

TRA's
No Name

GAZETTE

For Northrop Grumman & TRW Legacy Retirees

VOL. XXXVI NO. 4

Our 36th Year

July/August 2024

Make Your Reservations for the TRA Summer Reunion

Join us for the TRA Summer Reunion. We will meet at the Marmalade Café in El Segundo, where we will dine outdoors in their garden patio. It's a perfect setting for a gathering of colleagues and friends who want to visit, catch up on what's new, and enjoy a wonderful meal on a sunny summer day.

The date/time/place for 2024 Summer Reunion will be:

Marmalade Café
2014 East Park Place
El Segundo, CA 90245
Thursday, August 29, 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

For lunch we will have a choice of: **Chinese Chicken Salad**, with umami soy roasted chicken thinly sliced and tossed with napa cabbage, sugar snap peas, edamame, scallions, oranges, roasted cashews, crispy rice noodles, cilantro and sesame ginger vinaigrette; the **Half Pound Cafe Burger**, made with naturally raised California Brandt beef prepared medium, on a brioche bun, with lettuce and tomato, cheddar cheese, red onion on request, served with french fries; **Fresh Salmon and Asparagus Farfalle** pasta with pieces of tender Atlantic salmon, asparagus tips and sweet onions in lemon Chardonnay cream and Parmesan cheese; **Roasted Turkey and Italian Veggie Wrap**, with thin-sliced turkey breast, roasted peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes, avocado, shredded lettuce and ranch dressing, wrapped in a flour tortilla and served with french fries; or **Cheese Ravioli** (vegetarian) made with ricotta, parmesan and mozzarella cheeses with herbs and tossed in a Yolo valley tomato cream sauce.

Also included: a beverage of your choice (coffee, iced tea, soft

drinks) and dessert. There is a no-host bar if you would like beer, wine, or a cocktail with your meal.

If you have a dietary restriction, email us at tra@tra-spacepark.org, and we will make arrangements with the restaurant.

The price for the Summer Reunion is only \$35 per person including tax and tip.

To reserve your spot, go to www.tra-spacepark.org (if you're not already registered for access to the web site take a few minutes to register) and pay with a credit card through PayPal.

Or, you can mail in your reservation with your payment using the form below. Indicate your entrée choice by circling your selection. Use a separate line for yourself and each guest.

Please be sure to postmark by **August 14**.

Space is limited and we won't be able to accept walk-ins at the door. Registration will close August 23 or earlier if we reach capacity, so register early. We hope to see you there!

New TRA Members

Howard Eller	Redondo Beach, CA
Frank Fernandez	Redondo Beach, CA
Tonya Kisner	Maricopa, AZ
Eric Linfield	Pleasant Grove, UT
Harold Martinez	Redondo Beach, CA

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

SUMMER REUNION RESERVATION FORM

Mail-In Reservation Deadline: Postmark by August 14

Member Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Membership No. (from mailing label): _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Member Entrée: Salad Burger Salmon Wrap Ravioli

Guest Name: _____ Entrée: Salad Burger Salmon Wrap Ravioli

Guest Name: _____ Entrée: Salad Burger Salmon Wrap Ravioli

Guest Name: _____ Entrée: Salad Burger Salmon Wrap Ravioli

Total Attending: _____ at \$35 each = \$ _____

Circle your entrée choice. Mail with a check payable to "TRA" to TRA, P.O. Box 1276, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

TRA for Northrop Grumman Retirees

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

2024 Officers

Mary Ann Chory	President
Dena Bouskos	Vice President
Janis MacRae	Secretary
Joyce Komatsu	Treasurer

2024 Directors-at-Large

Charles Clendening, Marcy Morrison,
Jim Nelson, Pam Overton, Carol Schamp, Debra Simmons,
Steve Smith, Stephanie Sundius, Jack Trost

Email Coordinator: Jim Nelson

Membership/Facebook 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

Contributors: 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. 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:

If you need to phone, call 310-813-7745 to reach our voice mail. Our office hours are 10 AM to 2 PM on each non-board meeting Wednesday.

For Membership:

TRA Membership is open to Northrop Grumman and TRW-legacy retirees at \$10 per calendar year. New members receive two years membership for their first dues payment. The application is available on the website.

TRW/NG Retirees Meetings Around the U.S.

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.

