**Aerospace Summer Games (ASG 2019)**

Every summer since 2008, the Aerospace Summer Games have been held, usually at Dockweiler Beach. That is on Pacific Coast Highway opposite the Scattergood Power Plant between Hyperion Sewage and Chevron Oil. To the north, planes take off from Los Angeles International. The event has grown from 7 aerospace companies in 2008 (Boeing, Honeywell, Jet Propulsion Lab, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, and Rocketdyne) to 32 companies in 2019. There are now 13 events with 9 of them awarding 40 points for the first place team. The event is the largest gathering of aerospace engineers that I have participated in with over 6000 attendees for 2019. The parking lot became full by 8:30 AM and off-site parking is offered by Boeing (with a shuttle service) and Northrop. There is a picture taken of all the people in their colored company shirts for the event at the end of this discussion.

In the early days, people just showed up and played. Now you have to be selected by the company in advance to participate in the events. For several years, Louis tried the water Balloon Toss and Chris pulled in the Tug-O-War. The other events were beyond our capability: Dodgeball, Executive Golf, Fruit (usually watermelon) Eating, Human Pyramid, Relay Race, Sand Soccer, Ultimate Frisbee, and 6-person sand Volleyball. Many of these events require at least some practice before the actual event, but there is always the occasional miracle victory. The secret of success is to get a qualified team in every event. My favorite event is always lunch. Each company provides their people some sort of lunch; the trick is to find where the surplus lunches are located. This year, Northrop was inundated and there was a one hour wait to get Mexican food; the winner was SAIC with boxes containing tortilla wrap and chips. At least, water was readily available.

There are a number of risks associated with a day at the beach. This year, the invitation had many warnings including: hot sand (wear beach shoes or insulated socks), sunburn (get the ointment and be really careful with children), dehydration (keep the water and fluids available), muscle strain (be sure to warm up and not overexert). There was an organized after-event at the Hermosa Beach Pier which seemed to me as the most dangerous item of the day (drinking alcohol and driving). We put up a large red beach tent and tried to keep the stakes in the sand and the sun on the back side. I ended up tying the tent to my chair so it would not fly away. I was occasionally worried about joining the airplanes passing by overhead. Finally, around 1600, the sand cooled down enough so I could wander around.

We attempted to find someone there that we knew after many years in the business and attending the event just about every summer. There was only one person that was recognized. Everyone else seemed to be much younger and unknown. The Unify Credit Union representative was so impressed by my low member number from 1973 (when it was the TRW Credit Union), that he gave me an extra 6- inch purple ball. I had a problem with any discussion: when I was asked where I was from, I said “Calabasas” (blank stare), when I asked people where they were from they said “East Bay” (that meant Alameda or Concord) or “Los Angeles” (that meant Torrance or Rancho Cucamonga). I gave up on that question and decided too many people relied on the Internet to find locales and/or were geographically challenged. One person from Stealth Aerospace (with their stealthy white on white shirts) said they launch small satellites from Kodiak Island and was shocked to find out that I knew where it was and why they launch from there. I tried to apply for some jobs, but the response was “look at the Internet”.

I met several participants and attempted to provide some relevant advice for their event. The coach for the Northrop “Human Pyramid” team (4 at bottom, then 3, then 2, then 1) actually listened and they finished in second place with a time just over 10 seconds. I saw the smallish Millenium “Tug-O-War” team in their flowered yellow shirts and thought they had no chance. How did they manage to win? The overall winner this year were the hordes from Northrop who had about half the people there. They won the Gold, Silver, and Bronze level “Volleyball” events as well as “Sand Soccer” and “Ultimate Frisbee” for 303 points. The Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL) had a well-balanced team (they did not win any event) and finished second, only 6 points behind. Their repeated cheer of “J”, “P”, “L” was heard frequently. They would have won with a better “Tug-O-War” or “Fruit Eating” score.

