

American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics

Houston Section Newsletter

November 1986

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## Houston Section 25th Anniversary

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The AIAA Houston Section newsletter is created by the Section Newsletter Committee and Bill Stewart, Editor. It is reproduced at the Houston offices of LEMSCO. For the submission of articles contact VC-Operations Lou Livingston, JSC/PB, 483-2741.

Chairman's Comments**I'll Take No More Complaints**

- Karen Godek

After Sunday, October 19th, 1986, I will no longer listen to any complaints related to the high cost of AIAA meetings, how interesting programs may be, or even the weather: On an absolutely beautiful Sunday afternoon, with all the free food and beer one could consume, and a highly challenging and entertaining program, a grand total of twenty persons (including those under six years of age) showed up for the Houston Section's Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Celebration Cookout. That's right - twenty (two-zero) !

You folks can't even use lack of advance warning as an excuse this time. Publicity appeared in two newsletters and numerous flyers were posted. No, I've come to the conclusion that the members just don't care. This is very upsetting to me because in a volunteer organization such as the AIAA, it is the efforts and participation of the membership which makes the organization a success. It also bothers me a great deal to see a "don't care" attitude creeping into this community. We here in the JSC area have always cared 110% about our professional responsibilities and our community, and I would hate to think that might be changing.

If it sounds like this should be in the Letters to Lou column, perhaps it should. Since I have my own editorial space up front, I'll put it here and hope that it will be read by at least some of the thousand

apathetic members to whom it is addressed. If you do read this, and think I may be slightly in error, call me at 483-4476 or write to mail code EH2 and tell me - at least I'll know you're alive out there.

Houston Membership Profile Has Some Surprising Results

- Jim Visentine

Have you ever wondered how our Section's membership statistics compare to AIAA nationally? To satisfy any of this curiosity, I recently requested the membership profile statistics for our AIAA New York Office. Since I was aware of the intense rivalry between New York and Houston, and was certain the Astros would beat the Mets, I made this request before the playoffs began. Well, guess what... in true sportsman-like fashion, they took the time to prepare these statistics for us and gave them to me after the games were completed - some consolation prize, wouldn't you say?

In a more serious vein, I had previously assumed, before analyzing the data, that our Section was older, on the average, than the National profile; had fewer members with advanced degrees; and had a larger percentage of engineers (as compared to scientists) employed at JSC than at other NASA centers with similar AIAA chapters. As it turns out, I was wrong on almost all accounts, as statistics which I have summarized below will serve to indicate.

In the category of age of member, 36% of our membership is below the age of 35, as compared to 27% nationally. On the average, 36% of our members have advanced degrees,

as compared to 50% for the AIAA overall. On a professional basis, 41% of our members work in the science or mathematics disciplines, as compared to 39% nationally. Regarding AIAA service years and grade advancements, 43% of our members have been with the Institute between 11 and 25 years, and 30% have been advanced in membership grade. On a national basis, similar statistics for AIAA service years and grade advancements are 36% and 18%, respectively.

As these statistics generally indicate, our Section represents a pretty good cross section of the AIAA. As we continue to grow and our demography changes (hopefully recent Space Station related decisions made in Washington will enable us to grow at an optimal rate!), I will summarize these changes for you and present them for your review in updated reports.

New National Committees on Standards Announced

- Lou Livingston

The October issue of Aerospace America announces, on page 18, the creation of a number of Committees on Standards (COS). The intent is to complement the existing technical committees. This may be just the sort of activity you're interested in. Besides, it's an opportunity to make a real contribution. Take a look at the list of committees and see if you'd like to participate. Names of contacts are included in the announcement.

The Members Speak Out

- Lou Livingston

The newsletters probably haven't been out long enough to permit responses to Greg Bennett's comments on AIAA publication policy as of this writing. Maybe next month. It would certainly be interesting to see what the rest of you think about this. Actually, it would be interesting to see what the rest of you think about anything at all. Letters, anyone?

AIAA Invited To Texas Society of Professional Engineer's Meeting

- Quin Shepperd

All AIAA members and the public have been invited to attend the speech being given by Dr. Mary Cleave, an astronaut scheduled to fly on mission 61-B, to the Texas Society of Professional Engineers.

Sponsor: TSPE Bayou Chapter
Speaker: Dr. Mary Cleave
Place: Jimmy Walker's Restaurant
Banquet Room

Kemah, (713)334-2513

Date: Tuesday, November 18th

Time: 7:00 pm

Cost: \$15.60

shrimp & roast beef buffet
all drinks extra

Reservations: required, deadline of
November 14th

Contact: Jim Babb, P.E.

(713)280-1500 x3122

or

Dr. William Pinebrook, P.E.
(409)740-4521

AIAA Membership Profile Statistics

(see article on page 1, col 2.)

