



ASSOCIATES

Volume 27, Issue 2  
April 2011

*Sponsored by LOCKHEED MARTIN*

# MARS STAR



**MARS EVENTS for  
This Quarter!!**

**Senior Luncheon**

**July 12, 2011**

**Pinehurst CC @ 11:00 am**

## **OFFICERS**

President	Bo Rodriguez	303-798-9157
President-Elect	Allen Sanders	303-973-4135
VP Activities	Dale Benesch	303-730-7643
Assoc. VP Activities	Al Hartford	303-979-0271
VP Business	Bill Schrott	303-683-9566
VP Communication	Bob Snodgrass	303-660-8408
VP Membership	Barb Espinoza	303-338-0338
Treasurer	Duane Del Duca	303-904-9530
Secretary	Linda Stearns	303-797-3557
Historian (JAN)	Dr. Ben Clark	303-979-4178
Historian (APR)	Ed Bock	303-683-0766
Historian (JUL)	Jim Rivers	303-978-9971
Historian (OCT)	TBD	

## **MARS STAR**

Co-Editor	Ken Jones	303-972-2453
Co-Editor	Tom Pighetti	303-979-7933
Assoc. Editor	Pat Kenning	303-794-0357
Photographer	Ted Bornhoeft	303-933-9730
Memorials	Roy & Anita Kannady	303-794-9210
Webmaster	Jim Kummer	303-986-3966
Distribution	Hazel Chapman	303-789-1131
<b>Reporting:</b>		
Denver	Pat Kenning	303-794-0357
Special News	Matt Grogan	303-795-1218
Baltimore	Dottie Ruth	410-665-3207
Michoud	Greg Kaminski	985-641-3857
Cape Canav	Carl Welton	321-783-0548
Orlando	Andrea Lawrence	407-340-8602
Vandenberg	Charlie Radaz	805-733-2051
ULA	Chris Chavez	303-269-5550

## **CLUB CONTACTS**

Bridge	Dave & Kathy Martz	303-683-9524
Dinner	R & Carole Dergance	303-795-9475
Golf	Paul Boykin	303-346-4814
Photography	John Chapter	303-986-8277
Planners	Dolph Hellman	303-794-0852
EzyBytes	Paul Bingham	303-798-0865

## **REMINDER:**

**If you move, please give the membership VP a change of address. Also, if you are a snowbird, let us know when you are leaving and when you plan to return so your MARS STAR can be sent to you. It costs us 70 cents for each STAR package returned.**

*(Published quarterly by MARS Associates, Retirees of Lockheed Martin Corporation and United Launch Alliance, Denver, CO).*

## **DIRECTORS**

Director	Dave Martz (Chairman)	303-683-9524
Director	Gene Cody	303-770-9282
Director	Bev Dare	303-986-8406
Director	Terrie Hamen	303-840-5426
Director	Bob Lines	303-973-8838
Director	Al Nemes	303-972-1800

## **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

LM Employee Service Center	1-866-562-2363
Savings Information Line (ING)	1-800-444-4015
Aetna Plans	1-888-562-8111
CIGNA Point of Service (POS) (Hourly Only)	1-800-244-6224
Kaiser Permanente	303-338-3800
Kaiser Permanente-Medicare	303-306-2535
PacifiCare – Hourly only	1-800-877-9777
LMHealthworks Plan	1-877-458-4975
MEDCO Prescription Drugs	1-877-458-4975
Vision Service Plan	1-800-877-7195
Delta Dental of Colorado	303-889-8609

1-800-233-0860

Kay Girodo	303-889-8609
kgirodo@ddpco.com	
Jaimie Atencio	303-889-8637
jatencio@ddpco.com	

Peliton Benefits	303-850-4798
LTC/Vision/Dental	
Ed Pittaway	

**MARS Associates, P. O. Box 1128,  
Littleton, CO 80160-1128**



## President's Corner

By Bo Rodriguez

([boandpat@comcast.net](mailto:boandpat@comcast.net))

Our new MARS Associates fiscal year began on March 1<sup>st</sup> and I'm looking forward to new and interesting challenges that face us in the months ahead. As I look back over the past year, we had the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at our Senior Luncheon, Annual Picnic and other events including a prize winning float at Littleton, Colorado's Western Welcome Week parade. I want to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to our directors, our team of officers, clubs officers, participants and volunteers for making our past year's events a big success.

Our Annual Meeting at the Crystal Rose special event center in Littleton on March 23<sup>rd</sup> got this year off to great start with a near capacity turnout. Congratulations to Dale Benesch, Al Hartford, Linda Stearns, and the entire team for planning and making this event a great success. In addition to a delicious buffet luncheon and an opportunity to converse with fellow MARS members, our program featured Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company's Stu Spath, Chief Systems Engineer and Deputy to the GRAIL Program. Stu gave us a power point presentation on the design, development and exploratory mission of the GRAIL satellite system designed to do advanced mapping and research of the lunar surface. He concluded his presentation by answering questions from the audience. Stu is following his father Russ in establishing a long and successful technical career at Martin Marietta/Lockheed Martin. Russ Spath retired from Martin Marietta after 30+ years of service.

This year we had an added guest, Todd Thomas, New Business Development, Senior Account Executive representing the Colorado Rockies baseball club. Todd provided us with a preview of the 2011 Colorado Rockies including a summary profile of some of the star baseball players. He also announced the teaming arrangement between MARS Associates and the Colorado Rockies whereby a special event on **June 15<sup>th</sup>** will offer MARS Associate members at special rate package that includes a food and beverage (non-alcoholic) picnic in the Platte River Picnic Area and game tickets in

the Lower Reserved Outfield seating section all for \$20 per member. **See the enclosed flier on this special event in this MARS package.** Place your order now because the allotment for this special package is limited.

A special thanks and recognition was extended to our departing officers and Board of Directors for their outstanding service to the organization:

- \* **Ralph Dergance** for his service and leadership as Past President
- \* **Bette Henson** for her four years of service as a member of the Board of Directors
- \* **Joe Marcus** for his four + years of service as a member of the Board of Directors
- \* **Don Jackson** for his dedicated term as VP-Business
- \* **Linda Stearns** for her dedicated term as VP-Membership
- \* **Bonnie Snodgress** for her four years of service as VP-Communications
- \* **Jane Alley** for her long-standing service as Secretary

Introductions and congratulations were extended to our new Board of Directors and officers:

**Al Nemes** and **Terrie Hamen** join the Board of Directors replacing Bette Henson who has completed her term in office and Joe Marcus who resigned to fulfill other voluntary obligations.

**Barbara Espinoza** is replacing Linda Stearns with the role and responsibility of VP-Membership.

**Bill Schrott** is replacing Don Jackson as VP-Business

**Bob Snodgress** is replacing his wife Bonnie as VP-Communications

**Linda Stearns** replaces Jane Alley as Secretary

Congratulations to **Bonnie and Bob Snodgress** for jointly being selected as the Vernon B. Selby Memorial Volunteer of the Year award winner at our Annual Meeting. Bonnie and Bob were recognized for their on-going dedicated involvement in support of several community and faith-based programs. In addition, Bonnie and Bob have given greatly of their time, resources and hospitality to support related MARS Associates club and event activities. They were among several nominees reviewed by the nominations committee for this prestigious award.

Retirees that have opted out of the Lockheed Martin Corporation's retiree medical coverage in the past may re-enroll during the retiree annual enrollment period, which is usually in October/November. They must first contact the **Lockheed Martin Service Center at 1-866-562-2363** and request the retiree medical enrollment information packet, which is usually provided in September/October prior to the enrollment period. Instructions on how to proceed with open enrollment will be provided in the packet. Contact the Lockheed Martin Employee Service Center if you have any questions or desire more information.

