

The Next Stage

Newsletter of The Huntsville Division Alumni Association

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 3

September 11, 2024

Next Board Mtg:

(2nd Thu each quarter)
Oct 10, 2024.

2:30 pm Faith Presbyterian Church, SE corner of Whitesburg/Airport, 5003 Whitesburg Dr. Huntsville, AL

Dates to Remember:

2024

9/28, Fall Breakfast: Trinity UMC
607 Airport Rd SW, HSV
Chair, Bill Barnes

Christmas Party: Sat., 12/7, Magnolia Trace

Details provided closer to date of event!

Will keep you posted!

Want to volunteer to serve on the Board? contact a Board member.

Consider it for 2 reasons:

Camaraderie with friends; and, help keep HDAA solvent!

Come join the fun!

Contact appropriate person if interested in attending one of these gatherings!

1st Wed: If interested in Ladies Lunches, email PattiKat5332@gmail.com. Large group or small, let's not lose touch! So many new places.....

3rd Wed: Lunch @ Logan's/Balmoral Dr. Email Jim Gasaway @ djgas@att.net if interested! Not just engineering, all invited! Just let Jim know you're coming.



JOIN US FOR A HOME-COOKED BREAKFAST!!

If you weren't able to join us for last year's Fall Breakfast, you really missed out. The HDAA cooks did an outstanding job, since they've been cooking for their prayer breakfast group for a while. You couldn't Ask for better food or more congenial cooks! It was like a family affair, with many adding helping hands to cook And clean.

Date: Saturday, 28 September Time: 09:00 \$6.50/person....A Bargain!

Breakfast will be served shortly after arrival time, depending on how many cooks are in the kitchen! Committee Bill Barnes and Ron Clements ask for a headcount so the team can properly prepare for attendees. **Please RSVP to Charlie (256/881-4192 or HDAA, POB 4185, HSV, AL 35815-4185) no later than Monday, 23 September.**

Directions to Trinity United Methodist Church, 607 Airport Rd., Huntsville: East on Airport Road, just past Holy Spirit Church on right you'll see TUMC. Turn right into their parking lot, take an immediate left to the back parking lot, and enter through the Missions Wings door (marked).

Looking forward to seeing you All there!

Bring an appetite...and you only have to help if you want to.



ATHENA sensor. Photo by NOC

Northrop Grumman Selected by U.S. Army to Enhance Aircraft Survivability

Northrop Grumman (NYSE: NOC) has been selected by the U.S. Army to compete in the first phase of the Improved Threat Detection System program, featuring NOC's Advanced Tactical Hostile Engagement Awareness (ATHENA) sensor on an Other Transaction Agreement Group, Inc., on behalf of the Consortium for Command, Control and Communication in Cyberspace.

ATHENA is a next generation missile warning sensor providing always-on, 360-degree situational awareness — elevating aircraft protection and survivability.

The ATHENA sensor delivers high-resolution, surround video and wide-band threat detection that can quickly geolocate incoming Electro-Optical/Infrared (EO/IR) threats, including hostile fire and anti-tank guided missiles, small arms, medium- and large-caliber machine guns, rocket propelled grenades and anti-tank guided munitions.

Dennis Neel, survivability development programs director, NOC: "ATHENA can see where pilots can't, even looking through an aircraft floor. The sensor delivers safety in-flight through advanced threat warning capabilities and situational awareness previously limited to larger aircraft, making missions safer for pilots and aircrews."

NOC's ATHENA sensor meets today's mission needs while providing the U.S. Army with connected, multi-service capabilities to identify future threats. The sensor has performed in several government live-fire exercises. As a form/fit replacement for legacy aircraft sensors, it seamlessly integrates into an aircraft with flare or laser-based countermeasure systems, such as the Common Infrared Countermeasure system.

(Excerpt from news.northropgrumman.com, August 26, 2024. More information available.)

THE BIG CHILL...OUR SUMMER PICNIC!

July...one of Alabama’s hottest months, and our summer picnic on Green Mountain at the Nature Trail had attendees scurrying to find jackets, blankets, ANYthing to help provide a little warmth! Even so, we all had a wonderful time visiting, enjoying our usual great BBQ meal from Lawler’s, and marveling at the sharp contrast from normal sweltering summer temperatures. But, we didn’t have to wait too long in Huntsville for our temps to return to normal: hot, humid, and eventual triple digits! We have a saying in Huntsville: If you don’t like the weather, hang around 10 minutes and it’ll change. It’s said we are the only place where you can have four seasons in one week! It certainly seems to be true. 🌞😊😬🌸



Billy Martin, Betty Willis, Amma Barnes, Patty/Glenn Webb, Ola Ann Lee



Patti and Glenn Webb shivering under all the covers!