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	Lido di Manhattan, 1550 Rosecrans Ave, MB, CA	5 November 2024, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	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
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
Controls Systems (& Friends) Breakfast	Mimi's Cafe, 25343 Crenshaw Blvd, Torrance, CA	1st Wednesday, 8:50AM	Social	Michael Narigon 424-200-2971 mnarigon@gmail.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	Various Locations	2nd Tuesday, 11:30 AM	Lunch and Social	Jim Troy 850-797-0044 jtroy28x@gmail.com
Northern Virginia	Zoom	2nd Friday, 11:30AM	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
Temecula Valley	Various Locations	2nd Wednesday, 11:30 AM	Social	Judy Lebovitz 951-461-0065 judylebovitz@gmail.com
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	Investment info based on monthly newsletter reviews	Bob Eshbaugh 310-376-5880 eshonnet@yahoo.com

TRW/NG Retirees Win Final Phase of NASA's Break the Ice Lunar Challenge

Since 2020, competitors from around the world have competed in NASA's Break the Ice Lunar Challenge with the common goal of inventing robots that can excavate and transport the icy regolith on the Moon.

NASA's Break the Ice Lunar Challenge is a NASA Centennial Challenge led by the agency's Marshall Space Flight Center, with support from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Centennial Challenges are part of the Prizes, Challenges, and Crowdsourcing program under NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate.

The husband-and-wife duo of Terra Engineering took home the final-phase top prize of \$1 million for their "Fracture" rover. Team lead Todd Mendenhall had previously competed in NASA's 2007 Regolith Excavation Challenge, facilitated through NASA's Centennial Challenges, which led him and Valerie Mendenhall to continue the pursuit of solutions for autonomous lunar excavation.

The lunar South Pole is the targeted landing site for crewed Artemis missions, so using all resources in that area, including the ice within the dusty regolith inside the permanently shadowed regions, is vital for the success of a sustained human lunar presence. On Earth, the mission architectures developed in this challenge aim to help guide machine design and operation concepts for future mining and excavation operations and equipment for decades.

"Break the Ice represents a significant milestone in our journey toward sustainable lunar exploration and a future human presence on the Moon," said Joseph Pelfrey, Center Director of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. "This competition has pushed the boundaries of what is possible by challenging the brightest minds to devise groundbreaking solutions for excavating lunar ice, a crucial resource for future missions. Together, we are forging a future

where humanity ventures further into the cosmos than ever before."

The final round of the Break the Ice competition featured six finalist teams who succeeded in an earlier phase of the challenge. The competition took place at the Alabama A&M Agribition Center in Huntsville, Alabama, on June 11 and 12, where the teams put their diverse solutions to the test in a series of trials, using terrestrial resources like gravity-offloading cranes, concrete slabs, and a rocky track with tricky obstacles to mimic the environment on the Moon.

Life After Retirement: Band!

On a narrow residential side street off Hermosa Avenue, a crowd is forming around a three-story beach home. Between two sets of stairs splitting off into private residences is a landing, occupied by a phalanx of guitar stands, mics, speakers and a drum set. A keyboard and conga drums are squeezed onto the adjacent patio.

This setup is exactly what you might expect from a bohemian area known to host the BeachLife concert series. What might be not so apparent at first glance is that the band has only been playing for three years. Fewer than half its members are musicians by trade, and intriguingly, the other half are aerospace professionals.

Rewind to the winter of 2019. Every restaurant worth its salt in Hermosa Beach was hosting live music. Among them was Enrique's Restaurant & Cantina, where Garland Campbell, a marketing communications manager at defense contractor Northrop Grumman, had been singing and playing saxophone with professional pianist Dave Goldstein and percussionist Nova James. Within the first few weeks, David Zabalaoui and Jeff Grant stopped in to support their colleague and were invited to sing a song or two with Garland's band.

"I wouldn't do it [at first]," says Jeff. "David and I had played music together, but it was only for fun. Playing in front of people

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Valerie and Todd Mendenhall, of Terra Engineering, receive the \$1 million prize for winning the final phase of NASA's Break the Ice Lunar Challenge. With the Terra Engineering team at the awards ceremony are from left: Daniel K. Wims, Alabama A&M University president; Joseph Pelfrey, NASA Marshall Space Flight center director; NASA's Break the Ice Challenge Manager Naveen Vetcha; and Majed El-Dweik, Alabama A&M University's vice president of research & economic development.

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at this bar ... oh God, [suddenly] we have to be good."

David was no stranger to fine arts. He fondly reminisces about road trips he took in the '60s when his mother - a member of an all-girl rock 'n' roll band in her high school years - taught him how to carry harmonies. Since then, music has suffused practically every corner of his life, personal and professional.

He developed a reputation for the musical verve he brought to an otherwise conservative aerospace industry beset by government regulations and silos. In 2012 he performed his end-of-year wrap-up before Jeff and other Northrop Grumman executives with an original parody of Train's "50 Ways to Say Goodbye." His version, "50 Ways We Helped Your Business Thrive," earned a standing ovation.

