

The Next Stage

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 2

Newsletter of The Huntsville Division Alumni Association

May 12, 2023

Monthly:

1st Wed: A source we all know has indicated Gibson's/ useless overpass may not open for a while. It may be entangled in litigation.

3rd Wed: Lunch at Logan's/Balmoral 12:00. Call/email Jim Gasaway for details:

djgas@att.net. Please give enough lead time to provide Logan's an accurate head count.

Women welcome!

Interested in forming another regular meeting group/time?

Please let editor know...it'll list here!

It might be a nice, fun way to entice new, younger members to HDAA! (no offence meant!)

Green Mountain Nature Trail BBQ!

That cool spring was Nice, now, wasn't it?! Summer is coming in full force. But, have no fear, your summer picnic plans can be cool and dry under the pavilion and fans!

So, please join us for Lawler's BBQ at the Green Mountain Nature Trail pavilion on **Saturday, June 3, 2023**. The pavilion is ours **10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with lunch being served ~12:00N**, with delicious BBQ, buns, slaw, baked beans, potato salad, beverages, cookies. Always delicious!

In spite of rising food costs, picnic Chairpersons Ron Clements and Glenn Webb have been able to keep our picnic food costs to **\$8.75/person**, with **paid reservations being required by 5/29/23** (for Lawler's food prep head count). Reservations may be submitted to **HDAA, P.O. Box 4185, Huntsville, AL 35815-4185**.

(Leftovers taken to 305 8th Street.)

Come early and walk the Trail (Anna and Charlie have done it for Years!); stay late and get caught up with good friends!

*Looking forward to seeing you all there,
Rain or Shine!*



Next Board Mtgs:

(2nd Thurs each qtr)

Jul 13,

Oct 12, 2023

2:30 pm Faith

Presbyterian Church,
SE corner of
Whitesburg/Airport...

*Have you been reaching
out to potential new,
younger members?*

Dates to Remember:

2023

**-6/03: Picnic Grn Mtn
10 am-3 pm**

- Fall Luncheon TBD
We may need to
seek another location
other than Brookdale.
Suggestions welcome!

**-12/2: Christmas Party
@ Magnolia Trace.**

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

JAMES WEBB TELESCOPE —TIME MACHINE TO THE COSMOS...

Built in partnership with Northrop Grumman, NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (Webb) has been making history ever since it was propelled into space in December 2021, revealing never-before-seen details of the early cosmos. Referred to as a time machine, Webb's powerful instruments use infrared vision to peer back over 13.5 billion years and view the earliest stars and galaxies.

Northrop Grumman led the design and build of the observatory, including Webb's deployable sun-shield and primary mirror backplane, the spacecraft bus and the full integration of the observatory. Webb's groundbreaking images are helping astronomers answer questions about how the universe began and, ultimately, if there is life beyond Earth. Today, Northrop Grumman is playing a pivotal role to ensure Webb performs optimally in space. In fact, NASA recently awarded the company a contract to provide operational support and maintenance

for the spacecraft through 2027. To learn more about how Webb is enabling groundbreaking science as well as the ways Northrop Grumman continues to fuel astronomical discovery, here are three of Webb's top observations to date.

#1) Deepest/sharpest infra-red image of the distant universe.

When NASA revealed Webb's first image in July 2022, humankind's understanding of the universe took a monumental leap forward. It was the deepest and sharpest infrared image of the distant universe ever generated. Known as Webb's "First Deep Field," it is a galaxy cluster overflowing with thousands of galaxies. According to NASA, the area observed was approximately the size of a grain of sand "held at arm's length."



(continued Page 3, Webb Telescope)

...2022 PICNIC PHOTOS...

Since the spring breakfast was cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control there are no photos of it. Here are a few pix from last year's picnic to entice you to join us again this year!



Billy Ray Yell and Bill Russell catching up on old times.



Gerald/Juanita Roberts and Jan Kranert visiting.

At right, Ron Clements, Committee co-chair, driving the "chuck wagon" as Ray Zimmerman ensures a safe landing. Alice behind Ray as Glenn Webb, Committee co-chair follows close behind as backup marshaller! *Great job, y'all! Sure don't want to lose any of that great BBQ lunch!*



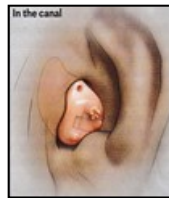
We don't want you to miss out on any of Lawler's great BBQ either. So, mark your calendar Now for Saturday, June 3, 2023 to meet with good friends at the Madison County Nature Trail on Green Mountain! See you there.

A NEW ERA Dawns for Improved Hearing!