Join the Children's Museum this summer as they engage children in the excitement of rocket science - from June 11<sup>th</sup> through September 6<sup>th</sup>. The Children's Museum is currently recruiting volunteers for their Summer Experience **3,2,1,...Blastoff!** who can commit 4 hours a week during the 13-week run of the exhibit. As an exhibit volunteer, you can help build, test and perfect rockets, hovercrafts and other fascinating flying creations to teach children about the principle of flight. Please logon to the museum website at <http://www.mychildsmuseum.org/volunteer.aspx> for more information including job descriptions and applications. We hope you can join them for this exciting new adventure.



## Next Up!!!

By Allen Sanders  
([ALSAL75@comcast.net](mailto:ALSAL75@comcast.net))

WOW! This year marks the 26<sup>th</sup> fiscal year for MARS Associates. Happy Birthday to all past and present members!

This past year was summarized in the Annual Report that was distributed at the Annual Meeting held on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the Crystal Rose. The Annual Report provides all members with an overview of the MARS organization and activities for the fiscal year, including reports from all the Officers, the Board of

- \* ArtReach (*provides art and cultural experiences to at-risk and underserved populations*)

Directors, the various MARS clubs, and more. Included are some great pictures from the past year's events, too. If you were not able to make the meeting or pick up a copy of the Annual Report, all is not lost. You can still be fully informed by going to our website, [www.marsretirees.org](http://www.marsretirees.org) where the report is published in its entirety. While there, check out the rest of the site for the wealth of information about **your** MARS Association. A lot of volunteer time goes into keeping you informed - Make the best of the information.

Did you read the last STAR carefully and find the hidden MARS membership number? The member whose number was published apparently did not, because we did not get a response and as a result, did not award the prize of a year's dues paid. We did get a response from the person whose membership number is the same as the current year, a coincidence we did not anticipate! Sorry, but although the year is in several places in the STAR, that was not the hidden membership number. We have hidden another number in this issue. If you recall, your membership number was assigned when you joined MARS Associates. Check your Membership Card for your membership number. However, if you have lost or misplaced your card, no problem, your number is printed on mailing label of this STAR package. Identify the number hidden in the STAR as yours, call any MARS officer and your next annual dues payment will be free!

We would love to hear from more of you on what the MARS Association can do better for you. Different clubs, changes in the offered activities, STAR articles, you name it. Help your organization provide maximum benefit to you by calling or emailing any Officer, Director, or club president.

Our community is always looking for help through volunteers. Check out the MARS website at [www.marsretirees.org](http://www.marsretirees.org) under the Volunteer button or call me for details, if you do not have computer or Internet access. The newest information is for the Denver Children's Museum, which is described in detail in the President's Corner. The following organizations are in need of volunteer help/participation:

- \* The Denver Children's Museum (*rocket science exhibit*)
- \* Link To Learn (*live web video classes*)
- \* Denver Museum of Nature and Science

- \* Aerospace Career Counseling (*local high school students*)

- \* McLain Community High School Literacy Program (*tutoring*)

Invest in your community and enjoy the rich experiences of helping others

## From the Editor's Desk

By Ken Jones

([pudnhead1@msn.com](mailto:pudnhead1@msn.com))

It has been a privilege, and it has been my service obligation to MARS Associates to be the Co-Editor of the STAR Newsletter for the past year. Effective at the printing of this edition, I will be resigning to allow more time to fulfill my family duties and other volunteer obligations. With two children in high school and one headed to college next year, I have more than enough daily activity to keep me busy. Thanks for the opportunity to be of service.



## Activities Updates

By Dale Benesch

([dalebenesch@yahoo.com](mailto:dalebenesch@yahoo.com))

The **2011 Annual Meeting** was held on Wednesday, March 23, 2011 at the Crystal Rose and was attended by 234 members including 8 vendors and 3 guests.

Guest speaker, Stu Spath, Sensing & Exploration Systems, gave a very interesting and informative talk on the Grail Programs' future planned moon exploration.

**The MARS Day at the Rockies** is planned for Wednesday, June 15th. Tickets will be \$20, which includes the game and a picnic.

The **2011 Senior Luncheon** is planned for Tuesday, July 12, 2011 at the Pinehurst Country Club. The crowd favorite dessert from last year will be offered again.

## The 2011 Holiday Celebration

In the last issue of the STAR, we asked for your

comments about the traditional MARS December Holiday Celebration.

Responses from members:

- \* Preferred a daytime event versus evening, especially with the possibility of winter weather
- \* Inconvenient parking was an issue
- \* Enjoyed entertainment but dancing was not important
- \* Had varying comments on the food quality (no surprise!)

In consideration of these responses, we are making plans for a luncheon with entertaining, rather than what has been done in the past. The venue has yet to be determined, but we are still planning to satisfy as many of the stated preferences as possible, and hope you will come celebrate the season with us.

Planning ahead? Here are some **activity dates for this year.**

2011 Day at the Rockies: June 15, 2011

2011 Senior Luncheon: July 12, 2011

2011 Annual Picnic: September 7, 2011

2011 Holiday Celebration: December 7, 2011



## Senior Fare

By Don Jackson

([donnvet@yahoo.com](mailto:donnvet@yahoo.com))

As reported elsewhere in this issue, our Annual Meeting was a very successful event. One of the highlights of the meeting was the recognition of the MARS Associates "Volunteer of the Year".

There were eight nominations this year for "Volunteer of the Year". All of the candidates made significant contributions across a broad range of activities and to make one selection was extremely difficult. The **Vernon B. Selby Memorial Award** for 2010 was presented to the team of Bonnie and Bob Snodgrass.



Their voluntary contributions include a range of activities from; Looking Out For the Children (Juvenile Court Advocates for Douglas County), Leadership for Community Bible Study in their local Bible study group for a number of years, Treasurer for the Southern Chapter of the Colorado Draft Horse Association and together they helped as needed for many other of MARS Associates needs. They both have served on the MARS Board of Directors as Vice President of Communications. They have provided locations for the MARS Golf Club Annual Dinner, Annual Summer Camp and Bible Study Group Dinners for their church and last but not least, they have participated in the quarterly STAR mailings for the past eight years.

Also participating in our fun-filled and very informative Annual Meeting were representatives from six of the organizations that provide benefits and services to the MARS community. Attendees from our traditional and long-term supporters were as follows:

**AT&T Mobility:** John Keniston (303-948-7310)

**Delta Dental:** Bryce Davis who filled in for Kay Girodo (303-889-8609)

**Peliton Benefits:** Leslie Goldsberry (303-840-4798) and Joan Beiler (303-771-1800)

**Sam's Club Member Services:** Jasmine Goss and Susan Edelman (303-799-3972)

**Kaiser Permanente:** Shauna Broadus, Medicare Associate Account Manager (303-306-2535)

**HM Brown:** Megi Scowcraft (303-414-2360) and Joel Bush (303-414-7710)

For a list of specific benefits and offers from our traditional supporters, please visit the MARS website: <http://marsretirees.org>. For the recently added groups, please visit their websites at [www.samsclub.com](http://www.samsclub.com), [www.kaiserpermanente.org](http://www.kaiserpermanente.org) or [www.hmbrown.com](http://www.hmbrown.com).

Additional savings and answers to many other questions can also be found on the MARS website. If you don't have access to a computer please call the numbers listed in this newsletter or contact Bill Schrott, the new VP of Business. Thanks to everyone for your continued support of MARS Associates.



## Membership

By Linda Stearns

[\(linda80120@comcast.net\)](mailto:linda80120@comcast.net)

### Have you renewed your membership?

We thank those of you who have—and if you have not, hope you will send in your renewal soon!