Back at Enrique's, their gig was short-lived. When California COVID-19 mandates abolished live entertainment in March 2020, not only did the restaurant cut its performance schedule, but the owner also lost the business outright.

This was where the band's big comeback story began. In June 2020, restless with the COVID-19 constraints, Jeff invited David to sing a few songs for his newly established "Thirsty Thursdays" - an attempt to reinvigorate a neighborhood retreating into itself. The duo invited Garland and Dave, as well as new faces like professional drummer Gary Ferguson (a 29th street neighbor and close friend), guitarist Darren Halford (an Enrique's frequenter and former U-2 pilot) and media-buyer-turned-conga-player Larry Poindexter.

For their first performance, they congregated on Larry's porch without a PA system and played from a set list of five songs to a crowd composed of their spouses. They dubbed themselves The 29th Street Band.

By summer, their fanbase would swell to as many as 70 in one night, filling 29th Street every Thursday with folding tables and chairs. The band released original songs like "Looking Back," a tribute to NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, which some of them helped create. People took notice, including Dean Francois, a Hermosa Beach city council hopeful (now mayor pro tem) who borrowed the stage during his 2021 campaign.

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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. Northrop Grumman has changed their benefits web site (now at northropgrumman.com/who-we-are/total-rewards-benefits) to make it unusable for retirees. So, contact the NGBC by phone.

Northrop Grumman Benefits Center (NGBC)

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.

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

Metlife

www.metlife.com

Phone: 800-638-6420



Attendees at the Controls Systems Breakfast at Mimi's. Clockwise left to right. Fred Koehler (originator, decades ago, of this monthly breakfast), Bob King, Emery Reeves, Brooks Vogt, George Reppucci, Dave Wise, Tom Coffey, Michael Narigon, Bob Cash, Al Frew, Carol Schamp, and John Wider (just before he departs for a huge bicycling trip in Europe ending in Vienna).

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Before long, this jaw-dropping turnout attracted visits from local law enforcement. The band curtailed their shows with an 8 p.m. cutoff. When that didn't work, Jeff - ever the engineer - invested in a decibel meter to prove to officers their volume was within legal limits.

In addition to music, the band regularly performs acts of kindness. Gary remembers well the fifth grade boy who would sit on the sidewalk with his mother. Every week he brought a pair of makeshift drumsticks and played along with the band, making the curb his instrument. Sensing the boy's enthusiasm, Gary dug around in his studio, unearthed an old drum set and gifted it.

This is the legacy 29th Street leaves in its wake, something Zabalouli likens to a "source of light." Setting out to produce good music, the band unexpectedly created a neighborhood fixture where none are turned away. "The bottom line," says Jeff, "is Hermosa Beach - like most parts of the South Bay - is full of people who have been here for many, many years. They enjoy each other's company, and they enjoy getting together and meeting new people. That's what happens [here]."

On the night of December 8, the band was prepping for their holiday special. The air was a brisk 60 degrees, and the gathered audience was all sweaters and smiles.

Gary laid down a groove on his Ludwig drum set, while Garland descended an illuminated railing of stairs with saxophone in hand. Jeff sipped a cup of Hitching Post merlot, his Epiphone Casino slung over his shoulder as he sidled around greeting guests. David adjusted his mic stand and moved into the band's signature rendition of Garth Brooks' "Friends in Low Places."

"Yeah, Thursday night's the best night of the week, when I slip on down to Hermosa Beach / Yeah, I got friends on 29th Street."

The band's latest song and video, "Shake-Shake," is on Youtube. Search for "Shake-Shake Zabalouli" to find it. Or, the direct link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q16LgVkggw>.

HAPPENINGS AT NORTHROP GRUMMAN

Price Tag for the Air Force's New Nuclear Missile has Soared 81% to \$141 billion

Cost projections have grown once again for the US Air Force's new Sentinel intercontinental missile, with the program now expected to cost taxpayers \$141 billion, or 81% more than forecast four years ago.

A fresh review has concluded that costs for the Sentinel may increase to as much as \$214 million per missile when calculated in 2020 dollars, up from \$118 million each, according to a person familiar with the matter. The person asked not to be identified discussing a projection that has yet to be made public.

It's the latest black eye for the missile program, which is being managed by Northrop Grumman to replace the 1970s-era Minuteman. The Sentinel is a key element of the effort to modernize the US nuclear force and counter growing arsenals held by Russia and China, but its cost projections have steadily grown.

