

TRA's

No Name

GAZETTE

For Space Technology & Mission Systems Retirees

VOL. XX NO. 6

September/October 2008

Holiday Party Time — Ports O' Call Again

WHEN: Friday, December 5, 2008 from 11:00 to 3:00.

WHERE: *Ports O' Call Restaurant in San Pedro*

And Now For The Details

THE ROOMS: The party will be in the beautiful upstairs rooms at the restaurant — the Breakwater Room with its great view of the Los Angeles Main Channel and the harbor breakwater to the south, and the Bridgeview Room, also on the channel and with great views to the north, including the Vincent Thomas Bridge. Elevator access available.

THE FOOD: A sit-down three course dinner with your choice of one of three great entrées — Boneless Breast of Chicken, King Salmon, or Sirloin Steak, all with Ports O' Call's famous Chocolate Suicide dessert.

MUSIC: The same great 3-person group that we had last year, with very danceable music.

BEVERAGES: A no-host bar with a wide assortment of beverages.

PARKING: Plenty of free parking close to the entrance of the restaurant.

SEATING CHOICE: (Based on space available) Please indicate your choice between

1) The music room, with the dance floor and the band

or

2) The conversation room, which will be somewhat quieter.

COST: Still just \$15 per person. Each member is limited to one guest.

ATMOSPHERE: Holiday Season — Put on your party clothes and your dancing shoes and join us on Friday, December 5 for a great party.

We are expecting a sellout crowd, so please send in your reservations promptly.

ALICE LORD

1926-2008

It is with extreme regret and profound sadness that we must inform you of the passing of Alice Lord on Tuesday, August 19, 2008. Alice has been a long-time member of TRA, Chairlady of the Activities Committee, and a Director of the Association for many years. She was always ready to help with needed tasks and to greet everyone with a smile and a sprightly quip. We shall miss her nonsense and dedicated manner and her devotion to TRA; and we will always remember her jaunty hats and ready hugs.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of TRA I would like to designate our future springtime events as the Alice Lord Spring Flings.

Budd Cohen, President

2008 Holiday Party

Friday, December 5, 2008, 11:00-3:00

Reservation Deadline — November 15, 2008

Retiree Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** __ **Zip:** _____

Membership No. _____ **Phone:** _____
(From mailing label)

Total Number Coming __ **at \$15.00 each** _____

Limit: One guest per member

Entrée choices: (indicate number)

Chicken **King Salmon** **Sirloin Steak**

Seating choice: (based on space available)

Music Room **Conversation Room**

Please detach and mail with a check to:

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

TRA for Northrop Grumman Retirees

TRA (The Retirees Association) welcomes the retirees of both the Space Technology and the Mission Systems Sectors of Northrop Grumman, as well as the Heritage TRW retirees. The No Name Gazette is our official publication. Our offices are in Building E2 at Space Park

2008 OFFICERS

- Budd Cohen.....President
- Rose Marie A. Keidel.....Vice President
- Jack Williams.....Treasurer
- Bob Beach.....Secretary
- Darrell AushermanImmediate Past President

2008 DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

- Ira Green
- Al Hausrath
- Les Hromas
- George Lee
- Lee Leventhal
- Bob Rupkey
- Betty Stover

Contacting TRA

By Mail:

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

By Phone:

310-813-7745 (Our office is staffed only a few days a week. Please leave a message and we will get back to you.)

By E-mail:

TRA@tra-spacepark.org Your e-mails will be routed to the appropriate source. And, if we have your e-mail address on file, we send out special alerts at infrequent intervals. To get on the TRA e-mail list, just send us a brief e-mail requesting to be added to it.

By Web Page:

Our web page 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. Come in and browse.

For Membership:

TRA Membership is open to all NGST & NGMS retirees at \$7 per calendar year. First year free. Application on web page or call 310- 813-7745 and leave a message.

NG/TRW Retiree Meetings Around the U.S.

