

Southeastern Space Supporter

Newsletter of HAL5 – the Huntsville Alabama L5 Society chapter of the National Space Society

Volume 8, Number 5 — September–October 1999

The Apollo 11 30th Anniversary Celebration

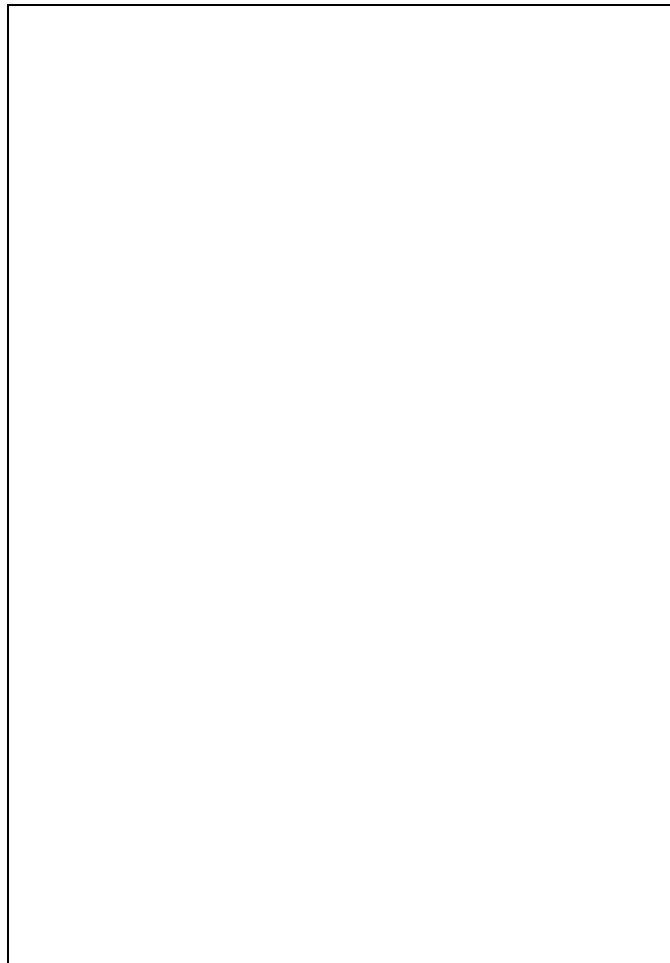
FIRST WORD

“One Small Step For Man — One Giant Leap for Mankind”

(by Ron Lajoie, SSS Editor)

In our last issue, we covered the NSS events that occurred during the weekend of July 20. In this issue, we focus on the non-NSS events, all pertaining to the 30th anniversary of the first landing of humans on another world, the Moon.

Celebration events were held both at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center and at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. HAL5 members were present at both events, and even received “Press” passes for the Space and Rocket Center events. Albeit a bit late, these detailed reports on both daytime and nighttime events can be found in no other publication. So enjoy! ☆



Actors reenact the famous first landing on the Moon.

merger with IBS Interactive, one of East Coast's foremost Internet Service Providers. This is the second such merger that IBS has undertaken in Northern Alabama. In February, IBS successfully integrated Renaissance Internet Services into their organization.”

Well, fortunately for us, there were no changes to the HAL5 Web site address, nor to our storage allocation. That may soon change. On October 20, I received this email message:

“By the time you receive this email, you may have already heard the news that HiWAAY Information Services has acquired Renaissance Internet Services and ADViCOM in a purchase from IBS Interactive. We want to assure you that this announcement brings with it a strong commitment to the future of Internet services in our area. ... There will be no immediate changes of service or billing....”

HAL5 Program Night

Wednesday, November 17, 1999
7 to 8:30 p.m. (with social afterwards)
Huntsville Public Library Auditorium

“The Amazing Sights of the Chandra X-Ray Telescope”

Guest speaker will be Ed Clark, retired NASA Marshall Program Manager.

All HAL5 and NSS members are encouraged to attend, and to bring interested friends and co-workers. Open to the public. Free admission.

HAL5 Web Site to Change!

(by Ron Lajoie, HAL5 Web site manager)

The famous story of the Trojan horse led to the saying “Beware of Greeks bearing gifts.” Well, I have a new saying: “Beware email messages from your Internet provider starting with “Good News!” On March 12, I received a message from my Internet provider that stated:

“Good News! Effective April 1, 1999, ADViCOM is proud to announce a

That sound okay until just a few days later, I received a followup message:

“This weekend we will create a copy of all your current user accounts, including your web sites, on the HiWAAY user server. ... We will try to use the same username you have at ADViCOM, but if there is a conflict we will have to try another name....”

Needless to say, I am very concerned. Stay tuned for updates. ☆

Huntsville Alabama L5 Society

President — Greg Allison
Day: 544-4440, Eve: 859-5538

Vice-President — Gladys Young
Day: 852-0561, Eve: 852-0561

Treasurer — Ronnie Lajoie
Day: 971-3055, Eve: 721-1083

Secretary — Wade Dorland
Day: 551-0008, Eve: 534-2566

Membership — Philomena Grodzka
Day: 536-8638, Eve: 536-8638

Communications — Ellen Cozelos
Day: 726-6387, Eve: 883-4873

Southeastern Space Supporter

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The *Southeastern Space Supporter* is a bimonthly publication of the Huntsville Alabama L5 Society (HAL5), a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization devoted to the goal of seeing everyday people living in thriving communities beyond the Earth.

Any opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors or of the Editor, and, unless expressly so stated, are not necessarily those of HAL5 or the NSS.

Visit the HAL5 Web Page on Internet via:

<http://advicom.net/~hal5/>

HAL5 encourages its members to speak out on space-related issues, and welcome submissions of both fact and opinion articles of interest to HAL5 members.

Submit letters or articles to: Ronnie Lajoie
162 Kirby Lane, Madison, AL 35757
Day phone/message: 256-971-3055
Night/Weekend phone: 256-721-1083
FAX number: 256-971-3333
Electronic mail address: hal5@advicom.net

Deadline for submittal is the last day of the following months: February, April, June, August, October, and December.

Preferred format for plain text is ASCII (text with graphics is *MS Word* or *WordPerfect*) either sent by E-mail or on a PC diskette. Also acceptable are letters and articles sent by mail or faxed; however, the more retyping required, the less likely the acceptance. HAL5 is not responsible for receipt of mailed submissions; none will be returned unless sent with a SASE. Hand-delivered diskettes will be hand-returned. No compensation is paid for submissions.

