



25th Anniversary Newsletter

25th Anniversary Committee
August 1998



JL
8/28/98

25th Anniversary Committee Message

The U.S. Geological Survey EROS Data Center will recognize its 25th anniversary by hosting an Open House on Saturday, September 19, 1998. The theme of the celebration is "Exploring a Changing Planet." Events that day will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The public will have full access to the Center, including an opportunity to see the massive data archives, which hold the world's largest collection of civilian satellite images and aerial photographs. Educational exercises for exploring the Earth, designed for middle school age children, will be available. Displays of satellite images from around the world will show how information available from the Center is used for environmental studies and for monitoring the effects of natural and man made actions to the land mass of the planet. Visitors will also be able to tour the advanced computer facilities being prepared for the next generation of Earth observing satellites to be launched in 1999.

A special guest for the day will be a former NASA astronaut, Dr. Mary Cleave. Dr. Cleave will participate in the Open House and offer comments in a public forum on her experiences as a Mission Specialist on the Space Shuttle. Entertaining activities planned in addition to the scientific and technical activities, include a fun run; Native American dancers; skydivers; tethered hot air balloon rides; music by Stephen Marq, David Lee Brown, and Leftbank Jazz Society; ham radio operators; military equipment; fingerprinting identification service; and even a few clowns. Everything is free of charge except for food and soft drinks, which will be available at the food court. The day is planned for family education (about the planet Earth) and for fun.

Visit the 25th anniversary web page for more information:

http://edcwww/25years/ex25_net3.html

Road Race

A 5K Run and a 2.5K Fun Run/Walk will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 19, as part of the USGS EROS Data Center's 25th Anniversary Celebration. All employees and their family members are encouraged to participate in the Run or Fun Run/Walk. All registered participants will receive a gift and random drawings will be held for unique EDC gifts. Check out the URL below for more details or call John Faunden at ext. #6092 with questions.

<http://edcwww.cr.usgs.gov/25years/race.html>

Open House Event Schedule

Indoor Activities

Exhibits	9:00-3:00
Hands-on Demonstrations	9:00-3:00
Educational Booths	9:00-3:00
Self Guided Tours	9:00-2:00
Movie Loop	9:00-3:00

Outdoor Activities

5K Run/2.5K Fun Run/Walk	8:00-9:00
Food Court	9:00-3:00
Hot Air Balloon	9:00-11:00
Music by Leftbank Jazz Society	9:00-9:45
5K/2.5K Awards	10:00-10:15
Flandreau Indian School Dancers	10:15-10:45
Guest Speaker: Dr. Mary Cleave	11:00 and 1:00
Sky Divers	11:45-Noon
Children's Music by David Lee Brown	Noon-12:45
Music by Stephen Marq	2:00-2:45

Post 25th Celebration EDCAA "Social"

This year's annual EDCAA "Summer Gathering" will be held Saturday, September 19, on the EDC grounds picnic area. Rather than the traditional summer picnic, i.e., food, dunk tank, face painting, games, more games, etc., EDCAA volunteers have organized a summer gathering that is best described as a "Social." The Social is FREE and is for all employees, along with their family, friends, and colleagues. The Social follows a long day of hard work and fun at the 25th Anniversary Open House. We encourage everyone to attend to relax, unwind, and take time to personally celebrate EDC's rich 25-year history. The Social starts at 4:00 p.m.. Dinner (pork and turkey sandwiches, potato salad, macaroni salad, chips, and cookies) will be served, along with plenty of "beverages" around 6:00 p.m. No kids or adult games have been planned or organized; however, the volleyball and "new" basketball courts will be set-up and the softball bats and balls will be set out if anyone wants to start a pick up game. We will have tables and chairs set-up, under a canopy, but you may want to bring lawn chairs and/or blankets. Finally, we still need volunteers for the Social; please contact Becky Foster at ext. #6023, if you can help. This is your time to relax and socialize and simply have fun.

