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## Partner Corner by Chrissie Wootton

Now I know a number of you have been watching the news this summer with anxiety and concern. I too have been more keenly aware of the civil unrest, geo-political disputes and financial infighting we've seen which amounts to nothing more than a bunch of self-indulged blowhards with the maturity of a third grader...for me it can all mean only one thing....Yep, that's right...it is time....to go back to school!!!! (Cue the *Jaws* theme music and scream!)

You can almost hear the kiddos' collective groans and moans as they prepare for school clothes, teacher assignments and homeroom supply lists.

I remember what that was like at my house each summer. Having to break the "out late/sleep-ins" and get back to the up-early/"good starts". Having to perfect my hair and makeup routine to assure an extra 10 minutes of sleep on school mornings and convincing my summer bare feet that shoes were required. I watched helplessly as the calendar roared past the fun of Fourth of July right into the "first day" blues.

Even parents aren't immune...even though moms and dads get a bit of a break from their summer "cruise activity director" duties; they are thrust back into the evening carpool, coaching and homework cajoling chaos that rings in the school year. Gone are the Disneyland adventures, cross country car trips and lazy days with nothing scheduled...

Sure it is not all bad - reconnecting with friends, catching up on gossip and ...oh yeah... learning, which, I guess, is why we really bemoan the end of summer anyway.

We've all just spent the last few months in our freedom frenzy doing exactly what we want to do - chasing, playing, snoozing, swimming, and reading books that were not assigned.

Sometimes the thought of having to sit still, listen, study, prepare papers and play nice with others just sounds too much like work and not freedom at all (maybe that is why our political leaders are no good at it either this time of year??).

As my nephew, Evan, reminded me during an end of summer visit, "Aunt Chrissie, I've got to go back to school, how else will I get to the 4th grade?!"

I hope your summer ends on a high note, and you get a great start on the school year! Enjoy this month's newsletter...where you'll learn what some of us did over the summer.



## Partnering Up With VMware by Jason Barker

Titan Consulting is proud to announce its recent partnership with VMware (Ticker: VMW). Titan Consulting, a leader in SAP consulting, and VMware, the best-of-breed virtualization product suite in the market today, have joined together to serve those companies that have faced the reality of less money for racks and racks of physical servers, yet demand more from their SAP investment.

IT professionals in leadership roles, or those that are responsible for a budget, are looking for ways to cut costs and yet still provide better service. Through virtualization with VMware, clients can leverage functionalities such as high availability and disaster recovery. At the same time, CIOs are able to decrease SAP data center costs for space, hardware, energy use, and labor.

Warren Norris, Managing Partner at Titan said, "As our clients continue the move toward virtualization, the logical next step is their Tier 1 ERP systems like SAP. Titan's clients are looking to decrease TCO and improve performance through VMware's products, yet want the comfort of working with SAP experts like those at Titan. The partnership makes perfect sense for our clients".

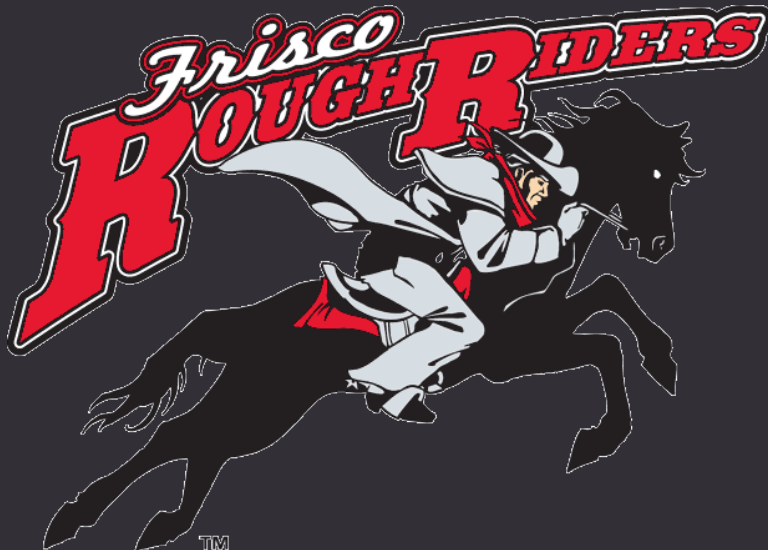
Companies that have migrated their SAP environment from physical to virtual are seeing increased resource utilization up to and including production environments. Benchmark tests on VMware vSphere have recently been published. The results - 16,000 SD users and 87,800 SAPS show that large numbers of SAP users can be supported in a virtual environment spread across many hosts with great performance.