This is my last report as your VP of Membership. Your new VP of Membership is Barb Espinoza, who will present this report in the July issue of the MARS STAR! I am now secretary for MARS. I will miss talking to all of you, but I know Barb is very capable and will take good care of you!

### MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

As of March 27, 2011, MARS Associates' active membership is 1,639 including 890 senior members (at least 75 years old, as of February 28, 2011). Please welcome the following new and returning members (\*):

#### Colorado

Arvada	James and Carol Record
Aurora	Allen and Christine Orser Virve Strid
Castle Rock	David and Hiemi Haines Joseph and Carol Smetana
Colorado Springs	Thomas Depkovich and Carol Smetana?? Larry and Donna Liewellyn
Denver	Norman and Rosalie Chavez Stephen and Ann Smith
Elbert	Pamela and Neal Madsen Hylton (Don) and Elizabeth Sutton
Golden	Mike and Kie Sook Park
Highlands Ranch	Lori Bachman David and Sussan Bybee Robert Dalal

	Carla and David LeFors
LaVeta	Greg and Mary Woods
Littleton	Charles (Rick) Bradley Robert and Janeen Webber Ann Williams and Robert Findlay
Monument	Thomas and Mary Gregory
Parker	Charles and Sandra Dirks Thomas and Susan Rudman
Pine	Delmar Johnson
Sedalia	Ronald and Lynn Remy

### **Other States**

Cushing, Maine	Edward and Pat Amoroso
Diamondhead, Mississippi	Gene Sullivan * and Jeanette Steeley
Rancho de Taos, New Mexico	Cheryl and Stephen Day
Downingtown, Pennsylvania	John and Eleanor Angstadt
Leesburg, Virginia	Robert and Phyllis Rudnick

## ***MEMBERSHIP DATA***

### **MARS-Affiliated Clubs and Volunteering**

It is the member's responsibility to contact any MARS-affiliated club officer or point-of-contact to participate in club activities, or to volunteer for any activities. For more information about these activities, see the MARS STAR or go to the MARS website at <http://marsretirees.org>.

### **MARS Membership Unit**

MARS membership is defined in the policy manual as a family unit consisting of the retiree and spouse (or significant other), although the membership card and mailing data are in the retiree's name. In the event that the retiree dies, the spouse becomes the member in his/her own name and may remain a MARS member by continuing to pay the annual dues. The senior status accorded a membership is

based on the retiree's date of birth, even for a surviving spouse member.

### **Membership Renewal**

Renewal forms are mailed in the **January** mailing. On your renewal form, please verify all of your personal information including spouse or significant other, and email address or if you no longer have an email address. Let me know of any changes to your email address even if you don't want it posted on the MARS website.

### **Addresses & Phone Numbers**

You can ensure that you receive all your *STAR* mailings, with newsletters, flyers and information about MARS and Lockheed Martin activities. Please notify me promptly by letter, email or phone call of any address, telephone number or email change and do not miss out on your MARS *STAR* mailings. If you regularly spend part of the membership year away from your address of record, let me know what your alternate address is and when you are there. We will send your *STAR* mailing to that address! Every quarter, there are a number of packages that do not arrive because members' addresses have changed without our being aware and bulk mail is not forwarded. You miss out on the mailing, the postage is spent anyway, and the Post Office charges us for notification of undeliverable envelopes. Everyone loses!

### **Spouse Information**

The MARS database includes the names of members' spouses or significant others. The initial data came from the application form you submitted when joining MARS. If there are changes to this information, please bring it to my attention.

### **In Memoriam Data**

The information in this section of the *STAR* includes published obituary reports and information communicated directly from MARS members or their families. Please contact the Membership VP or Roy Kannady with any information concerning this so that we may acknowledge in the ***In Memoriam*** section a member or spouse passing away and we can also keep the membership data current.

You can contact Barb Espinosa, VP of Membership, at: MARS Associates, P.O. Box 1128, Littleton, CO, 80160-1128; Phone 303-338-0338; or email her at [barb.j.espinosa@comcast.net](mailto:barb.j.espinosa@comcast.net).

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**MARS Associates**

## In Memoriam

By Roy Kannady

[KANNADYR1@ASME.ORG](mailto:KANNADYR1@ASME.ORG)

### Members

Bauer, Ralph L. (D: Jan '11)  
(Survived by Catherine E. )  
Prescott, AZ

Bishop, Glick U. (D: Mar '11)  
(Preceded by Gay S. ~ D: Apr '00)  
Littleton, CO

Bookhamer, Kenneth M. (D: Jan '11)  
(Preceded by Jennie C. ~ D: May '97)  
Littleton, CO

Bradt, Albert J. (D: Feb '11)  
(Survived by Eleanor "Ellie")  
Aurora, CO

Davidson, Herman L. "Monty" (D: Dec '10)  
(Survived by Virginia J. "Ginger")  
Littleton, CO

Karas, Julie G. (D: Jan '11)  
(Survived by Theodore T. "Ted")  
Aurora, CO

Lagrange, Lynn M. (D: Jan '11)  
(Survived by Lloyd L.)  
Centennial, CO

Lloyd, David E. (D: Mar '11)  
(Survived by Lynne K. )  
Lakewood, CO

Middleton, Robert A. (D: Feb '11)  
Highlands Ranch, CO

Osmanski, Joseph T. "Joe" (D: Mar '11)  
(Survived by Grace M. )  
Littleton, CO

Pfund, Earl F. (D: Jan '11)  
(Survived by Deane P. )  
Lakewood, CO

Purdy, Ted G. (D: Jan '11)  
(Preceded by Geneva ~ D: Jul '07)  
Littleton, CO

Ramirez, Ruben P. (D: Mar '11)  
(Survived by Gracie S. )  
Denver, CO

Rheinheimer, Hans H. (D: Jan '11)  
(Preceded by Edna "Mikie" ~ D: Jul '10)  
Littleton, CO

Rogers, Noel F. (D: Jan '11)  
(Survived by Irene L. )  
Centennial, CO

Sammeth, Cristal F. (D: Dec '10)  
(Survived by George C.)  
Centennial, CO

Sniegowski, Milton H. (D: Feb '11)  
(Preceded by Patricia "Patty" ~ D: Apr '10)  
Denver, CO

Stanker, Thomas L. (D: Feb '11)  
(Survived by JoAnn )  
Cocoa Beach, FL

Strauss, Eric L. (D: Mar '11)  
(Survived by Frances S. )  
Englewood, CO

Weber, Richard E. "Dick" (D: Jan '11)  
(Survived by Irene T. )  
Castle Rock, CO

Young, James E. "Gene" (D: Mar '11)  
(Survived by Jacqueline S. "Jacque")  
Littleton, CO

Zimmerman, James A. "Jim" (D: Mar '11)  
(Preceded by Anita J. ~ D: Jun '06)  
Castle Rock, CO

### Non-Members

Adams, Dr. John E. D.O. "Jack" (D: Jan '11)  
(Preceded by Phyllis ~ May '09)  
Cedaredge, CO



Allan, Terry J. (D: Jan '11)  
Littleton, CO

Bujaci, John (D: Feb '11)  
Denver, CO

Jensen, Kai F. (D: Jan '11)  
(Survived by Michele)  
Colorado Springs, CO

Karulf, Eugene J. (D: Jan '11)  
(Survived by Marietta)  
Fort Collins, CO

Murphy, Dale W. (D: Mar '11)  
(Survived by Dorothie "Dee")  
Gambrills, MD

Peters, Emmette E. (D: Feb '11)  
(Survived by Bonnie)  
Cheyenne, WY

Stubbs, David M. (D: Mar '11)  
(Survived by Anna M.)  
Rosita, CO

Vote, Fred C. (D: Mar '11)  
(Survived by Judie)  
San Clemente, CA

Walton, Ruth Elaine (D: Jan '11)  
(Survived by Gerome "Gerry")  
Colorado Springs, CO

Weber, Richard Baxter (D: Mar '11)  
(Survived by Jacquelin)  
Denver, CO

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## Historian's Corner

By Pat Kenning  
([patamk@yahoo.com](mailto:patamk@yahoo.com))

### Attention History Buffs!

#### MARS Associates history highlights from May 1985 through 2010

This is the first of a multi-part series celebrating the first 25-years of the Martin Aerospace Retirees Society (MARS). Researched, written, and mostly lived by yours truly, Pat Kenning.

