GRAA NEWSLETTER

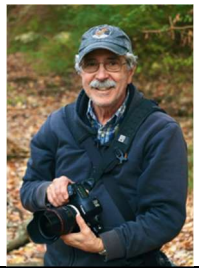
P.O. Box 1184, Greenbelt, MD 20768-1184

https://GoddardRetirees.org

https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13146491/

***November 2026*: 42nd Year of Publication**

UPCOMING LUNCHEONS: We will meet at 11:15 AM on November 10th at the American Legion Post #136 at 6900 Greenbelt Road. ***Reservations must be made no later than the Wednesday before the luncheon*** by contacting graalunch@gmail.com (preferred) or calling 410-709-8889 **by Wednesday, November 4th.**

November 10	 **Dr. Luke Oman** STRIVE Project Scientist, NASA Goddard ***"STRIVE Earth System Explorer Mission"***
December	***No luncheon. Enjoy the holidays!***
January 12	 **Steve Talabac** GRAA Member ***"Nature Photography: Composition and Techniques"***
February 9	 **Travis Wohlrab** NASA Goddard Office of Communications ***"The Space Between Science and Society - Communicating NASA in a Changing World"***

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

We are delighted to welcome the following new members:

- Nancy Carosso
- Mary Goldfarb
- Demosthenes (Demos) Kazanas
- Jim Tomaka

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jackie Gasch received donations from: Joe Johns, Raymond Mazur, Roberta Valonis, Ellen Herring, and Robert DeFazio. Please know that all GRAA operating costs are covered by donations. Donations can be made in person at a GRAA luncheon, or by check to GRAA at P. O. Box 1184, Greenbelt, MD 20768-1184.

COMMENTS FROM TONY COMBERIATE AND CARL STAHLE



Our October speaker was **Ben Reed**, Chief Growth Officer at Quantum Space, and a former Goddard employee. In his presentation, "*From Goddard to Quantum Space—If You're Fully Qualified for Your Next Job, Where's the Growth?*", Ben traced his career from two small colleges to roles as a materials engineer, program manager, and division manager at Goddard, and ultimately to helping launch a successful aerospace company. At each transition, he accepted a position for which he felt underqualified, then relied on focus, persistence, and a commitment to adding value as he grew into the responsibility. That approach eventually led him to accept Kam Ghaffarian's offer to start a new company, which Ben named Quantum Space.

Ben explained how Quantum Space began and how the company hopes to shape the future of spaceflight. Headquartered in Rockville, Quantum Space was founded in 2022 by Dr. Kam Ghaffarian, Kerry Wisnosky, and Ben. It develops spacecraft for operations across low Earth orbit, medium Earth orbit, geosynchronous Earth orbit, and cislunar space, serving space-defense, satellite-servicing, and commercial missions. Its flagship platform, Ranger, is a maneuver-first, mission-configurable spacecraft designed for modern space operations. Patented propulsion, extended on-orbit endurance, and modular flexibility are intended to help Ranger reposition rapidly, deploy interceptors, refuel allied assets, extend mission life, and maintain a persistent presence across multiple orbits. These capabilities improve survivability, responsiveness, and return on investment for national-security and commercial customers. One of the company's unique capabilities is the co-design of the Ranger and Scout spacecraft to be interoperable as a Fueler spacecraft and a Client spacecraft. This was based on Ben's experience at Goddard with the Hubble Space Telescope and the Space Shuttle. There are a number of our Goddard colleagues who work at Quantum Space. Ben shared the challenges of a startup as the company did not receive any government contracts for its first 4 years. Quantum Space's first mission, initially called QS-1 and later renamed Ranger Prime, is intended to validate remote proximity-targeting operations and improve space-domain awareness. The mission uses the Ranger 500 spacecraft, with processor and navigation electronics provided by Beyond Gravity.

Earlier this year, former NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine became CEO of Quantum Space and sharpened the company's focus on national-security missions. In June 2026, Quantum Space announced a merger with Inflection Point Acquisition VI that valued the company at more than $1.1 billion and provided capital to scale production of Ranger spacecraft. The transaction

includes a $300 million investment and is expected to position Quantum Space to trade on the Nasdaq under the ticker QSPC.

Quantum Space was selected by the U.S. Space Force for the Andromeda contract vehicle, which supports satellite development and monitoring in geosynchronous orbit. Through this work, the company's platforms are intended to deny adversaries a first-mover advantage, maintain a resilient orbital presence, and support dynamic space operations.

Throughout his talk, Ben connected Quantum Space's growth to specific experiences from his work on Goddard missions, including several shared with attendees. He closed by distilling his career advice into one memorable challenge: "Get comfortable being uncomfortable."

Note: Quantum is a partner on Goddard's STRIVE Earth Science Explorer Mission which is the topic of November's luncheon.