PROJECT HALO NEWS**HALO SL-2 Tank Being Tested**

(by Ronnie Lajoie, HALO team member)

In September, the HALO Sky Launch 2 (SL-2) rocket oxidizer tank was taken out of its storage crate for the first time since it was packed in June of last year. It was finally going to be tested to see if it could be reused for a second launch attempt.

As the 10-foot long crate was too big to fit in Gene Young's truck, I loaned him a 4-foot long box used for storing my tiny artificial Christmas tree parts. That was too short, so we duct taped another small box over the top of the oxidizer tank. Dorky, yes, but safe for travel.

Non-Destructive Testing at UAH

Gene then took the tank to Professor Gary Workman at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH). With the help of several graduate engineering students, Professor Workman was to examine the composite outer skin covering our thin-shelled aluminum oxidizer tank. The examination would involve taking X-Ray photographs of the composite skin and seeing if fractures had been created due to the impact of the oxidizer tank with the barge deck. Only after getting an OK from Professor Workman could we proceed with a test to see if it could hold pressurized water.

I telephoned Professor workman today, but he had already gone home for the day. I will try again and hopefully we will have a status on our oxidizer tank in the next issue of the Southeastern Space Supporter. ☆

Quote of the Month

"If we can put a man on the moon, why *can't* we put a man on the moon?!"

— NSS member, July 1999

NSS CHAPTER NEWS**Superluminal Gravitational and Microwave Effects**

(NSS Atlanta News Release, Oct. 26, 1999)

NASA Marshall Space Flight Center scientists this month released information essential to the development of faster than light communications. During the recent total solar eclipse of August 11, 1999 that crossed large parts of Europe and Asia Minor, Dr. David Noever and Ron Koczor decided to check some unexpected results generated by the French Nobel laureate Maurice Allais (1988, economics) during a similar eclipse in 1954. The unexpected displacements of a Foucault pendulum during the totality of the eclipse can best be explained as a faster-than-light transmission of the effects of gravity. The earth accelerates toward a point in front of the visible Sun, where the Sun will appear to be in 8.3 minutes. Thus, the acceleration now is toward the true, instantaneous direction of the Sun now, and is not parallel to the direction of the arriving solar photons now.

Faster Than Light Transmission

In a related development, PBS-TV's *Nova* aired the week of 10/11/99 a segment entitled "Time Travel". German scientists lead by Guenter Nimtz at the University at Cologne were shown transmitting a Mozart symphony at 4.7 times the speed of light, using what appeared to be an upscaled microwave tunnel diode. These breakthroughs are the "proof of concept" that scientists and technologists need to proceed with the practical development of faster-than-light communications, a highly desirable, if not necessary, means of communicating with the far-flung space colonies that the National Space Society envisions. Development and promotion of these concepts are projects of the Far Out Physics Committee of the Atlanta Chapter of the NSS, issuers of this news release.

HAL5 would like to thank Bill Gardiner for sending us this news. ☆

Apollo 11 30th Anniversary Sunday Evening Celebration

(by Ronnie Lajoie, NSS reporter)

As part of research for her article on the new Saturn V replica at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center (see the May/June issue), Ellen Lucas contacted USSRC Media Relations Director Ed Davis. During their conversation, Mr. Davis kindly offered to grant press passes to two HAL5 members to represent the National Space Society during the upcoming Apollo 11 30th Anniversary festivities. Ellen Lucas and I made plans to represent NSS and HAL5 at the Sunday evening celebration event.

Due to the Southeast Space Summit (see the July/August issue), our thoughts were mostly on our own activities, and we did not realize the significance of being granted press passes until after our Summit was over.

After several hours of reloading and unloading my car, I called Ellen Lucas to coordinate our meeting at the Space and Rocket Center. When she reexamined the letter from Ed Davis, the itinerary revealed that we were invited to more than just the Sunday evening event. We could have also attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Saturn V replica as well as a special Apollo astronaut press conference.

Much later, upon reflection, I realized I would have loved to ask Buzz Aldrin what he thought about the effectiveness of the National Space Society. I would have also liked to have asked the other Apollo astronauts if they were members. Oh well. Life is full of such missed opportunities.

Arrival

Unfortunately, Ellen told me that she was not feeling well and could not make the Sunday night event. Given that it was past 7:00 PM, there was no time to recruit another “reporter”; I headed out for the Space and Rocket Center alone.

Earlier in the day, I had made plans to meet the rest of the HAL5 contingent

near the Space Shuttle replica. I had brought the cookies and cans of soda left over from the Summit, with the intent of providing free food and drink to the HAL5 members. By the time I arrived, the parking lot was so full, I was redirected to the old Chrysler parking lot — on the opposite side of the freeway! A shuttle bus would take me to the Center, but obviously the food and drinks had to remain alone in my car.



Apollo 12 Astronaut Dick Gordon

I brought along my camera bag and my notebook. I had to leave a clipboard with HAL5 membership forms, NSS brochures, and a few *Ad Astra* magazines in the car. I had hoped to find a few HAL5 members who would help spread them out among the hundreds of attendees. As it turned out, I never did see any member before the events began, and only met up with Mark and Judy Wells after the events were over.

Being a member of the “Press”, I was redirected from the main entrance to the side entrance where I would pick up my Press pass. They also kindly gave me coupons good for a free hot dog and 2 beverages. (I only needed one drink after the show, so I later gave the others to Mark and Judy Wells.)

Several people then escorted me to the lunar lander replica where the main event would take place. So much for having time to find any HAL5 members.

Waiting for Gadoh

Some HAL5 members will remember the lunar lander crater area as the site of our first HALO event, a balloon launch to the edge of space. The crater area is several hundred feet across and is surrounded by a ring of metal on thin posts to serve as a fence. A lunar module replica stands in the middle of the circle, surrounded by artificial craters. All was quiet in the circle.

A huge movie screen had been erected on the southeast side of the crater area, and large speakers on tall posts were scattered about the area. A small grand stand had been erected on the southwest side of the crater area, to serve as the sitting area and podium for the astronaut speakers. All seats were unoccupied.

Behind the grand stand loomed the new full-size replica of the mighty Saturn V launch vehicle, standing proud awash in the bright beams of many spot lights. I took a few photographs, once again silently cursing my dead light meter in my old 35mm camera. Even amongst all those lights, I needed to use a fairly slow shutter speed, and really could have used my tripod to keep my camera steady. It was, of course, back in my car — on the other side of the freeway!