There are those who throw things away and those who save things. I want to publicly thank Frank

Hefestay who saves things, including every issue of the MARS *STAR* newsletters from the original Volume 1, Issue 1, written in July, 1985. His diligence as a history buff in saving past newsletters enabled me to organize and write this brief history.

Who recalls how MARS Associates began? How about when the *STAR* newsletter first started? In 1985, as more and more employees began to retire, some retirees wanted to keep up with their friends. So a few 'organizational types' went to Peter B. Teets, then President of Denver Aerospace, with a plan to form a retiree group. Mr. Teets enthusiastically supported the idea and allowed many early committee meetings and receptions to be held at the Martin Marietta facility. He also provided space for monthly meetings and for storage of supplies and records. He also authorized postage and supplies for the mailing of thousands of newsletters over the years. The dues were originally \$10. Not much has changed with current dues being only \$15. What a bargain – then and now!

The first committee organized a BBQ picnic on August 21, 1985, at the Waterton picnic area. No fee was mentioned but Harry Bull cooked for 263 attendees. 6 prizes were awarded.

The first Christmas Dance was held on December 4, 1985, at the Marriott SE. Dinner cost was \$15 per person, which included wine. 220 retirees attended. Many Toys-for-Tots were collected; a tradition that lives on today.

For a few years, there were successful Oktoberfest but there was no mention of where they were held or their costs? Colorful Luau's with hula and fire dancers were also held. Both were annual affairs. Again, with no prices or places listed. The first annual retirees' meeting was held at the Pinehurst Country Club in May 1986, and was free to all in attendance. For some years, there was live entertainment at the annual meetings such as Stormy Rottman (renowned Denver weatherman), the Colorado Women Organization, and even a magician one year.

The first 4 presidents were:

Chuck Gunnison ('85 – August '87)  
Gene Darrow (August '86 – February '88)  
Ralph Somerset (April '88 – resigned in months)  
Fletcher Dicus (October '88 – May '90)

The original officers for 1985 – 1986 were:

Chuck Gunnison, President  
Maurine Brown, VP Secretary

Joe Burgardt, VP Treasurer  
Howard Carley, VP Communications  
Dallas Clippinger, VP Activities  
Gene Darrow, VP Business  
Ned Koch, VP Membership  
Frank Muller, VP Historian

Due to space limitations for *STAR* articles, this concludes the first part of my series on MARS Associates history. If you would like me to continue my series in future *STAR* editions, please let Bo Rodriguez, President, and the MARS *STAR* editor know.

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## Bridge Club

By Dave & Kathy Martz  
([martz20@comcast.net](mailto:martz20@comcast.net))

***Some Bridge Trivia:*** The game of bridge began in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. There is still a dispute as to whether the game was first played in India or Egypt, and whether the substance of the game drew most heavily from Whist, Plafond (France) or Biritch (Russia). It is, however, known that the game was first played in London and New York for the first time in the 1890s.

We welcome all MARS members to come and join us at our monthly get together. We play on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month at the Buck Community Recreation Center (Littleton) from 10 AM to 2 PM** (pack your lunch). The club provides the cards and all requirements for the games as well as coffee, tea, and hot water for your enjoyment.

Couples, as well as singles, are welcome. If you don't have a bridge partner, the club can assist in finding one for you, if you let us know in advance.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the following Bridge Club Officers:

Presidents:

Dave & Kathy Martz, 303-683-9524

Vice-President:

Bill Kacena, 303-973-2685

Secretary:

Theodore Bornhoeft, 303-933-9730

The 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2011 winners are as follows:

### January 21 (5 ½ tables)

N/S 1<sup>st</sup> – Fred & Mary Ems  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Ed Cortez & Theodore Bornhoeft  
E/W 3<sup>rd</sup> – Bill & Mavis Kacena

4<sup>th</sup> – Dick & Ester Farrell

### February 18 (5 ½ tables)

N/S 1<sup>st</sup> – Ernie & Cecile Berliner  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Joe Pohlen & Maurice Larue  
E/W 3<sup>rd</sup> – Bill & Mavis Kacena  
4<sup>th</sup> – Bill & Connie Lutes

### March 18 (6 ½ tables)

N/S 1<sup>st</sup> – Joe Pohlen & Maurice Larue  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Trudy White & Betty Urban  
E/W 1<sup>st</sup> – Loman & Pat Park  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Paul & Marie Stanton

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## Dinner Club

By Ralph & Carole Dergance  
([rhdergance@msn.com](mailto:rhdergance@msn.com))

Your Dinner Club just keeps on enjoying very fine, cost-effective meals in 2011. The level of participation increases with each year. We also continue to receive suggested venues from our members.

2011 began with a return to the **Wild Ginger** by 49 Associates (facility limited in space) in Littleton on **January 12** for their fantastic Thai food. Back by VERY popular demand, we then were treated to a private gourmet Sunday brunch at **Opus** on **February 20**. We filled the entire restaurant with 70 members enjoying an absolutely wonderful customized menu. Our usual light rail venture to **The Buckhorn Exchange** for lunch for 67 members was held on **March 16**. We continue to increase the number of attendees at this event thanks to the accommodation of the Buckhorn management of having a choice of upstairs or downstairs seating.

We will venture all the way to **The Golden Hotel** for a dinner on **April 20**. Keeping with a now-traditional outstanding event, we will have dinner at **Pinehurst CC** on **May 18**. For your information, both of these events are nearly at capacity as of this writing. Again, thanks to the MARS Associates for their support of the Dinner Club!

Other events locked-in for 2011 are lunch at **Mount Vernon CC** on **June 15** and dinner at **240 Union** on **August 17**. There is no event scheduled for July, as your Dinner Club presidents will be out of town for most of the month. We will be returning to the superior buffet at **The Garden Terrace** on **November 9**. The September and October events

for 2011 are currently in the planning phase, and we welcome all suggestions for venues from our members.

Thanks to your continued enthusiastic support, many of our events reach capacity within a week or two of the *STAR* mailing. Therefore, you are all advised to get your checks in early.

Please remember that you may send a single check if you choose to simultaneously reserve space for multiple Dinner Club events. However, please do not combine Dinner Club events with other MARS events (i.e., Holiday Celebration, Annual Meeting, Picnic, Dues, etc.) on a single check. Also, please remember to include the name(s) of guest(s) on the sign-up slips. This will greatly simplify preparation for your events.

We look forward to the continued success of the MARS Associates Dinner Club. We encourage all Associates and their guests to join us for very enjoyable, affordable, and satisfying culinary events.

#### Thing about this sage advice:

***"You can't help getting older, but you don't have to get old."*** George Burns, certainly the personification of his quote.

