

**Special  
AV Issue!**

## IRC: A Proven Audio-Video Solutions Provider



NY Assembly — with integrated audio and voting

The technologies that are employed to support Legislatures are many and varied including the critical elements of the voting system and voting consoles, high resolution and functioning displays, comprehensive legislative management from drafting to enactment and all processes in between. In addition, audio and video systems serve to ensure transparency and the sharing of legislative operations to the public and the media.

As many of our clients know, IRC is a proven turnkey solutions provider with success in audio-visual installations and IRC is privileged to have a professional partnership with Code 3 AV, an audio-visual

based company located in Richmond, Virginia. Having worked with Code 3 AV on a number of projects, IRC has created a process by which both companies can marshal the resources and knowledge of our respective areas to design and install top-flight audio-visual systems for the legislative environment. We are currently partnering on a project with the Mississippi Legislature.

In addition to the current work, a highlight was the challenging and rewarding project IRC and Code 3 AV tackled together for the New York Assembly. The New York project along with projects for the Alabama Senate, Iowa Senate and House, and South Dakota Senate and House will be highlighted in additional articles in this month's Tally Sheet newsletter.

As a partner with Legislatures on these audio-visual projects it is important that the client understands the qualifications of IRC as a vendor for such work. IRC offers a stable organization that has been in the field for 85 years with operational products in over 70 legislative chambers throughout the United States. IRC, a United States based company, is uniquely qualified to provide the services necessary to complete any audio-visual initial or upgrade project.

Through IRC's voting system software, we provide the ability to access the sound and camera control through the IRC voting applications, providing a sensible and economic alternative to having separate sound, camera and voting applications running on multiple computers. In a scenario where the interface is integrated with IRC's software, the infrastructure and applications are already in place on every computer that runs IRC xmLegislator™ voting applications. Any of the workstations can be easily configured to access the sound and camera control elements depending on the needs of the Chamber. From a maintenance standpoint, the advantages are clear. In plain terms, fewer points of connection between the three controlling software applications mean fewer points of failure. This helps to keep troubleshooting and system downtime to a minimum. Further, because the systems are integrated, one phone call will initiate the support scenario necessary to identify the problem, be it hardware or software, and take the necessary action to resolve the issue.



*(continued on page 3)*

Scan QR code or visit our [www.roll-call.com](http://www.roll-call.com) for more information!

## A Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you doing well and that you have had or continue to have a successful 2021 Legislative Session. In addition, and most importantly I hope you and your family, and your work family are all safe and on the road to returning to normalcy as we try to move on from the COVID-19 pandemic that has held us in its clutches this past year.

As always, I am glad for the change in the season. Spring is such a wonderful time of the year with everything coming back to life and daylight savings time providing more daylight hours! Spring also means that many of the State Legislatures are moving towards sine die or have already kicked into the interim.

We here at IRC have had an extremely busy Winter with the usual Session startups, requests for system changes, and new business. IRC installed the Virtual Voting Console (VVC) system application for remote voting in 26 legislative chambers and have more pending including local governments. If you are interested in hearing more about the VVC please reach out to discuss. In addition to the VVC work there are many other projects on the horizon for 2021 involving:

- Voting Display Board Upgrades and New Installations
- 3rd Reading Legislative Management System Development, Implementation, Upgrades, and Studies
- Audio-Visual Upgrades and Redesigns
- Display Control and Character Generator Overlay upgrades to existing video systems
- Member Voting Station Console Enhancements

IRC continues to grow and look for ways to improve all of our products that will continue to move state legislatures forward with the latest technology and services. IRC is utilizing many methods of communication to keep our current and potential clients informed. You will find information available to you from the IRC website [roll-call.com](http://roll-call.com), our social media accounts on Facebook (International Roll-Call Corporation), Twitter (@IRCVoting), and LinkedIn (International Roll-Call Corporation), President's Email Communications, and the quarterly IRC Tally Sheet newsletter.

As always, on behalf of everyone at IRC, I want to thank you for choosing us as your partner to provide and offer support for your legislative voting, audio-visual, display board, and management systems as you work to support and further the people's business in our country's state and local legislative environments.

