

The Next Stage

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 2

Newsletter of The Huntsville Division Alumni Association

MAY 15, 2019

Come Join Us on Green Mountain!

Green Mountain Nature Trail is again the exceptional site for our annual picnic, scheduled to be held Saturday, June 1, with the pavilion reserved from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch will be served about 11:30 to 12:00, consisting of Lawler's pulled pork, BBQ beans, potato salad, buns and sauces, and those delicious cookies for dessert, along with beverages.

Cost will again be only \$7/person. Co-chairs, Ron Clements/Glenn Webb work hard to keep costs down. Thanks to HDAA for subsidizing the charge now incurred for reserving the pavilion for this fun event. And, thanks to Ron/Glenn for all the effort!

Please submit your paid reservations to HDAA, P O. Box 4185, Huntsville, AL, 35815 -4185 by Monday, 27 May 2019, so an accurate head-count can be given to Lawler's BBQ for preparation of our food, etc.

Remember that we have cover overhead (in the event of rain), ceiling fans for comfort (in event of heat/humidity!), and we hope you'll come early to walk the trail, and stay a while to visit and relax with dear friends.

We're hoping to have someone from Northrop Grumman speak with us!

Hope to see you there!



Next Board Mtgs:

(2nd Thurs each qrtr)
Jul 11, Oct 10, 2019

2:30 pm Faith
Presbyterian Church,
SE corner of
Whitesburg/Airport.
*Our meetings are
fun, productive,
quick, with great
camaraderie.
Come Join Us!*

Dates to Remember:

2019

-6/1 Summer Picnic
Green Mtn Nature Tr.
-Fall lunch **TBD**,
Brookdale Place.
-Christmas Party **12/7**,
Magnolia Trace.

**Mark your calendars
now!**

Specific details will be
provided closer to the
date of the event.

Hope you'll join us!

Monthly:

1st Wed: Ladies
lunch, 11:00, Gibson's
BBQ/S. Mem. Pkwy.
Call Faye/551-0126
for details.

2nd Tue: Still need a
place to share
breakfast. Call Bill at
650-5400 for details.

3rd Wed: Lunch now
at Logan's/Balmoral,
12:00. Call Jim
Gasaway/353-7199.

*Hope you are able to
attend some of these
fun events!*

THIOKOL/HUNTSVILLE MK 70s STILL IN USE!

Tom Moore, Director, Tactical Propulsion Development Programs, Northrop Grumman Innovation Systems, Allegany Ballistic Laboratories (ABL), indicated the MK 70s produced at Thiokol/Huntsville Division in the 1990-91 time frame are still viable.

Tom said ABL is in possession of six MK 70 units produced at TC/HD, which they are continuing to refurbish from work that began at Indian Head several years ago.

They are x-ray inspecting the units, reconfiguring the ignition train, and modifying the forward adapter and launch lug to integrate the MK 70 with the GQM 163A Coyote target.

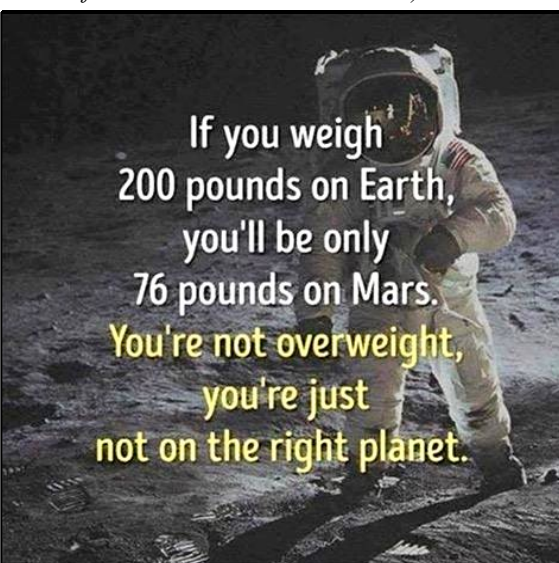
Tom said upon inspection of one of the units, S/N 3082, the grain looked pristine. And, one thing he knows for certain, "These MK 70s were not meant to be taken apart!"

Tom doesn't know how many MK 70s the Navy has, but they plan to use them for as long as they can.

"It's good to see this Huntsville Division product being put to good use," says Tom.

Tom further indicated that this is quite an exciting time with the tremendous growth in the tactical propulsion market and Orbital ATK's acquisition by Northrop Grumman last year.

(Note from Ed.: Kind of tugs at your heart a little, doesn't it?...To get back into the industry. And, some of our "retirees" are still there!)



Spring Breakfast Legend Continues

They just keep on getting better with each passing year. Committee Chair, Don Royston hosted another outstanding event at Brookdale @ Jones Farm, with 31 in attendance. Brookdale provided the delicious food free of charge to our group. We owe a huge *thank you* to Brookdale for the delicious buffet they continually provide, and to Don for all his efforts in pulling the event together. *Congratulations on a job well done!*



*Happy Faces
All Around!*

Rhonda/Mark Locker

Liz/Sam Zeman



Linda/John DeHaye



Foothills/Angele McCauley



Earlene/Harold Webb



Charlie, Chuck (Charles III), Anna Thomas



Tom/Carole Bryant

Bazz/Kathy Bazzell



More color photos can be found on the HDAA FaceBook page. *Make sure to join us for breakfast in 2020! You'll come away full from the delicious food, relaxed, and fulfilled with the camaraderie of old friends.*

Friends In The News...

