



2008 HUNTSVILLE ALABAMA L5 SOCIETY (HAL5) ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

The Huntsville Alabama L5 Society (HAL5) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. We are the Huntsville chapter of the National Space Society (NSS), a grassroots, space educational/advocacy organization that advocates for the exploration and settlement of space. We are a mix of professionals who are engaged in space exploration and development and space enthusiasts. We share the belief that space development can improve our world with immeasurable benefits in the areas of education, energy, environment, industry, resources, and ultimately room for our humanity to grow. We believe that by educating and working with the public, the government, and industry, we can speed up the day when routine, safe, and affordable space travel is available to anyone who wants to go.

In 2008, HAL5 celebrated our 25th birthday. As we look back, we are proud of what we have done, the people we have influenced, and projects we have undertaken, but also saddened by the friends we have lost. As we look toward the next 25 years, one can only imagine what the future would bring to HAL5. We continued our free monthly public lectures, education outreach with local organizations and events, and our Project High Altitude Lift-Off (HALO) amateur rocketry program. We led the 2009 *Space Settlement* calendar effort for NSS, co-hosted Huntsville “first” Yuri’s Night party, hosted the NSS fall board meeting, and participated in congressional lobbying. We received “Chapter Excellence Award for Public Outreach” from NSS at the 2008 ISDC. We could not have done this without your support, time, and dedication.

Administrative Activities

When the schedule permitted, the HAL5 Executive Committee met on the second and fourth Thursdays at the Publix Super Market’s public meeting room on 4851 Whitesburg Dr. in south Huntsville at 6 pm. During these meetings, the officers report on the status of the chapter and discussed upcoming and on-going project activities and the monthly program. The meetings are open to current and prospective HAL5 members. Our website, www.HAL5.org, is used to announce HAL5 and NSS events and news, and is a repository for HAL5 and Project HALO information. Monthly program notices are posted on our website, Facebook, in available print media outlets like the “Valley Planet,” electronic community bulletin boards and in local schools, and by emails to current and expired members

The annual membership dues for regular and renewal

members are \$16, and \$10 for students, seniors, retired people and unemployed. To simplify membership application and dues, the officers voted to adopt a policy that membership expires on the anniversary of joining. We ended 2008 with 48 paid members.

Monthly Programs, Outreach and Special Events

HAL5 held monthly public lectures or membership meetings on the first Thursday of every month, unless there is a holiday or other conflict. The meetings are held at the Huntsville–Madison County Main Public Library in downtown Huntsville. After each monthly program, a social was held at the local Denny’s restaurant with the speakers and interested members and guests.



HAL5 2008 Monthly Program Flyers

We started off 2008 with Craig Russell of Americans in Orbit-50 Years on “Recreating the Flight of the First American to Orbit the Earth.” In February, David L. Christensen spoke to us on early rocket history and his reflections, experiences, and observations. Also in February, HAL5 staffed a table at the US Space 50 Event. In March, Dr. Marty Kress of NSSTC asked us “Is the Dream Still Alive?”

In April, HAL5 teamed up with ERC Incorporated, Huntsville Alive and *LeeAnn’s* host Huntsville’s “first” Yuri’s Night party. It was a great success. We had our own version of a Yuritini that *LeeAnn’s* created, a live band, and raised \$2,300 for HATS STEDTRAIN. Wondrously, we were treated to a flyover of the International Space Station directly overhead during the party! In May, Stephan Davis, Deputy Mission Manager for Ares I-X at MSFC give us an update on “Ares I-X: First Flight of a New Generation.” At the 2008 International Space Development Conference (ISDC) HAL5 received “Chapter Excellence Award for Public Outreach in 2008.”



Yuri's Night Huntsville 2008 Organizing Committee

In July, HAL5's Moon diorama titled "Earthrise over the Lake of Dreams," an idea by Ed Kiker, was put on display in the main public library. We will be making updates to the diorama as time goes by. HAL5 performed educational outreach at the July Huntsville Cub Scout water rocket event. We demonstrated the suitcase hybrid rocket from Orion Propulsion, which got the kids and adults very excited, and showed off Ed's meteorite collection. In August Mike Brennisson, a Project HALO team member, talked to us about his recent microgravity experiment on microgravity propellant transfer onboard NASA's zero-gravity aircraft, the "Vomit Comet."



Earthrise over the Lake of Dreams Diorama

In September, Dr. Roy Spencer, distinguished professor of atmospheric science, Alabama state climatologist gave a lecture on the data behind global warming and what it tells us. At the annual HATS Professional of the Year (POY) event, HAL5 nominated Dave and Emily Hewitt as HAL5's POY for their hard work in educational outreach. Wrapping up September, HAL5 participated in the von Braun Astronomical Society's annual Astronomy Day. HAL5 hosted a large both featuring a straw rocket craft table, and demonstrations of Orion Propulsion's suitcase hybrid rocket.

In October, our co-founder Greg Allison gave an overview of 25 years of HAL5. November was a busy month for HAL5. We hosted the NSS Fall board meeting, and used this as an opportunity to give NSS leadership a sample of our public lectures and to show off the city of Huntsville in anticipation for our bid for the ISDC 2011. Dan Irwin explained how space technology, the SERVIR Project, is

used to improve life in Central America. To coincide with the board meeting, HAL5 hosted a paid luncheon with Bob Armstrong from the NASA Ares Projects Outreach team speaking about the status of the Project's and the nation's future in space. The turn out was great. We also treated the NSS board members to a lunch talk by Dave Christensen on the history of rocketry. In December, author and scientist Les Johnson talked to us about his new book "Solar Sails: A Novel Approach to Interplanetary Travel." We wrapped up 2008 with our annual Christmas party, hosted by Don and Jennifer Robinson.

Space Settlement Calendar



To promote a future of humans living and working in space, NSS updated the *Space Settlement* calendar for 2009. It features twelve original works of art illustrating humanity's future

in space. HAL5's Bart Leahy was the calendar committee chair with members (Ronnie Lajoie, Yohon Lo and Adam Martin) making up most of the calendar committee. We were involved in the design, content, and layout of the calendar. Discounts are available to current HAL5 and/or NSS members when the calendars are purchased from HAL5. We are very pleased with our calendar sales. We have sold more calendars than any of the NSS chapters and we have been the most actively involved chapter in promoting and distributing the 2009 calendars.

Project HALO

Project HALO team meets every Wednesday night to work on the Tube Launch 1 (TL-1) amateur hybrid rocket. TL-1 will be tube launched and has an altitude goal of 100 km. In 2008, we had our second successful firing of the heavy-wall test motor on March. On Halloween, we performed our first 'hot-fire' subscale tube launcher test, using a small solid motor and mass simulator, to test out the tube launch's gas generator propellant and its performance.

2008 HAL5 Officers (June 2008 to June 2009)

President:	Yohon Lo
Vice President:	Bart Leahy
Treasurer:	Ronnie Lajoie
Secretary:	Laura Seward
Public Relations:	Evelyn Sabino
Education Outreach:	David Hewitt & Emily Hewitt
Membership:	Melissa Roth

In closing, we thank you for your continued support in our endeavors to educate and to promote a spacefaring civilization. We could not have done this without your support, time, and dedication. We welcome your inputs and suggestions on how we can better serve you and our community. See you at our next gathering!