
GARA News

Volume 37, Issue 2

May 2023

From the President

Junaid Razvi



Dear Colleagues –

I trust all of you got off to a good start in 2023, survived any inconveniences from the much-needed rain we received this winter, enjoying the resulting Spring poppy and Super wildflower blooms, and looking forward to a warmer and greener Spring season. Our all-volunteer GARA Board of Directors continued to be active in trying to plan the year's events, and in a cost-effective manner for all our members. It has not been easy given the inflationary pressures, but we are striving to continue our normal in-person event schedule without significant cost impacts to GARA's balance sheet as well as our members' pocketbooks. About 40 of you joined us for our 2023 launch of our in-person speaker luncheons and the Board continues to meet quarterly in-person to plan and conduct the business of the organization.

For our 2023 inaugural luncheon, we had a speaker from the SONGS Community Engagement Group present an overview of the San Onofre Nuclear Generation Station's ongoing decommissioning activities. Subsequently, we were able to arrange an in-person tour of the site itself, in collaboration with SD-American Nuclear Society (ANS). We had quite a few GARA members who went on this tour. Continuing our luncheon series, we will switch to a discussion of a future, highly touted clean energy source, nuclear fusion. We will have an executive at General Atomics talk of ongoing activities in the industry as well as share GA's continuing role in the development of nuclear fusion, an activity at GA that originated in the pioneering fusion work of Tihiro Okhawa in the 1960s.

Please see additional details in this newsletter and watch for updates on our website

GeneralAtomsRetirees.org.

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 you who continue to support us by staying current with yearly dues, and I encourage those that are not, to do so. Please also encourage other retired and current employees to join. In spite of inflationary pressures, we are going to hold our dues at \$15/year as long as we can.

Continued on page 2

GA Retirees Association, Inc.

www.generalatomsretirees.org

email: 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

760 436 2342

Karen Schultz

760 436 2342

Carmelo Rodriguez

619 475 0153

Venky Venkatesh

858 283 9610

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 14th Luncheon

See attached notice!

Continued "From the President" article in page 1

Please do not hesitate to contact us via our new [website](#). I look forward to seeing many more of you at our Spring luncheon meeting.

March 2023 Luncheon – Interesting topic

Our first 2023 luncheon on March 15, was well attended and also had a great topic San Onofre Nuclear (SONGS) Decommissioning project. Here are some of the pictures of your colleagues and friends.



Alvin Wood,, Pete Gantzel, John Bauer, Fritz Dahms



Patricia Spire, Nick Platis, Pat and Doug Simmons, Phil Newman



Meera and Venky Venkatesh, Carol Pagel, Hedy Kleinsorge



Roger Schlicht, Dave Hanson, Dorothy and Alvin Wood



Sue and Jim Zgliczynski, Carmelo Rodriguez, Sue Zimmer



Dan and Jane Goodin, Ken Dawson



Hedy Kleinsorge, Karen Schultz, Beverly Lloyd



Niles Johanson, Manuel Camargo



Sue and Al Zimmer, Niles Johanson, Manuel Camargo



Beverly Lloyd, Katherine Partain



Robin Luby, Nancy Hitchcox

March 15 2023 - Luncheon Speaker Manuel Camargo

Our speaker was Manuel C. Camargo Jr. Principal Manager, Strategic Planning, SONGS Decommissioning, Southern California Edison. Manuel gave a thorough overview of the status of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) decommissioning. All fuel assemblies have been removed and are in dry storage. Other plant components, including the concrete containment domes, are undergoing decommissioning with the goal of eventually having an unrestricted site, ready to return to the owners, the U.S. Navy/Marines. Manuel said there is work on multiple private and political fronts to find and develop a location for long term storage the fuel assemblies so they can be eventually removed from the SONGS site. Manuel's presentation is on the GARA website: [G.A. Retirees Association Inc.](http://G.A.RetireesAssociationInc.com) (generalatomicsretirees.org). Manuel kindly agreed to host a tour of the SONGS site. Thanks to Kathrine Partain of ANS and GARA for organizing this tour with Manuel and SCE. So, on April 19, ~40 ANS and GARA members toured the SONGS site. Special thanks to Manuel and SCE for accommodating ADA needs members with golf carts for transport on the tours.



