

# ENGINEERS CLUB OF THE SUN CITIES AREA

JANUARY 2007 NEWSLETTER

[www.engineersaz.com](http://www.engineersaz.com)

The Engineers Club is a social organization which meets regularly for lunch with a speaker on a technical topic. Spouses are invited and many attend regularly. Short field trips are occasionally scheduled. Membership is open to anyone who has worked in or had close ties to the engineering or scientific fields. Meetings are held at 11:30am on the first Friday of each month, October through June, at Palmbrook Country Club, 9350 Greenway Road in Sun City, Arizona.

Visitors are always welcome - - just call Reservations at 546-9112 to let us know you are coming.

## JANUARY 5 PROGRAM

### Understanding the Universe

*Dr. Starling (Kess) Alley*

*Past President of the Engineers Club*



When we look up at the night sky, each of us becomes an astronomer. Wonder and awe are the predominant reactions to those twinkling lights we observe in that mysterious realm. This has been true since the first human being, without any real understanding, contemplated the Milky Way. Through the centuries, man began to gather more and more knowledge about the construction and operation of the Universe. Presently, there is a so-called Standard Model of the Universe which most, but not all, serious scientists support.

Physicists, astronomers and cosmologists constantly gather and analyze new data with better and better instruments, and thus refine the Standard Model. This program will give an account of the present state of the Model along with some scientific and philosophical conjectures, and implications for the future.

Dr Alley has honed his speaking skills over the years giving lectures and papers in at least fifteen countries around the world. He is a long-time member of the Engineering Club and served as our president in 2002. He and his wife Lois are now retired and live in Sun City West.

## FEBRUARY 2 PROGRAM

### Large Airplane Accident Investigation

*John Purvis*

*The Boeing Company (Retired)*



Statistically, flying is the safest way to travel. But, what happens when an airliner crashes? What kind of investigation occurs and who investigates? Does the investigation make the air industry even safer? Find out at our February meeting when John Purvis shares his expertise and gives a visual presentation of his involvement in commercial aircraft crashes.

John Purvis is an internationally recognized expert in large aircraft accident investigations. He has had a 41-year career with The Boeing Company and for 17 of those years, he led the investigative team at Boeing Commercial Airplanes and investigated more than 250 incidents which were classified as accidents involving hull losses, fatalities, or major damage. He regularly represented Boeing at government agency public hearings and served as the primary link to explain accident causes and to make recommendations to Boeing engineers involved in design, maintenance, and operation. John is a graduate of the University of Washington, is a registered professional engineer, and a private pilot. Also, he is an instructor in aviation accident investigation at the Southern California Safety Institute. He and his companion, Nancy, live in Des Moines, Washington.

## NOTES FROM...

### President Bill Harrison

#### Challenges and Changes



This may seem like the beginning of just one more new year. However, I believe 2007 may have some interesting and possibly unique challenges for all of us. Technology is advancing rapidly and one goal of this club is to have presentations that will keep us abreast of these changes. I am honored to be your president for 2007 and I will strive to uphold the high standards that have been established by the officers and members of this club.

We owe a great amount of gratitude and appreciation for the dedication and time spent by the 2006 Officers and Committee Chairpersons under the leadership of Bill Lee and the guidance of Past President, John Stockton.

Maureen Comstock has agreed to be the Secretary for 2007. She will also continue to assist Gene with Reservations and serve as the Reception chairperson as well. Gene Comstock will continue to serve as the Reservations chairperson coordinating all reservation activity including the generation of nametags and associated attendance records for each meeting. Gene also produces the Membership Directory each year. This is indeed a dedicated team.

One of the primary functions of the Engineers Club is to provide scholarships to deserving engineering students. and we have a committed group consisting of Fred Berkenkamp, Geraldine Montag and Rutheloise Borchardt that handle the scholarship program. These people have worked hard to select deserving students and follow up on their educational performance and progress. We are very fortunate to have such a qualified committee.

The very face of this club is the monthly newsletter, and Roy and Agnes White have produced this for many years. The skills and knowledge they have provided have been most valuable and very much appreciated by everyone. Roy and Agnes have decided to resign from this activity after 10 years of service and Jim and Pat Ardis have agreed to take on this task beginning in 2007. They have already designed and produced the format as exemplified by this initial issue. In addition, they have created a very functional web site, which will soon provide the capability to make reservations for the monthly luncheons and for scheduled field trips.