The bottom line – VMware helps its clients run their SAP environment better, faster or cheaper depending on their current state, and Titan Consulting provides its SAP clients with the expertise and peace of mind to get there.

[Click here](#) to visit VMware on the web.

Quote from VMware...

*"At VMware, we are excited about our new partnership with Titan Consulting. As our customers plan to move their SAP landscapes to the VMware platform, most will be looking for guidance. Having the experience they do, Titan stands ready to help VMware users with these migrations".*



## Get your Baseball Tickets!

Titan Consulting has season tickets to the Frisco Roughriders, the AA affiliate of the Texas Rangers.

We have 5 seats, behind home plate; Section 116. The tickets include a parking pass, and free food and beverages! You can choose to eat and drink at any of the Founder's locations.

These are available on a first come first serve basis. In the past these have gone fairly quick

If you would like any of these tickets please contact Jennifer Caddell to see which nights are still available – [jennifer@titanconsulting.net](mailto:jennifer@titanconsulting.net)

We hope that you will enjoy your time watching the RoughRiders this year!

Day	Month	Date	Opponent	Time
Tuesday	August	23	San Antonio	7:00 PM
Wednesday	August	24	San Antonio	7:00 PM
Thursday	August	25	San Antonio	7:00 PM
Saturday	September	3	Midland	7:00 PM
Monday	September	5	Midland	6:00 PM

## Diving into Vacation by Leigh Ann Pauly

Every worthwhile project seems to have late night meetings, early morning havoc, and a two feet together giant leap into the abyss. I have learned to take this too far and now create vacations that mirror my work life.

Excellent project planning had us fly out of Denver to Virginia, drop off the children with their grandparents and eat dinner with the family of our dive buddies late into the first evening of this vacation. We would leave their house for Miami at 4 am the next morning headed to Bonaire, a diver's paradise just north of Venezuela. Our travels forced us to connect in Miami and again in Curacao before reaching Bonaire. So far this plan seemed tedious, but safer than our last dive trip with the same dive buddies, in which, we found ourselves bouncing through the forests of the Yucatan peninsula while standing in the back of a truck that was not hindered by the weight of any sheet metal following a path to the cenotes.

As we waited in Curacao it seemed harmless enough that we struck up a conversation with a fellow passenger. The usual pleasantries and a beer or two were exchanged. He and his father were travelling together and they lived in Bonaire for part of the year. Yes, we were divers too. Yes, we had bought the *Bonaire Shore Diving Made Easy* guide by Susan Porter, another local of Bonaire. It seemed that we were all set. Just one more thing, Bonaire is one of the few places in the world where you can shore dive without a guide and no boat is needed for over half of the dive sites. No boats means no schedule. "Have you ever done a dawn dive?" Interesting. He went on to convince us that the several "leap" dives available were great fun.

At long last we arrived in Bonaire and our hotel had arranged to pick us up in our dive truck (this one had sheet metal). All we needed to do was check in at the dive shop in the morning and they would get us our first set of tanks. We could dive any site along the road that was marked with a yellow rock dropping off and picking up fresh air tanks along the way. The freedom of diving without the boat was amazing. Anywhere you could park there was a reef not more than a hundred yards away. On the other hand, we took a few deep breaths knowing that we had no dive master and had to get ourselves back to the truck as one team. It turns out we are pretty good dive planners and always came up exactly at the truck. We found wrecks, sea turtles and huge eels. Corals bigger than I am, lined a double reef at a place called Alice in Wonderland. That was day one of shore diving made easy.

