

# HORIZONS

Houston, Texas

September 1991

## Chairman's Message

**Dr. Zafar Taqvi**  
Chairman

Starting with this newsletter, we begin a new year for the AIAA Houston Section. This will be a great year and I want you to be a part of it.

We are exploring new ideas on serving the membership. As we work together in the Total Quality/Vision (TQ/V) era, we will discover innovative ways to help ourselves both collectively and individually. John Trebes and his administration did a fine job last year and we have to cash in on the experience gained and lessons learned, and make them serve our membership. My special thanks to John and his team for their dedicated efforts.

How can we excel in fulfilling the objectives of our section? This was the thought underlying our efforts all summer. It is heartening to see so many able and willing volunteers trying to help each other in improving our profession.

By the time this newsletter reaches you, your section will have completed a detailed planning effort which includes annual goal setting, recruitment of personnel, finalization of detailed programs for all operations and technical committees, and the section's annual budget. I initially set a working section goal which consisted of the following:

- Thirteen technical committees, organizing one workshop and 36 lunch & learn programs. This is about a three-fold increase from last year in the lunch & learn programs.
- Ten operations committees. Activities include ten monthly meetings, eight video presentations, cosponsorship of eight live video conferences and four educational seminars, and two public policy forums. All educational activities represent additions for this year.

- Five special committees will organize a section thirtieth anniversary program, administer scholarships, continue international space activities including an International Space Year program, and improve section activities and membership services through the Total Quality/Vision committee.

A special issue of *Horizons* is being prepared for distribution next month. This will detail the goals and objectives of each section committee and their implementation plans.

A section is only as vibrant as its members. An active membership participates fully in section activities. We are planning quality programs and meaningful services for the membership, and the membership is invited to participate and contribute to its success. If you have ideas for achieving improved efficiency, please contact any member of the board; we are open to suggestions. You can also air your views in the columns of this newsletter.

See you next month with more good news!

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*Horizons* is the monthly newsletter of the Houston Section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. It is created by members of the Houston Section and reproduced at the Houston offices of Lockheed Engineering and Sciences Company. Please address all communications to Vice-Chairman of Operations, Dr. Sarwar Naqvi, RSOC/R15A, telephone 282-2767, fax 282-4505.

# The Members Speak Out

Lou Livingston  
Editor

*[Opinions expressed in this column are those of the correspondents and the editor. They do not necessarily represent the position of the AIAA or of the Houston Section.]*

(The June *Horizons* included two letters concerning the 1991 Section elections and a response by Dr. Zafar Taqvi, then Chairman-Elect and chairman of the Nominating Committee. Interest in the topic continues; the following letters were received last June.)

I have not been very active in AIAA for several years—primarily because of distance coupled with a shift in my emphasis to marine and maritime affairs. However, as one of the starters of the Houston Section, and as one who did his share in its early years, I do have a strong interest in its continued vitality and success.

In view of my interest, I feel compelled to express a very firm belief, based on long experience with many societies and organizations, that the general membership *must* be given a feeling that *they* have a voice in the society's operation and policy. The one-candidate-per-office nomination list is one of the surest ways to *discourage* the general membership.

Regardless of which side is correct in the reporting of the current dispute, the fact that such a dispute was allowed to occur is not a good sign.

I strongly urge the AIAA Houston Section to *require* multiple nominations for every elected-officer position in the Section.

Sincerely, and with best wishes for all,

Paul Purser

I read the letters in the *Horizons* Speak Out column about nominations and thought I'd make a suggestion. I'm a member of other organizations, and one of them has a nominating process like the AIAA Houston Section's. It goes like this:

We form a nominating committee, chaired by the most recent past president. Members of the committee are nominated from the floor at a normal business meeting. There are five members on the nominating committee, and two substitutes. Our constitution calls for a nominating committee meeting to have five participants, not including the chair.

The nominating committee meets and forms a slate of officers, nominating only one person for each executive position. The slate is then published in the organization's newsletter for two months prior to the elections. The slate is also read at each monthly meeting before elections (at least two). At the time of elections, the slate is usually elected by acclamation, with no secret balloting.

What we do in this organization vs. what AIAA didn't do in this nominating cycle is allow for nominations from outside the committee. A person wishing to run for a position may nominate him or herself, or nominate another individual, by writing an official nomination letter to the chair of the nominating committee. There is a minimum time prior to elections that such a letter can be received. No nominations from the floor are accepted on election day. The voting membership may then select the officer from the nominated persons.

AIAA could easily add this option into its nomination process. I agree that we should have as much choice as possible in selecting our officers for the coming year. It's clear that if a person wishes to run for a position, s/he should be able to, without seeking nomination through the committee.

