

The Marshall Retiree Report

May 2018

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



Quarterly MRA Dinner

Tuesday, June 5, 2018 The Ledges

Social & Registration: 6 – 7 p.m. – Dinner: 7 p.m.

\$30.00 per person

Menu: Garden Salad, Chicken Picatta, Herbed Pasta, Steamed Broccoli, Dinner Rolls, Coffee & Tea, Dessert: Apple Pie

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

NOTE: These are the dates and times for the MRA quarterly meetings for the remainder of 2018:

Thursday, **September 6, 2018** – Luncheon

Tuesday, **December 11, 2018** - Dinner

PROGRAM



“Genomic and Genetic Analysis of Human Traits and Disease”

Speaker:

**Dr. Rick Myers, President &
Science Director, HudsonAlpha
Institute for Biotechnology**

Richard M. Myers, PhD, joined the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology in 2008 as president and science director. Myers supplies the strategic oversight for the research enterprise at the Institute including sustaining a large, active laboratory. A native of Selma and Tuscaloosa, Ala., and the son of a pharmacist, Myers brings 35 years of experience in genetics and genomics to his position.

Myers received his BS in biochemistry from The University of Alabama in 1977 and his PhD in biochemistry from the University of California at Berkeley in 1982. He completed his postdoctoral training at Harvard University. He joined the faculty of the University of California, San Francisco, Medical Center in 1986 and moved to Stanford University in 1993, where he served as professor and chair in the department of genetics. Under Myers’ direction, the Stanford Human Genome Center contributed more than 10 percent of the data in the public Human Genome Project’s efforts to sequence the human genome.

The Myers Lab, in collaborative relationships with other researchers at HudsonAlpha and elsewhere, studies the human genome with the goal of understanding how allelic variation and gene expression changes contribute to human traits, including diseases, behaviors and other phenotypes.

From Parker's Desk.....

We have the opportunity to meet with Marshall Center Director Todd May and Deputy Director Jody Singer on June 29 at 9 a.m. in building 4200. Todd and Jody will accompany us on a tour of the center and the new Space Launch System test facilities. I would encourage all our members to attend this activity. We plan to make this an annual event to stay connected with center management and continue our support of Marshall activities. Sandra Turner is coordinating this activity and can be reached at email: sandraturner703@hotmail.com or phone number (256) 651-3152. Badging details are contained in this newsletter. For those who do not have badges or do not wish to navigate getting on the Arsenal, USSRC will provide a bus to transport members to 4200 for the briefing and the tour that follows and then return to USSRC.

The 50th Anniversary of Apollo 8 will be in December 2018, and the 50th Anniversary of Apollo 11 will be in July 2019. Many of our members are working on these national celebrations. The Marshall Center does ask us occasionally for names of those who may have worked on certain programs as events or celebrations are being planned. To help coordinate these events, I would like to ask you to provide a phone contact number to Mary Spaulding, our Membership Chair, at email: md_spaulding@comcast.net, or 256.883.2228. See you at our June meeting! *Parker Counts, MRA President*

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 June 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.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE REUNION

Retirees from the Program Development Directorate held an annual reunion on April 10, 2018, at the Southern Adventurers banquet room. Thirty-seven (37) attended including: Roger & Ceil Nichols, Mickey & Jan Allen, Bill Wales, Erich Engler, Jerry Peoples, Stan Fuller, Gary & Peggy Wicks, Bill Snoddy, Joe Howell, Ronald & Jean White, Ron & Gale Toelle, P. D. Nicaise, Sam & Betty Haley, Gail Ralls, Elois Sharpe, Gerri DeSanctis, Roger Chassey & Dawn Griffith, Max Nein, Tom & Faye Dickerson, Vince Dauro, Vince Dauro, Jr., Archie & Carol Young, John Cole, Uwe Hueter, Heinz G. Struct, Kenneth & Nina (McCormack) Hinkle, and Mike Vaccaro. **If you would like to attend further gatherings, please contact Stan Fuller: stan.fuller@knology.net.**



Bill Wales, Mickey Allen, Stan Fuller, and Roger Nichols



Bill Snoddy and Erich Engler



Ken Hinkle, Ron White and Sam Haley

MRA MEMBERS INVITED TO CENTER DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING

Marshall Center Director Todd May and Deputy Director Jody Singer have extended an invitation to MRA members to attend a briefing in the 10th floor conference room in Building 4200, followed by an SLS facility tour on June 29 at 9 a.m. **Sandra Turner is coordinating this activity and can be reached at email: sandraturner703@hotmail.com or phone number (256) 651-3152.** Please contact Sandra as soon as possible to add your name to the list. She will provide further instructions. For those who do not have badges or do not wish to navigate getting on the Arsenal, USSRC will provide a bus to transport members to 4200 for the briefing and the tour that follows and return to USSRC. Space is limited.