Tom Bryant & Billy Martin



Standing back: Mark/Ronda Locker (thanks for providing so much warmth for so many!), Cecil Stokes.

At left: L-R: Faye Jones, Glenn Webb, Patty Webb, Ola Ann Lee, Cecil Stokes, David Jones.



Alice Clements

Thanks to Ron and Alice Clements, Ray and Lora Zimmerman for a great summer picnic chill! Plan to join us in 2025 for our next picnic...always full of surprises! (More photos available on the HDAA FaceBook site)

Dare to Be

Steve Maraboli — Life, the Truth, and Being Free

- When a new day begins, dare to smile gratefully.
- When there is darkness, dare to be the first to shine a light.
- When there is injustice, dare to be the first to condemn it.
- When something seems difficult, dare to do it anyway.
- When life seems to beat you down, dare to fight back.
- When there seems to be no hope, dare to find some.
- When you’re feeling tired, dare to keep going.
- When times are tough, dare to be tougher.
- When love hurts you, dare to love again.
- When someone is hurting, dare to help them heal.
- When another is lost, dare to help them find the way.
- When a friend falls, dare to be the first to extend a hand.
- When you cross paths with another, dare to make them smile.
- When you feel great, dare to help someone else feel great too.
- When the day has ended, dare to feel as you’ve done your best.

Dare to be the best you can – At all times, Dare to be!

A visiting Preacher was attending a men’s breakfast in Ohio Farm County. He asked one of the impressive older farmers in attendance to say grace that morning. After all were seated, the older farmer began-----

“Lord, I hate buttermilk.”

The Preacher opened one eye and wondered to himself where this was going.

Then the farmer loudly proclaimed, “Lord, I hate lard.”

Now the Preacher was overly worried. However without missing a beat, the farmer prayed on, “And Lord, you know I don’t care much for raw white flour.”

Just as the Preacher was ready to stand and stop everything, the farmer continued,

“But Lord, when you mix ‘em all together and bake ‘em up, I do love fresh biscuits. So Lord, when things come up we don’t like, when life gets hard, when we just don’t understand what you are sayin’ to us, we just need to relax and wait ‘till You are done mixin’, and probably it will be somethin’ even better than biscuits.

Amen.” (Thanks to Fouts McCauley for sharing!)

FRIENDS IN THE NEWS....



At Left: Nothing better in the world than a sunny day, still waters, and teaching great-grandson, Zane how to handle the boat by Papa **John Marlin**. *Wonderful memories in the making that will last a lifetime!*



Rene and John Seigh, at right, are both incredibly creative, and we are privileged to be the benefactors of all their efforts, if we keep up with all they do. Between Rene's art work, and John's many years of acting on stage, they have begun a legacy within their own family to share their talents...like among their six grandchildren! *Plan to see and share in their love of life! You'll be glad you did.*

LIVING IN THE DARK?

Most humans are born with sufficient photoreceptors in their eyes to see well during more light (cone photoreceptors [CPs] used) and with lower lighting (rod photoreceptors [RPs]). As we age, we lose RPs more rapidly than CPs. Vision during daylight may be fine, but night vision becomes less acute. In people with AMD, this process is even more pronounced. Also, as we age our pupils become smaller over time, allowing less light to enter eyes. By the time we enter our 60s, the backs of our eyes are receiving only one-third the light they did in our 20s. It's a gradual process over time that is hardly noticeable. We also become less sensitive to changes in contrast making us less able to distinguish objects (like pedestrians or road signs) from their background. The darker it gets, the more challenged our sight becomes.

What's more, by our late 50s, nearly 1 in 10 of us will suffer from cataracts—a blurring caused by a buildup of protein on the dislike lenses behind our pupils. By our 80s, more than half of us will have cataracts. Fortunately, this can be corrected with relatively minor ophthalmic surgery.

Some good tips: 1) if eyesight is diminished, drive as little as possible after dark. 2) Use your bright lights all the time with night driving, except with oncoming traffic. 3) Don't economize on headlights. Buy the best available, and keep your windshield and headlights clean. 4) Reset the illumination levels of your dashboard lights and any in-car screens to low. 5) Don't skip the after dinner coffee! The Traffic Safety Administration reported in 2017 91,000 police-reported crashes involved drowsy drivers.

(AARP Magazine dated Oct/Nov 2023) BE SAFE!

Age Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)

(Mayo Clinic Health Letter, Sep '24)

AMD is a chronic eye disease that develops when tissue of the macula, an area at the back of the inner eye, begins to deteriorate. The macula is part of the light-detecting layer of tissue (retina) that's responsible for the central area of the field of vision and the ability to clearly see fine details.

There are two forms of AMD:

DRY AMD—This type occurs in about 75% of people with AMD. However, it only accounts for 10% of legal blindness caused by AMD because it develops slowly. The hallmark sign is clumps of cellular waste, which are called drusen, usually seen during an eye exam. Small drusen may develop without causing any noticeable effects to vision. However, larger drusen can develop and merge, leading to the breakdown of light-sensitive cells of the macula and the gradual process of AMD-related vision loss.