**one four zero five ...Buono L'appetito !!!!!!!**

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## Golf League

By Gregor Smith

([Gregor.Smith@bodywise.net](mailto:Gregor.Smith@bodywise.net))

Our annual meeting took place on March 24<sup>th</sup> with good representation of members who were in town. We discussed plans for the year, reviewed Pace-of-Play rules/etiquette, and elected officers for the coming year.

President: Paul Boykin

Vice-President: Floyd Teiffel

Treasurer: Jack Kimpton

Handicap Chairman: Tom Hall

Pace-of-Play Officer: Matt Grogan

Play begins on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at Common Ground Golf Course in Aurora and alternates each Thursday through October with the Broken Tee Golf Course in Englewood. Membership is open to all MARS members and their spouses. We have a great time playing and competing, and gathering at the 19<sup>th</sup> hole.

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## Photography Club

By John Flater

([ifflater@msn.com](mailto:ifflater@msn.com))

The MARS Photography Club meets the second Thursday of every other month at 1:30 PM in the Littleton Bemis Library meeting room. Scheduled meetings for 2011 are February, April, June, August, October, and December. Meetings feature a program of projected images presented by members or invited guests. Visitors are welcome even if they are not ***"photo geeks"***.

Frequently, at our meetings, the subject of the presentation is a TRAVELOGUE in which the presenter shows slides/video of a vacation, with narration. After the presentation we have a coffee break during which members can share travel and photography tips. If you enjoy seeing images and hearing experiences from others' travel vacations, give the MARS Photo Club a try. Look for the special photo club Travelogue flier insert in this MARS *STAR* mailing for more details.

Some programs by members or invited guests are related to photographic techniques and tools usually illustrated by slides, prints and/or equipment. **If you** and/or your significant other **are interested in film or digital photography** join us for interesting programs, fascinating photos and an opportunity to upgrade technical and creative photographic skills by sharing knowledge and experiences. New members are always welcome at our meetings, so bring a friend if you like. Ideas, comments and suggestions for programs are appreciated.

In addition to the presentation, our meetings usually include a competition of images taken by club participants. The image subject matter may be Open (any subject) or for some competitions a specific subject matter. The competition has categories of color and/or monochrome (usually black and white) prints. A participant may submit up to three prints. Awards for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mention may be made depending on the number of images entered. Entries are judged and critiqued by invited judges or club members. After each meeting, the **Photography Club** section of the MARS website (<http://marsretirees.org>) is updated with thumbnail images of the winning pictures and future meeting topics.

**February 10, 2011 meeting**

Ed and Nancy Bathke made their Antarctica **TRAVELOGUE** presentation. MARS members that have thought about a visit to the land of ice and snow and weren't at our meeting missed seeing great images and hearing first hand experiences from the Bathkes. Those at the meeting enjoyed both the prepared presentation and a great discussion. Ed and Nancy shared many more details about experiencing a stormy trip on the ship while sailing from Chile to Antarctica and then spending time with the penguins and other native wildlife on shore.

The regular club photo competition included 14 very interesting photos of "Open" subject matter. John Chapter, as judge, selected the following winners:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Larry Stearns	<i>"Majestic Overview"</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Larry Stearns	<i>"Sunlit Treetops"</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	John Flater	<i>"Swamp Sunset"</i>
Honorable Mention	Jim Kummer	<i>"The Pink of Fading Sun"</i>

In addition to the regular meeting competition, an aggregate summary of meeting competition award winners for the combined years of 2009 and 2010 were announced. Each winner in each meeting competition for the two years was given the following point scores:

1st = 15  
2nd = 13  
3rd = 10  
HM = 8

Totaled results and aggregate winners were:

John Flater – 115 points  
Larry Stearns – 100 points  
Jim Kummer – 74 points  
Jack Rombach – 33 points

## **Future Meetings:**

### **April 14, 2011**

The next Photography Club meeting is scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM in the Littleton Bemis Library meeting room. The program by John Chapter will be a video with narration and music on DVD, entitled *"Roman Views: A Virtual Trip"*. The narration revolves around two 19th century antique photographs he purchased of the Roman vicinity and his quest to find out about the image details. The story has several of his images taken from trips to Italy supplemented with images from *Wikipedia* and *Google Earth*. John will also give a brief description

of his approach to making the video. The regular club photo competition subject will be "Open".

### **June 9, 2011**

This Photography Club meeting is currently scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM in the Littleton Bemis Library meeting room. The Program and Competition topics are to be announced.

To verify meeting dates, competition subject and program topic go to the MARS Associates website located at (<http://marsretirees.org>) and click on "Photography" on the Clubs button at the lower left to get to the photo club's webpage. Here you'll see "Check the Meeting Schedule below". If the Program has the word **TRAVELOGUE**, it will be a vacation show-and-tell. The competition topic is also listed. Come and enjoy both.

### **Competition Reminder:**

Meeting photo competition entries may be prints as small as 4"x 6" to make it more practical for those using digital cameras to print images on their own printers. All submissions must be affixed to a matboard/cardboard or foam backing of at least 8"x10" or as large as 16"x20" for ease of handling and display.

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## **Planner's Report**

By Dolph Hellman

([marblehead8hell9dw3@hotmail.com](mailto:marblehead8hell9dw3@hotmail.com))

Good news! Dough Fain's book, "The Phantom's Song" has finally been published. A number of the planners have read it and agree that it's a "good read". Doug is of course very happy, as he should be, to get it published. He has already started on his next novel.

On a completely different note.

Last week I completed my taxes and was pleased to find that my Federal tax rate was only 9.1%. It was lower than last years rate of 11%, but this year I had some energy credits that helped lower the rate. I hope that all of you experience the same fortune.

But it got me thinking, because a lot of people believe that our taxes are too high. And some people believe that we have the highest overall tax rates in the world. Statements like these really bother me.

I feel that I live in a great country, got a good education, had a good job, and have made good money. My biggest worry is not about me, but about the fact that my grandchildren may not have the same opportunities because higher education, health insurance, and everything else is so expensive and wages are not rising, and the middle class (us) is disappearing.

So I got curious and using Google, searched to find what the tax rates actually are in other countries. I searched for Corporate, Individual and VAT tax rates, by country.

Value Added Tax (VAT) is like a country sales tax, but it is levied at each stage of the production chain from raw materials to the final sale based on the value (price) added at each stage. It is not a cost to the producer or the distribution chain members, and its full brunt is borne by the end consumer, it avoids the double taxation (tax on tax) of a direct sales tax. It is also said to curtail "Black Market" operations. It should be noted that VAT is a national sales tax and the states, provinces, counties, cities, etc. can, and usually do have additional sales tax and special taxes on many things, just like we do.

A list of countries and their tax rates can be found at: [www.worldwide-tax.com](http://www.worldwide-tax.com).

I found it interesting that in the list, BVI, Gibraltar, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, and the US are the only countries that do not have a Value Added tax. Also, Montenegro has the lowest corporate tax rate at 9%. Bulgaria, Cyprus, Gibraltar, and Serbia are at 10% and Ireland is at 12.5%. Individual tax rates, at the upper end, are higher in Europe than are ours, and in some countries, much higher - China and Japan as examples. Corporate tax rates in Europe are within our range, but they tend to tax their corporations near the upper range of our corporate tax rate. France and Germany are in the 30's.

The bottom line is that if you include value added taxes, that most other countries levy, we have a pretty good deal. When you realize that many European countries have universal health care; free, or near free higher education; and, pensions, the higher individual tax rates don't seem to me, so high.

I really don't mind paying taxes and I hope that after reading this, and spending a few minutes at the cited website, that you won't either.

The Planners meet the first Thursday of each month at 11:15am at the Country Buffet on South Wadsworth, just north of Bowles. All MARS retirees are invited to come anytime, even you engineers. Call Dolph Hellman at 303-794-0852 if you have questions or need directions.

