

TRA's

No Name

GAZETTE

For Northrop Grumman & TRW legacy Retirees

VOL. XXII NO. 6

September/October 2010

HAPPENINGS AT NORTHROP GRUMMAN

Northrop Grumman Corp.(NG)

- LOS ANGELES — NG Foundation kicked off its fifth annual Weightless Flights of Discovery program in Cincinnati, Ohio on Tuesday, Sept.14, 2010, with the ultimate science experiment – *the release of 2,000 ping pong balls in zero gravity*. The ping pong ball release represented the first time an experiment testing Newton's Laws of Motion was conducted by all 30 participating teachers during a flight. Designed by "Science Bob" Pflugfelder, a Boston-based science teacher who joined the teachers



By Frank Warren

on the flight, the experiment tested the affect of zero gravity on objects of smaller versus greater size and mass (i.e. ping pong balls versus teachers). During the 30-second experiment, teachers were able to observe how they reacted and interacted with each other and the ping pong balls, and each other's natural movement in weightlessness. To learn more about the Northrop Grumman Foundation Weightless Flights of Discovery, please visit www.northropgrumman.com/goweightless, or follow the progress of the teachers during their flights on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/GoWeightless>) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/goweightless>).

- MCLEAN, Va. — NG was presented with the Information Security Executive™ (ISE™) Southeast Project of the Year Award last month for the Northrop Grumman OneBadge program. Sponsored by Tech Exec Networks (TEN), the award recognizes projects for their outstanding achievements in risk management, data asset protection, compliance, privacy and network security. The Northrop Grumman OneBadge program was selected as the winner in the project category that included nominees from the U.S. Southeast region including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee,

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Annual Med Reenrollment Set for November 1-12

Each year in October we retirees receive two publications from Northrop Grumman (NG): a Retiree Enrollment Benefits Bulletin, and the Health and Welfare Annual Enrollment Worksheet. This year, these documents will be mailed October 25. The latter document is tailored to the individual, describing the subsidized medical plans available for you through NG. If you were satisfied with your existing (2010) coverage, you will not need to take any action. Your medical coverage will continue for the following year, probably with a higher monthly premium. If you make a change in benefits, you will need to respond to the NG Benefits Center (NGBC) during the reenrollment period, November 1–12, 2010.

- 1) First, and most important, make sure that the NGBC has your current address. Did you change your address since October, 2009? Note that TRA and NG do NOT share address information. Just because TRA has your address does not mean that NG does. Contact the NGBC at 800-894-4194 if you are in doubt. Will you be at this address in late October, early November? If not, make arrangements with NGBC to received the reenrollment package at an alternate address.
- 2) If you are on Medicare, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services distributes Medicare & You, a 150+ page document tailored to your region of the country, describing Medicare changes, costs, and coverage. This 2011 version of this document is projected to be mailed between October 18–30, 2010. It lists all the commercially available plans in your region. This is important to you only if you should choose to decline the NG coverage.
- 3) Paying for your benefits: If you are receiving a pension from NG, your medical plan monthly payments can be deducted. If you are not receiving a pension, or your pension payments are not adequate to cover the medical payments, you can set up a direct debit from your checking or savings account. Sign up at NGBC either online or by phone.

TRA for Northrop Grumman Retirees

TRA (The Retirees Association) welcomes the retirees of Northrop Grumman and TRW. The No Name Gazette is our official publication. Our offices are in Building E2 at Space Park

2010 OFFICERS

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

Staff:

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Frank Warren, Contributing Editor

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Lee Rathbone, and Karin Petersen, Copy Editors.

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'll get back to you.)

By Email:

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

For Membership:

TRA Membership is open to all Northrop Grumman and TRW legacy retirees at \$10 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/1275b, Space Park	3rd Thurs. Monthly	Business Meeting 1:30 p.m.	No reservations needed. All Members Welcome
ATD	Alpine Village, Torrance, Calif.	November 1, 2010 11:30 a.m. r	Social, Nostalgia and Lunch	Don Brown, Sandy Friedfeld, Bob Taylor 310-541-1917 or sandj1@aol.com
Brevard Retirees	Various Locations in Brevard, N.C.	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	Various days: call Zaiser for details	Social	George Zaiser 805-343-2631 gzais@msn.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	JR's Stockyard Inn, McLean, Va.	3rd Friday 11:30 a.m.	Social	Bill Gehrke 703-759-0527 wgehrke@att.net
NW Riverside County, Hemet	The Church of the Good Shephard Hemet, Calif.	4th Thursday 11:00 - 2:00	Social	Rosalie Moyer 951-925-1214 Glenn Ortiz 951-679-1015
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
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	Crivello's Restaurant Wildomar, Calif.	Third Wednesday Lunch	Social	Maureen Locken 951-244-7654 maureen_locken@yahoo.com
The Mountain Folks	Various Locations in the Denver Area	First week of each quarter	"We do have fun!"	Carl Wikelman 303-693-0034 winkelman@att.net
TRIN	Community Room, WFCU Western Way, Torrance, Calif.	2nd Thursday 1:00 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, Calif.	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	Mimi's Thousand Oaks, Calif.	1st Tuesday 12:00 noon	Social	Fred Blaich 805-499-0012 harrison_stroud@hotmail.com

New TRA Members in August/September

We welcome the following new members who have joined TRA in August.

