



Missile, Space and Range Pioneers

Past, Present and Future

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Today's Explorers Tomorrow's Pioneers

Eleventh Edition: October 15, 2009

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Message from MSRP President - Brig. Gen. Ed Bolton Guest Speaker

Tradition Continues with Pioneers Fall Banquet

The 2009 Fall Banquet will be held at the Tides on Friday, November 13 at 6:00 PM. Our speaker is none other than Brig. General Edward Bolton, Commander of the 45th Space Wing and Director of the Eastern Range. He will speak to us on a favorite subject...Space-Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. We look forward to his perspective on the Nation's Space Programs, especially as applies to Space and our national security. Please join us for this important meeting and for a good time socializing with other Pioneers. Reservation forms are provided on page 3. The cost is \$35 per person.

The US Space Program (both the Air Force and NASA) is the engine that feeds our local economy. . Unfortunately, we are in a time of uncertainty on the direction of the human part of the space program. With new national priorities and severe funding constraints, the original plan to replace Space Shuttle with the new Constellation system, is at risk. The President appointed a blue-ribbon panel to re-assess the original plan for sending astronauts to the Moon and on to Mars. Their preliminary report presents several options for a new direction but none of these options would prevent major local workforce reductions when Shuttle stops flying in late 2010. Local agencies are working overtime to mitigate this loss by bringing other Space related work to the Space Coast and we are assisting their efforts. As Pioneers, we have seen times like this before. We did recover and we will again.

Back to partying, the Pioneers have two events each year for the membership and friends. These are a Spring Gathering and the Fall Banquet. Our purpose has remained the same, that is...get together with other Pioneers to renew friendships, discuss past glories of the Space Program and help "pioneer" the future. We consider the current space initiatives to still be in the Pioneering stage.

Come share your stories and memories with friends and fellow pioneers. *Lee Solid*

Brig. Gen. Edward L. "Ed" Bolton Jr., U.S. Air Force

Brig. Gen. Edward L. "Ed" Bolton Jr. is the Commander, 45th Space Wing, and Director Eastern Range, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. He is responsible for the processing and launching of U.S. government and commercial satellites from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla., and is the final approval authority for all launches on the Eastern Range, a 15-million-square-mile area which supports an average of 20 launches per year aboard Delta and Atlas launch vehicles. He also manages wing launch and range infrastructure supporting the space shuttle and missile test missions. - Continued inside...



Pioneers Background: The Missile, Range and Space Pioneers, Inc. were incorporated on 2 November 1966 "To provide an opportunity for the people who were involved in the early missile, range, and space activities at Cape Canaveral to socialize and renew old acquaintances". The faces may change but the social nature of the Pioneers remains the same. There are approximately 1,000 missile, range and space workers, former workers, and advocates on the rolls of the Pioneers.

Brigadier General Bolton is Featured Speaker at Fall Banquet

General Bolton began his Air Force career as an enlisted cost and management analyst. In 1980, he was selected for the Airmen Education and Commissioning Program and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1983 after completing an electrical engineering degree and Officer Training School. His staff experience includes serving a systems requirements manager at Headquarters Air Force Systems Command and Chief of the Spacelift Vehicles Requirements Branch at Headquarters Air Force Space Command. For two years he was Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the Executive Office of the President.

The general commanded the 30th Range Squadron and the 30th Operations Group at Vandenberg AFB, Calif. His squadron won the General Kutyna Award in 1999 as the top spacelift squadron in Air Force Space Command, and he led the 30th Space Wing to its first Guardian Challenge victory. He has also commanded the Satellite and Launch Control Wing and the Launch and Range Systems Wing. The California Air Force Association selected the Launch and Range Wing as the 2005 Unit of the Year. Prior to his current position, the general served at the National Reconnaissance Office as the Deputy Director for Systems Integration and Engineering as well as the Principal Deputy to the Chief Operating Office. At the NRO, he won the NRO Leadership Award for 2008 and was awarded the NRO Gold Medal.

For additional information on assignments, awards, and promotions, please visit:
<http://www.af.mil/information/bios/bio.asp?bioID=9511>

Tales of the Pioneers: Another by Guenter Wendt

Since the early days of the Mercury Program, astronauts were quite adept at playing jokes on the press. One of those times was a "Press walkdown" on Pad 5 filming the pad activities that would take place on Alan Sheppard's upcoming flight. Gordon Cooper was all suited up for the event and climbed into a NASA van at Hangar S. I met him in the van when he arrived at Pad 5. With a wry smile, he explained what he had planned to do. I told him that it may get us all fired. "Are you chicken?" he dared me. So, I agreed.

Cooper, Dr. Douglas, Joe Schmitt (the suit technician) and I stepped out of the van and the cameras started rolling. NASA's Press Officer, Jack King stood proudly in front of the press corps as we walked slowly across the pad to the elevator. Cooper surveyed the Redstone missile as if he were seeing it for the first time. Then, with a shake of his head he grabbed the doorframe of the elevator and began yelling loudly, "No, no. I won't go!"

