

---

# GARA News

---

Volume 37, Issue 3

August 2023

---

## From the President

Junaid Razvi



Dear Colleagues –

I trust all of you are having a good year, enjoyed the Spring poppy and Super wildflower bloom season, and while our early summer was a bit cool and cloudy, we are back to sunshine and warm – even hot - temperatures with beautiful evenings, which I hope all of you are enjoying.

Our all-volunteer GARA Board of Directors continues to meet quarterly in-person to plan the year's events and conduct the business of the organization. It has not been easy given the continued inflationary pressures, but we are striving to continue our normal in-person event schedule without a significant cost impact to GARA's balance sheet as well as our members' pocketbooks. We had a small but enthusiastic gathering for our summer luncheon speaker series at a new location, The Royal India, and we will consider going back there for a future event. This event featured a GA executive to discuss the enterprise's continuing role in the development of nuclear fusion, an activity at GA that originated in the pioneering fusion work of Tihro Okhawa in the 1960s. You can find the presentation and a video on the GARA website [GeneralAtomsRetirees.org](http://GeneralAtomsRetirees.org)

Continuing our luncheon series for the year, we are planning to invite speakers who can speak to happenings, events and history of the beautiful city and county we call home. Please see additional details in this newsletter, and watch for additional details on our website.

With inflationary pressures continuing to be front and center, the Board strives hard to find reasonably priced

locations suitable for our use. We appreciate all of your continued support by staying current with yearly dues and attending our meetings. I encourage those that are not current with their dues, to do so. Please also encourage other retired, recently retired and current qualifying employees to join. Despite continuing inflationary pressures, we are going to hold our dues at \$15/year as long as we can.

We also encourage both long standing and new members to consider stepping forward and volunteer to serve on the GARA Board. New blood and ideas are always welcome! Please do not hesitate to contact us via our new [website](http://website). I look forward to seeing many more of you at our Fall luncheon meeting.

*Continued on page 2*

### GA Retirees Association, Inc.

[www.generalatomicsretirees.org](http://www.generalatomicsretirees.org)

email: [contact@GeneralAtomsRetirees.org](mailto:contact@GeneralAtomsRetirees.org)

**President: Junaid Razvi**

619 646 2140

**Vice President: Jim Zgliczynski**

619 237 9812

**Treasurer: Niles Johanson**

858 752 4327

**Secretary: Pat Simmons**

858 748 4569

**Membership Chair: Liz Drees**

858 945 2942

**Social Chair: Nancy Hitchcox**

858 335 4839

**Newsletter Editor: Meera Venkatesh**

858 283 9612

**Webmaster: Tom Tasker**

858 369 0671

**Members at Large:**

Al Zimmer

619 475 0153

Karen Schultz

760 436 2342

Carmelo Rodriguez

619 475 0153

Venky Venkatesh

858 283 9610

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### *August 30th Luncheon* *See attached notice*

*Continued "From the President" article in page 1*  
**From The Treasurer**

GARA can now accept bank to bank transfers using Zelle® for Membership Dues as well as payments to attend GARA events, or you may continue to pay via checks payable to GARA.

- ☐ Check Payable to: **GA Retirees Association** and mail to: (Check No.\_\_\_\_)  
*Niles Johanson, Treasurer, 6083 Via Regla,  
San Diego, CA 92122 (Dues)*
- ☐ *Nancy Hitchcox, Social Chair, 12302 Old Stone  
Road, Poway, CA 92064 (Luncheons)*

**Zelle Bank Transfer Instructions:** Most major banks now offer this bank-to-bank money transfer mechanism via their websites and their mobile apps. While the specific menus for using Zelle could vary from bank to bank, typical procedures are:

1. Sign in to your on-line bank account
2. Select the option of "Transfer & Pay" (banks may call this differently, e.g. "QuickPay").
3. Chose the option of "Send Money with Zelle" or "Pay with Zelle" (or similar), if available
4. Add a new recipient using the above e-mail address
5. Review and confirm the e-mail address above is correctly entered
6. Select "Send".

Once the Zelle feature is set up with your bank and GARA as a recipient, please send payments to us directly from/to your bank account. This process sets you up to send/receive payments from any sender using your email or mobile phone number).