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## The MARS Associates Website

By Jim Kummer

[jkummer@comcast.net](mailto:jkummer@comcast.net)

In our monthly meetings, the MARS Website Maintenance Group shares and brainstorms ideas for making the website interesting and useful for MARS members. We'd like to take this opportunity to point out some valuable features of the site, and how they facilitate MARS members' Internet experience and acquisition of information.

Each month a new "website of the month" is presented on the site, for the member's amusement, education or recreation. The web group is always on the lookout for new website links to offer, and we encourage the members to give us suggestions of websites you've found to your liking and would like to share. If months ago you saw a *website of the month* that you now would like to revisit, but can't remember its web address, don't despair. All the previous *site of the month* web addresses are accessible via a link on the main page. Here are the ones from the last quarter:

January - [www.xoteria.com/OLDIESTV.html](http://www.xoteria.com/OLDIESTV.html)

Oldies TV Retrospective

February - [www.thomas.gov](http://www.thomas.gov)

Thomas - The Library of Congress

March - [www.kindcoupons.org](http://www.kindcoupons.org)

Discount coupon site ~ donates 50% of profit

If you're an active participant in the Bridge, Ezy Bytes, Dinner, Golf, or Photography Club, you'll want to click on the buttons to the left of the site's main page to check on activities. If you don't currently partake of the club's activities, visiting that club's page on the website is a good way to decide whether you'd like to join. The clubs' pages list the officials whom you can contact for further information.

You can visit the MARS website to find other members' email addresses, or to look up the name of a MARS officer, director, or volunteer staff member. There's a wealth of information on the health benefits afforded MARS members. At the top of the BENEFITS page you'll find a link offering



information in the event of loss of a spouse or loved one. Near the bottom of the main page you'll find announcements of recently deceased MARS members, providing timely announcement of services. At the top of the main page you'll see links to the MARS policy manual and by-laws. Lower down on the main page you'll see a link to some terrific discounts available to MARS members.

In the middle of the main page you'll see "Search Engines & Links", giving easy access to GOOGLE, BING and YAHOO Internet search tools. It's literally amazing what GOOGLE and the others can help you find. If you're getting some cryptic error message from your computer, you can GOOGLE that text to learn what it means and what you need to do about it. If you're missing the user manual for your camera, for example, just type in the make and model to find it instantly. The advantage of viewing the manual via computer (instead of a paper copy) is that you can *search* for the topic you're looking for. Just type control-F, enter the text string you seek, and that section of the document appears.

If you don't have your own computer, they're readily available at the library. And, if you need some instruction on the use of your computer and its programs, click on the Ezy Bytes button to see the list of PC and Macintosh classes you can take.

The web group members of Paul Bingham, Linda Stearns, Bob Knickerbocker, and Smitty Smetana, encourage you to visit the MARS website often - just go to [www.marsretirees.org](http://www.marsretirees.org) and see what is there. If you have any suggestions for improvement, or would like to join our group, email me, Jim Kummer, at [jkummer@comcast.net](mailto:jkummer@comcast.net).

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## Denver News /What's New

By Pat Kenning  
([patamk@yahoo.com](mailto:patamk@yahoo.com))

What's new in Denver? Pat Kenning is looking for input from anyone who would like to share a recent experience, or has done something unique or has gone somewhere of interest. Please give Pat a call or send her an email with your input for publication in the next STAR newsletter.

## RAMM – Baltimore News

By Dottie Ruth  
([dotruth725@comcast.net](mailto:dotruth725@comcast.net))

We had to cancel our January meeting due to a wintery mix. This was the second time in 25 years that the RAMM members were unable to attend a meeting. We almost had to cancel the following month when Mother Nature gave us 6 more inches of that nasty white stuff, but 74 members diligently cleaned their cars and made the meeting.

Everyone is oiling their legs and looking forward to the Spring Fling Dance on May 19<sup>th</sup>. We had one couple jitterbugging around the dance floor at our Christmas Dance to the applause of all those catching their breathe from the previous waltz.

This year's picnic on June 22<sup>nd</sup> will be held at the hall where our meetings are held. The grounds are perfect for those who enjoy picnicking outdoors and those who prefer air conditioning can come indoors to smell those chilidogs and play a little bingo.

Plans are progressing on the RAMM's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in June. I can't believe it's been twenty-five years since so many of us have retired from the Martin Company. Do you realize how old that makes us? It's no wonder there is only one couple left that can still jitterbug. With that thought in mind, I'll remind everyone to stay healthy and enjoy the summer.

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## Cape Canaveral News

By Carl Welton  
([weltonck@aol.com](mailto:weltonck@aol.com))

The first retiree luncheon of 2011 on January 6<sup>th</sup> was well attended. John Grimes brought his 93-year old neighbor, retired AFQA inspector Gene Nesbit with him. This was the first time I had seen Gene in about 35 years. Gene was the AFQA inspector responsible for Configuration on Titan IIIC at the Cape for many of the early years, 1965 to the mid 1970's. He understood Martin's configuration system and how to apply common sense and logic. He was a big help to many of us. First time we had seen Lynn Johnson, back from a summer in Connecticut, and Donna Dunn at a luncheon for a while. It was also Jack Johnston's first appearance since returning from a summer in Black Mountain NC. It is also always great to see Larry Cuppitt who can be seen manning the visitor information desk, as a volunteer, at Wuesthoff Hospital in Rockledge much of the time. Speaking of volunteering, Ken and Dottie Shipe came over from Clermont FL where they currently have their Motor Home parked. They have participated in 28 Habitat for Humanity home builds while traveling around the country in retirement.

With regard to questions of where is Ed Carpenter? Bob Matschner said he saw Ed and his New Wife at the gym several weeks ago. Dick Hinshaw responded to many questions about Dean Willoughby. Walt Starkey handed out some flyers about the new Air Force museum located just outside the south gate of the Cape and accessible to unbadged personnel. Walt volunteers at the museum.

About 30 retirees attended the February 3<sup>rd</sup> luncheon. Retirees we had not seen recently included Frank Indihar, Ray Caldwell, Herbie Pugh, Jimmy Bryant, Ed Carpenter, Judy Kline, and Harold Casleton. Along with some of the regulars that do not get mentioned often because we see them almost every month like Roger Schmidt, Dick Hinshaw, Dick Olson, Larry Gleason, Nick Geso, Ken Hawes, Jimmy Weddle, Harry Holmes, Bob Matschner, Abe Smith, Joe Kiripolsky, Brooks Kilgore, Jerry Moskovitz, Bill Rohde, and Walt Starkey. I called attention to Nick Cruke's recent death and passed along the thank you I had gotten from Dean Willoughby's son for the very large group of retirees who attended Dean's funeral. It means a lot to the grieving families to know how much their family members were liked, respected and appreciated.

The March 3<sup>rd</sup> luncheon had about 25 retirees in attendance. Denver retiree Gene Horak and his wife stopped in. They have been in Florida visiting family and friends and taking in the Shuttle Discovery launch. It was good to visit with them. Other retirees we had not seen recently included Sid Warren and Bob Simpson. Some others in attendance were Roy and Mike Hunter, Bob Anderson, Dick Olson, Bob Matschner, Don Anderson, Larry Cuppit, John Grimes, Gene Nesbit, Hank Ambrosch, Walt Starkey, Ray Caldwell and Dick Hinshaw.

