



NAL-JSC NEWS

NASA Alumni League
JSC Chapter
Renee Lance, Editor

SPRING HAS SPRUNG FOR THE JSC CHAPTER, NASA ALUMNI LEAGUE

By Norman Chaffee, President

Fellow NAL Members – Welcome into the Houston spring! We've had a great deal of positive activity since you received our last newsletter in late January, and we are aggressively moving forward into what should also be a busy spring and summer for our Chapter.

Our membership is continuing to increase as more of our NASA colleagues make the decision to retire. And our financial status is also continuing to improve. We have formed an Investment Committee headed by our Director, Gordon Ducote, which has been able to improve our investment position and we anticipate the annual returns from our investments in low cost mutual funds and exchange traded funds will produce a steady cash flow of 5% - 6%. This has allowed us to increase our donations to our education outreach programs this year. We are making donations to a number of organizations this year as detailed in a separate article in this Newsletter.

Our Chapter has been very active this quarter. Read through this newsletter to see what we have been up to. And this next quarter, plan to join us for the many activities we sponsor.

I thank all of you for your membership and your support of our many worthwhile activities. Please be sure to check our website at www.nal-jsc.org for the frequent updates and notifications of our activities.

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NAL JSC Organization Officers

President, Norman Chaffee - chaffee.norman@att.net
Vice-President, Wayne Hale - Turquoiseflight@gmail.com
Treasurer, Susan Braymer - Sbraymer1@comcast.net
Secretary, Cynthia Draughon - c_dragon@earthlink.net

Committee Chairs

Membership, Estella Gillette - estellagillette@hotmail.com
Programs, Denny Holt - dholt1945@aol.com
Education, Frank Hughes - Frank.Hughes@tietronix.com
Communications, Dan Sedej - dsedej15@gmail.com
Investments, Gordon Ducote - Gducote@comcast.net
History, Aneta Davis - anetadav@swbell.net
Mentoring, Jon Hall - jwhall001@gmail.com

Directors

Larry Bell
Susan Creasy
Phil Deans
Gordon Ducote
Phil Engelauf
Estella Gillette
Denny Holt
Rick Nygren

Senior Advisor

Chester Vaughan

BOARD MEETINGS - Our Officers and Board of Directors meet on the second Thursday of the month at 3:00 PM at Tietronix, 1331 Gemini, Suite 300

JSC Space Settlement Design Competition

By Norman Chaffee, President

Each year our Chapter, working with the JSC Education Office, sponsors a weekend competition event for high school students, carried out under a Space Act Agreement with JSC. This year the competition was held over the weekend of Friday, March 4 – Sunday, March 6. A total of 200 high school students from Texas and the upper Midwest (mostly Iowa) and 45 teachers gathered at JSC for the event. The students were divided into four teams of 50 students each. The students were provided a detailed orientation briefing and five sessions of technical and management training and were then given a four page RFP asking their teams to provide a conceptual design, construction plan, and operating plan for the Cassandras Spacecraft which carried 10,000 people as a transfer vehicle between Earth and Mars on a regular schedule in a scenario set in the year 2076 – 60 years in the future. It is an intense and very broadly scoped learning experience which is highly celebrated by the students who annually compete.

If you'd like more information about how your children, grandchildren, or relatives of high school age can participate, or how you might participate as a volunteer, please contact Norman Chaffee who manages the activity. We'd love to hear from you!

Board Elections

By Norman Chaffee, President

This year – 2016 – is an election year for our Chapter's Officers and Board of Directors. I have appointed a nominating committee to seek out candidates for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and for the eight Director positions we have as approved in our By-Laws. Please consider serving in one of these positions and let me know if you are interested and willing to serve and I will ask the nominating committee to contact you. We would like very much to broaden the participation of our members – particularly those who have recently retired and joined us. The election will be coming up in late July and the new officers and directors will take their positions in August. At that time we will also ask the membership to approve some minor changes to our By-Laws, but that detailed information will be forthcoming during the summer and before the election period in July.