### **June 14 2023 Luncheon – GA Fusion in the News**

Our June 2023 luncheon, was attended by a bit smaller than usual – but enthusiastic audience on a topic near and dear to most of the retirees – GA's Fusion Program.

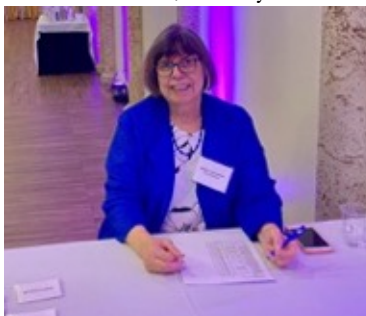
Here are some of the pictures of your colleagues and friends.



Ken Dawson



Dave Hanson, Venky Venkatesh



Nancy Hitchcox



Dan and Jane Goodin



Carol Riley, Beverly Lloyd,  
Katherine Partain, Hedy Kleinsorge



Tom Tasker, Roger Schlicht,  
Carmelo Rodriguez



Nick Platis, Patricia Spire



Meera Venkatesh, Junaid Razvi,  
Harlan Horner, Frederick Dahms, Frank Warner



Susan and Jim Zgliczynski

### June 14 2023 - Luncheon Speaker Dr. Anantha Krishnan

Our spring luncheon was held June 14 at the Royal India restaurant. Food was family style Indian

food and enjoyed by all. The speaker was Dr. Anantha Krishnan, Sr VP of the GA Energy Group that includes Fusion program.



Dr. Anantha Krishnan, Sr. VP GA Fusion Program

Dr Krishnan presented the status of the GA fusion program and D-IIID Tokamak. D-IIID Tokamak is the only operating Tokamak in the US (GA should be proud) and is the premier fusion research facility for the DOE which attracts international expert researchers. GA can be rightly proud of the many years of operation of D-IIID and the enormous amount of new research into fusion that it allowed. Also discussed was the status of the ITER, large Tokamak ignition project, being built in France. GA has provided the huge central solenoid superconducting magnets for this project. Most interesting was the discussion of the many new private, independent small fusion projects that are underway with venture capital and angel funding, from such luminaries as Bill Gates. These projects' goal is to develop small (non-Tokamak) fusion demonstration devices that can produce net-power. GA is providing physics consulting to these private, high-risk efforts. For the details of Dr. Anantha Krishnan's excellent presentation please go to the new and improved GARA website: [www.generalatomicsretirees.org](http://www.generalatomicsretirees.org) where all luncheon presentations (and all GARA documents) are stored for viewing or download. Make sure to bookmark this new website.

### Next GARA Luncheon Wednesday, August 30 2023 at The Heights Country Club in Rancho Bernardo



Our next GARA luncheon will be Wednesday, August 30 at the Heights Country Club (formerly Bernardo Heights) in Ranch Bernardo. We will be at the covered outdoor pavilion with a view of the golf course. Last time everyone enjoyed this pleasant location (a view and a bar what more could you ask for!). The speaker will be a naval aviator, docent from the Midway museum to cover



the history of the Midway Museum but most importantly the future plans for the Museum, including to completely redo/demo the Navy pier area into a beautiful park adjacent to the Midway.

**Please Note:** *we are meeting at the end of August since there were conflicts in September.* We will conclude 2023 with our normal yearly business meeting and luncheon on December 6 at the San Diego Yacht Club (thanks to Frank Warner!). At the yearly business meeting we will elect the new GARA board of directors. We are looking for volunteers to help us out on the board. We meet 4 times per year at GA cafeteria area conference room. So, consider getting involved with our successful endeavor – we need you!

## GA HAPPENINGS

The following are synopses of recent GA press releases. The complete releases can be found at Press Releases | General Atomics (ga.com) or by clicking on the title.

### USMC Completes 20,000 Flight Hours with MUX MALE MQ-9A



The U.S. Air Force flew a remotely piloted aircraft equipped with an Angry Kitten® ALQ-167 Electronic Warfare Countermeasure Pod for the first time on April 27, 2023. General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. integrated the pod onto the aircraft.

The Angry Kitten EW Pod is supplied to the U.S. Air Force by the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) and has flown on other Department of Defense systems, including F-16s. GA-ASI integrated the EW pod in less than nine months at no cost to the U.S. Air Force by using a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement.