On the ground, in front and to the left of the grand stand, several rows of chairs had been placed for the guests of the astronauts. All were empty. The “Press Area” was to the left of the chairs and extended about 50 feet around the circle, where a wooden beam kept the non-Press attendees from entering. The hedge-lined walkway leading down to the crater area provided the back wall for the Guest Area and Press Area, thus no additional barrier was required.

The Press Area was sparsely populated when I arrived, probably much to the dismay of the Space and Rocket Center. I think only two of the four local TV

networks were present, and certainly no one from a national network. I did not spot anyone from the *Huntsville Times*, though someone was probably there. The Press Area was obviously a bit bigger than was going to be needed.

I had naively hoped for a round of introductions when I arrived, but none were forthcoming, and none of the reporters present chatted with each other. I guess there is not much of a fellowship among the media guild here. I struck up a conversation with someone standing near me, only to find out after 10 minutes that she was a Center worker and not a reporter.

I did speak briefly with Media Relations Director Ed Davis, who gave me his business card and thank me for coming. I asked him if the tiny flag I had spotted on top of the Saturn V was a memorial to the late Elee Stovall, the construction worker who fell and later died from his injuries. He told me he did not think so, because Stovall's fellow construction workers had written his name inside the Saturn V nose cone. Mr. Davis also kindly told me to stay to the left of a imaginary line five feet from the guests.

The Events Begin!

Finally, the honored astronauts and their guests began to show and were seated. From the Press Area, the grand stand was a bit too close and too tall, thus the camera angle was going to be steep. Since the grand stand was open, it was pitch black behind the astronauts, and the spot lights made them glow like the Saturn V replica behind them (but not at the same camera angle — too bad).

They were not close enough that I did not need my zoom lens however, and once again I regretted not having my tripod to keep the camera steady. I used my normal lens instead and hoped for the best. As you can see from the grainy scanned photographs in this article, I am not likely to be hired by the *New York Times* anytime soon!

I stood just to the left of my imaginary line and had a great clear view of both

the grand stand and the lunar module — much to my surprise. Then the lights went out, except for a spot light on the grand stand.

A young lady started off the events with a chorus of “God Bless America”. Then a memorial video was shown to honor the late Apollo 12 astronaut Pete Conrad, who also flew a Gemini mission and helped design the lunar module. No mention was made of his commercial adventures with DC-X, nor any other activities after he left NASA. A minute of silence was then requested.



Apollo 14 Astronaut Edgar Mitchell

Just as Apollo 7 astronaut Walter Cunningham was getting up to speak, after his introductory video spot, my camera ran out of film! Gah! I quickly changed rolls but only caught half of him on the first photograph. All the while, he was making this great speech, and I was struggling to write it down in the dark. Ellen, I really missed you out there! I only caught two of his “three conditions” for meeting the definition of “adventure”. One was to do something that had never been done before, and another was that there was a real risk of dying. Unfortunately, the Monday *Huntsville Times* article did not have

any quotes, nor any photographs of the astronauts.

Apollo 12 astronaut Richard (Dick) Gordon was up next, obviously saving Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin for last. Like Cunningham, Gordon also flew a Gemini mission. As for the other astronauts, no mention was made of his activities after he left NASA. Gordon told the crowd that after lightning hit his Apollo launch vehicle twice during ascent, he looked over to his fellow astronaut and said “Okay Al, it’s all yours!”. He said that lightning strikes “never happened in simulations.” He congratulated the people of NASA Marshall on making a great launch vehicle.

Sputnik launched while Apollo 14 astronaut Ed Mitchell was at sea onboard an aircraft carrier. After that, he decided to become an astronaut. He said he was sad to be the only surviving member of the Apollo 14 mission, as Alan Shepard had died earlier this year. He fondly recalled a meeting with Wernher von Braun and Arthur C. Clarke. Ed Mitchell is also known for the ESP experiments he performed on the way to the Moon.



Apollo 16 Astronaut Charles Duke

Apollo 16 astronaut Charles Duke was up next. Like Buzz Aldrin, Duke received a Masters degree in astronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He joined NASA in 1966, became a LEM expert, and was “capcom” for the Apollo 11 mission (the guy on the receiving end of “Houston, the Eagle has landed”). He journeyed to the Moon with John Young and set a new record for stay there. He eventually went back to the work for the U.S. Air Force. He remarked that he saw a “full Earth, with almost no clouds” on the way to the Moon.



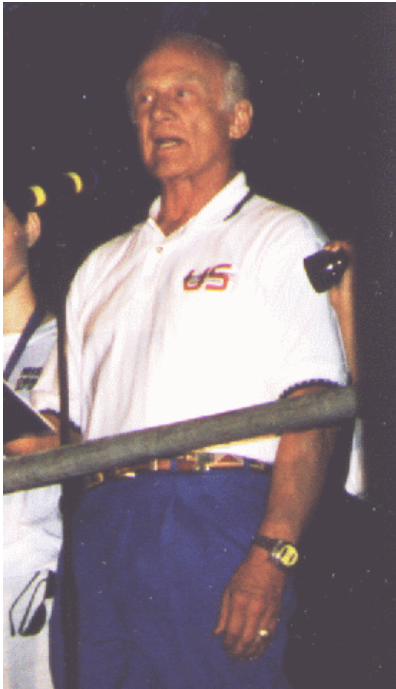
Skylab 3 Astronaut Owen Garriott

Skylab 3 astronaut, and Huntsville resident, Owen Garriott, received a warm welcome from the crowd. He and Alan Bean circled the Earth 850 times aboard Skylab, doubling the space endurance record at that time. Garriott also flew aboard the Space Shuttle on STS-9, the first Spacelab mission. He

“The regret on our side is, they used to say years ago, ‘we are reading about you in science class.’ Now they say, ‘we are reading about you in *history* class.’”

— Neil Armstrong, July 1999

told the audience that the new Saturn V replica will focus attention on Huntsville and the space transportation work being performed at NASA Marshall.



Apollo 11 Astronaut Buzz Aldrin

As expected, Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin was the final speaker of the night. While at M.I.T., Aldrin did his Ph.D. thesis on orbital rendezvous. Clearly these Apollo astronauts from the second batch of “astronaut school” were preparing themselves long before they joined NASA for careers in space. And it is these astronauts, rather than the test pilots from the Mercury program, that have the biggest regrets about the Apollo program ending so soon after it had begun.

