hpalumni.org/asap (HPAA membership not required.)

- The PBS video of the documentary about Ken and the history of DEC, Digital_Man/Digital_World, is available online ($25+s/h) from the PBS store: http://www.shoppbs.org/product/index.jsp?productId=13315614 It’s a wonderful hour-long nostalgia trip. Enjoy! For those who prefer to watch on their computers, the free version is: http://video.wfyi.org/video/2282149336/

- Links page: Volunteer activities - if you have an organization you’d like to post, email webmaster@decconnection.org. New page for SOAR 55.

- Use your MEMBER SERVICE CENTER! Use the gold Member Login button if you have paid dues since 2010. There are queries to find members in your area, and forms to submit to update your profile, send your news, DEC stories, and business listings for our public online yellow pages. You can check your dues status and renew your membership online. You can email a small photo for your profile, access or request membership in our LinkedIn Group, and send info for articles such as Featured Entrepreneur.

- DEC Stories submitted by our members and readers - We are still collecting your unusual, humorous or just favorite DEC stories. Email them to webmaster@decconnection.org. They should be one page or less and be entertaining to our members. Click on this link to enjoy the ones submitted so far.

- Featured Member Entrepreneur - Email webmaster with details - 2-3 paragraphs about your business and your photo.

- If you are a member you are entitled to join our Linked In DEConNECTION Group. Request from within LinkedIn to be added or email webmaster.

- Product and Services Page has videos and photos. Please submit content to webmaster@decconnection.org.