



February is a month of Love and this is a leap year.

Escape from it all Canceled

Mar. 2th



Sun, Sea, and Fire Cruise

Mar. 16th



Spring Picnic

TBD





Steering Committee Members

Keith Hughes - 623-825-5243
(Chairman -Tours & Events)
keith8411@cox.net

Christine Lindley (480) 280-6744 (Treasurer)
clindley712@gmail.com

Joyce Colella - 623-363-2969
(Editor/Publisher/Mailings/
Facebook advertising)
jc8246@yahoo.com

Barbara Brockett-623-251-0221 (MIM - Member roster & Dues Assistant Treasurer)
b.brockett@cox.net

Judy Wilger - (602) 525-4468
(50/50 - Raffles)
piscesw11@hotmail.com

Larry Bowe - 602-615-7150 (Picnics)
lbowsr@gmail.com

Kevin Vetter - 602-942-0038 (Secretary/AZ Broadway Plays)
Snuffles@q.com

Don Nicholas- 480-282-3015 (Events)
dgnicholas@aol.com

PJ Hughes
(Webmaster)

AeroActivities@gmail.com

Missing winner names at the Christmas Lunch

Raffle tickets: Pam Burdon and Tony Horacek

Gift Cards: David Brandenburger
Clint Brown
Pat Golic
Janet Hughes
Arnold Keeler
Joe Langendorf
Kevin Vetter
Judy Wilger



Do you know where to find your dues date?

Hard copies: are in black & white and under the address.

Email copies: in the body of the email

If you have no changes to your account, just send in a check, thank you

- **Pay,** Make a check out to: Aero Activities Club
- **Mail to:** Barbara Brockett, 22623 N 72nd Dr. Glendale, AZ 85310

For any changes to your account (address, email, phone), see last page of this newsletter



Keith's Thoughts



The Aero Activities Club was formerly known as the Sperry Retiree Club and is about 40 years old. In that time, we have hosted hundreds of events supported by a robust membership. Over the years our membership has declined slowly and dropped significantly in the last 5 years mainly in the COVID period. This resulted in a decline in event attendance, membership dues and difficulty in attracting committee members.

The Honeywell Retiree Social Club is our sister club in the Valley with a similar timeline and the same issues. For years we have shared events and existed together.

We are in discussions to merge the clubs. Both clubs are open to all Honeywell employees regardless of divisions. Both clubs have similar mission, goals and operating systems and have worked jointly on several projects. Our goal is to combine the clubs by the end of April and celebrate at the Spring Picnic.

As a member of the club many things that you are familiar with will stay the same but a few things will change.

A few of the many things that are staying the same are

- **You will still receive an electronic and hard copy newsletter with much of the same information as today**
- **The amount of the yearly dues will stay the same, but we will enhance our website so you can pay dues online.**
- **The activities and trips will be still be available as club events**

And a few items that will be different

- **The name of the club**
- **The link to the website**

As regards running the club our combined finances will be appreciated, and a larger committee reinvigorated with new ideas to provide more events.

The combination of the two clubs brings more diversity in our membership so future newsletters will have a feature where members can write stories about their particular divisions and rotate the divisions each month.

We are here to answer your questions, concerns and ideas so feel free to contact me. There will be updates in the next two newsletters.

Keith Hughes.