If you have any questions, concerns, or requests, please feel free to call or email me anytime. I look forward to serving you and having a great Spring season! I also hope to see you at one of the coming NCSL conference events being scheduled this year. It will be wonderful to get back in the routine of face-to-face engagements.

With sincere appreciation,



President

*(AV Provider continued from Page 1)*

In addition to sound and camera systems, IRC offers the xmDisplay application that interfaces with a variety of chamber displays and is tailored to interact optimally with Daktronics' hi-res LED display systems. As well, the IRC xmOverlayCG system provides a versatile means of customizing text and voting system information to be overlaid on live or recorded video footage of session proceedings. Such videos can be uploaded to a web location hosted by the client or streamed live.

The existing relationship between IRC and our AV partners brings a distinct advantage to any potential project. That advantage is the experience and common understanding that we have when it comes to the architecture of sound and video control systems for the legislative environment. This includes how they are configured, and what is required to interface with them. No AV company approaches a solution in a manner identical to another and of the whole there are many, many parts. IRC provides the foundation of the interface already in place which provides for a quicker and more painless integration of sound control through the voting system. With another vendor, whose solution and components and methodology are unknown to us, the integration and successful control of the sound through the IRC software would increase cost and effort exponentially.

When you consider our past experiences installing integrated voting, sound, and video system solutions, it is our view that the most economical and expedient way to execute the integration of sound and video system control with the voting software is to allow IRC to bring the combined and considerable expertise of IRC and our AV partner to a project as a compact and unified solutions provider.

Considering needs and requirements, which state legislatures demand, there is no other company in the world who would qualify to build, install and maintain one of the most crucial aspects of the legislative process. We are the only company in the world who can provide a complete, one-stop, integrated voting, sound, video, and camera system solution. The business model we have in place is unmatched in the industry.

As we move ever further into a world where the expectation of digital media access to governmental proceedings is more and more prevalent, we at International Roll-Call® along with our audio-visual technology partners, recognize that the legislative process is not excluded from this "brave new world." In fact, the State Legislatures can play an important role by being a shining example of governmental transparency. With multiple systems in play as part of that visibility, IRC remains a one-stop-shop, turnkey legislative technology solutions provider who is always ready to help empower our customers with the tools needed to enhance the legislative process for all State Legislatures.



## Check Out the IRC Website for Product Information and More

The IRC Website [roll-call.com](http://roll-call.com) presents information on all of our current products and can be viewed under the Menu Tab Legislative Solutions ([roll-call.com/legislative-solutions](http://roll-call.com/legislative-solutions)). Here you can access information relative to xmLegislator™ Voting software, Member Voting Consoles, Chamber Display Boards (provided in an alliance with Daktronics Corporation), 3rd Reading Legislative Management System, Virtual Voting Console (VVC) System, Audio-Visual Systems, and other legislative solutions.

In addition, within the About Us menu tab ([roll-call.com/about](http://roll-call.com/about)) you may access information about IRC's history, the IRC Team, the Tally Sheet newsletter (under Roll-Call 411 - [roll-call.com/about/roll-call-411](http://roll-call.com/about/roll-call-411)), and client-specific product installs accessible via the Where in the USA is IRC? map or list links ([roll-call.com/about/where-in-the-usa-is-irc](http://roll-call.com/about/where-in-the-usa-is-irc)).



## In the Spotlight

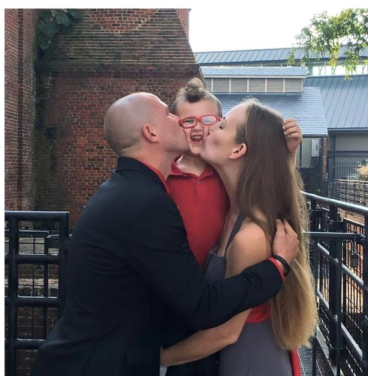
### Ryan Babcock, Product Manager — Voting Solutions

In the movie *Forrest Gump*, there is often heard the line, "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you are gonna get." Life's box of chocolates is filled with an assortment and every time you pick one you are hoping that the experience will be a delight and make you want to pick another and another. Well, in 2012, International Roll-Call® Corporation reached into the box and extended an offer to Ryan Babcock to begin work as a technician and from that moment IRC knew it had found a gem of a chocolate in the world of voting system technicians. From the outset, it was evident that Ryan possessed an eagerness to learn coupled with an effortless grasp of the voting system equipment and legislative environment, a commitment to service and support of legislatures and their rigorous Session schedules, and a desire to grow in the company. Little did the world of legislative voting know that in less than ten (10) years Ryan's talents would be recognized and he would quickly rise to the position of Product Manager – Voting Solutions.