GROUP	MEETING LOCATION	TIME & DATE	OTHER INFO	CONTACT
TRA	Bldg. S Park Patio Cafe, Space Park	3rd Thurs. Monthly	Business Meeting 1:30 p.m. E2, Rm 1200.	No reservations needed. All Members Welcome
ATD	Alpine Village, Torrance, CA	11:40 a.m. 1st Monday in November	Social, Nostalgia and Lunch	Don Brown, Sandy Friedfeld, Bob Traylor 310-541-1917 or sandj1@aol.com
Brevard Retirees	Various Locations in Brevard, NC	1st Tues. 8 a.m. 3rd Tues. 5 p.m.	Social	Al & Daughn Connam 828-884-4993 aconnam@yahoo.com
Central Coast Chapter	Various Locations in the Central Coast Area	2nd Monday Various times	Social	George Zaiser 805-343-2631 gzais@msm.com
Huntsville Chapter	Call for Location (It's Complicated!)	2nd Tuesday 11:30 a.m.	Social	Jim Troy 256-534-7136 troys@comcast.net
Las Vegas	Various Locations in Las Vegas Metro Area	Last Tuesday 11:30 a.m.	Social	Carol Noblet 702-889-6773 fiftysumthn@aol.com
Northern Virginia	Squire Rockwell Restaurant Fairfax, VA	3rd Friday 11:30 a.m.	Social	Bill Gehrke 703-759-0527 wgehrke@att.net
Ogden	Cracker Barrel Restaurant Layton, UT	1st Thursday Breakfast	Social	Fred Zeuthen 801-476-0656 fzeuthen@earthlink.net
San Bernardino	San Bernardino Golf Club		Social plus programs of interest	Joe Daruty 909-792-8022 jdaruty@aol.com
SE Chapter	Jekyll Island, GA	October 27-30, 2008	Social/Adventure	Robert Baris 803-648-3142 barisr@atlanticbb.net
San Diego Chapter	Event Dependent	3rd Tuesday	Social or Board Meeting http://sandiego.tra-spacepark.org	Jim Denton 858-385-0150 JWDenton@sbcglobal.net
Temecula Valley	Currently Inactive Call Judy to get it going again		Social	Judy Lebovitz 951-461-0065 jlebo6720@aol.com
TRIN	Bldg E2, Room 1200 Space Park	2nd or 3rd Friday 2:00 p.m.	Investment Info based on monthly newsletter reviews	Mike Pauls 310-379-2707 lmikep@earthlink.net
TRW Retirees of the Desert	Sloan's Steak House Indio, CA	Every Tuesday 1:00 p.m.	Social and Nostalgia trwdesertretirees.blogspot.com	Joe Clopton 760-342-8171 joeclopton@dc.rr.com
The Ventura County Romeos	Du-Pars Thousand Oaks, CA	1st Tuesday 12:00 noon	Social	Fred Blaich 805-499-0012 harrison_stroud@hotmail.com

TRAVel News

December 14 - 17, 2008.

LAS VEGAS at the MIRAGE

A four day bus trip to the Mirage Hotel on a deluxe motorcoach. The hotels will all be decorated in their Christmas Splendor. Included are refreshments en route; driver's tip; tax; and baggage handling. The four day trip is value priced at \$203 (ppdo), \$321 (single). A \$50 deposit will hold your space and is refundable until Nov. 1. Tom Tucknott, 310-530-4992

January 17-24, 2009

7 DAY MEXICAN RIVIERA CRUISE

Princess Sapphire from San Pedro to Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan and Cabo San Lucas, returning to San Pedro. From \$639.00 ppdo (inside), to \$1,029.00 ppdo (balcony). Taxes, govt fees and fuel charges are additional. Early booking may get a reduced price. \$300.00 deposit pp, fully refundable until 01 November. Insurance is recommended. Jay Seidman, 818-343-5171

We would appreciate it if you would contact the identified coordinator for more information. For comments or suggestions, including specific destinations or events, please contact Jay Seidman at 818-343-5171 or jayandjerry@sbcglobal.net.