Membership Committee Report

By Estella H. Gillette, Ed.D., Membership Chair

We are pleased that we keep welcoming new members! Since our report in our January 2016 newsletter, we have welcomed 22 new members, including Tom Akers, Andrew Algate, Brian Anderson, Erma Cox, Bob Doughty, Wayne Draper, Dean Eppler, Alyssa Goforth, Tom Goodwin, Mike Gremillion, Skip Hatfield, Michael Hawes (Lifetime member), Paul Hill, Joan Homol, Joan Kronenberger, Alan Lindenmoyer, Sandra Parker, John Rivers, Barbara Severance, Dan Swint, Dutch von Ehrenfried, and Vince Watkins. Not everyone on this list is a recent retiree--a few of these folks have been retired for a while, but decided to join us now—it's never too late to join! For the new retirees—congratulations! There really is life after NASA and JSC, but NAL-JSC is a great way to stay in touch! We currently have 17 members whose membership expired between

January and March, so they can expect another reminder soon! We will notify members who do not renew by their 1-year anniversary (since the last time they renewed) so that they know that the 1-year grace period has expired and that they will go off the NAL-JSC distribution list.

Sadly, we added to our "Afterlife" members list, the names of two of our fellow NAL-JSC members who were recently deceased: Enoch M. Jones and Walter W. Guy. Rest in peace, our colleagues and friends.

If you have a change in email address, please promptly notify Membership Committee Chair Estella Gillette at estellagillette@hotmail.com or Communications Committee Chair Dan Sedej at dsedej15@gmail.com. For questions regarding your NAL membership and/or JSC badging policies, please contact Estella H. Gillette, at estellagillette@hotmail.com.

NAL JSC Programs

By Denny Holt, Programs Chair

Recent Programs

Winter Dinner/Social

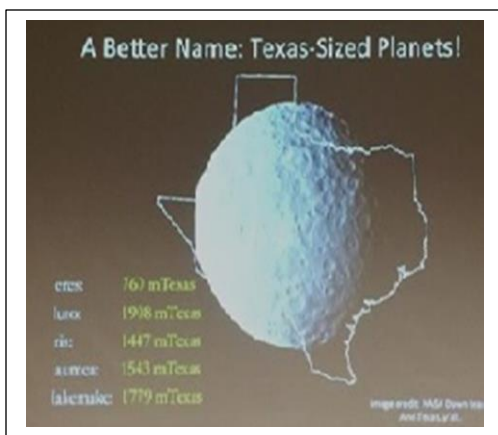
March 15, 2016



Dr. Marc Fries



“Recent Findings about Pluto and Ceres - Texas-sized Planets”



We grew up knowing that to pass Elementary School Science you had to name the nine planets. Then there were eight! So, what happened to Pluto? Dr. Marc Fries, JSC Curator of Planetary Ices and Organics, gave us an entertaining and enlightening explanation of how the discovery of many dwarf planets led to the downgrade. Current thinking is that the icy Ceres may have originated in the Kuiper Belt and was drawn into the Asteroid belt by Jupiter’s gravitational attraction. Turns out that Ceres, Pluto, Eris, Haumea and Makemake are a few notable dwarf planets in our Solar System with ice, mountains and canyons. In an attempt to make amends to these smallish bodies for the slight, Marc suggested these bodies be designated “Texas-sized Planets”. Seems only fair.

NAL-JSC Programs, Continued from Page 3

1st Thursday Series February 4, 2016



Joel Walker, Director, Center Operations with Garlan Moreland, NAL-JSC Member

A building boom is underway as the JSC of the Sixties gives way to the future with a new Human Health & Performance Directorate complex, new Building 20 and complete renovation of Buildings 2, 12 and 29 to modern energy efficient workplaces. Did you know that the roof of Building 12 is covered with plants? That is one of the innovations described by Joel Walker as he discussed "The Changing Face of JSC - Renovation, Innovation, New Buildings." Along the way, Joel gave a history of the founding of the Manned Spacecraft Center and dispelled a few popular notions about the Rice University connection.

1st Thursday Series March 3, 2016



SESL Chamber A with JWST Pathfinder Test Article

Jonathan Homan, SESL Chamber A Project Manager, provided an excellent overview of the extensive modifications needed to reactivate the Space Environment Simulation Lab (SESL) Chamber A in preparation for testing of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). Jonathon satisfied our Apollo veterans' thirst for nitty-gritty technical detail as he described the challenges of upgrading SESL's 1960's technology and the excellent results demonstrated during the JWST Pathfinder testing.

1st Thursday Series April 7, 2016



International Space Station

Jeff Arend, Systems Engineering and Integration Manager for the International Space Station (ISS), gave an excellent talk on "The Changing Face of ISS" as the Station prepares for the ever increasing demand for access to the orbiting national lab. Since the Space Shuttle retirement, ISS has been extensively reconfigured to accommodate crewed commercial vehicles, addition of the inflatable Bigelow Expandable Activity Module (BEAM), and for experiments and technology demonstrations.