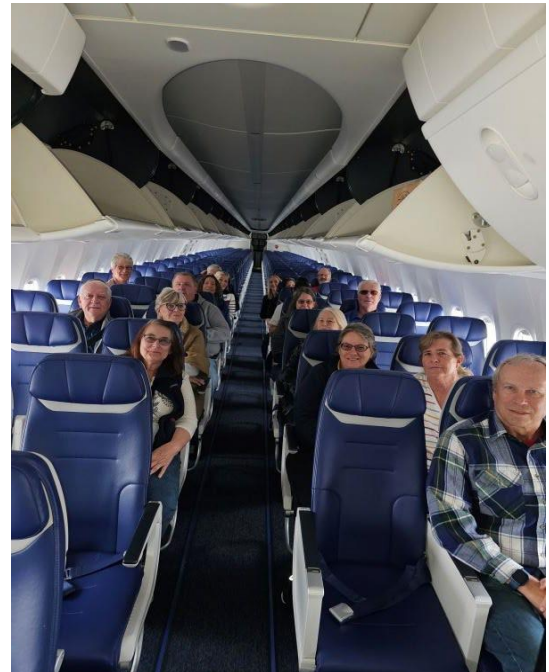
Aero Activities Club Chairperson

Keith8411@cox.net



Southwest Airlines 7th Visit

On January 19th, 2024 a group of us toured the SW Airlines Maintenance Facility. We had a very interesting presentation on the origins of SW and toured the new hanger still under construction. The only 2 aircraft available to view were on the apron and closed up but our host pushed some steps up to one and opened the door for us. After that we are on our own so several of us sat in the cockpit, tried out the seats in the cabin and marveled at the small galley and toilets.





Cave Creek Museum Tour

On Jan 19th, 2024 we toured the Cave Creek Museum. It contained a lot of interesting history of Arizona, the local Indians and mining in general. The highlight was a 90-minute presentation and demonstration on the various types of mining and the life of a miner. We were led through the process from end to end including watching the rock crusher operation. This 100,000# machine has been painstakingly rebuilt and is impressive to watch. One member said she has visited museums around the world and this presentation was the most interesting she has ever seen.





SUN, SEA, AND FIRE

Hawaiian Cruise by Barbara Rippstein

March 16 through March 30, 2024



My husband and I have traveled to Hawaii three times by cruise ship and four times for hotel stays. It is a lovely state to visit! All of the islands are beautiful: however, my favorite has always been Maui. News of Lahaina's fire was very upsetting. Every trip to Maui meant some time spent in Lahaina almost every day, lunch, dinner, shopping, and sightseeing. The town is organizing and planning for housing, shops, and restaurants. They will rise again! Princess sent our cruise group E-mails to announce a change to our itinerary. They cancelled our stop in Maui and substituted an additional stop in Kona.

Later Princess changed other cruises that had stops in Lahaina with a stop in Kawi, another beautiful island. Princess really has kept its cruisers aware of their changes.

Our cruise is still 15 days long. We leave the Port of San Pedro at 3:PM on Saturday March 16th, 2024. We spend March 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th at sea. What is there to do at sea for so many Days. There are ukulele lessons, a choir looks for volunteers (it's fun), dance classes. Movies Under the Stars, jewelry store sales, and the casino is open while at sea.

Next, we spend two full days in Honolulu. There is a lot of history in Honolulu. Princess offers many tours for their passengers including whale watching and hop on-hop off. There are also tours that you can arrange yourself. I recommend the tour of the ship USS Arizona. You can make reservations at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center at www.recreation.gov. From anywhere in Waikiki or the Ala Moana Shopping Center, take the #20 or #42 public bus (called The Bus), which will take you to the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center. If you're not sure where to get off, just ask the driver. A ticket costs \$2.50.

The Polynesian Culture Center offers travel through time and space as you experience thousands of years' worth of culture from six different island nations.

Our last port is Kona on the big island of Hawaii. There is one Hawaiian historical site we enjoyed which was The Place of Refuge. It tells stories about the culture of the earlier Hawaiians and their gods. Another private tour is to the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park & Black Beach.

The return trip home starts on March 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th This segment is slower to give you time to recover from the long Hawaiian ports. There are leis making classes and Hawaiian entertainment in the common areas of the ship.

On March 29th, there is a quick stop in Ensenada, Mexico. Several excursions are offered by Princess. Then it's back to our Port of San Pedro early on March 30th.

There is still time to join us! Call our travel agent at Ford's World Travel at (623) 933-8256.

