
GARA News

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From the President

Nancy Hitchcox



With everything in bloom this spring and with the recent good news from the CDC, I feel we are finally coming out of the long winter of Covid. I hope you all have come through unscathed, have gotten your shots and are starting to come out of hiding.

The GARA board of directors has been meeting remotely via videoconference during this time, and is planning to get things back to normal with in-person lunch meetings. The question is, assuming precautions are taken, when will you be ready? September?, December?, next year? Let me know your thoughts. Send me a note at Nancy.Hitchcox@gmail.com.

In updating our membership files, we have learned of the deaths of some of our members. See the *In Memoria* section for the information we were able to garner.

A word of warning: GARA board members have been receiving phishing emails pretending to be from another member asking them to buy gift cards. I believe this is confined to board members, but just in case, if you receive something like this realize it is a scam. Do not respond.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in person soon.

Please send ideas for future speakers to Junaid Razvi (JRazvi49@gmail.com).

GA Retirees Association, Inc.

www.garetirees.org

President: Nancy Hitchcox

858 335 4839 nancy.hitchcox@gmail.com

Vice President: Junaid Razvi

619 646 2140 jrazvi49@gmail.com

Treasurer: Niles Johanson

858 752 4327 nilesjo@yahoo.com

Secretary: Pat Simmons

858 748 4569 psimmons0105@gmail.com

Social Chair: Alan "Woody" Snyder

619 885 9036 alan.snyder@ga-asi.com

Newsletter Editor: Maria Koploy

619 740 1153 maria.koploy@gmail.com

Members at Large:

Tom Tasker

858 369 0671 ttasker103@aol.com

Al Zimmer

619 475 0153 alandsuezimmer@cox.net

Carmelo Rodriguez

760 436 2342 carmelo.rodriguez@att.net

Ken Dawson

619 445 4648 kendawson@mac.com

Past President: Jim Zgliczynski

619 237 9812 zgliczynski@outlook.com

Website: Tom Tasker

858 369 0671 ttasker103@aol.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Due to Covid 19, all in-person meetings and events are being postponed. We will keep you informed of any changes.

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 ctrl clicking on the title.

[General Atomics to Deploy MATCHBOX Point-Of-Care System for Tropical Fever Validation Testing](#)

Under a six-month base contract period, GA-EMS will deploy MATCHBOX systems with Febrile and Respiratory assay panel cartridges for use at Naval Medical Research Units and partner sites located in Peru and Cambodia.

May 5, 2021

[General Atomics Opens Office in Patuxent River, Maryland](#)

General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems (GA-EMS) announced today that it has opened an office in Patuxent River, MD to serve as a customer engagement center supporting maritime and naval aviation programs and business growth initiatives in the region.

May 3, 2021

[General Atomics Completes Initial Design Review for the United States Space Force Electro-Optical Infrared Weather System Program](#)

General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems (GA-EMS) announced today that it has completed the

Initial Design Review (IDR) of the space vehicle and ground segment for the United States Space Force (USSF) Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC) Electro-Optical Infrared (EO/IR) Weather System (EWS) satellite program.

Apr 29, 2021

[GA-ASI Further Expands MQ-9 Mission Capability](#)

The U.S. Air Force, General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) and L3Harris Technologies have collaborated to further expand the mission capabilities of the U.S. Air Force's versatile MQ-9 Reaper[®] Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA).

Apr 22, 2021

[General Atomics Awarded DARPA Contract to Design Nuclear Thermal Propulsion System for DRACO Mission](#)

General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems (GA-EMS) announced today that the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) has awarded GA-EMS a contract to support the Demonstration Rocket for Agile Cislunar Operations (DRACO) program.

Apr 16, 2021

[General Atomics Supports American Nuclear Society Task Force on Nuclear Energy](#)

GA-EMS announced today that Dr. Christina Back, vice president of Nuclear Technologies and Materials (NTM) at GA-EMS, co-chaired a task force commissioned by the American Nuclear Society (ANS) on Public Investment in Nuclear Research and Development (R&D).

Apr 6, 2021

[General Atomics Acquires Commonwealth Computer Research, Inc.](#)

“The inclusion of CCRi within the GA group will accelerate the delivery of actionable intelligence through the dynamic conversion of data to knowledge.” said Neal Blue, CEO, President and Chairman of General Atomics.

Apr 2, 2021

[GA-ASI Gray Eagle Surpasses 1 Million Flight Hours](#)

“This landmark event demonstrates the inherent value of our Gray Eagle systems for the warfighter,” said GA-ASI President David R. Alexander.

Mar 24, 2021

[DIID-D Researchers Leverage Videogaming App for Remote Operation During COVID-19](#)

“DIID-D is one of the most important fusion devices in the world, so it’s a bit remarkable that we’ve been able to continue our work using a free application originally created for video-gamers,” said David Schissel, Director of Computer Systems and Science at GA. “Combining it with some other customized tools has greatly expanded our capabilities in remote collaboration.”

Mar 2, 2021

[General Atomics Partners with Rocket Lab to Launch Argos-4 Advanced Data Collection System](#)

GA-EMS announced today that it has signed a contract with Rocket Lab to launch the GA-EMS developed Orbital Test Bed (OTB) satellite carrying the Argos-4 Advanced Data Collection System (A-DCS) hosted payload.

Feb 24, 2021

In Memoria

Janet Baker

Died October 1, 2020

Janet Baker passed away after a long illness with Lewy Body Dementia.

Wayne Bell

Died March 21, 2018

Wayne passed away just short of his 100th birthday.

George W. Hinman

November 7, 1927 – March 25, 2018

After working for several years at GA, George moved to Pullman, Washington where he served for almost 30 years on the Washington State University faculty as Professor of Physics. After retiring in 1997, George continued for several years to teach and conduct research at WSU, and he made substantial contributions to the reviews and investigations on Hanford nuclear waste remediation.

Paul H Sager, Jr.

Died March 2, 2020

Paul died from pneumonia and complications from Parkinson’s disease. Beginning in 1957 he worked with General Dynamics Aerospace and subsequently for General Atomics for many years. When he retired from GA he formed Pacific Robotics, Inc. with several friends from GA.

Robert Stetson

October 20, 1928 - March 23, 2021

In 1958 Bob began working in materials engineering for General Dynamics and then General Atomics. He was active in the American Society of Metals (ASM) from 1953 and was named an ASM Fellow in 1983. He was awarded the ASM National Engineering Associates Award in 1979. He worked on the nuclear propulsion program on Project Orion, the TRIGA and HTGR reactor programs, the decommissioning of the reactor in Peach Bottom, PA and the Lithium Module Project for Princeton University's Fusion Reactor Program.