



the Blastoff



Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Space Center
P. O. Box 58862, Houston, Texas 77058
Meetings Monday Noon at Bay Oaks Country Club
14545 Bay Oaks Blvd., Clear Lake City
Phone: 281.488.7888 * Chartered 1964
Volume 46 : Number 37 * May 5, 2008

Happy Cinco de Mayo!

Programs:

Today..... Excellence in Education Awards
May 12..... High School Aerospace Scholars
May 19..... Rotary Youth Exchange
May 26..... Memorial Day, No Meeting
June 02..... PE, Gary Johnson -- Shrimporee 2008
June 09..... Public Service Recognition Awards — EMTs
June 16. . Jay Wall / Crime in Houston and what to do about it.
June 23. Year end directors' reports
June 30..... Pres. Dick– Remarks & Awards
Installation of Officers & Directors fo 2008-2009

Say Happy Birthday to —

David Coney.	May 04th
Alan Wylie.....	May 10th
Tom Kloves.	May 10th
Bob Wren.....	May 12th
Jim Hargrove.	May 12th
Luciano Gaigher.....	May 14th
Carlos Villagomez.	May 20th
Geoff Atwater.	May 20th

Events Calendar

- Club Board of Directors 3rd Tues @ 7 a.m.
- Endowment Foundation Board of Trustees
- 2nd Tues @ 7 a.m.
- Rotary Foundation Comm. . . last Wed @ 7 a.m.
- Springoree. May 8
- Texas Roadhouse Golf Tournament
- Monday, June 30 @ Bay Oaks CC
- RI Convention, Los Angeles. . . June 15-18 '08

SCRC Fellowships 6:30 p.m.

May 06..... Chelsea Café 4106 NASA Pkwy
June 3..... Bay Oaks Country Club Pool Party,
Bring Grandchildren

Reservations required. Email Roger Donnelly
Ridonnely@aol.com



When: Thursday May 8th @ 6:30 p.m.
Where: Bailey's American Grill
2320 NASA Pkwy., Seabrook
What: VIP Event
Silent & Live Auctions
Dinner
Live Music by Jando
Connoisseur Club — Select wine
tasting from the wine cellar of
Mike & Rosie Hesse
Tickets: Event — \$100 per person
Connoisseur Club \$100 per ticket
Dress: Smart Casual



The Rotary National Award For Space Achievement Award Dinner 2008

Held on April 25th at the Hyatt Regency Houston, this event continues to surpass previous years. It is certainly the premier space achievement recognition event in the world. It was founded in the 1980s by SCRC at the suggestion of Owen Morris and captained for many years by Charles Hartman. Members of SCRC should be very proud to be associated with this event. Following is a press release.

Rotary National Award for Space Achievement Winners Recognized

The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (RNASA) Foundation presented Apollo astronaut and former Navy Captain **Eugene Cernan** with the 2008 National Space Trophy at their annual gala held April 25, 2008 at the Houston Hyatt Regency.

RNASA President, **Rodolfo González** welcomed more than 800 people in attendance. **Miles O'Brien** of CNN served as emcee. The **Clear Lake High School Army JROTC** provided an all-female Color Guard, and the talented **Shari Wilkins** performed the National Anthem, and **Space City Films** supplied three stunning video tributes as part of a production described as the Academy Awards of Space.

Tom Short, president of Anadarko Industries, presented the Trophy to Capt. Cernan, the last man to walk on the Moon. Cernan said he was honored to join the distinguished group of Trophy winners that included former President Bush, flight director Dr. Christopher Kraft, Jr., and his commander from Gemini 9 and Apollo 10, Tom Stafford. He thanked artist **Pat Rawlings** for his portrait which adorned the cover of the program book and will be displayed with the National Space Trophy at Space Center Houston. Cernan said that when he stood on the Moon, he stood on the shoulders of the “giants” of the Apollo program, managers such as Kraft and Owen Morris (both at the banquet), and challenged the young aerospace workers in attendance to “be the new Krafts and Morris’s—become the new giants.”

Also recognized at the gala was renowned astrophysicist **Neil deGrasse Tyson**, PhD, who was presented the 2008 Space Communicator Award by RNASA Advisor **Jeffrey Carr**. Tyson noted that most people have no idea that NASA receives only 0.6 percent of the federal budget, and suggested to lively applause that perhaps NASA should be funded at the 10 to 20 percent level that people think it receives. He noted that the top 25 percent of Chinese students outnumber the entire population of the United States, and that the tallest building, and longest bridges and other signs of technical leadership are no longer found in the United States. “We are coasting,” he said. He said that current plans to send people to the Moon and Mars will inspire a new generation of scientists. “Going some place where people have never been before—that’s the frontier.”

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of Stellar Awards by astronauts **Suni Williams** and **Leland Melvin**. Winners were selected by **Arnold Aldrich**, **Dr. Christopher Kraft, Jr.**, and **Dr. Glynn Lunney** based on which accomplishments hold the greatest promise for furthering future activities in space. They choose 18 individuals and seven teams from 131 nominations received from NASA, the military, and industry leaders in the space program.