AeroActivitiesClub.com - Come and take a look at past & present events



2024 Spring Picnic Aero Activities Club & HRSC Members

“There IS such a thing as a free Lunch”

Thursday April 25th



Location:	Rio Vista Park, 8866 Thunderbird Rd, Peoria
Ramada	9 & 4 & 5
Time:	11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Lunch Served	around 11:30 AM.
Prizes:	50/25/25 drawing
Coordinator:	Larry Bowe

We will provide and serve all food & Desserts
“Burgers and Brats and all the trimmings”

Because of Health issues, we asked you to not bring personal trays;
“Please use the disposal plates provided”

You may bring your own beer (we have a beer permit) or soft drinks
“Absolutely NO glass containers in the park”

“RSVP” will be needed in order to have the correct food quantity”
Last year we had a record number of 125 attending

*If you plan to attend the Spring Picnic, use this link: [Spring picnic signup](#)

or send the following information to

Larry Bowe at lbowsr@gmail.com or call 602-615-7150

“Name, number of attendees, your club (Aero or Honeywell) & cell phone number”

- **Members + one is free - \$10 other attending guest**



We will have the Book exchange or you can purchase a book for \$1

We will have our raffle

TWO WINNERS IN OUR RAFFLE - 50/25/25

One ticket for \$1.00 or seven tickets for \$5.00

When the money is counted, two tickets will be drawn;

Each of the two winners will receive 25% of the monies collected.

The other 50% is to offset the picnic costs.



Come join the fun and Association

AeroActivitiesClub.com - Come and take a look at past & present events



Insight into our History

Sperry/Honeywell Full Scale Target and Reconnaissance Drones by Dave Maass

Recently I came across a magazine article “High-Flying Facts About Drones” claiming to identify an individual who built the first modern Drone in the 1970’s. That may be true for developing a low-cost unit for the general population; however, the military has been using Unmanned Airborne Vehicles (UAV) or Drones since the eighteen hundreds. Including the Japanese in WWII with their unsuccessful fire-balloons launched in the wind currents towards the US Northwest forests (One of these can be viewed at the International Balloon Museum in Albuquerque, NM.) As electronics have shrunk and become more capable, industry has been able to repackage many items into smaller and smaller multiuse packages – including Drones.



My career started in the late ‘60s and worked on the Pave Eagle program which converted the Beach Bonaza into the Beech QU-22B. The QU-22B was an airborne relay to monitor sensors which would detect traffic along the main enemy supply line, the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Sperry’s remote-control equipment allowed the QU-22B to be flown directly by an onboard pilot or as an unmanned Drone. Sperry modified and flight tested the aircraft at a facility at the Marana Air Park, north of Tucson. Soon I learned that this was only one of many Drone programs in Sperry’s history; starting in Long Island, then moving to Phoenix in ‘59 and Albuquerque in ‘81 and became Honeywell in ‘87.

The defense industry had two approaches for unmanned vehicles which included total bottoms up design of a new airborne vehicle or converting an existing manned vehicle into an unmanned Drone. Either one can be used as air-to-air or ground-to-air targets or reconnaissance or surveillance Drones. Sperry’s approach involved its core business which was in the flight control systems including autopilot, air data, gyros, actuators, support equipment, etc. for any of the unmanned vehicles. In some cases, Sperry just supplied hardware or any level up to including being the prime contractor in the entire operation of development, design, flight test and full-scale production by converting existing manned aircraft.