My great aunt Annie, once told me that sleep was something you should save for workday nights, never on vacation. Vacation was your time and should be packed full to the very last minute. By Annie's mantra, a dawn dive was not to be missed. Soon enough, we planned a 5:30 am wakeup call and were ready to get in the water at place called "the Cliffs" at 5:45. A dawn dive awaited. In retrospect, I would recommend finding a dive site named "the smooth beach with no waves that will NOT knock you over in all of your dive gear, skin your knees and drag you out to the drop site before

coffee." After all four of us reached the drop site, the skies were still a deep dark night, we met at 35 feet below the dark surface. Just then as you looked up you could see a light sky forming – the reef started to come alive. Brittle stars and eels went back into their hiding holes and fish began to dart around. The sunrise was amazingly slow from under the water. Liz shined her light on my knee and gave the hand symbol for I hope that doesn't attract the creepy tarpon that swim around here. My husband gave the sign for look at that big tarpon. These are huge prehistoric looking fish. Luckily they were more interested in eating the fish that the dawn and our dive lights were illuminating. Swimming with these creatures in the first light of the morning was worth the big wave. We opted for night dives rather than pre-dawn dives from there on, but those too offered some interesting tarpon encounters.

There is only one way to end a vacation like this, jump off a rock in all of your dive gear with both feet. "Oil Slick Leap" is a dive site where the water has carved a deep channel near an overhanging rock. Most divers, dawn their gear and leap from the rock. If you are timid there is a ladder- but the leap is far more fun. We did this in the sun and full visibility. At the drop off the reef has a sloping wall and we found a huge school of blue tangs and jacks. Watching them glide over coral heads peacefully will bring us back to the ocean, maybe even Bonaire again.

Late nights, early mornings, giant leaps. Any day at the beach, is better (and has more tarpon) than a day at the office.



## Part II

The kick off to this particular adventure started on a plane ride to Boise, Idaho more than ten years ago. I was flipping through the new airplane magazine in the seat back pocket in front of me, mildly impressed that they had finally replaced the ragged copy of the last four weeks, when low and behold the turquoise waters of the Caribbean were highlighted yet again. After flying to Boise for the better part of the year, a dive trip seemed in order. I read on. The author had found a place in Mexico that was way off the beaten path, where your cell phone won't work and forget about wi-fi. Here the Spanish fleet had fallen upon an atoll in a hurricane and sunk, leaving behind forty cannons and a spectacular dive site. To the South of this little spot one would find the blue hole and to the North the dive mecca of Cozumel. The entire strip is part of the second longest reef in the world and known as Chinchorro Banks. Perfect- I like going to the middle of nowhere.

The trouble is that you have to charter the one and only dive company out of a five house town in the last city in Mexico before Belize to get there. Time to assemble the project team. My trusty dive partner and husband was immediately assigned to a lead role in the project management team. He staffed the project with two of our best friends and we built a project plan to head South. Childcare management was immediately outsourced to grandparents. The project proceeded according to plan, two planes landed in Cancun, a car was hired and progress was made to head to the first stage gate- a hotel in Playa del Carmen that serves seafood fajitas on the beach. Approving the progress made so far, the steering committee made the executive decision (cold beer in hand) to have a second check point at the cenotes several hours south of Playa the following day. Cenotes are caves where divers and snorkelers can see stalagmites and stalactites under crystal clear fresh water. Bouncing along through the forest while standing up in the back of a truck with no sheet metal, I can see my friends smiling nervously- especially my dive buddy husband. The driver found the cenotes after one small break down. The water was amazing and the familiar dive feeling of floating through the cave was worth the sketchy ride. We were all convinced that this would be the greatest vacation yet. Also that the A- team was running the cenotes operation.

One wrong turn and a military checkpoint later brought us to the town of Xcalak. We planned a check out dive first and would then head to the banks after we had our sea legs. So much for the best laid plans. The checkout dive was going beautifully when I started to feel the ocean moving up and down drastically. As I became queasy, the dive master signaled that the waves were getting larger and we should cross a sand flat to a more protected reef. I found more fish than the rest of the divers on that dive. My husband suspected I had been feeding the fish. Warily we headed

back to port, only to find that the waves were part of a weather pattern that would force the trade winds over us for days and block all boats from getting out to the banks.

We played bocce ball for three days hoping for a break and planned to return.

Two years later a hurricane hit and wiped out the dive operation for some time. Seeing the area recovered from that, we planned again almost seven years from the first trip. This time we found an accident had damaged the dive boat and it would be repaired in spring. We waited. How long, I wondered, does it take to repair a dive boat in a five house town in Mexico? Five months passed, six, seven, no boat. We changed the approach, we would try a dive company north of the banks. This dive company (the only other one licensed for the banks) was out of Mahual, a fishing village 30 minutes from our preferred residence. We would need to drive to it each morning. One month later the bridge to Mahual burned out. At some point, you take a hint. We planned a trip to Bonaire.

