

AIAA Members “Pass the Torch” on the SR-71

by
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Images by Ken Philippart

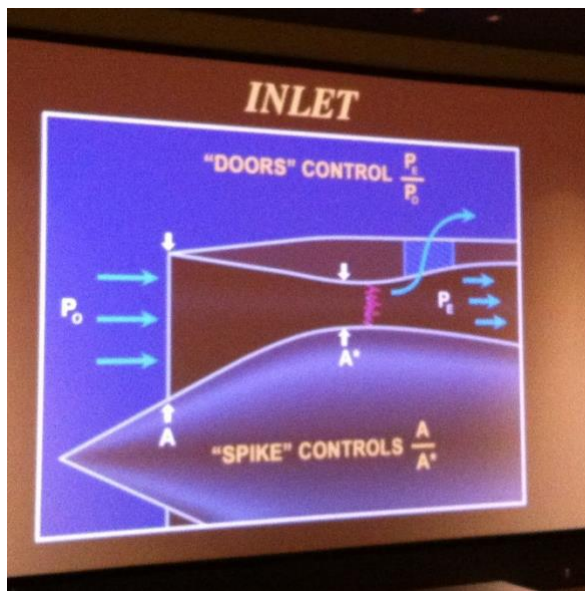
Members of the Greater Huntsville Section attended the Pass the Torch Lecture “Flying the SR-71 Blackbird” by Lt Col (retired) Ed Yeilding on October 6, 2016. The lecture was co-hosted by the US Space & Rocket Center and the HAL5 Society.

Prior to the talk, several AIAA members took advantage of the Biergarten underway in the Davidson Center to eat, drink and enjoy some camaraderie.



After dinner, people crowded the National Geographic Theater to hear Lt Col Yeilding talk about the Blackbird.

Lt Col Yeilding discussed the development of the SR-71 and basic principles of supersonic flight along with his flight training and operational missions. He used photographs he had taken during missions to show the audience what it was like to fly Mach 3 at 80,000 feet over hostile territory. He finished with an in-depth discussion of his 1990 record-breaking coast-to-coast flight in the SR-71, covering 2,400 miles in under 68 minutes, a record that still stands today. The lecture concluded with a



question and answer session with questions taken from the audience.

AIAA members in attendance included Eric Becnel, Mike Pessin, Naveen Vetcha, Ken and Lisa Philippart, Alan and Suzanne Minga, Lauren Badia, John Lassiter, John Glynn, and Skeet Vaughan.