QB-17

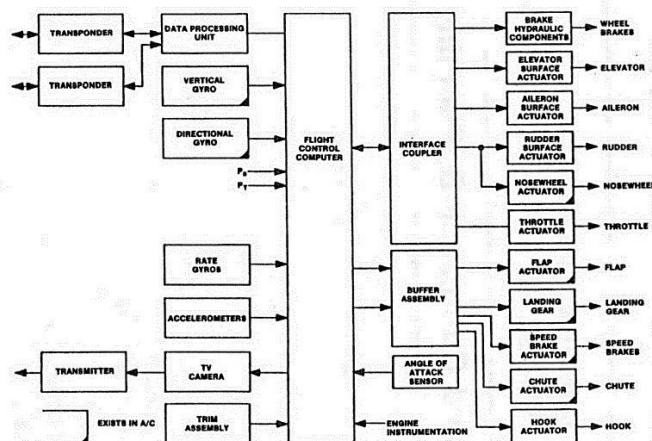


Sperry was active in converting manned aircraft to Drones beginning with a program in 1945 to Drone F-80's for the US Air Force. This successful effort led to similar Drone conversion programs involving QF-80, QB-17, QT-33, QB-47, and QF-104 aircraft and a Drone control system program for Aerojet General's MQM-58A surveillance Drone. Not only the Air Force but the Atomic Energy Commission used the QB-17 and QT-33 to fly through atomic clouds at various altitudes shortly after detonation of an atomic device; these Drones obtained aircraft structural data and samples of radiation fallout. Besides the flight control system, the Drone needs an up and down date link or guidance system for up commands and down telemetry. Sperry Rand developed and produced equipment to meet the needs of various missions with these Drones along with the BQM subscale Drone. Most noteworthy in this activity is the development and production of the Microwave Command Guidance (MCG) Systems under various contracts to the US Air Force. (Many of today's Drones are controlled from around the world via satellite guidance systems and GPS. AI is also being phased in.)



Following the Vietnam war, Congress required all new air-to-air and ground-to air weapon systems be tested against realistic airborne targets to ensure better accuracy and reliability. Thru the late twentieth century Sperry was very successful in supplying these realistic targets by using old but airworthy aircraft from the Davis Montham AF Base bone-yard. By replacing the limitations of the pilot with a drone control system the aircraft became a realistic full scale airborne target. As in the PQM-102, QF-100, QF-106 for the Air Force and Army (The -102 primary and backup control were both analog, -100 primary digital and backup analog, -106 both digital); QF-86 and QT-38 for the Navy; a Russian Hind look-alike Helicopter Drone for the Army; and the QF-104J for Japan with flight test support on Iwo Jima. These Drones were successfully used in the development of many systems including the F-15, Patriot ground-to-air missile defense system, many ground- and air-to-air missiles systems. These Drones were also used for pilot proficiency training by the pilot being able to take life-fire shots at realistic targets.

AIRBORNE SYSTEMS DIAGRAM





During this same period Sperry provided the Drone Control System for multiple special purpose Drones both classified and unclassified. Boeing's COMPASS COPE program whose objective was specifically to replace the manned U2 reconnaissance aircraft, because in the event of a total war in Europe the expectation was that there would be a very high attrition rate among American pilots executing reconnaissance missions. Martin Marietta's entry in the U.S. Air Force COMPASS DWELL program to develop an unmanned aircraft for data-gathering and as a communications relay with an endurance of at least 24 hours. Compass Dwell's airframe was based on a Schweizer sailplane fitted with a Lycoming supercharged piston engine and a non-retractable tricycle landing gear. The aircraft was remotely controlled and showed its endurance potential by staying in the air for 27 hours 54 minutes on the last flight of the program. The short-lived Compass Dwell and the subsequent longer-term Compass Cope programs worked toward the objective of producing the current reconnaissance and tactical Drones used today. Sperry also had a Navy program, SEALITE, to provide an instrumentation package with support equipment to be used on several subscale Drones which were used as targets against the experimental laser weapon system at White Sands Missile Range. Today some of those low-cost commercial Drones are creatively being used as tactical weapons.



Boeing Compass Cope



Martin Marietta Compass Dwell





We were the only Sperry engineers to cheer when a plane went down in flames. The film footage was always spectacular. Yes, we were a unique team of; engineers, test pilots, pilot controllers, technicians, flight line crew, and both hardware and aircraft production personal involved in every aspect of the aircraft from the tip of the pitot tube to the tail end of the jet engine exhaust. From 6 DOF analysis and design to maintain control thru all potential attitudes of the aircraft to developing destruct systems to terminate flight and all the ground support equipment to support the operation of the system. Many stories and memories with each of those programs - challenging but rewarding!





February Fun!



The Wigwam, a beloved Arizona resort since 1929.
Feb 16th 10AM – Feb 18th 5PM
14th Annual Festival of Fine Arts
300 E Wigwam Blvd, Litchfield Park

[Wigwam](#)



Arizona Exposition & State Fair Exhibit Building •
Feb 24th - 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. \$5 admission - 1pm to 4pm is free
All merchandise is 50% off
1826 W McDowell Rd. • Phoenix, AZ 85007

Parking - \$10 cash/credit - 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. \$5 admission
1 p.m. – 4 p.m. FREE ADMISSION and all merchandise 50% off
Arizona Exposition & State Fair Exhibit Building
Visit [JLP Rummage](#) to learn more.