Nita Boyd was *almost* at a loss for words when recently surprised by family and close friends with an early birthday party. Daughter Mandy and son Joel coordinated the event with Cecil Stokes at Magnolia Trace. Patti and Chuck Anderson, helped as well, along with several other family members. A few friends from Thiokol and Nichols Research, as well as

Nita's ophthalmologist, Dr. Patricia McCoy, were on hand to help in celebrating with Nita. Shown below are photos from Nita's xxth surprise birthday party.



Charla/Larry Pledger, Nita



Taska Clark, Nita



Mandy Boyd Davis, Don Wilson
Photobomb by Patti Anderson!



Patti Anderson, Cecil Stokes, Taska Clark, Mandy B. Davis

At this point in our lives, we realize how blessed we have been to know and care for so many exceptional people who have crossed our life's path. We also know there are many who need to be kept in our thoughts and prayers to help bring peace, comfort, healing, and loving compassion as they may be suffering. *Please keep the following friends in your thoughts: Vernon Bush, Carroll Bobb, Dave/Yvonne Flanigan, Foothills/Angele McCauley, Sam/Lo Vance, and those you know*

**Life is
tough,
my darling,
but so
are you.**

Stephanie Bennett Henry

who
may
need
TLC at
this
time.
Send a
card or
call!

A strong person is not the
one who doesn't cry.
A strong person is the one
who cries & sheds tears for
a moment, then gets up
and fights again.

STATUS REPORT—THIOKOL ARCHIVES

by Glenn Webb

Several years ago, under Historian Jim Lee, HDAA decided to begin archiving information both from Thiokol's presence on Redstone Arsenal (1949-1996) and from activities of the Association. The Archives are on the third floor Heritage Room of the Huntsville Madison County Public Library. Our contact at the library is Ms. Shalis Worthy, Archivist.

HDAA material is properly stored in a locked room off of the main public work area. Ms. Worthy assured us that the material will remain there and will not be eliminated in the future to free up storage space. She has the names and contact information of HDAA persons authorized to access or add to the material. If you have any printed materials that you think should be added to our collection, contact Glenn Webb at 256/881-3645.

STATUS REPORT—THIOKOL GREENWAY/ HISTORIC PLAQUES

by Glenn Webb

Cecil Stokes and Glenn Webb met with the following city of Huntsville Planning Department personnel 2/27/19, to discuss HDAA's desire to have a greenway named Thiokol located near our previous plant site on Redstone Arsenal: Paige Colburn/responsible for greenways in HSV, Katherine Stamps/historic markers and plaques, Michael Webb (Glenn's son)/residential planning. We discussed possible segments of the greenway which could be named for Thiokol, and marking along the selected segment.

The greenway will be constructed after work is completed on the extension of Haysland Road from Grissom High School to Redstone Road, currently underway. Completion dates for the extension are not currently known.

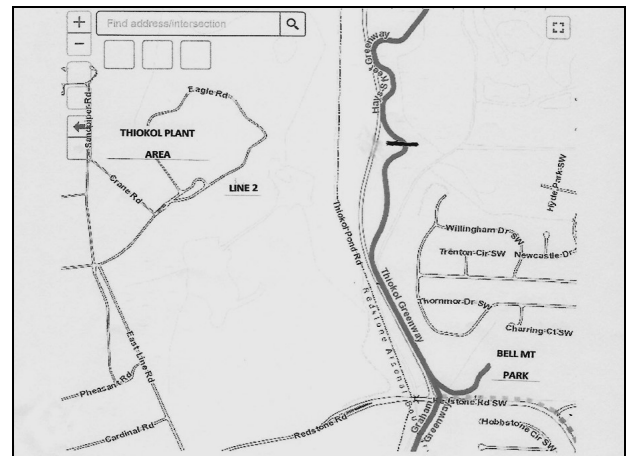
Glenn received a phone call from Michael, telling Glenn to log onto the City of Huntsville website and click on the following:

- Development-The Big Picture-GIS (Geographical Information System)-Interactive Map-Layer List (upper right corner)-Mark Greenways and Greenway Plans
- Zoom in on Bel Mt Park area

THERE IT WAS! Thiokol Greenway starts just east of

where Thiokol's Line 2 was located and continues south to Redstone Road.

Ms. Stamps emailed information on marking standards from the AL Historical Commission. Cecil obtained information on historic markers by AIAA, but learned this organization no longer does that. We will look into the possibility of having RSA approval of a historical marker located outside of what was Thiokol's main entrance.