July 7-18, 2009

12 Day Alaska Tour-Cruise

or

July 12-18, 2009

7 Day Alaska Cruise

Tour-Cruise: Anchorage, Mt. McKinley/Denali (3 nts), Whittier (board ship).

Cruise Only: Anchorage/Whittier, College Fjord, Glacier Bay, Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan, Disembark Vancouver. **Cruise/tour** - \$2,625.62 (inside), \$3045.62 (ocean view obstructed), and \$3,765.62 (balcony) ppdo. **Cruise only** - \$1,208.25 (inside), \$1,618.25 (ocean view obstructed), and \$2,388.25 (balcony) ppdo. Includes taxes, fees, transfers and insurance. **Does not include air** (currently about \$650.00). Jay Seidman, 818-343-5171

Neither smoking nor alcoholic beverages are permitted upon our buses.

The Travel Committee meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 12:30 p.m. in E2/1200.

Important Contacts for Retirees

Northrop Grumman Benefits Center

www.benefits.northropgrumman.com

Select "Retiree Connection"

Or by phone: 800-894-4194

Here you can get help on health benefits, pensions, savings, and to report a death. It's all voice activated, so just listen to the instructions and answer the first few questions to reach a representative.

Express Scripts (Rx)

www.express-scripts.com

800-655-1971

Northrop Grumman Benefits Services (Space Park)

800-537-7694

One Space Park, S/2451
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving with a pretty and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in brad-side, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, with chocolate in one hand and loudly proclaiming — Wow! What a Ride!

Author unknown

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

Staff:

Al Hausrath, Editor.

Bob Crowe, Roving Reporter.

Frank Warren, Contributing Editor

Tom Carroll, Kathy Hanken, Roger Harmon, Mary Holcomb, and Del Suarez, Photographers.

Lee Rathbone, Athena Christe, and Karin Petersen, Copy Editors.



By Frank Warren

HAPPENINGS AT NORTHROP GRUMMAN

Northrop Grumman Corp. (NG)

- U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates has opted to leave the tanker decision, including the parameters of competition, up to the next administration, Pentagon officials said. The Pentagon postponed the controversial \$40 billion competition to build an aerial refueling tanker for the Air Force, conceding a breakdown in the management of the procurement and postponing the politically charged decision until the next presidential administration. John Young, the Pentagon's top weapons buyer, said the proposed aerial refueling tankers from both Northrop Grumman and Boeing were technically outstanding. The tanker proposal from Northrop Grumman and its partner European Aeronautic Defence and Space, for developing the first 68 aircraft, would have cost \$12.5 billion, compared with \$15.4 billion under Boeing's plan.

Information Technology Sector (NGIT)

- LOS ANGELES and FAIRFAX, VA — NGIT and 3001 International, Inc. announced that they have signed a definitive merger agreement under which Northrop Grumman will acquire 3001. Financial terms of the agreement are not disclosed. 3001 provides geospatial data production and analysis, including airborne imaging, surveying, mapping and geographic information systems for domestic and international government intelligence, defense and civilian customers. Among 3001's federal customers are the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Navy Facilities Command, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, according to the company. The transaction is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2008.

Space Technology Sector (NGST)

- REDONDO BEACH — NGST successfully completed one of the most critical spacecraft environmental tests on NASA's Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite (LCROSS) two months ahead of schedule. LCROSS will be launched later this year on a mission to impact the moon in the search for water ice and water-bearing compounds in lunar craters. LCROSS is now undergoing final checkout at Northrop Grumman's manufacturing facility in Redondo Beach, CA. It will then be readied for shipment to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida for launch processing and integration onto an Atlas V rocket as a secondary payload to NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter
- REDONDO BEACH —The Adaptive Optics Division, including all of the prior Adaptive Optics Associates and the Optical Products Division, has been transferred from Essex/Mission Systems to NGST. The unit, which is now called Adaptive Optics Associates (AOA) comprises 150 employees. AOA has five major areas of focus — precision systems (delivering wavefront sensors for the Airborne Laser Missile Defense System), micro-optics, adaptive optics systems, scanning systems and vision systems. AOA will report to Chris Yamada, general manager, NGST Strategic Business Units. *Reported from NGST's InfoLink.*