Trans-planted former Martin Cape employees Margaret and Ben Dusenbery are now retirees in Colorado. Think we may see them visiting back in Brevard County before too long. Talked to retired inspector Roy Farrell, who now lives in Saratoga Springs New York in early February. He indicated he currently has four feet of snow in his front yard. He recently acquired a "roof snow rake" with a twenty-foot handle to keep his roof snow free. Hard to imagine for a Florida guy. Reviewing the January 2011 MARS STAR, I noted the passing of Tom Fujiyoshi in September 2010. Tom was the Quality Manager at VAFB for several years before transferring to Denver. I also noted an article about

the Cassini Program which launched from the Cape in 1997 written by Barb Sande. The thing I remember about Barb was that she was the first female engineer to be a team lead on one of the Denver review teams which came to the Cape prior to each launch during the time I was coordinating the reviews. Ken & Dottie Shipe are back from their first ever cruise on the Mouse's newest and biggest ship, the "Disney Dream", with good words about the ship, the trip and the food. They will put some miles on the RV up and down the east coast before returning to the Forrest Service Ranch in Shawnee Colorado for the summer. Congratulations to the ULA Launch Crew for the successful Atlas V launch with the Air Force's Mini Shuttle on board on 5 March.

Dean Willoughby passed away January 6, 2011. Dean fought the cancer fight for a number of years and was very positive, yet realistic throughout the fight. Dean had been a member of the white hat Navy, an air dale and member of Patrol Squadron VP-6 during the Korean War. After leaving the service he worked for Lockheed in Marietta GA before coming to the Cape in 1958. I remember Dean from the start of Titan IIIC operations in the ITL area when he was the Chief of Maintenance Operations and set up the periodic maintenance program. Those were times filled with Denver originated requirements and procedures not always comparable with "as built" facilities equipment and systems. But Dean was the guy in the middle, the problem solver and the outlet for many of our frustrations. Dean left Martin and worked the Apollo Program before returning as an Operations Mechanical Supervisor and later as the Operations Mechanical Chief retiring with 36 year of service. He was one of many that were responsible for the Titan Program successes at the Cape. His funeral was attended by a very large group of his Titan friends. Burial was in the National Cemetery in Jacksonville with full Military Honors. 90-year old retired technician Nick Cruke passed away on January 28, 2011. Nick worked for Aerojet on the Gemini program then Delco on Titan until Martin took over the guidance system installation on Titan IIIC-17. He then transferred to Martin along with Don Dillenbeck, Billy Graham and Gerry Woodcock. Roger Schmidt remembers Nick as a Flight Controls & Guidance tech working for Bob Fogal. Jimmy Weddle worked with Nick on the Gemini program. Roger Schmidt, Jim Weddle and Jim Cotton all spoke highly of Nick. On February 10, 2011 retired Denver Titan IV Payload Integration Manager Tom Stanker passed away here in Cocoa Beach. Tom retired in 1992 after 30 years of service, moved to Florida and was very

involved here in volunteer work with the Catholic charities and Meals on Wheels. If you worked payload programs in Denver or here at the Cape you surely crossed paths with Tom along the way. On Thursday February 17, 2011 retired 74-year old instrumentation systems engineer Joel Hagan passed away from complications related to Parkinson's and a heart condition. Joel came to the Cape from St Louis as a Mac Donald Douglas employee on the Gemini program. He then joined Martin Marietta on the Titan program retiring in April 1999 after 20 years of service. Joel Hagan represents another one of the Space Gypsies that went from contractor to contractor during the years that made the United States space program so successful. He sure contributed to the success of the Titan III and Titan IV programs.

If you worked on any of the Martin or Titan programs at the Cape, Denver, Vandenberg, or wherever, come join us for lunch at Kay's BBQ located on SR 520 just west of Clearlake Road in Cocoa on the first Thursday of each month. You should be there between 11:00 and 11:15 am. You will meet many of your old friends.

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## **REALM (Orlando News)**

[\*\*\(realm.fl.news@gmail.com\)\*\*](mailto:realm.fl.news@gmail.com)

By Andrea Lawrence

[\*\*\(andrea.j.lawrence@gmail.com\)\*\*](mailto:andrea.j.lawrence@gmail.com)

Greetings from your Florida-based retired colleagues. The new board of directors was seated in January and the year's planning is well underway. The first quarter was busy with judging several science fairs at local schools and the Orlando Science Center. Several Lockheed Martin retirees, as well as active employees, were instrumental in supporting the students through judging, mentoring, and encouragement.

Socially, we have enjoyed Lunch Bunch at new places and familiar ones, and are planning the next series for the second quarter.

Ed Jones, our webmaster and keeper of the roster data, sorted our data and found that the top three spots where our members got married are: 1) Orlando; 2) Baltimore; and 3) Winter Park. Many of our most senior members were transferred from Baltimore to start up the new facility in Orlando. (Winter Park is next door to Orlando.) We also learned that the top five months for wedding

anniversaries is June (no surprise there), December, August (a real surprise in Florida), May, and July.

Our recreation groups remain active and report that in addition to the activity themselves (bowling, bridge, dancing, golf, and tennis), the groups have great social activities that include providing surprise gourmet treats, meeting for lunch and dinner, and planning other activities that the groups enjoy.

Each month, our REALM News includes features written by retirees. I encourage you to get on the web and check us out. [\*\*http://www.realm-fl.org\*\*](http://www.realm-fl.org)

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## **News From Michoud**

By Greg Kaminski (no email)

No article submitted by Greg for Michoud this quarter.

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## **Martin Marietta Retiree's Club (Vandenberg News)**

By Charlie Radaz

[\*\*\(fcmiradaz@aol.com\)\*\*](mailto:fcmiradaz@aol.com)

As planned, we met January 27th for lunch at the Embassy Suites in Lompoc. Our speaker was our member and tax expert, Bill Huguen, Sr. giving us the latest tax rules for our guidance. This has become an annual program for January and we are very fortunate to have Bill share his professional updates with us in down-to-earth, understandable terms!

A well-attended luncheon meeting was held at the historic Santa Maria Inn on February 24th. Our speaker was another Club member, April Hardy, presenting info and photos of her recent trip to India with a medical team sponsored thru her church. She assisted with the processing of over 5,000 patients the team treated in less than one week!

The March 31st meeting will find us back at Pea Soup Anderson's restaurant in Buellton, dining on their 'Monster Burgers', split-pea soup and other specialties. The program will feature Dr. Barry Coughlin, respected heart specialist, talking about DNA Future as it relates to heart disease. Thanks to Club Director Neil Baker for arranging this program.

The meeting for April 28th will be at the Airport Radisson Hotel and our speaker will be Chris Hasert,

Santa Maria Airport District Manager.

As we write this, our Club President, Robby Robinson, is hospitalized in the Palm Springs, California where he was vacationing and had trouble breathing. He was diagnosed with pneumonia and other complications. He is 'on the mend' but not released from the hospital yet.

Our club normally meets the last Thursday of each month at noon. We rotate meeting locations between Santa Maria, Lompoc and Buellton. All former employees and associate contractors are welcome to attend, visit and informally share stories. Call Aubrey Collins (805) 937-8299 or Neil Baker (805) 733-1847 for location and reservations.

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## United Launch Alliance News

By Jill Altenhofen

[jill.h.altenhofen@ulalaunch.com](mailto:jill.h.altenhofen@ulalaunch.com)

**XCOR and ULA Demonstrate Revolutionary Rocket Engine  
Nozzle Technology;  
Also Sign Contract for Liquid Hydrogen Engine  
Development**



**XCOR test fires its Lynx 5K18 engine with lightweight  
aluminum nozzle;**

**United Launch Alliance (ULA) and XCOR to apply the  
nozzle and XCOR's liquid hydrogen (LH<sub>2</sub>) pump  
technology to new LH<sub>2</sub> engine development.**

United Launch Alliance (ULA) and XCOR Aerospace announced March 21 their successful hot-fire demonstration of a lighter-weight, lower-cost approach to liquid-fueled rocket-engine vacuum nozzles. The new nozzle technology, which uses aluminum alloys and innovative manufacturing techniques, is projected to be less costly and save hundreds of pounds of mass compared to nozzles in use today in typical large upper-stage rocket engine systems.

