



Missile, Space and Range Pioneers

Past, Present and Future

Today's Explorers - Tomorrow's Pioneers

FALL 2004 EDITION

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Annual *Fall Gathering* to Honor Launch/Test Conductors



We look forward to seeing you at the Fall Gathering scheduled for the Patrick Air Force Base Officers Club on Friday, 12 November, 7 p.m.

Reservations are not required for this annual event, just pay \$10 per person at the door. If you have friends, relatives, or neighbors who may have an interest in joining the Pioneers, please bring them to mix and mingle with all the folks.

Two years ago, we spotlighted Silver Snoopy winners and last fall we had a grand time recognizing "missile" pioneers. This fall, we hope to have a large turnout of Launch/Test Conductors and the variations thereof and recognize them for their contributions to missile, space, and range programs over the years.

Test/Launch Conductors—Who's Missing? Write to zsifter@aol.com

J. Adamoli, R. Adcock, S. Albrecht, Max Applegate, Harry Armer, Sy Baker, Ernie Baldini, John Baldwin, Jack Balter, Glen Baxter, Ron Benetti, Greg Billman, Bob Bourne, Roy Bridges, Willie Brown, F. Carey, Norm Carlson, J. Carpenter, Ed Chandler, Skip Chauvin, Dewey Childs, Tom Chitty, Ed Christiansen, John Churchwell, C. Cicchetti, Bud Conti, John Conway, John Copeland, J. Coryell, Art Crosswell, Bob Danner, Frank Dassi, K. DeFazio, Clay Dennis, Bill Dickenson, E. Dillon, Paul Donnelly, Chris Fairey, Cal Fowler, Pete Gannon, N. Geso, Arnie Gilmore, Larry Gooch, M. Goodkind, Bert Grenville, Stan Gross, Willie Gray, Wade Guest, J. Gurr, Jim Harrington, J. Harris, D. Harris, F. Hays, Jim Hazelton, Hap Headlough, Dick Henry, Bobby Hillbert, John Hilliard, Bob Hinson, Lyle Holloway, Tim Holt, Dale Holzen, John Hovis*, John Hungerford*, R. Hunter, Tom Honeywill, Mike Jacobs, Ken Jenizek, Jerry Johnson, Walt Kapryan, Jim Kelley Elliot Kicklighter, Tom Kitchens, Chuck Kuhlman, Adrian Laffitte, J. Lewis, John Lundy, M. Lynch, John Mansur, Dom Martinelli*, Charley Mars, John Martin, Don Martin, Tom Martin, Billy Melton, Frank Merlino, J. Milby, Gary Miller, Jack Moline, Bob Moser, E. Munnell, Tom Munro, Darrel New, John Neilon, Ed O'Connor, Digger O'Dell, Al O'Hara, Rod Olson, Richard (Dick) Olson, T.J. O'malley, Max Peacock, Wayne Penley, Ron Phelps, Don Phillips, Andy Pickett, G. Pierce, Bob Pound, Gary Powers, D. Poye, Jim Pugh, J. Ralph, Orion Reed, Ernie Reyes, Ike Rigell, Ray Roberts, Dan Sarokan, Art Sawyer, Bill Schick, Dan Schmidt, Jim Schofield, Bob Seick, Gene Sestile, Ron Shane, Ken Shipe, Jim Shotwell, John Simms, Mac Slocum, Ed

Stephenson, Ken Stewart, J. Storms, D. Striby, Angelo Taiani, Tip Talone, R. Terhune, Roy Tharpe, Dennis Tharpe*, Gene Thomas, Dick Thornberg, Jim Towe, John Twigg, Frank Watkins, Tal Webb, Fritz Widick, Walt Yager, and Randy Youmans.

ADDITIONS: Eugene K. Bjerning *

(* Modified or added since publication)

From the President by Don Beck, President, MSRP, Inc.

The Pioneers do two programs a year for the membership, the Fall Gathering and the Spring Banquet. Attendees seem to universally enjoy these events which, by design, are informal and encourage interaction among the participants. It may come to pass that an additional event or two can be added to the calendar.

Your Board is currently wrestling with three related issues. **First**, we lose touch with many of our valued life members (mostly due to change of address). **Second**, the membership base is dwindling through the loss of members from Father Time. **Third**, many people who would enjoy being members do not think of themselves as Pioneers. In the strictest definition of the word, it may be argued that they are not. On the other hand, today's workforce and missile, space, and range supporters are destined to be tomorrow's pioneers.

The programming at our annual events presents a grand opportunity for these "youngsters" to be regaled with stories of the difficulties, the fun times, and the great successes experienced across the gamut of programs which have brought us to where we are today. Space is still the frontier. The explorers are still at it. They are tomorrow's pioneers—we would welcome them to our membership. Please spread the word!!

Spring Banquet Great Event

by Jerry Johnson, Vice President, MSRP, Inc.

The Missile Space and Range Pioneers' 2004 Spring Banquet was one of the best we have had. The Pioneers and their Guests were delighted with a scrumptious meal, fine beverages, and an outstanding member of academia as our Guest Speaker. The Patrick AFB Officers Club did it's usual outstanding job of delivering a wonderful meal that was served hot and was delicious.

Our guest speaker, Professor Bruce Herschensohn was very well received. Professor Herschensohn made motion pictures at the Cape for the Air Force, General Dynamics and NASA in the old, old days. He recounted his first trip to the Cape in 1957 for the first launch of an Atlas ICBM. He spoke of his experience in making films at the Cape to include the time he co-directed, edited, and composed the music for the NASA film, "Friendship Seven" regarding John Glenn's first orbital flight.

Professor Herschensohn's speech was very entertaining and thought provoking. He recounted experiences that he fondly remembers about Cape Canaveral and the local surroundings. His story of his almost disastrous encounter with an errant missile was appreciated by all the Pioneers. His insightful remembrances related to the challenges of media coverage of the space program in the early days was most interesting.

His rather somber and though provoking assessment of the current state of world affairs was very well received by all. He cautioned the audience that the current war on terror was a war that we must win. He spoke of the days in the future when life as we once knew it would again return. He cautioned, however, that would only happen if the United States was successful in winning the war on terror. He said that he longs for the days when air travel will again be enjoyable and the thought of a terrorist attack is but a distant memory. He believes that kind of society is a legacy that the current generation owes its children and grand children.

Professor Herschensohn's appearance on Andrea Shea King's morning radio program generated

a great deal of interest in the local community. So much so in fact that there were several new life memberships in the Pioneers as a direct result of Professor Herschensohn's appearance at the Banquet.

The Pioneers were very fortunate to have a Pioneer to join us at the 2004 Spring Banquet to share his perspective on the vital contributions made by Missile, Space and Range Pioneers everywhere. His credentials, forged by his first hand connection with the people and policies that led to the winning of the Cold War, coupled with his insight on world affairs today and his understanding of the impact of missile, space and range initiatives over the years, brought a unique perspective for the Spring Banquet attendee's listening pleasure.

Pioneers Background: The Missile, Range and Space Pioneers, Inc. were incorporated on 2 November 1966 "To provide an opportunity for the people who were involved in the early missile, range, and space activities at Cape Canaveral (Cape Kennedy) to socialize and renew old acquaintances". The faces may change but the social nature of the Pioneers remains the same. There are approximately 1,200 missile, range and space workers, former workers, and advocates on the rolls of the Pioneers.

Pioneer: A person who goes before, preparing the way for others.