Electronic Systems Sector (NGES)

- BUFFALO, NY — NGES has been selected to provide eight Combat Electromagnetic Environment Simulator (CEESIM) systems to support the Electronic Warfare (EW) self-defense ground station, of the EADS A400M transport aircraft. Under the terms of the \$28.2 million contract, NGES will provide eight CEESIM radio frequency simulators to European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS), represented by their business units EADS Defence Electronics (DE) and EADS Military Air Systems (MAS). The CEESIM systems will be manufactured at Northrop Grumman Amherst Systems in Buffalo, N.Y.

Integrated Systems Sector (NGIS)

- MELBOURNE, FL — NGIS's line of airborne mine countermeasures products has successfully completed its first flight. The Airborne Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Minefield Detection System (ASTAMIDS) flew from the company's facility in Melbourne, Fla., aboard a modified U.S. Army UH-1H "Huey" helicopter. The flight validated the operability and integration of all the system components. Control of the gimbal via the developmental Tactical Ground Segment software was demonstrated. According to the current plan, ASTAMIDS is scheduled for Low Rate Initial Production in 2009. The ASTAMIDS system is designed for the U.S. Army to detect, characterize and locate minefields and obstacles and provide information on non-mined areas and show safe avenues for U.S. troops. It also will detect, locate, and designate combat vehicles, systems, and troops.

SPEAKERS' PROGRAM — We need your input!

TRA has not had a Program Committee Chair for over a year; and the attendance at the programs seems to reflect a lack of interest. This is an attempt to renew the speaker program *if you are interested*. Accompanying this announcement is a special questionnaire soliciting your input. If you would attend such presentations please respond either by email to tra@tra-spacepark.org, or leave a telephone message at 1-310-813-7745. Please direct your response to Budd Cohen, who will be the interim Program Chair until this position is filled.

TRA SPEAKERS' PROGRAM — Questionnaire

Program Location: Having the presentations in Space Park is not always possible because we are subject to being "bumped" for NGC use. We have been invited to use facilities near Space Park at Western Federal Credit Union on Aviation Boulevard in Manhattan Beach.

1) Is this location acceptable to you?

Schedule: The past programs have been held after TRA Board Meetings on Thursday afternoons, and were scheduled erratically. We propose to have new programs on a routine basis, say every two months or quarterly, at a fixed time.

2) How would this affect your attendance?

Content: Programs would be planned as part of a series, over a long period of time. For example: "Health and Welfare Series" might include separate programs on the five following topics:

- a) What's new in hearing aids — Do they really help.
- b) Senile Dementia — What to do about it.
- c) What to do after a stroke — How to deal with it.
- d) Heart attacks — Prevention, care and recovery.
- e) Death and dying — Hospice and emotional care.

Other series might feature: Financial Planning, Space and Defense programs, Historical Events, or any other topic you suggest. We would undertake to find qualified speakers on all subjects.

3) Which of the subjects in the potential "Health and Welfare Series" would interest you?

4) What other series would interest you?

Attendance: In order to proceed with planning such programs, we need to know your degree of support.

5) With the content as suggested above, do you feel you could "commit" to attending, say: 50% of them? Or 25% of them? 10%?

6) Would you want us to provide "tickets" to the programs which you could use as "reminders"?

7) Should we continue with this planning?

The No Name Gazette continues the feature called Memories: It's Hard to Forget with a memory from Jack Tsu. What career-related event is fixed in your memory that others might enjoy? Write it up and send it to our editor at tra@tra-spacepark.org or TRA, Attn NNG, P.O. Box 1276, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.

MEMORIES

IT'S HARD TO FORGET!

