

HP Retiree Club of Houston



September, 2021
<http://www.hprchou.com>

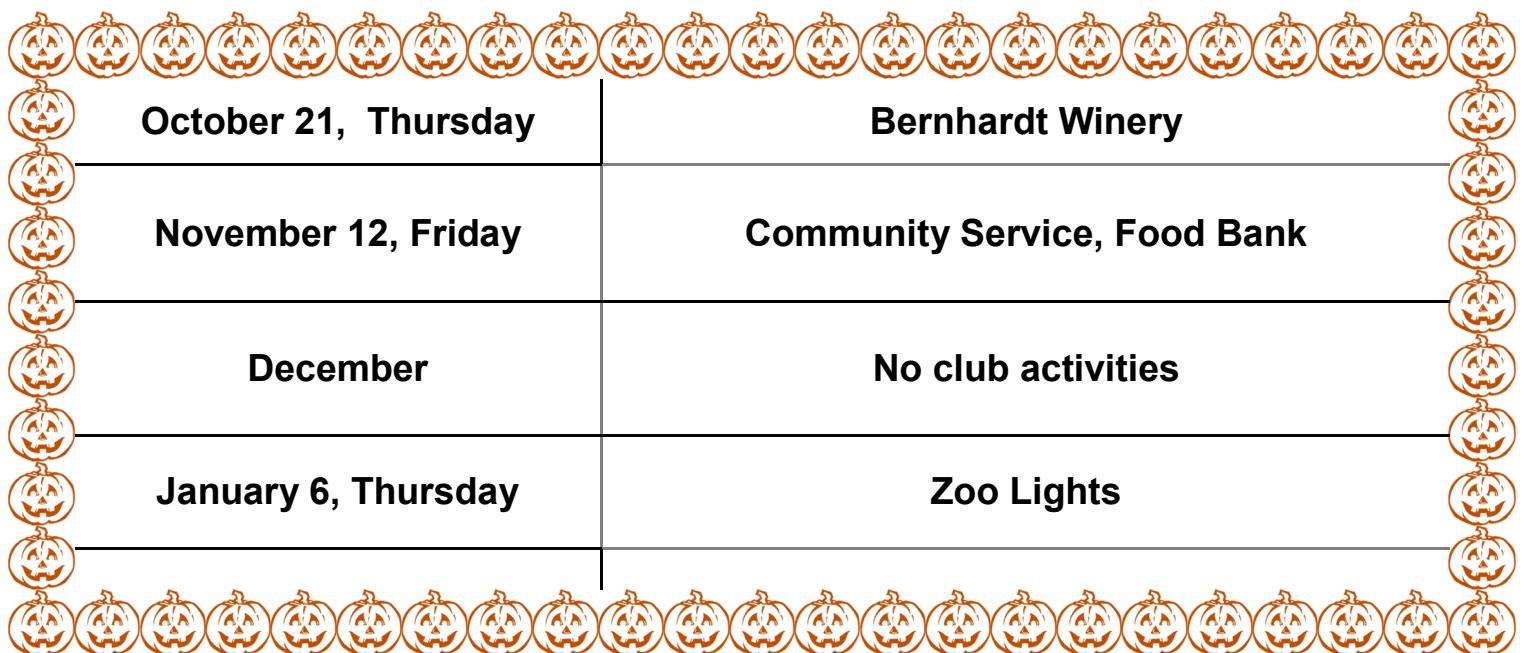
Contents

- Calendar, page 1
- Coordinator's Corner, page 2
- Upcoming Activities, page 3
 - Spotlight, pages 4-5
 - HP Alumni Update, page 6
 - Past Activities, pages 6-11
 - Steering Committee, page 12
 - Resources, page 13

WELCOME

The HP Retiree Club of Houston provides opportunities to gather with the friends and coworkers you knew during your working career. We rely on our membership to guide our selection of activities, so let the Planning Committee know what activities interest you.

