



NORTHWEST FLORIDA SECTION



Section Leadership Changes

Sadly, Ryan Sherill had to step down as our Section Chair. But the good news is that he did this because he stepped up to being the AIAA Director for Region 2! Way to go, Ryan! John Fay has stepped in to be the Section Chair. Many of you know John for his years of work in the section as the Education/College Outreach Chair. Well, he's still doing that too. So, no need for the college sections to update their contacts. We also welcome Humberto Ramos as our new Technical Chair replacing Kevin Brink.

THANKS RYAN!

Summer 2023 Newsletter

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Micah Reese, editor

Up Front

Consider (virtually) attending the AIAA Regional Leadership Conference! The conference will be held on Zoom across three different days/weeks. See the Local Activity section for more details about subjects, dates, times, and how to register.

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NOTE FROM THE SECTION CHAIR

As I step into Ryan's shoes as Section Chair of the Northwest Florida Section, I stand in awe of what the Section has done and is doing. I do not remember how many awards the Section won last year, but I do know that I have a very tough act to follow.

I also pause to consider what the AIAA as an organization should be doing. We are the professional society for aerospace engineers. Our purpose, then, is to promote the profession, first through the development of present aerospace engineers, and second through the recruitment of new aerospace engineers. Section activities should be aimed at one or both of these.

Development of present aerospace engineers is a multi-faceted thing. There is the development of technical skills; there is the development of job-related "soft skills"; there is the development of outside interests; there is personal development which is necessary for a person to flourish. All of these are fair subject matter for AIAA activities.

Similarly, the recruitment of new aerospace engineers can take many shapes. There is showing small children that science and engineering are fun activities; there is the promotion of aerospace-related subjects in schools and colleges; there is mentoring Student Members through the process of finding a job; there is the promotion of aerospace engineering in society as a whole. Again, any of these is an appropriate thing for the AIAA to do.

Section awards are a reflection, not of the Section Chair's actions, but of the actions of the Section members. I see my job as the Section Chair to be one of enabling people to do things. If there is something that you would like to see the AIAA do, or you think the AIAA should be doing, speak up and we—the Section--will see if we can make it happen.

PAST LOCAL ACTIVITY

HERITAGE MUSEUM SUMMER CAMP

John Fay kicked off the Valparaiso Heritage Museum's Summer Camp this year with his Astronomy and Space Science Day presentations. The first session had twenty children from the lower elementary school ages; the second had fourteen children from upper elementary school. The children folded and flew paper airplanes, launched straw rockets, made rough telescopes out of two magnifying glasses, and more.

A first highlight of both sessions was a demonstration of air pressure by holding a glass full of water upside-down with a coaster over the opening to hold the water in. Mr. Fay explained that the pressure of the air on the coaster countered its weight and kept the water from spilling out. The children took turns holding the glass upside-down over a large receptacle to catch the water if something went wrong—which happened more than once.

Mr. Fay then used the idea of air pressure to explain "My Job at NASA" in the early 1990s, where he had done payload venting analyses—making sure that the air trapped inside any enclosure on the Space Shuttle had a way to get out. He passed a sample of Space Station insulation around for the children to see and feel.

During the second session the children made a one-trillionth scale model of the Solar System, with the Earth just over five inches from the Sun. The Sun was a tiny dot; all the other bodies were too small to show at scale. Pluto

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was supposed to be nineteen feet away, but there was not enough space and Pluto wound up being taped to the kitchen cabinet in the next room. The most distant body, Sedna, was 43 feet away out the door, taped on Mr. Fay's car which was parked out front.

The Heritage Museum Summer Camp is an annual event. Interested parents are invited to sign their kids up for next year and interested professionals are encouraged to help lead activities.

NWFL/SETP/SFTE SYMPOSIUM

The NW FL section partnered with the Society for Experimental Test Pilots and the Society for Flight Test Engineers to host a symposium at the Airbus factory in Mobile, AL. During the day-long conference there were nine presentations on flight testing and flight test safety, including a historical account of designing the F-16 side stick controller, development of automated landing systems, C-130 interference from 5G signals, and flight testing both helicopters and general aviation aircraft. In addition, participants were given a tour of the Airbus A319/A320/A321 final assembly line. We encourage our local members to present at this symposium in future years, as it is a local event and no written paper is required.



UPCOMING LOCAL ACTIVITY

We are in the process of planning several activities and welcome your input/feedback. Here are some of the activities you can look forward to:

- The return of Bombs, Brats, and Beverages at the Armament Museum!
- Saturdays in the Park
 - Anyone welcome kids activities including straw rockets and paper airplanes
- Hobbyist rocket launches in Samson, AL
 - Eugen Toma has the training and a big rocket we can use
 - NWF is already planning to go with their rockets
 - The section will buy some small kits for others to build and launch
- Regional Symposium
 - Got a suggestion for a symposium focus?
- Hackathon
 - Work in small groups to rapidly design and implement a solution to a problem
 - Any suggestions for a problem to solve (that can be solved in a day)?

