

Huntsville Retirees Gazette



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

Greetings Retirees and Friends

>>>Today is Larry Marker's birthday I hear (lrmarker@bellsouth.net)

Two events -next- week Oct 8 and 10

Regular luncheon next **Tuesday/8** at -Red Lobster 11:30-, on University Drive. No RSVP necessary. If you have not attended in a while, or ever, no problemo just walk right in and sit right down. We are usually seated to the right of the entry in the front. Or ask "retirees luncheon?" if we are hidden away.

Event 2. We shall also meet for **dinner** 2 days later next week, at the Space and Rocket Center Davdson Hall, come anytime from 4:30 PM **Thursday/10** they serve until about 7+ PM. I shall come way ahead to mark two adjacent tables hopefully about $\frac{1}{4}$ the way in from entrance. Live music and dancing occurs at the far end but is hard to talk over and you can wonder about see V2, SLS model, rockets galore, space capsules, Sky Lab insides, and other great displays no entry fee for this.

Location: Large west side building Saturn V Hall (Davidson) to the right of the tall rocket. Enter left side of building. Once inside there is a hidden elevator to the right corner of the curved staircase to use instead. Call me Alabama, if you have a question Jimmylou, 850 797-0044. (did you notice? some lawyers have their name painted backwards on the fronts of their cars so they can better chase..... no offense intended.

-No RSVP is necessary now that I see we have enough for more than 1 round table i shall put NGC Retirees signs on two adjacent tables toward the center of the room as can.

- When you find your seating and wish to go elsewhere your place will be saved if you

- tip your chair against the table to show your places are taken.-

- Dinner buffet (located near the center) is \$ 15 each, with some partial meal options, a cash pay line is fast however rarely is there much of a line even with hundreds attending this weekly dinner. \$15 includes a 12 oz soft drink and a ticket for a world class outstanding dessert not kidding. Bier and wine are available on both sides extra -not- at happy hour prices.

Some FACTROIDS:

- No Saturn rocket has flown since 1973. The huge Saturn V overhead in its hall is real rocket that was once fired for a test. I shall light it again upon request bring ear plugs. The vertical Saturn outdoors seen all over town is a mock up needed during the design phase, not real.

- The forthcoming better SLS rocket scheduled to the moon and later to Mars, is under construction and testing now here at Huntsville Marshall and at Marshall sub locations Stennis in south MS near New Orleans and at Michoud NASA facility in NOLA (me shoe). Giant assemblies ship by water between locations and to the launch pad assembly area.

More about the dinner and Space Center

If you wish to come to the Center early to see the museum, come very early there's a lot. It is expensive \$25 over 13, under 13 5-12 \$17. There are various "plans." The planetarium (\$10, doesn't require museum cost and is now open also Friday nights) and wonderful! 3D Apollo 7 experience is extra (\$10). A tour of Marshall - Redstone (\$20, museum cost not required) is recommended perhaps on a different day - with glimpse of FBI Center, and a visit to the Space Station Ground Station for Science (HOSC) through glass, and great tour guides, is a mid-day separate experience from 12 to 3 PM+ priced separately. The gift shop is free entry with tons of great gifts. Approximately 2000 people attend the Space Center daily on average. Center number is 1 800 637-7223.

Also different topics

Reminder: Minimum IRS Withdrawal before December 31 is required for some. 50%? penalty.

Frequent Question. Why was -Huntsville- chosen for rocketry and the home for the Von Braun group?

Answer: mostly because it is deep water port, and also this large government land area was vacant and available then with some isolation. It was promoted by Senator Sparkman of Huntsville.

Other growth followed due to: the large collection of engineers and PhDs, use of rockets in many Army weapons, promotion of locations by the state, rail and air freight center, low taxes, high quality employee performances, year-around golf.

See you Tuesday, and Thursday again.