

West Coast sites hold employee appreciation lunches

In El Segundo, the Hornet Nation band played while members of the NGRC's Swing Dance Club displayed their dancing abilities.



Photos by Daniel Perales and Louis Peter



More than 150 special interest cars and motorcycles brought classy classic beauty to El Segundo on Employee Appreciation Day.



About 4,000 employees enjoyed cookout cheeseburgers and all the trimmings on Employee Appreciation Day at the El Segundo site. The day was combined with an employee car show coordinated by Manny Garcia, commissioner of the NGRC Asphalt Cruisers Club, and booths sponsored by other NGRC clubs.

It has become a summertime tradition in Southern California to host a free lunch on Employee Appreciation Day combined with a classic car show and Northrop Grumman Recreation Club booths.

On June 21 in El Segundo and June 22 in Rancho Bernardo, managers served grilled cheeseburgers to everyone in recognition of their contributions to the sector's success. In addition, more than 150 employees brought in their special interest cars and motorcycles so these mechanical masterworks could gain some appreciation of their own. In El Segundo, NGRC clubs added to a break from the usual at lunchtime, with giveaways and offerings focused on their special activities.

— Georgeann Wyatt



Looking like a true lord of the cookout in Rancho Bernardo, Gene Fraser, vice president and Western Region deputy, serves a cheeseburger to Michael Mowery.



After enjoying lunch served in appreciation of their contributions to the sector's success, employees at Rancho Bernardo had the extra fun of examining some lovely examples of automotive magnificence.



A sunny day at Rancho Bernardo made for a great cookout.

New online search tool available

The ability to quickly search for and access knowledge is critical to improving the way business is done at Northrop Grumman. With *Find*, a new corporate search utility, employees can retrieve files stored in a variety of information repositories with improved speed and accuracy.

Discover knowledge with greater speed and precision

Find is able to access information across the company-wide intranet, in shared drives, asset libraries, and Livelink instances, including ShareCenter. *Find* is integrated with Active Directory, which keeps track of permissions available to each Northrop Grumman network user, and SiteMinder® (which allows controlled access to partners, teammates, and customers). This means *Find* can open a whole new class of content to be searched, while making sure that the right information is accessible only to the appropriate individuals.

Find assembles collections from each knowledge source; the collections are then indexed and updated, which can take time at first, but greatly speeds up searching. It allows users to discriminate which sources they want to search. It also means that file titles are searched in addition to text within files, pulling up a larger number of returns. *Find*'s search capabilities are supported by an enhanced server and service center infrastructure.

Users can tailor their searches with *Find* so they can retrieve more items with greater relevance. *Find*'s search capabilities will be enhanced over time, expanding the framework and providing more options for refining a search.

Supercharged for tomorrow's searches

The indexing process will grow quicker, more powerful, and more sophisticated when knowledge objects are identified in a new corporate-wide knowledge taxonomy, a classification system that provides a more consistent structure to knowledge depots and intranet sites.

For example, Communities of Practice sharing documents within the ShareCenter environment will file them in accordance with the taxonomy, increasing consistency from group to group and providing a more coherent data structure within which to conduct *Find* searches.

As portal technology comes online (built upon the same taxonomy), it will extend the range of searches even further, enabling Northrop Grumman to incorporate documents on

Basic "filtering" techniques:

- Sector or site (e.g., Electronic Systems sector or Integrated Systems)
- Keyword (summary of found pages highlights the key word)
- Attribute (file type, date range, size), also known as "parametric search"
- Boolean and "wild card" search terms

Helpful suggestions from the Find engine

- A "recommendation engine" suggests similar documents.
- A "did you mean?" spell suggestion compensates for typographical errors.
- A "Best Bets" feature enables *Find* administrators to configure the engine so that highly relevant results (such as a guide or form) always show up at the top of the results list when users search within certain topics. This helps to direct users to documents that provide a lot of value which they otherwise might have missed if they hadn't entered the right combination of key words.

Overview of Capabilities

partner and customer sites and on select external sites and subscription services.

Using Find

Find can be accessed from Internet Explorer at <http://find.northgrum.com/Find>. For the next 30 days, the *Find* capability will be available for beta test. After this period, web-site administrators across the company will begin to change the search tools on their site to point to *Find* so you will automatically be directed to the correct intranet address.

The *Find* rollout is just now getting underway; as users become more familiar with its features and as the knowledge base continues to expand, the tool will become increasingly valuable.

"And all the while," said Dave Braun, the Northrop Grumman software development technologist responsible for the implementation of *Find*, "we'll continue to upgrade the software, refine the rules that *Find* uses in its searches, and develop custom features of our own. This is a critical tool for achieving the goal of One Northrop Grumman, and as the company evolves to become more agile, *Find* will evolve with it."

Employees should expect updates on upcoming *Find* enhancements, as well as tutorials and frequently asked questions about existing features for new and seasoned users. To learn more about *Find*, go to the intranet at <http://home.northgrum.com/km/>.