
GARA News

Volume 36, Issue 2

May 2022

From the President

Junaid Razvi



Dear Colleagues –

I trust all of you are staying in good health, and with the pandemic beginning to fade in the rear-view mirror, are slowly but surely getting back to your normal routines.

Although that said, the past two years of off-normal routines seems to have permanently altered some routines, but not all necessarily for the worse.

We launched the 2022 calendar year GARA activities with a very successful luncheon at the Bernardo Heights Country Club in Rancho Bernardo, featuring a new member of GA's Executive Team, Dr. Vivek Lall who is heading up the new GA Global Corporation. GARA hosted this for our members as a welcome back luncheon and was well attended, so thank you to those who took the time to join us, meet old friends and make new friends. A well-deserved thank you of course to Social Chair Nancy Hitchcox and other officers of the Board for making this a success.

Please join us for our summer luncheon on June 8, 2022, with an exciting speaker from the Scripps Institute of Oceanography. Details of this event are in this newsletter. We hope to see you there.

We are already thinking about the Fall and Winter events, so watch this space and our website for details. The winter meeting will also be our Annual Members meeting where we elect new Board Members and Officers. With rising costs, the costs of securing a venue have significantly increased, but the Board is looking at finding ways to reduce your costs to attend. This quarter we welcome Meera Venkatesh to the GARA Board as a newest Member-at-Large. We are an all-volunteer board comprised of our former GA

colleagues choosing to give their time and efforts to keep the GA retiree community connected to GA, the community and each other. Our membership roster is slowly but surely growing, we encourage everyone to keep their dues up-to-date, and encourage others you know who have had an affiliation with GA, past or present, to join. Unfortunately, because of rising costs of, well everything, we have instituted dues increase to \$15/year, I believe for the first time in GARA's history.

GA Retirees Association, Inc.

www.garetirees.org

Please use the following address to contact any board member: www.garetiresassoc@gmail.com

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: Maria Koploy

619 740 1153

Members at Large:

Tom Tasker

858 369 0671

Al Zimmer

619 475 0153

Carmelo Rodriguez

760 436 2342

Meera Venkatesh

Website: Tom Tasker

858 369 0671

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 8th In person luncheon meeting.
See attached notice!

Continues "From the President" article in page 1.

We continue to look at making some minor administrative changes in 2022. First, improve the security of our website (garetirees.org) is high on our list, both for members and officers alike, as we have had some issues with our personal e-mail addresses that could be traced back to the website. Progress on that has been slow, but we expect to have a new system in place this year. Stay tuned.

GA HR Representatives

Scott Steele is the new GA Retirement Manager and Chris Ashton is the Retirement Administrator. They both joined us at the February Luncheon. Scott spoke about the current GA retirement benefit changes. Please contact either of them if you have any questions about your retirement benefits.

Scott.Steele@ga.com

Christopher.Ashton@ga.com

(858) 455-2212



Chris Ashton and Scott Steele during February Luncheon

February Luncheon was a Success

Fifty people attended the February luncheon, the first in person meeting since the start of the pandemic. Following are a few pictures of the event:



Mike Dunlap and Jean Moss



Maria and Randy Koploy



Harlan Horner



Frank and Louise Warner



Lindsey Bierer and Niles Johanson



Nick Platis and Patricia Spire



David Hanson, John Bauer and Fritz Dahms



Patricia Simmons, Douglas Simmons, and Nancy Hitchcox



Dan and Jane Goodin



Dr. Vivek Lall



Brian Asamoto and Phil Newman



Elizabeth Drees



Roger Schlicht, Ken Holko and Virgil Barbat



Jack and Ernestine Bass



Carmelo Rodriguez, Jim and Sue Zgliczynski and Arkal Shenoy



Partial view of February Luncheon

New Board Member

GARA is happy to welcome our new board member Meera Venkatesh who has agreed to serve as a member at large, a position that had been open since last year.

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.

