

The Next Stage

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 1

Newsletter of The Huntsville Division Alumni Association

MARCH 5, 2016

You Are Cordially Invited

To: The Annual HDAA Breakfast

Where: Brookdale Place, Jones Farm, 2815 Carl T Jones Dr SE, Huntsville

When: Saturday, March 19, 2016, 8:30 Visiting Time, 9:00 Buffet Served!

Cost: \$7.00 per person

What: Breakfast casserole, bacon, sausage, hash brown potatoes, biscuits, gravy, muffins, fruit, juice, coffee. (mmm...Shouldn't type this on an empty stomach!)

Please submit your paid reservations to HDAA, P O. Box 4185, Huntsville, AL, 35815-4185 by Monday, 14 March 2016, so a good reservation count can be provided Brookdale for preparation of our scrumptious meal.

Don Royston, committee Chairman, works hard to make this a successful event every year...and, we haven't been disappointed! We hope you consider joining us for this fun event. Let's share a little camaraderie and visit a while over a hot cup of coffee! *See you there!*

Next Board Mtgs:

(2nd Thurs each qtr)

Jan 14, Apr 14,

Jul 14, Oct 13, 2016

2:30 pm (note change from 5 p.m.), Faith Presbyterian Church, SE corner of Whitesburg/Airport.

Join your Board to help plan upcoming events and possible other activities!

Dates to Remember:

2016

3/19: Spring Breakfast Brookdale Place

-6/4 Summer Picnic Green Mtn Nature Tr.

-Fall Dinner TBD

-Christmas Party TBD

Specific details will be provided closer to the date of the event. Hope you'll join the fun and camaraderie!

Come Join Friends for the wonderful events!

Monthly:

1st Wed: Ladies lunch, 11:00, Gibson's BBQ/S. Mem. Pkwy. Call Joyce/539-4338 for details.

2nd Tue: Breakfast at Mullins/Andrew Jackson Way, 07:30. Call Bill Russell at 650-5400 for details.

3rd Wed: Lunch at El Palacio, 12:00. Call Jim Gasaway/353-7199 for details.

Come Join the Fun!

ORBITAL ATK SUPPORTS SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF NATIONAL SECURITY SATELLITE

A United Launch Alliance Delta IV rocket successfully launched a classified satellite, designated NROL-45 (U.S. National Reconnaissance Office) from Vandenberg AFB, CA, in support of a national defense mission.

Orbital ATK contributed two Graphite Epoxy Motors-60 (GEM-60), large composite structures and the propellant tank and nozzle for the main engine.

The GEM-60s burned for 90 seconds and provided more than 560,000 lbs of thrust. The key composite structures provided lower weight and higher performance for the launch. The Orbital ATK nozzle thermal protection material is capable of shielding the nozzle from extreme heat of launch, which can exceed 4,000°F.

(Excerpt from www.orbitalatk.com/news-room, dated 2-11-16)

ORBITAL ATK COMPLETES CARGO DELIVERY MISSION TO INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION FOR NASA

This marks the 4th successful cargo delivery mission (OA-4) to the International Space Station. Orbital ATK's Cygnus™ spacecraft delivered 7,7000 pounds of cargo to the ISS, the largest cargo shipment to date by a commercial company.

The Cygnus™ that carried out the OA-4 mission unberthed from the ISS on 2/19, completing a 72-day stay at the orbiting laboratory. Prior to its departure, the astronauts loaded the cargo module with ~3000 lbs of items for disposal. Cygnus™ performed a safe reentry into the Earth's atmosphere, successfully concluding the mission.

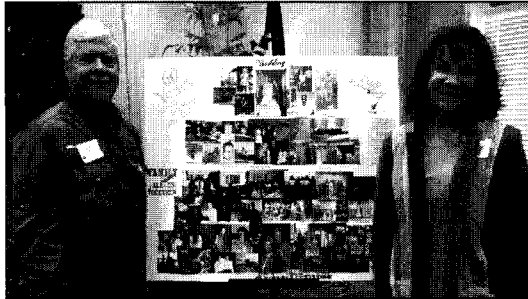
By the end of 2018, Orbital ATK is scheduled to have completed 10 Commercial Resupply Services to the ISS.