Although the new ICBM has substantial support in Congress, the fresh estimate may further embolden arms control advocacy groups who argue that the Sentinel should be scrapped in favor of extending the life of Minuteman III missiles.

The program will continue but the Pentagon is now assessing the long term implications, including when the first new missiles

IN MEMORIAM

Morris Chester, 96, November 29, 2021. With over 30 years of service to the company, Morris began his career at TRW as an STL employee. He was an engineer in the power conversion group of S&TG in M2 for over 10 years. He was very active in spacecraft power and communications, specializing in high voltage, magnetics and the thermal issues involved. Morris, a holocaust survivor, had a drive to succeed that was extreme.

Frank Fendell, 86, June 9, 2024. With over 56 years with TRW/Northrop Grumman Frank's contributions were many.

Laura E. Linfield, April 19, 2024. Laura cherished her life-long friends at Space Park.

Sally Manuel, April 22, 2024.

Henry Pan, 81, April 19, 2024. Henry was a thermal engineer in the Spacecraft Heat Transfer Department. He worked at TRW/NGC for over 30 years.

Tobi Pine, April 16, 2024. Tobi worked at TRW/NG for many years in Aurora, CO, and extended TDY in Redondo Beach. She retired to Tucson but had recently moved back to Colorado to be near her children.

Bill Putnam, May 20, 2024.

Warren H. Wright, 93, May 12, 2024. Warren, an electrical engineer, joined Space Technology Labs in 1961 and retired from TRW, Feb. 1997. He supported OGO, DSCS, HEAO, FLTSATCOM, Pioneer, as well as many secret/top secret proposals. He was awarded two patents.

Phil Wyles, May 23, 2024. Phil worked for nearly three decades at TRW.

Andy Yanez, May 13, 2024.

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.

will be fielded, long-term budget impact and extent of future construction costs, the person said. Pentagon officials are set to brief Congress on the matter.

Much of the cost growth is linked to the program's Command and Launch segment, which includes the launch facilities and other ground infrastructure for the missiles, according to the person. In January, a review found the cost of the Sentinel program had grown by 37% and the missile would go into service two years late, around 2032.

The Air Force earlier said that the Command and Launch segment of the Sentinel program includes more than 400 new launch facilities, thousands of miles of modern fiber-optic networks, the acquisition of permanent and temporary real estate easements with hundreds of landowners and support of the workforce that will convert the launch facilities from Minuteman III to Sentinel use.



P.O. Box 1276
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

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The next NNG will be
mailed in September.

Video Available of TRA Zoom Virtual Event

The closed-captioned video from the Zoom virtual event with Carol Erikson, Vice President of Digital Transformation for Northrop Grumman's Space Systems Sector, is now available on our web site www.tra-spacepark.org.

In her role, Carol is responsible for leading Digital Transformation initiatives across the sector.

Carol discussed how Digital Transformation moves through the design, testing and manufacturing phases quickly and with agility, saving money and significantly reducing development time-lines for large systems. Carol also shared some highlights from the transformation that is occurring across Northrop Grumman as well as some of the industry challenges.

Event Photographer Needed

Do you have an interest in photography? TRA is looking for your help!

TRA is looking for a photographer to take photos during our member events. These photos get published in the NNG and on the TRA website for the interest of our members.

If you like photography, have a camera (even a phone camera), and can attend our events we want to talk to you. Please get in touch by contacting TRA using the information on Page 2.

Call for 2025 Officer and Director Candidates

Each summer/fall, the TRA Board nominates its candidates for the coming year. Officers are elected for a one-year term. The Directors-at-Large are elected for a term of two years. If you have an interest, please contact TRA using the information on Page 2. The time requirements are modest and you will help over 1000 retired TRW/NG employees and spouses stay in touch.

THE MAIL POUCH

By Pam Overton

◆◆◆ From **Arnold Kaluza - Arnold** reports that he and his wife, **Dolores**, are now living in Port Angeles, Washington with their daughter. ◆◆◆ From **Ray Maddalone - Christine** and I moved to Fishers, Indiana (NE of the Indianapolis area) in early 2012 to a home on a small private lake. Big enough for pontoon boats with 10hp and well stocked with fish (although I am not a fisherman). My brother and sister are in the northern Indiana area and two of Christine's sisters are also in the area. Nice to be able to drive to a Notre Dame game or two. ◆◆◆

Mail Pouch Items

People always mention how much they love hearing from other retirees in the Mail Pouch. It is easy to send in a brief note about what you are up to. Contact us by e-mailing the Mail Pouch at mailpouch@tra-spacepark.org or by mail to Mail Pouch, P.O. Box 1276, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.
