

**TRA's**  
**No Name**

# **GAZETTE**

**For Northrop Grumman & TRW Legacy Retirees**

VOL. XXXIV NO. 2

Our 34th Year

March/April 2022

## **HAPPENINGS AT NORTHROP GRUMMAN**

### **Blake Larson to Retire, Tom Wilson Appointed Space Systems Sector President**

Tom Wilson, sector vice president at Northrop Grumman, has been appointed to serve as a corporate vice president and president of the company's space systems sector starting January 1. He will succeed Blake Larson, who retired from the company on February 4 after a four-decade career. Wilson joined Northrop Grumman upon its 2018 acquisition of Orbital ATK, where he previously spent 17 years that included time at ATK.

Robert Fleming was appointed as a sector vice president and general manager of the strategic space systems division to replace Tom. Robert was previously the sector vice president of strategy and business development for Northrop Grumman space systems.

### **JWST On Station, Telescope and Instrument Alignment and Calibration in Progress**

JWST continues on its path to becoming a focused observatory. As of press time the team has successfully worked through segment image identification, segment alignment, and image stacking. The next steps in telescope alignment are coarse phasing, fine phasing, instrument field of view alignment, and then a final alignment iteration. NIRCam, the Near Infrared Camera, is one of the main instruments on JWST and is the primary sensor used for telescope alignment.

After moving what were 18 scattered dots of starlight into JWST's signature hexagonal formation, the team refined each mirror segment's image by making minor adjustments, while also changing the alignment of Webb's secondary mirror.

Once segment alignment was achieved, the focused dots reflected by each mirror were then stacked on top of each other, delivering photons of light from each segment to the same location on NIRCam's sensor. During image stacking, the team activated sets of six mirrors at a time and commanded them to repoint their light to overlap.

The team is now starting coarse phasing, using dispersed fringe sensing, where the secondary mirror is defocused and NIRCam captures light spectra from 20 separate pairings of mirror segments. An analysis of the fringe patterns determines the relative piston errors between the segments. Correction of these errors makes the single dot progressively sharper and more focused.

Fine phasing uses a similar sensing technique, but uses special optical elements inside the science instrument to introduce varying amounts of defocus for each image.

After fine phasing, the telescope will be well aligned at one place in the NIRCam field of view. That alignment needs to be extended

to the fields of view of the rest of the instruments.

Measurements are made at multiple field points across each of the science instruments. An algorithm calculates the final corrections needed to achieve alignment across the instrument fields of view.

After applying the field of view correction, the final error left to address is the removal of any small, residual positioning errors in the primary mirror segments. Once a final check of the image quality across each of the science instruments is verified the wavefront sensing and controls alignment process is complete. Periodically, during the operation of JWST, these final alignment checks will be repeated. After roughly three months of aligning the telescope, commissioning and calibration of the instruments will be started.

### **Northrop Grumman Selected by Space Development Agency to Develop Prototype Satellite Constellation**

Northrop Grumman was awarded a contract with a potential value of \$692 million from the Space Development Agency to produce and field an innovative, proliferated constellation of 42 low-Earth orbit satellites for the Tranche 1 Transport Layer (T1TL) mesh satellite communications network.

T1TL will provide resilient, low-latency, high-volume data transport supporting U.S. military missions around the world. Designed to connect elements of an integrated sensing architecture, the network will deliver persistent, secure connectivity and serve as a critical element for Joint All Domain Command Control.

"Northrop Grumman recognizes information on the modern battlefield must be delivered to our warfighters at the speed of relevance," said Robert Fleming, vice president and general manager, strategic space systems, Northrop Grumman. "Our T1TL solution combines decades of proven end-to-end satellite system integration and heritage communication mission expertise accumulated

*Happenings - continued Page 3*

### **New TRA Members**

Jim Hall	Torrance, CA
James Kotecki	Torrance, CA
Gail T. Short	Poway, CA
Mitch Tarr	Roseville, CA
John Wider	Torrance, CA
Robert Williams	Long Beach, CA
Lynne Woike	Torrance, CA
Nicholas Zroka	Anaheim, CA

We hope these new members will send a note to us at [mailpouch@tra-spacepark.org](mailto:mailpouch@tra-spacepark.org) telling us a little about themselves and where they worked at Northrop Grumman/TRW.

