

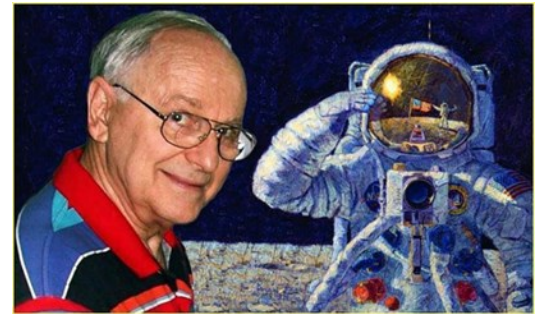
Student Section News

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Above: Image [credit](#): Rice University.

Right: Artist and NASA Skylab and Apollo astronaut Alan Bean [spoke](#) at Rice on March 21, 2013. The video is no longer online at this [link](#). Image [credit](#): Rice University.



Team Aether in the AIAA Design / Build / Fly Competition

CLAY STANGLE, AIAA HOUSTON SECTION TREASURER

The students of Team Aether at Rice University will be putting a year's worth of hard work in the air at the end of April. These students have entered an AIAA Design/Build/Fly competition that is doubling as some of the students' senior design engineering projects. The team is made up of both seniors and underclassmen and three exchange students from Tunisia via web meeting last

semester and who are on campus this semester. They have been meeting on a weekly basis since last August, with mentors Clay Stangle from Boeing Houston and Justin Figueroa from Boeing Seattle who is former Rice student. Justin participated in the same competition.

The goal is to build a remote controlled aircraft from

scratch, using no outside machining, that completes the three missions from the competition. Sizing and shape guidelines were derived from these requirements and the students were graded in their senior design class by how well they perceived these requirements and met them. This semester the students are procuring their materials and are building the plane. This is a great learning experience for the students as they are building the craft; having to find and decide what things are needed beyond their original design and what things won't work.

The Tunisian students are electrical engineers and are providing the electronic avionics and propulsion aspects of the aircraft. They are also in charge of the website and media sharing that the ten-member team utilizes to keep in touch, as well as some of the virtual testing that was done with a model of the students' plane. Some of the underclassmen are members of the Rice AIAA student chapter. They are helping the team with design and build aspects, as well as making travel arrangements to help get the team to Arizona for the competition.



Above: Members of Team Aether. Image source: Clay Stangle, AIAA Houston Section.



Above: Image [credit](#): Rice University.

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Please send inputs to Dr. Gary Turner, our College and Co-Op Chair. His e-mail address is: [collegecoop2012\[at\]aiaahouston.org](mailto:collegecoop2012[at]aiaahouston.org). His backup for this task is Editor Douglas Yazell: [editor2012\[at\]aiaahouston.org](mailto:editor2012[at]aiaahouston.org). Our Section's web [page](#) lists the related websites. We publish most bimonthly issues at www.aiaahouston.org by the last day of each even-numbered month, and the submissions deadline is three weeks earlier. The November / December issue is an exception. It is published by December 10, not December 31.