

COMARA Newsletter—August 2009

The quarterly newsletters are mailed only to members without a working email address in our database. If you have an email address, please send it to webmaster@comara.org so we can send you all of the newsletters as they are prepared.

Dues, Dues, Dues

You can check your status at any time by visiting the COMARA web page at <http://www.comara.org>. After you sign in, your dues status is displayed at the top of the page. Dues for 2009 are \$10. If your dues payment is not current, why not send a \$20 check for 2009 and 2010? Make checks payable to COMARA, put "Dues" on the memo line, and send to COMARA, PO Box 34594, Bethesda, MD 20827.

Events

Social and Annual Meeting Sept. 20, 2009

The 2009 COMARA Reunion and Annual meeting has been scheduled for late afternoon (4–6:30 pm) on Sunday, September 20, 2009. Having held the event in Maryland the last two years, this year we shift across the river, to the **Marriott Tysons Corner Hotel**. This hotel is less than half a mile off the Beltway at exit 47A and has more than adequate parking. Cost is \$25 for members who have paid 2009 dues if check is mailed before Sept 13. Cost is \$35 for members who have not paid 2009 dues and members who pay after Sep 13. Cost for guests is \$25.



Marriott Tysons Corner Hotel
8028 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, Virginia 22182
Phone: 703-734-3200

Menu:

- * Mini Smoked Chicken Quesadillas, Served with Appropriate Condiments
- * Chicken Saltimbocca Skewers (Chicken, Prosciutto and Sage Ribboned on a Skewer)
- * Spinach Artichoke Tartlets
- * Complementary iced tea, lemonade, and water

Cash Bar:

\$6 – Domestic beers; \$7 – Imported beers, wine, cocktails; \$2.50 – soft drinks.

Directions from I-495:

I-495 North or South to Exit 47A (Route 7, Leesburg Pike).
At exit 47A, take Ramp onto SR-7 (Leesburg Pike),
Turn RIGHT (North) onto Towers Crescent Dr.

Last year's event was pronounced a success by all those who attended. **Please SAVE the date** and don't forget to send in your check to arrive by September 13.

National Philharmonic Orchestra Concert at Strathmore in 2010 _____

With the concurrence of the Intelsat Retirees Assn., whose members will join us for the event, and subject to the availability of good orchestra seats once the annual subscription drive is completed, COMARA has requested that the Orchestra "book us" for the All-Brahms concert on Saturday, March 20, 2010, at 8 pm. The program includes

BRAHMS Hungarian Dance No. 5

BRAHMS Violin Concerto, with Chee-Yun as soloist

BRAHMS Symphony No. 2

The ticket price is \$39.20. More details will be forthcoming in a future newsletter and on the COMARA website.

2009 COMARA Director Election _____

The slate of candidates for the 2009 COMARA Director class:

- Maury Mechanick
- Brent Jacocks
- Paul Schrantz

The primary voting mode is using the online ballot on the website. To access the online ballot—

1. Connect to comara.org
2. Sign In. If you don't remember your PIN, click on the "*Send my PIN to my email address*" link. Your PIN will be sent to the primary email address in the database. If this doesn't work, send an email to the webmaster (webmaster@comara.org) containing the email address you would like to use as your primary with COMARA.
3. Navigate to the Members section.
4. Click on the "2009 Director Ballot" link.
5. Click the checkboxes beside the candidate names.
6. Submit your votes.

Once the ballot has been submitted, your vote will be recorded in the database. If you want to make any changes, email webmaster@comara.org, and your voting record will be reset.

You can also mail your vote to COMARA, PO Box 34594, Bethesda, MD 20827, or email it to webmaster@comara.org. The last date for voting is September 15, 2009. The results will be announced at the Social and Annual Meeting on September 20 at the Tysons Marriott Hotel.

Two Directors are retiring from the Board—**Jack Hannon** and **Ron Garlow**—but both will continue to serve the organization.

Jack will continue to serve as benefits liaison with Lockheed Martin HR. He would like

to thank everyone for their enthusiasm and ready assistance during his three-year term as President of COMARA: “**You are the very best!** What a privilege also to have worked with you at **both** COMSAT and COMARA.’

