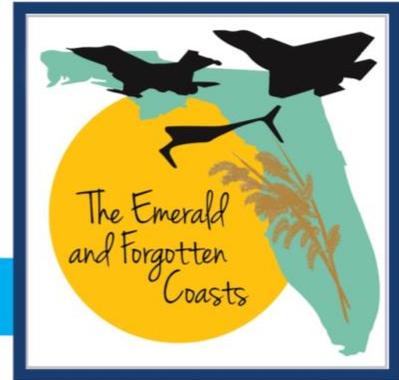




NORTHWEST FLORIDA SECTION



Join a Winning Team!

Since the last issue, our section’s Programs Committee Chair, Eugen Toma, got a new job away from the area and has resigned the position. We wish Eugen all the best in his new job, but we now have another vacant position in the section’s leadership team. Additionally, our Public Policy Chair, Mike Kelton, is busy in his new position and would like to step down if we can find a replacement. If anyone would like to fill one of our vacant positions, here’s a prioritized list of vacancies:

- Membership Chair
- Public Policy Chair
- Communications Chair
- Programs Chair

When you join, you’ll be joining a leadership team with a legacy of winning. This year, we won the Outstanding Small Section Award (again...I’ve lost count of how many years in a row it is now).

Fall 2023 Newsletter

Contributors:
Micah Reese, John Fay

Micah Reese, editor

Up Front

Other Section Awards for the year were:

- Ryan Sherrill - Section Communications
- Mike Kelton – Public Policy
- Judith Sherrill - K-12 STEM Outreach
- Ganesh Prashant - Young Professional

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NOTE FROM THE SECTION CHAIR

With our section spanning such a large area from Pensacola to Tallahassee, the Section Chair is considering having AIAA social/networking dinners across the region. This will help us create a closer community, especially if we can get members to travel outside of their local area to some of the dinners that are further away. It would be a great way to meet your fellow AIAA members, have dinner with people who share a common interest with you, and simply to get out. Dates, times, and locations would be based on interest. They could be semi-annually, quarterly, or perhaps even monthly. If you are interested, please contact John F. Fay at john.fay.3.ctr@us.af

PAST LOCAL ACTIVITY

Ken Blackburn and FIRST Tech Challenge

The season kickoff for the FIRST Tech Challenge season was held on September 9th and we found out that the robots will need to launch paper airplanes (called "Drones" for the game) during the End Game portion of each match. Of course, this is a perfect opportunity for AIAA to be more involved with the local STEM education community. We reached out to local member and four-time world record holder for paper airplane time of flight, Ken Blackburn. On November 6th, Ken held a training session on Zoom in coordination with Section Secretary/Team 16626 – Radical Raiders Coach, Micah Reese. We had over 20 students from across the state of Florida join us to ask questions about paper airplanes as well as other aerospace-related topics. The meeting was recorded and will be edited and uploaded for use by other students around the world.

Additionally, the section is planning to have four special AIAA Awards related to the Drones/paper airplanes at the League Championship event on January 27th at Crestview High School. We could use your help administering the challenges for the teams at the event.

If anyone would like to get involved (event volunteer, Championship judge, or mentor) in this season of FTC, you can reach out to Micah Reese, reesemn@gmail.com

To see more about this year's FTC game, Center Stage, the season kickoff video game description is available here:

<https://youtu.be/6e-5Uo1dRic?si=o5EZ0tW5hEHRrjC>

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

UPCOMING NATIONAL AIAA EVENTS

[2024 AIAA Science and Technology Forum and Exposition \(AIAA SciTech Forum\)](#)

8 JANUARY - 12 JANUARY 2024
Orlando, Florida, USA

[ASCENDxTexas: Next Steps in the LEO-to-Lunar Voyage](#)

14 FEBRUARY - 15 FEBRUARY 2024
League City, Texas, USA

[2024 IEEE Aerospace Conference](#)

2 MARCH - 9 MARCH 2024
Big Sky, Montana, USA

[49th Annual Dayton-Cincinnati Aerospace Sciences Symposium \(DCASS\)](#)

5 MARCH 2024
Dayton, Ohio, USA

[2024 Region II Student Conference](#)

4 APRIL - 5 APRIL 2024
Kennedy Space Center, Florida, USA

[2024 AIAA Defense and Security Forum \(AIAA DEFENSE Forum\)](#)

16 APRIL - 18 APRIL 2024
Laurel, Maryland, USA

[Dayton Digital Transformation Summit](#)

8 MAY - 10 MAY 2024
Dayton, Ohio, USA

[4th International Academy of Astronautics \(IAA\) Conference on Space Situational Awareness \(ICSSA\)](#)

8 MAY - 10 MAY 2024
Daytona Beach, Florida, USA

[2024 AIAA Awards Gala](#)

15 MAY 2024 1730 - 2100 (EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME)
Washington, DC, 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

VOLUNTEERING IN STEM EDUCATION

FIRST Robotics seasons have begun!

For volunteer information, contact stem@doolittleinstitute.org

FIRST Lego League Season Schedule: Qualifying Events (8am – 4pm)

Dec 16th – Okaloosa County (Shoal River Middle School)

Regional Championship (8am – 4pm)

Feb 10, 2024 – Freeport High School

FIRST Tech Challenge Season Schedule:

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

FIRST Robotics Competition Season Schedule:

Season Kickoff
Jan 06, 2024
College of Engineering FAMU
Tallahassee

Tallahassee Regional Competition
Mar 13 - Mar 16 2024
Alfred Lawson Jr Multipurpose Center
Tallahassee

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)



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

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Chair

John Fay john.fay.3.ctr@us.af.mil

Vice Chair

Angela Diggs angela.diggs.1@us.af.mil

Secretary

Micah Reese reesemn@gmail.com

Treasurer

Kevin Diggs kevin.diggs@us.af.mil

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Program Chair

Vacant - looking for volunteers

Technical Chair

Humberto Ramos jramoszuniga@ufl.edu

Membership Chair

Vacant - looking for volunteers

Career Enhancement Chair

Alex Straub alexandra.straub@us.af.mil

Young Professionals Chair

Prashant Ganesh prashant.ganesh@ufl.edu

Education/Pre-College Outreach Chair

Judith Sherrill judithabhsherrill@gmail.com

Education/College Outreach Chair

John Fay john.fay.3.ctr@us.af.mil

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.