Laguna Woods GLOBE

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MARILYNN YOUNG, LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

HONOREE OF THE MONTH: Mark Schneider, Historical Society's Honoree of the Month for August, at his home with the parts to a Pentium 4 computer he will build over a period of 20 hours.

Schneider Honoree of the Month

By LINDSEY BAGUIO
FOR THE LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

The Laguna Woods Historical Society's Honoree of the Month for August, Mark Schneider, gets a kick out of his volunteer work.

"It changes your physical chemistry. You get an adrenaline rush and you get higher than a kite. It can be wheeee!" said Schneider with a smile.

The Historical Society is recognizing Schneider for his service to the community as he is a member of the Golden Rain Foundation Board of Directors and is treasurer for the Historical Society.

"If you do your best at something several things happen: you start to be successful at what you do, other people start to do things, it becomes a motivation, and you start to see that you're moving things," Schneider said.

As a GRF board member he says that as rewarding as it is

to be a leader, the position does have some challenges. "We get so involved with the system and we think that everyone understands, but they don't and we have to go over and over it again. We can't get complacent with what we're doing so that the resident doesn't understand. In the future we need to tune it up." Schneider said.

Outside of his volunteer work, Schneider builds his own PCs, a hobby that's probably a result of his professional career.

It started when he was in the Air Force during the 1960s. Deployed in Hawaii, part of his squadron's duty was to retrieve the fallen space capsules in the ocean when NASA was conducting its early space experiments. His exposure to the space program in the Air Force led to a career at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He was working full-time while taking classes.

"In those days you didn't

need a degree. They needed people to do the math," Schneider said.

His main project was the Surveyor program. Schneider explains that it was the precursor program to sending a man to the moon.

"We landed on the moon seven times. That first landing was awesome for me and a lot of work but oh my goodness. No one sat down on the moon like that," Schneider said.

Working and going to school at the same time, he went on to earn his bachelor's degree in mathematics and master's in systems engineering. Schneider's other projects are nothing to gloss over either. He's worked for Northrop Grumman and the now defunct Litton Industries, both large defense contractors for the United States.

Schneider will be honored by the Historical Society in a ceremony at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 1.