

AIAA 56th Birthday Celebration

By Ken Philippart

The Greater Huntsville Section celebrated the 56th anniversary of the founding of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) at a birthday social on January 31. AIAA was created on January 31, 1963 through the merger of the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences and the American Rocket Society.



Twelve AIAA members and guests met at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse in Huntsville to raise a glass and toast the world's largest technical society dedicated to the global aerospace profession.

Last year, section applied for and was accepted to the restaurant's fundraiser program for that evening. Section received close to \$150 through this event in 2018. This year, section again applied for and was accepted to the restaurant's fundraiser program for that evening. As the sponsored non-profit, the section received 20 percent of the total of the group's food purchases for that evening. The money raised will help fund a wide cross section of professional activities.

Section Chair Alex Jehle led the group in a toast to AIAA followed by a ceremonial cutting of the birthday cake. Adopting a custom from the military services, the oldest and youngest section members in attendance were asked to cut the cake. Emeritus Member and Associate Fellow Otha "Skeet" Vaughn and Young Professional Carlton Corbitt jointly cut the cake, representing the passing of AIAA's legacy from the oldest to the youngest generation.



Skeet and Carlton cutting the cake (photo by of Alan Lowrey)

The evening was a great opportunity for AIAA members to relax after work, network while celebrating the founding of the world's greatest aerospace professional society and raise money for the section's wide spectrum of activities. Happy Birthday AIAA!