Ron will continue to serve as webmaster for the next year. He has served as webmaster since shortly after the formation of COMARA in 2002 and would like to make room for someone else who can serve the organization. There will be some major changes in the website in the coming year, and he looks forward to hearing from you as to what you would like to see included.

Permanent Hall of Fame for Satellite Communications _____

The idea that there should be a place that records the history of the satellite industry within a permanent museum exhibit has been gestating for some two years. The Society of Satellite Professionals International (SSPI), with support from the Intelsat Retirees Association (IRA), the Satellite Users Interference Retirement Group (SUIRG), and COMARA have now signed an MOU with the National Electronics Museum (NEM) to explore how this idea might be converted from concept to an exciting reality.

The NEM is about 1 mile from the Baltimore Washington International Airport. It already has a number of interesting displays from the communications, electronics, and space fields and its Board has been very receptive to the idea. We also have pledges from various organizations of satellite artifacts and historical documents and a lot of proposals. The design study to determine how space might be reallocated and satellite displays developed will cost a few thousand dollars. We are hoping that industry and other groups can help make this happen. There will be more details at the September 20th reception, but if you would like to assist in the planning please contact Joe Pelton (joepelton@verizon.net), Steve Teller (teller@steveteller.us), or Maury Mechanick (mmechanick@whitecase.com).

30 Year INMARSAT Celebration Reunion on 2nd October 2009 _____

On October 2, 2009 there will be a 30 year reunion at INMARSAT HQ in London. Here are the links to get the details:

LinkedIn Groups—Group: INMARSAT REUNION

Subject: IMPORTANT Announcement from INMARSAT REUNION

Click <http://www.inmarsatreunited.blogspot.com> and register at inmarsatreunited@gmail.com

Final Registration Date: 28 August 2009

I'm hoping to be there; hope to see others.

Bob Dahlgren

Benefits _____

Expect some changes in LM Medical Benefits for 2010. Your Benefits correspondent is attempting to obtain further details in advance of the enrollment period.

Jack Hannon

Calvin B. Cotner to Receive AIAA Aerospace Communications Award

Honored for Technical and Strategic Leadership in Advancing Earth Station Technology and for Guiding International Cooperation in Satellite Communications

May 18, 2009—Reston, Va.—The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) is pleased to announce that Calvin B. Cotner of Silver Spring, MD, has won the 2009 AIAA Aerospace Communications Award. Mr. Cotner will receive the award, which recognizes an outstanding contribution in the field of aerospace communications, during the 27th International Communications Satellite Systems Conference (ICSSC 2009), June 1–4 at the Edinburgh Conference Centre, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Mr. Cotner is being honored for “meritorious technical and strategic leadership, advancing earth station technology and effectively guiding international cooperation in satellite communications from its emergent years to present.” Now retired, he was the director of operations for COMSAT World Systems, Bethesda, MD, where he worked with C- and Ku- band earth stations and high-power amplifiers, and was the U.S. representative on the Intelsat BG/T project for several years. He also served as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve, where he performed significant work with the military satellite communications program.

For more information on the AIAA Honors and Awards program, please contact Carol Stewart at carols@aiaa.org or 703.264.7623.

For more information on the 27th International Communications Systems Conference (ICSSC 2009), please contact Duane Hyland at duaneh@aiaa.org or 703-264-7558.

AIAA is the world’s largest technical society dedicated to the global aerospace profession. With more than 35,000 individual members worldwide, and 90 corporate members, AIAA brings together industry, academia, and government to advance engineering and science in aviation, space, and defense. For more information visit www.aiaa.org.



News From Colleagues—Keeping In Touch

Laurence Gray, COMSAT retiree, has moved to New York to live with his daughter, Andrea Gill. He is well and in good spirits in his new home. Alfred is about 50 miles west of Corning, NY, and about 70 miles south of Rochester, NY. His email address will remain the same (k3ka@juno.com). He would enjoy hearing from COMSAT friends. His new address is:
149 N. Main St
Alfred, NY 14802
607-587-8207

Bill Snow is retired and living in Rehoboth, DE. Bill is continuing with a successful painting career, and exhibits at shows in the area.