Chinchorro banks remains on the bucket list.



## Family Vacation in St. Louis by Kate Clay

Although we didn't go on a beach vacation or action-packed cruise to write about, we did a few side trips this summer to San Antonio and Austin, TX, but our "big" vacation was another trip to St. Louis to visit family. My husband doesn't believe this should even count as a vacation since we make the trip once or twice a year anyway, but this time would be different. Even though we have seen and done just about everything there is to do in St. Louis, we managed to try a few new things. The biggest tourist attraction there is to go to the top of the Arch, and my kids remind me every year that they haven't been to the top yet...we tried one year and had to turn back because of long lines in 100 degree heat! I remember my last trip to the top of the Arch was about 20 years ago, and it was not the highlight of my trip...needless to say I'm a bit claustrophobic! I'm happy to report that we all made it to the top this time and my kids loved every minute of it! I'm also glad I didn't hear the story about the elevators getting stuck for 2 hours just a few weeks before we were there! Another adventurous thing we did was touring the caves at Meramec Caverns and also ziplining through the tree tops. All-in-all, we had a great trip and it was nice to visit our family again.



*Here we are crammed in our little egg-shaped elevator at the Arch...it actually seats 5 people!*



## Beach Vacation by Jason Barker

We recently drove to Orange Beach Alabama, where we spent about a week on the beach. On the way we stopped in New Orleans on a Saturday night, so the kids could see the French Quarter (during the day), plus the Mississippi, Jackson Square, etc. Geaux Saints!

We stayed just one night and then finished our trip to the beach. My wife's name is Kay. My boys are Braxton (11), Brock (8), and Baron (3).



## The Taj Mahal

Here is Vijay Nadkarni and his family on a recent trip to Agra, India to visit the Taj Mahal! As Vijay said, "We are trying to look cool, but it was a very, very hot day..."



## Colorado Vacation by Kevin Kirkland

Mancy and I took the dog, Samson, to Colorado this summer. We stayed in Almont, CO, which is in between Gunnison and Crested Butte. This has been my family vacation spot for over 40 years. A big group of us have gone every year fly fishing. I have only missed a couple of years during this 40 year span and that was mainly so I could take the wife to the beach. She likes fly fishing, but maybe not as much as I do.

That is Mt. Crested Butte in the background on the picture.

## Dave Semko's Cobra Vacation

I'm not real good at taking vacation time - as a road warrior the perfect vacation typically includes spending time at home, working on home projects or playing with my toys. There is one event that I make time for every year - during the third week of June I attend a Cobra event in London, Ohio

[www.londoncobrashow.com](http://www.londoncobrashow.com) that my brother, some fellow Cobra owners, and I helped to organize about 10 years ago. Here is a picture of me and the car at a rest stop along I75 near Findlay, Ohio.



We have the event every year as a fund raiser for Cystic Fibrosis. It started as a few friends getting together for a cook-out and a little 'chocolate chip cookie' competition - and has blossomed into a multi-day event that includes track time, auto-cross events, cruises to local tourist attractions, a raffle for a turn-key Cobra replica, silent auction, rides for donations, and a couple of great guest speakers every year. ([click here](#) to check out the video on YouTube)

To date we have collected and contributed more than \$500,000 to CF to help them in their search for a cure. A bunch of car guys (and a few girls too) having fun, behaving badly - and raising money for a great cause.



## Alaskan Cruise

Ram Bala and his wife, Shivangi, recently enjoyed a Norwegian cruise from Seattle to Alaska...sounds nice and cool!! Here are a few shots from Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau, Alaska and Prince Rupert, Canada.



## Consultant Profile



**Name:** Pavan Chopra

**Home town:** Fremont, California

**Years consulting:** 7 Years

**Area of SAP expertise:** SAP Security and Authorizations

**Interesting fact about yourself:** I play several musical instruments.

**Favorites...** TV Show: *The Office*

Food: Indian

Vacation Spot: Hawaii

Sport: Tennis

**Hobbies:** Music

**Favorite moment at work:** Cake day for the birthdays!

**Favorite consulting tip:** Be brief when possible.

**Name one thing you can't live without:** My car!

## July Birthdays

Chris Kupczyk	1
Harpreet Manchanda	2
Alex Maftsir	3
Rajan Patel	7
Barbara Seder	8
Truman Rice	12
Jamil Zaman	14
Bernd Kinkeldei	15
Ron Lyons	15
Sheila Pratt	18
Siddhartha Choudhury	21
Robert Gutierrez	21
Lela LeRoy	22
Louis Requena	22
Badruddin Pitter	25
Manohar Venkatachalam	26
Mario Pereira	29
Sri Karthik	30
Sree Kolapalli	31

