

The Marshall Retiree Report
August 2017

NASA/MSFC Retiree Association P. O. Box 4492 Huntsville, Alabama 35815



Quarterly MRA Luncheon

Thursday, September 7, 2017 (Please note this is a change from previously published date)

Social: 11:00 a.m. – Lunch: 12:00 noon

\$20.00 per person

Menu:

*Garden Salad, Chicken Alfredo with Fresh Green Beans,
Dinner Rolls, Coffee & Tea, Dessert: Carrot Cake*

Please RSVP to Bennie Jacks no later than **noon on Monday, September 4, 2017**, at benniejacks@att.net or cell phone: 256-603-0894.

A 72-hour cancellation notice is required by the Ledges.

NOTE: The last MRA quarterly meeting for 2017:

Tuesday, Dec. 12 - Dinner

Registration & Social 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.; Dinner @ 7:00 p.m.

Program:



Speaker:

Dr. James L. (Jim) Green

Topic:

“The Exploration of Mars: Past, Present and Future”

Dr. James L. Green received his Ph.D. in Space Physics from the University of Iowa in 1979 and began working at NASA's MSFC. At MSFC he developed and managed NASA's first Internet, the Space Physics Analysis Network, and worked on the Dynamics Explorer mission. In 1985, he moved to GSFC where he served as head of the National Space Science Data Center and then Chief of the Space Science Data Operations Office. In August 2006, Jim became the Director of the Planetary Science Division at NASA Headquarters. Under his leadership, several missions have been successfully executed, including the New Horizons spacecraft flyby of Pluto, the MESSENGER spacecraft to Mercury, the Juno spacecraft to Jupiter, the Grail spacecraft to the Moon, the Dawn spacecraft to Vesta and Ceres, and the landing of the Curiosity rover on Mars.

Over his career, Jim has received numerous awards, including the Arthur S. Flemming award for outstanding individual performance in the federal government, Japan's Kotani Prize in recognition of his international science data management activities, and the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal for the New Horizons flyby of the Pluto system. He has written over 115 scientific papers in refereed journals about planetary and Earth magnetospheres and over 50 technical articles on data systems and networks. In 2015, Jim was a part of NASA's involvement with the film, “The Martian.”

FROM Parker's Desk.....

On two occasions this year, several of us have had the privilege of hearing Robert Lightfoot, Acting NASA Administrator, provide his views of the agency. Shortly after his appointment as Acting Administrator, he spoke at the February National Space Club-Huntsville about how the agency prepared for the transition of Presidential Administrations and NASA's objectives looking forward. He mentioned his speech at the Space Launch System (SLS) suppliers conference in DC and the enthusiasm from the suppliers. He indicated several congressmen were in attendance, both Democrats and Republicans, and stated the agency enjoys good bipartisan support. His plan is to keep the agency on target with planned objectives and the workforce "keeping heads down and coloring". Robert outlined six core objectives: 1) expanding knowledge of the universe; 2) international cooperation; 3) contributing to the nation's economy; 4) applying space to daily lives; 5) involving the next generation of explorers; 6) leadership and inspiration.

Robert also was our keynote speaker at the NASA/Marshall Retirees Association dinner meeting in June. He provided a Headquarters perspective of all NASA programs and highlighted the programs managed by Marshall. The SLS program is making substantial progress, and flight hardware is being produced at the Michoud Assembly Facility. He indicated that Marshall was awarded the Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE). The IXPE is the next great telescope after the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). Robert stated the budget outlook for NASA is good. He indicated that for .25% of the federal budget, the taxpayers are getting their money's worth. *Parker*

Dues Reminder

If not already paid, 2017 dues are now delinquent. Dues are \$30 per year and may be paid by mailing a check, made to MSFC Retirees Association, to: MSFC Retirees Association, P. O. Box 4492, Huntsville, AL 35815, or by paying at the September Social.

Membership in the Association is open to former or retired MSFC and other NASA Center employees. New retirees are automatically offered a free membership for the remainder of the year in which they retire. If retirement occurs after the first day of September, membership will be free for the remainder of the current year and for the entire upcoming year. Spouses of deceased MRA members may attain membership status with membership dues waived.

If your mailing address or e-mail address changes, please remember to let Mary Spaulding know by e-mailing her at md_spaulding@comcast.net or calling **256-883-2228** so we can keep our records up to date. (Check the address label on this newsletter to see the status of your membership.)

Semi-Annual Spacelab Reunion Luncheon

The semi-annual Spacelab Reunion Luncheon was held on July 13, 2017, at the Valley Hill Country Club. If you would like to attend future luncheons, you may contact Mickey Allen, the Reunion Coordinator at: mickballen@yahoo.com.