Upcoming Activities

	
October 21, Thursday	Bernhardt Winery
November 12, Friday	Community Service, Food Bank
December	No club activities
January 6, Thursday	Zoo Lights

Coordinator's Corner – Carlos Fernandez

Dear Houston HP Retiree Club members, we are finally getting out of the mostly hot and humid days and entering the peak of the hurricane and tropical storms season. Please stay safe and follow the local guidelines to avoid getting caught off guard.

With your help and ideas that were contributed to the 2021 summer member survey, your Coordinating Committee has been able to plan the rest of the year, and we are working on the first-pass of 2022.

68 members responded to the survey; here are some of the highlights summarizing the four-question survey:

- ◊ Your responses helped us prioritize daytrips from the list we provided. More importantly you gave us many more alternate suggestions for daytrips: a total of 21 additional places - some old-time favorites and many new ones. We will use these suggestions to plan next year and beyond; and probably conduct another survey mid-year in 2022 to further rank them.
- ◊ You told us you were willing to pay what is fair for seminars, other group activities and events if they were of good quality and fun.
- ◊ Responding to the question regarding what you value the most from our programs here is what you said: day trips (37%), seminars (27%), socials (20%), and volunteering (16%). This tells us that there is something for everyone. Also coincidentally, the percentages closely resemble the ratios in the quantities of each kind of activity that we have historically

- organized.
- ◊ Nine out of ten of the survey respondents indicated that they would participate in Zoom calls/ events if offered in addition to the in-person programs. There are certain seminars that may be better delivered using that medium; one we are now very familiar and comfortable with.

Thanks for taking the time in providing feedback to the survey; it makes our job as a coordinating committee easier.

In this newsletter you will see what is coming up for the rest of the year and the first part of 2022. We will have the full 2022 calendar published in the next month or so. Check out the calendar section in our web page.

The summer came and went, and we had many events which you can read about in this newsletter and peruse photos on our web page.

We had a fun social at Mia Bella with 15 in attendance. Folks brought an interesting selection of memorabilia. Could be a fun tradition for socials going forward.

Every other month all the active retiree clubs in the US have a call to exchange ideas, share best practices, and report past and future activities.

Also the HP Alumni Association lead and a representative from HP Inc

Benefits are part of this call. The Retiree Advisory Board or RAB, as this group is called, is hosted by a First Tech manager. We find this exchange beneficial to our club as we get ideas for our own events. For example the memorabilia 'show and tell' from this month's social came from a recent RAB call.

On behalf of the planning committee, I want to thank you again for reading and sharing this newsletter with others especially with new retirees that you think may want to join the club. Also, again I want to extend my appreciation to the committee members for their contributions to the club. Their talent, their time, and their passion to serve is extraordinary.

Finally, as the pandemic, via its variants, continues to be ever present, heed the needed precautions to stay healthy along with your family.

Take care and join the planned activities as often as you can.



Upcoming Activities



Bernhardt Winery

Thursday, October 21
Time: TBD



Community service—Houston Food Bank
Friday, November 12



Spotlight—Eric Vu

I was asked to write something about me for the HP Retiree Newsletter spotlight and have no idea of where I would start...

With all the current events involving Afghanistan, maybe I should reminisce about some interesting facts about my escape from my old country of Vietnam.

At The fall of Saigon in 1975, I was stuck behind after making a 599 miles trip on foot from Da Nang to Saigon to find out that my family had left. After five years of toiling in the capital and hiding, I was able to get on a boat using fake identification trying to search for freedom and join my family.



On the last attempt, after a harrowing 13 days on the South sea without foods and water and a disabled boat, we were towed to safety by a Soviet merchant ship into a small uninhabited Indonesian island. Disoriented by the horrible sea escape while witnessing brutal rapes and crimes and death from Thai pirates against our boat, I could not even remember the address of my family in the States. Finally, I was able to get in touch with my family and got reunited with them after spending a year on the desert island - which became full of refugees by the time I left.

