



## Greater Huntsville Section Celebrates AIAA's 52<sup>nd</sup> Birthday

*By Ken Philippart  
All images courtesy of Lisa Philippart.*

The Greater Huntsville Section commemorated the 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the founding of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) over the last week in January.

The AIAA was formed on January 31, 1963 from the merger of two predecessor organizations, the American Rocket Society and the Institute of Aerospace Sciences. The Greater Huntsville Section was formed as the Alabama Section of the American Rocket Society in 1952 and was incorporated into AIAA following the merger.

As part of the section's reception honoring its newest class of AIAA Associate Fellows on January 23, 2015,



*Dr. Arloe Mayne and Michael Dunning cut the cake.*



*Members and guests of the Greater Huntsville Section enjoy the hockey game.*

members and guests kicked off the celebration with a traditional birthday cake. Borrowing a tradition from the military services, the longest serving and most junior members in attendance were invited to cut the cake. Dr. Arloe Mayne, with over 50 years of service, joined Young Professional Michael Dunning to do the honors. The two jointly carved the cake, symbolizing the enduring legacy of AIAA and the passing of knowledge from our most experienced members to our up-and-coming leaders.

The following Saturday, the section held a birthday party at the Huntsville Havoc hockey game. Twenty one members and guests attended the game to honor AIAA on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 52 years to the day that AIAA was founded. As part of the birthday party package, the group received discounted tickets, free entries in the Chuck-a-Puck contest and a public address announcement during the game announcing their attendance and the celebration of AIAA's 52<sup>nd</sup> birthday. The arena was packed so a full house joined the group in applauding the birth of the nation's premier aerospace institute.