The Junior League of Phoenix, Inc. is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women’s leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. Proceeds from Rummage benefit local community programs and training sponsored by JLP. As our largest fundraiser, the event brings in more than \$125,000 annually.

Link to check out more activities in Feb.

[best-festivals-2024-phoenix](#)



Desert Botanical Gardens

Free admission days, Second Tues of each month - 8AM - 6PM



The Desert Botanical Garden has free admission on the second Tuesday of the month from the hours of 8-6 PM. The garden and the neighboring Phoenix Zoo are accessible from the bus line; however, not by the light rail.

Best advice is to check the bus schedule, as times and bus numbers are subject to change.

Desert Botanical Garden is a 140-acre botanical garden located in Papago Park, at 1201 N. Galvin Parkway in Phoenix, central Arizona.

Founded by the Arizona Cactus and Native Flora Society in 1937 and established at this site in 1939, the garden now has more than 50,000 plants, in more than 4,000 taxa, one-third of which are native to the area, including 379 species, which are rare, threatened or endangered.

Information: [Botanical Gardens](#)

All guests (members or general admission guests) are required to register and have a timed-entry ticket prior to entry to the Garden.

Culture Pass:

available at any Phoenix City Library

Benefits:

Two-person admission passes, good for one week, are available to a variety of places including:

- Arcosanti - Sedona Heritage Museum
- **Cave Creek Museum, Desert Caballeros Museum,**
- Heard Museum, Superstition Mountain Museum,
- **Desert Botanical Garden, Pueblo Grande Museum**
- Cosanti - Cosanti is the gallery and studio of Italian-American architect Paolo Soleri
- **Phoenix Art Museum, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art,**
- Reid Park Zoo, U of A Museum of Art,

People with a Phoenix City Library card can go on the website for more information and may be able to reserve them online. Only a certain number of passes are given out each month.

Information - [Culture-pass](#)



Honeywell Clubs Fix-It Guys Program

Sponsored by Honeywell, Garrett & Aero Activities Clubs

We help Honeywell retirees or surviving spouses with fix-it jobs around the house.

This program is designed to keep the job from being a budget buster for you.

Call our Coordinator: **Frank Holman @ 602-695-2565** to schedule a trip to your home.

If you reach voice mail, leave a clear message giving job information, your name, telephone number and nearest cross streets. We will get back with you to schedule a visit.



Are YOU Handy?

Your Clubs really need your help!

We're hiring!!!



You don't have to be a contractor level kind of handyman—just generally handy around the house.

Some of you may have special skills (Computer/Plumbing/Electrical/Drywall) that can significantly help our members in need. Why not try it?

Call: **Frank Holman 602-695-2565** - We would love to talk with you!

The table below lists our current Fix-It Guys Team.

Thanks guys—for all that you do.

<i>East Valley</i>		
	Frank Holman	
<i>West Valley</i>		
Bob Farney	Lee Rippstein	Dan Schott
Paul Wiley	Kevin Vetter	



Nancy Schneider (Dale's Wife)

NEW- HR Direct Honeywell

Dept.09796 -2601 Research Forest Drive
Woodlands, TX 77381 - 1- 877- 258- 3699

Hours of Operation: Monday- Friday
9: 00 A.M.- 6: 00 P.M. Eastern Time

Checking your Pension After Jan 1st

www.benefitcenter.com/honeywell

or

**Regular mail - Honeywell benefits Service
Center PO 18016 Norfolk, VA 23501**

**Overnight mail - 1434 Crossroads Blvd,
Chesapeake, VA 23320**

Questions - 1-877-258-3699 #5

Retired members - Medicare contact

1-800-MEDICARE (1-800 633-4227)

Or via the website at www.medicare.gov
Northern Trust/ Pensions PO Box 92922
Chicago, Ill 60675 - 1- 877 - 258 - 3699 # 5



Jump on board

Looking for new board members

The Aero Activities Club currently has 9 Board members working to keep the Club going. As the Club gets older so do, we.

Several of these members have been on the board for many years. If anything was to happen to them or they resign from the Board, the Aero Activities Club could be in jeopardy. To keep AAC from being at risk we need more Board members.