NAL-JSC Programs, Continued from Page 4

Upcoming Programs

First Thursday Series

Date: **Thursday, May 5, 2016**

Where: Gilruth Upstairs

Time: 2:30-4:00 pm

Speaker: Dr. Marc Fries

Topic: Dwarf Planets – Recent Updates

NAL Dinner/Social Programs

Date: **Tuesday, June 7, 2016**

Where: Gilruth Alamo Ballroom

Time: 5:30 – 9:00 pm

Speaker: TBD

Topic: TBD

Date: **Tuesday, November 15, 2016**

Where: Gilruth Alamo Ballroom

Time: 5:30 – 9:00 pm

Speaker: John Charles

Topic: Scott and Mark Kelley ISS Twins
Study Status

JSC Chapter Donations Planned for 2016

By: Norman Chaffee, President

This year our robust financial position has allowed the JSC Chapter to increase our donations to the several education outreach efforts we support. The list of the organizations to which we donate is as follows:

Space Center Houston Education Programs	\$1,500
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Houston Museum of Natural Science Exploration Center	\$1,500
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AIAA STEM Grant Program	\$500
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Science National Honor Society	\$1,000
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Columbia Memorial Museum in Hemphill, Texas	\$2,750
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NASA College Scholarship Fund	\$500
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JSC/Clear Creek ISD Longhorn Project	\$650
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JSC Annual Space Settlement Design Competition	\$400
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JSC Exchange Council Starport Scholarship	\$1,000
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In each case, one of the members of the Chapter leadership team is assigned as liaison to the receiving organization and to monitor their activity and use of our donated funds and to report to the Board and to the membership of the impact our donations are making.

Your annual dues and generous contributions allow us to maintain and occasionally expand the scope of this outreach work. Thank you for your continuing support!

NAL-JSC is All about Service

Service to JSC

By Norman Chaffee, President

We were recently contacted by the JSC Leadership and notified that NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden would be visiting JSC and he had requested a meeting with the NAL membership of the JSC Chapter. We have been working closely for an extended time now with JSC leadership and with Mr. Bolden on a variety of issues about NASA's future path and were delighted that our efforts were bearing fruit. However, as so often happens, Mr. Bolden's schedule changed and he was unable to be at JSC as originally planned. But we are on alert for his rescheduled visit to come and tell us what the national goals for NASA are, and how we can contribute to their implementation and progress. We'll keep you posted on this topic.

Support for the JSC Oral History Program

By Norman Chaffee, President

Because of budgetary pressures, JSC was recently required to reduce the scope of activities in the JSC History Office. One of the casualties was the Oral History Program, in which experienced history professionals interviewed NASA retirees and created an online file of the transcribed interviews. It was an excellent opportunity for many of our members to provide an oral input for posterity of the accomplishments and events of their careers. There are several hundred interviews on line now, including from many of our current NAL-JSC members. We have asked JSC if and how our Chapter can step in and help maintain some level of activity in this area and continue to provide this interview opportunity to our membership. We will shortly be meeting with JSC managers to discuss our offer, and we will let you know how we will proceed and how our members can participate.

Service to Patricia Huffman Smith Museum Remembering Columbia

**By Cyndi Draughon and Frank Hughes,
Education Committee**

Our organization is providing extensive support to the Museum in Hemphill, primarily through the efforts of Frank Hughes, Education Committee Chair. Frank has traveled to the Museum multiple times to work with the Director and staff to enhance the learning experiences provided for visitors. A recent undertaking is to have a high fidelity, hands-on Space Shuttle launch and on-orbit simulator (built by Jim Dean) installed at the Museum. This includes a Shuttle flight deck, NASA Shuttle training manuals, Flight Data File manuals, launch videos, and on-orbit "out the windows" Earth view videos. Mr. Dean plans to deliver and install the hardware at the Museum in May. All of the equipment is supplied at no cost to the Museum and the NAL-JSC Board of Directors approved a donation of \$1,250 to defray his travel expenses. In addition to the simulator hardware, Mr. Dean provides materials that the Museum or a school can use for a Shuttle training and operations course.

