

Former Intel VP Strives to be an Exceeds at Retirement

Interview by Gene Murphy



Tony on Lake Tahoe

During the 1980s and 90s Tony Sica was a pretty high-profile figure at Intel. Having worked as a Sales Manager in the Bay Area, and then serving as a Marketing Director with various groups at different sites, many of us got the opportunity to know him. Today, Tony lives on his 13-acre farm with his wife, Betty, in Placerville, CA. He best describes himself as a “gentleman farmer”. They tend to their numerous horses, chickens, sheep and other animals. He’s even become a beekeeper. Add these to the large vegetable garden in which he says Betty takes great pride, you could say the Sicas have become pretty self-sufficient. If only the boys from his native New Jersey could see him now.

Let me give you some personal background on Tony. He was born in New York, but moved to New Jersey during his teen years. After getting a technical degree, Tony worked in various computer related jobs in the New York area. While he was at Tymeshare Corp., he got the opportunity to move to the west coast. There, a significant career event occurred for Tony, when he joined Signetics as a Product Engineer in its Development System Operation. While there, he moved into Marketing and later Sales. In 1979 Tony was hired by Intel as a Field Sales Engineer (FSE) in the Santa Clara sales office where he eventually became the Regional Manager. In the mid-80s Tony began his marketing career at Intel, serving with the Micro-controller, ASIC, Memory, Chipset and Mobile Platform divisions before finishing with the wireless group where he became Vice President of Marketing.

In 2004 Tony decided to call it a career at Intel. He admits that the first six months of retirement were a struggle for him, as he moved from a very structured environment to an unstructured one. To fill the void he joined the Sacramento Angels Investment Group. He eventually became the chairman of this organization. However, after a few years Tony felt he was not doing a good job being a retiree and decided to leave the group. He then set his personal goal to be an Exceeds performer at retirement.

In this new chapter of his life, Tony decided he should once again embrace the adage in which he wholeheartedly has lived by: “He who dies with the most toys wins”! Now he spends more time restoring his vintage autos (the pets are the Corvettes and a ’63 Corvair Monza), enjoying his boat on Lake Tahoe, and flying his airplane. In fact, Tony

not only purchased a plane, but also became a certified FAA mechanic performing his own maintenance. If there is any more time left in the day, Tony will spend it brewing his own beer with the equipment he built himself or figure out where his next international trip will be. He and Betty have made numerous trips to Italy where they have attended cooking classes. They often cook at home using their wood-burning oven. However, Tony admits that Betty is really the master chef while he's the master eater.



Betty and Tony in Tuscany

When asked about what he has taken away from Intel, which has served him well, Tony responded that the experience has helped him focus his attention on the important aspects of retirement - Family and Fun!

Tony also provided some interesting advice for new retirees:

- ◆ “Take time to decompress.” The change can be extreme. He advises that you should gather your thoughts and dabble in some fun things.
- ◆ For those of you who wish to join an organization, you should be aware that the Intel Culture, as great as it is, doesn't always translate well outside the walls of the company. In other words, it can be very intimidating to many people and, if you don't adapt your style, you can find yourself being ineffective.
- ◆ In this next phase of your life, you will most likely be spending considerably more time with your spouse or significant other. It's important that you both redefine your roles as to how you interact.

There is no doubt that Tony is enjoying his retirement time. Also I would say he has definitely achieved at least an “exceeds” rating in retirement. In fact I think he deserves a “superior”.

If any of you would like to contact Tony to discuss farming, fixing airplanes, brewing beer or just to say “Hello”, you can reach him at tonyfs@me.com.