The very first place I lived in the States was Cincinnati, Ohio. Very nice city but too cold for me so I left Cincinnati to work as design engineer for a company in Dallas after finishing undergraduate school at the University of Cincinnati. Once I had my US citizenship, I worked for Texas Instrument as a manufacturing/design engineer for the defense division.



As the defense industry was dwindling down in 1990, I got laid off and took the opportunity to move to Houston to stay close to my elderly parents. I then joined Telxon as a manufacturing engineer making handheld/RPOS computers. This company merged with Symbol/Motorola a few years later.

In Feb 1996, I started at Compaq as a manufacturing engineer working for a great manager – Carlos Fernandez - who managed the demand planning team for Personal Systems. After Carlos's promotion to a different group, I was also transferred to Operations Engineering as a world-wide (WW) manufacturing Program/System Manager.



Spotlight cont'd.

During the HP/Compaq merger, I stayed in the same position working for new managers from HP within the Commercial Desktop group. I had a very interesting job that I loved in spite of the pressure and long hours. This position allowed me to be involved from product concept to actual production from our world-wide factories.

Many trips to the WW factories opened my eyes to new things about the factory differences, people and their cultures. I had many good relationships from all over the world with my co-workers. Through many reorganizations and leadership changes, my jobs evolved a lot but the main job responsibility remained the same – to deliver quality products and meet TTM.

At first, I thought I would advance my career once obtaining my MBA from Texas A&M, but I no longer enjoyed what I was doing in addition to dreading the long new commute.

In 2018, I had an accident while riding my bicycle with broken my collar bone and eight ribs. I was out for quite a long time with this injury plus being infected with a rare exotic parasite. Right before Covid 19, I again needed to have a few heart stents. My health obviously deteriorated resulting in my decision to take the early retirement package to focus on my health issue, family and traveling.



Due to the pandemic, I have not been able to travel a lot, but I did go hiking in Colorado with my son for a week, traveled to Boca Raton with my wife for a week. It was wonderful trip and we will certainly do it again. I had a great experience but learned about my needs for more training at high attitudes before any future hiking trip.



I've been riding bicycle again weekly with some of my retiree friends and playing tennis regularly, I also take online classes to learn guitar/keyboard.

Once the Covid19 issue is over, I plan to start to travel with family to Europe and to Vietnam. I will certainly resume our annual family reunion cruise when cruising is safer. As a very fresh and "young guy" who recently joining the HP retiree group, I was surprised how active, pleasant and enjoyable the folks are. I have met wonderful people including some co-workers and new friends met at the retiree events. . I am glad that I joined the HP retiree club and I enjoy the activities that the club provides.

HP Alumni Association update

HP Alumni Association (HPAA) ...an independent member-supported association of former HP and HPE employees, and current employees in the process of leaving. Helping each other with life after HP or HPE. Operated by volunteers. Not officially endorsed or supported by any company.

The Association is very helpful to those who would benefit from getting periodic updates on health insurance information and Q&As from fellow former employees, especially around Annual Enrollment time!

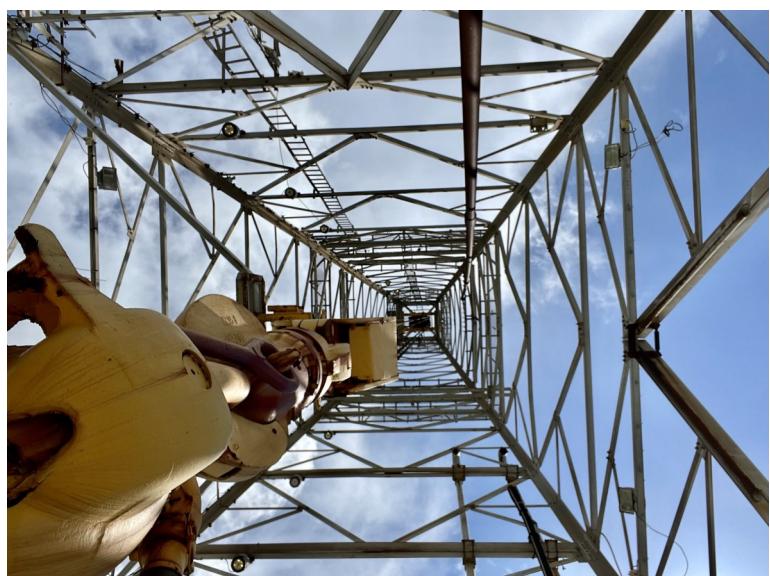
You can join the HPAA at <https://www.hpalumni.org/> Membership is free.