As I expected, to my regret, there was no mention of his involvement with the National Space Society in his opening video, nor did he mention it during his speech — a shame since he was Chairman of the NSS Board of Directors for many years. He certainly would have inspired some of the people in the audience to seek us out had he mentioned it. He did mention his liquid flyback booster project as well as his ShareSpace venture though, so clearly NASA

had not forced him to only speak about his Apollo years. Oh well.

On the positive side, Aldrin spoke about the future rather than just the past. He said that “spaceflight is a spiritual quest” and said that we need “a Kennedy-like commitment” for profitable ventures in space. (He certainly could have jump-started that commitment by encouraging people to join the National Space Society. Another lost opportunity.) It is rare for any astronaut, however, especially at a NASA event, to speak about space tourism and commercial ventures, rather than government-funded missions. For that, I thank you, Buzz.

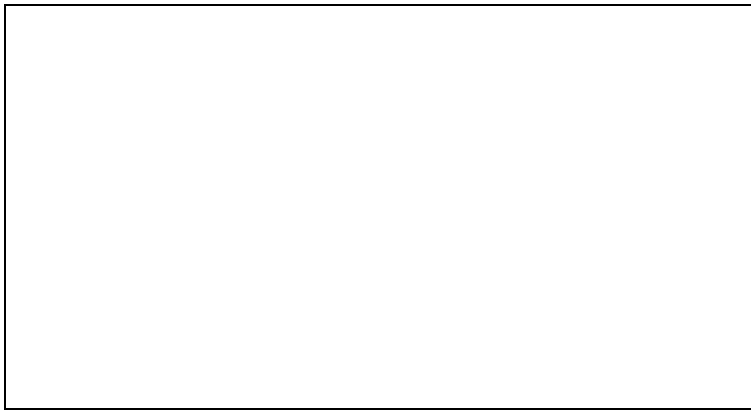
First Moon Landing Reenactment

The lights once again went out, this time including those on the Saturn V replica. The Apollo 11 reenactment then began with an announcement starting with those famous Carnival words “Ladies and Gentlemen!”

Unfortunately, the introductory words that followed included the instruction that no flash photography would be allowed, as it would spoil the effects of the reenactment. Now, I *really* did regret not having my tripod. How was I supposed to take pictures in the dark — and with a dead light meter?? I put my shutter speed on the lowest setting I dared and hoped for the best.

Obviously, in the complete dark, there was no means for taking notes. I had not thought to bring along my tape recorder. I wish I had the memory to recall the full sequence of events, but too many things have happened in my life in the last three months. I believe that there was an introductory video.

Eventually, though, the announcer got to the launch of the mighty Saturn V; and, this time, the real one (on its side) was lit up — for real! Well, it was just an effect, but it was pretty darn realistic for “just” a bunch of fireworks stuffed into the huge F-1 engine nozzles of the Saturn V first stage. It certainly was nice to see the Saturn V “ignite” for the



Saturn V first stage “ignites” for first time since 1974.

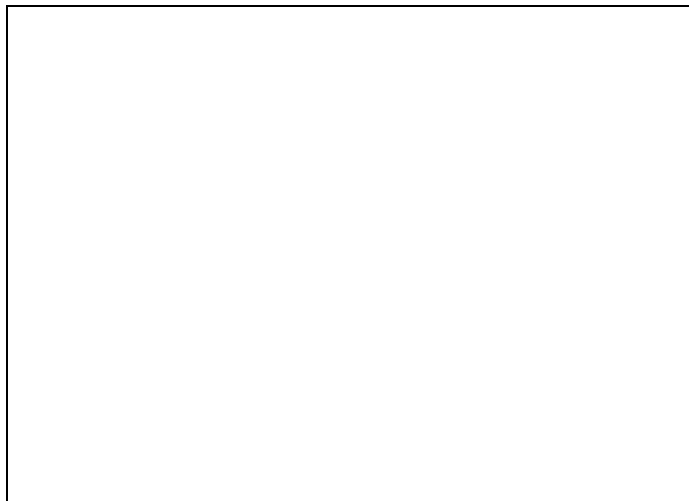
first time in 25 years! Of course, had the engines ignited for real, we all would have been toast!

On the big screen, the video showed the Saturn V lifting off. After the first stage separated from the second stage, fireworks once again erupted, this time from the J-2 engine nozzles on the Saturn V second stage. And as the rocket approached Earth orbit, the single J-2 engine nozzle on the third stage ignited with fireworks.

The video then took us to the Moon, to the point where the Lunar Excursion Module (LEM) was separated from the Apollo Command/Service Module and close to the surface of the Moon.

Then the LEM replica in the crater was the center of attention, for out of its many thruster nozzles erupted bursts of fireworks, very realistically portraying attitude control maneuvers. Definitely cool!

The main engine of the LEM then “ignited” with fireworks and smoke as it touched down on the lunar surface. In the eerie glow of just the LEM lights, the LEM really did look like it had just landed on the surface of the Moon. Then over the speakers came those famous words: “Houston, Tranquillity Base here. The Eagle has landed.” The crowd burst into applause.

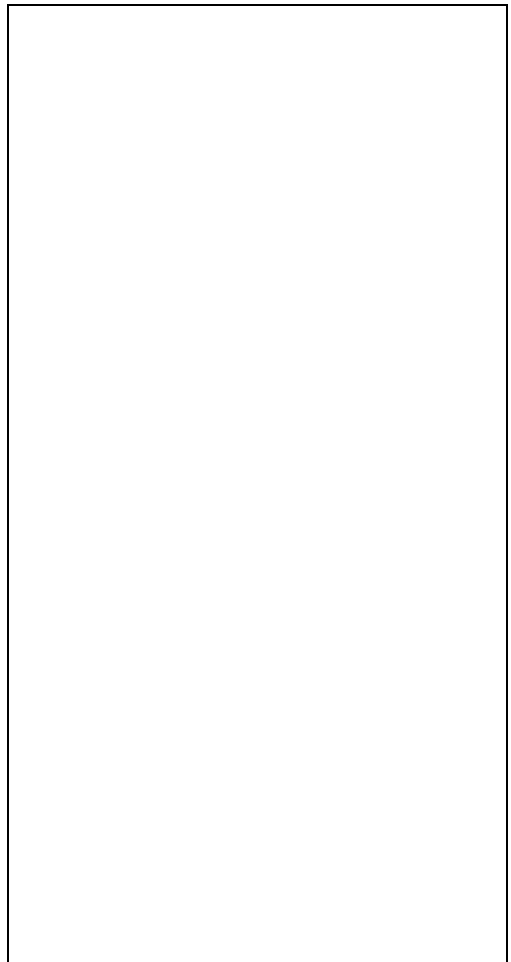


Attitude control thrusters “fire” on the LEM replica.