Ryan's role on the IRC team as Product Manager - Voting Solutions is to provide management, maintenance, and installation support for IRC's Voting Solutions customers in over 70 legislative chambers across the country. Ryan is well-versed in the architecture and function of both the SCU-9000 and current VSCU-1000 voting systems, both the VB6 and the new xmLegislator.NET™ Voting Software, and has been instrumental in the development and installation of the Virtual Voting Console (VVC) system application currently installed in 26 legislative chambers. Ryan's skillset is diverse but what makes him stand out in working with legislative members and staff is his ability to relate to the customer and listen to their concerns and suggestions. Ryan is also careful to take the time to understand their respective functions in the legislative process and how those roles relate to the voting system product.

Given Ryan's approach and his work ethic, it is no surprise that you will find military experience on his resume of qualifications. Ryan, an admirer of General George S. Patton, has worn the cloth of his country as an Army combat veteran, having served in Iraq during "Operation Iraqi Freedom" (OIF) from 2005-2007. You can find a bit of George Patton living in Ryan as he practices the mantras of the general's such as "[d]o everything you ask of those you command," "[i]f everybody is thinking alike, then somebody isn't thinking," and "[n]ever tell people how to do things; tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity." Ryan's patriotic principles and service to country shine through in his work with state legislatures in ensuring continuity of government and the American legislative process.

Ryan has a diverse set of interests that occupy his time when not in the office or traveling the country in support of IRC's voting system products. Ryan enjoys building and modifying automobiles especially those that qualify as vintage. He can often be spotted rolling up to the office in his classic burgundy 1994 Cadillac Hearse. Ryan is an avid hunter and fisherman and a collector of vinyl records. He also enjoys a fine bourbon, the smell and taste of bacon in the morning, games of *Dungeon and Dragons*, and the music of the Beatles. In addition to these hobbies and interests, Ryan loves spending time with his beautiful wife of seven years, Kara, and their son, Gauge. If you hear Ryan speak of his mistress, he is of course referring to his love of IRC, as he is devoted to the company and never hesitates to faithfully place the needs of any of his clients first, providing a 365/24/7 support schedule.



## ONE PIECE AT A TIME: INCREMENTAL SOUND SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE ALABAMA SENATE AND SOUTH DAKOTA LEGISLATURE

Funding for state legislatures is always tight and almost always a fluid situation. Monies allotted today may be reappropriated for another purpose tomorrow (or at least Session to Session). It is in the face of this reality that IRC is often called upon to engineer system improvements that are partial or incremental in nature with the goal of improving overall system performance while retaining the often-costly back-end foundation of a sound system.

When considering projects of this nature that IRC and our AV partner Code 3 AV have undertaken, the state legislative chambers of South Dakota and the Alabama Senate come to mind.

In the Alabama Senate, the project scope of work was relatively simple. With the age and positioning of the existing Chamber speakers, the sound in the Chamber was carrying unevenly, making it difficult for members and others in the Senate Chamber to hear the sound being output through the two existing P.A. (public address) speakers. After a careful evaluation by the AV system experts at Code 3 AV, IRC coordinated the design and on-site implementation of two new beam-forming, aimable speaker arrays that were added to the mix that would interface with the existing sound system and P.A. speakers. This viable audio solution would vastly improve the clarity and volume of the sound experience within the Senate Chamber. *(continued on page 6)*



Alabama Senate — Existing P.A. (public address) speakers to the upper left and right of rostrum while new, taller aimable speaker arrays are positioned lower to better broadcast sound to those listening anywhere on the chamber floor.