Members are encouraged to review the following information regarding Center Specific Badges that are required to enter certain areas of the Center:

NASA RETIREES BADGES

Retiree Card

A distinctive “retiree” identification card is issued by the Security Office as a keepsake to NASA retirees; however, the badge is not valid for gaining access to MSFC or any NASA Center.

Retiree ID Card Sample



NASA Retiree ID
Must obtain a visitor badge
Can Not Sponsor
a Visitor

Center Specific Badge



NASA Retiree
(Can access 4200 1st Floor & 3rd HR,
4203 Cafeteria, Barber Shop & Gift Shop)
Can Not Sponsor
a Visitor

The Center Specific Badge may be issued by the Security Badging Office when requested by retirees at retirement or any time after retirement and is **valid for a period of two (2) years.**

(Center Specific Badge Continued)

The following documents are required:

Two original forms of identification, i.e., current driver's license, unexpired passport, military identification, or social security card. One of the documents must be a government issued photo identification.

The Center Specific Badge shall be used for Center activities only as specified below. The badge does not grant the retiree full access to the MSFC facilities, to include administrative areas, laboratories, and test areas. The Center Specific Badge grants access to the following:

- a. Entry to Redstone Arsenal;
- b. NASA Activities Building 4316;
- c. MSFC Wellness Center (gym), with paid membership;
- d. MARS Activities (Gun, Archery, Skeet, Trap, and Tennis Clubs, etc.), with paid membership;
- e. NASA Exchange Store, Barbershop, and Cafeteria located in Building 4203 during normal business working hours;
- f. NASA Exchange Recreational Sports Fields;
- g. Heritage Gallery in Lobby of Building 4200 during normal business working hours; and
- h. Center events that are open to retirees or the public. (Annual Picnic, Open House, etc.).

Spouses of retirees may obtain a membership in the Wellness Center, and as members, shall be issued a MSFC Center Specific Badge which is valid for the Wellness Center only.

Retirees possessing only a MSFC Center Specific Badge may not sponsor other visitors or serve as an escort for other visitors.

Retirees who need to visit the Center for reasons other than Center activities described above, e.g., for official NASA business, retiree or holiday parties, or visiting former colleagues, friends, or family, shall obtain an official NASA visitor badge as described below.

If you are currently holding a NASA Retirees Badge that does not include an expiration date, or an Expired Center Specific Badge, you will need to follow the instructions below:

Contact Rebecca (Becky) Hopson at 256-544-4541 or via email at rebecca.b.hopson@nasa.gov, a minimum of five (5) working days prior to coming on site to renew your badge. The following information is needed to add your name to the MSFC Visitor Management System (VMS):

- Retiree full legal name
- Retiree driver's license and state of issue
- Retiree phone number
- Date and time the retiree would like to come on-site to renewal retiree badge

Becky will enter the retiree in the MSFC VMS so they can obtain a visitor badge at Gate 9 Visitor Center and then proceed to the Security Badging Office, Building 4312, to renew their retiree badge.

Update: 200th Anniversary of the Statehood of Alabama and the 50th Anniversary of the Landing on the Moon Celebrations

As time continues to quickly move forward, the Steering Committee for the Celebration of 50th Anniversary of the Lunar Landing, hosted by the US Space & Rocket Center (USSRC) has been busy preparing for the celebratory events of July 2019.

Of interest to the MRA members is the effort by the combined Celebration Legacy Committee and the German-American Heritage Committee. These committees, with very similar charges and approaches to the celebration, continue to strive to honor our legacy members of MSFC and the US Army ABMA as part of the celebration. Our esteemed MRA members have defined the topics and participants for the upcoming Legacy Panel discussions – rocket/community history; Saturn development; post-Saturn stories. Many of our MRA members find themselves in celebratory roles as panel leads, panel members, writers, and interviewees. We hope they and others will offer the opportunity to be recorded for the Oral History part of the celebration.

Exciting for us is Kenny Mitchell's new about to be published book; **Huntsville, Alabama; The Cradle of American Space Exploration**. Kenny and his research team have meticulously traced the early story of von Braun and team arriving in the US and immigrating to Huntsville as part of the US rocket team. This book offers the best history detail ever reported, and it will be a book for the archives.