Past Activities—Ocean Star Rig Museum

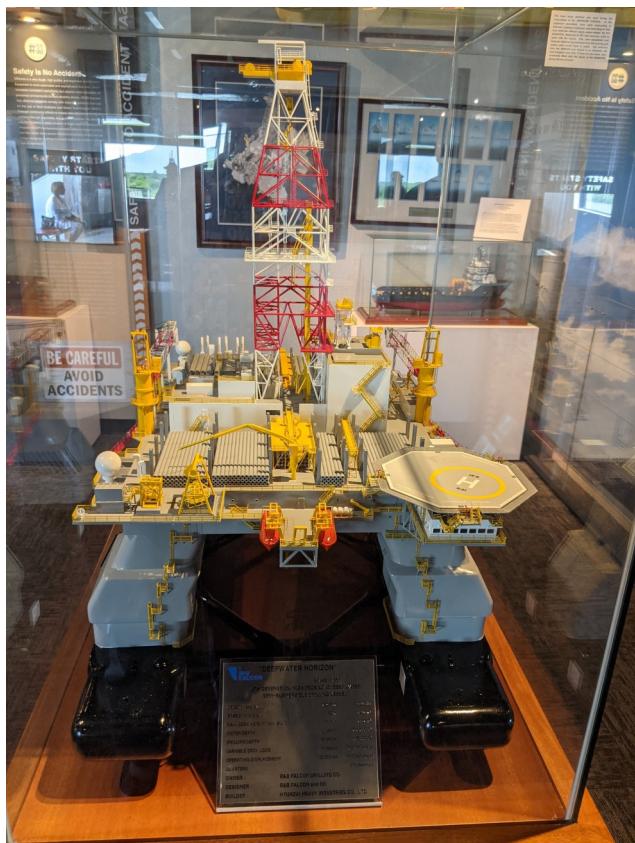


Past Activities—Ocean Star Rig Museum

Ocean Star Rig and Museum Galveston



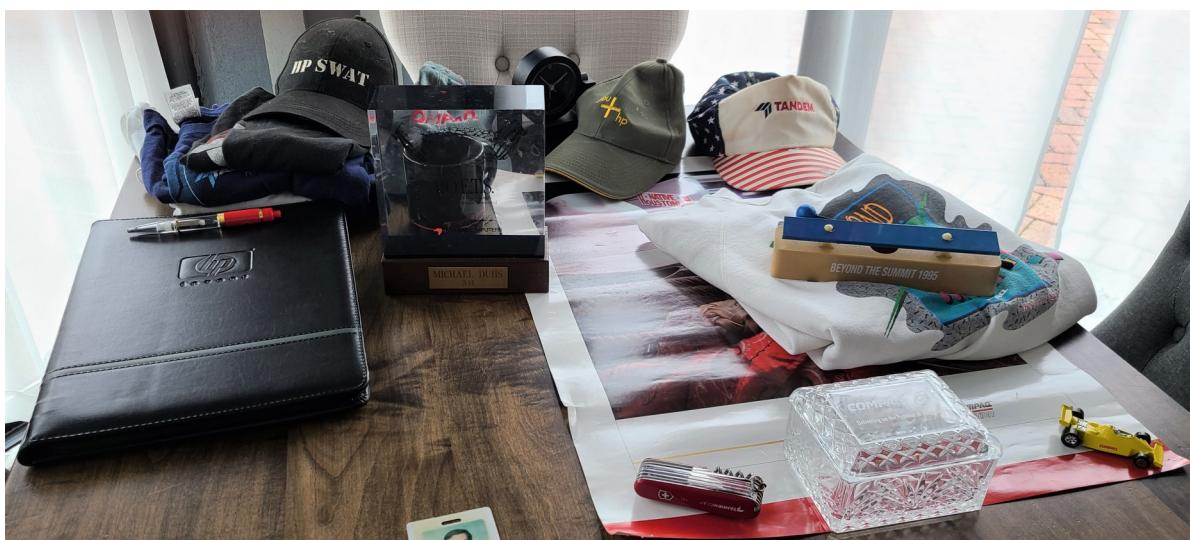
Past Activities—Ocean Star Rig Museum



Past Activities—Stock Market update



Past Activities—Social—Mia Bella



Past Activities—Social—Mia Bella



Raffle winners:
Michelle and Vicki



Meet Your Steering Committee

Committee Responsibility	Committee Member
Coordinator	Carlos Fernandez
Treasurer/Meeting location reservations	Jan Frazier
Meeting Notes/Act Tracker	Vicki Gore
Precinct 4 Bus Coordinator	Karen Brown, Michael Duhs, Herman de Hoop
Trip planning & research	Peter Martin, FG Seeberger, Mike Maglothin, Committee
Seminar Coordinator/Socials	Jan Frazier
Club website	Ellen Chadick, Carlos Fernandez, Michael Duhs
Newsletter / Editor	Karen Brown, Michael Duhs, Herman de Hoop
Communications	Herman de Hoop, Carlos Fernandez

Join us January 6th for Zoo Lights



Resources

For more retiree information from HPE/HPI, please access these websites via user names and passwords in the table below:

www.hp.com/retiree - (Maintained by HP Inc (HPI) for retirees)

This website retains some information that is available to any of the legacy companies' retirees and does not require a password. The other information (Benefits, Discounts, Open Enrollment - *specific to HP Inc*) has been moved to HP Continuum and DOES require you to create your own user name and password.

Are you an HP retiree with a Payroll issue? HP has cancelled its 1-800 number for employees and retirees to reach Payroll. The only way to contact HP Payroll is through this email address: payroll.us.i@hpe.com. (Note: type carefully ... the letter "i" in the email address identifies you as an HP Inc. designated retiree.) Include your full name and employee number in the message.