Bob Bernier and wife Rosemary are both retired and enjoying their grandchildren.

Bernadine Thomas, former Payroll Supervisor at L'Enfant Plaza 1973–83, is now retired from Verizon and lives in Waldorf, MD.

Dick McGraw now lives in Wilmington, NC, and enjoys reading the Newsletters.

From Bill Allen—“Hi, this is Bill Allen, retired from Spacecraft Lab. Darlene & I still live in Clarksburg. We have The Blacksmith Shop on Stringtown Rd. We do repair/restorations and some commission work, but no more craft shows. To see some of our previous work, log on to Blacksmith Guild of Central MD (<http://www.bgcmonline.org/>). Click member profile.

Once or twice a week we jog-walk and pick up MT aluminum cans at COMSAT Labs.”

Carl Sederquist –Carl worked for COMSAT for 28 years, first for five years at the Andover, ME, earth station and then with World Systems at HQ. In 1996 Carl returned to his home state, ME, and now resides in Surry. He is an Ellsworth business owner who provides full time consultation to a variety of clients, including a joint venture American/Russian satellite communication company, MVS USA, Inc. He provides technical and operational support relating to Inmarsat and Iridium satellite equipment and services to government, energy exploration and maritime industry customers. In addition he provides consultation on marine satellite telephone equipment and service to the Maine boat building and high-end yacht owners.

Bill Bass –A Senior Project Engineer, still putting VSATs on ships and connecting voice, data & Internet! Joined COMSAT in June of 1991. Still with good old CQ except been through just a few changes:

COMSAT Mobile Communications, then
Lockheed Martin Global Telecommunications, then
Telenor Satellite Communications, then
Vizada, and now
Marlink!

Howard Briley—“Yes, I was in Normandy when President Obama visited Omaha Beach and the American Cemetery, but I did not attend the ceremonies because I knew there would be too many people, especially the WWII veterans. Although I entered France via Utah Beach in late June 1944, I didn't want to get lost in the crowd so I, like so many others, watched the ceremonies on television. I decided to wait for the 70th anniversary of the Normandy invasion when there will be far fewer veterans. After all, I will only be 93 years old at that time so I'll wait for when the crowds will be smaller.

“I have vacationed in Normandy each June for the past seventeen years and, having visitors each year who wished to visit the invasion beaches and other WWII sites, I believe I have qualified as a tour guide. But this year it was much more to my liking—no visitors. I regret that I will not be attending the September social but I am sure it will be a great success. Enjoy!!!!”

Roman I. Ulans –“Just a week ago my publisher sent me first prints of my seventh book, *The Likeness of God –How Modern Scientists Give Meaning to Scripture*. You can view a biased introduction to my publication at <http://comara.org/sent/likeness-of-god.pdf>

“I took up writing on family-related matters requested by my wife before she passed away. After joining a retirement community I occupied my time by satisfying her bidding with the publication of six monographs. I am hoping this final publication becomes a legacy to my family and to others who will read it. I intend now to give up my literary activities to enjoy the leisure of unfettered retirement. Warm regards.”

Jack and Lorraine Hannon finally made it to Japan for two weeks in June (the travel prices are down; great buying opportunities!), where Jack was able to show Lorraine some of the amazing cultural treasures of Japan (the Golden Temple in Kyoto; the deer park in the former capital city of Nara) that he had first seen as a young naval officer in the early 1960s. You can now take a direct flight on United AL from Dulles to Narita Airport, serving Tokyo; only 13 hours!!).

In Memoriam

Betty “BJ” Robertson, wife of Ernest Robertson, passed away June 22, 2009 in Mountain View, CA. Betty was born in Syracuse, New York April 10, 1942. She met and married Ernie while working at Bell Telephone Labs in Whippany, NJ. Betty worked as a secretary at Control Data and at COMSAT Labs. In 1977 the family moved to Mountain View, CA, where Ernie was employed, first with COMSAT and then at Space Systems/Loral. Betty will be remembered as a loving and caring person and will be missed by all who knew her.