## August Birthdays

Richard Hankins	2
Kyle Evans	3
Greg Woodside	4
Manoj Pamidimukkala	6
Catherine Concannon	7
Peter Mollett	8
Mark Niekamp	9
Sathya Kishore	10
Roderick Miles	10
Jeeva Chirala	12
Narasimha Devisetty	12
Suzanne Reid	12
Dee Fenwick	14
Venkateswara Pajarla	15
Dorian Salmon	19
Swati Sharma	20
Ronald Bruder	21
LaBaron Hartfield	21
Devon Winters	21
Joe Rutledge	24
Michael Pearson	26
Praveen Shastrula	27
James Jeon	28
Venkat Reddy	29
Pavan Asur	30

## Kerala - this is how we roll...!!!

By Javid Lateef

I am taking a break from my 'traditional' role as a sportswriter and am going to delve into Alcohol related musings. First of all, I am a Malayali (Mallu), which means I hail from the state of Kerala, and I am going to try and touch upon the drinking habits of my fair state.

Mallus spent more money on liquor last year than they did on rice...!!! Anyone who knows how much South Indians love rice should be shocked by this. Drinking has been a socially accepted past time in Kerala for generations now. The funny thing is that ALL the liquor that is consumed is sold through Govt. Agencies (Yes, even the Johnnie Walker that we seem to consume in gallons). What is not regulated to such an extent is Kallu.

Before we go further, for people who have no idea what kallu is and how kallu is made, a short course on the preparation! Locate a palm tree or a coconut tree which is just giving out the kernel branches i.e. the stage before the flowering. Climb the tree; slit the branches with a sharp blade and you will get liquid oozing out of it, few drops a minute. Collect this liquid in a container, just hang it there and pick it up after 9 - 10 hours. Well this liquid is actually the kallu. If you had coated the inner walls of the container in which you are collecting the liquid with lime then whatever you collect becomes pathini which is sweet tasting and so very good for health. But if you don't rub the containers inner walls of the container with lime, the liquid starts fermenting as soon as it starts collecting and in around 6 - 8 hours ferments to about 4 - 6 % alcohol (Bit stronger than beer and becomes kallu. It is by and far is the healthiest liquor drink and is 100% natural, contains lots of minerals and cools down the body. The method of preparation is easy and cheap and with so many coconut trees in Kerala (I am sure everyone's backyard at least has one coconut tree) we are wasting such a healthy, free and natural resource to make booze....!!! Kallu is not just used as a drink - it is added to the Appam (bowl-shaped thin pancakes made from fermented rice flour) to ferment the batter.

Kallu is consumed by most drinkers in Kerala, regardless of economic status, but the wealthier are more picky drinkers. Mallus (especially my Mallu Christian pals, who we call Achayans) are predominantly Scotch and Brandy drinkers. Johnnie Walker and Chivas Regal used to be choice of Scotch and the Brandy drinkers usually stuck to the Indian brands. Nowadays people have become more discerning, and the Single Highland Malt seems to be a status symbol. Beer and wine are also consumed in vast quantities in Kerala. Wine is made in-house at a lot of Christian homes.

What is really amazing about our drinking is that we actually have finger foods that we enjoy with our drinks. Beef Fry... Shrimp Thoren (Shrimp, stir fried with coconut) and pickle (yes...achar...!).

So next time any of you folks are in my neck of the woods, please try to find a good Kallu shop ( there are some excellent ones around Kottayam), park yourself there....enjoy some Kallu and the food that they offer - which is usually freshly caught fish and kappa (tapioca) - and just enjoy the hospitality. Signing off for now....



*Javid enjoying some downtime in Barbados!*



## Summer Fun!

Here are some pictures taken at a Colorado Rockies baseball game in July.

Top right: Dinner out with Chrissie Wootton, Nic Ramos and Lee LeRoy.

Bottom Right: Jim Hughes and his daughter Lindsey enjoying a Frisco Rough-Riders game.

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