www.hpcontinuum.com - HP news, retiree stories, videos, and member spotlights for HPI employees that meet the following criteria:

- Age 55 and 10 years of service under the HP Retiree Medical Program
- Age 55 and 15 years of service under the Pre-2003 Retiree Medical Program
- Age 50 with at least five years of vesting service under the Compaq Computer Corporation Cash Account Pension Plan (CAPP) under the Former Digital Retiree Health Program.

www.hpalumni.org - HP Alumni Association (Maintained by volunteer HP retirees/former employees)

Join HPAA at no charge; use the online Benefits forum to compare notes on US retiree health plans – year-round and during Annual Enrollment. Check out their website for a wealth of information and selected forums to join.

1. Know someone leaving HP? Send them this link to our "ASAP Checklist" -- advice from members of the independent HP Alumni Association on [urgent things to do before losing HP access](#) and in the following weeks. (Membership not required.)
2. Social Security. [Video with an expert from the Social Security Administration](#). When to start. How working affects your benefits. Spouse, children, divorce, survivor, disability, taxes. Much more.

Program	URL
HP Retiree Club of Houston	www.hprchou.com
HPI (Discounts area, choose Retiree Discounts link) *	www.beneplace.com/hp_employee/
HP Continuum (News, Benefits, Contacts)	www.hpcontinuum.com
Employee Programs (Discounts) *	www.houston.heway.org
HP Branded Merchandise *	www.hpstore.com click on Partners

* Note: Usernames and Passwords are available when you sign up to HP Continuum

"I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw some things back."

Maya Angelou