ASME
SETTING THE STANDARD

Hudson Mohawk Section

Editor: (position open)

Newsletter

April 2008

April Meeting – Joint Event with RPI Student Section & AIAA

Topic: "SR-71 Blackbird—An Engineering Marvel"

Speaker: Richard Graham, Col (Ret.), USAF

Date: Thursday, April 3rd, 2008

Time: 6:30 PM Social Hour (with ample hot hors d'oeuvres and cash bar)
7:30 PM Welcome and Presentation

Place: RPI Center for Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies (Lobby and Auditorium)

RSVP by noon Monday, March 31st, 2008

Contact: Mike Brilliant (howard.brilliant@ge.com or 518-385-3318)

Abstract:

The world's fastest and highest flying aircraft was conceived as early as 1958 by the renowned aircraft engineer, Kelly Johnson. The gigantic leap in technology he and his engineers had to overcome at the Lockheed Skunk Works was phenomenal. Built in total secrecy, the first Blackbird flew on April 26, 1962. The Blackbird's only purpose was to gather highly classified intelligence on hostile countries around the world. Flying at Mach 3+ speeds and cruising at over 85,000 feet, the SR-71 could survey over 100,000 square miles every hour, gathering millions of bits of intelligence. When cruising at over 2,100 mph, with skin friction temperatures reaching 600 ºF, the SR-71 performed at its very best.

From 1967 to 1990, the SR-71 served seven U.S. Presidents, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the National Security Agency (NSA), the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), the Pentagon and other government agencies. It provided them with the necessary intelligence to make crucial political and military decisions during the Cold War era. This presentation can be tailored to the audience and includes an entertaining presentation and two short, narrated videos…one on the SR-71, and another honoring the legendary Lockheed "Skunk Works" aircraft engineer, Kelly Johnson. This presentation links the world of engineering with aviation and gives the audience a much deeper appreciation of just how far "outside the box" Kelly Johnson had to think. The Q&A session at the end of this program gives the audience an opportunity to ask questions about the once highly classified program.

Speaker:

Colonel (ret) Richard Graham graduated from the University of Akron, Akron, Ohio in 1964 and received a Master's degree in Sociology in 1977 and in Public Administration from Pepperdine University, Los Angeles, California. In 1964 he graduated from pilot training at Craig AFB where he remained and was the T-37 instructor pilot and flight examiner. In 1970 he was assigned to Davis-Monthan AFB to begin F-4 training, after which he assigned to the 555th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Udorn RTAFB. Col Graham was selected to enter the SR-71 Blackbird strategic reconnaissance program in 1974 at Beale AFB. After several years, he became an instructor pilot and in 1978 he was selected as the Chief, Standardization/Evaluation Division, which included the SR-71, U-2 and T-38 aircraft. In 1980 Col Graham was selected to be the SR-71 Squadron Commander, 1st Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, where he served until 1981. He then was assigned to Air War College at Maxwell AFB in 1981. In 1982, Col Graham was assigned to the Headquarters USAF (Pentagon) to work in Programs and Resources as a strategic force programmer. In 1986 he was selected to be the Vice Wing Commander, 9th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, and remained there until his retirement in 1989. Upon retirement from the Air Force, he joined American Airlines, where he was a Captain on the MD-80 aircraft and amassed over 7,500 flying hours. A veteran of 15 years of assignments within the SR-71 community, Col Graham is uniquely qualified to tell the Blackbird story. He is the 1999 recipient of the University of Nebraska William F. Shea Award for Distinguished Contribution to Aviation and

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speaks with the ASME Distinguished Lecturers Program. His wife's name is Pat and they have five children and four grandchildren.

Place:

RPI Center for Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies

Dinner:

This event features hot hors d'oeuvres in ample quantity to satisfy most dinner appetites. A variety will be offered, including such items as vegetable spring rolls, chicken tenders, meatballs, cheese/crackers, pita/hummus, and fruit.

Cost:

$15 – Members and Guests
$8 – Students (with current College ID)

The Hudson Mohawk section is subsidizing student meals. Students from all local colleges are welcome and will be charged the discounted student fee.

Reservations:

To reserve your seat, contact Mike Brilliant at (518) 385-3318, or howard.brilliant@ge.com by noon March 31st.

Directions:

From the South:
Take I-87, the New York State Thruway, North to Exit 23. At Exit 23, get on I-787 North to Route 7 East. Follow the directions to campus (below).

From the North:
Take I-87, the Adirondack Northway, South to Exit 7 East. Get on Route 7 headed Eastbound. Follow the directions to campus (below).

From the East:
From I-90 (Massachusetts Turnpike, Berkshire Spur of the New York Thruway), take Exit B1. Continue East (13.5 miles) to the exit for I-787. Take I-787 North to Route 7 East. Follow the directions to campus (below).

From the West:
Take I-90, the New York State Thruway, to Exit 24. From Exit 24, continue onto I-90 East. Exit onto I-787 North. Take I-787 North to Route 7 East. Follow the directions to campus (below).

Directions to Campus:
You will want to be in the right lane of Route 7. Take the exit for Downtown Troy. You will be on 6th Street. At the second traffic light, make a left turn onto Peoples Avenue. Continue up the hill. At the second traffic light, make a right turn onto 15th Street. You will see the large granite Rensselaer sign and flags at the intersection of 15th Street and Sage Avenue. Continue on 15th Street past this intersection, and drive under the pedestrian bridge. You can park in the Public Safety & Parking Access Offices' parking lot located just past the pedestrian bridge, on your left. The Biotech Center is on 15th Street, across the street from the parking lot and the Alumni Sports and Recreation Center.

Distribution of Section Newsletter

The Hudson Mohawk newsletter is posted at:
http://sections.asme.org/hudson-mohawk/

Once each newsletter is posted on the Section's web page, an e-mail notification and link to the above website is sent to members who have e-mail addresses in the ASME member database. If you are an active member of ASME and did not receive an e-mail notification, please go to the ASME web site and update your membership information. http://members.asme.org/myasme/login/myasme.cfm