An actor portraying astronaut Neil Armstrong in his moon suit then opened the hatch to the LEM. I did not know it was a *working* replica! I have no idea when those actors entered the LEM replica, because it was in *full* view for the past two hours. If they were really in there that long, they must have felt like they were actually going to the Moon!

“Armstrong” climbed down the ladder and stood on the big round footpad. Then after saying “I’m stepping off the LEM now,” stepped onto the “lunar surface” into history, then uttered those famous words: “That’s one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind.” Once again the crowd burst into applause.

An actor portraying astronaut Buzz Aldrin then followed, climbing down



“Neil Armstrong” emerges from the LEM.

the ladder of the LEM, and no doubt worried about his ultimate movie critic — the real Buzz Aldrin — watching from the grand stand. When he got to the bottom rung, he jumped off ... backwards ... in a moon suit! Certainly not the easiest acrobatic feat. When he landed, he stumbled, and my heart stopped, for an image of Buzz Aldrin jumping down from the grand stand to throttle the actor popped into my head. Fortunately, the actor recovered and did not fall, and Buzz stayed seated.

The actor astronauts then deployed the U.S. flag and saluted. The Saturn V replica then lit up once more, and Neil’s first words echoed out over the audience. ☆

HAL5 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

October 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 Triton discovered, 1846	11 Columbus Day (observed)	12 Columbus Day	13	14 HAL5 & Project HALO Meeting Noon at Ponds	15	16 National Boss Day
17 Ⓢ	18	19	20	21 HAL5 & Project HALO Meeting Noon at Ponds	22	23
24 United Nations Day	25	26	27	28 HAL5 & Project HALO Meeting Noon at Ponds	29 Con†Stellation 5 pm - 11 pm Airport Sheraton	30 Con†Stellation 9 am - 11 pm Airport Sheraton

November 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 31 Ⓢ Con†Stellation 9 am - 1 pm Airport Sheraton	1	2 Election Day VOTE Pro-Space	3	4 HAL5 & Project HALO Meeting Noon at Ponds	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 HAL5 & Project HALO Meeting Noon at Ponds	12	13
14	15	16 Ⓢ WFS Program Huntsville Mayor 6 p, Steak & Ale	17 HAL5 Program "Xray Telescope" 7 pm at Library	18 HAL5 & Project HALO Meeting Noon at Ponds	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving Day	26	27
28	29 Ⓢ First Flight over South Pole 1929	30				

December 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 HAL5 Program "Space Biology" 7 pm at Library	3	4 Chanukah Begins
5	6	7 Galileo arrives at Jupiter, 1995	8	9 HAL5 & Project HALO Meeting Noon at Ponds	10	11 Chanukah Ends
12	13	14	15 Ⓢ	16 HAL5 & Project HALO Meeting Noon at Ponds	17	18

Apollo 11 30th Anniversary NASA Marshall Celebration

(by Ronnie Lajoie, NSS reporter)

As reported in the last (July/August) issue, HAL5 members and other NSS chapter members participating in the Southeast Space Summit took a break from their discussions to attend the NASA Apollo 11 30th anniversary celebration on Saturday, July 17.

The celebration event was held in the quad of the Wernher von Braun Office Complex (NASA buildings 4200, 4201, 4202, and 4203), which was so named on the 25th anniversary. During that celebration five years ago, NASA unveiled a bronze bust of Wernher von Braun (see right, photo by Greg Allison) made by resident NASA artist Jack Hall.

To the right of the statue is a plaque that contains the following quote from von Braun (from October 1967): "We must continually set goals that will challenge the human spirit to the utmost." If only there was a leader alive today who would say such words

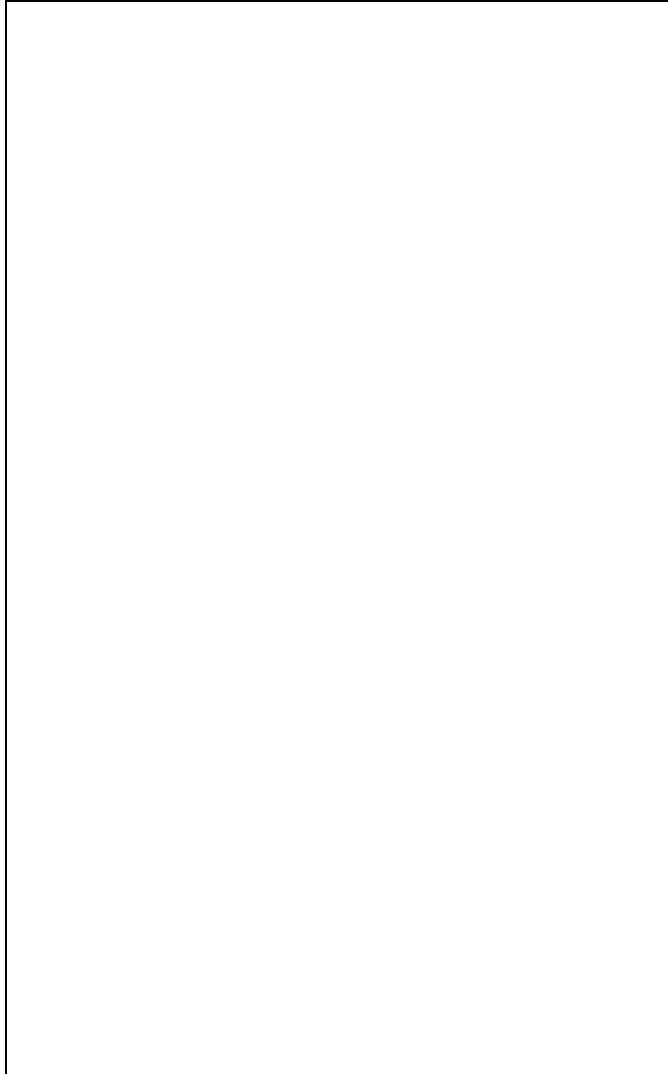
The Quest for Shelter

It was unbelievably hot that day and most of the gathering attendees were crowded around under the shade of the small trees in the quad. Chairs had been set out in the shady spots for NASA's special guests and for other visitors. By the time us Summiteers had arrived, all the chairs were full, and most of the rest of the shade-covered grassy areas were occupied.