Karen Edelstein  
NASA-JSC/ES2

Thanks to Paul and Karen for two well-stated opinions of the Houston Section's nomination procedures. As a matter of policy, I will refrain from tossing in my two cents' worth, except to note that this is an issue of major importance and, as such, merits a thorough airing to assure that any action taken considers the views of the membership.

Since a revision of the by-laws would presumably be necessary to effect any changes, some lead time is needed. This means that your ideas must be heard fairly soon to have any impact. Send your letters either to Sarwar Naqvi, RSOC/R15A, or direct to me at 16546 Ivy Grove, Houston, TX 77058. ☺

### Dinner Meeting Schedule

Following is the schedule of dinner meetings for the 1991-92 section year. Also included is the deadline for inputs to *Horizons*, as well as the program information available at this writing.

<u>Dinner Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Horizons Deadline</u>
September 26, 1991	Richard A. Kohrs; Outlook for Space Station Freedom	8/23/91
October 24, 1991	TBD	9/20/91
November 13, 1991 (Wed.)	TBD	10/11/91
December 12, 1991	Director's Reception	11/8/91
January 23, 1992	TBD	12/20/91
February 13, 1992	Houston Section Thirtieth Anniversary Meeting	1/10/92
March 11, 1992	TBD	2/6/92
April 9, 1992	TBD	3/6/92
May 20, 1992	Annual Technical Symposium (no dinner meeting)	4/16/92
June 4, 1992	Honors and Awards Banquet	5/1/92

## Committee News

### TC's on the Move

Bill Best  
Vice-Chairman, Technical

The Technical Committees are off to a fast start. The Management TC had a Lunch & Learn in August and there will be meetings of at least two other TC's in September. More than 30 activities are scheduled through June of next year. The TC's exist for you, the members. Please utilize them and join one of your choosing. Watch the mail for a special supplement which will give you complete details on your Houston Section. In the meantime give me a call at 283-0261. ☺

## Also Noted

### Feet of Clay

Lou Livingston  
Editor

I dozed off the other night watching TV and awoke to an old Star Trek rerun. After a few minutes, I noticed that Spock, just like the rest of the crew, was saying *kilometer*, not *kilometer*. Dictionaries

typically allow either pronunciation, but I'd have expected that Spock, the quintessential logician, would insist on the latter form.

After all, does one say *centimeter* or *millimeter*? I've never heard *kilogram* or *kilocycle*, and *kilohertz* isn't even pronounceable. Strictly speaking, if *kilometer* is a word, it ought to refer to a device for measuring kils (whatever they might be); consider words like *altimeter*, *thermometer*, *barometer*, *sphygmomanometer*, etc., all of which are names of measuring instruments and all of which have an antepenultimate accent. How else, indeed, can one tell a *micrometer* ( $10^{-6}$  meter) from a *micrometer* (an instrument for the accurate measurement of small quantities)?

On the other hand, the only justification for *kilometer* is that many humans use that pronunciation. One would imagine that would be reason enough for Spock to prefer the other form.

If we can't look to Spock as a model of logical thought and action, where *can* we look? ☺



# Technical Activities Calendar

**Bill Best** 16-20 - Monday-Friday  
Vice-Chairman, Technical Computer Fair.  
JSC Federal Credit Union, 10:00-4:30.

## September

### 4 - Wednesday

JSC Astronomy Seminar.  
Open discussion.  
JSC, Bldg. 31, Room 129, noon to 1:00 PM.  
Information: Al Jackson, 333-7679.

### 5 - Thursday

Clear Lake Area SigAda Executive Council meeting.  
Tindy's, 18307 Egret Bay Blvd., 11:45 AM.  
Information: Paul Kennedy, 282-6262.

### 6 - Friday

LPI Colloquium Series.  
"Cosmic Dynamo," Dr. Tomasz Stepinski, LPI.  
LPI, 3303 NASA Rd. 1, Berkner Room, 3:30 PM.  
Information: Dr. Deborah Dominique, 486-2167.

### 9 - Monday

NASA Area Macintosh Users (Group) "NAMU".  
Symantec's "Great Works" demo by G. Salazar.  
RSOC Cafeteria, 600 Gemini, 7:00 PM.  
Information: 488-2262.

### 10 - Tuesday

AIAA In-Space Imaging TC Lunch & Learn.  
Dr. David Pitts, Branch Chief, Space Shuttle Flight  
Science Support Office.  
JSC, Bldg. 31, Room 129, 12:05PM.  
Information: Dr. Kamlesh Lulla, 483-5159.

### 11 - Wednesday

JSC Astronomy Seminar.  
Open discussion.  
JSC, Bldg. 31, Room 129, noon to 1:00 PM.  
Information: Al Jackson, 333-7679.