THIOKOL HISTORY AND HISTORIC PLAQUES

In 1949 Thiokol Chemical Corporation was a world leader in flexible sealants, and set up operations on 1,000 acres of land on Redstone Arsenal as a Government Owned Contractor Operated (GOCO) facility. Per Col. H.N. Toftoy, the initial focus was to support the U.S. Army in research, development, and production of solid propellant rockets motors for the Army's tactical missile systems. This mission was very successfully accomplished and expanded to include all military services and NASA. During Thiokol's 47-year presence on RSA, Thiokol became the world leader in solid rocket propulsion.

The Castor series of solid rocket motors was designed, developed and produced as the workhorse strap-on launch motors for the U.S. Air Force and NASA missions and, ultimately, for commercial contractor space programs. Lead Engineer for the Castor IV motor was Don Wilson, with over 500 successful flights without a failure as Delta strap-on motors. During the life of Castor motors at Huntsville Division, primarily managed by Bill Barnes and Harold Webb, they produced over \$1B in revenue for Thiokol. Production of these space launch motors, as well as numerous military tactical and defense system rocket motors, continues today, under a new company name in Utah and Maryland facilities.

In 47 years, ~8,000 people worked at Thiokol on RSA, during the mid-1950s, Thiokol was the largest government contractor in Huntsville, with just under 2,000 employees. Thiokol's invaluable contributions to Huntsville's history and economy and to the Nation's defense and space efforts should be commemorated by naming the planned greenway, from Bell Mountain Park (beside Redstone Road) to the Tennessee River, the "Thiokol Greenway." At the corner of Bell Mountain Park and start of the south portion of the greenway, a historic plaque would be erected giving a brief history of Thiokol, along with an aerial map of its location (which was less than a quarter mile from where the plaque would be located). There would also be historic signs along the greenway at appropriate locations to call attention to the previous Thiokol plant and to describe why the path's name is Thiokol Greenway.

Since closing in 1995, an organization of Thiokol Huntsville Division Alumni (at one time numbering over 350) still holds four social events each year and is 100% behind the proposed naming of a greenway in the vicinity of the old plant site. The group is also ready to provide financial support for signage along the greenway. It is hoped the Thiokol Greenway will come to fruition.

The Next Stage

The Huntsville Division Alumni Association
P.O. Box 4185
Huntsville, AL 35815-4185

Place
Stamp
Here

REMINDER: \$12 DUES FOR 2019 WERE DUE 1/1/19.

*IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY SUBMITTED, PLEASE
CONSIDER DOING SO SOON. THANKS!*

*Armed Forces Day—5/18
Memorial Day 5/27
Flag Day—6/14
Father's Day—6/16
Summer Begins! - 6/21
Independence Day—7/4
50th Anniversary of the 1st Lunar Communion
By Astronaut 'Buzz' Aldrin, 1969—7/20*

*Drink plenty of fluids this summer.
Heat stroke can be fatal!*

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The Next Stage is the quarterly newsletter publication of the Huntsville Division Alumni Association, Inc. Distribution: approximately 100. Editor: Patti Wilson.

Its address is POB 4185; Huntsville, AL; 35815-4185.

The 2019 HDAA Board consists of : President/Bill Barnes, VP/Tom Bryant, Secretary/Cecil Stokes, Treasurer/Membership/Charlie Thomas. Directors: (19) Jim Gasaway, (19)Paul McFall, (19) Gerald Roberts; (20) Ron Clements, (20) Harold Whitesides, (20) Roy Willis, (20) Sam Zeman; (21) John DeHaye, (21) Don Royston, (21) Patti Wilson.

Ex-officio members of the Board are: Historian (position vacant), and Cecil Stokes/WebMaster.

Contact Cecil for details about the HDAA website and how to view more photos in color!

*See you on Green Mountain June 1st!
Please join us for a delicious lunch and the
camaraderie of long-time, dear friends!
Chill out, linger a while and visit.
You'll be glad you did.*

In Fond Memory...

We join the families in mourning the loss of family, friends and prior coworkers:

June Boggs: Daughter of Bob/Ruth Whitt, wife of Homer Boggs. June worked in Purchasing as a Buyer in the 1960s.

Rinda Clark: Daughter of Jo Killian, who worked for John Goodloe, then in Finance & Administration, Director's Office.

Mrs. "Dot" L. Rowe: Wife of Homer Miles Rowe, Jr., who worked in Administration 1960-1976.

Robert E. Cramer, Sr.: "Big Bud" (father of Congressman "Little Bud" Cramer), who owned Cramer Travel, handling travel arrangements for TC/HD many years.

Dr. Eugene G. Hutchens: Father of Dr. Dale Hutchens, a chemist in Research and Development.

W. D. "Bill" Swaim, Jr.: Worked in Testing. Father, W.D. Swaim, Sr. had worked in Maintenance in the 1940s-70s.

Mary Vassar: Who worked in Payroll for nearly 30 years.

Roy T. Willis: Who worked in Propulsion Requirements, proposal preparation/costing.



They will be sorely missed by us all, since they truly touched our lives.
Our heartfelt sympathy to those who have lost other loved ones, as well.
Reach out to our Thiokol family members who may be suffering some way.