Near the center of the quad was a large stage with chairs for the Apollo astronaut speakers.

Four poles held up a canopy covering the entire stage, and provided welcome shade for the honored guests.

Unfortunately, it also made the area very dark from a photography point of view, especially with the bright sun confusing the cameras. None of the photographs



The Wernher von Braun bronze statue at NASA MSFC.



The Plaque for the Wernher von Braun statue.

we took of the astronaut speakers were worth reprinting in this newsletter, let alone *Ad Astra* magazine.

I spent the bulk of my pre-celebration time trying to keep cool. The ice in the cup of soda I had brought from the Summit had melted 10 minutes after I stepped out of my car. I ducked into building 4203 and found a refrigerator with ice cube trays, which fortunately were full. I stuffed as many as I could into my plastic cup and refilled the tray.

Most of our Summiteers were wandering around, taking photographs of the NASA models of the Saturn V rocket, Space Shuttle, and X-33 out for display. Due to lack of shady spots, few of us sat together during the celebration. I made repeated trips into building 4202 to refill my cup with water, which many times I felt like pouring over my head to cool me off. At last, a small shady spot on the grass became available and I took it.

The NASA Marshall Celebration Begins

As for the Space and Rocket Center Apollo celebration the next evening, the NASA celebration opened with a lady singing "God Bless the USA".

According to the July 18 *Huntsville Times*, NASA Administrator Dan Goldin and Associate Administrator for Space Flight Joe Rothenberg had been in Huntsville for the dedication of the Saturn V replica, and Rothenberg had spoken at the NASA celebration. I do not remember hearing Mr. Rothenberg, but perhaps my brain was too busy trying to keep my body from collapsing from heat exhaustion.

I do remember that NASA Marshall Space Flight Center Director Art Stephenson took the role of Master of Ceremonies for the celebration event. He introduced the astronaut speakers in turn, who gave short speeches similar to those they would repeat the next night at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.

The one difference was that, instead of making reference to the Saturn V replica that would be behind them Sunday night, they pointed to the 50 to 100 retired NASA Marshall Apollo program workers seated in the VIP chairs, many of whom were swooning from the heat.

“Footprints to the Future”

As Jack Hall’s Wernher von Braun bust commemorated the 25th anniversary of the first Apollo landing on the Moon, Jack’s “Footprints to the Future” exhibit would commemorate the Apollo 11 30th

anniversary.

At the intersection of the walkways between the four buildings, stood a large rectangular prism about the size of a phonebooth. It was mysteriously wrapped in a silvery cover sheet. Peeking out from the top was a pole on which was placed a metal spaceplane model. Art Stephenson introduced it as the new Spaceplane Fountain, which would be unveiled shortly.

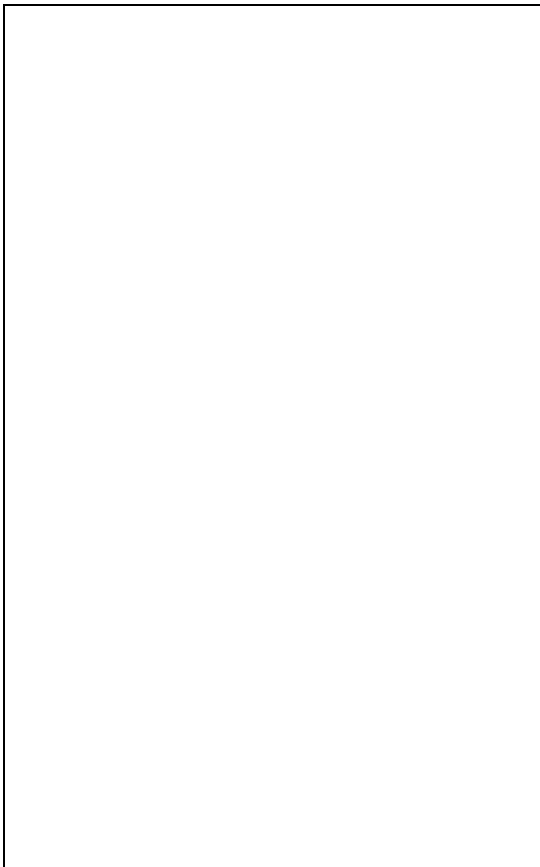
The fountain would be eventually surrounded by concrete plaques — a la Ming’s Chinese Theater — containing the footprints of the Apollo astronauts. Since Buzz Aldrin needed to be whisked away to another city, he was the first to place his booted foot into a concrete slab.

Bill Brown was able to maneuver his way close enough to the stage that he reached over and snapped a photograph. His guess at the correct camera angle was right on and he captured a photo of Buzz Aldrin with one foot in concrete. Bill gave me a copy of the photograph to put in the newsletter back in July. So why don’t you see it on this page? Because somehow I LOST it!! Gah! Hopefully, Bill will find his negative and give me a new print — which will get published in this newsletter.

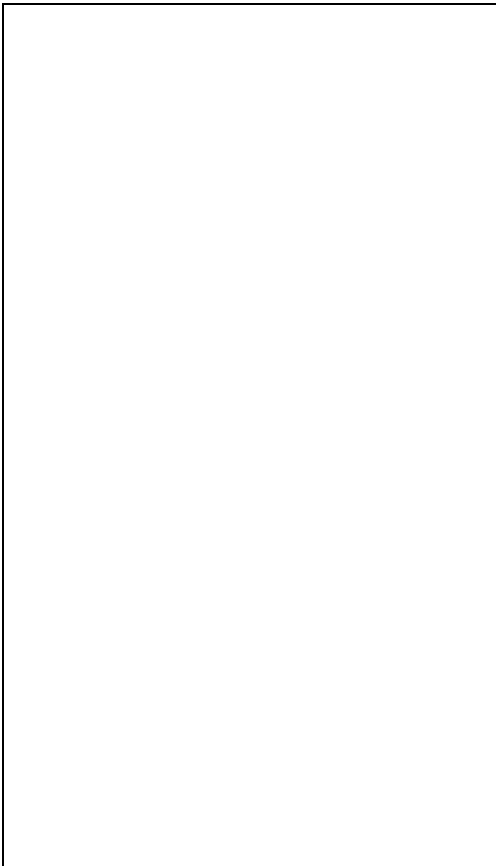
Spaceplane Fountain is Unveiled

At last, the new Spaceplane Fountain was unveiled. MSFC Associate Director Carolyn Griner and another NASA manager carefully removed the silver covering to reveal a mirrored box.