General Doolittle (continued)

One more "Memories" of General Doolittle: In an elevator in Building E-1 in Space Park in 1959, I saw someone familiar. He was General Doolittle, our esteemed STL president and of the "30 seconds over Tokyo" fame. I said to the General: "I witnessed the dedication ceremony in Shanghai for the five new Chinese Air Force fighters in 1936. You, Major Doolittle, were the flight leader of the five Curtiss fighters." He, without any hesitation, corrected me: "Oh, no no, it was 1935."

Jack C. N. Tsu

New Message Board on TRA Website

Roy Batista, TRA's webmaster, has made changes to our website message board to reduce spamming. To access the message board now, you must enter a user name and password. The user name you choose must clearly identify your last name as shown on our membership list. Then our webmaster compares the two, and sends you a confirming email. This is not an automated system, so please be patient while awaiting a reply from the TRA webmaster.

Some spam filters may block this confirming message. Just try your login and see if it works. There are about 3000 TRA members and the website is entered by about 500 unique visitors each month.

Missile Systems Division Now Part of NGST

Online Access to NG Benefits Center

In addition to the toll-free number (800-894-4194) for access to the Northrop Grumman Benefits Center, online access is available. The new service, called *My Benefits Access*, is a personalized, easy-to-use online resource for all your benefits information. Just a few of the available features include:

- Personal
 - Update your address, phone, or dependent information
 - Designate, review, and update beneficiaries for life insurance
- Finances
 - View and manage your pension payments, direct deposit information or change your withholding.
 - Estimate your federal and state withholding
- Health
 - Compare health care providers and health plan options
 - Access your health plan providers
- Email updates
 - You can opt to receive general benefit news and updates

To register with *My Benefits Access*, go to <http://benefits.northropgrumman.com> and click on the *My Benefits Access* button. Select <Register as a new user> and follow the on-screen instructions. You will be prompted to create a user name and password.

Free Beach Parking in L.A. County

Are you interested in receiving a free daytime parking pass to visit Los Angeles County beaches M-F except holidays? Here's what you do. Send a photocopy of your driver's license and your auto registration to Department of Beaches and Harbors, 13837 Fiji Way, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292. It takes about two weeks to receive your pass in the mail. No passes are issued over the counter. Enjoy your free parking pass when visiting beaches in Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica, Venice, Playa del Rey, Torrance and White Point in San Pedro. For more details call (310) 305-9503.

Missile development within TRW began with a telephone call in 1947 from then President Dwight D. Eisenhower to Simon Ramo, the founder of Space Technology Laboratories (STL), TRW's heritage company. Ramo accepted the president's challenge to oversee development of America's nascent Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) program, all of which occurred in Southern California. That illustrious history is now coming back home to begin another exciting chapter.

Now it's "Back to the Future" as missile development comes full circle to where it all started at Space Technology. For years, much of the missile activity within TRW was with what is now Northrop Grumman Mission Systems Sector. This current reorganization centralizes all the activity relating to Kinetic Energy Interceptors program (KEI), the ICBM Prime Integration Contract (IPIC) and the Missile Engineering Center (MEC) into the Missile Systems Division (MXD) in the Northrop Grumman Space Technology Sector (NGST). To introduce these organizational changes, a NGST management team made a quick two-day trip to the five major locations around the United States that incorporate the nearly 800 employees of MXD. The traveling leadership team included NGST President Alexis Livanos; John Clay, sector vice president and general manager, MXD; Bruce Gerding, sector vice president of Business Development & Planning; Paul Gregory, sector vice president of Business Management and CFO; John Daegele, sector vice president of System Engineering, Integration & Test Division; Michelle Murphy, sector vice president of Human Resources & Administration; Peter Hadinger, director, Business Development; and Tony Spehar, vice president and program manager of KEI.

MXD Division Headquarters is in Clearfield, Utah. Northrop Grumman employs more than 1200 people in the Clearfield/Salt Lake City area, with about 450 who support IPIC. A major aspect of the IPIC modernization effort has been the replacement of missile hardware, software, in-place data processing equipment, telecommunication, and security systems without degrading the operational readiness of the ICBMs.