(Excerpt from www.orbitalatk.com/news-room, dated 2-22-16)

Christmas Party Surprise!

Several months prior to the annual Christmas Party, we were contacted by Jane Wall (Gene/Iva Thomas' daughter), who wanted to surprise her parents with something, and thought it would be very special if it could be shared with their Thiokol family. So, after careful planning, secrecy on the part of all involved (miracle in itself!), the annual Christmas Party was shared with Gene and Iva's 60th wedding anniversary! A lot of the Thomas kids/grandkids were able to come, as well, making the surprise for Gene/Iva even more meaningful. Jane did a magnificent job pulling it all together, along with a lot of help from Cecil Stokes and others.

The collage was truly a walk down memory lane!



Above, Mark Wall (Jane's husband) and Jane stand in front of the 60 Years of Family (Gene/Iva's wedding and many special events throughout their 60 years together) they put together for the party. Jane also had special cakes and cupcakes prepared, and provided cards for attendees to wish special greetings to Gene and Iva). After making a gracious, touching announcement of love to the happy couple, Jane provided for all. Shown below, Glen Thomas is shown pouring champagne for Shirley Stokes and Fouts McCauley. When glasses were filled, Jane had made a toast to her parents, glasses were raised, and there probably wasn't a dry eye in the house! After all was said and done, Iva said she was ready for another wonderful 60 years to share with Gene. They both agreed, they wouldn't have done a single thing differently.



A grand time was had by all who attended. THANKS to Jane and the Thomas-Wall clan, and to Cecil and all who helped celebrate a special couple's 60th anniversary!



Congratulations, lovebirds! ♥

More Christmas Party Fun...

What a wonderful afternoon filled with love, laughter, delicious food, and camaraderie of dear, old friends. If you missed it this year, we'll try and make it just as special next year! Shown below are a few more photos that may show what a special afternoon it truly was.

More of Jane's labor of love at right.



Iva hugging grands, overwhelmed at the surprise of it all!



More surprise love hugs, right.

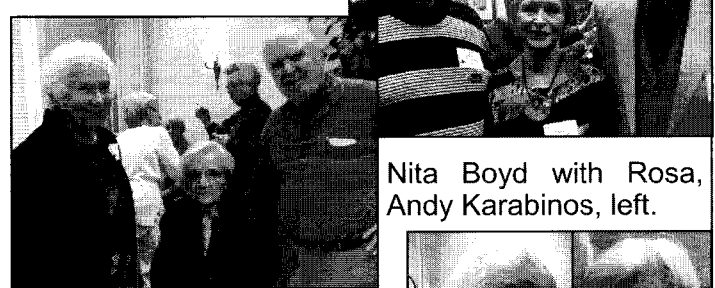


Wonderful to see Ted Sumrall, above, shown with John Nelson!



Shown left, Angele McCauley, Jean Walker, Brenda Turner.

Shown right, LaThair, Diane Munk, Jim Lee.



Nita Boyd with Rosa, Andy Karabinos, left.

Come join all the revelers this year, building memories. What a wonderful Thiokol family we share! Exceptional folks, all.



Roy Willis/Libbie Loder

FRIENDS IN THE NEWS....

Nita Boyd recently submitted:

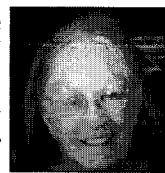


Regrets and Good Intentions

Two friends, two former Thiokol friends, right on Hwy 72 W. I passed there every day, almost for 15+ years, think "I need to stop," yada, yada.