### 18 - Wednesday

CLCTS monthly meeting.  
Lockheed Plaza 3, 1150 Gemini, 11:45 AM.  
Information: Andy Lindberg, 483-1474.

Houston Space Business Roundtable monthly  
luncheon.

"Lunar Based Earth Power Systems," Dr. David  
Criswell, Director, Institute of Space Systems  
Operations, University of Houston.  
Location TBD, 11:30/12:00 noon.  
Information: Beth Land, 335-1344.

### 19 - Thursday

IEEE/CLCTS Video Conference.  
"Quality Management Approaches to the Malcolm  
Baldrige Award."  
JSC Gilruth Center, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.  
IEEE members \$50, CLCTS \$70, others \$80.  
Register by Friday, September 13.  
Information: Andy Lindberg, 483-1474.

Clear Lake SigAda membership meeting.  
"News from the Software Engineering Institute  
Affiliate Symposium," Linda Blades, MITRE.  
Mario's Pizza, 618 NASA Rd. 1, Webster, 11:45 AM.  
Information: Paul Kennedy, 282-6262.

TSPE monthly meeting.

Program TBD.  
Ramada King's Inn, 1301 NASA Rd. 1, 7:00 PM.  
Information: 338-2966 or 485-2404.

AMIGA User's Group meeting.

Micro Search, 2402 Bay Area Blvd., 7:00 PM.  
Information: Carroll Moore, 483-0259.

**20 - Friday**

LPI Colloquium Series.

"In Search of Other Planetary Systems," William Cochran, UT-Austin.

LPI, 3303 NASA Rd. 1, Berkner Room, 3:30 PM.

Information: Dr. Deborah Dominique, 486-2167.

**24 - Tuesday**

Bay Area PC Organization (BAPCO) monthly meeting.

"Working with Laser Printers," The Laser Professor.

League City Bank & Trust, 303 E. Main, 7:30 PM.

Information: Steve Medcalf, 554-2300.

**25 - Wednesday**

AIAA Thermal Physics TC Lunch & Learn.

"Space Station Freedom Thermal Control System Overview," Richard Parrish, JSC.

JSC Bldg. 3 Cafeteria, 11:15 AM.

Information: Joe Chambliss, 333-6713.

JSC Astronomy Seminar.

Open discussion.

JSC, Bldg. 31, Room 129, noon to 1:00 PM.

Information: Al Jackson, 333-7679.

**26 - Thursday**

Society for Computer Simulation (SCS) monthly meeting.

"Risky Simulations or Risky Business,"

Graham O'Neil, LESC.

Lockheed Plaza 3, 1150 Gemini, 11:45 AM-12:45 PM.

Information: Wade Webster, 244-4306.

Joint AIAA/IEEE dinner meeting.

"Outlook for Space Station Freedom," Richard A. Kohrs, Deputy Associate Administrator for SSF Program, NASA Hq.

JSC Gilruth Center, 5:30/6:30/7:30 PM.

Information: Dr. Sarwar Naqvi, 282-2767.

**27 - Friday**

LPI Colloquium Series.

"Completing the Copernican Revolution," David Black, LPI.

LPI, 3303 NASA Rd. 1, Berkner Room, 3:30 PM.

Information: Dr. Deborah Dominique, 486-2167.

**30 - Monday**

LPI Colloquium Series.

"The Chicxulub Structure in Northern Yucatan: K-T Smoking Gun or Smoke and Mirrors?," Dr. Virgil Sharpton, LPI.

LPI, 3303 NASA Rd. 1, Berkner Room, 3:30 PM.

Information: Dr. Deborah Dominique, 486-2167.

Please send additions, corrections and comments to:

