



Ramblings

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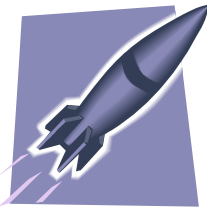
GARDEN GROVE KIWANIS RAMBLINGS, PUBLISHED WEEKLY

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The Program tonight was out of this world ...

A Teenage Rocket Scientist Talks to Kiwanians!

There was a lot of anticipation from the crowd of **Kiwanians** gathered for tonight's **Garden Grove Kiwanis Club** meeting. It wasn't just because of the normal expectation of good cheer, liquid refreshments and a great meal from **Jay's Catering** (the corned beef and cabbage was delicious), but because we had heard last week that we would be having a special Program tonight from our own resident space cadet, err I mean rocket scientist, **Gary Sunda**. Rumor had it that **Peter Carter** was **Gary's** appointed publicity chairman and that he had whipped the crowd into a seething frenzy in anticipation of what they would hear from **Gary** this evening concerning his early career as a rocket scientist.



Gary Sunda regaled the assembled crowd with tales of his early career as a rocket scientist at JPL.

President Brent started tonight's meeting off by thanking those **Club** members who had participated in the **Miss Garden Grove Texas Hold'em Poker Fundraising Tournament** on 3/13/10 at the **Garden Grove Lions Clubhouse**. From our **Club**, we had **Brent Hayes**; **Jerry Kelly**; and **Jerry Margolin**. **Walt Donovan** had signed up and intended to play, but wasn't feeling well, so **Dianne** played without him.

Program

Gary Sunda was our Program this evening and he spoke to us about his first career as a rocket scientist at **JPL** (Jet Propulsion Laboratory) in **Pasadena**. **JPL** is a research division of **NASA** that builds unmanned spacecraft. **Gary** started at **JPL** on July 22, 1958. He remembers the date, because it was the day after his 18th birthday. He had applied earlier and they were interested in hiring him, but they told him he had to wait until he turned 18 to start. **Gary** initially worked at **JPL** during summers while he went to college in **Pasadena** and he got to work with **Wernher Von Braun**. **Gary** first worked on the **MGM-5 Corporal** guided missile system. Later in his career he also worked on the solid-fueled **MGM-29 Sergeant** guided missile system. He then moved to the **Explorer Satellite Program**. **Explorer 1** was the first satellite launched by the **USA** on Feb. 1, 1958 in answer to **Russia's Sputnik**. Its main payload was a cosmic ray detector which discovered the **Van Allen Radiation Belts**. **Gary** also worked on the **Ranger** and **Mariner** Programs. The **Ranger** satellite program was a series of unmanned space missions whose objective was to obtain the first close-up images of the surface of the **Moon**. The **Ranger** spacecraft were designed to collide with the lunar surface, returning imagery until they were destroyed upon impact. The **NASA Mariner** program launched a series of robotic interplanetary probes designed to investigate **Mars**, **Venus** and **Mercury**. **Gary** worked at **JPL** from 1958 to 1963. He finally left **JPL** once he and **Sharon** got married and **Sharon** got a teaching job with **Garden Grove Unified School District**. So they packed up and moved to **Garden Grove**. This phase in his career will be the subject of another evening!

Happy/Sad

Craig H. - Happy \$ for listening to **Gary S.** and for taping his Program. Happy \$ for being in such a good **Club**.

Dick L. - Happy \$ to be here this evening and for getting to hear **Gary** talk.

Will S. - Sad \$ for almost hitting someone in crosswalk. Sad \$ he was almost related to **Rick Gutierrez**.

Jack W. - Happy \$ to be here and for Program.

Don S. - Happy \$ for **Gary's** Program tonight.

Jerry K. - Happy \$ because **Gary S.** is smarter than he thought.

Tom P. - Happy \$ for the Program.

Bruce B. - Happy \$ for the Program and for getting to ask tough questions to **Gary S.**

Efrain D. - Happy \$ for the Program tonight.

Ed H. - Happy \$ for the fantastic Program this week.

Don N. - Happy \$ to hear his good friend **Gary's** Program. Sad \$ didn't hear him tell about lighting the fuses.

Jerry M. - Sad \$ because it is looking like he may need to get a knee replacement operation.

Gary S. - Happy \$20 for getting to talk to us tonight about all of the projects that he worked on at **JPL**.

RC - Happy \$ for good Program tonight and for better days ahead.

Brent H. - Happy \$ for the Program.

Peter C. - Happy \$ to be here tonight and get to hear **Gary's** Program.

Gerry N. - Happy \$ to get to hear **Gary S.** talk about his early career. Sounds like he had a good time at it.

Upcoming Events

Mar 26th Kiwanis Div. 4 Special Kids Day Bowling at Fountain Valley Bowl (10 - 12 am)

Apr 18th KiwanisLand Pancake Breakfast

Thought For The Week

"Research is what I'm doing when I don't know what I'm doing." ~Wernher Von Braun

Gerry Newlark