## TRA for Northrop Grumman Retirees

The Retirees Association (TRA) welcomes the retirees and the spouses of retirees of Northrop Grumman and TRW.

### 2022 Officers

Dena Bouskos	President
Mary Ann Chory	Vice President
Pam Overton	Secretary
Joyce Komatsu	Treasurer

### 2022 Directors-at-Large

Charles Clendening, Bob Doll, Marcy Morrison,  
Michael Narigon, Jim Nelson, Carol Schamp,  
Steve Smith, Stephanie Sundius, Jack Trost

*Archives Coordinator:* Robert Doll

*Facebook Coordinator:* Stephanie Sundius

*Membership Coordinator:* Stephanie Sundius

*Website Coordinator:* Steve Smith

The No Name Gazette is the official publication of TRA. It is published six times a year.

### Publication Staff

Editor: Michael Narigon

Contributor: Pam Overton

Copy Editors: Kim Lewis, Carol Schamp

## Contacting TRA

### By Email:

TRA@tra-spacepark.org - Your email questions will be routed to the appropriate source. Also, if we have your e-mail address, we can notify you of information of interest to our TRA members. Send us an email to get added to the TRA email list.

### By Web:

Our website is at [www.tra-spacepark.org](http://www.tra-spacepark.org). It is an excellent source for the latest news, lists of the new retirees, travel details, party photos (more than get into the NNG), forms of all sorts, personal photographs, and much more.

### By Mail:

TRA, P.O. Box 1276, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

### By Phone:

The pandemic has limited our office hours and email is the best way to reach us. If you need to phone, call 310-813-7745 to reach our voice mail.

### For Membership:

TRA Membership is open to Northrop Grumman and TRW-legacy retirees at \$10 per calendar year. The application is available on the website.

## TRW/NG Retirees Meetings Around the U.S.

As everyone knows by now, Covid-19 protection protocols have affected in-person meetings. E-mail or call the contact to make sure the event is occurring before you go. Changes from last issue are marked in **bold**.

If you have a group that you would like to have listed here, please contact us by email at [tra@tra-spacepark.org](mailto:tra@tra-spacepark.org).

GROUP	MEETING LOCATION	DATE & TIME	OTHER INFO	CONTACT
TRA Board Meeting	Zoom	3rd Wednesday, 9:30 AM, Monthly except December	Decisions, planning and actions on archives, events, NNG, coordination with NG	All members welcome. Contact TRA to receive meeting link
ATD Friends & Colleagues	Send ideas for meeting location	1 November 2022, 11:00 AM	Social, Nostalgia, Lunch	Jack Trost, Dena Bouskos, Cindy McCully 310-377-2194 cschamp@aol.com
Beach Cities Get-together	Grunions Restaurant, 1501 N Sepulveda Blvd, MB, CA	Last Monday, Even months, 11 AM to 2 PM	Social	Allen Parker 310-780-0712 777allendsp@gmail.com
Brevard Retirees	On hold due to Covid-19		Social	Tom and Vicki Moore 828-808-0457 seneca75@verizon.net, thistle33@verizon.net
Central Coast Chapter	Various Locations in the Central Coast Area	Various days: contact Zaiser for details	Social	George Zaiser 805-473-2105 gzais34@icloud.com
Houston Chapter	Baybrook Denny's, 19212 Gulf Fwy, Friendswood, TX	3rd Tuesday, 8:30 AM	Social	Gary Dinsmore 281-461-6270 samngary@att.net
Huntsville Chapter	Red Lobster	2nd Tuesday, 11:30 AM	Lunch and Social	Jim Troy 850-797-0044 jtroy28x@gmail.com
Northern Virginia	Zoom	3rd Friday, 11:30 AM	Social	Jim Miller 703-483-5448 jmiller158@gmail.com
Utah	Layton Cracker Barrel	1st Thursday, 8:30 AM	Breakfast Social	Charles Vono 801-745-5879 charlesvono@comcast.net
San Diego Chapter	Event Dependent	3rd Tuesday, Alternate Months	Social or Board Meeting	<a href="http://sandiego.tra-spacepark.org">http://sandiego.tra-spacepark.org</a> Jim Denton 858-385-0150 JWDenton@san.rr.com
<b>Temecula Valley</b>	<b>Richie's Diner, Murrieta</b>	<b>2nd Wednesday, 11:30 AM</b>	<b>Social</b>	<b>Sue Marbut 951-723-1157</b> <b>dnsmar@verizon.net</b>
The Mountain Folks	On hold due to Covid-19		"We do have fun!"	Carl Winkelman 303-693-0034 winkelman@att.net
TRIN	Zoom	2nd Thursday, 1:00 PM, Optional lunch at 12:30	Investment info based on monthly newsletter reviews	Bob Eshbaugh 310-376-5880 eshonnet@yahoo.com
Ventura Romeos	Mimi's Cafe Thousand Oaks	1st Tuesday, Lunch	Social	Frank Yunger 805-444-1541, Harry Stroud 805-653-5117