At left is the typical behind the ear (BTE) aid, which has 2 parts: a small plastic casing behind the ear contains the aid circuitry (microphone, amplifier, speaker). The

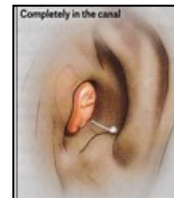
casing often connects to a custom-made ear mold (earpiece) by plastic tubing. The earpiece directs amplified sound into the ear canal. These work well for almost all types and severities of hearing loss, especially for more severe loss. Changing the battery may be easier and they usually require fewer repairs. However, your ear size/configuration may not have enough space for this aid to work. It may also pick up more wind noise. You may have to hold a phone close to the microphone at the top of your ear. These are the most widely sold.



The middle shows the aid in the canal (ITC), but not as deeply as a Completely In The Canal (CIC) aid. The outer edge of the aid extends into the bowl

of the ear. This can benefit people with mild to moderately severe hearing loss, and they are often more powerful than CIC aids with more options for add-on features. Like CIC aids,

In-the-ear (ITE) aids fit into the bowl-shaped area of the outer ear, come in a full-shell style (fills most of the bowl) half-shell style (fills the bottom part of the bowl). ITEs are suitable for people with mild to severe hearing loss. They can be more powerful than smaller aids and can have more options (telecoil, directional microphones. This aid/battery is larger/easier to handle.



The right photo shows the aid completely in the canal (CIC). These traditional aids make sounds louder and channel them into the ear canal. These aids

come in many styles and differ in size and how they fit the ear. Some are small enough to fit deeply in the ear canal, making them almost invisible. All parts including the battery are in a tiny shell (casing) that fits deeply in the ear canal. A thin plastic pull cord on the aid sticks out into the bowl-shaped part of the ear for ease in removal. This is best for mild to moderate hearing loss. Due to its small size, it offers fewer options such as volume control and multiple microphones.

There are several ways to increase hearing aid satisfaction: acknowledge your hearing loss, having your hearing tested, look for best-suited aids. How well aids function depends on many factors: type/severity of hearing loss, size of the aid (smaller are generally less powerful and have shorter battery life and may be more difficult for you to handle), how well you hear in different frequencies, smaller ears may not be able to handle/fit well with in-the-canal type aids. If you have a hearing specialist, it might be best to check with them, be tested, etc. before aid shopping.

In 2022, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved sales of certain hearing aids without a prescription. This may help many get aids more readily/easily. Seeing a professional is the best way to tailor aids to your specific needs, but the option of not requiring a prescription may help defray some costs. For example, nonprescription aids are for people with self-perceived mild to moderate hearing loss (have trouble hearing in a group or need to turn the volume on high on the radio/TV. If you have Severe hearing loss (not able to hear conversations in quiet settings or can't hear loud sounds such as noisy cars or trucks passing, the new nonprescription aids aren't likely to help. You need to see a hearing professional.

The FDA estimates that this change of approved sales without a prescription may save people, on the average, about \$2,800 on a pair of hearing aids. That's because more manufacturers will emerge, increasing competition and lowering prices both for prescription and nonprescription aids.

YES! More cost/style competition and, perhaps ultimately, fully covered by insurance! Nice.

Webb Telescope (continued from Page 1)

Webb used the combined performance of its near-infrared camera (NIRCam) and mid-infrared instrument (MIRI) to observe infrared light from the earliest stars and galaxies stretched billions of years.

"Webb will play a critical role in advancing our understanding of the cosmos by allowing scientists to observe distant galaxies and stars with minimal distortion/interference from other infrared sources," said Dr. Candace Givens, Northrop Grumman's vice president, Overhead Persistent Infrared (OPIR) and Geospatial Systems (OGS) Business Unit.

Webb's ability to detect much farther into the infrared wavelength is groundbreaking. To capture this light and enable Webb to collect such clear images, Northrop Grumman developed an advanced cryocooler system that keeps the MIRI extremely cold.



#2) Southern Ring Nebula. As part of the unveiling of Webb's first images, NASA published this picture of the Southern Ring Nebula, located some 2,000 light-years away in the Vela Constellation. Using its NIRCAM and MIRI cameras to observe distant light,

Webb observed two stars close to one another with fine rays of light on the periphery and captured the gas and dust emanating from the two stars. Scientists will use Webb to study additional nebulae throughout the cosmos and investigate the types of gas and dust expelled from their structures.

Northrop Grumman also designed the communications systems on the observatory that allows scientists to send and receive data from Webb. Thanks to its reliable network, teams are able to communicate with Webb while it's a million miles away from earth.

