Phoenix Section AIAA Status, 6/8/20

I hope everyone is doing well as we all navigate a world facing a global pandemic and domestic social unrest. Somehow, we need to maintain at least a minimal sense of normalcy through our careers and the need to take care of our families. Perhaps your participation in a professional technical society can supply that sense of engagement and help solidify your career journey.

Typically, your Phoenix Section of AIAA slows down during the summer months. With the pandemic, we have been in a mode of reduced activity since March. But like many organizations, we have relied on the Internet to maintain connections and engage in new learning opportunities. We held an on-line happy hour on May 8 and on May 27 and 30 we had watch parties for the SpaceX Crew Dragon DM-2 launch. The happy hour only had four people who signed in. We did the launch watch parties in conjunction with the local chapter of the National Space Society and those had better attendance, with 28 folks logged on for the May 27 attempt and around 18 for the successful launch on May 30.

We don’t have anything definite scheduled at this time, but if an opportunity comes up, we’ll send an announcement. Meanwhile, the Los Angeles / Las Vegas Section has a large number of webinars and virtual events planned. You can track their schedule here: <https://aiaa-lalv.org/events/>

We had a Council meeting (via Zoom) on June 6 and have some ideas for late summer and the fall season. Due to our low level of activity, our bank account is healthy, and we could consider doing something on a larger scale if that made sense. A lot depends on what the pandemic restrictions allow us to do in the way of in-person events. We are always looking for new people to get involved. If you have ideas or suggestions, please contact us by replying to this email.

Have a great summer.

Thanks,

Mike Mackowski

Phoenix Section Chair

6/8/20