San Bernardino, CA, is home to the MEC. Originally this group was located on Norton Air Force Base, but now occupies an ultra-modern, 104,000 sq. ft. facility just off Interstate 10. They have been supporting the nation's ICBM programs since 1954, and currently have more than 200 employees, with others based at Space Park, Colorado Springs, and Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Fair Lakes, VA, is west of the District of Columbia and about 9 miles west of Tyson's Corner and the Beltway. The Fair Lakes employees include systems engineers and program management staff who support contracts, subcontracts, business development and schedule planning for the KEI program, the Ballistic Missile Defense System element that is being designed to destroy enemy ballistic missiles during their boost and early midcourse phases of flight. The program is focused

Continued on Page 7

IN MEMORIAM

Name	Date of Death
Kenneth P. Cramer*	August 12, 2008
Leon R. Clark	June 10, 2007
Constance E. Clouse*	August 23, 2008
Robert W. Dees	January 26, 2008
Ronald L. Gilje	September 12, 2008
Floyd Wayne Goss	August 1, 2008
Evelyn Alice Lord*	August 19, 2008
Gordon C. Sine	July 29, 2008

*Check TRA's web page (www.tra-spacepark.org) for the obituary of this individual. Scroll down to near the bottom of the web page and you will find "In Memoriam." Inside this section are the obituaries.

The first step in notifying Northrop Grumman of a retiree's death is to call the Benefits Service Center at 800-894-4194. For many retirees, there is a Burial Benefit which will be paid to the beneficiary upon proper notification of death. However, due to privacy laws, the Benefits Center does NOT notify the TRA of the death.

If you know of a deceased retiree that should be included in the "In Memoriam" column in future NNGs, please submit the following by mail or e-mail to the TRA office: name of the deceased; date of death; and name of person submitting the information.

MXD Now Part of NGST

Continued from Page 6

on a Booster Developmental Verification Test flight in 2009. KEI's principal customer is the Missile Defense Agency.

Johnstown, PA (about 45 miles east of Pittsburgh in the rural mountains of Pennsylvania) is home to KEI employees who support the U.S. Department of Defense and other federal agencies. The KEI program employees lead a team of the nation's premier defense companies in developing and testing KEI's mobile missile defense capabilities. The KEI strategic objectives are to restore the full KEI weapon system, spiral to the boost phase intercept mission, establish sea-mobile KEI and expand KEI to international markets. KEI employees in Johnstown will work from a new, expanded facility at the Greater Johnstown Technology Park, slated to open this fall.

Huntsville, AL, home of the Redstone Arsenal and NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, is the company's headquarters for KEI. Northrop Grumman has plans to begin constructing the second of four buildings later this year that will comprise its \$80 million Cummings Research Park campus. The company employs 1,200 people in the Huntsville area and about 1,500 in Alabama, supporting a number of military customers in the region, including the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command; Army Aviation and Missile Command; Army Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space; the U.S. Missile Defense Agency; NASA; and the Defense Intelligence Agency. (Article condensed from NGST's InfoLink Summer 2008.)

Good News Department

Social Security Retirement Benefits to Have Big Increase in 2009

Nearly 49 million older Americans can expect one of the largest Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) to Social Security retirement benefits in a quarter century, thanks to rising inflation.

Though the actual COLA is still undetermined, economists say recipients can expect a raise in 2009 that will greatly surpass—and could more than double—this year's 2.3 percent increase.

The Social Security COLA is tied to the July-September quarter of the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W), which represents the cost of a basket of consumer goods and services, compared with the same quarter of the previous year. The Bureau of Labor Statistics says that the current 12-month change in the CPI-W, from July 2007 to July 2008, is now running at 5.6 percent. The actual COLA is scheduled to be announced in October.

More Good News

The monthly premium for the vast majority of the elderly and disabled participating in Medicare will hold steady at \$96.40 next year. It's the first time since 2000 that the charge for health coverage is not increasing.