## Benefit Contacts for Retirees

The Northrop Grumman Benefit Center (NGBC) is where you can report a change of address, report a death, or apply for a pension. See the "myRetirement" menu item on the NGBC home page for retiree services.

### Northrop Grumman Benefits Center (NGBC)

www.benefits.northropgrumman.com  
Phone: 800-894-4194

Fidelity administers pension payments and the Northrop Grumman savings plan.

### Fidelity NetBenefits

www.netbenefits.com/northropgrumman

Via Benefits handles Medicare supplemental insurance and open enrollment.

### Via Benefits (a Tower Watson Company)

www.viabenefits.com  
Phone: 855-832-0976 (M-F 8AM-9PM Eastern)

A small number of TRW retirees receive their medical benefits through the Northrop Grumman Benefits *Service* Center. This center is staffed by Benefits Outsourcing Solutions, Inc. Their number is 800-410-6605.

Metlife administers your life insurance if, after you retired, you continued your coverage under the Northrop Grumman group plan.

### Metlife

www.metlife.com  
Phone: 800-638-6420

If you were employed by TRW and retired before January 1, 2006, you may be eligible for an insurance benefit, payable on your death.

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across multiple orbital regimes to rapidly field these critical capabilities to warfighters in the field."

T1TL will field key technologies and infrastructure to enable future proliferated space missions responsive to warfighter priorities including battle management, missile tracking, and target custody. The network uses laser communication terminals to connect the global constellation while providing persistent, networked Link-16 tactical data and high-rate Ka-band connectivity for air, maritime and ground users.

## Northrop Grumman and Ball Aerospace to Develop Polar-Orbiting Next-Generation Missile Warning System Sensor

Northrop Grumman and Ball Aerospace will design and develop the two mission payloads for the U.S. Space Force's Next Generation Overhead Persistent Infrared Polar (NGP) program.

"NGP combines Northrop Grumman's proven experience in missile warning and defense with Ball Aerospace's expertise in optical sensors and mission data processing," said Sarah Willoughby, vice president, overhead persistent infrared and geospatial systems, Northrop Grumman. "Our team's solution for NGP will assure continuous coverage of the northern hemisphere – especially the critical Arctic region – to protect against incoming threats."

In May 2020, the U.S. Space Force awarded Northrop Grumman a \$2.37 billion contract for the first phase of the NGP program. Together, Northrop Grumman and Ball Aerospace will design and

## IN MEMORIAM

**Edie Beckham**, 72, December 21, 2021. Edie started work at TRW as a junior typist when she was 18, and advanced her career during her 37 years at TRW to become Deputy Program Manager for advanced communication payloads. During her career she graduated from UCLA with a management degree and completed the USC Executive Program.

**Daniel F. Derieg**, January 4, 2022. Daniel retired in 1989 as a test engineer from the Capistrano Test Site. He enjoyed his 33 years with TRW - both the work and the many friendships formed.