Manuel Camargo(Speaker) and Junaid Razvi

San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Tour

Following the March 15 Luncheon, GARA collaborated with the San Diego – ANS Chapter for a tour of the SONGS site currently undergoing decommissioning and decontamination. Forty members from both organizations toured the site on April 19. The SONGS Community Group were great hosts in organizing the event, providing knowledgeable tour guides, and at the end of the tour providing lunch for the group.



GARA members Katherine Partain, Junaid Razvi, Danny and Kitty Tow with their tour group



GARA members Venky Venkatesh, Junaid Razvi and Niles Johanson



Lunch at the end of tour courtesy of our host

Next GARA Luncheon Wednesday, June 14 2023 at Royal India in Mira Mesa

The featured speaker will be Dr. Anantha Krishnan, Senior Vice President of General Atomics Energy Group, an expert on fusion energy research. Dr. Krishnan has had previous leadership positions at Lawrence Livermore Lab and Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

(DARPA). Dr. Krishnan will present the status of recent advances in fusion research including the GA recent initiative on the Fusion Pilot Plant concept. The Wall Street Journal had a recent article, that fusion research/startup companies are receiving significant venture capital funds from many billionaire investors. This should be a very interesting, timely presentation. Also please bring your checkbook to pay your 2023 GARA dues (\$15) if you have not paid already – thank you.

Private Screening of “Nuclear Now” for GARA Members

The San Diego Chapter of the American Nuclear Society (SD-ANS) has received permission to have a screening of the new Oliver Stone movie “Nuclear Now” movie via a Zoom meeting link <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt21376908/>. SD-ANS has invited GARA members to the screening on May 17 @ 6 PM PDT. Our Membership Chair Liz Drees will soon be sending out additional details, so please watch your e-mail in-box for Liz’s message.

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.

[GA-ASI Selected to Build OBSS for AFRL](#)



General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) will manufacture and perform demonstration flights of the Air Force Research Laboratory’s (AFRL) unmanned Off-Board Sensing Station (OBSS) aircraft. Following a 12-month base period that culminated in a critical design review (CDR), AFRL exercised a build and flight test option. GA-ASI’s innovative Gambit Series aircraft will validate the “genus/species” concept first developed by AFRL as part of the Low-Cost Attributable Aircraft

Platform Sharing (LCAAPS) program focused on building several aircraft variants from a common core chassis.

“Throughout our 30-year history, GA-ASI has pioneered the advancement of unmanned aircraft systems that support our warfighters,” said GA-ASI President David R. Alexander.

“AFRL is moving forward with GA-ASI because we have the right background and experience to develop the OBSS aircraft at scale and on time, and we look forward to working with them to deliver another game-changing UAS.”

General Atomics Completes Commissioning Of Space Environmental Testing Chambers

General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems (GA-EMS) announced today that Thermal Vacuum Chamber commissioning has been completed at the company’s Centennial, CO space system development facilities. The commissioning completes GA-EMS’ process of bringing in-house the capability to perform testing under simulated space environmental conditions, and supports testing and qualification of components, subassemblies, payloads, and integrated spacecraft up to ESPA-Grande class satellites.

“The thermal vacuum chambers add yet another key component to our expanding space capabilities portfolio, allowing us to improve efficiencies and seamlessly transition spacecraft from production to environmental testing without the spacecraft ever having to leave our clean rooms or facilities,” said Scott Forney, president of GA-EMS. “The ability to test components, payloads and spacecraft in a controlled, simulated space environment is essential to evaluating their performance and ability to withstand the rigors of space, and address any issues that may arise prior to flight.”

Having three fully commissioned thermal vacuum chambers in-house translates into tangible benefits for our customers, helping reduce program risks and added costs associated with transporting satellites to and from third party testing facilities. With a range of chambers readily available, our assembly, integration and test teams can complete component and system environmental testing and process the results in real-time and with greater efficiency,” said Gregg Burgess, vice president of GA-EMS Space Systems.

