

The Next Stage

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 2

Newsletter of the Huntsville Division Alumni Association

MAY 15, 2026

Next Board Mtg:

(2nd Thursday each qtr)
Jul 9, Oct 8, 2026.

2:00 pm (Note!)

Faith Presbyterian
Church, SE corner of
Whitesburg/Airport,
5003 Whitesburg Dr.

Dates to Remember:

2026

6/6: Summer Picnic:
Green Mountain
Nature Trail, 10 a.m.
lunch @ ~12 Noon.

Fall Breakfast: TBD
Searching for
new/different
locations.
Suggestions?

12/5: Christmas Party
Details to be an-
nounced.

Details provided closer
to date of event!

Look for details!
Hope to see you...
Don't forget hiking
shoes.

Contact Jim Gasaway
if interested in attending
this event!

3rd Wed: Engi-
neering Lunch! Jim
would like to reiterate
this luncheon is for All
to attend, not just for
engineers. Ladies
welcome! Bring your
wife/significant other.
Contact Jim: call
or text 256-566-9522,
or email to:
djgas@att.net.

Always a fun time,
stories exchanged,
memories shared,
great food.....

Come join us!

Come Join Us On Green Mountain!

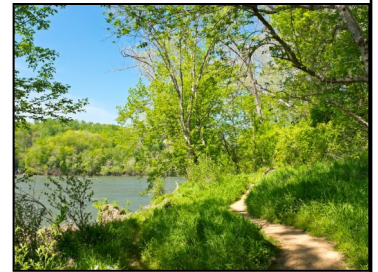
Our annual summer picnic will be held at the Green Mountain Nature Trail in Huntsville. Pavilion is reserved from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., with lunch being served at approximately 12:00 Noon. Come early to walk the trail, stay late to relax with friends. Get caught up on what everyone's been up to.

Lawler's will again provide our delicious picnic fare with their special barbecue pork, buns, potato salad, slaw, baked beans, iced tea, with water, soda, and a sweet surprise also being served.

Please confirm reservations/check to Mark Locker @ HDAA, P.O. Box 267, Trinity, AL 35673 -0003 by Friday, May 29, 2026, so Ron, Picnic Committee Chair, has sufficient time to plan for this outstanding event. Cost per person has been set at \$10.00, (by May 29, 2026). The caretakers of the trail area have been working hard to refresh the trail after our harsh winter temperatures. So, come enjoy the sunshine and get a little light exercise before you partake of the delicious lunch Lawler's always prepares and the Clements deliver to us!

Hope to see you there! Great food, great camaraderie. Come join us...and, enjoy!

Don't forget hiking shoes...just in case.



(Photo by Lockers)

NORTHROP GRUMMAN...

...provided five 63"-diameter Graphite Epoxy Motor (GEM 63) solid rocket boosters (SRBs), successfully helping launch a United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V rocket (shown at left) carrying the Leo 6 mission for Amazon.

It lifted off on April 27 at 8:53 p.m. EDT from Space Launch Complex-41 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. It was a beautiful sight, as seen at left!

Five GEM 63 boosters represents the most powerful configuration of the Atlas V. The SRBs provided approximately 2 million pounds of thrust at launch, with each motor contributing about 375,000 pounds of additional thrust to help the payload reach the desired orbit.

The launch was attended by Mark and Rhonda Locker, who saw multiple launches during their trip.

(Ed. Note: Great advantage for still being on the work force. And, thanks to Mark and Rhonda for sharing their travels with us all. The sight and sound of a launch Always gives goosebumps.)

...The Breakfast Club...

Breakfast this year was at Rolo's Café, a long-time Huntsville tradition that still draws large crowds, most of them regulars! The restaurant did an outstanding job of feeding our bunch...especially since they were short-handed that particular day. The owner had to do the cooking! Most folks seemed to enjoy the food And the camaraderie, staying so long we almost stayed for lunch.



We will continue our search for places to eat breakfast. Send suggestions to Patti Wilson/256.348.4190.