Allan W Galfund, 93, a 24-year Army veteran who served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, died July 8. Lt. Col. Galfund, who retired from the Army in 1967 as a senior information officer, later worked for the Communications Satellite Corp. in Washington and as the director of public relations for COMSAT Laboratories in Clarksburg. He retired from

COMSAT in 1985. He will be buried in Arlington Cemetery in a private ceremony at a later date.

Bob Sorbello, Vice President, Satellite Engineering at SkyTerra LP of Reston, VA, died July 15, 2009. Beloved husband of Eleanor; loving father of Natalie and Robert, brother of Carol Wright. Friends were received at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, 9200 Kentsdale Drive, Potomac, MD 20854 on Monday July 20, 2009, from 7–9 pm where a Mass of Christian Burial was offered at 10:30 am, Tuesday, July 21, 2009. Interment was at Gate of Heaven Cemetery. In lieu of flowers the family request that memorial contributions be made to the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration, 3900 13th Street NE., Washington, D.C. 20017, (202) 526-6808.

Catherine H. Talcott of Sierra Vista, AZ, on April 18, 2009. Catherine was the beloved wife of Jack Talcott; devoted sister of Caroline Pickett; loving mother of John and Dana Talcott, Laurel and Mark Beckman, April and Ed Danchik, David Talcott, Melody Talcott, Steven Talcott, and Eddie and Jenny Talcott. Also survived by 13 grandchildren. A memorial service was held at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Gaithersburg, MD, on Saturday, May 9 at 11 am. Interment was at Our Lady of the Mountains Community, Sierra Vista, AZ. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Catholic Community Services at P.O. Box 1777, Bisbee, AZ 85603.

Su Min Chou—*Marco Urcuyo reports*: “We just received news that Dr. Su Min Chou passed away on July 26. The family has developed a website for more information and to leave messages. The address is <http://suminchou.com>.”

Roy Passin of Roy’s Place, Gaithersburg, MD, on May 20, 2009. Although Roy wasn’t a dues-paying member, he was an important part of the COMARA community. Over the years, many COMSAT alumni spent more hours with Roy than they might like to admit, ostensibly discussing the future of satellite communications (but maybe just shooting the breeze) while enjoying one of his mile high sandwiches and a cold brew. Since 2001 Roy’s Place has been the location of choice for COMSAT’s December social event. We’ll miss you, Roy. (Roy’s Place continues to operate under the ownership of the Passin family, so COMARA members can stop by to offer a toast to Roy at the annual December celebration.)

2009 Director Election

An online form is available for your vote in the Members section. Sign in to see the form.

If you prefer to vote by mail, please print a copy of this page, check the boxes for your votes, print and sign your name, and mail a copy by September 15, 2009 to:

COMARA
Attn: Election Ballot
PO Box 34594
Bethesda, MD 20827

Vote for no more than 3 Directors

- Maury Mechanick
 Brent Jacocks
 Paul Schrantz

Maury Mechanick

Maury had long service in the Law Department and World Systems Division, and served as the last U.S. Governor to the INTELSAT Board of Governors before privatization. He is now affiliated with the major law firm of White and Case. Maury was appointed to be a Director a year ago to fill the vacancy left by a resignation. He has been active on the Board the past year and led the research to establish the IRS status for COMARA. He also provided guidance for COMARA involvement in other organizations.

Brent Jacocks

Brent joined COMSAT Laboratories as editor, Technical Publications, in September 1969, and later became general manager, Publications, with offices in Clarksburg and Bethesda. In 2001 she joined the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) in Rockville, MD, as director, publications production. ASHA is an association of about 140,000 members that produces a news magazine and four journals relating to audiology and speech-language pathology.

Paul Schrantz

Paul Schrantz joined COMSAT Labs on September 19, 1968, as a member of the Spacecraft Laboratory. He focused his early work in the structures field. He supported COMSAT and INTELSAT launches as well as the INTELSAT and COMSAT R&D Programs. When Fred Esch retired, Paul was appointed Director of the Spacecraft Laboratory. He has continued consulting and is currently Vice President of Engineering at W.L.Pritchard & Co. Paul has been an enthusiastic member of COMARA since its founding, and has derived great pleasure from providing photos taken at Annual Meetings and First Wednesday Meetings at Roy's Place.

Signature

Name