Then, after a short pause, water began to flow from the nozzles of the model spaceplane, and streamed down the mirrored box. In the hot sun, the water was very welcome. ☆



NASA employees unveil the new fountain.



The new Spaceplane fountain in action.



Closeup of the Spaceplane fountain.

Easter Island — 10,000 B.C.

(an “Apollo” fiction by Ronnie M. Lajoie, first published in *SSS* in 1996)

Nnor sat on the beach, along the water’s edge, staring out across the vast sea to the distant isle. “Sand and rocks” he mumbled. That’s all his people had ever found there — “sand and rocks.” That’s why no one wanted to go back.

No one except Nnor, of course, and a few of his friends. He himself had not been there. He himself had not seen the “sand and rocks,” except for the few samples brought back, now part of the guarded personal collection of the Chief. He himself had not set foot upon this distant land.

His whole body ached to go there. The isle beckoned to him, especially at night, when its yellow sands glowed off the day’s heat. And every winter, when the cold, clear, daytime sky allowed one to see much farther, he could just make out even more distant isles. They appeared as small, low, dark blue-gray bands hovering just above the dark blue waters and just beneath the light blue sky. Sometimes, they even appeared greenish in color. Most people dismissed them as low clouds or “more places of sand and rocks.”

But not Nnor and his friends. He desperately wanted to go to these places. If the greenish color was true, then these places might have trees — and maybe even people. He wanted to go. His friends wanted to go. But they could think of no way how to do it.

Toes in the Water

It was almost 40 rain seasons ago when Nnor’s people first discovered how to survive the water which surrounded their land. Up until then, people had feared the water. Legends had spoken of those who tried — and died. Like tall

grass, the water parted when you walked into it. Unlike tall grass, however, the water closed back around you so tightly that you could not breathe. Most people stayed well away from the water. Still, a few brave men would venture out as much as waist deep and collect the shells and small fish found there, which supplemented the people’s diet of fruits, roots, and small animals.

But almost 40 rain seasons ago, a smart and brave man, Iruy, survived the water for the first time. Legend says Iruy saw a large dead tree branch floating on the water. He walked out to meet it and grabbed onto it. To the amazement of the people, Iruy floated too! The branch allowed him to go past even neck level deep. Iruy ducked his head under the



water for a short time and the branch allowed him to raise it again. Iruy brought back a very large shell and told the people that the fish were even bigger out there. Iruy was made Hero of the People. Everyone celebrated for days.

Bigger Trees, Bigger Fish

Over the course of 10 rain seasons, much progress was made using medium and large dead trees. The people learned that a 3-person-high dead tree could support the full weight of a man on the water. Such “tree-men” found that they could steer the trees back to the beach by using their hands to push against the water. Some tree-men died in accidents when trees rolled over and threw them in the water. Others learned

that by flaying their arms, they could keep their heads above water for a long enough time to regrab the tree.

The people also discovered that a 7-person-high dead tree could support two men. Now, one man could help rescue another if the tree rolled over. Also, one man could hold the other’s legs while he went head-first into the deep water to collect the bigger shells and fish.

The people thrived on this new bounty from the deep water. They reasoned that if shells and fish got bigger the further away one got from the land, then the far away, very deep water must hold enormous shells and fish! The people were determined to find out. What was needed was a very large tree which could hold three men.

Journey to the Far Water

Very large dead trees were scarce on the island. The few which had fallen on their own were too rotted to be usable. The people decided to knock down one that was still standing. Lacking long enough vines, the strongest men the people could provide took turns jumping from nearby live trees to the dead one while other men bashed the base of the tree with large stones. Women and children from all over the land stood nearby and yelled encouraging words. Finally, the tree came down, and the people cheered. All the men, and some women, were needed to carry the tree to the water.

As the people had hoped, the very large dead tree did indeed support the weight of three men. With the people watching and cheering from the shore, three brave men, Sug, Regor, and Dde, climbed aboard and began pushing against the water with their hands. Slowly, the tree began moving away from the shore and towards the unknown far water. The tree-men soon saw very large fish and shouted their discoveries back to the shore. The people cheered.

After stick-fishing for awhile, Sug looked over to the yellow isle in the distance and saw that it was growing larger. He convinced his companions to steer their tree towards it. As the tree-men moved further away from the shore, the people saw that the tree and the men were getting smaller and lower in the water. The people started to panic.

Their shouts of concern reached the three men, but they could not hear clearly. They looked back in shock to see their homeland smaller and lower in the water. Fearing that their loved ones were suffering some awful tragedy, they raced to turn about their tree, but rolled it over instead, throwing all three men into the water. Sug, Regor, and Dde all perished that day. The people mourned for many days, and the fear of the water started to return.

Journey to the Yellow Isle

Two rain seasons later, the people had recovered from their loss, thanks in large part to Renrew, a smart man who convinced the people that the shrinking tree-men vision was just a trick of the eye. Another very large dead tree was fallen, and three more men ventured out into the far water. This time, they returned without mishap, with a haul of large fish they were able to capture with their sticks and hands — and with a few stories of some larger fish “that got away”. The tree-men all spoke of the yellow isle which grew larger as they went further from the shore.

Renrew convinced the people to attempt a journey to the mysterious yellow isle, which the people viewed with both suspicion and romance. Just after sunrise, with the people watching from the shore, the three bravest men on the land, Lien, Zub, and Ekim climbed onto the floating tree and steered it towards the isle. This time no one panicked as the tree and men shrank to the size of ants, although most were concerned, especially when rough water bobbed the tree.

The sun was high in the sky when the tree-men arrived at the yellow isle.

Although they were tired, they were too full of excitement to stop for rest. Lien and Zub climbed off the tree, but Ekim stayed to make sure the group did not lose their only means of returning home. Up close, Lien and Zub found the yellow isle to be a beautiful but desolate wasteland. No trees, no sounds of birds or animals, just lots of sand and rocks. They wandered around for a short while and collected a few samples, but with the sun now past its zenith, they decided to board the tree and return home before sunset.