Roman Space Telescope

The Roman Space Telescope has successfully completed its Payload Focus and Alignment Campaign and has begun its final commissioning phase, Science Commissioning and Characterization. It will enter its final L2 orbit around Dec 8th. You can follow real-time updates on NASA's official Roman Space Telescope Blog.

GRAA By-Laws Change

The proposed amendment to the GRAA By-Laws Article VII entitled - entitled "Dissolution" that was described in the October GRAA Newsletter, was presented and unanimously approved by the GRAA members attending the October 2026 luncheon. Based on the approval of the GRAA members attending the October luncheon, the GRAA By-Laws Article VII will be amended as follows: *"Article VII: Dissolution: In the event of dissolution of GRAA, a 501 (c) (3) organization, all assets remaining after payment of debts must be distributed to another 501 (c) (3) IRS recognized tax exempt nonprofit organization."*

WHAT'S UP WITH OUR MEMBERS:

Your colleagues and friends would enjoy hearing about your life experiences after Goddard. Please feel welcome to send input (~100 words, photos welcome) to Pam Sullivan (zsullivan@alum.mit.edu). Inputs may be edited for content and length.

Chris Scolese will lead the new Vanderbilt Institute for Innovations Beyond Earth (VIIBE). VIIBE will foster advanced, interdisciplinary research related to near-Earth and space technologies, bringing together Vanderbilt expertise in aeronautical engineering, mechatronics, autonomous systems, energy management and biomedical adaptation. He will hold a distinguished faculty appointment in Vanderbilt's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

FROM THE GODDARD ARCHIVES: On November 18, 2013, an Atlas 5 launched the MARS Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) spacecraft. MAVEN achieved MARS orbit insertion September 21, 2014, to start a planned one-year mission. It operated for 11 years and is credited with advancing our understanding of the Martian atmosphere and how it has been lost over time. It also studied dust storms and auroras on Mars. In addition to Martian science, MAVEN also observed the Comet 3I/Atlas, an interstellar object that passed through our solar system.

ACTIVITIES FOR MEMBERS:

GEWA Fall Festival on October 29: GEWA is having a Fall Festival for friends and family on October 29 from 10 am to 2 pm on the Greenbelt campus. There will be vendors, a car show, food trucks and children activities in the Building 8 west parking lot and mission tables and activities will be set up around campus. GRAA members are welcome to attend. You can use your retiree's badge to get on campus. If you don't have a retiree's badge, let us know and we'll try to get you a visitor's badge that you can pick up October 29 at the Badging Office in Building 17 (email carl.m.stahle@gmail.com).

Visit to Maryland Museum of Natural Sciences and Lunch on December 8: The Maryland Museum of Natural Sciences has invited GRAA to a special visit and guided tour of their brand-new permanent exhibit: *The Making of Maryland: 1 Billion Years and Counting*. This exhibit explores the sweeping geologic story of Maryland - from ancient oceans to mountain-building, from bolide impacts to dinosaurs - through rocks, fossils, mineral, and immersive interpretation. Highlights include:

- Apollo-era moon rocks display with new educational context
- The Chesapeake Bay bolide impact, told through regional evidence and core samples
- Dinosaur tracks discovered by Ray and Sheila Stanford, a Goddard-connected husband-and-wife duo whose discoveries shaped our understanding of Maryland's Cretaceous world
- Maryland's changing landscapes across a billion years of geologic time

The 45-minute guided tour starts at 11:00AM on December 8 at the museum with additional time (~45 min) allocated to browse through the museum. We will plan lunch at a local restaurant. The museum's address and phone number are: 6908 Belair Road, Overlea, Maryland 21206; 443-955-4761. We will try to organize carpool arrangements depending on interest and location. Please contact Carl Stahle (carl.m.stahle@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.

EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Goddard Employees Welfare Association (GEWA) is seeking friendly, dependable, and customer-focused Sales Associates to join our Exchange retail team at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. Our Exchange provides NASA employees, visitors, and guests with a unique selection of NASA merchandise, apparel, gifts, collectibles, and everyday essentials. We are looking for team members who enjoy working with people, take pride in providing excellent customer service, and can help create a welcoming and engaging shopping experience. Please contact Erica Miller at erica.a.moran@nasa.gov.

Part-Time Systems Engineering Consultant - Space Compute & Power Distribution at Trident Systems: Trident Systems (Fairfax, VA) is seeking principal-level systems engineers to develop SE artifacts — requirements and verification, interface and specification documents, trade studies, and design review material — for our space compute and power distribution product lines. Engagements are part-time with negotiable hours; all work is unclassified and can be performed remotely. Interested? Contact Bri Gramling at brianne.gramling@tridsys.com.

Looking for a Machinist to Teach Manual and CNC Machining Classes: The Community College of Baltimore County, Catonsville Campus is looking for a machinist who is interested to teach manual and CNC machining classes. If interested, please contact Greg Behrmann (gbehrmann@ccbcmd.edu) who is an engineering instructor at the community college. Greg thought a retired Goddard machinist might be interested in teaching and sharing their skills.