### WHAT'S COOKING AT IRC?

#### Malted Milk Ice Cream

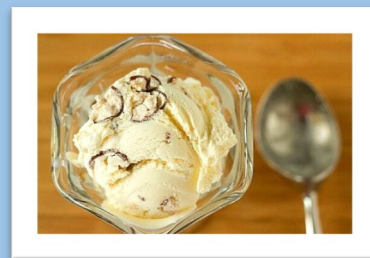
(submitted by Allen Smothers)

#### INGREDIENTS:

1 cup half-and-half  
 ¾ cup granulated sugar  
 Pinch of salt  
 2 cups heavy cream  
 ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract  
 2/3 cup malt powder  
 6 egg yolks  
 2 cups malted milk balls  
 (Whoppers, coarsely chopped)

#### DIRECTIONS:

1. Warm the half-and-half, sugar and salt in a medium saucepan. In a large bowl, whisk together the heavy cream, vanilla and malt powder and set a mesh strainer on top.
2. In a separate medium bowl, whisk together the egg yolks. Slowly pour the warm mixture in the egg yolks, whisking constantly, then scrape the warmed egg yolks back into the saucepan.
3. Stir the mixture constantly over medium heat with a heatproof spatula, scraping the bottom as you stir, until the mixture thickens and coats the spatula. Pour the custard through the strainer and whisk it into the malted milk mixture. Stir until cool over an ice bath.
4. Chill the mixture thoroughly in the refrigerator, then freeze it in your ice cream maker according to the manufacturer's instructions. As you remove the ice cream from the machine, fold in the chopped malted milk balls.



*(Incremental Improvements continued from page 5)*

In the science of acoustics and sound engineering, “beam-forming” is a signal processing technique that obtains directional signal transmission from an array of sensors. The system is then able to shape the reception of the sound patterns by controlling the phase and amplitude differences between the many sound elements being broadcast. In short, it transforms an acoustical disadvantage into an advantage, providing a clear and dynamic sound experience to the listener.

In the South Dakota Senate and House of Representatives, the solution to their sound woes was more robust but was still built upon retaining the back-end of the existing sound system. Our AV partner Code 3 AV recommended and designed an improved sound experience that included new multi-channel signal processing equipment and distribution amplifiers designed to not only interact properly with the other new sound components but to better manage and refine the functions of existing speakers in the chamber. By the end of the project, not only had the system foundation been streamlined but new gooseneck condenser microphones and speakers were installed at every member desk and the balcony (gallery) speakers were upgraded to provide a clearer and more discernable sound experience to members of the public. Echo cancellation was also implemented later.

As is evidenced by these examples, sound improvements do not always equate to a wholesale replacement of a sound system and all of its foundational equipment. Quite often, IRC and our partners at Code 3 AV can augment a problematic sound system, improving the sound experience for those in a committee room or legislative chamber by leaps and bounds—all without straining the legislative budget.

## Announcing the David A. Ward ASLCS Technology and Innovation Scholarship

International Roll-Call® Corporation (IRC) is proud to announce that the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries (ASLCS) Executive Committee has agreed to the creation of the David A. Ward Technology and Innovation Scholarship. The scholarship, funded by IRC, is provided to assist Associate members with the cost associated with attending the annual ASLCS Professional Development Seminar.

It is in recognition and honor of David's many contributions to the advancement of the legislative institution and to the Society that this Associate member scholarship is established. Per the ASLCS Standing Orders, the David A. Ward Technology and Innovation Scholarship will be awarded annually to no more than two Associate members of the Society. The scholarship will be in the amount of \$1,500 for a single recipient or \$750 for each of two recipients. Please refer to the ASLCS Standing Orders for the specific requirements to apply for consideration of the scholarship.

David, who passed away in 2008, was the president of International Roll-Call Corporation and a dedicated contributor to the work and programs of ASLCS. His experience in the legislative voting system industry improved the operations not only of the Society but also of over 70 state legislative chambers and six international parliaments.



David Ward receiving an ASLCS Certificate of Recognition, in 2002, presented to International Roll-Call® Corporation from ASLCS President Judy Hall.