On the shore, the people cheered as the tree and men grew from their ant-like size back to normal. The tree-men had successfully journeyed to the yellow isle and had returned safely. Celebration of this feat lasted for many days. Songs and stories were made about the three brave men who dared to go where no one had gone before.

Return to Yellow Isle

Convinced that the yellow isle had more to offer than “sand and rocks”, the people mounted several more trips to that faraway land. The two remaining very tall dead trees were knocked down in preparation. There was only one mishap, when one of the trees was rolled over by rough water halfway to the yellow isle. The tree-men managed to climb back aboard, but were so exhausted from their ordeal that they abandoned the trip and returned home. After six visits to the yellow isle, the people became convinced that it was indeed just “sand and rocks.”

The tree-men did discover some small shells and fish in the water near the yellow isle, but found that they were smaller than the ones back home. They could think of no reason to make any more perilous journeys across the rough water. The used trees were beached and the remaining one was left to rot in the forest. Smaller dead trees were instead relied upon for fishing near the shore. The shells and fish bounty from the nearby waters was sufficient for all the people.

The End of Adventure?

Except for Nnor of course. He was very young when Lien and Zub first set foot on the yellow isle. Now, almost 30 rain seasons later, the Heroes were old men and Renrew was dead; but Nnor was a full adult with adventure still in his heart. Nnor walked over to the rotted shell of the once mighty tree that had let his people journey to another land. No way would this tree ever float again, nor its twin further down the beach, nor the one in the forest. And no very tall dead trees were left standing. Just live ones — and no one had ever been able to knock down a large live tree.

He looked out past the shore to the few tree-men fishing near the shore. No way would their trees survive the long journey across the rough far water without rolling over. He kicked at the tree shell in disgust, then regretted it when a section collapsed. His spirits dropped even lower then.

Nnor returned to his place on the beach, along the water’s edge, and again stared out across the vast sea to the distant isle. “Sand and rocks” he mumbled. He scanned the horizon for the more distant greenish isles he knew were there, but could not see them.

If only those greenish isles had trees and people too, he wondered. Maybe, if those people were smarter, then they might know something about trees, or rocks, or vines that Nnor’s people did not, as unlikely as that seemed. Maybe, if they made the journey to this land, they would teach his people those new ways and Nnor’s people could again journey across the rough water. Or, maybe Nnor’s people would just have to figure it out for themselves, if possible.

And if they wanted to. For now, the people seemed content on nearby fishing. “The people of Earth have all that we need right here” they told him. “Always had, always will.” Nnor got up and walked back home to find his friends. He could always rely on them to cheer him up. ☆

NSS NEWS

The 1999 NSS Policy Summit

(by Chris Pancratz, Summit Coordinator)

An NSS Policy Summit was held the weekend of September 18 and 19 at a hotel in Arlington, Virginia, just outside Washington D.C. The task group of twelve represented a cross section of the NSS Board of Directors, Executive Committee, NSS Policy Committee, Chapters, and NSS Headquarters Staff.

The need for a Policy Summit grew out the Strategic Planning session held prior to the 1999 ISDC, in which a "roadmap" for the National Space Society was deemed our Number One priority. The Policy Summit had three Objectives:

1. To Develop a Statement of NSS Philosophy to support and enhance our Vision of space settlement and our Mission of promoting change to realize that Vision.
2. To propose a "Roadmap To Space" which focuses on the barriers to settlement. These barriers further define our Mission by identifying the changes needed to achieve the NSS Vision.
3. To review the existing NSS Position Papers for relevance and support of the NSS Vision, Mission and the proposed Statement of Philosophy.

All three objectives were successfully addressed and consensus was reached. In the two weeks following the Summit, the following products were created:

Upcoming Events of Interest to HAL5 Members

Fri., Oct. 29 — 7:00 - 8:30 PM **NASA Space Club** hosts the annual "Von Braun Memorial Dinner", at the Von Braun Center; formal attire; large fee

Fri., Oct. 29 to Sun., Oct. 31 **NASFA** hosts the annual "Con†Stellation XVIII: Lupus" science fiction convention, at the Airport Sheraton Hotel; \$35 fee for teens and adults, \$15 for kids; questions: 256-880-8210

Nov. 5 or 6 — TBD time **AIAA Tour of the Air France Concorde**, at Huntsville International Airport; RSVP to: Todd Honeycutt via phone at 256-461-2429, or email at Honeycutt@Photon.com

Tue., Nov. 16 — 6:00 - 7:30 PM **World Future Society Program** on "Meet Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer", at Steak and Ale Restaurant, 3815 University Drive; RSVP to: les.johnson@rocketship.com

Wed., Nov. 17 — 7:00 - 8:30 PM **HAL5 Program** on "The Amazing Sights of the Chandra X-Ray Telescope" by Ed Clark, retired NASA Marshall Program Manager, at Huntsville Public Library, 915 Monroe Ave.; free; questions: 256-971-3055

Thu., Dec. 2 — 7:00 - 8:30 PM **HAL5 Program** on "Space Biology" by Marianne Lewis, at Huntsville Public Library, 915 Monroe Ave.; free; questions: 256-971-3055

- Draft Statement of Philosophy (Thanks to Ron Lajoie for his help)
- "Milestone" flowchart graphic
- Draft "Roadmap to Space Settlement"
- "Barriers to Space Settlement" Graphic and Legend
- Draft policy paper recommendations memo to NSS Policy Committee
- 10/18 Recommendations to Executive and Policy Committees
- 10/29 Deadline for Policy Committee comments and NSS Executive Committee initial comments
- 11/15 Revised Final Draft Package to NSS Board of Directors
- 11/30 Deadline for Comments from NSS Board of Directors
- 12/5 Final Approval at the NSS Executive Committee meeting
- 10/4 Send drafts to the Task Group
- 10/11 Deadline for Task Group to return comments to Chris
- More details to follow soon. ☆

Special Announcement

HAL5 November Program Night

"Chandra X-Ray Telescope" by Dr. Ed Clark, ex-NASA manager

Wednesday, November 17, 7-9 pm

Huntsville Alabama L5 Society
 PMB 168, 1019 Old Monrovia Road
 Huntsville, AL 35806
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