Floor: Bennie Jacks and Mickey Allen (Reunion Coordinator), **First Row:** Joe Cremin, Tom Lynch, Jim Grubbs, Mickey White, John Reaves, Cathy White, Lanny Upton, Rick Chappell, and Ron Schlagheck. **Second Row:** Bob Jackson, Joe Galey, Bob Beaman, Winston Hodge, Bob McAnnually, Bill Johnson, and Uwe Hueter. **Back Row:** Jack Lee, Stu Clifton, Fred Applegate, Bill Johnson, Grey Settle, Volker Rothe, Jim McMillion, Bob Stevens, Ralph Hoodless, Don Geurkink, George Lide, Harry Craft, and Skip Hassleer. Not pictured: John Thomas, Jan Allen, and Harvey Shelton.

Message from Brian Odom, MSFC Historian:

Mark Betancourt, a freelance writer for *Air and Space Magazine* is looking for folks to interview for a story he's writing on the Development of the Saturn V. I've spoken with him a couple of times and provided him with links to all the oral histories I'm aware of. If any of the MRA members would be interested in talking with him, his contact information is:

Mark Betancourt, Freelance Reporter, *Air & Space* magazine
(520) 245-2794 (cell) (202) 670-8143 (landline) mark.betancourt@gmail.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO MRA! (Since Last Newsletter)

Dennis Keim Allie Swann

Kathy Jones Chris Singer

PHOTOS FROM JUNE 2017 MRA LUNCHEON



Robert Lightfoot, Acting Administrator, NASA



Allie Swann and Caroline Wang



JR Thompson, Dennis Keim, Sherry Thompson

Status of NASA/MSFC Retirees Association Scholarship Endowment Fund at UAH

The NASA/MSFC Retirees Association Scholarship Endowment Fund was established in partnership with UAH on June 8, 2000, to award scholarships to deserving students pursuing degrees in engineering or physical sciences. Since that time, the Association has made annual contributions to the endowment. The UAH end of fiscal year report issued on September 30, 2016, showed the market value of the endowment at **\$23,912.00**. This allowed UAH to issue a scholarship to one descendant of an MSFC retiree for the school year 2016-2017. MRA's annual contributions are made possible through MRA membership dues.

Bill Hallisey, Chairman, Scholarship Committee

USSRC EVENTS

Planetarium at USSRC: Intuitive Research and Technology Corporation (INTUITIVE) has announced a partnership with the U.S. Space & Rocket Center Education Foundation to create a state-of-the-art planetarium at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. With INTUITIVE's help, the Rocket Center plans to renovate its Spacedome IMAX® Theater to include planetary and advanced digital theater technology with a target opening date of 2019, in time for the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission. With this partnership, INTUITIVE will also be the lead sponsor of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center's 50th anniversary celebration of the Apollo 11 lunar landing.

Biergarten Each Thursday Night: Visit the USSRC Saturn V Hall in the Davidson Center for Space Exploration every Thursday from 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. through October 19, 2017, for the German Biergarten, featuring authentic German cuisine. Enjoy the festive atmosphere with imported and domestic beers and delicious wines from the German region. Admission is free, and food and beverages are available for purchase.

All American Eclipse: Come to USSRC to experience the solar eclipse on August 21st 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Visit: ROCKETCENTER.COM/ECLIPSE for details/tickets.

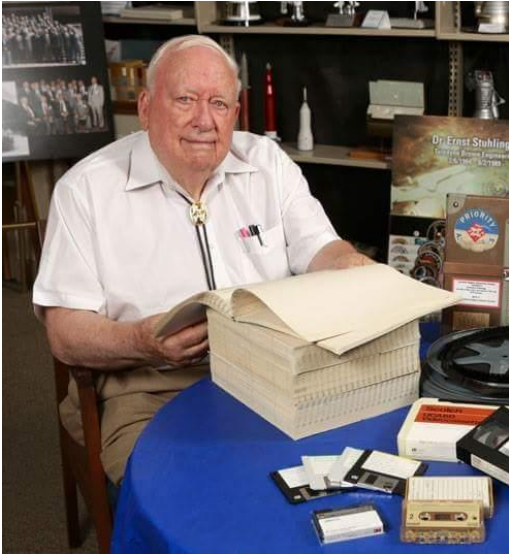
NASA's Super Guppy Arrives at Redstone Airfield on July 10, 2017



The Super Guppy arrived to pick up the Orion Stage Adapter for the SLS.

We all have special memories of this magnificent aircraft.

MRA Mourns the Loss of Charter Member Dr. Chuck Lundquist (March 26, 1928 – June 3, 2017)



Most of you know Dr. Lundquist and his many accomplishments during his years at MSFC. He retired from MSFC in 1981 and joined the University of Alabama Huntsville, where he continued to work in research. When he retired in 2000, he had published several books during his tenure there and was involved in the creation of UAH's comprehensive archives of space programs. Dr. Lundquist continued to volunteer at UAH and focused on documenting

and preserving the history of the space program.