The two committees are jointly planning an automobile show of the period cars to be held on the Space & Rocket Center grounds on July 13, 2019. More will be offered about this event in later reports. As part of the show and as a drivable memorial to the MSFC accomplishments of providing Lunar Roving Vehicles (LRV's) for three Apollo missions, the two committees have teamed with Polaris and PIT-BULL, Inc. to build a mobile LRV replica, capable of performing in an Earth environment much like the originals did on the Moon.

Simultaneous to this, a second LRV has been requested, this one a static display model, to be used in a world-traveling exhibit. It is hopeful that a partnering relationship between the USSRC and Calhoun Community College will produce the desired model.

As other committees further define their roles, the celebration is becoming real, and all are excited with what lies ahead next year. **To get involved, contact: Bennie Jacks, benniejacks@att.net, or Jack Stokes, jackstokes@comcast.net.**

Celebrating Dr. von Braun's Birthday (March 23, 1912)



Each year, members who provided administrative support to Dr. von Braun and his 9th floor staff, meet to celebrate Dr. von Braun's birthday. **Back Row:** Gail Ralls, Ann Marie Hall, Jean Lee, Shirley Ellis, **Center Row:** Jan Zielinski, Wanda Reed, Annette Tingle, Carol Byler, Nancy Guire. **Seated:** Mary Spaulding



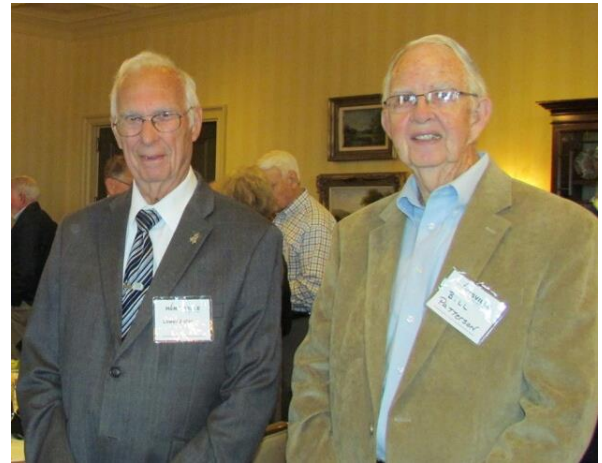
This photo of von Braun standing next to his 1957 Mercedes-Benz 220s coupe

was taken in front of 4488, which was Headquarters for the Army Ballistic Missile Agency. His office was on the third floor and he was Director of Development Operations Division of ABMA. This photo was taken in 1959 when President Eisenhower announced the von Braun team was being transferred from the Army to the newly created George C. Marshall Space Flight Center. This photo was released to the press indicating the von Braun team was leaving the Army in Oct 1959 and von Braun would become the director of the newly formed NASA center. (Information provided by Ed Buckbee)

Photo Gallery from MRA March 2018 Luncheon



Jo & Fred Wojtalik, Lu Durnya & Marty Weisskopf (Speaker)



Lowell Zoller & Bill Patterson



Bill Hallisey, Gerald & Joyce Smith



Grey Settle, Ken Fernandez & Brooks Moore



Bill Johnson & service dog Sam

Spacelab Luncheon



The semi-annual Spacelab Retirees Luncheon was held on February 23, 2018 at Valley Hill Country Club. **Back Row:** Grey Settle, James Hutchens, Jack Lee, Don Geurkink, Gene Compton, Mickey White, Sherwood Anderson, C. H. Oliver, Jim McMillion, Volker Roth, Rein Ise, Bob Beamen, Cathy White, Bob McBrayer, Jim Grubbs, Uwe Hueter. **Seated:** Harry Craft, Brooks Moore, Bill Johnson, John Thomas, Bob Smith, Jan Allen, Jim Hutchins, Larry Breazeale, Bill Johnson, Tony O'Neil, Ralph Hoodless. **Floor:** Skip Hassler, Tom Lynch, Joe Cremin, Mickey Allen. For your information about this group, contact Mickey Allen, allenwood1998@yahoo.com.



Shown: P.D. Nicaise with Brian Odom

MSFC Brian Odom continues to collect oral histories from Marshall retirees as a part of preserving the space program's history. If you have not participated in this collecting of history and would like to participate, contact Brian Odom at brian.c.odom@nasa.gov. Portions of these oral histories will be used during the 50th Anniversary of the Lunar Landing celebration in 2019.