I grabbed him and wrestled him into the elevator while Dr. Douglas shoved from behind and slammed the door shut. As we ascended laughing in the elevator we could hear a frantic "stop the cameras, no more pictures". It did no good in that Aviation Week showed the pictures the following week and called for the firing or demotion of all of us. We thought it was funny but underestimated the wrath of the Press.



Who are these Pioneers? Send answer to Lee Solid at leesolid@bellsouth.net. First correct response may win a bottle of inexpensive wine!

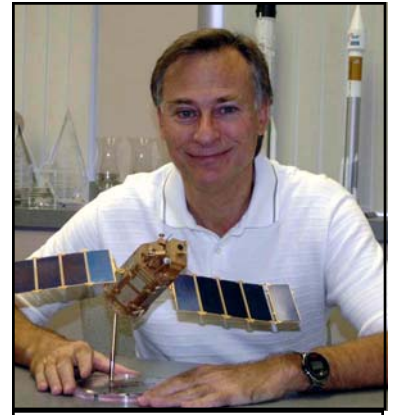
Some Pioneers History

The Missile, Space and Range Pioneers organization is 43 years old this month. The first meeting held to plan this group; was in August 1966 at the PAFB Officers Club. It seemed that the already 10-year old space program had its first "old timers" who thought it appropriate that we, on occasion, get together and socialize around our common interest in this thing called Space. The organization, simply called "the Pioneers" would have no other purpose. In the next few months, the group was formed and has been functioning ever since. The first big event was in April 1967. Pictures were taken and the inset picture shows a couple of those early pioneers. Can you identify them?

I have lived on Space Coast since 1962 and I have had the honor and privilege to work in and around the Space Center for over 30 years, generally as part of media or media support. I watched the launch of Apollo 11 from the NASA causeway sitting with a bunch of the musicians from Lee Caron's Carnival Club. The memory is as vivid today as the event was then. One of the first missions I worked on was the Apollo Soyuz mission which I covered as journalist for local radio. I have covered hundreds of launches since, not just here at KSC and CCAFS, but also at Vandenberg, AFB, the Baikonour Cosmodrome and the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

I love Space Program and more importantly, I love being around the people that work in Space. Space people are some of the greatest I have had the pleasure to meet. So, I was honored six years ago when I was asked to join the Missile, Range and Space Pioneers. MSRP is a great organization with a rich heritage like no other organization I know. What I have learned serving on the board of MSRP over the last five years is the club has issues and concerns like many other organizations that have been around a long time. For the most part, our membership has stopped growing and attendance at events is beginning to fall off. Many speculate the reason for this decline is because the goals and purpose for the organization may need to be updated. So I hesitated when I was asked if I would accept the nomination as President of MSRP, as I was not sure I could help lead and facilitate needed changes. However, I am happy to report in talking with current board and meeting with Lee Solid, our current club President, I am convinced that everyone will help with this effort. Based on that commitment, I have accepted the nomination. I am not setting any lofty goals for the club. Again, this club has a rich heritage which we all treasure. My goal as president will be to simply help guide the club to a renewed purpose that will hopefully strengthen the club and help bring in new members.

Jim Lewis is President of Communications Concepts, Inc. (CCI) which is an audio visual company specializing in Television and Web Production with facilities in Cape Canaveral and Orlando at Universal Studios.



Jim Lewis, candidate for president, MSRP, Inc.

Banquet Reservations Form

Social 6:00 PM - Dinner 7:00 PM, Friday November 13, The Tides

_____ Reservations at \$35.00 each Check enclosed for \$ _____

Please choose: Chicken Cordon Blue _____ or, London Broil _____

Clip and mail with check to:

**Missile, Space & Range Pioneers, P.O. Box 254034
Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0034**

MSRP, Inc., Elections 2009—Terms begin 2010

The following members are nominated for Missile, Space and Range Pioneers, Inc., offices as indicated:

James D. Lewis, President (2-year term) or **Write-in:** _____

William P. Bancroft, Vice President (2-year term) or **Write-in:** _____

Howard L. Peckham, Treasurer (1-year term) or **Write-in:** _____

Frank E. Watkins, Secretary (2-year term) or **Write-in:** _____

Missile, Space and Range Pioneers, Inc., P.O. Box 254034, Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0034

Your Signature _____

Missile, Space and Range Pioneers
Fall Banquet - 2009

**Featuring Brig. Gen. Edward L. "Ed" Bolton, Jr.
Commander, 45th Space Wing**

Reservations Required! Invite your friends!
- Reservation form inside -

Friday, 13 November 2009, 6:00 P.M. Social 7:00 P.M. Dinner

**The Tides All Ranks Club
(formerly NCO Club)
On A1A, Patrick AFB**

Address questions to: fwatkins@cfl.rr.com
or call Frank at (321) 242-6932

**Missile, Space and Range Pioneers, Inc.
P.O. Box 254034
Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0034**