Above: Cecil and Kathy Stokes, happily waiting.



Left: Carole and Tom Bryant enjoying conversation with attendees.

Right: Faye and David Jones ready to order coffee!



Rhonda and Mark Locker.

Standing, left: Jan Kranert, with Harold Whitesides.



Left: Liz Zeman and Glenn Webb.

Right: Betty Willis and Billy Martin.



Left Alice and Ron Clements.

...DID YOU KNOW?...

Madison County residents can now TEXT 911 for emergency services. Effective in 2021, it is especially effective when danger is imminent (intruder in home, etc.) and you want noise kept to a minimum. However, according to major cell phone companies and Madison County 911, Text-to-9-1-1 should be considered a *secondary option only* to dialing 9-1-1 from a cellular or landline phone, and should be limited to the following circumstances: 1) when calling 9-1-1 is not possible, such as if the caller is deaf, hearing, or speech impaired; 2) If a caller is otherwise unable to speak due to a medical condition (stroke, choking), or 3) if speaking would be unsafe, as in the case of abduction, domestic violence, or home invasion.

There are several reasons why texting may not be the best way to contact 911. 1) cell carriers may not yet prioritize 911 texts like they do calls. This becomes critical when determining a location of an emergency. If you do want to text 911, remember:

“Call if you can, Text if you Can’t.” Voice calls are faster for both providing and receiving information.

Best practice: Voice calls are faster/preferred because they provide immediate location data, while texts may not.

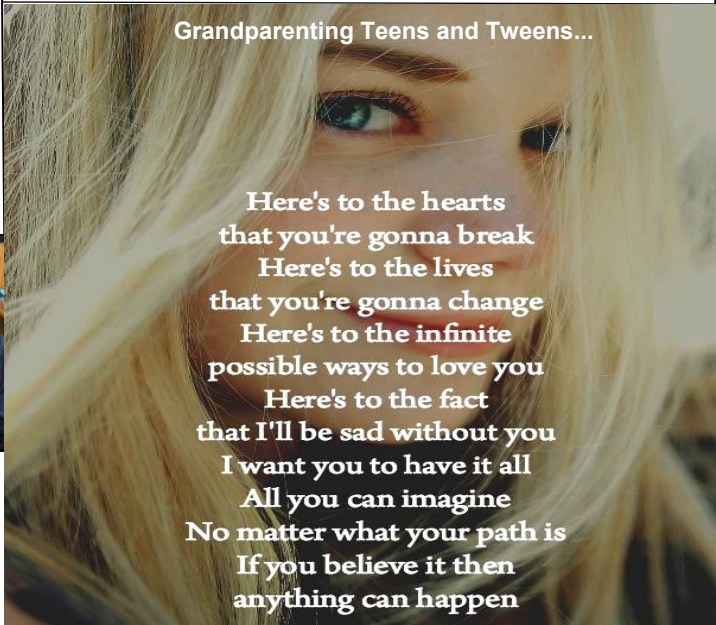
Carriers: Works with major carriers including Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile, Sprint. This list may currently include more providers.

Limitations: Don't send photos, videos, emojis; the service only accepts text, and may only be available in English. Don't use abbreviations nor slang. Keep it simple, short, to the point.

How to Text: Enter “911” in the “To” field, text your exact name, phone number, location and the nature of the emergency, providing details if possible. Remember, it is against the law to “test the system, just like dialing 911 “to see what happens” is unlawful.

(Excerpt from www.madco911.com)

Grandparenting Teens and Tweens...



Here's to the hearts
that you're gonna break
Here's to the lives
that you're gonna change
Here's to the infinite
possible ways to love you
Here's to the fact
that I'll be sad without you
I want you to have it all
All you can imagine
No matter what your path is
If you believe it then
anything can happen

Friends In The News...

WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?