As a charter member of MRA, he was passionate about preserving the Wernher von Braun Collection at the Space and Rocket Center and continuing to conduct oral interviews and documents/files of MSFC retirees. He compiled and published a record of his Transplanted German Rocket Pioneers and he was compiling another publication of his MSFC colleagues of the 1960's.

You may not know about Dr. Lundquist's interest in caves and that he was instrumental in mapping many of the caves in the North Alabama area. He presented many research papers at the national conventions of the National Speleological Society.

We will certainly miss Dr. Lundquist's smiling face at the MRA quarterly meetings, which he rarely missed, and MRA is indebted to him for his efforts to preserve the history of the space program.



MRA Remembers Influential Treasurer/Secretary

Batrice Truett Glen, age 93, passed away on June 22, 2017. She had an exciting career at MSFC, working as a secretary/administrative assistant for the German team.

Although her health kept her from attending MRA meetings recently, she played a huge role in the beginning of the MRA. Batrice served as both Treasurer and Secretary of MRA for many years. To quote Ed Buckbee: " She was in charge and ran the show. She told us when to meet, where to meet, what to eat and when to adjourn. All of us who had the pleasure of working for Batrice have fond memories of the southern girl from Tennessee."

Fourth Annual 'NASA in the Park' Draws Record Crowd in Downtown Huntsville



More than 8,000 people attended NASA Marshall Space Center and Downtown Huntsville, Inc.'s "NASA in the Park" in Big Spring Park in downtown Huntsville June 17. The event, the fourth annual celebration of NASA and the community, featured fun for all ages, live music performed by Marshall team members and a special appearance by former NASA astronaut Robert "Hoot" Gibson. (Courtesy NASA/MSFC/Fred Deaton)

NASA Emeritus Program

If you are interested in becoming a docent at the Space and Rocket Center, please contact Bennie Jacks at: 256.603.0894 or email: benniejacks@att.net. There are many volunteer opportunities to fit your schedule and you will be helping to educate visitors about the exciting space program, past, present, and future.



Obituaries of *Marshall Retirees*

Anderson, Otis Clyde (Andy), 81, Huntsville, died June 9. Retired 1990 as computer systems analyst.

Boddie, Thomas T., 85, Harvest, died June 22. Retired 1979 as aerospace engineer.

Brown, Boyce C., 83, North Little Rock, AK, died May 27. Retired 1994 as data systems engineer.

Brown, John, D., 92, Huntsville, died June 24. Retired 1994 as program analyst.

Bryan, Edward J., 94, Huntsville, died May 1. Retired 1994 as aerospace engineer.

Cox, Gena A., 54, Decatur died July 8. She was still employed as protocol specialist.

Cruz, George K., 58, Huntsville, died May 17. He was still employed as network operation security manager.

Downs, Sanford W., 87, Maryville, TN, died April 28. Retired 1979 as earth scientist.

Harrell, William B., 90, Huntsville, died June 2. Retired 1984 as engineering statistician.

Hooper, Edgar H., 93, Madison, died July 23. Retired 1980 as a mathematician.

Houston, Charles E., 83, Huntsville, died July 5. Retired 1999 as information services department manager.

Hunter, Warren Gene, Sr., 90, Huntsville, died June 12. Retired as aerospace engineer.

Moore, Lonnie R., 69, New Market, died July 20. Retired 2005 as paralegal specialist.

Raley, Nathaniel G., 94, Huntsville, died May 17. Retired 1979 as aerospace engineer.

Riggs, Kenneth E., 93, Huntsville, died May 18. Retired 1986 as aerospace engineer.

Sanders, Hazel, 86, Hixson, TN, died May 2. Retired 1990 as secretary.

Shelton, Clyde H., 86, Huntsville, died June 10. Retired 1993 as aerospace engineer.

Stone, John R., 92, Huntsville, died July 9. Retired 1992 as aerospace engineer.

Shields, Bernard B., 93, Decatur died June 21. Retired 1984 as space sciences lab engineer.

Young, Ralph E., 65, Harvest, died June 21. Retired 2014 as aerospace engineer.

NASA/MSFC Retiree Association

P. O. Box 4492

Huntsville, AL 35815

MRA OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, PAST PRESIDENTS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS (with e-mail addresses)

OFFICERS: 2017-2019

President: Parker Counts, parkercounts@knology.net

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Secretary: Bennie Jacks, benniejacks@att.net

Assistant Secretary: Deledia Perry, deeperry99@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Linda Dinges, linda.l.dinges@gmail.com

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Editor's note: If you have articles of interest, photographs or suggestions for this newsletter, please contact me at 256-852-7336, or e-mail: Bjeanlee@aol.com Jean Lee, Newsletter Editor