In conjunction with support to the Museum, Frank has sponsored the chartering of a chapter of the Science National Honor Society (SNHS) at Hemphill High School. The SNHS was begun in 2001 with the vision of engendering "a new group of young thinkers who will be the future of industry, research, and scientific exploration for America." Students from the Hemphill chapter are excited about being trained to run the Shuttle Simulator at the Museum and becoming instructors for other students.

NAL-JSC will likely have the opportunity to provide speakers for special events at the Museum throughout the year. All members will be notified of any opportunities, but if you have a special interest in participating, please contact Frank Hughes (frank.hughes@tietronix.com) or Norm Chaffee (chaffee.norman@att.net).

JSC Mentoring Program Cycle 2016

By Jon Hall, Mentoring Committee Chairman

The NAL Mentoring Committee is pleased to report that we are engaged in the JSC Formal Mentoring Program Cycle 2016. We had eight members volunteer to participate as pathfinders. The NAL members included Greg Blackburn, John Casper, Norm Chaffee, Jack Garman, Jon Hall, Denny Holt, and Ken Young. Greg, Norm, Jack, Jon, Denny and Ken attended the Mentoring Program Cycle 2016 Kickoff event at the Gilruth Alamo Ballroom on Monday, March 7, 2016. The keynote speaker at the event was Mark Geyer, Deputy Center Director. Mark explained that his enthusiasm for the Mentoring Program was based on personal experience as both a protégé and a mentor. Over 100 mentors and protégés attended the Kickoff to learn more about guidelines, expectations, the available resources and to get face-to-face introductions with their counterparts.

Most of the participants in the JSC Formal Mentoring Program Cycle 2016 have all had at least one chance since the Kickoff event to meet with their assigned protégés. Feedback from our members involved has been very favorable.

Norm Chaffee: “My protégé is a mid-level manager hoping to continue her progress in the organization, and hoping for some insights into developing better interpersonal skills. We have met twice and both times were enjoyable for me

and, hopefully, beneficial for her. She is married to a fellow who is an engineer at JSC, and they have a delightful young adopted son (about 7 years old). I am much impressed with my protégé and learned that she has a PhD from Oxford. So I'm going to learn a lot from her in reverse mentoring!”

Jon Hall: “I have met twice with my protégé since the Kickoff meeting in March. We went to lunch both times so she’s learning my favorite restaurants. My protégé is new to NASA and JSC, entering service less than two years ago. She works in Human Resources and is quick-thinking. She graduated in the last 5 years with a business degree. She’s been sharing lots of ideas and comments, and I have to confess that I may be getting more out of this activity than she is! I’ve been able to share some organizational insights that might prove useful to her, but this is truly reverse mentoring with some of the insights she is providing me about the modern world. This has been really rewarding, and we’re only a month into the Cycle!”

Next quarter, the Mentoring Committee should have something more to report on the proposed management seminars, as well as opportunities to mentor local campuses to promote STEM education and careers.



L-R Jennifer Rodriguez, JSC Mentoring Program Coordinator making opening remarks. Mark Geyer, Deputy Center Director and Keynote Speaker. NAL Mentors Greg Blackburn (facing) and Jon Hall conferring. NAL Mentors Denny Holt (background), Norm Chaffee (foreground), and Jack Garman speaking to a protégé. Below, Program participants at tables in the Gilruth Alamo Ballroom.



Treasurer's Report

By Susan Braymer, Treasurer

- Thanks to our generous members our treasury continues to grow, totaling \$70,416.72 on April 1, 2016. This includes \$8,780 contributed to the Nick Lance Scholarship Fund for use beginning in May of this year (or \$61,636.72 of unreserved NAL funds).
- During the first quarter of 2016 NAL took in \$4421.76 in dues. Some of our members joined or renewed at Supporting (\$100) or Lifetime (\$500) levels which further enhanced our bottom line.
- Our members donated a total of \$1077.49 in the first quarter in addition to their annual dues.
- The use of PayPal to pay for dues, dinners, donations, etc. continues to increase. NAL pays a small fee for this convenience. During the first quarter we paid a total of \$79.56 in PayPal costs.
- We have invested more money in the Schwab Fund this year and have appointed an Investment Committee, chaired by Gordon Ducote, to manage these funds. Other committee members are Bill Bates, Rick Nygren, Jack Knight, and Gary Johnson. The Committee hopes to increase the return on our investments through lower risk choices and more predictable dividend income.
- For 2016 we are increasing the number and amount of our donations to space-related educational organizations. To date in 2016, we have contributed \$500 to the AIAA to fund scholarships for STEM students, \$500 to the NASA College Scholarship Fund and \$400 to the Space Settlement Design Competition. We are planning to donate to six additional organizations, including all those to which we have donated in past years and several new ones. Stay tuned for more details. All of these organizations provide scholarships to students interested in pursuing studies in technical fields.