Remote Consulting Satellite Jobs at MDA Space: six job roles are available in remote consulting from the United States. Contract and full-time structures are both available. US citizens and permanent residents only, for export-control reasons. Anyone interested can reply to Chad Hall at chad.hall@fastwaterstaffing.com or 302-214-7806, and we will share the full descriptions and next steps directly.

1. *Staff Systems Engineer, SAR Missions*: End-to-end ownership of a synthetic aperture radar mission: concept of operations, mission specifications, beam-mode design and image-quality modelling.
2. *Senior Systems Engineer, SAR Missions*: Same mission team, one level down: contributes to CONOPS, mission specs and spacecraft budgets for the SAR payload.
3. *Staff Systems Engineer, Signal Processing (SAR Processor)*: Leads the definition, integration and verification of high-throughput SAR processors, on the ground and potentially on board.
4. *SAR Payload Systems Engineer*: Owns definition, design, integration, verification and sustainment of SAR payload subsystems across multiple satellite programs.
5. *MBSE Consultant, Model-Based Systems Engineering*: Builds and maintains SysML models of satellite and propulsion concepts: functional decomposition, mission sequence of events, ground-to-satellite operations.
6. *Senior Orbit Dynamics and Mission Analysis Engineer*: Designs and optimizes satellite trajectories, maneuvers and constellation configurations; coverage, link-budget, conjunction and re-entry analyses.

DIRECTORIES AND NEWSLETTERS: Send your email address to goddardretirees@gmail.com to get our monthly Newsletters**.** Quarterly hardcopy Newsletters are mailed to the retirees with only residential addresses in our files. Please send your home address to be listed in the biennial GRAA Membership Directory, only available as hardcopy mailed to members. These mailings are supported by donations to GRAA, P. O. Box 1184, Greenbelt, MD 20768-1184.

REMEMBERING OUR FORMER COLLEAGUES:

Anand Bhatia, 92, passed on June 26, 2026. Anand came to Goddard in 1963, first as a National Academy research fellow, and then as a federal government employee in 1965, working in the Space Sciences Directorate (Code 600). His career studying atomic processes supported many solar and astrophysics missions that used spectroscopic and emission line observations to understand our sun and other stars. In 1987, Anand was honored as a Fellow of the American Physical Society. Although he retired in 2008, Anand held emeritus status and continued to actively conduct research: his last paper was published this spring.

Raymond "Ray" Stattel, 97, passed away on September 5, 2026. Ray began his engineering career in the U.S. Air Force with the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, where he got a firsthand view of major nuclear tests — both atmospheric and underwater detonations. By the 1960s, he was at Goddard, working on airborne telemetry and data-handling systems for sounding rockets, and later on digital telemetry processing and frame synchronization. He coauthored several NASA technical reports and was a coinventor on NASA-developed digital communications technology. Ray was a Section Head within the Sounding Rocket Division (Code 740) before he retired in 1980.

Phillip J. "Phil" Cressy, Jr., 89, passed on September 28, 2026. Phil began his career in the 1960s as a research scientist in Goddard's Planetology Branch (Code 644) studying meteorites and cosmic radiation, publishing numerous scientific papers and NASA studies. He later contributed to the pioneering Earth Resources Technology Satellite program, which became Landsat. Phil went on to lead NASA's Eastern Regional Remote Sensing Applications Center (Code 902), helping bring satellite imagery into practical use by governments, universities, and public agencies. Later, he helped plan the scientific use and operations of the International Space Station, and ultimately worked at NASA Headquarters, contributing to plans for scientific research on the space station.

Charles E. "Chuck" Condor, 90, passed away on October 6, 2026. Chuck served in the Navy before coming to Goddard. Chuck contributed to NASA's early developments in space and solar technology as a long-time member of the Solar Physics Branch (Code 682). Chuck retired in 1999 after 40 years at GSFC.

Robert Samuel "Andy" Anderson, 92, passed away on October 8, 2026. Andy served in the United States Army in Korea in 1954-1956 before starting his NASA career at the Langley Research Center. In the early 1960s, he moved to Goddard's Fabrication Division (Code 330). Andy continued his career as a machinist in the Engineering Services Division (Code 750) through 1989.

Leroy Glenn "Skip" Hogan, 98, passed on October 12, 2026. Skip had a career in the U.S. Army – Air Force, serving in WWII and the Korean War, before retiring from the military and coming to NASA. He began at Goddard in the early 1970s and worked there until the late 1980s. Over his career Skip provided business support to the SMS and GOES weather satellite projects, and to the Cosmic Background Explorer mission.

Sandra Joan "Sandy" Eck, 88, passed away on October 19, 2026. Sandy began her career as a substitute teacher and later became a secretary with the National Security Agency and the Department of the Army. In 1988, she joined Goddard and worked as a secretary/administrative assistant for branches within the Engineering Directorate (Codes 732, 733, and 565). Sandy retired from Goddard in 1998.