IN MEMORIA

William Davison



William Robert Davison passed on February 10, 2023, surrounded by Prudence, his wife of 50 years and his four loving children. He was a gentleman, a nuclear physicist by training, a man of integrity and the greatest father his children could have ever imagined.

Bill was born on December 18, 1944, in Jersey City, New Jersey. As a boy he was known as a hard worker who looked after his family, and at the same time excelling academically, earning scholarships to high school, college and graduate school. In college, he chose to study nuclear physics "because it sounded hard" and he pursued that as a profession after receiving his Master’s degree. His plans to earn his PhD were thrown aside when accepted a job at GA.

In the decades that followed working at GA, Bill helped invent new technologies for safely destroying old chemical weapons warheads, commercialize algae biodiesel as an alternative fuel for the world, and led the GA team that supported the cleanup of Chernobyl after disaster struck in the Nuclear Plant in Ukraine.

Bill recognized the good in every situation and was forever an optimist. But what always mattered most to him was family, putting his role as a father first throughout his life. He will be deeply missed by family and his circle of friends and colleagues.

Gordon Hersey



Gordon Raymond Hersey, 88, passed away in his Ramona home with the love of his life by his side. He was born in San Diego on April 21, 1934.

Gordon graduated from Helix High School in 1953 and later San Diego City College, followed by completing his tool and die apprenticeship at Convair. Gordon then spent many years at General Atomics as a manufacturing engineer in the nuclear industry and several years at General Dynamics. He was a dedicated employee, proud of and commended for his contributions to the industry.

Gordon had three sons and also adopted a daughter. Gordon and his wife Marilyn were married 56 incredible years.

In retirement he and his horse Tucker joined and served the community of Ramona in the Mounted Patrol.

Gordon is survived by his wife Marilyn, two sons, five grand-children and five great-grandchildren; and his daughter Angie and her 3 children.

Raymond Griffin

Ray passed away peacefully, in his home in San Diego, at age 94 on Jan 12 2022. He was born in Grimsby, England and graduated from Coventry Technical College in England in 1950 with a degree in Mechanical, Aeronautical, and Production Engineering.



Ray and Rae Griffin circa 1990

Ray joined GA in 1963 and until his retirement in 1983, worked mostly in the Experimental Engineering Department, as a Mechanical Engineer in charge of Design Verification Testing of various components for the High Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactors for Peach Bottom, Fort St Vrain, Philadelphia Electric, Delmarva, and other plants. After retirement, Ray taught upper level engineering courses at San Diego State University. Ray was an avid sailor and joined the Torrey Pines Sailing Club (TPSC) in 1968.

Ray is survived by five children, ten grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

Norwood Dana Blatchford



Dana – Norwood Dana Blatchford served in the Air Corp and worked as a machinist at GA. He is survived by his wife Rosa and children Tina, Steve and Priscilla. He had 11 grandchildren. Dana worked at GA and ran the GA machine shop for several years

GARA Luncheon June 14, 2023

Join us Wednesday June 14, 2023 for our next meeting and luncheon at Royal India The cost will be \$40 for members and their spouse or guest. Nonmembers and additional guests are \$45.

Our speaker will be Dr. Anantha Krishnan, Senior Vice President of General Atomics Energy Group,
Title of Presentation: Advances in fusion research at GA

June 14 2023, 11:30 Meet and Greet, 12:00 Lunch, followed by speaker.



Royal India
8990 Miramar Road, Royal Hall
San Diego

The buffet luncheon offerings:

Chicken Tikka Masala,
Vegetable coconut Korma
Chana Masala,
Basmati Rice Pulao
Nan
Water and sodas

Please send in the following reservation form by June 7.

Member: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

Send this form and your check made out to GA Retirees Association to:

Nancy Hitchcox
12302 Old Stone Road
Poway, CA 92064

RESERVATION DEADLINE JUNE 7