*(Continued on page 7)*

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***(David A. Ward Scholarship continued from page 6)***

David's wife Deborah "Debbie" Ward, is the former Clerk of the Maine House of Representatives. David's son David A. Ward, Jr. works for IRC in Client Relations and Operation Support. Other family members are children, Karen Scapellato and her husband, Dan, Pamela Renfrow and her husband, James, David A. Ward Jr.'s wife, Sharon, Amanda Stanchek, and Sam Wood; and five grandchildren, Dylan and Emily Renfrow, Gina Scapellato, Kate Stanchek and Abby Ward.

In addition to his service to the legislative voting system industry and state legislatures, David was president of Ward and Stencil Construction Company, DLD and Associates and former owner of Stillmeadows Farm. He was a U.S. Army veteran with the 101st Airborne Screaming Eagles; a member of the Richmond Area Municipal Contractors Association; and served as treasurer, secretary and chair and received the Contractor of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award. He was on the Advisory Committee for the State Corporation Commission. He was appointed by Virginia Governor James Gilmore to the State Board of Contractors, and member and chair of the Board of Directors of Virginia Utility Protection Service. He was a member of the National Board of Directors of the National Utility Contractors Association and the member of the Ut Prosim Society of Virginia Tech. He was the chief financial officer of the non-profit organization, TLC Global, which benefits children; past president of the Capital Horse Show Association; and a partner in the Brandermill Country Club.

As President of International Roll-Call® Corporation, David forged relationships with legislatures and legislative clerks and secretaries across the country and internationally, reaching a high water-mark of working with 73 state legislative chambers and six international parliaments prior to his death. He was instrumental in the implementation of state-of-the-art legislative solutions both for voting systems and complete legislative process management solutions. David continually advocated for the growth of the legislative technologies to help spread the advancement of democracy throughout the world in both established and developing legislative institutions.

IRC is extremely grateful to ASLCS for their consideration and agreement to making this scholarship available in David's memory.

## New York Assembly's Custom Sound and Voting Integration

When it came time for the New York Assembly to update the systems in the Assembly Chamber, including both voting and audio, IRC and our AV partner Code 3 AV worked with the Assembly to implement improvements over two separate phases. The first phase of the project focused heavily on the back-end audio processing equipment such as the mice line inputs, signal processing, amplifiers, and speakers located at the rostrum, the rear and sides of the chamber as well as the balcony gallery. It also included reworking the Request to Speak (RTS) function so that it would integrate with the new sound processing components and the RTS module of IRC's voting software.



An important aspect of the first phase of the sound system updates was Code 3 AV and IRC's design and execution of a custom mix-minus system with the new back-end equipment. In sound engineering terminology, a mix-minus system solves the echoes and feedback problems often encountered in large rooms with multiple microphones. In a mix-minus system where each member desk has a speaker and a microphone, the system adjusts automatically whenever a member microphone is "hot" and avoids feedback issues by muting the nearby speakers at other desks. This type of system provides an overall clearer sound experience for members in the chamber, eliminating feedback and minimizing echo as the sound is broadcast over the system.



In the second phase of improvements, IRC and Code 3 AV collaborated on a custom member console to replace the old console (see photo to the left). The newly designed console (see photo top right) is modularly constructed to provide for quick and easy serviceability. It also integrates the voting and request to speak functions into the same chassis as power access and the console speaker. For the microphone, IRC and Code 3 AV consulted with component manufacturer Audix to fabricate a custom microphone per the specifications to match the correct length, material, function, and range of movement needed by the Assembly. When not in use, these gooseneck style microphones rest in a position parallel to the console and, when the member's RTS is acknowledged and is speaking, the microphone

allow for them to be repositioned or "aimed" toward the member. Wrapping up the second phase was the integration of all sound functions and control into IRC's xmLegislator™ Voting Software, which provides a single platform from which to manage the communication between the sound and voting.

While the extensive customization and integration of multiple systems into a single console package was unprecedented in IRC's 85 years of experience, the resulting console has proven to be a welcome update to the Assembly voting and sound systems that support their legislative process. We at IRC and the engineers at our AV partner Code 3 AV are quite proud of the voting and sound system improvements provided to the New York Assembly and know that the systems will continue to serve them very well for many years to come.