Well, I did stop last trip to Huntsville. Charlie (Turner) had just pulled in their driveway, so I pulled in behind his truck. Charlie seems not to have changed at all, seems to be in good health. Charlie was a foreman in Manufacturing when he retired. I asked about Katie, and here's where the regrets come full force: Katie died about a year ago, Charlie said; and had been sick for a while before. She was still breeding Persian cats. A long time ago, don't remember about when, but at least late 70s, Katie worked in Programs for W.C. Smith. She did a lot of nice things for me (things I now remember well), but then the "drift." She was RIF'd, went to work for Civilian Army, got a PhD, "prospered," as so many did when RIF'd from Thiokol. I just wanted her to be remembered again, as quite a few of the HDAA members will. *Thanks, Nita. We ALL need to remember dear friends; don't suffer those "regrets and good intentions." See your friends...*

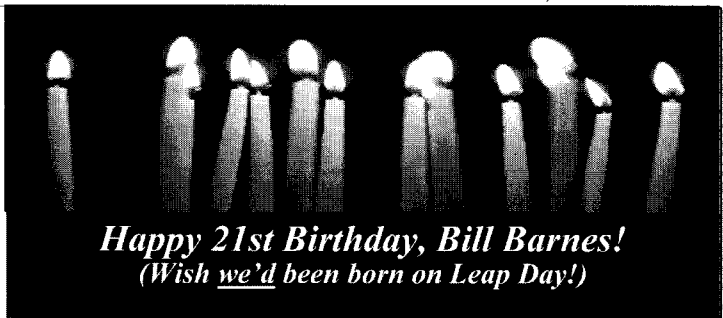
Dottie Luke is retiring from UAH in April and relocating. We shall miss her, but hope to visit her in her new location! *Best of luck to you, Dottie. Keep the light on for us! We know a GREAT place to have brunch when we visit.....*



Sam Vance said there was an interview broadcast 2/25 on WLRH about Bob Ebeling, an 89 year old former Wasatch Engineer who tried to stop the launch of the Challenger space shuttle, but was over-ruled by management, NASA, and (then) President Reagan. Sam heard the interview, and found an internet article about the interview (~42 pages) and peoples' responses. The article can be found at: <http://www.dailykos.com/stories/2/2016/2/26/1491359/-Space-shuttle-engineer-who-carried-guilt-of-explosion-30-years>. There is also a link in the article to hear the interview on NPR, or to read about the whole story on the NPR website. *Thanks, Sam. This is something we will certainly review.*



As many of you know, Sam also shares many funny jokes he receives from *A Prairie Home Companion*. This is a recent favorite: "Two children are comparing notes before the start of their first Sunday School class. The little girl asks, 'At your house, do you say a prayer before dinner?' The little boy responds, 'No, my mom is a good cook!' "
(Ed: We pray a LOT at our house!) Thanks, Sam.



Happy 21st Birthday, Bill Barnes!
(Wish we'd been born on Leap Day!)

10 TOP MEMORY SECRETS TO BOOST YOUR BRAINPOWER

EXERCISE: Any exercise at least 3 times a week can help boost your memory, combat diabetes, lower high blood pressure/cholesterol, help fight against stroke: walk, use stairs, garden, swim, anything you will enjoy and stick with! Do a variety of things...just keep moving!

DON'T SMOKE: It increases risks for stroke and hypertension, which can cause memory impairment.

DRINK ALCOHOL ONLY IN MODERATION: No more than 2 drinks/day for men, 1/day for women.

KEEP LEARNING: Exercising your brain stimulates communication between brain cells. Crossword puzzles, reading, book discussion group, chess, taking classes. Plan a day trip, go to theaters, museums, volunteer, meet with friends. Vary your routine.

FOLLOW A HEALTHY DIET: Lots of fruits, vegetables, healthy fats from fish, nuts, and eat whole grains. Avoid saturated fats (meats/dairy) and trans fats. It will help keep arteries clear, cholesterol levels healthy.

GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP: 6-8 hours/night of quality sleep. If sleep problems persist (insomnia, apnea) talk to your doctor.

BE SOCIAL: Have close ties with others, build relationships. This can also provide support during stressful times, reducing damaging effects stress has on the brain.

MANAGE STRESS: When stressed, it's hard to concentrate. Not concentrating is a key cause of poor learning and forgetfulness. Constant stress can alter your brain chemistry, so control your reactions to stress in your life that can't be controlled.

PROTECT YOUR BRAIN FROM INJURY: Wear appropriate gear for high-speed activities, watch out for pesticides, paints, solvents, use a water filter to eliminate possible lead. Be careful when sanding/painting older homes. Keep your car/home serviced for minimized carbon monoxide emissions.

IMPROVE EVERYDAY MEMORY: Use organizational tools (calendars, address books, Post-It notes) consistently. Keep your focus, repetition, comprehension, note-taking, being patient can improve your ability to learn new information and retain it over time. Try to remember a person's name by thinking of a word that rhymes with the name, making it easier to remember.

We all need to improve our memories, so we don't forget dear friends!

(Excerpt from Harvard Medical School Special Report)

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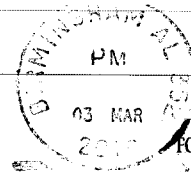
The Huntsville Division Alumni Association
P.O. Box 4185
Huntsville, AL 35815-4185

REMINDER: \$12 DUES FOR 2016 WERE DUE 1/1/16.

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY SUBMITTED, PLEASE
CONSIDER DOING SO WITH YOUR BREAKFAST
RESERVATIONS. THANKS!

Daylight Savings—3/13
St. Patrick's Day—3/17
Palm Sunday—3/20
Easter—3/27 Count your blessings!
Earth Day—4/22
Mother's Day—5/8
Armed Forces Day—5/21
Memorial Day—5/30

Thank a Veteran for serving this great country,
defending our God-given rights, defending our
Constitution, and preserving our freedoms!



FOREVER

USA

Cecil Stokes (pd 16)
3134 Constellation Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35802

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MARCH 5, 2016

The Next Stage is the quarterly newsletter publication of the Huntsville Division Alumni Association, Inc. Distribution: approximately 125. Editor: Patti Wilson.

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

The 2016 HDAA Board consists of President Paul McFall, Vice President Glenn Webb, Secretary Cecil Stokes, Treasurer/Membership Charlie Thomas, and Directors: Bill Barnes (16), Jim Lee (16), John Nelson (16), Cecil Stokes (16), Sam Zeman (16), Ron Clements (17), Faye Jones (17), Sam Vance (17), Harold Whitesides (17), Patti Wilson (17), Tom Bryant (18), Don Royston (18), Joyce Royston (18), Don Wilson (18). Ex-officio members of the Board are: Jim Lee/Historian, and Cecil Stokes/WebMaster.

If you're still confused about our MyFamily.com and the HDAA Website, contact Cecil for details.

See you at Brookdale Saturday, 3/19!

Great Friends,
Scrumptious Food.

Come Join Us!

You'll be sorry you missed out
if you don't!

In Fond Memory...

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

Bill Aycock: Worked in Engineering.

Bill Byess: Worked in Maintenance.

Carol J. Carroll: Daughter of John L. Williams, who worked in Quality Engineering and Reliability.

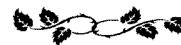
Helen Hagler: Wife of Jack Hagler, PM who worked in Propulsion Requirements.

Joyce Houk: Widow of Harold Houk, who worked in Plant Engineering.

Frances McCaleb: Widow of James McCaleb, who worked in Shipping and Receiving.

Katie Turner (2015): Wife of Charlie Turner, Foreman in Manufacturing.

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.



Goodbyes are not forever, Goodbyes are not the end.
They simply mean I'll miss you, until we meet again.

The greatest discovery of any generation is that human beings can alter their
lives by altering the attitudes of their minds.

...Albert Schweitzer