#3) Pillars of Creation. In 1995, the Hubble Space Telescope stunned the world with its iconic image called the Pillars of Creation. The picture showed towering mountains of gas and dust in the Eagle Nebula, which lies approximately 6,500 light-years away. On October 21, 2022, NASA revealed this updated Webb image of the Eagle Nebula displaying a highly detailed landscape where new stars are forming within thick clouds of gas and dust. Webb used its NIRCam optical instrument to peer through these thick clouds to capture nascent stars. This image was possible because of how stable it is in space. This is a result of the observatory's pointing system, a process that Northrop Grumman developed specifically for Webb, which allows Webb to stay pointed at a very small region of the sky (smaller than a tenth of a pixel) and ensures a stable image.



In addition, Northrop Grumman designed Webb's backplane — the support structure for its large gold-plated mirrors — to withstand temperature fluctuations in space. Webb's backplane is stable to within 40 nanometers, resulting in superior optical performance over the observatory's field of regard. (All amazing!)

(www.northropgrumman.com/space/time-machine-to-the-cosmos)

FRIENDS IN THE NEWS....

Tom Bryant, photographer extraordinaire, said the Museum of Art is hosting the Huntsville Photographic Society's 2023 Members Showcase from May 7 through August 6. Tom has had many paintings over the years at this exhibition, and we'll surely be able to see more of his fabulous work. This exhibition is an annual juried selection of approximately 50 outstanding photographs by members of the Huntsville Photographic Society.

The HPS was founded in 1964 to promote the art and science of photography in Huntsville and surrounding areas through informative programs, member contests, and special events. *Hope to see Tom's work there!*



Bill & Faye Cooley have now seen their most heartfelt desire come true: 6 grandchildren have now graduated from Auburn and 1 from UAH!!! Shown above L-R are Susan (mom), Emily, Anna, Amy, Paige, and Scott (dad). Not shown are Abby, Jake, and Grant. *Congratulations, to all seven! Bill and Faye and All of us are so very proud of and for you. (Some are Continuing on!)*

Catherine and Jeff Jones are also the very proud parents of a recent AU graduate! Shown below L-R are Catherine, daughter Rachel, and Jeff. *Congratulations to you all, as well! Know great things are ahead for you in the coming years.*



War Eagle! HEY!!

*You've survived 100% of Everything
in your life so far, so there's a pretty good chance
that you'll survive whatever is next!*

—Timber Hawkeye

The Next Stage

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

REMINDER: \$12 DUES FOR 2023 WERE DUE 1/1/23

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

Mother's Day — 5/14/2023

Memorial Day — 5/29

Green Mtn Nature Trail — 6/3

Flag Day — 6/14

Father's Day — 6/18

Summer begins — 6/21

Independence Day — 7/4

Labor Day — 9/4

Patriot Day — 9/11

Grandparents Day — 9/10

Peace Day — 9/21

Autumn Begins — 9/23

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MAY 12, 2023

The Next Stage is the quarterly newsletter publication of the Huntsville Division Alumni Association, Inc. Distribution: approximately 75. (FYI: Started with ~350 28 years ago.) Editor: Patti Wilson.

Its address: HDAA, POB 4185; Huntsville, AL; 35815-4185.

The 2023 HDAA Board consists of :
President/Ray Zimmerman, VP/Bill Barnes, Secretary/Cecil Stokes, Treasurer/Member-ship/Charlie Thomas. Directors:
(23)Ron Clements, Benny Pittsinger, Glenn Webb; (24) Jan Kranert, Gerald Roberts, Patti Wilson; (25) Tom Bryant, Jim Gasaway, Hermann Miskelly.

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

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

See you at the Green Mtn. Nature Trail pavilion Sat., 6/3, 10:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.

*Come early and bring shoes to walk the trail. You'll be glad you did...
It's beautiful!*

In Fond Memory...

With great sympathy, we join the families in mourning the loss of family, friends and prior coworkers:

William Brown: A chemical engineer at the HSV Division in the 1950s-60s.

George Miller: Worked in Research and Development.

Marlyn Moman: Who worked in the Plastics Shop.

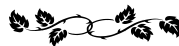
James G. O'Rear: Who worked in Finance & Administration and Prog. Mgt.

Marian Atkins Powe: Wife of Carl Powe, Manager, Production Control when COPICS was selected for the Huntsville Division.

Jon Prickett: Worked as an Engineering Tech at the Physical Test Lab.

Tom Sato: Worked as lead for the Engineering Stress Analysis Group.

Jim Wills: Friend of the Huntsville Division Alumni Association.



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.

What the caterpillar calls the end of the world, the Master calls a butterfly."

—Richard Bach

When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that
in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight.

—Kahlil Gibran

Smell the sea, and feel the sky. Let your soul and spirit fly.

—Van Morrison