

## AIAA Greater Huntsville Section at Biergarten

### Naveen Vetcha

AIAA Greater Huntsville Section (GHS) was the featured non-profit at the US Space & Rocket Center's Biergarten (<https://rocketcenter.com/Biergarten>) on Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. Biergarten is a family friendly event hosted by Space and Rocket Center every Thursday evening (between spring to late fall). Visitors can enjoy authentic German food, drinks, and listen to live music while dining under Saturn V. To support local community, Space and Rocket Center (SRC) features a local non-profit organization each week at the Biergarten, and a portion of food sales that evening will be donated to the organization. Featured non-profit also gets an opportunity to setup a table at the event to interact with the visitors and inform them about the organization's mission. Section Vice-Chair, Nishanth Goli sought volunteers to staff the table and coordinated section's participation.



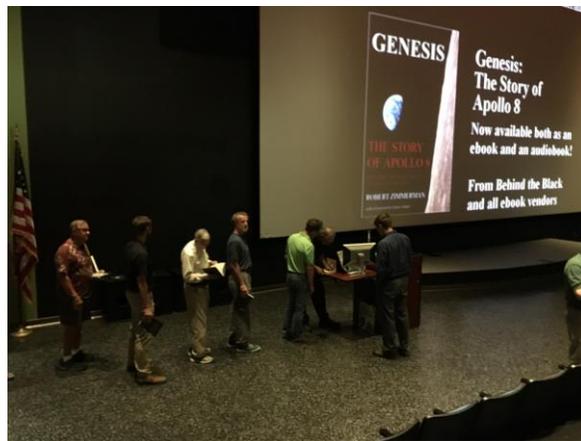
Section volunteers with the speaker, Bob Zimmerman (center)

During the same evening, section in partnership with USSRC organized a pass the torch lecture with AIAA distinguished speaker, Mr. Robert Zimmerman. According to USSRC website, "*Pass the Torch* features innovative, influential and interesting professionals from industry, academia and government speaking about their work in space, aeronautics, engineering, science research and other related fields. The *Pass the Torch* series is open to the public and is a great way to reconnect with history, learn more about specialized topics, or even catch a glimpse of an exciting future, *Pass the Torch* inspires and educates young and old alike." Bob Zimmerman is an award-winning science journalist and historian who has written six books and more than a hundred articles on science, engineering, and the history of space exploration and technology. He also reports on space and science news at his website, Behind the Black (<http://behindtheblack.com>). Bob's talk was titled "How Apollo 8 won the 1960s space race and changed the world." Section Chair, Greg Simpson provided an overview of AIAA GHS and introduced the speaker. Bob took audience to 1960s through his narration of various events that made astronauts Frank Borman, Jim Lovell, and Bill Anders first humans to journey to another world. He talked about how Apollo 8 mission probably exerted a much greater influence on human history (as compared to Apollo 11), coming as it did during Christmas week 1968 at the end of what had been an ugly and violent year. Bob interviewed all the three astronauts who flew on Apollo 8. He described the events from their personal perspectives. At the end of the talk, section did a raffle and gave away seven books (6 copies of "The Universe In a Mirror,"

and 1 copy of “Leaving Earth”) that are authored by the speaker. Bob interacted with the winners and signed the copies.



Section Chair, Greg Simpson speaking about AIAA before Pass the Torch Lecture



Speaker and Author, Bob Zimmerman signing the books

Section thanks Space and Rocket Center for featuring AIAA Greater Huntsville Section at the Biergarten and partnering with us to host Pass the Torch lecture. Thanks also to section members who attended the event and supported the section. Special thanks to following volunteers who made this participation successful: Patrick Dees, Alex Buyers, Tammy Statham, Alan Lowrey, Ragini Acharya, Greg Simpson, Nishanth Goli, and Naveen Vetcha.