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Vivian J. Sadler | Las Vegas, N.V. |
| Rick Smith | Redondo Beach, Calif. |
| E. Guy Talbott | Huntington Beach, Calif. |
| Art G. Yee | Torrance, Calif. |

We hope these new members will send a note to us for the Mail Pouch, telling us a little about themselves and where they worked at Northrop Grumman. Send to tra@tra-spacepark.org or to TRA, P.O. Box 1276, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.

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 or 800-655-1971

Northrop Grumman Benefits Services
(Space Park) 800-537-7694 or
One Space Park, S/2451, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

IN MEMORIAM

Name	Date of Death
Paul F. De Coster	July 13, 2010
Charles L. Elliott	April 12, 2010
Charles W. Fox	February 27, 2010
Bruce J. Gordon	Date unknown
Robert Guibord	August 1, 2010
Daniel E. Monette	July 26, 2010
Charlotte Peyton	August 30, 2010
Myron Pullen	August 16, 2010
John A. Savage	August 17, 2010
Cheryle C. Smith	July 31, 2010
Jerry D. Williams	July 14, 2010

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. The Benefits Center does NOT notify TRA of the death due to privacy laws.

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 email to the TRA office: Name of the deceased, date of death, and the name of the person submitting the information.

TRA Board Announces Dues Increase

The TRA Board reluctantly voted to increase the TRA annual membership fee from \$7 to \$10, effective immediately. The TRA dues were set at \$7/year in January, 2000, but TRA has faced increased costs and reduced corporate support over the last decade. The free first year of membership for new members will remain in effect.

MEMORIES: It's Hard to Forget

The NNG continues *Memories: It's Hard to Forget* with a recollection involving a party for Dr. Solomon. What unusual or surprising event happened during your career at TRW/NG that other retirees might enjoy? Write it up and send it to our editor at tra@tra-spacepark.org or to TRA, Attn NNG, P.O. Box 1276, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.

Reflecting on a Party for Dr. Solomon

When Dr. Solomon celebrated his 25th anniversary with TRW, the Astronotes (the TRW barbershop group) were asked to sing for the occasion. I told the story of an oil-rich Saudi king who brought his young son to the USA and as they flew over several landmarks, the Statue of Liberty and the Grand Canyon, the boy was so impressed that his father bought them for him.

When they landed in California the king took his son to Disneyland where his son was ecstatic. He said, "Father, every time I like something you always buy it for me, but I'd be happy with just a Mickey Mouse outfit."

So his father bought him Hughes!

It brought a round of laughter but I later found out that one of the attendees at the celebration was none other than the president of Hughes!

(I understand he took it well).

It would have been better had I heeded my speech professor's advise - "Never give a speech unless you have analyzed your audience."

Robert Jackson, Tenor (now I'm a Niner)

HAPPENINGS

Continued from Page 1

Virginia, and West Virginia. TEN cited the project for, "successfully demonstrating a commercial enterprise's ability to turn the merits of a federal directive into a successful internal deployment. Its far-reaching implications are paving the way for secure digital collaboration between government and industry at a time when cyber security is paramount to the protection of the U.S. economy, and to the security and well being of the U.S. and its citizens."

- ▶ NG Chief Executive Wes Bush said the defense contractor has no plans to break itself up, and he would not forecast any large-scale mergers for the industry in the near term. Bush rejected speculation that Northrop's planned separation of its \$6 billion shipbuilding operations — the latest reshaping of the company's portfolio — could lead to a break-up of the whole company. "We are not dismantling the company," Bush said at the Reuters Aerospace and Defense Summit, adding that the shipbuilding separation was aimed at increasing value for shareholders. Asked about the likelihood of mergers between major defense contractors in response to a changing security environment and tightening budgets, Bush said, "All companies have a fiduciary obligation to shareholders to have an open mind.... But I would not forecast on the near-term horizon any large-scale activities." There has been speculation in the industry that Boeing is interested in acquiring all or part of NG.

