

AIAA 57th Birthday Celebration

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Images by Alan Lowrey*



The Greater Huntsville Section celebrated the 57th anniversary of the founding of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) at a birthday social on January 30. AIAA was created on January 31, 1963 through the merger of the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences and the American Rocket Society. Since January 31 fell on a Friday night this year, the section held the event one day early to encourage attendance.

Twenty-five 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.

As in previous years, the Greater Huntsville Section 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 Vice Chair Nishanth Goli organized and led the group in the 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 the Council's Liaison to Student Branches, Brittani Searcy, jointly cut the cake, representing the passing of AIAA's legacy from the oldest to the youngest generation.



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!