Suni Williams, who currently holds the record for time spent in space by a woman, said, “As an astronaut, I know first hand that the safety and success of our missions are due to the exceptional people who go above and beyond what is required to make them that way. The Stellar nominees here tonight truly represent the best in our nation’s space program.”

Leland Melvin, who flew on STS-122 in February, added, “As we are all aware, it takes the dedication and effort of thousands to get us into space, and these nominees represent the best of our best. Without the contributions of all the folks involved in the space program, and particularly the stellar nominees we honor tonight, it would be impossible to ensure a strong space program for our future.”

Five Stellar Awards were presented in the 2008 Early Career category that is for individuals up to age 35. The winners are:

- ★ **1st Lt. Anna E. Gunn-Golkin of the USAF, 1st Air and Space Test Squadron** - Outstanding contributions to space material sciences, Missile Defense Agency development efforts, and community programs supporting space and aerospace education.
- ★ **Maj. David J. Laird of the USAF, 45th Space Wing, 45th Launch Support Squadron** - Outstanding contributions to enabling technologies for future space capabilities including communications and responsive space, and contributions to mission assurance for current spacecraft and space lift campaigns.
- ★ **Thomas N. Martin III of Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne** - Outstanding contributions to the design, development and testing of space flight injector and ignition systems.
- ★ **Paul Albert Parker of The Boeing Company** - Exemplary contributions as lead orbiter debris analyst, ensuring shuttle thermal protection system structural integrity for Earth entry.
- ★ **Jessica A. Stuart of Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne** - Leadership and technical excellence in enabling safe flight for the Delta II RS-27 engine and the Delta IV RS-68 engine.

Seven Stellar Awards were presented in the Middle-Career category in 2008 that is for ages 36-50. The winners are:

- ★ **Michael P. Gordon of The Boeing Company** - Outstanding leadership of the orbiter leading-edge structural subsystem technical community, consistently demonstrating dedication, skill, and expertise.
- ★ **Derek J. Hassmann of NASA Johnson Space Center** - Exceptional professionalism, outstanding leadership and technical expertise in the preparation and execution of complex International Space Station assembly mission operations. Not present.
- ★ **Mark E. Mulqueen of The Boeing Company** - Exceptional leadership and technical development of the International Space Station external truss elements and successful and sustained operation of the ISS.
- ★ **Dale B. Nielsen of ATK Launch Systems** - Exceptional knowledge, personal dedication and outstanding technical accomplishments in resolving loads and structural challenges for the space launch community.
- ★ **Jeffery P. Pilet of the Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company** - Outstanding technical achievement in design, development, demonstration and verification of space shuttle external tank return-to-flight changes.
- ★ **Robert R. Romanofsky of NASA Glenn Research Center** - Innovative technology contributions in the research and development of novel microwave devices and systems in support of NASA's space communications programs.
- ★ **Jeffrey S. Welsh of the USAF, Air Force Research Laboratory Space Vehicles Directorate** - Exceptional contributions toward improving space access for experiments and demonstrations, and for increasing the understanding of failure mechanisms in composite materials.

Six Stellar Awards were presented in the Late-Career category in 2008 that is for ages over 50. The Late-Career winners are:

- ★ **Stephen M. Francois of NASA Kennedy Space Center** - More than 30 years of outstanding technical leadership of NASA’s unmanned launch services, guaranteeing access to space for the delivery of on-time, on-cost, and on-orbit launch assets.
- ★ **David B. Harris of NASA Johnson Space Center** - For exceptional leadership in propulsion systems testing and facilities management.
- ★ **Paul Kharmats of Tech Trans International** - Outstanding program knowledge, skill as an international communicator, and dedication to promoting cooperation between the U.S. and its International Space Station (ISS)

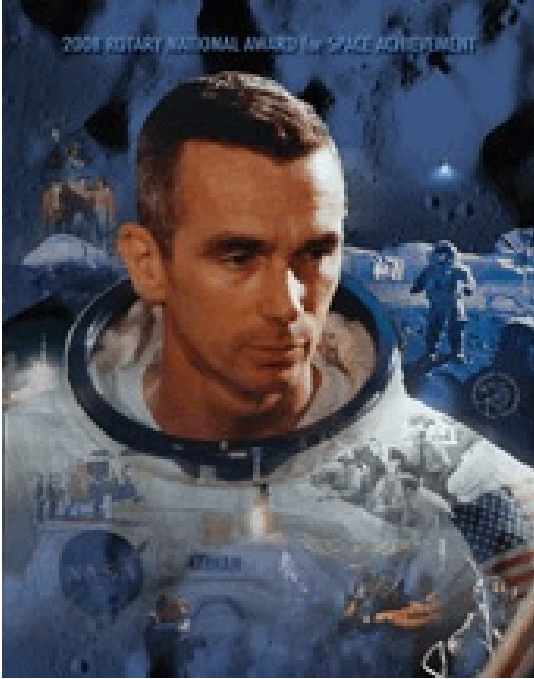
partners; ensuring safe collaborations in space, and enabling NASA to succeed as lead integrator for the ISS Program. Mr. Kharmats was in Russia during the event, so Tech Trans President Beth Williams accepted on his behalf.