Aerospace Systems Sector (NGAS)

- ▶ On September 2, a NGAS-built NASA Global Hawk unmanned aerial system observed Hurricane Earl, days after it studied Tropical Storm Frank, as part of NASA's Genesis and Rapid Intensification Process (GRIP) experiment. GRIP is a NASA program designed to better understand how tropical storms form and develop into major hurricanes.

- ▶ NGAS is a principal subcontractor on an F-35 Lightning II industry team led by Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, Fort Worth, Texas, that is developing, demonstrating, and producing three variants of this single-engine, 5th generation fighter: a conventional take-off and landing (CTOL) variant, a short-take off, vertical landing (STOVL) variant, and a carrier variant (CV). The F-35 Lightning II is a stealthy (radar-evading), supersonic, multi-role fighter designed to meet United States' and the United Kingdom's requirement for an affordable next generation fighter. It will replace a wide range of aging fighter and strike aircraft currently in the inventories of the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Marine Corps and allied defense forces worldwide.

- ▶ REDONDO BEACH, CA — July 19. A Space Tracking and Surveillance System (STSS) Demonstration program satellite showed an increased set of capabilities when it detected and tracked a resident space object — another satellite. The missile defense satellite is one of two STSS spacecraft built by NG and Raytheon Company. The STSS Demonstration program accomplished another first by tracking a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather satellite for several minutes using multiple track sensor bands. Payload sensors on the U.S. Missile Defense Agency's STSS satellite look both below the horizon, with Earth in the background behind the tracked target, and above the horizon, with space in the background behind the target. This allows precision tracking of ballistic missiles through all phases of flight, commonly referred to as "birth-to-death tracking."

ATD TRW Reunion Set for November 1

The 18th annual ATD TRW reunion will be on Monday, November 1, at the Alpine Village. Lunch starts at about 12:30 PM. Sign-ups and schmoozing starts at 11:30 AM. Please RSVP by telephone (310-541-1917) or e-mail (sandjol@aol.com) if you will be there. Contact other TRW individuals who may wish to join us.

Thanks, Sandy Friedfeld

Mark Your Calendars TRA's Big Holiday Party Will Be Held on Friday, December 3!

It will again be at San Pedro's Ports O'Call Restaurant in the beautiful upper rooms overlooking the San Pedro Channel, and includes the same great 3-person music group and a three course sit-down meal, all for just \$20/person. The November NNG will carry the full announcement and reservation form.

on a fantastic surprise birthday party for him, and 3) **Toby Libidinsky**, from North Las Vegas, attended. Lee met Jack, Toby and family when he worked with Jack on some ICBM projects. Later Lee stole Toby away from this reporter and she became Lee's secretary in M3♦♦♦**Mike Larkin** (DSSO/SSO) admits to being semi retired in Valle Vista, Calif. With g'kids in nearby Murrieta, and fishing, golfing, and RVing, he still has time for building and racing cars. His most famous, the 4300 mile, 2007 Great Race from Concord, N.C. to Anaheim. Go to www.beerster8.com to see his beauty♦♦♦TRAers cover the globe. **Bob** and **Zaida MacIntyre** were cruising the Baltic Sea on the Queen Victoria, when then ran into **Bob** and **Madeline Sharples**, who were celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary♦♦♦Ex philatelist **Richard Stewart** mailed us his TRA ballot. He must be an ex-philatelist because he used

MORE MAIL POUCH

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16 different commemorative stamps to get a total of 44¢ on his mail-in ballot. The stamps dated from 1944 to 1965, and the largest denomination was a 5¢ stamp commemorating the first centennial of the Salvation Army. The earliest stamp (1944) honored Corregidor♦♦♦The mail arrived from Hawaii, and in it was a letter from **Bob** and **Shirley Mathews**. Their tough life involves fishing, hiking, and water sports. To get away, they travel to southern Oregon for the summers. To learn more, email them at badbuoy@hawaii.rr.com♦♦♦**Lois Thomas**, now of San Marcos, Calif., had a two week visit from **Dottie Juszcak** of Oregon. It had been raining too much in Oregon and Dottie needed a respite. Lois is entranced with her two g'kids nearby♦♦♦

Laughing Not to Cry

By **Mona Figure**



Mona Figure's novel, *Laughing Not to Cry*, was recently published. A Proposal Operations' stalwart for 25 years, Mona supervised group writing on space, missile, and software proposals, such as the Hubble Telescope and Milstar. Her first job out was on a daily newspaper, and she's been writing ever since. She worked for the *Los Angeles Times* in its heyday. Before joining TRW, she wrote

features stories for newspapers and magazines as a free-lance publicist and ghost writer.

