



Missile, Space and Range Pioneers

Past, Present and Future

Today's Explorers - Tomorrow's Pioneers

APRIL 2004 EDITION

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Author and Film Pioneer

Speaker for the Spring Banquet

The 2004 Missile, Space and Range Pioneers Spring Banquet is scheduled for Friday, 30 April, 6:30 p.m., at the Patrick AFB Officers Club. Make your reservations today by sending your check for \$35 per person to:

Missile, Space & Range Pioneers

P.O. Box 254034, Patrick AFB, FL

32925-0034.

Dress is coat and tie for the gentleman Pioneers with comparable dress for the ladies. You are welcome to invite non-members to attend as your guests; however, **Mac McTaggart** says we are limited to the first 240 reservations so please respond quickly!

Guest Speaker

Bruce Herschensohn has been a television and radio political commentator for the last two decades. After service in the U.S. Air Force he began his own motion picture company and then was appointed Director of Motion Pictures and Television for the United States Information Agency. During his tenure the USIA received more awards for film and television productions than all other departments and agencies of the U.S. Government combined, including the Oscar from the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences. In 1969, he was selected as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men in the Federal Government. He received the second highest civilian award, the Distinguished Service Medal, and then became Deputy Special Assistant to President Nixon. He has traveled to over ninety countries of the world. Herschensohn taught "The U.S. Image Abroad" at the University of Maryland, occupied the Nixon Chair at Whittier College teaching "U.S. Foreign and Domestic Policies" and was Chairman of the Board of Pepperdine University. He was appointed a member of the Reagan Transition Team. Herschensohn was the 1992 Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate in California and was defeated while winning over one million votes more than the national ticket of the Party. He was a Fellow at the John F. Kennedy Institute of Politics at Harvard University for the Spring 1996 Semester teaching "U.S. Foreign Policy" and Distinguished Fellow of the Claremont Institute 1993-2001. He is currently teaching "The World Leadership Role of the United States" at Pepperdine University's School of Public Policy, and is a Non-Resident Associate Fellow of the Nixon Center for Peace and Freedom.

Bruce Herschensohn's books include "The Gods of Antenna" "Lost Trumpets" "Hawks Without

Computer Sciences Raytheon
Lockheed Martin Company
United Space Alliance

Wings, Doves Without Conscience” “The Last Time I Saw Hong Kong” “Hong Kong at the Handover” “Across the Taiwan Strait” and in 2003, a novel, “Passport.”

From the President by Don Beck

We are very fortunate to have a Pioneer to join us at the Spring Banquet to share his perspective on the vital contributions made by Missile, Space and Range Pioneers everywhere. **Bruce Herschenson** lectures on International Affairs at the prestigious **Pepperdine University**. His credentials have been forged by his first hand connection with the people and policies that led to the winning of the Cold War. His insight on world affairs today and the impact of missile, space and range initiatives over the years brings a unique perspective for your listening pleasure.

In a letter to the Pioneers, **Mr. Herschenson** writes, “I made motion pictures at the Cape for the Air Force, General Dynamics and NASA in the old, old days. My first trip to the Cape was in 1957 for the first launch of an Atlas ICBM. The making of films there continued through the time I co-directed, edited, and composed the music for the NASA film, “Friendship Seven” regarding John Glenn’s first orbital flight.

In my most recent book, “Passport” a novel which has just been published and is out now, I refer to the Cape often and even to the Pioneers. Most of the material on the Cape is in Chapter 12 called “The Pads of Cocoa Beach” and Chapter 82 called “1997 in a Hurry.”

Since our last newsletter, we now have a web site and owe a debt of gratitude to **Tom McKeever** (Apollo, Skylab, MOL, Shuttle, and Space Station). Tom is the owner of the site and has graciously provided the domain names for the exclusive use of the Pioneers. If you have not visited it yet, please do so via either **www.rangepioneers.org**, **www.missileers.org**, **www.missilepaceandrangepioneers.org**, **www.or spacepioneers.org**, Tom is the developer and maintainer. His email is t-mck@earthlink.net.

There is a membership application on the web site. One of our goals is to grow the membership. This can best be done through the efforts of our current members! We have gotten several pioneer stories and would love to have more. Just email your favorite to me at zsifter@aol.com. The intent is to eventually post them on the web site.

Please send your email address to zsifter@aol.com and we will communicate worthy information when it comes our way!

