

Huntsville Retirees Gazette



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

3 May, 2020, Please join us eventually on a second Tuesday of some month when we're beyond this. Hope all are well. And not too bored. Power went out a while Sunday from a sudden storm and I had to redo this having no copy yet shucks.

MAY LUNCHEON? I don't see how to do a luncheon yet, you can take out meals but to where? Sitting together and chatting is the whole point not with two meter separations. Unless someone has a better idea (let me know) it seems premature to resume, the epidemic is still near the top of a slope. Meanwhile hope to see you NEXT time Tuesday June 9.

On this May date, let us raise our cup of hooch in salute to everyone's health a week from Tuesday, May 12, say at salute time 5 PM? Skoal and all that. Seems odd they don't even serve alcohol say at Cracker Barrel but the patrons are all spaced out! Have a drink on me whoops. Let's all get spaced out! With our masks, making out like bandits?

NEED ANYTHING? Again, Let me know if you need something.

ODD THING: a 2003 episode of Law and Order shown last week, depicts a murderous injection by a perp, of "corona virus from China." I guess an earlier version. Then I watched 2001 Space Odyssey they don't have color TV yet? Earth in space is missing its blue, but at least they spared us sounds and explosions in airless space. It shows computers can get cantankerous go figure.

MEMBER NEWS * Jim Lawson suddenly improved reports Claudia from Pensacola, from quiet to talking again, she can chat with him even on the phone I believe with short term memory discussions but a huge improvement from the last year. Jim suffered two strokes about two years ago and is in a nursing home. * A co-worker Lois Akin passed away, 77, on April 13. Could find no services information perhaps out of town.

ELECTIONS * A Republican run-off election will occur early July, requires I think advanced online or writing for the absentee ballot. It says requires two witness signatures and addresses then mail it in. There is no "virus" reason so check *elderly ill* instead. *The Democratic primary in NY state was cancelled, Mr. Sanders complained. The Democratic convention will occur from July 13, and Mr. Biden does not yet have the necessary 2/3 delegates so this process will occur. The Republican convention is the following week.

AROUND HUNTSVILLE Looking around at neighborhoods for downsizing, I find – my goodness there's lots of new very large neighborhoods what growth! County parks I passed were closed, the city walking trails open and very highly used, almost crowded and including many bikes, even weekdays. Space enough I guess. I went for some walks myself and was surprised to learn, I felt better! Who knew? A well-kept secret.

FUNNY STUFF Ms Libby reports, calling Optimum RX for refills this week heard what sounded like chickens in the background. Asking further, the service person is in the Philippines and in fact that was her rooster in the background. I was thinking myself of phone servicing as a job but afraid about in my case about the noisy hogs.

FINALLY See you in June 9 I guess.. By the way send in your census if not yet. It's pretty easy and fast. Don't be a no-count. Send in more than one to make our town seem larger!

LOTS IN SPACE * Groups of Visible satellites seen, *First American Transports of Astronauts to the Space Station, * Moon Lander Awards * SLS Extension

- This week a **salvo of visible satellites** passed in a line over Alabama and this shall repeat, as Elon Musk's SpaceX launched 60 satellites at once, twice so far. They have approved plans for many more, 12,000 planned! This would pretty much cover the sky in moving white dots, amazing but protests are growing. The purpose is/was: to provide additional Internet coverage, and for other commercial, and world nation communications. These groups of satellites in low earth orbit (LEO in the biz) are boosted higher after launch and to compensate for occasional O2 and N atoms drifting up from the atmosphere using ion motors to raise their altitudes some. In 2-3 years each old satellite to be disintegrated by repointing the ion motors to send them down to burn up before parts can reach the earth. Meanwhile this is a spectacular show with swarms of new stars in the sky and yet a new kind of pollution.

- NASA approved SpaceX as a **transporter of humans with the Space Station** and the first flight is scheduled from Cape Kennedy, this month, May 27, with next-day delivery. Since we discontinued our Space Shuttle in 2011 the Russians have been shuttling our astronauts (from their Federation) at a cost of (sit down) 70+ million dollars per seat, per trip. Non-Russian or American astronauts have stayed home.

Boeing, a competitor for human space transport has not yet an approved vehicle.

-The powerful **SLS** (replacement for Saturn V) big rocket, not yet test flown, continues in production planned to take women and men to the moon by 2024, and later to Mars. This work is being done by the Boeing Company of Huntsville, at Huntsville NASA Marshall facilities at Michoud (me-shoe) at New Orleans, and with testing at Stennis Center in MS and here in Huntsville now well underway. These facilities and the Cape, are all connected by waterways, busy transporting these huge assemblies around including to Huntsville's deep water Redstone river port at an elevation of 620 feet.

- **May 1** NASA just awarded the manufacture of **18 additional SLS** rockets to Aerojet-Rocketdyne

` NASA also selected three companies/groups to design and develop **Human Landing Systems** for the Artemis moon and Mars programs. The three groups are roll of drums, Dynetics of Huntsville, SpaceX, and Blue Horizons which is a group of Lockheed Martin, NORTROP-GRUMMAN and Draper Labs research foundation of Huntsville

All of the companies listed have facilities in Huntsville. I hope this is all correct. If not, call me Alabama. (*You're Alabama*).