Her novel tells the darkly humorous story of a fifty-three-year old school teacher whose husband pillaged her family's flower business, vanished with their life savings, and did it all legally. She builds a new life taking care of her cantankerous, senile father, who looks younger and steps livelier than she. Enemies try to push her out of her job and off her farm, forcing her to rebuild her family's moribund flower business. Against all odds, she succeeds and in the process becomes stronger and smarter. Her husband returns and tries to ruin her again. But this time he confronts a woman to be reckoned with who turns the tables on him and on the enemies who orchestrated his return.

Laughing Not to Cry, awarded 'Editor's Choice' by the publisher, is available at Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, Borders, and most bookstores. Mona would love feedback on her book from former colleagues, who may remember her as the slasher. She lives in Pasadena, summers in Idaho, and loves to hike, fish and canoe. (monafigure@yahoo.com)

The World in a Jug

By **Robert Brodsky**



Bob Brodsky, a TRW retiree with many books to his credit, has created another one, this time on jazz.

The World in a Jug is part memoir, part scrapbook (with photos, posters, programs, vignettes of great musicians, a list of 189 classic jazz tunes, blues lyrics, a bibliography of jazz books and articles, letters, obituaries and newspaper clippings), and part anthology. These features make it an enjoyable book for browsing. But for this reviewer, the best part is Brodsky's extensive accounts of his musical travels, meeting and hearing such an exciting array of jazz legends. There are not many of us left who were able to catch the bands at Nick's, Jimmy Ryan's, the Stuyvesant Casino, Ham-bone Kelly's, Earthquake McGoon's, the Hangover Club, the Beverly Cavern, et al. We are fortunate to have these vivid recollections of those glory days." From a review by Bill Mitchell, slated to appear in the October *American Rag*.

"For people who know little about traditional jazz, the book gives an idea what it's about, what recordings to listen to, and what makes a true lover of that music," Brodsky said. "The book tells how things were in the great jazz revival in the 1940s and 50s, which occurred mainly in New York City, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Chicago. It was kind of a new generation that got acquainted with traditional jazz, but this generation is rapidly dying, so I fear for the future of the music. The book is to try to get people aware of it."

To order: go to Amazon.com/books and enter Robert F. Brodsky

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

THE MAIL POUCH

Elmer Bishop, at home in Visalia, Calif., notes that he also lives in Los Barriles, Mexico, and has for 12 years. This is a village on the Sea of Cortez located halfway between La Paz and Cabo San Lucas in Baja California. It is very safe there, he reports♦♦♦♦New TRA member **Bob Ottinger** writes that he joined TRW/STL at Space Park in 1965 and was involved with propulsion, chemical processing, and environmental R&D. He moved to Northern Virginia in '75 and worked on fossil energy R&D. In '83 he went to work in Cleveland on environment and technology, where he was the environmental VP. He retired in 1997 and with wife **Barb** moved to South Carolina in 2003. (As a California boy, he never quite adapted to the ice and snow of Cleveland.) They are now enjoying some travel, friends, and family. Welcome to TRA, Bob and Barb♦♦♦♦Another new TRA member, **Bill Netro**, fills us in on his past. He retired in February after more than 33 years at TRW/NG. The first 10 were at Space Park, and the rest at Dominguez Hills in Carson, Calif. He was in Subcontracts, Contracts, Business Management, Program Management, and, for the last 10 years, Division Director of Operations and Programs. *I feel very lucky to have worked at such a great company.* Now he is enjoying retirement, They have taken four trips, babysit their first g'daughter 2 days per week, and have begun a year long home remodeling project. *I am*



By Al Hausrath

*happy to have reached my goal of retiring while still in my 50's with the financial resources to live the good life that got delayed while always working 70-80 hour weeks♦♦♦♦***Josi (Jo) Hall** also responded to our request to hear more from our new members. She moved from Cleveland to California long ago, worked at Space Park, and vowed *I'll never move east of the Mississippi again!* Now living in Wyomissing, Pa., she let the pleasure of being near her daughter override her distaste for winter's snow. The bonuses? Spring in Pennsylvania! Trees blooming, and just minutes from being out in rural Pa., with cemeteries at every church, and near the heart of Amish territory. While she is known locally as **That California Gal**, she is learning new words, foods, and customs from the locals. She ends her letter by saying that getting the NNG is like receiving the Sears catalog in those days long ago. She immediately gives reading the NNG top priority. *It's the pause that refreshes♦♦♦♦*From Grass Valley, Calif., up north of Sacramento, comes a note from **Creath Peyton**. His wife, **Charlotte** died on August 30, 2010. Her health had been slowly degrading for the past seven years due to a virus picked up many years ago. She made many friends during her 29 year association with TRW. She will be missed♦♦♦♦**Lee Prentice** was really caught by surprise one day last August up in Oregon. 1) He turned 75. 2) His wife, **Susan**, and their three children put