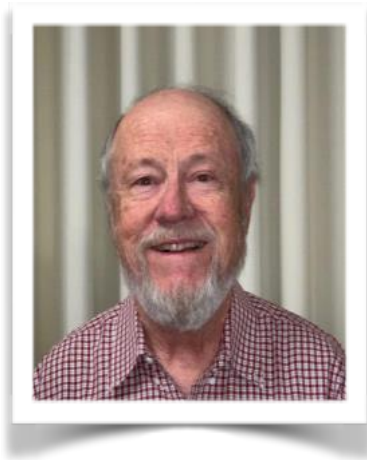


This monthly article highlights one of our branch members. We hope that you enjoy knowing a little more about your fellow members and the interesting life they have had. If you have someone you would like to nominate or if you would like to help author an article, please email the editor, Ron Nakamoto, at ron.nakamoto@yahoo.com.

DAVID G. (DAVE) OGLE



In retirement, when I am not growing heirloom tomatoes (up to 55 plants from seed) or playing golf in SIRS tournaments (hacker at best), I am probably fishing in Baja (30 Marlin caught and released since 1999) or working on my 1966 Alfa Romeo Giulia TI. I might also be designing and building some home remodeling or woodworking project. Here is my story:

“I was born and lived on the north side of Chicago (big Cubs fan) until I was seven, then our family (Dad, Mom, and older sister) moved to Park Ridge, a close suburb of Chicago. My parents went through the Great Depression in the 30’s, so I must have inherited that mid-western work ethic and frugality. I attended Maine Township H.S. in Des Plaines, IL, and my favorite classes as a freshman were metal, wood and print shop. I enjoyed and did well in science and math, which prompted my shop teacher to ask me if I was planning on going to college and majoring in Engineering. At age 14, I was unsure of that. He said if I did, I should focus on my science and math courses and didn’t want to see me next year in his machine shop course. Talk about a bummer, but it was a life-changing event!



Young Dave with his '49 Ford

“In my junior year at Maine, I worked after school and on Saturdays at a local grocery store, and eventually was able to buy my first car, a '49 Ford 2-door sedan. It was an oil burner (that’s what you get for \$200), so I decided to rebuild the engine for which I had no prior experience or knowledge. During spring break, I borrowed a chain hoist from the school auto shop, along with other tools, and with two of my buddies, extracted the 750 lb. V8 engine and transmission from my car using the local elementary school swing set “A” frame to lift and lower the engine into Dad’s garden cart. The weight

buckled the wheel shaft and the wheels wobbled as we pushed the engine into the garage. This all went fine until the cops showed up and “escorted” me to the station, because a young girl complained to her mother that she couldn’t use the swings! My dad got me out of the police station but was not happy! After he cooled off he actually helped me build an overhead wood frame in the garage to hoist the engine up out of the cart. After two weeks of rebuilding, the engine started right up with no more blue smoke! I was very proud of myself, but my dad was not so happy that I made a mess of his garage!

“Dad, an ex-Marine, wanted me to “fulfill my military obligation”) so I enlisted in the Air Force Reserves after I graduated. After my active military I started my college education at Bradley University in Peoria, IL with a Mechanical Engineering major, and later, after my parents relocated in the Bay area, transferred and graduated from San Jose State with a BSME degree.

“My first job was at Thermatest Labs in Sunnyvale, as a test engineer. It was a small family owned company that did mechanical and thermal testing for large aerospace contractors. The company went out of business the next year, so I joined Beckman Instruments/Spinco Div. in Palo Alto as a Product Development Engineer in the Biotech field. This turned out to be one of my better decisions. I was in the Analytical Liquid Chromatography section, where we designed and built biochemical instruments for Research and Educational institutions. I was promoted to Project Engineer for Amino Acid Analyzers, Protein Sequencers, Peptide Synthesizers, and other instruments during my 23 years there. The Beckman sample injector patent (one of 12 that I was awarded) was the first time that the process of ion exchange chromatography became automated. The customer would load samples (up to 72) onto a rotary table at which point the program would sequentially inject the samples onto a column (up to 2000 psi) for analysis. The high pressure would separate the sample into its constituent amino acids. The large amount of data captured on strip chart recorders evolved to floppy disks and later to hard drives. Beckman was the first company to do this.