I do hope that each one of you will continue to support this club with your attendance as well as any suggestions you may have to offer. Let's make this a banner year.

**MARCH 2**

**Global Warming**  
*Dr. Bruce Rittman*

**APRIL 6**

**Shuttle Mission STS-67**  
*Astronaut William Gregory*

## SPECIAL NOTICE

**ANNUAL DUES OF \$15 ARE NOW BEING COLLECTED**

**Pay by January 19 to be included in the  
Calling List and the 2007 Membership Directory**

2007 OFFICERS

President	Bill Harrison	546-4943
Vice-President	Bob Farrell	362-9030
Secretary	Maureen Comstock	546-9112
Treasurer	Don Block	546-0557

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Programs	Bob Farrell	362-9030
Membership	Bob Latvalla	546-7801
Membership	Steve Kyriakides	544-9280
<b>RESERVATIONS</b>	<b>Gene Comstock</b>	<b>546-9112</b>
Luncheon Planner	Byron Eberwein	974-3371
Scholarship	Geraldine Montag	546-7963
Scholarship	Fred Berkenkamp	214-7757
Scholarship	Rutheloise Borchardt	933-2307
Reception	Maureen Comstock	546-9112
Newsletter	Jim & Pat Ardis	362-1013
Publicity	Keith Morrow	546-3080
Field Trips	Bill Harrison	546-4943
Past President	Bill Lee	977-1818

TREASURER'S REPORT 11-30-2006

General Fund Balance: \$ 2,130.19  
 Scholarship Fund Balance: \$ 2,303.73

LUNCHEON MENUS

**January 5:** Caesar Salad, Baked Ham & Fruit Sauce, Sweet Potatoes, Peas & Onions, Rolls, Beverage, Vanilla Ice Cream & Butterscotch Sauce. **(Entrée Option: Fruit Plate)**

**February 2:** Spinach Salad, Stuffed Pork Chop, Twice-Baked Potato, Vegetable, Rolls, Beverage, Peppermint Ice Cream & Chocolate Sauce. **(Entrée Option: Fruit Plate)**

RESERVATION POLICY

The cost of the monthly luncheon is \$16.50 per person.

An added charge of \$1 will be applied for "walk-ins."

A fee of \$10 will be charged for "no-shows."

Please call in advance if you cannot fulfill your reservation.

Please have cash or your check made out for exact amount.

**RESERVATIONS Gene Comstock 546-9112**

OUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Almost since its inception, the Engineers Club has provided a scholarship to a qualified student aspiring to a Baccalaureate degree in Engineering. Currently, ten dollars of the annual dues of each Club member are designated to the Scholarship Fund to provide a \$2,000 scholarship each calendar year.

The awardee must have already demonstrated successful commitment to advanced education in a 4-year Engineering field by completing courses equivalent to a full Freshman Engineering year with a grade point average of at least 3.0. Specifically, headway must have been achieved in college level calculus, chemistry and physics. Demonstration of financial need is also a criteria. Graduates of local high schools are preferred.

The Scholarship Committee consists of three experienced members, Rutheloise Borchardt, Geraldine Montag, and Fred Berkenkamp. In early Fall, we ask Glendale Community College to post our selection criteria, and supply us applications from which two or three students are selected for intensive interviews.

The successful awardee, along with a parent, is invited to our January luncheon to be introduced to the membership, and give a 3-4 minute presentation on background, synopsis of work experiences, and career goals. The Committee then follows the awardee's progress to be certain that the second half of the scholarship should be paid for the Fall semester.

Gratifying continuity has occurred when a committee member has served as a mentor throughout the awardee's college career and beyond. In the past 5 years, all awardees have either graduated in Engineering or are progressing well.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Hugh & Lyla Ross

Club membership is currently 189.

NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE

The newsletter is published at engineersaz.com about two weeks before each meeting. Questions or suggestions should be directed to Jim or Pat Ardis at jimpat@ardisnet.com or 362-1013.



The musical harmony group *The Beach Bums* provided entertainment at the year-end holiday meeting in December.



Officers for 2007 (l. to r.) Bill Harrison, Bob Farrell, Maureen Comstock and Don Block were elected at the December meeting.