If you are interested in helping to plan any of these events, want to be involved, and/or have any thoughts or ideas, let us know! nwfl.aiaa@gmail.com

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Note: Each day must be registered for individually

Day 1 - The Big Picture: How Your Section Fits into AIAA – [REGISTER HERE](#)

8 August, 1500–1630 hrs CT

Learn about AIAA's Strategic Goals, how the 57 sections fit into the Institute's governance, and what the responsibilities are for an AIAA Section.

Day 2 - Getting Off the Ground: Planning and Funding Section Activities – [REGISTER HERE](#)

16 August, 1400–1530 hrs CT

Discover resources for event planning, funding, recruitment, and more.

Day 3 - Learn from Your Peers: Section and Branch Success Stories – [REGISTER HERE](#)

24 August, 1600–1730 hrs CT

Swap activity ideas and accomplishments with other sections and student branches.

UPCOMING NATIONAL AIAA EVENTS

2023 ASCEND (Accelerating Space Commerce, Exploration, and New Discovery)

23 OCTOBER - 25 OCTOBER 2023

Las Vegas, Nevada

2023 SmallSat Education Conference

28 OCTOBER - 29 OCTOBER 2023

Kennedy Space Center Visitors Center, Florida

AIAA Young Professionals, Students, and Educators (YPSE) Conference

17 NOVEMBER - 18 NOVEMBER 2023

Laurel, Maryland

2024 AIAA Science and Technology Forum and Exposition (AIAA SciTech Forum)

8 JANUARY - 12 JANUARY 2024

Orlando, Florida, USA

[See more at the AIAA Events page](#)

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

We recognize that there are many relevant events outside of AIAA. If you know of any and want to spread the word, let us know:

nwfl.aiaa@gmail.com

WECON ALPHA

6 NOVEMBER - 7 NOVEMBER 2023

NWFL

NDIA 49th Air Armament Symposium

7 NOVEMBER – 8 NOVEMBER 2023

Fort Walton Beach, Florida

Pensacola Maker Faire

11 NOVEMBER 2023

Pensacola, FL

VOLUNTEERING IN STEM EDUCATION

FIRST Robotics seasons are about to begin!

For volunteer information, contact stem@doolittleinstitute.org

FIRST Lego League:

The Virtual debut is Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at Noon EST meaning 11AM CST! [Sign up here](#) to receive a reminder. New to FLL Challenge or would you like to start a team? Go to <https://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/fll/cost-and-registration>

Season schedule:

Virtual Q&A Sessions (4pm-6pm*) CST
Coming Mid-September.

Practice Events (8am – 4pm*)

Oct 14th – Leon County (McClay School)
Oct 14th – Walton County (Freeport High School)
Oct 21st– Okaloosa County (Shoal River Middle School)

Qualifying Events (8am – 4pm*)

Dec 2nd – Leon County (specific location TBA)
Dec 2nd – Walton County (Freeport High School)
Dec 16th – Okaloosa County (Shoal River Middle School)

Regional Championship (8am – 4pm*)

Feb 10, 2024 – Freeport High School

***Note that event dates may change if a venue, for some reason, is not available. Times are an estimate and may change.**

FIRST Tech Challenge Season Schedule*:

FTC Season Kickoff
September 9, 2023 @ Mattie Kelly Arts Center
Niceville

FTC League Meet 1
Oct 21, 2023 @ Riverside Elementary
Crestview

FTC League Meet 2
Nov 18, 2023 @ College of Engineering FAMU
Tallahassee

FTC League Meet 3
Dec 16, 2023 @ Riverside Elementary
Crestview

FTC League Meet 4 (and FRC Kick-Off event)
Jan 06, 2024 @ College of Engineering FAMU
Tallahassee

FTC League Championship
Jan 27, 2024 Crestview High School
Crestview

***Dates have been confirmed but may change if availability from the location changes.**

ABOUT THE SECTION

The Northwest Florida Section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Inc. (AIAA NWFL) is home to 289 members (as of May 2019): 124 professionals, 141 educator associates, and 24 students. The section spans 24 counties across northern Florida from Pensacola to north of Jacksonville. These counties are: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Washington, Bay, Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf, Gadsden, Liberty, Franklin, Leon, Wakulla, Jefferson, Madison, Taylor, Hamilton, Suwanee, Lafayette, Columbia, Baker, and Nassau. Most of the aerospace-related activities in the AIAA NWFL section are at military installations in the western panhandle.

Officer/Chair Email:

✉ nwfl.aiaa@gmail.com



Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NWFL.AIAA/>



Twitter:

[@AIAANWFL](https://twitter.com/AIAANWFL)



ENGAGE

<https://engage.aiaa.org/northwestflorida/home>

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Chair

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Membership Chair

Vacant - looking for volunteers

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Young Professionals Chair

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Education/Pre-College Outreach Chair

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Honors & Awards Chair

Emily Doucette emily.doucette@us.af.mil

Public Policy Chair

Michael Kelton michael.kelton.1@us.af.mil

Communications Chair

Vacant - looking for volunteers

Want to be part of the winning team (besides just being outstanding members)? We have vacancies for the Membership Chair and the Communications Chair. Just email us at nwfl.aiaa@gmail.com if you're interested.