

The Marshall Retiree Report
August 2018

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



Quarterly MRA Luncheon

Thursday, September 6, 2018 The Ledges

Social & Registration: 11:00-12 noon – Lunch: 12 noon

\$20.00 per person

Menu: Garden Salad, Chicken Alfredo with Green Onions and Green Beans, Dinner Rolls, Coffee & Tea, Dessert: Lemon Pie

Please RSVP to Bennie Jacks no later than **noon on Friday, August 31, 2018**, at benniejacks@att.net or cell phone: 256.603.0894. A 72-hour cancellation notice is required by the Ledges.

NOTE: Date and time for the last MRA quarterly meeting in 2018:

Tuesday, December 11, 2018 – Dinner

PROGRAM



“Update on Air & Missile Defense Programs”

Speaker:

Michael Cox, Vice President and Business Development Executive, Air and Missile Defense Systems, Raytheon Company

Michael Cox is Vice President and Business Development Executive for Raytheon Missile Systems Air and Missile Defense Systems. Cox is responsible for capture development and growth of the Air & Missile Defense Systems (A&MDS) suite of products, including Standard Missile-3, Standard Missile-6, Kill Vehicles enterprise and Israeli Cooperative Programs. He has responsibility for capture of the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) future all-up round opportunity, leveraging relationships with MDA and Office of the Secretary of Defense senior leadership.

Before joining Raytheon in 2017, Cox, who has a wide-ranging background leading space and missile defense programs with a focus on advanced aircraft, space and radar systems, was Vice President of the Engineering Solutions sector of Parsons Government Services in Huntsville. He has served as Director of Missile Defense-Huntsville, for Northrop Grumman-TASC.

Cox had a 27-year career in the U.S Air Force, retiring in September 2007 as a colonel. He has received numerous awards, including the Defense Superior Service Medal and Program manager of the Year Award of the Space & Missiles Systems Center. Cox holds a Master of Arts in procurement and acquisition management from Webster University and a Bachelor of Science in humanities with engineering minor from the U.S. Air Force Academy.

From Parker's Desk.....

On June 29, 2018, forty plus MRA members and friends attended a briefing by Marshall Acting Center Director Jody Singer. Jody provided a status of Marshall's current programs and significant infrastructure improvements at the Center. The Space launch System (SLS) is progressing toward a 2020 launch of the first mission of this newest rocket. Heritage hardware for the SLS Solid Rocket Boosters and Space Shuttle Main Engines (RS-25's) for the core stage are ready to support. Fabrication of the core stage hardware at the Michoud Assembly Facility is progressing with test articles soon to arrive at the Marshall facility to undergo qualification testing. The Center has a large portfolio of science and technology programs underway. Marshall is supporting JPL with the Europa Lander DeOrbit Stage. The Europa mission is scheduled for 2026 as a payload on the SLS vehicle. The Center is also responsible for 24/7 365-day support to the International Space Station (ISS) for the experiments being conducted on the ISS.

Following the briefing, Jody accompanied our group on a tour of the new test stands and facilities that have been constructed to support the SLS Program. Also, several new buildings have been constructed replacing old and outdated ones. The Center had 265 interns this summer, and the emphasis is to add new graduates to the workforce. The future of Marshall is bright both from an infrastructure standpoint and execution of the programs in work. A special thanks to the USSRC for providing the transportation to and from the Center and the Center tours. *Parker Counts, MRA President*



(Photo courtesy of the Marshall Star)

2018 MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

Dues for 2018 were due beginning January 1, 2018, with a grace period ending April 1, 2018. Dues are \$30 per year and may be paid by mailing a check, made payable 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 MSFC or 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, remember to let Mary Spaulding know by e-mailing her at: md_spaulding@comcast.net or calling 256.883.2228.



Thank you to our MRA members who continue to devote their time and energy to serving as docents at the Space and Rocket Center.

(L. to R.: Ann Towry, Linda Dinges, Bennie Jacks, and Jack Stokes)

50th Anniversary Celebration of America Landing on the Moon Report

By Jack Stokes

We are now well into the planning phase of the Celebration for the 50th Anniversary of the Lunar Landing, hosted by the US Space & Rocket Center (USSRC), with celebration events already underway and planned throughout 2019.

Kenny Mitchell's book: "**Huntsville, Alabama: The Cradle of American Space Exploration**" is being published by USSRC. The book traces the story of Huntsville as the cradle of American space exploration by recognizing the fantastic work performed in developing the US Army/MSFC family of rockets and technological accomplishments.

Several Celebration panels will present the rocket story in detail with our own MRA members serving as panelists, many as panel leads and moderators. The list of panels will be promoted to the public, and each panel event recorded as oral history. Planned panels include Huntsville Advisory Council (Ed Buckbee); Human Exploration (Rick Chappell); Redstone, US Army, Early NASA (Bennie Jacks); The Future (Les Johnson/Yohon Lo); Army/MSFC Women Only (Bennie Jacks); Astronauts (Jan Davis); MSFC Directors (Jack Lee); Skylab (John Thomas); Engineers of the Apollo Era (Mickey Allen); Contractors of the Apollo Era (Mickey Allen); ABMA & MSFC (Ed Buckbee); Lunar Roving Vehicle (Craig Sumner/Sonny Morea); Apollo Propulsion & Engine (Ron Bledsoe); Saturn Moon Launch Vehicles (Bill Sneed); Space Shuttle (Steve Cash/Parker Counts); Spacelab (Harry Craft); ; International Space Station (Gary Wicks): and Great Observatories (Jerry Fishman). Other public programs will be presented by the German-American Heritage Committee as historical discussions; this list will be published in future newsletters. Educational discussions will be offered as "Learning Quest " programs. Kenny Mitchell has an excellent presentation on Huntsville and the space program which he can offer to any interested audiences. It has been very well received in the previous venues. Several of our members will be interviewed by 256 Magazine.