Premiums usually go up to reflect higher costs and demand for care projected for the coming year. Such increases will most certainly occur in 2009, but they will be offset when calculating the premiums by an adequate reserve in the Medicare Part B trust fund. That reserve gained \$9.3 billion earlier this year after officials discovered money was inadvertently being drawn from Medicare Part B to cover hospice benefits.

The monthly premium for Medicare Part B covers a portion of the costs for physician services, home health and the purchase of certain medical equipment, such as wheelchairs and oxygen machines. The deductible for those services will also hold steady next year at \$135. That's the amount beneficiaries pay before their insurance coverage kicks in.

And Now the Bad News

About 5 percent of the nearly 44 million people in Medicare are subject to a higher premium based on their income. Congress approved higher premiums for wealthier beneficiaries as part of a bill establishing a new drug benefit. The participants affected are those individuals earning more than \$85,000 and couples earning more than \$170,000. The amount of those premiums will range from \$134.90 to \$308.30, depending upon the participant's income.

Medicare Part A, which covers hospital and nursing home care will increase its deductible to \$1,068. The 2008 charge is \$1024. and is applicable when first admitted to a hospital.

TRA

P.O. Box 1276
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

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**The next NNG will be mailed
in November**

THE MAIL POUCH

◆◆◆**Pearl Cadwell** writes from Daniel Island, South Carolina that she appreciates all the TRA staff does to keep her informed◆◆◆Another retiree with itchy feet, **Mary Garcia**, just returned from Costa Rica, sent in her dues renewal money, and will be off to Egypt in October◆◆◆Octogenarian (89) **Jeanne Gustaitis** reports that she and her nonagenarian (91) husband, **Wally**, are in "fairly good health." She always enjoys the NNG, and finds that occasionally we mention some of her former colleagues from her TRW days◆◆◆Did you see the bicyclist on the Strand in Manhattan Beach, the guy with the fly-fishing pole? It's **Ed McAuliffe** on his favorite bike route; the fly-fishing he does all over the world except in M.B. (*My guess is that fly-fishing doesn't work too well for catching sharks.*)◆◆◆**Joe** (always on the go) **Arce** (ATD Chemistry Dept.) writes that he and **Louise** (Metrology Dept.) are living in Monterey Park, CA. Joe is now working at JPL on the Mars Space Lab project, which will be launched next year, reaching Mars in 2010. In addition he is writing four books on the philately of Mexico, and is active in international philatelic activities. Together they take architecture and archeology tours, and Louise is a volunteer at the South Coast Botanic Gardens. They don't mention couch-potatoing, or being bored. (*I wonder if Joe won't volunteer to ride along on the first manned trip to Mars in the near future, just to occupy his spare*



By Al Hausrath

time!)◆◆◆Ramo Wooldrige's 653rd employee, **Florence Hnatko**, submitted another General Doolittle story which she finds "Hard to Forget." (*See Page 5 for this feature.*) It seems that many of our members still vividly remember this charismatic leader, so Florence's contribution is in a queue to be included in a future NNG◆◆◆**Mildred Louise Warren** joined STL in 1959, and retired from TRW in '76, married **Earl Jolliff** and moved to Hemet, CA. She still looks back fondly on her days at Space Park, but has been widowed again, lives alone, and "doing very well on my own."◆◆◆**George** and **Marilyn Forbes** participated in the 30th annual NGC/TRW Wilderness Club backpack on Catalina Island. George and **Hank Warzybok** led this 25 mile, 3 day trek. **Jean** and **Clark Custer** have led this excursion for the past 15 years. George then mentions attending the Texas State Gymnastics Championship, where your editor expected him to say he won that too. However, it was his grandson that won the Pommel Horse competition◆◆◆Not to be outdone by George's grandson, **Carl Peterson** competed in the National Water ski Tournament in West Palm Beach, FL where he won first place in slalom and jump, 3rd in tricks, and first overall which is awarded to the No. 1 skier in the nation in his age group (75-79). (*Mail Pouch awaits info on his future activities. TRA retirees never retire!*)◆◆◆