Total Members

Houston	National
1,008	31,916

Years

1-10	462 (46%)	13,132 (41%)
11-25	431 (43%)	11,418 (36%)
26-40	90 (9%)	5,330 (17%)
40-50	25 (2%)	2,036 (6%)

Age

21-35	358 (36%)	8,574 (27%)
36-65	650 (64%)	23,342 (73%)

Highest Degree

Bachelor	649 (64%)	15,864 (50%)
Masters	249 (25%)	9,933 (31%)
Doctorate	110 (11%)	6,119 (19%)

AIAA Grade

Member	709 (70%)	26,264 (82%)
Sr. Member	249 (25%)	924 (3%)
Assoc.Fellow	119 (12%)	4,099 (13%)
Fellow	11 (1%)	629 (2%)

Discipline

Engineering	529 (59%)	19,335 (61%)
Science & Math	416 (41%)	12,581 (39%)

Anniversary Reception Announced

The AIAA Houston Section will celebrate it's 25th Anniversary with a special reception in December. You will want to be a part of this festive activity recalling the best of 25 years for AIAA in the Houston area.
To be held: December 18th
5:30 - 8:00 pm

Mark your calendar and
Watch for details!

Calling All Section Badges

- Lou Livingston

There are apparently quite a few old Houston Section name badges floating around out there somewhere. I have started to make up new badges for the current officers, advisors, etc., but we are about thirty badges short. If anyone has an old badge lying around, would you please send it back to me for recycling! The alternative is about \$100 out of the section kitty for the new ones. Help!!

Paired Member Program to be Reinstated

- Dick Bennett

The AIAA is continually attempting to alleviate a problem that involves its student members - this is the carryover of membership from the student classification to regular membership after graduation. The Houston Section Student Affairs Committee has reinstituted a program that will help this situation if the membership will support it. The program is called the Paired Member Program. It works this way:

1) Volunteers will be solicited from the section membership through the newsletter and at dinner and technical meetings.

2) Each volunteer will be paired with a student at one of the three universities at which we have a student chapter (Texas A&M, Rice, and Prairie View A&M). Addresses and phone numbers will be exchanged.

3) The volunteer members should continue to communicate with the student members through graduation. Types of activities could include the following, although the members are urged to use their own initiative:

- Follow status of the student's academic progress
- Giving advice relative to curriculum, outside involvement, career directions, etc.
- Visits to the campus when appropriate, such as on designated special days
- Visits to the Houston Section meetings and other events. The volunteer member could offer transportation, meeting costs, etc. to make it easier for the student to attend.

4) The volunteer members should maintain contact with the students after graduation - particularly with regard to the status of their membership.

The obvious advantages to AIAA as a whole are twofold. First, we are able to retain more of our student members after graduation. By maintaining contact, we are able to locate them. The second advantage is the continuing encouragement of the student throughout his or her career and the knowledge that someone in the professional community cares.

We believe that the Houston Section can make this work. Please contact Andy Sylvester at 333-6080, mail code LEMSCO/B12, and volunteer for the program.

No Dinner Winners Yet
- Katie Knight

The membership number hidden in last month's newsletter was 159-8143. It was not recognized by its owner, Claude Nicollier of ESA with NASA.

There's hope, though, as I got a couple of responses from people who at least found it. Maybe I can get the Council to come up with consolation prizes.

There's another number in this issue ... Go for it, readers!

Cranium Cruncher

- Renee Lance

The answer to the September Cranium Cruncher was 2 hours, 54 minutes, and 35 seconds. Charles Campbell/ LEMSCO sent in the only correct answer to this puzzle. He is the winner of the free AIAA dinner. Congratulations, Charles. Maybe

more of you will answer this time.

The answer for the October puzzle was thirty degrees. The extra credit puzzle was find the rule that developed the infinite series: 2,3,10,12,13,20,21,... The rule was all the numbers beginning with the letter "t". I warned you not to spend any time that you couldn't afford on it.

Correctly answering the October puzzle were:

Charles Campbell, LEMSCO/C02
Bill Miller, SDC-5B
Jack Johnson, NASA/EE
Hal Rainey, NASA/ZR1
Paul Svacina, Texas A&M

The winner of last month's Cranium Cruncher is Hal Rainey, chosen at random from the list of respondents. There were no correct respondents to the extra credit puzzle.

November Puzzle

Minton's Restaurant has two dishwashing machines, one for dishes and one for glasses. The first machine holds 225 dishes and takes 10 minutes longer to wash a load than the other machine, which holds 75 glasses.

Each hour twice as many dishes as glasses are washed. From 12 noon, when the restaurant opens, until 2:00 am when it closes, 600 dishes and 260 glasses are used during each hour. The dishwashing machines start working thirty minutes after the restaurant opens, and they operate continuously until all the glasses and dishes are washed. At what time are both machines finally turned off?

Send your answers to Ed Monteiro, MDAC/T5I, 16055 Space Center Blvd, Houston, TX 77062.

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