**SAVE THE DATES!**

**SUMMIT**

NOV. 3-5, 2021  
TAMPA, FL

**BASECAMP**

AUG. 3-5, 2021  
ONLINE EVENT

**REGISTRATIONS OPEN IN JUNE**

## Video/Camera Control and Integration in the Iowa Legislature



**Video Operator position with joystick and software Control**

Due to the onward march of new technology and video processing standards and capabilities, International Roll-Call recently replaced the video and automated camera system in both chambers of the Iowa State Legislature.

To accomplish this, we once again looked to our AV partners Code 3 AV to evaluate, advise, and help design a system suitable to the needs of the Iowa Legislature. As a result of the phasing out for support and replacement of a number of the back-end video system components, the most efficient approach in this case was to remove and replace all elements of the video and automated camera system.

In the updated system, IRC and Code 3 AV employed a number of automatic and remotely controlled cameras (6 in the House and 5 in the Senate) to capture the footage of a session day from multiple vantage points. Largely, the automated cameras work alongside the sound and xmLegislator™ voting systems to recognize when a member is speaking—the main trigger event to have the appropriate camera pointed at them. In the situation of floor debate, two or more cameras are often used. Although automated via presets, the Video Operator always has the ability to adjust or completely override the automation should there be a need.

*(Continued on page 10)*

### Did You Know...?

IRC's legislative video display board partner, Daktronics, played a role in the 1980 Olympic Winter Games, in Lake Placid, New York. Daktronics supplied the scoreboards and displays used at the Games, including the scoreboard at the historic ice hockey venue where the underdog USA hockey team, made up of college players, defeated the four-time defending gold-medal winning Soviet URS team by a score of 4-3 in front of a frenzied crowd of 10,000 fans to win a shot at the gold. Two days later, the Americans defeated Finland 4-2 to clinch the hockey gold. Daktronics now has part of this historic hockey scoreboard hanging in the Daktronics museum.

Howard Jorenby, IRC Senior Hardware Engineer and former Daktronics Engineer, notes that this portion of the ice hockey scoreboard is actually just one side of a 4-sided center-hung scoreboard. He also notes that there is supposed to be a trumpet from a trumpet horn at the top center of each face of the scoreboard but apparently it is missing on this face in the Daktronics museum (see photo on page 10). The scoreboard's four panels can be found at the Daktronics museum, the Lake Placid Olympic Museum, the New York State Museum, and USA Hockey.

*(Continued on page 10)*



From left: Jim Morgan (Board Member and retired President of Daktronics), Buzz Schneider (Left Winger for the 1980 USA Olympic Hockey team) and Ted Blazer (retired President and CEO of the Lake Placid Olympic Regional Development Authority) stand in front of the 1980 scoreboard prior to dismantling.

*(Iowa Video Integration Continued from page 9)*

From the vantage point of the Video Operator, several scenarios and the camera needs have been pre-defined within in the system (such as debate, opening prayer, or Governor’s address) and the operator need only click an icon on the desktop to run the custom camera routines designed for that day’s circumstance. This increases efficiency while also allowing for the very human element of interpretation and modification by the Video Operator.

Upon capture, the footage is sent to the video indexing system and then broadcast throughout the Capitol building as well as uploaded to the Legislature’s website for public viewing. Additionally, the video footage is accompanied by text overlay from IRC’s xmOverlayCG system, which is a character generation system designed and streamlined by IRC especially for the legislative environment.

As with all aspects of the IRC and Code 3 AV designed AV systems, the Iowa Legislature’s video and automated camera system are a critical aspect of governmental transparency to the public and the members’ constituents. Because of IRC’s deep understanding of the legislative process and the expertise of our AV partner, we were able to design and implement a system tailored in every aspect to the needs of the Senate and House with plenty of room for augmentation and modification as the system carries the chambers into the future.



*(Did You Know? Continued from page 9)*



In 1980, Jorenby stood on "the ice" and soldered light bulbs in the team name sections, the sections to the left and right of the PERIOD panel, and according to him, "got cold feet in the process."