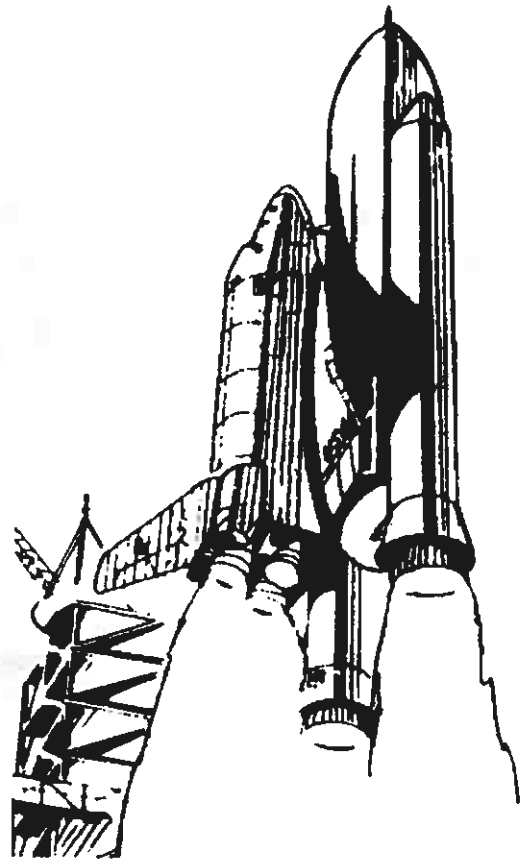
Bill Best/R12A

Rockwell Shuttle Operations Company

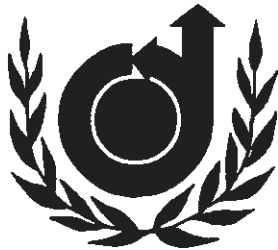
600 Gemini Ave.

Houston, TX 77058

Telephone 283-0261



## OUTSTANDING SECTION AWARD



1975-1976  
1976-1977  
1979-1980  
1980-1981  
1981-1982  
1983-1984  
1986-1987  
1988-1989

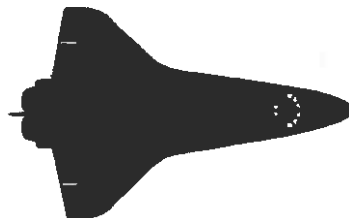


## SECTION SPECIAL EVENT AWARD



1971-1972  
1972-1973  
1979-1980  
1981-1982  
1983-1984  
1985-1986  
1988-1989

**AIAA Houston Section**  
**P.O.Box 57524**  
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HOUSTON SECTION P.O. BOX 57524 WEBSTER, TEXAS 77598

CO-SPONSORED BY THE IEEE GALVESTON BAY SECTION

**Thursday, September 26, 1991**

## **OUTLOOK for the SPACE STATION FREEDOM PROGRAM**

**RICHARD H. KOHRS**

**DEP. ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR  
FOR SPACE STATION FREEDOM  
NASA HEADQUARTERS**

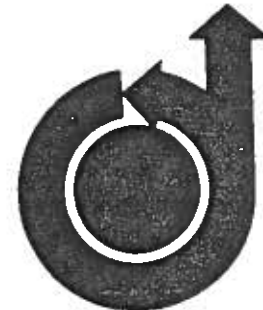


### **PRESENTER**

Richard H. Kohrs was appointed Director, Space Station Freedom(SSF) in June 1989, with the responsibility for the design, development and future operations of the space station. As Director, SSF - a program within the Office of Space Flight - Mr. Kohrs is responsible for the activities required to develop a permanently manned space station, planned to begin initial orbital activities in the late 1990's. Mr. Kohrs began his NASA career in 1963 at the Manned Spacecraft Center, Apollo Spacecraft Program Office. In 1973, he moved to the Space Shuttle Program Office and served at various management levels. From 1980 to 1983, Mr. Kohrs was Manager, Systems Integration. From 1983 to 1987, he served as Deputy Manager, and in 1987 he became Deputy Director, NSTS Program, a position he held until his present position. Mr. Kohrs is a native of St. Charles, Mo. and is a graduate of Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.

### **Guest Host**

**Robert F. Thompson**  
Vice President & General Manager  
Space Station & Houston Divisions  
McDonnell Douglas Space Systems Co.



### **DINNER MEETING**

**SOCIAL: 5:30**  
**DINNER: 6:30**  
**PROGRAM: 7:30**

**MENU: COUNTRY STEAK**

<b>MEMBERS &amp; SPOUSES</b>	<b>\$9.00</b>
<b>NONMEMBERS</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>STUDENTS/YOUNG MEMBERS</b>	<b>\$8.00</b>

**AIAA HOUSTON SECTION MEETINGS  
ARE HELD AT THE JOHNSON SPACE CENTER  
ROBERT R. GILRUTH RECREATION CENTER**

<b>FRANKIE</b>	<b>SANDY</b>	<b>ARDELL</b>	<b>CARROLL</b>	<b>SARAH</b>
<b>333-6064</b>	<b>845-0735</b>	<b>283-4214</b>	<b>283-6000</b>	<b>282-3160</b>
<b>LOCKHEED</b>	<b>COLLEGE STATION</b>	<b>McDONNELL DOUGLAS</b>	<b>EAGLE</b>	<b>BENDIX</b>

**NOTE: THE DINNER RESERVATIONS DEADLINE IS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, AT 12:00 NOON.  
ANY CANCELLATIONS ARE REQUIRED PRIOR TO DEADLINE. NO-SHOWS WILL BE BILLED.  
ALL ARE WELCOME.**

**DINNER RESERVATIONS ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR ATTENDING THE PROGRAM ONLY.**

