



Spring & Summer Changes for the Langley Alumni Association

September 2023

By Geoff Tennille, Vice-President and Programs Chair

Our former Vice-President, Vicki Crisp, expressed a desire to be relieved of her duties and I volunteered to take the VP duties if a suitable candidate could be found to assume my duties as Treasurer. At the June 13, 2023, LAA Board meeting, Ray Rhew was elected to serve out my remaining term as Treasurer and I was elected to serve out Vicki's remaining term as Vice-President. However, life often serves up unexpected twists and this change was more challenging than most as the new Treasurer had an upcoming 25th anniversary trip planned.

Then, I suffered an attack of acute pancreatitis, which put me in the hospital

and rehabilitation for the better part of six weeks, from late April to mid-June. I am doing much better and can walk on my own, drive, and do some light yard work. I tire easily and still need further evaluation by my team of gastroenterologists to evaluate the damage to my pancreas, gall bladder and esophagus. So, my first item to discuss is to thank all the LAA members who called, e-mailed, texted or mailed cards to check on my condition. I appreciate everyone's concerns and good wishes. The volume of communications helped to lift my spirits. Thank you for showing your concern and support during my hospitalization and recovery.

The picnic on July 11th was successful. Most attendees took advantage of the two scheduled tours of the Measurement Sciences Lab, led by the LAA's Langley liaison, Melanie Robinson. The entrées and veggies were delicious and everyone seemed happy to renew old acquaintances over dinner and beverages.

Our speaker for August 8th was Dr. Paul Danehy. His topic was the Artemis I mission in November 2022 and he discussed laser and optical measurement techniques developed for flight or ground tests inspired by Artemis. Our speaker for November is tentatively scheduled to be Jay Brandon, who is a manager for NASA's supersonic flight test aircraft and program (the QUESST Mission). September and November programs are still being planned. ♦

Making Payments to the LAA

By Geoff Tennille, immediate past Treasurer, and Ray Rhew, Treasurer

Folks, we still have a recurring problem with people making errors on their checks that make them impossible or very difficult to deposit. It is never proper to make a check out solely to the current treasurer under any conditions. Langley Federal Credit Union (LFCU) will not accept such a check for deposit to the LAA account. A check made payable to "Current Treasurer" or "Treasurer LAA" has a problem if the back-up signatory on the account has to deposit it because the Treasurer is not available to do so.

The two acceptable ways to make a check deposit work 100% of the time are payable to: (1) LAA or (2) Langley Alumni Association. There is no rea-

son to insert "Treasurer" before LAA or Langley Alumni Association.

The LAA does not like to take cash because we don't have a book of receipts. Unfortunately, we can't take credit or debit cards either.

If you have an account with LFCU and do online banking, the preferred way to make a payment to the LAA is via a member-to-member transfer, annotated with your name and the reason for the payment. This provides an immediate record of the transaction, its purpose, and who made it.

Please do not send cash through the mail. ♦

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2023 LAA OFFICERS

President

Dan Palumbo

Vice President & Programs Chair

Geoff Tennille (registered agent)

Treasurer

Ray Rhew

Secretary

George Finelli

Communications Officer

Richard Hueschen

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & OFFICIALS

Membership Committee

Michael Marcolini

Nominating Committee

Geoff Tennille

Hall of Honor Committee

Duncan McIver

Website & Newsletter Committee

Olaf Storaasli Rick Ross
Wayne Richie Richard Hueschen

IT Committee

Rick Ross Geoff Tennille
Dan Palumbo Duncan McIver
Olaf Storaasli

Langley Representative

Melanie Robinson

Immediate Past President

Damodar Ambur

LAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Class of 2024

Vicki Crisp Jaroslaw Sobieski
Dave Rudy Olaf Storaasli
Michael Marcolini

Class of 2025

Stan Cole Dave Hinton
Wes Goodman Ed Prior
Melvin Ferebee Domenic Maglieri

Class of 2026

George Allison George Finelli
Charles Cockrell Wayne Richie
Kathy Ferrare

President's Report

By Dan Palumbo, President

At our most recent (August 2023) Board meeting, I brought up an issue related to the purpose of the LAA as declared in our By-laws that has been bothering me since I started my second term as President. These are the LAA's five stated purposes:

- 1) Maintain relationships among former civil service and contractor associate employees
- 2) Assist the Langley to maintain contact with the Alumni
- 3) Facilitate Alumni interactions with students ... to promote STEM
- 4) Recognize contributions to the field of aerospace science
- 5) Facilitate Alumni interactions with current Langley researchers to capture Alumni experience and knowledge

Our monthly meetings which are largely planned by the Programs Committee satisfies (1). The Communications Officer satisfies (2), and The Hall of Honor Committee satisfies (4). What I was missing was any explicit activity related to (3) STEM and (5) Knowledge Capture. During our discussion, it was brought to my attention that Dick Hueschen, our Communications Officer, had been keeping record of the emails that flow through his computer back and forth between Alumni and people inside and outside Langley responding to requests for help in the STEM and knowledge capture areas. The activity was there, but not entirely visible. We were indeed facilitating these interactions, though.

To better record these activities, I suggested Dick use a form to record participants' names, contact information, and associated activity. I

know this means filling out more forms, but when you consider the Communications Officer is responsible for carrying out three of the five purposes of the LAA, I think he needs as much help as we can give him. Dick had been copying and pasting information from emails into Word and Excel. I know from past experience how tedious this practice is. The use of online forms automates this process and will greatly relieve the task of keeping records of our members' work in these areas.

Thank you for your support of the LAA. ♦

Completely Mad

By Gary Price

Former Langley historian Dr. James Hansen has just released a new book titled *Completely Mad: Tom McClean, John Fairfax, and the Epic of the Race to Row Solo Across the Atlantic*.

Dr. Hansen is a prolific writer and historian with a broad interest in the history of aeronautics and other topics such as golf. His best-known aerospace histories include *First Man: The Life of Neil A. Armstrong*; *Engineer in Charge: A History of the Langley Aeronautical Laboratory*; *Truth, Lies, and O-Rings: Inside the Space Shuttle Challenger Disaster*; and *Spaceflight Revolution—NASA Langley Research Center From Sputnik to Apollo*.

Dr. Hansen's latest work, *Completely Mad*, chronicles the race between two adventurers, John Fairfax and Tom McClean, to become the first person to cross the Atlantic in a rowboat ... solo. The book can be purchased from Amazon in either hardcover or Kindle format. ♦

LAA Elections Are Coming Sooner Than You Think!

By Geoff Tennille, Nominating Committee Chair

We need to find at least five or six candidates for Members-at-Large for the Class of 2027. Candidates must be current on LAA dues and may not be a current Member-at-Large. The term of office is three years, and a Member-at-Large must be off the Board for a year before seeking re-election as a Member-at-Large. A Member-at-Large must attend at least 50% of LAA meetings each year, either in person, virtually, or by giving proxy to another Board member.

Under our By-laws, the LAA also needs candidates for all five current officers in January, 2024. Officers are limited to two consecutive one-year terms in the same office, without approval from the Board. Candidates for Officers must also be current on their LAA dues.

- President Dan Palumbo is completing his second term and will

remain on the Board as the Immediate Past President

- Vice-President Geoff Tennille is completing the term of Vicki Crisp and plans to run for President
- Secretary George Finelli is completing his first term as Secretary and has stated he does not plan to run for a second term
- Treasurer Ray Rhew is completing my second term as Treasurer and is eligible to serve two complete terms as Treasurer if he so desires
- Communications Officer Dick Hueschen is completing his second term as Communications Officer and is eligible to seek any other officer position if he so desires

If you have any interest in serving as a Member-at-Large or as one of the LAA Officers, please send me an e-mail at gtennille@cox.net. Descriptions of the duties of each officer can be found in the LAA By-laws, which are posted

on the LAA website at <https://www.larcalumni.org>. There can be multiple candidates for any officer position.