EROS History Book

The EROS history book, What It Took: A History of the USGS EROS Data Center, by Rebecca L. Johnson, commemorates the 25th Anniversary of EDC. We've been anxiously awaiting delivery of the books. We received word that the books are done, and will be delivered by August 27. Thanks to the generous contributions of many friends of EROS, including RSTX and VESCO, each EDC employee will receive a copy of the book. These copies will be distributed at an All-Hands Meeting on Monday, September 14. Also, the book is being offered as a sale item by the EDC Activities Association. If you have ordered additional copies of the book, you will receive your copies early next week, or sooner. If you haven't ordered additional copies, please do! They will make great gifts. Again, you'll be able to see and touch the books soon! Funds raised from book sales will be used to defray costs of the 25th Anniversary Celebration, Open House, and Employee Social on September 19.

Search for "Veterans"...

The 25th Anniversary Old Timers Committee compiled an "Old Timers" mailing list intended to include two groups: "Downtowners"- employees who worked at the temporary Center in downtown Sioux Falls, and "Veterans"- employees with 20 years or more of service at the EDC. The list was assembled from several sources, and a few names were inadvertently omitted. Particularly difficult to capture were those employees who were hired in 1976, 1977 or 1978, or contractor employees who later became federal employees.

If you worked downtown in the original Data Center, or if you have 20 or more years of service, and DID NOT receive an invitation letter from Don Lauer, please e-mail Denny Hood or call him at ext.#6547, and give him your name and address. If you have already responded to our e-mail message, you need not respond again.

Founder's Info

During the Open House on Saturday, September 19, the Main Conference Room will be set aside as a gathering place for Founders, Downtowners and Veterans. Two activities are planned that will provide an opportunity for you to contribute. First, if you have any photos, news clippings, or "scrapbooks" of EDC people or activities, please bring them to the gathering place to share with friends and colleagues. Second, we plan to have a booth set up with a video camera and/or a tape recorder so that anyone who wants to may relate their stories, experiences, and memories regarding life and work at the EDC. So dig through your closets, storage rooms and minds, and help all of us to make this 25th Anniversary Celebration truly memorable.

Education Activities

The underlying theme of the 25th Celebration is education related to EDC activities. A litho showing Sioux Falls (using aerial photo mosaics and Landsat data) has been prepared. That, and a complementary teacher's lesson plan, will be available to regional middle schools. The objective is to teach young people how the data from the Center are used for environmental studies. A number of school systems have invited EDC staff to explain the lithos and 25th anniversary events at in-service workshops before the school year.

Education activities will also be taking place the day of the Open House. There will be many "hands-on" booths aimed at educating the public on various topics dealing with our work here at the Data Center. There will also be certain booths outlining the reception, processing, archiving, and analysis of an image that are aimed at middle-school aged students. The children can get a passport that describes the activities and guides them through the booths. After participating in the activity at each booth, their passport will get stamped. Once they have received a stamp from each booth, they will receive a globe ball as a prize.

Art Contest

The EDCAA has sponsored a juried art show as part of the 25th Anniversary Celebration. During June, a call went out to artists inviting them to submit works representing the theme of "Exploring A Changing Planet." Cash prizes were awarded to the top three artists and the winning work, "Colorado River Canyon," by Pierre, South Dakota, photographer Jill Kokesh, is part of a 25th anniversary commemorative poster. In addition, judges selected 12 works for display at the Center during the month of September.

Promotions

Public Service announcements have gone to over 40 outlets. The series of 6 posters have been placed in many regional public buildings. In the next week, two publications, Family Time and South Dakota Magazine, will carry stories. Page size copies of three of the posters will be available to middle school students as reminders of the events. Upcoming promotional activities include distribution of press kits and press releases to major news outlets and area newspapers, and anticipated interviews with key event planners. Raytheon has purchased two billboards (S. Cliff and 12th, and W. 12th and Grange.) and an Argus Leader newspaper ad, planned for release shortly before the EROS Week.

Volunteers

We still need volunteers for the Open House. Contact Brenda Jones at ext. #6503. Remember, all Open House volunteers get a free t-shirt.