Tales of the Pioneers

[\(Tales Archive Page\)](#)

By Arch Smith

In front of the Tech Lab at Patrick Air Force Base there is a small monument which contains a time capsule. It was placed there in 1976 (bicentennial year) to be opened in 2075 (our tri-centennial year).

When this monument was dedicated, Gen Hartung made a speech as did several other wheels. They spoke of the grand and great things the Air Force had accomplished. Certain things had been selected by a committee to be encased in the capsule. These articles were turned over to the Public

Information Office to be cataloged and packed. The work of packing was delegated to MSgt. Art Hicks.

I contacted Art and told him I wanted him to put something in the capsule and not to say no till he had looked at it. A few days later I made the trip from the Cape to PAFB and handed Art a small Stainless steel container about the size of a peanut butter jar and ask him to open it. When he unscrewed the lid two toy spring snakes jumped out. Art almost turned over in his chair.. It took about twenty minutes to repack the snakes and attach a note to one of them that read "We had a sense of humor in our time. We hope you have one also."

Art packed the container only after making me swear I would not tell anyone until after he retired. I'm not sure what kind of nerves people will have in 2075 but if I opened something that had been sealed one hundred years and two snakes jumped out.....I would probably have to change my under clothes. (Art passed away in February 2004)

By Bill Breyer

Between the Apollo 12 (November 14-24, 1969) and Apollo 13 (April 11 - 17, 1970) time frame, still a Launch Systems Safety Supervisor for the Boeing Atlantic Test Center (BATC) at Kennedy Space Center, I happened to enter the bar one night at the now extinct Cape Hilton in Cape Canaveral after a late night shift at KSC . Not many patrons were there except for a small group of 3 - 4 people at the opposite end of the bar. After a short time most of those people left, leaving one man sitting at the bar. I looked down at that sole individual and my jaw nearly contacted my scotch 'n water glass.....it was Alan Shepard! I asked the bartender what he was drinking and he said it was Wild Turkey. I bought Alan a drink; he invited me down to his end of the bar I had the most delightful talk with the USA's first man in Space.

"Fast forward" now to after the Apollo #14 flight during the January 31 - February 9, 1971 time frame with Alan, Stu Roosa and Ed Mitchell. The Apollo #14 crew came back to KSC for a "thank you" ceremony for the NASA/Contractor Launch teams at the eastward end of the VAB's High Bay. Walter "Kappy" Kapryan was KSC's Director of Launch Operations at the time and announced during this ceremony that, as the Apollo astronauts walked down the VAB's transfer aisle shaking hands and thanking everybody, that they would not sign any autographs.

I was an avid autograph collector at the time and Kappy's announcement was somewhat of a disappointment. Holding the latest copy of the KSC Bulletin on a clipboard for Alan's signature, I had to quickly come up with an alternate plan to get his signature.

As he approached my side of the transfer aisle I handed him the clipboard and asked for his autograph. He respectfully declined repeating Kappy's previous instructions. As he was walking away after shaking my hand, I blurted out ".....well, if your not going to give me your autograph, I guess I'll never buy you another Wild Turkey!!" He spun around, came back, and asked me with a huge smile on his face who I was and how did I know about his affinity for Wild Turkey. Of course.....I told him. He sign that KSC bulletin for me then leaving me absolutely stunned!!

I still have that KSC Bulletin and cherish it to this very day. It'll be my daughter's.....someday!

By Paul Waite

The test program had advanced to the point where we were launching Snark, subsonic intercontinental range missiles with a stellar-supervised inertial guidance system. As the downrange flight arrived near Antigua, the inertial system was turned off, the radio command system activated in order to turn the vehicle around and fly it back uprange and land it on the Cape's skid strip. On one particular mission, we were unable to take radio control and the command destruct system didn't work. I was in the blockhouse at the time and there were frantic calls made to the State Department and Air Force agencies. Attempts were made to scramble jet fighters from Puerto Rico and the Canal Zone, but it was too late. The Snark flew until it ran out

of fuel and likely crashed in a South American jungle. To my knowledge, it was never found.

Our data analysis revealed that a power bus failure affected both the command and control and the destruct systems. We did not fly again until the electrical system was redesigned to include a redundant power bus.

Banquet Reservations Form

_____ Reservations at \$35 each

_____ Annual \$10 Membership

Check enclosed for \$_____

Name(s): _____

Mail check to:

Missile, Space & Range Pioneers, P.O. Box 254034

Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0034

Pioneers Background: The Missile, Range and Space Pioneers, Inc. was 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.