Plans for the Celebration Car Show continues, with meetings conducted on award trophies (Weldon Walles) and event layout near the Marriott Hotel. **Anyone having presentable automobiles from the Apollo period (1945 – 1975) who may want to share them for a day, please contact Jack Stokes.** The show emphasizes the actual cars of the participants driven during the era. Other representatives will also be considered for this invited collection.

The Lunar Roving Vehicle (LRV) replica design is progressing with Polaris, Inc. providing the drivable version and with Calhoun Community College for the static version. One of the rovers will be featured in the Celebration Car Show. **To get involved, contact: Bennie Jacks, benniejacks@att.net, or Jack Stokes, jackstokes@comcast.net.**

Photo Gallery from June 2018 MRA Dinner



Ann Whittaker



Rein Ise and Harry Craft



Gary Wicks and Parker Counts



Dr. Neil Lamb, Guest Speaker, Hudson Alpha



Ken and Linda Fernandez

NASA Insignia



Did you know?

The NASA insignia, fondly nicknamed the “meatball”, was designed by NASA employee James Modarelli in 1959. NASA used the “worm” from 1975 until 1992, when NASA returned to the classic meatball insignia. As NASA approaches the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the moon landing next year, it is worthwhile to revisit the insignia and its symbolism:

The sphere represents a planet.

The stars represent space.

The v-shaped vector represents aeronautics.

The circular orbit represents space travel.



A local Facebook Group called: “Huntsville Revisited” posted this snapshot of Dr. von Braun’s badge. Members of this group post photographs and memorabilia from the early days of Huntsville and the Marshall Space Flight Center. If you are interested in joining, you may make a request on the Facebook page. By the way, it is thought that the numbers 00001 – 00004 were reserved for the generals.

MSFC Happenings

NASA in the Park, held in downtown Huntsville on June 17th, was enjoyed by Parker & Debbie Counts along with Astronaut Robert “Hoot” Gibson.



MSFC Fall Family Fest Barbeque will be held on **October 18, 2018** from 2:30 to 5:30 pm at the Building 4315 Walking Trail. MSFC retirees are invited to attend and enjoy the BBQ competition among MSFC organizational teams. Activities include: Family Games, Inflatables, Bingo, Arts and Crafts, and Live Entertainment! Free BBQ will be offered along with Beer and Wine for a Buck. Children are invited too. Contact Betty Grisham for more info: 256.544.7178, or email: betty.grisham@nasa.gov.

USSRC Upcoming Events

Biergarten (Each Thursday through October 25, 2018): Visit the USSRC Saturn V Hall in the Davidson Center each Thursday from 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. for Biergarten activities, including authentic German food and beer, live music and dancing. Each week a portion of the proceeds is donated to selected local charities.

Pass the Torch:

August 23, 2018, 5:30 to 6:30 pm, Davidson Center. Hear Todd Barber, Senior Propulsion Engineer at NASA JPL, speak on the Cassini mission to Saturn.



Obituaries

- Askew**, William C., 85, of Fayetteville, TN, died June 1. Retired 1989 as an engineer.
- Bennell, Alice S.**, 75, of Huntsville, died May 28. Retired 1997 as contract specialist.
- Connor**, Edward John “Jack”, 87, of Huntsville, died July 28. Retired 1989 as an engineer.
- Crisler**, John P., 79, of Fayetteville, TN, died July 4. Retired 1998 as aerospace engineer.
- Davis**, Bervil D., 82, of Madison, died July 2. Retired 1990 as an engineer.
- Harper**, Ernest W., 95, of Huntsville, died July 11. Retired in 1987 as graphic designer.
- Howard**, William Lee, 94, of Huntsville, died July 28. Retired as an engineer.
- Johnston**, Dorothy L. (Dot), 89, Tucker, GA, died June 19. Retired as management specialist.
- Lehoczky**, Sandor L., 80 of Huntsville, died April 7. Retired 2011 as materials scientist.
- Lyle**, Katy (Holt), 96, of Tucson, AZ, died June 14. Retired as Chief, Manpower Analysis.
- Morris**, John Kirby, 89, died June 10. Retired 1994 as an engineer.
- Ragland**, Ollie, 66, of New Market, died May 4. Retired in 2004 as contract specialist.
- Ransome**, Jon Walter, 80 of Huntsville, died May 25. Retired as an engineer.
- Schuerer**, Paul Herman, 83, of Huntsville, died June 5. Retired 1997 as an engineer.
- Shrader**, William L., of Huntsville, died May 16. Retired 1988 as an engineer.
- Smith**, Ralph Austin, 82 of Albertville, died July 25. Retired 1990 as an engineer.
- Thomas**, Joe H., 78, of Huntsville, died June 19. Retired 1994 as an aerospace engineer.



Georg F. von Tiesenhausen

Georg F. von Tiesenhausen, age 104, of Huntsville, and one of the last German rocket team members, died on June 3. Among his many accomplishments were six U.S. patents. He retired from MSFC in 1986. Following retirement, he began 22 years of volunteering as a guest lecturer at USSRC Space Camp, known as “Dr. von T.” to thousands of students from around the world.

NASA/MSFC Retiree Association

P. O. Box 4492

Huntsville, AL 35815

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

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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