If you can spare a little time and like to work with others, please contact any one of the Board Members on page 2. What do you get for doing this? The same as us, the pleasure of knowing you are keeping a legend going.

Our Present & Past Activities

- Sept Kick- off Luncheon
- Verde Canyon Railroad Trip**
- Tovrea Castle
- Palo Verde Nuclear Plant**
- The Sanderson Village and Museum
- the Orpheum**
- AZ Broadway Dinner Theater
- Southwest Airlines Tour**
- Day at the Races
- Christmas Dinner Dance**
- Coco Cola Bottling Facility Tour
- Lake Pleasant Cruise**
- Amazon Fulfillment tour
- AZ Science Museum**
- Musical Instrument Museum
- Cerreta Candy Company Factory Tour**
- Butterfly Wonderland
- University of Phoenix Stadium Tour**
- Dolly Steamboat Tour
- Lake Pleasant SUNSET MUSIC CRUISE**
- Penske Racing Museum Tour
- Ping & PXG Factory Tour**
- AZ Highways Collection
- Barry Goldwater' s Photography**
- Rio Salado Audubon
- Commemorative Air Force Museum**



Aero Activities Club

The Aero Activities Club (AAC) is for current and retired Honeywell employees who want to have fun and stay connected.

AAC coordinates events targeted for retired and late career employees. AAC helps members stay connected through newsletters and events. Joint events are held with all Phoenix Valley Honeywell retiree clubs. Primary membership is from the Deer Valley, Bell Road and Glendale sites. ALL current and retired employees from ALL Honeywell sites are welcome! *Membership cost is only \$5 a year.*

Explore our website and join!
AeroActivitiesClub.com

Here are just a few of the exciting past and planned AAC events:

Entertainment and Enrichment

- Incredible Escape Room
- Verde Canyon Railroad Trip
- Arizona Broadway Theater
- Ocean Cruises
- Lake Pleasant Cruises
- Musical Instrument Museum
- Arizona Capital Museum

Touring and Exploring

- Southwest Airlines Maintenance Facility
- Amazon and Ping Factories
- Palo Verde Power Plant
- Sanderson Ford Museum
- Guided Bird Walk
- Bike Tours
- Hall of Flame Museum

Connecting with Others

- Christmas Luncheon
- Spring Picnic
- Newsletter and "Down Memory Lane" Articles

Join AAC and Join the Fun!





Aero Activities Club Membership Forms

To JOIN, RENEW or UPDATE your membership information, use the following options.

Option 1: Print and Mail Form & Mail Membership Dues if applicable.

New Member Renewal Info Update Date _____

Full Name _____ Spouse/Partner _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Home# _____

Cell# _____ Personal Email Address: _____

Dues are \$5 Annually For payments: Check# _____ Payment Amount _____

- Make checks payable to: **Aero Activities Club (AAC)**
- Mail to, **Barbara Brockett, 22623 N 72nd Dr. Glendale, AZ 85310**
- *Paying for more than 1 year at a time saves administration costs.*

To encourage socialization and communication, AAC periodically shares the roster's email addresses within our membership. The list is only for AAC and is NOT made public.

Do we have your permission to share your email address with the membership? Yes No

Our preferred method of distribution of the Wings Newsletters is email* (full color).
Do you require a hard-copy (black and white only), or will email receipt suffice?

Wings newsletter distribution? E-mail Mail, Hard-copy

*The newsletter is always on the website: [AAC newsletters](#)

Option 2: Complete On-line Submission. Mail Membership Dues as applicable.

For Current Members: [Current Members \(aeroactivitiesclub.com\)](#)

For New Members: [JOIN AAC! \(aeroactivitiesclub.com\)](#)

Dues are \$5 Annually. To make payments:

- Make checks payable to: **Aero Activities Club (AAC); notate member name.**
- Mail to: **Barbara Brockett, 22623 N 72nd Dr. Glendale, AZ 85310**
- *Paying for more than 1 year at a time saves administrative costs.*

You are welcome to join if you ever worked at Sperry/Honeywell: **(You do not need to be retired)**

Aero Activities Club
Barbara Brockett
22623 N 72nd Dr.
Glendale, AZ 85310



AERO ACTIVITIES CLUB