- ★ **Charles R. Knarr of United Space Alliance** - Outstanding leadership, dedication, and professionalism, providing 27 years of technical and organizational achievements and innovative contributions for space shuttle and ISS flight and mission operations.
 - ★ **James D. Milhoan of MEI Technologies, Inc.** - Excellence in and dedication to NASA human space flight programs in the area of thermal protection system development and testing.
 - ★ **Peggy E. Thomas of The Boeing Company** - Outstanding service to human space flight throughout a career dedicated to leading development and maintenance of high-quality software for mission control and for the International Space Station.
- Seven Stellar Awards were presented in the Team category in 2008. The winners are:
- ★ **Cloudsat Project Team of NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory** - Exceptional achievement by an international joint government, university and industry team in conceiving, designing, developing, and launching the CloudSat spacecraft that provides unprecedented three-dimensional perspective of Earth's clouds to answer questions about; how they form; evolve; and affect the weather, climate and fresh water supply. Award accepted by Deborah G. Vane.
 - ★ **External Tank-124 Hail Damage Repair Team of Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company** - Outstanding team achievement on the repair of the space shuttle's external tank (ET-124) hail damage. Award accepted by James J. Feeley.
 - ★ **Impact Test Facility Development Team of NASA Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC)** - Superior efforts in expanding impact test capabilities to provide NASA/MSFC with the most versatile impact test facility in the county. Award accepted by Charles A. Finchum.
 - ★ **Integrated Solar Array Constraints Working Group of Booz Allen Hamilton** - Exceptional support to NASA Mission Control by creating and maintaining a matrix of tradeoffs between International Space Station (ISS) solar power generation capability and associated loads concerns, contamination issues, and operational feasibility for the arrays in both normal and contingency operations. Award accepted by Daniel J. Sweeney.
 - ★ **ISS Flight Control Command and Control Release 6 Software Upgrade Team of NASA Johnson Space Center** - Successful on-orbit uplink of the International Space Station Command and Control Software Release 6 paving the way for the addition of the Node 2, Columbus, and Japanese Experiment Module (JEM). Award accepted by Colin Peterson.
 - ★ **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) H-II Transfer Vehicle (HTV) Team of ARES Corporation** - Outstanding leadership of the NASA effort to integrate the JAXA HTV into the International Space Station, including extensive work with international partners to drive the project toward a historic launch and berthing. Award accepted by Joel S. Liebman.
 - ★ **Wing Leading Edge Impact Detection System Team of the Engineering and Science Contract** - Exceptional dedication, teamwork, and technical excellence in certifying, implementing, improving, and monitoring the wing leading edge impact detection system. Award accepted by Harriett Lewis of Jacobs Engineering.

Photos of all program participants, Cernan's portrait, and more detailed profiles of the major award winners are available on the Web site: <http://www.nasa.org/press>. Additional photos of attendees are available upon request to Marianne Dyson, admin@nasa.org.

See more pics on the next page.



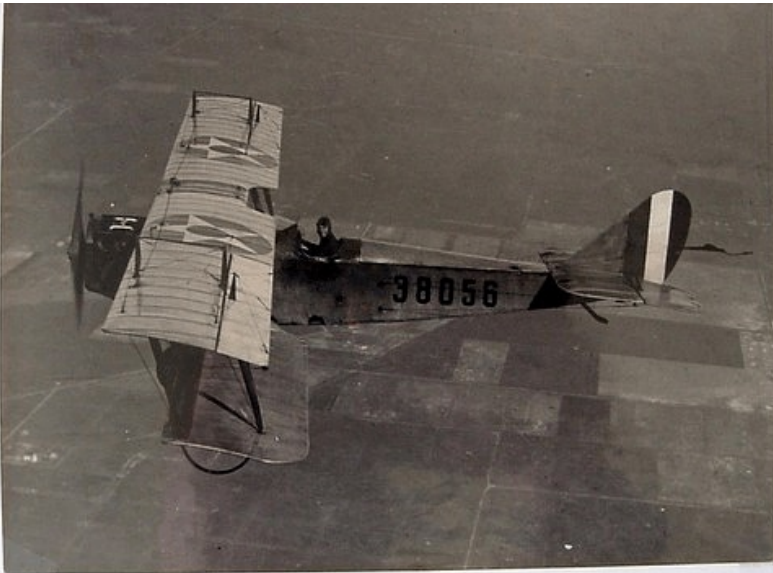


Our guests and program on April 28th were the GSE Team — France.



Photos by Bob Mitchell.





JN2 over Ellington Field, Texas
1918

Attention Space Center Rotarians

The District 5890 Conference 2009 will be held in Lake Charles, LA. Mark your calendars now for a good time & lots of Rotary Fellowship, particularly those of you who are new to Rotary. This is a terrific opportunity to make new Rotary friends and really become a Rotarian.

That's all for this issue. Do you wish there were more member bios? Yes. So do I. Email yours & I will publish it. Let others get to know you better.