“It was great to see the Angry Kitten Pod on an Air Force platform for the first time,” said GA-ASI Vice President of DoD Strategic Development Patrick Shortsleeve. “Flying this

EW capability on an MQ-9A demonstrates its possible use on future aircraft.”

The Air Force plans to continue flying with Angry Kitten Pods over the next 12 to 24 months to develop the best Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs) to leverage EW capabilities in support of the Joint Force and partner nations

### General Atomics Awarded Contract for Advanced Submarine Propulsion Concept Designs

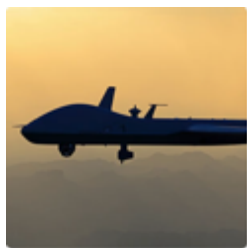
General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems (GA-EMS) announced the award of a contract from General Dynamics Applied Physical Sciences to perform propulsion system design, to provide modeling, technical evaluation, and analysis supporting the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency’s (DARPA) Advanced Propulsor, Experimental (APEX) program. The APEX program is intended to develop and demonstrate a new generation of propulsion technology designs to power submarines and other undersea vehicles. “We are excited to leverage our expertise in system design, modeling, and analysis, along with our extensive manufacturing experience to support the APEX program objectives. We look forward to working with General Dynamics to develop and explore propulsion concepts focusing on efficiency, signature, mechanical design and limits, and operational considerations” said Scott Forney, president of GA-EMS.

Phase 1 of the APEX program will last 24 months. General Dynamics Applied Physical Sciences is the prime contractor. GA-EMS will perform propulsion system design, engineering and analysis in its Boston, MA facility, and any required manufacturing and testing in its Manufacturing Center of Excellence in Tupelo, MS.

### GA-ASI's Unmanned Aircraft Cross 8 Million Flight Hours

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) announced that its family of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), which includes the Predator®, Reaper, Gray Eagle, Avenger®, and MQ-9B SkyGuardian®/SeaGuardian® lines, has surpassed eight million flight hours. GA-ASI aircraft

have completed 566,000 total missions in nearly 40 countries around the world.



Adding to the total are 13 MQ-9B SkyGuardian/SeaGuardian UAS that have flown more than 4,000 flight hours, including the new Protector RG Mk1 being delivered to the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force. The first three Protectors are currently undergoing Integrated Test, Evaluation, and Acceptance trials. In addition, MQ-9Bs are being operated by the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) and Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF), as well as supporting various U.S. Navy exercises.

"GA-ASI continues to be a leader in developing reliable, cost-efficient, and sustainable unmanned aircraft systems that perform advanced operations for our customers around the world," said GA-ASI CEO Linden P. Blue. "Eight million flight hours is another achievement on our list of historic firsts, which demonstrates our relentless commitment to quality." The exact aircraft and customer that achieved the milestone is unknown, as it's estimated that more than 50 Predator-class Medium-Altitude, Long-Endurance (MALE) RPA are airborne worldwide every moment of every day.

GA-ASI aircraft average 40,000 hours per month, supporting programs with the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, NASA, the Italian Air Force, the UK Royal Air Force, the French Air Force, the United Arab Emirates Armed Forces, the Spanish Air Force, the Royal Netherlands Air Force, the Indian Navy, the Polish Air Force, JCG, JMSDF, and others, with more customers coming online soon. Missions include helping protect ground units on the battlefield, supporting first responders in the wake of natural disasters, and providing critical ISR around the world. These aircraft systems continue to maintain some of the highest mission-capable rates in the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army aircraft inventories.

## IN MEMORIA

### Rajaram (Raj) Acharya



Raj (Rajaram) Acharya, retired GA nuclear engineer, passed away on Wednesday June 7, 2023. He was in his 70's and had been ailing for some time following medical procedures and was living in Carmel Valley Rehab Center in Escondido.

Raj joined GA in 1974, following his graduation with a PhD from UC Berkeley. He specialized in materials technology for nuclear applications and contributed in the development of high temperature reactor program and fast breeder systems. He also participated in GA-Advanced Power Projects covering ceramics and military hardware.