Our election schedule is the following:

- December 8, 2023—have a complete slate of candidates for Members-at-Large
- December 12, 2023—have a complete slate of Officer candidates to announce at the Holiday Luncheon
- January 9, 2024—elect the Class of 2027 (for the term of 2024 through 2027) at the Annual General Membership Meeting
- January 9, 2024—elect Officers for 2024 at a special meeting immediately after the Annual General Membership Meeting and before the first regular LAA Board Meeting of 2024 ♦

Pilot Careers and GA Aircraft

By Olaf Storaasli

Our NASA careers, and my son Paul's, promote flight. In 1986, I took my 3rd grader to Langley to hear aviation entrepreneur [Burt Rutan](#) talk of the Rutan Voyager's nonstop flight 'round the world without refueling. In Q&A, Paul politely corrected Burt regarding an antenna he had overlooked. Later a senior electrical engineer at Raytheon, Paul flew me and mom at age 92 in his [Rutan Cozy](#). Days after soloing, he flew to [EAA AirVenture Oshkosh](#), saw my NASA talks, and we heard Burt talk about his [first successful private space flight](#). Paul [loves aerobatics](#), which taught him so much.

In our acute pilot deficit, Sling Pilot Academy, named "[the fastest-grow-](#)

[ing flight school in the U.S.](#)," selected Paul as Chief Flight Instructor to certify over 40 flight instructors who train future commercial pilots in Sling next generation trainers (NGT) fuel-efficient fleet with [advanced sensors and avionics](#) like military and commercial planes. Paul is a Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) and a Certified Flight Instructor Instrument (CFII).

Paul works with [Paul Dye](#) of [NASA Mission Control fame](#) on Sling's advisory committee to reduce accidents due to loss of control, often fatal. Both Pauls fly together updating student flight lessons with angle of attack indicators for better situational awareness for lift than possible using just airspeed indicators. Teaching pilots

to fly using angle of attack may help reduce many loss of control accidents.

I hope you, like me, enjoy new pilots flying modern aircraft (see videos [part 1](#), [part 2](#), and [part 3](#)). Part 3 is dedicated to Mom as the Slings diverted to St. Paul and Paul's [last visit with mom](#), described at [minute 10](#). ♦



2023 AUVSIHR/VASBA Symposium and Gala

By Jack Schlank

The Virginia AeroSpace Business Association will be holding our annual Gala on Thursday, September 28th. We are excited to have Lt. Governor Winsome Earl-Sears as our Keynote Speaker this year and will be aligned once again with the AUVSI Air Mobility Exposition.

To purchase tickets, use this link: [2023 AUVSIHR/VASBA Symposium and Gala tickets](#). ♦

AUVSI Advanced Air Mobility Exposition

Day 1, Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Hampton Roads Executive Airport

5172 West Military Highway, Chesapeake, VA

AAM Investor Showcase

Investment Presentations & Demonstrations

1-on-1 Sessions

Networking Reception

Keynote Speakers Include:

Marco Rubin, Investment Director, Virginia Innovation Partnership Corp

Steve Fox, Managing Partner, Hampton Roads Executive Airport

Day 2, Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Marriott City Center, 740 Town Center Dr, Newport News, VA

Advanced Air Mobility Symposium

Keynote Speakers Include:

Glenn Youngkin, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia (pending)

Clayton Turner, Director of NASA Langley Research Center

Day 3, Thursday, September 28, 2023

Marriott City Center, 740 Town Center Dr, Newport News, VA

Advanced Air Mobility Symposium

AAM Panels

AAM Community Development, Virginia

Unmanned Traffic Management & BVLOS

AAM Academic Research Across the Commonwealth

NASA Langley AAM Research

Keynote Speakers Include:

