

# Huntsville Retirees Gazette



*Huntsville Chapter TRA • The Retirees Association • Second Tuesday • 11:30 • Red Lobster*

March 10 2020, 1130 DST is our next luncheon Tuesday come join us at Red Lobster (good!)

Fourteen attended in February and we saluted Tom Turner's recovery, now with hair, with a group photo by Dr Arlo that is scheduled to appear in the next national TRA No-Name Gazette newsletter with a circulation of around 2000.

ATTENDEES: Walton Harless, Debbie Teal, David Hale, Tom Turner, Arloe Mayne, Libby Jarvinen, Phil Bergstresser, Ron Williams, Jesse Teal, Steve Cecil, Jim Troy, Bill Jarvinen, Bob Wooster, Bob Jones..

## REMEMBERING

We learned for certain our good friend John Southern did in fact pass away following his last difficult for him meeting with us around a year ago, had no way of confirming this before. This is very sad. After retirement from TRW John led the Alabama Ratite Association to build an Emu raising industry in Alabama seemingly an ideal fit, I guess did not work out.

HEARD FROM Bob Hoffman, doing pretty well in lower Florida says hello and he still maintains our Huntsville web site that still gets hits which we count. This has some retirement contacts and information links.

## HUNTSVILLE ROCKETS AGAIN

Is a six-way finalist on where to locate the headquarters of the new Space Force, the Air Force insisting otherwise we shall see. The decision is not expected until after the November election.

-A large hotel-shops construction effort has begun next to Mem. Parkway and Clinton Avenue near the downtown post office and Spring Hill Suites behind the Von Braun Center. An optional concept not sure if included, a "city hood ornament" suspension walking bridge on large curved supports that goes from that location to the Lowe Mill. Not sure if included.

-You may have realized or not, this surprise to me, behind the South Parkway Wall Mart is a huge neighborhood of nice homes, thousands? Of them and new avenues and shops another city where did it come from? Right now very few centrally located homes are for sale and prices are climbing, lots of tear-downs and totally new homes built at central-hoods. Many new homes are available further out and new apartments galore. A new multiple stage senior residence of size is completing on Whitesburg south of Drake on the old Fleming estate using that name.

-NEW MARS THEATRE at VBC: What is it? - a very wide room and wide stage with great acoustics due to curved shapes on the ceiling, which also carries long light fixture structures, there are no permanent chairs (folding) is multi-purposed and with a very shallow balcony around the perimeter. Last night a HSV Airport appreciation party was packed, great music and dancing open "Mars?" bars. I attended a similar lay out at an OpryLand Complex seems to work fine a different concept.

-HOTELS and VBC venues as well as the Space Center giant banquet operation (serve around 1000) are growing in some coordination and balance to meet larger and larger conventions and national conferences. You'll see new hotels going up everywhere to match visitor growth and Huntsville Airport is growing more popular and was remodeled. A very good percentage of

Space Center visitors mention they are from overseas telling me this is a well-known US destination.

-CRAFT WHISKEY- Is a recent trend, well, recent plus time it took to age. Two sources, Straight-to-Ale makes some and a fellow at Lowe Mill, both tasty. Of course two other hooch makers rather locally and not in Bourbon County, KY, therefore “sour mash” or “bourbon” are called Jack Daniels and George Dickel (my drink) (at least until after breakfast). I understand tastes are now offered legally at their distilleries (for a price) the Jack tour very popular at more central Lynchburg. Straight to Ale have some tasty sandwiches and light eating at their hoochery in the extremely popular Stone Jr High School complex of many, many bars, wineries, now distillery’s and music and game joints. Try to find a parking place. This is a giant mixed metaphor but do take in the Stone Jr High city dedication plaques and hallway basketball trophies. Down the street less insane Stove House rhymes with Stone, but was a former factory for making stoves on Governor’s Drive now more restaurants, bars, entertainment.

RESTAURANT CLOSURE: Bar Louie, Bridge Street. Goodbye Louie I tried.

SPACE LAB IS ALIVE sort of

The real I think Space Lab many of us worked on, with a mock portion of an “Endeavor Space Shuttle” attached is now located at the US Space and Rocket Center, but not that you can easily see. But I did so and was thrilled to visit. I, and some NASA retired high level guys, are trying to determine how this can be displayed to the public, it is currently owned and maybe used by the Space Camp division and located in one of their training buildings – where they train hundreds of students regularly and all year (at around \$1700 a week) perhaps 150 last Monday.

This would make a really wonderful display at the Saturn V Hall next to Sky Lab that you can see free on a Thursday night visits to Biergarten night dinner now open again. The Space Lab, a Shuttle insert showing here this connection, takes up lots of room so not an easy thing to display but quite fun I thought, sneaking my way to where it is. If anyone wants to see this combined with your paid visit to the Space Center, I might try to arrange a special sub tour to this area but it’s behind fences. More pictures on request. One photo is sideways here sorry.

There are old buttons and controls but more modern color displays and videos it appears. Old screens are impossible to maintain. The Lab looks quite original and a bit ancient, fun to see, finally for me. You can walk inside and all through it. If you can get there.

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Below: Interior shot shown sideways floor -> There are cots in the forward tube.