This "blast from the past" photo was taken at the Thiokol Management Training Center in Ogden, Utah, 1981. Perhaps not all attendees were from Thiokol/Huntsville Division. Can you spot a few who were? (Hint: you might need a magnifying glass!) This photo was also posted to the HDAA Facebook site. Post names if you can find folks you know. Just trying to tax your gray matter a bit.....and help rekindle my own.



NASA ARTEMIS II	CA BULLET TRAIN
\$4 BILLION	\$126 BILLION
PLANNING BEGAN 2017	PLANNING BEGAN 1996
PASSENGERS: 4	PASSENGERS: 0
MILES TRAVELED: 695,000	MILES TRAVELED: 00000

FOUR THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT FALLS

- 1) Talk openly with your healthcare provider about them.** Let your provider know immediately if you fall, worry about it, or feel unsteady. As you get older medicines may work differently, making you sleepy, dizzy, or cause you to fall.
- 2) Exercise to improve balance and strength.** Improved balance and stronger legs lower your chance of falling. Lack of exercise leads to weakness, increasing chances of falling. Ask what type of exercise is best for you...like Tai Chi, perhaps.
- 3) Have your eyes and feet regularly checked.** Having your eyes checked once a year for possible eyeglasses, or conditions like glaucoma or cataracts that may limit vision. Poor vision can increase risks of falling. You might consider having your feet checked once a year to discuss proper footwear, or see if you may have any problem requiring attention.
- 4) Make your home safer.** Remove items (papers, books, clothes, shoes) you can trip over from stairs, places where you walk. Remove small throw rugs, or use double-sided tape to secure them in place. Keep regularly used items in locations where you don't have to use a step stool. Place grab bars next to and inside the bathtub/shower, next to the toilet. Use non-slip mats on bathtub/shower floors. Improve home lighting, to see everything more clearly. Hang light-weight curtains or shades to reduce glare. Have handrails and lights installed on all staircases. Wear well-fitting shoes with good support inside and outside the house.

*(Excerpt from www.cdc.gov/steady)
Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths, & Injuries*

The Next Stage

Place
Stamp
Here

The Huntsville Division Alumni Association
P.O. Box 267; Trinity, AL; 35673-0003

REMINDER: \$15 DUES FOR 2026 WERE DUE 1/1/26

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



*Mother's Day—5/10
(Hope it was special!)
Armed Forces Day—5/16
Memorial Day—5/25
Flag Day—6/14
Juneteenth—6/19
Father's Day—6/21
First day of summer—6/21
Independence Day—7/4*

Place label here

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The Next Stage is the quarterly newsletter publication of the Huntsville Division Alumni Association, Inc. Distribution: approximately 70. Began with ~350 31 years ago. Editor: Patti Wilson. Its address is HDAA, POB 267; Trinity, AL 35673-0003.

The 2026 HDAA Board consists of: President/Terry Dillard, VP/Jamie Neidert, Secretary/Rhonda Locker, Treasurer-Membership/Mark Locker. Directors: (26) Bill Barnes, Ron Clements, Jan Kranert, Gerald Roberts, Patti Wilson; (27) Ron Clements, Patti Wilson, Ray Zimmerman; (28) Ron Clements, Patti Wilson, Ray Zimmerman.

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

Contact Cecil for details about the HDAA FB page and other sites to view more photos in color!

See you on Green Mountain for the picnic!

Perhaps, see you on the trail...

Come early with hiking shoes!

In Fond Memory...

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

Charlie Jones: (March, 2025) Who worked in Propulsions Dept.

Bernice Harper Sutton: Wife of Don Harper, who worked in R&D, Development Processing.

She will be sorely missed by us all, since she truly touched our lives. If you know of others who should be remembered, please let us know.



At any given moment, you have the power to say, This is not how the story is going to end. — Author unknown

Some day, everything will make perfect sense. So for now, laugh at the confusion, smile through the tears, and keep reminding yourself that everything happens for a reason. Author unknown

Take time to do what makes your soul happy. — Author unknown

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

Grief is different for each one of us. Don't be embarrassed by it, simply embrace it and let it run its course. Your heart will smile again.