**Tom Harrington**, 86, January 26, 2022. Tom's career with TRW spanned thirty-plus years. He was a lead in national security communication satellites for the Air Force and complex scientific satellites for NASA. When TRW formed the Federal Systems Division in the mid 1980's, Tom was named the Director of Program Development, managing new business acquisitions and planning functions for NASA satellite programs.

**Velma J. Hazen**, 94, January 26, 2022. Retired June 30, 1989 with 32 years as an Executive Secretary.

**Warner Lombardi**, January 23, 2022. As an employee and contractor, Warner worked at TRW for several decades.

**Homer McPherson**, January 21, 2022.

**Phil Moreno**, February 10, 2022.

**Joseph (Joe) Payne**, 83, January 20, 2022. From fellow co-worker Jon Spain, "He was my boss on AXAF after John Conway, a great mentor. (AXAF/Chandra launched in 1999.) I credit him with my success on GeoLite."

**John "Jack" W. Taylor**, 84, February 10, 2022. Jack worked for TRW from 1967 to 1992 as Division Facilities Manager for Space Communications Division.

**Mabel Washington**, 2022.

The first step in notifying Northrop Grumman of a retiree's death is to call the Northrop Grumman Benefits Center. If the deceased was a member of TRA, please notify TRA whether you want the NNG continued or you want to be removed from future mailings.

If you know of a person that should be included in the "In Memoriam" column, please inform us by either email or mail to the TRA office. As a minimum, we request the name of the deceased, date of death, and the name of the person submitting the information. If more information is available and desired, include age, position and years at NG/TRW, any notable programs, and special skills.

develop the sensor payloads for the two NGP satellites at Northrop Grumman's site in Azusa, California.

The two satellites, operating in highly elliptical orbits, will include infrared sensors to detect and track ballistic and hypersonic missiles; an enhanced communication system that will transmit mission data to the ground, allowing decision makers to identify infrared heat signatures of incoming threats; and resiliency features that reduce vulnerabilities to counter-space and cyberattacks.

The TRA events committee is starting to plan for a 2022 Summer Reunion event. If you know of facilities that can handle 100-200 people, let us know by emailing us at [tra@tra-spacepark.org](mailto:tra@tra-spacepark.org).

Also, we have preliminary plans for a second virtual event to update us on JWST progress. More details will be in the next issue.



P.O. Box 1276  
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

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The next NNG will be  
mailed in May.

## THE MAIL POUCH

*By Pam Overton*

◆◆◆ From **Gerald Staack** - I wish to say au revoir, good-bye, adios, auf wiedersehen to all my good friends in the old TRW Component Engineering Department from which I retired in 1997. In 1973, I first started working for TRW as chairman of the Minuteman Parts Control Board. It has now been another 24 years since I retired, and it has all been a fascinating ride. **Helga**, my wife, and I will be moving from Santa Clarita to Wilmington, NC (near Wrightsville Beach) this year as Covid 19 becomes more controllable. We have a condo there, and our two daughters and three grandchildren have been encouraging us to move there for a grand family reunion. ◆◆◆ From **Karen Chamberlain** - I first went to work in 1962 for STL Credit Data at Space Park on the third floor in Bldg E. This was before it became TRW. Since this was more "retail" based, it wasn't long before we were transferred to the computing center in Orange. Later we were TRW Credit Data, then TRW Experian, and now just Experian. A long time ago: 58 yrs. I am now 92 years old - many memories! ◆◆◆ **Frank and Esther Fernandez** have now been retired from TRW for 35 years. They are still

doing very well with their 5 grown children, 10 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. At 88 years old they are still living in Redondo Beach and they still get around pretty much. God's been good to Frank for he has recovered from two miraculous episodes. They still enjoy traveling in their 1940 Mercury convertible, which son Frank now has. They are anxiously looking forward to soon being out there again enjoying themselves with the many friends and the many car shows. ◆◆◆ From **Glenn Stanfield** ... Bests regards. Hope we can get back to normal. I have lost 3 guys in my lunch group. ◆◆◆

### Mail Pouch Items

Let us know what you are up to by e-mailing the Mail Pouch at [mailpouch@tra-spacepark.org](mailto:mailpouch@tra-spacepark.org) or by mail to Mail Pouch, P.O. Box 1276, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.