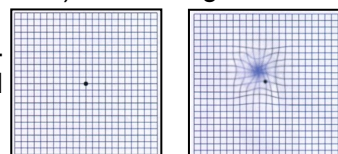
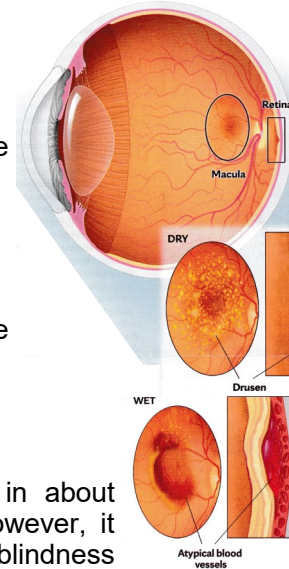
WET AMD—Also known as exudative or neovascular AMD, comes on more abruptly and is responsible for most severe vision loss. Wet AMD starts as dry AMD. At some point in the disease process, new, atypical blood vessels begin to grow within the macula. These new vessels are prone to leaking blood and fluid beneath the macular tissues, causing swelling, possibly leading to damage and scarring of areas critical to central vision.

Symptoms of dry and wet AMD can be similar. The main difference is that wet AMD can cause vision decline within weeks to months, whereas dry AMD typically unfolds over years or decades. Another important difference is that dry AMD typically, not always, involves both eyes at the same time. Wet AMD often starts with increasing symptoms in one eye, with a high risk that the other eye will develop wet AMD within five years. Both types may cause:

Blurred vision, causing a gradual haziness and difficulty seeing fine details such as small type; street signs or faces may be harder to see; visual distortions, in which straight lines appear bent, or wavy; dulled colors; difficulty adjusting to low light; dark spots in your vision or the need to scan your eyes around to get a complete view of an object.

Progression of AMD may be slowed with supplements, such as AREDS2, along with annual exams (more frequent if vision changes occur), and using an Amsler Grid to check your vision.

Amsler grid at left: normal vision; right grid shows vision distortions.



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

Place
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REMINDER: \$12 DUES FOR 2024 WERE DUE 1/1/24

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY SUBMITTED, PLEASE
CONSIDER DOING SO. THANK YOU!



Patriot Day—9/11

Peace Day—9/21

Autumn Begins—9/22

TUMC Fall Breakfast—9/28

Columbus Day—10/14

Halloween—10/31

All Saints Day—11/1

Daylight Savings Ends—11/3

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION—11/5



Place Label Here

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SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

The Next Stage is the quarterly newsletter publication of the Huntsville Division Alumni Association, Inc. Distribution: approximately 70. Editor: Patti Wilson. Its address is POB 4185; Huntsville, AL; 35815-4185.

The 2024 HDAA Board consists of :
President/Ray Zimmerman, VP/Wayne McCain, Secretary/Cecil Stokes, Treasurer-Membership/Charlie Thomas.
Directors: (24) Bill Barnes, Tom Bryant, Ron Clements, Jim Gasaway, Jan Kranert, Mark Locker, Hermann Miskelly, Gerald Roberts, Patti Wilson; (25) Bill Barnes, Tom Bryant, Ron Clements, Jim Gasaway, Jan Kranert, Hermann Miskelly, Ray Zimmerman, Mark Locker; (26) Bill Barnes, Ron Clements, Jim Gasaway, Ray Zimmerman, Mark Locker.

Ex-officio members of the Board: Historian (vacant) 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 TUMC Fall Breakfast, 09:00!

In Fond Memory...

We join the families in mourning the loss of family, friend(s) and prior coworker(s):

Emma Jean Davis: Wife of James B. Davis, Jr., who worked on the Pilot Lines, in the early years. Mother of Russell S. Davis, who worked in Motor Manufacturing, early 1990s.

Richard "Dick" Hessler, Jr.: Who worked in Engineering, Physical Test/Analysis.

Erline Hall Kilpatrick: Wife of Billy Kilpatrick, Security/Communications.

Jim Martin: Who worked in R&D, Advanced Propellant Development.

Mary Williamson Olliff: Wife of Marty, who worked in R&D, Process Development.

Elmer Pruitt: Who worked in Procurement.

Dendy Rousseau: Who worked in Publications.

Marlene Sato: Wife of Tom, who worked in Engineering, Propellant Testing/Structures/Combustion.

Deemer Otto Self: Who worked in Project Management.

Sam Vance: Who worked in R&D, Process Development.

They will be missed by us all,  since each one touched our lives.

Our heartfelt sympathy to those who have lost other loved ones, as well.