“After Beckman, I spent three years at Nellcor (the saturated oxygen sensor people) designing and building an Agent Gas Analyzer using infrared technology to measure anesthetic gas mixtures that are used on the patient in the operating room. I later took a promotion and moved to Molecular Devices Corp. where I was a Project Manager for Optical Microplate Readers and automated fluid handling systems used in Drug Discovery. MDC was like a “mini Beckman” in that they still did all of their mechanical, electrical, software design and manufacturing in-house and had their own Chemicals R&D and Production group. I generated six additional patents with Molecular Devices (my last employer) centered around microplate readers, which range in size from tabletop size to large units on wheels that take up a good part of a lab. Microplate readers are used primarily for drug discovery, which involves optically reading thousands of microplates. Reactive markers are usually added to the wells, so when a sample is introduced, light from ultraviolet to visible is given off, sometimes lasting microseconds, which are read using either absorbance, fluorescence, or bioluminescence. It was a great 18 years after which I decided to retire in 2009. I was

pleased that my career in the biomedical field in some small way contributed to the goal of eradication of some of the more devastating diseases such as Alzheimer's, ALS, Parkinson's, and many others. That kind of made it fun and interesting to go to work every day (well, most days!)

"I met my wife Pat through a San Jose State newcomers meeting where she was interested in attending the University. I was "smitten" and invited her out with plans to go to a movie. Instead, as it turned out, I spent the time on my back, under her Simca Aronde fixing a leaky water pump! But, it made a great impression on her and after dating for a year we became engaged and a year after that we were married. I guess it was true love because we have been married for 56 years and have two sons and two grandsons. My older son Greg lives near Atlanta, where he works for Here Technology as a Network Design Manager. My younger son Ben is a Paramedic and lives and works in Sonoma County.

"As a young couple living in the Bay Area we rented apartments and moved around until we were able to purchase and move to a fixer-upper house in Los Altos. I soon decided to extend our master bedroom, master bath, and add an indoor spa room. I did everything myself except for the excavation and the concrete foundation. It took about six years to finish working after hours and on the weekends! My mantra was "Code or Better". The result was very satisfying (only one cracked rib when I fell through the roof) and the addition was featured in the November 1988 edition of Sunset magazine with a photo and article. What an ego boost! At one point, I was so proud of my work that I thought about ditching my engineering career and start as a general contractor, but Pat gave me some good advice: "You are too slow and you will go broke!" I can honestly say there is nothing like a good wife to set you straight!



Dave with his 35lb Dorado

"Nowadays, I play golf with the SIR golf activity and have recently volunteered as the lead for the Branch Medical Emergency Response Team. The MERT serves as the team to coordinate medical service at our meetings until the paramedics arrive. I also recently volunteered to lead the Branch monthly New Member Orientation meeting. I enjoy deep-sea fishing usually for Marlin, Sailfish, Wahoo, Dorado, and Tuna. I am a member of the local Tournament Anglers Association and the International Game Fish Association (IGFA), a worldwide organization dedicated to protecting endangered fish species. We usually fish out of Eastcape in Baja CA Sur and abide by the catch and release policies of the IGFA. I was invited twice to the World Fishing Tournament in Cabo San Lucas as one of 34 anglers from around the world to compete in this event. It was really an

honor, but the fishing on these occasions was lousy!" "My other interests involve:

- Woodworking (A bedroom set out of pecan wood was one of my projects).

- Cars: I have a '66 Alfa Romeo (among others), am a member of the Alfa Romeo Club of Northern California, and attend the Concorso Italiano in Seaside annually. I do work on my cars and still change my own oil although crawling under cars is getting old real fast!

"I volunteer as a marshal for the AT&T Pro-Am in February (about 6 years now) and also volunteer at the Los Altos Art & Wine festival in July (I run the margarita booth with my friend Richard Moll, who was also my SIR sponsor. Come visit!).

"I enjoy music (particularly jazz), clean standup comedy, magic, and my two dogs. I like to know how things work (typical engineer) and will start taking things apart if I am not stopped! I can fix most anything unless it contains post 80's electronics.

"In closing, my message to my sons and grandsons to perhaps guide them now and in the future:

- On your journey through life you will discover that at times life is not fair. You will just have to deal with it and learn from it.
- Treat all people with respect and strive to be a Maker and not a Taker.
- Purchase wisely, and seek to never pay retail!!!"