Under a 2010 joint risk-reduction program by XCOR and ULA, ULA facilitated an accelerated

demonstration of the nozzle technology, which was developed in XCOR's Lynx reusable, suborbital-vehicle technology program. ULA sought to determine the nozzle technology's applicability to future expendable launch vehicle programs. Earlier in the same risk-reduction program, XCOR demonstrated the ability to pump liquid hydrogen (LH<sub>2</sub>) using cryogenic piston-pump technology it developed for the Lynx suborbital vehicle.

Based on the results of these successful technology demonstrations, ULA today announced a larger follow-on program with XCOR to develop a liquid oxygen (LOX)/LH<sub>2</sub> engine.

Conceived as a lower-cost, risk-managed program compared to traditional engine development efforts, the multi-year project's main objective is to produce a flight-ready LOX/LH<sub>2</sub> upper-stage engine in the 25,000 to 30,000 lbf thrust class that costs significantly less to produce and is easier to operate and integrate than competing engine technologies. If successful, the effort will lead to significantly lower-cost and more-capable commercial and US government space flights delivered by ULA.

"ULA understands that we have to offer competitive prices to our government and international commercial customers along with the outstanding and unmatched reliability they expect from us," said Dr. George Sowers, vice president of business development and advanced programs at ULA. "By working with XCOR, we see the potential to develop engines that offer the performance and reliability our customers need at a more affordable price."

The companies structured their LOX/LH<sub>2</sub> engine development program with multiple "go / no-go" decision points and performance milestones to ensure a cost-effective and risk-managed approach to this challenging effort. As demonstrated during prior ULA and XCOR joint engagements, XCOR's small-company environment facilitates rapid turnaround for build and test cycles that drive innovative learning, while ULA's small company project management approach ensures their needs are met but does not stifle the creative process or saddle XCOR with excessive paperwork burdens typical of large government contracts. In addition, ULA is helping to bolster the Tier 2 and Tier 3 aerospace-industrial supply chain in the United States, which is critical to ensuring the United States aerospace sector remains competitive in the global marketplace.

"This announcement validates XCOR's business

mantra of 'stay focused on propulsion, Lynx and the customer' and ULA is a great customer," said Andrew Nelson, Chief Operating Officer at XCOR. "And when you have innovative, safe, low-cost and fully reusable technologies that fly multiple times a day, those technologies will find other buyers, such as ULA. Whether it is non-toxic thrusters, fully reusable main-engine propulsion, cryogenic flight-weight piston pumps, or non-flammable cryogenically compatible composite tanks and structures – the future looks bright for XCOR."

The demonstrations announced today are from integrated engine/nozzle test firings with XCOR's Lynx 5K18 LOX/kerosene engine. The engine/nozzle combination demonstrates the ability of the aluminum nozzle to withstand the high temperatures of rocket-engine exhaust over numerous tests, with no discernable degradation of the material properties of the alloys. The tests validated the design, materials and manufacturing processes used in the nozzle, and laid a foundation for scaling the design to EELV-sized engines. The results also demonstrate the reusability of the engine and nozzle combination, which is essential for low-cost, daily suborbital flights by the Lynx and other vehicles.

"We are honored to work with the great team of individuals at ULA, a Tier 1 aerospace supplier," said Jeff Greason, XCOR CEO. "The critical engine technology we're developing for ULA may one day launch satellites, capsules and space stations for government and commercial customers. Customers such as the US Air Force, NASA, the National Reconnaissance Office, Boeing and Bigelow Aerospace all stand to benefit from this partnership. For a rocket engineer, there is nothing more exciting than firing a new engine for the first time. We can't wait for the day when we first fire the new hydrogen engine for ULA."

#### **About United Launch Alliance**

Formed in December 2006, United Launch Alliance (ULA) is a 50-50 joint venture owned by Lockheed Martin and The Boeing Company. ULA brings together two of the launch industry's most experienced and successful teams – Atlas and Delta – that have supported America's presence in space for fifty years. The United Launch Alliance team consists of approximately 3,900 employees working at sites across the country. ULA program management, engineering, test and mission support functions are headquartered in Denver, Colorado. Manufacturing, assembly and integration operations are located at Decatur, Ala., Denver, CO., Harlingen, TX, and San Diego, CA. Launch operations are

located at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, FL, and at Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA. For more information please visit [www.ulalaunch.com](http://www.ulalaunch.com).



*MARS Associates Annual Meeting*

*At the Crystal Rose*

*March 23, 2011*



**Crystal Rose in Littleton, CO**

## MARS ASSOCIATES EVENTS SCHEDULE

EVENT/MONTH	2011									2012		
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Board of Directors		4		6		7		2		4		7
Officers	8	4	1	6	3	7	5	2	7	4	1	7
Bridge	15	20	17	15	19	16	21	18	16	20	17	16
Dinner	20	18	15	NONE	17	14	TBD	9	NONE	TBD	TBD	TBD
Golf	Thu	Thu	Thu	Thu	Thu	Thu	Thu					
Photo	14		9		11		13		8		9	
Planners	7	5	2	7	4	1	6	3	1	5	2	1
EzyBytes	29	27	24	29	26	30	28	NONE	2	27	24	30
Web Committee	5	3	5/31	5	2	6	4	1	6	3	1/31	6
Annual Meeting												TBD
Sr. Luncheon				12								
Annual Picnic						7						
Holiday Celebration									7			
Colorado Rockies			15									
Items due for MARS STAR			27			26				3		
STAR Mailing	20			20			19			25		

DATED: Apr, 2011

**Notes:**

1. BOD meets the first Wed of every other month at The Egg & I near Southglenn at 09:30 am
2. Officers meet the first Wed of every month at The Egg & I near Southglenn at 09:30 am
3. Bridge meets the third Fri of every month at 10:00 am at the Buck Recreation Center.
4. Dinner Club: 4/20/11 - The Golden Hotel @ 5:30 pm; 5/18/11 - Pinehurst CC @ 5:30 pm; 6/15/11 - Mount Vernon CC @ 11:30 am; 7/11 - No event; 8/17/11 - 240 Union @ 5:30 pm; 9/14/11 - Arrowhead Golf Club @ 5:00 pm; 10/11 - TBD; 11/9/11 - Garden Terrace @ 11:30 am; 12/11 - No event; 1/12 - TBD; 2/12 - TBD; 3/12 - TBD
5. Golf meets every Thu from Apr through Oct of each year.
6. Photo meets the second Thu of every other month at 1:30 pm at the Bemis Public Library in Littleton.
7. Planners meet the first Thu of every month at 11:15 am at the Country Buffet on S. Wadsworth.
8. EzyBytes computer volunteers meets at 1:00 PM the last Fri of the month except Nov when we meet on the first Fri in Dec - all meetings at the Buck Recreation Center.
9. Web Committee meets on Tue prior to the BOD and/or Officers meeting at noon at Sweet Tomatoes.
10. 2011 Annual Senior Luncheon is Jul 12, at Pinehurst Country Club.
11. 2011 Annual Picnic is Sep 7 at Clement Park.
12. 2011 Annual Holiday Celebration is Dec 7 at location TBD.
13. 2012 Annual Meeting is TBD.
14. Picnic and game at Colorado Rockies, Jun 15, 11:30 am.