During the 1980s, Raj worked periodically for the Core Performance Branch. He analyzed several fuel irradiation tests to assess the validity of the design methods used to predict fission product release from an HTGR core. He also predicted an overall tritium mass balance for the Fort St. Vrain HTGR for comparison with reactor operating data. His predictions were generally in good agreement with the data. In the early 1990s, he worked on the Tritium Recovery Program which was part of the New Production Reactor Project to develop processes to recover the tritium that was bred in the Lithium targets.

He worked in cooperative programs with national laboratories like INEL and Oak Ridge. Raj enjoyed working with computer technology – both mainframe and PC's, and developed software applications for company wide use. His cubic curve plotting software program was used by several experimentalists for data interpretation. Before his retirement he worked in GA-EMS division.

He enjoyed playing golf and walking. He was active with children sports and soccer refereeing. Raj leaves behind his lovely wife Susan and two sons and their families, and a grandson.

### **Felicisimo Salazar Ople - Felix Ople**



Felix was born on Nov. 30, 1935, to Felicisimo Victorio Ople, the district engineer for highways in Romblon, Philippines, and Dominadora Salazar Ople, a pharmacist.

He graduated Magna cum Laude in Civil Engineering from the University of the Philippines College of Engineering in Diliman in 1957. In 1956, he received the Tidewater Oil Development Company Scholarship Award for Highway Engineering.

After teaching at the University of the Philippines for a semester, he left to pursue graduate studies at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where he obtained his Master's and Ph.D. degrees in Structural Engineering. His specialization on prestressed concrete structures and numerous papers earned him membership in the prestigious American Concrete Institute.

Felix met his future wife Jean (Angelina) Maniquis, a graduate student at Duquesne University while working for Rust Engineering in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and married her in 1966 and moved to Southern California in 1967.

In 1966, Felix joined General Atomic in La Jolla, managing the group designing the Pre-stressed Concrete Reactor Vessel (PCRV) for GA's signature High Temperature Gas Cooled Reactor (HTGR). This culminated in the building and operation of the HTGReactor in Fort St. Vrain, Colorado.

He retired from GA after 30 years in the nuclear engineering sector and re-invented himself by

His retirement years were spent travelling to the Phillipines, studying prime locations for wind energy farms. The wind farm in Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro is one of the first development projects by PHESI (Philippine Hybrid Energy Systems), founded with a Beta Epsilon brother. He was an avid soccer player and played men's soccer until his early 80s, playing with men half his age. He also loved playing tennis and bowling in his younger years, and enjoyed skiing when he lived in Pennsylvania, and winters in Big Bear Lake, California, where the family owned a lakeside condo.

He is survived by Jean, his wife of 57 years, sons Mark , Eric, wife Maribel and daughter Leilani, and PJ, wife Theresa and daughter Kenzie, and his beloved Maltese, Spike.

## GARA Luncheon August 30, 2023

Join us Wednesday August 30 2023 for our next meeting at The Heights Country Club in Rancho Bernardo. The cost will be \$40 for members and their spouse or one guest. Nonmembers and additional guests are \$45.

Our speaker will be a Naval Aviator, docent from Midway Museum

**Title of Presentation: History and Future Plans for the Midway Museum**

August 30 2023, 11:30 Meet and Greet, 12:00 Lunch, followed by speaker.



The Heights Country Club  
16066 Bernardo Heights Parkway  
San Diego, CA 92128

Choices are :

Caprese Chicken Sandwich  
Asian Salad with Salmon  
Vegetarian Penne Pasta

Please send in your reservation by sending this form and your payment by August 21

Member: Caprese Chick Sandwich \_\_\_\_ Asian Salad w/Salmon \_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Penne Pasta \_\_\_\_

Guest: Caprese Chick Sandwich \_\_\_\_ Asian Salad w/Salmon \_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Penne Pasta \_\_\_\_

Payment can be made as follows:



Check Payable to: GA Retirees Association and mail to: (Check No. \_\_\_\_\_)

Nancy Hitchcox, Social Chair, 12302 Old Stone Road, Poway, CA 92064



Payment via Zelle® bank-to-bank transfer using the following e-mail:

[Treasurer@GeneralAtomicsRetirees.org](mailto:Treasurer@GeneralAtomicsRetirees.org)

**RESERVATION DEADLINE AUGUST 21 , 2023**

