

Greater Huntsville Section Continues Holiday Traditions

by

Ken Philippart

Images by Ken Philippart, Tiffany Boyd and Naveen Vetcha



2020 AIAA Greater Huntsville Section ornament.

handcrafted a one-of-a-kind ceramic ornament bearing the section's name along with the year 2020 attached to the ribbon.

The CoC cancelled the annual in-person holiday social for chamber members due to the pandemic but still invited member organizations to safely drop by the chamber building to hang an organizational holiday ornament and pose for pictures for the Chamber's social media sites.

The Greater Huntsville Section continued its tradition of hanging a unique AIAA ornament on the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce's Christmas tree despite the COVID-19 pandemic. For the fifth year in a row, a representative of the section hung an AIAA ornament on the tree along with ornaments from other Chamber of Commerce (CoC) members.

Former section Council Member, Sheree Gay, who had crafted the section's unique ornament each year from 2016 – 2019, invited a local artist and friend, Alissa Rose-Clark, to design the 2020 AIAA ornament. Alissa

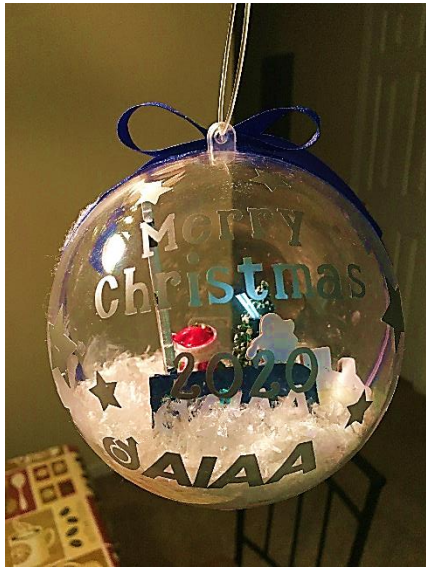


Ken Philippart hangs the 2020 AIAA ornament



The section's 2017 (top) and 2020 (below) ornaments hang together

Former Chair Ken Philippart arranged to visit the Chamber's Church Street facility to hang the ornament on behalf of the section. After complying with state safety protocols and screening, he chose a location next to the section's 2017 ornament. He proudly hung the ornament front and center on the tree to be readily visible to all who visited the Chamber facility



*AIAA's ornament for the VBAS
Tinsel Trail tree*

In a unique extension of the annual holiday tradition, the section also asked Sheree to craft another unique AIAA ornament for the Von Braun Astronomical Society (VBAS) tree at the Tinsel Trail, a free display of over 300 live Christmas trees in Downtown Huntsville. Former Chair and current Public Policy Director Naveen Vetcha coordinated with VBAS to include AIAA on the VBAS tree to represent the close relationship and shared goals of the AIAA and the VBAS.

The Greater Huntsville Section did not let the pandemic dampen our holiday spirit and found a way to celebrate despite the challenges. The section thanks Sheree Gay, Alissa Rose-Clark, Ken Philippart and Naveen Vetcha for donating their time and talents to promote AIAA and make Christmas in Huntsville a little bit brighter. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



The VBAS Tinsel Trail tree