[DIII-D Facility Adds Tool to Resolve Heat Handling in Future Fusion Power Plants](#)

Researchers at the DIII-D National Fusion Facility are preparing to test a new method to enable future fusion power

plants to withstand the fierce conditions of heat and particle flow created by the fusion reaction.
Apr 26, 2022

[GA-ASI Integrates Leonardo Seaspray V2 Maritime Radar onto MQ-9](#)

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) has integrated the Leonardo Seaspray 7500E V2 multi-mode radar onto an MQ-9A Block 5 Remotely Piloted Aircraft and performed its first test flight on Apr. 14, 2021.
Apr 26, 2022

[GA-EMS Test Firings Advance Projectile Interceptor Design](#)

General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems (GA-EMS) announced today that it has completed a major test series in collaboration with the Army and Navy to advance the state-of-the-art in gun-launched defensive projectile interceptor designs.
Mar 10, 2022

[GA-ASI Selected for Japan Coast Guard RPAS Project](#)

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI), the global leader in Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), is pleased to be selected to support the Japan Coast Guard's (JCG) RPAS Project.
Apr 6, 2022

[GA-ASI Introduces New Eagle Eye Radar](#)

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI), a leader in Multi-mode Radar technology for Unmanned Aircraft Systems, introduces the *Eagle Eye* radar.
Apr 5, 2022

In Memoria

GARA is deeply saddened to announce the passing of the following colleagues:

Vojin Joksimovich

March 27, 2022

He was born and raised in Serbia when it was a part of Yugoslavia and was his family's only survivor of a German WWII bombing raid, experiencing the totalitarian regimes of Hitler, Stalin, and Tito. He graduated from Belgrade University, Yugoslavia in 1961 with a degree in electrical and nuclear engineering, immigrating to the UK in 1965 and earning his doctorate in nuclear engineering from the Imperial College, London University.

Vojin had over 45 years experience and was a widely respected and world recognized figure in the critically important fields of nuclear safety and risk analysis and foreign policy analysis. He shared his knowledge with the world through over 125 conference papers as well as 110 public articles and three books. He also educated our NCC membership with over 25 presentations in the 18 years that he was an NCC (North County Chapter of SD World Affairs Council) member as well as through the insightful observations and comments he provided after NCC presentations given by others.

Tony Lee

June 25, 2021

Tony began working for GA-EMS in 2011 with the Advanced Arresting Gear (AAG) program leading the software development for the supervisory control system (SCS) and playing crucial roles in health monitoring and dynamic control systems. The AAG program benefitted from Tony's brilliant problem-solving skills; he was the first choice for any complex and esoteric "tiger team" investigations. Tony was peerless as a software developer with an insatiable appetite to for technical knowledge. Later, he worked on several innovative internal research and development (IRAD) programs for the Intelligent Automation and Analytics (IA&A) group.

In addition to his impressive technical skills, Tony was a caring, selfless, and kind human being, always ready to aid and assist others, especially to act as a mentor and guide for young and upcoming software engineers. Tony touched many lives at GA-EMS; all of whom remember him fondly. In 2019, on a trip to Hong Kong, Tony learned that he had advanced lung cancer. He confronted this final challenge just as he faced life: with calmness, dignity, rationality, logic, and compassion. Tony is survived by his loving wife May and his amazing daughter Kay.

GARA Luncheon June 8

Join us Wednesday June 8, 2022, for our next meeting and luncheon at Elijah's Restaurant. The cost will be \$35 for members and their spouse or guest. Additional guests are \$40.

The presentation for the June GARA luncheon will be a scientist from the USCD Scripps Institute of Oceanography (SIO) to discuss several of SIO's recent important research projects such as the multimillion-dollar Scripps Ocean Atmosphere Research Simulator (SOARS) which allows accurate modeling of ocean and atmospheric phenomenon in the lab for detailed study and studies of coastal erosion (certainly of interest for our north county coast) and an interesting project to identify under water artifacts (such as sunken ships and planes – some from WWII). The speaker can also field questions on climate change.

June 8, 2022, 11:30 Meet & Greet, 12:00 Lunch, followed by speaker.

Elijah's Restaurant

7061 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. Suite 212
San Diego, CA 92111
(858) 455-1461

Please send in the following reservation form by June 1.

Member: _____ Beef Brisket ___ Chicken ___ Vegetarian ___ \$ 35.00

Spouse/Guest: _____ Beef Brisket ___ Chicken ___ Vegetarian ___ \$35.00

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 1



Scripps Ocean-Atmosphere Research Simulator (SOARS) is designed to enhance our understanding of the complicated chemical, biological, and physical processes that occur at the boundary between the ocean and the atmosphere