Mark Warner, Senator of the Commonwealth of Virginia

Tom Walker, CEO & Co-founder, DroneUp

John Langford, Founder & CEO, Electra.aero

For more info and to register click here: [AUVSI Advanced Air Mobility Exposition](#)

*For more information regarding VASBA,
including how to become a member,
visit our website at [VASBA.org](#).*



Speaker: Winsome Earle-Seals
Lieutenant Governor of the State of Virginia



Special cocktail reception
from 6 – 7 p.m. celebrating
VASBA's 10th Anniversary!

Featuring live entertainment by the
Nick Kepics Jazz Band

For sponsorship information
email msmith@adaptiveaero.com

Held in conjunction with AUVSI
Hampton Roads VA Advanced Air
Mobility Symposium September
27 and 28

Please see link below to
purchase tickets

When: Thursday, September 28, 2023
6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

The Newport News Marriott at City Center
Newport News, VA 23606

Dinner entertainment provided by
The Strolling Silver Strings

Proceeds go to STEM scholarships!

Visit us at www.vasba.org

Note on Research and Ethics in the Age of Publish or Perish

By Steven A. E. Miller, Ph.D., Associate Professor, saem@ufl.edu
University of Florida Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

Diogenes, when once questioned about his curious act of wandering the city in broad daylight with a lamp, replied, “I am looking for an honest man.” (Plutarch, Life of Alexander, XIV.1-5). Honesty in scientific and mathematical research is central to human progress.

Recently, a series of disturbing events have changed the academic community. The President of Stanford was implicated in the creation of fake experimental data (New York Times, 7/19/2023), a Harvard Professor specializing in the study of dishonesty falsified data on his studies of dishonesty (WSJ 6/26/2023), and a Physics Professor at the University of Rochester manipulated research findings (Amer. Phys. Soc. 3/9/2023), among other instances. These individuals have been under investigation by the scientific community.

These professors manipulated data of multiple publications and by doing so were rewarded with the highest professorships in the United States. Consequences have been severe; each of them either resigned or were suspended. In research, once honesty and integrity are shattered, restoring them is nearly impossible, reminiscent of the futility of the King’s men attempting to put Humpty Dumpty back together again.

During my time at NASA, one of the Research Directors was Dr. Charlie Harris. His consistent emphasis was on technical excellence. The term “technical excellence” is challenging to define. In fact, it is not defined in Dr. Harris’s own book, “Engineering Ethics: Concepts and Cases.” However, I believe that ethics and technical excellence share a common cornerstone—honesty.



Diogenes looking for an honest man.

I cannot recall a time when I encountered research issues at NASA akin to those the academic communities continually face. This is attributable to the prevailing culture. The NASA Technical Reports Server (<https://ntrs.nasa.gov>) hosts approximately 100 years of high-quality research. This is due to the ethics, honesty, and the consistent production of high-quality research for which NASA is historically known.

NASA published the “NASA Guidelines for Promoting Scientific Research and Integrity” (6/2018). Additionally, any publication emerging from NASA undergoes extensive peer review, management review, and evaluation by a chief engineer or sci-

entist. It then goes through an entirely separate peer review by a publicly accessible, peer-reviewed journal.

In the university system, the number of annual publications and achieving high impact factor (a statistic) can mark the difference between maintaining a career or having to abandon research altogether. The key to improving quality and ensuring the ethical use of government grants is to focus on quality, not quantity, in government, industrial, and academic research.

If Diogenes were to wander our contemporary world with his lamp, would he find an honest person? ♦



LANGLEY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

A tax-exempt organization

The LAA Newsletter is published quarterly. Please submit articles for publication to rick.ross@verizon.net no later than the 10th of February, May, August, or November for publication the following month. Please contact mhueschen@gmail.com to subscribe or unsubscribe.