Jorenby further added that "the Lake Placid hockey rink had heavy plywood panels surrounding the ice with clear plex panels above them. During the pre-game trials in 1979, one of the Russian hockey players put a foot thru the plywood. 'I saw the hole; it was a bit intimidating that these Russian guys were strong and serious.' However, as the USA-URS game result demonstrated on that historic February 1980 night, strength was not everything."

Jorenby further commented on his experience at Lake Placid, "Back in 1980, security was extremely serious at the 1980 Winter Olympics as a result of the 1972 Munich Olympic Summer Games massacre. Jim Morgan, VP of Daktronics at the time, and I were walking thru the hockey facility past the locker rooms as the Games were starting. There were maybe 8 or 12 locker rooms down the hallway. At each and every locker room door there was a uniformed officer that made most NFL linebackers look small and short, and each one had a big service revolver very visible. There was absolutely nothing and no one else in the hallway, not even a gum wrapper. I turned to Jim Morgan and I said: 'Either we are in the safest place in the world or we better get out of here in a hurry'."

Coincidentally, Jorenby wrote the control programs for all eight outdoor scoreboards at the 1980 Olympic Winter Games.

Without a doubt, it proves to be a fond memory for Jorenby that he was an integral part of setting the stage upon which "the Miracle on Ice" played out that magical, unforgettable night.

## At Ease with IRC: Roll-Call President Bill Schaeffer's 1930 Model A Restoration

In this issue of the IRC Tally Sheet, we are christening a new periodic feature that will highlight personal projects of IRC staff. Amongst many hobbies and relaxing past times, IRC President Bill Schaeffer has a fondness for vintage automobiles, classic trains, and grand pianos; collecting Hollywood movie and sports nostalgia, reciting classic movie lines and theme songs; and relaxing and enjoying a fine bourbon and cigar by the pool. The inaugural article will focus on Bill's restoration of a 1930 Ford Model A Coupe.



Bill in 2012 unloading the 1930 Model A into the garage to begin restoration.

What's the back story? Well, back in 2012, Bill had gotten word that there might be a Model A or T car stored away in a garage located at an old wood mill about an hour south of Richmond, Virginia. After making the drive into some very rural country, including about 10 miles down a dusty dirt road, Bill eventually pulled up to a shed at the old wood mill. He immediately noticed a large, overgrown tree that was blocking the shed doors. He peered inside a dust covered window and was astonished at what he saw: a classic but neglected and undrivable 1930 Ford Model A Coupe. From the size of the tree and the condition of the car the doors had probably been shut and the shed unused for over 50 years.

Well, if you know Bill that tree couldn't come down fast enough in order for him to get those shed doors open to take a closer look at that classic Henry Ford creation. After seeing the Model A frame up close, immediate visions of the Great Gatsby's exploits in West Egg danced in Bill's head. He knew that there was no way he would leave that wood mill property without that car. Bill immediately made a deal to purchase the car for \$500, had it loaded on a trailer, and headed back to Richmond determined to restore the vehicle back to its 1930 pristine luxury.

Of course, Bill was envisioning driving this classic on the roads of Virginia and in every classic parade that would allow him entry, in vintage apparel no doubt. Once back in Richmond, Bill began meticulously working to restore the car. Well, life and work got in the way and before he knew it six years had passed without much progress. Then, as fate would have it, Bill was fortunate to find out that an IRC employee's father-in-law was a restorer of classic automobiles. Bill reached out to Ray Robertson and they struck a deal to restore the car to its 1930 look. Ray took off on the project like the workers on a Ford assembly line and within twelve months had completed the Model A. To watch Ray work on the car was a joy, a true labor of love. No detail was missed including adding the car horn, windshield wiper, rumble seat, and exterior luggage rack. Now restored, the Model A can reach 45 MPH and is a sight to behold as Bill motors down local roads or, sometimes, just up and down his driveway. When the grandchildren are in town, Bill can be found giving rides around the neighborhood.



Bill seen here taking the Model A out for a spin around the neighborhood

The Model A was just an incredibly simple design and is built to run forever. While such a vintage motorcar certainly evokes the sleek and timeless styles of a bygone era, Bill would assure you that memories will continue to be made in this classic automobile.