Now for the numbers:

	12/31/2015	3/31/2016
Share Account	\$5.00	\$5.00
Checking Account (includes \$8780 for The Nick Lance Scholarship Fund)	\$21,335.91	\$10,228.74
Money Market	\$22,453.64	\$22,482.37
Schwab Account	<u>\$23,229.72</u>	<u>\$37,700.61</u>
TOTAL	\$67,024.27	\$70,416.72

NAL News Clips

JSC Chapter Contact Information

Do you have ideas, suggestions or questions for us? Let us hear from you! The email addresses of all the officers and committee chairs are on the first page of this newsletter for your convenience.

All general inquiries should be sent to Secretary Cynthia Draughon or to President Norman Chaffee at the email addresses on page 1. You may also contact Norman Chaffee at 713-944-2461.

All membership inquiries should be directed to Membership Chair Estella Gillette, at the email address on page 1. Please do not mail your membership dues to NAL Headquarters as was done in the past. Estella's address is:

NASA Alumni League – JSC Chapter
c/o Estella Gillette
3739 West Pine Brook Way
Houston, TX 77059

Estella's home phone is 281-488-5960.

NAL Headquarters Contact Information

The NASA Alumni League national headquarters office is currently operating at a low level of activity. However, if you have a need to contact NAL Headquarters you may do so at the following address, or by e-mail as shown.

NASA Alumni League
c/o Mal Peterson
5 Eagle Court
Grasonville, MD 21638
e-mail is: nalmalpeterson@gmail.com

Clear Lake Association of Senior Programs

The University of Houston Clear Lake (UHCL) operates a program for seniors called the Clear Lake Association of Senior Programs (CLASP). They have periodic programs on Thursday evenings from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the Forest Room (**FR**) or Garden Room (**GR**) of the large Bayou building. Parking is free in the parking lot across from the main entrance to the Bayou building (**they will give you a token to open the exit gate from the parking lot after the program**). The CLASP website is www.uhcl.edu/clasp and the email address is clasp@uhcl.edu or you can call UHCL Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 281-283-2021 for more information. It is all free and very worthwhile. Upcoming programs are as follows:

May 5 Security in Our Homes and Neighborhoods
Speaker, Phil Sandlin, Harris County Constable, Pct 8, **GR**

Memorialize Your Space Work at Space Walk of Fame Museum



Memorials at Space Walk of Fame, Titusville, FL: from left to right, Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, and Shuttle

Space Walk of Fame Foundation in Titusville, FL has created a series of monuments memorializing the aerospace workers who contributed to the several NASA human space flight programs. Monuments now exist for Mercury, Gemini and Apollo, and work is underway on the Space Shuttle monument. You can have your named inscribed on the Shuttle monument (and on the monument for any of the earlier programs on which you worked) by sending your information and \$100 per monument to the Space Walk of Fame Foundation. The address is:

U.S. Space Walk of Fame
4 Main Street
Titusville, FL 32796

Please see <http://www.spacewalkoffame.com> for the form to request an engraving. You can order online or call and use a credit card at 321-264-0434.

You can also buy an engraving for a relative or friend, as long as they actually worked on the particular program. Contributions help the Foundation with the cost of the monuments, but this is also a wonderful way to honor and memorialize members of our NASA family. These contributions ensure that these programs will benefit generations of future children, including your grandchildren, who can learn from the past to build the future.

Walkway to the Stars at Space Center Houston

In a similar program to the Titusville monuments, Space Center Houston (SCH) has a program entitled “Walkway to the Stars”, in which you can purchase a customized brick paver to be installed in the SCH Grand Plaza. The customized brick paver will contain three lines of text (up to 16 characters per line), and will cost \$159.96 (although there have been special sales prices). You can also buy a keepsake brick – not installed in the plaza – for \$50.

You will find information about the project at <http://spacecenter.org/giving/walkway-to-the-stars/> or at the SCH information desk. This purchase will help support SCH’s ongoing mission to educate and inspire the next generation of explorers.

SCH also has a donation campaign to finish the Shuttle/747 Carrier Project. An additional \$2.2 million is needed to build a display. If you would like to contribute to this tax deductible project, you can do so at the SCH website.