UA 2018 Distinguished Engineering Fellows Awards



L-R: MRA Board Member Gene Goldman, Steven Wofford (2018 recipient), Jerry Cook, and MRA Board Member and 2017 Recipient Steve Cash

On April 7, 2018, the University of Alabama's College of Engineering inducted five individuals as Distinguished Engineering Fellows. Among that group was Steven Wofford who currently serves as the liquid engines element manager in the SLS program at MSFC. The Distinguished Engineering Fellows program began 30 years ago in 1998. The fellows inducted in the inaugural ceremony in 1998 included Jack Lee and Bob Ryan (deceased) and were recognized at this year's banquet. In addition, MRA Board Member Steve Cash was inducted in 2017.

MSFC Happenings

MSFC Summer Blast (picnic for workforce & retirees) June 7, 2018, Building 4315
Walking Trail 2:30 – 5:30 p.m.

NASA in the Park, June 16, 2018, from 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Big Spring Park

Contact Betty Grisham for more info: betty.grisham@nasa.gov.

Center Director's Briefing and Tour for MRA Members June 29, 2018 at 9 a.m.
Building 4200, 10th floor conference room. Contact Sandra Turner:
sandraturner703@hotmail.com.

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.

Spark!Lab, located in the main museum, is a new gallery developed by the Smithsonian Institution's Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation and is included with admission. Spark!Lab allows guests to become inventors and engineers as they work on design challenges, from cleaning up the ocean to creating a flying machine. This area includes an ever-changing array of themes and activities focusing on science, technology, engineering and math. Bring your young explorers!

Pass the Torch:

May 17, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., Dr. Colleen Wilson-Hodge discusses the award-winning discovery with the neutron star merger by the Gamma Ray Burst Team.

July 26, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., Dr. Alan Stern speaks on the exploration of Pluto by New Horizons, the first mission in NASA's New Frontiers Program.

Fathers of Rocketry, June 17, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Father's Day)

Discover the forefathers of space exploration and build and launch your own air rocket.

State Forms the Alabama Space Authority

Legislation creating the Alabama Space Authority passed in the 2017 Alabama legislative session under the leadership of Senator Dial of Lineville and Madison County District 20 Representative Howard Sanderford. The legislation charges the Authority with promoting research and development of the aerospace and aviation industries in Alabama. The Authority will seek space business opportunities and promote activities and industries specifically related to space exploration, including building of spaceports that would serve as airports into space exploration. Senator Dial will serve as Chair and Dr. Deborah Barnhart will serve as vice-Chair. Dr. Barnhart previously served on the Florida Space Authority. Representative Sanderford will also serve on the Authority, along with state and local leaders.



Obituaries

- Aichele**, David, 87, of Ooltewah, TN, died April 11. Retired 1994 as a data sys. Supervisor.
- Ballard**, Carl L., 93, of Huntsville, died Feb. 22. Retired 1980 as engineering technician.
- Barr**, Thomas A., 89, of Huntsville, died Feb. 7. Retired as an engineer.
- Chisam**, Charles L., 86, of Huntsville, died March 16. Retired 1987 as electronic technician.
- Clayton**, Jeppy L., 62, of Madison, died March 6. He was still employed as an engineer.
- Etheredge**, James L., 86, of Woodville, died Jan. 31. Retired 1981 as an engineer.
- Felix**, August R., 91, of Huntsville, died March 28. Retired 1986 as an engineer.
- Francis**, Robert C., 83, of Decatur, died May 5. Retired as a facilities engineer.
- Haggard**, Chester, 92, of Huntsville, died Feb. 19. Retired 1985 as an engineer.
- Hill**, Spencer, 68, of Athens, died April 26. He was still employed as a cost engineer.
- Humphries**, W. Randy, 81 of Huntsville, died Feb. 26. Retired 1999 as Structures & Dynamics Laboratory Director.
- Jackson**, Charles H., 81, of Decatur, died Feb. 12. Retired 1994 as a materials engineer.
- Lehoczky**, Sandor L., 80, of Huntsville, died April 7. Retired 2011 as a materials scientist.
- Moore**, Lewis “Chip”, 55, of Huntsville, died Jan. 4. He was still employed as an engineer.
- Parr**, Geraldine, 75, of Scottsboro, died Feb. 2. Retired 1999 as staffing assistant.
- Richard**, Victor I., 82, of Huntsville, died Jan. 31. Retired 2004 as an engineer.
- Smith**, Charles F., 88, of Huntsville, died March 15. Retired 1985 as a materials scientist.
- Soprano**, Quintin C., 96, of Huntsville, died Feb. 18. Retired 1986 as a supervisory quality assurance engineer.
- Willis**, Maurice, 89, of Falkville, died Feb. 8. Retired as an engineer.