

Jim Noyes grew up (loosely speaking as he recalls) in the even smaller-than-Carbondale town of Hanover NH where his father was the Track & Field Coach at Dartmouth College from 1932-1969.

He enjoyed a successful, albeit eclectic, career in the business world. His first real experience was selling magazine subscriptions door-to-door when he was 10 and as 6th grade Treasurer of The Tab Book Club !

Dropping out of Dartmouth College in 1965 as a freshman led to an appointment with his local Draft Board where he was conscripted by the US Army. He declined an offer to attend Officers Candidate School and through pure serendipity was sent to Munich, Germany where he did his tour of duty *"protecting us from the Czech Invasion"*.

Working his way up through the motor pool, the mailroom and the coveted Company Clerk spot (think "Radar" and "PFC Wintergreen"), Noyes became a youthful expert in military justice and administration. With most of the officers being sent to Viet Nam, Noyes was tapped as Acting Brigade Adjutant, a position normally held by a Captain or Lt. Colonel. He was 19. Jim opted to end his military career when his 2-year tour was up in 1967.

Back to Dartmouth, Jim graduated in 1970 in the teeth of a major recession (the worse one at that time since whenever) earning "Distinguished Scholastic Achievement" in his Government major (*"Plato never had to deal with an HOA !!"*). He took a job in a large suburban hospital outside of Boston to pay the rent and within a year became Asst Director of Clinical Administration. Hospital work was not his cup of tea and he headed off to Stanford to get his MBA 1972-74.

Jim's first job after business school was managing a cable television business in San Francisco's East Bay. *"This was an eye opener as we had a very militant Teamsters Union and a number of convicted hard-time criminals"*, says Jim. *"That said, my first really big business mistake was leaving that cable TV company too soon. It went on to become part of Time-Warner !"*

He then spent 5 years at Wilson Sporting Goods (Division of PepsiCo) in Chicago where he became Vice-President/Marketing of the Golf Division. Highlights included fishing with Ken Venturi, introducing the "Optic Orange" Pro Staff golf ball (a big hit for about 2 years) and listening to Lefty Gomez and Sam Snead tell stories. Lowlights included negotiating contracts with agents...like Hughes Norton who went on to be Tiger Woods' agent until eventually fired. Also, *"Shooting TV commercials with golf pros like Johnny Miller and Hale Irwin took boring to a whole new level."*

Lured away by the chance to be a "big fish in a small pond", Noyes joined a Chicago vacation travel operator teetering on the verge of collapse in 1980. Over 16 years, he built one of the largest and most successful "tour operators" in the country. In 1995 as President/CEO, he was honored as one of "The 25 Most Influential Executives in the

Tour & Travel Industry” along with such luminaries as Richard Branson (Virgin Records, Air etc) and Herb Kelleher (Southwest Airlines).

As a side business, Jim and his partners founded and built a prosperous “dinner cruise” business in Chicago that evolved to be a large “floating restaurant” firm now operating in numerous cities under the banners of “Odyssey” and “Spirit”.

Looking for new challenges, Noyes joined a Wall Street-financed team on the verge of an IPO with the intent of both consolidating and reforming the worldwide timeshare/vacation ownership industry. Neither consolidation nor reform worked well and Noyes decided to spend full-time raising his teenage daughter instead...to date, he claims, one of his greatest challenges and accomplishments !

Jim spent the bulk of his career working in, or out of, Chicago...so, yes, he was pumped when the Blackhawks won the 2013 Stanley Cup again !! Son Chris lives (with 3-year old son Porter) in New Orleans and works for a wine importer. Daughter Katie is a Family Practice MD in Jackson, WY. Daughter Elizabeth works in marketing/sales for the “boat business” that Jim co-founded in Chicago.

He is on the Board of Directors of one of the oldest and largest horticulture companies in the world. He was also on the Board of Preview Travel Inc. as it went public and eventually merged with Travelocity back in the late 90’s. He has served on numerous not-for-profit Boards and in 1988 was named “Volunteer of the Year” by the Glen Ellyn IL Park District as an 8-year youth soccer coach and 4-year Soccer Board Chair.

An accomplished hobbyist writer and golf course rater for GOLF Magazine and Golfweek, Noyes’ feature article on Charles Blair Macdonald (“The Father of American Golf Course Architecture”) in *Chicago Magazine* was a Finalist for a “Lisagor” in 2005.

Jim & Laurie Solomon share their RVR home with Zoe, a 2-year-old Polish Lowland Sheepdog and a few inside felines. While Laurie stays very busy with her home-based custom window treatment business, in the rare moment that he’s not dealing with RVRMA issues, Jim skis (CMH heli-skiing #3 in Jan ’14 !!!), bikes, hikes, golfs (50 of the “Top 100 World” courses), treks (Everest Base Camp, Mt. Blanc, Torres del Paine & Fitzroy Massif, Annapurna Circuit), fly fishes (sorta), tries to return to tennis and travels the globe. He has been active with Habitat for Humanity both locally and internationally (builds in Papua New Guinea, Capetown, Vietnam and Mexico) and with the RE-1 PreCollegiate Program. He is also a member (he thinks “in good standing”) of The Rotary Club of Carbondale.

Jim says his greatest contribution to RVR has been *cultivating a Board that prides itself on teamwork, that disagrees without being disagreeable, that solves problems rather than just talking about them and that has become an “employer of choice” for a first-rate staff.*