



A Newsletter for the White Sands Missile Range Historical Foundation

Volume 3, Number 3

October 2003

## Annual Foundation Meeting is Oct. 14 at WSMR

The annual White Sands Historical Foundation membership meeting along with the election of new board members will be Oct. 14 at the range's Frontier Club. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the von Braun room.

All foundation members are invited and encouraged to come. In fact, the only way you can vote for board members is to be present.

There are three vacancies on

the board and there are currently three candidates for those positions. Write-in candidates are always welcome.

The three nominees for the positions are Karen Doud, Frances Williams and Jon Gibson. All three are currently on the board and serving as officers. Douds is the president, Williams is the vice president and Gibson is the treasurer.

For biographies of the candidates, check on page 3.

Immediately following the annual meeting, the board members will meet to elect new officers for the coming year.

In addition to the election to fill board vacancies, the meeting will include a briefing on the accomplishments of the museum this past year.

We'll see you on the 14th.

### Burkett Announces His Retirement as Director of Museum

Ron Burkett, Director of the White Sands Missile Range Museum has announced that he will retire to Ruidoso on Jan. 31, 2004.



Ron Burkett, Museum Director

## N.M. Association of Museums Sees WSMR and Its Museum

The New Mexico Association of Museums held its annual conference in Las Cruces, Sept. 17 - 19. The conference was hosted by the Mesilla Valley Museum Consortium which was led this past year by Ron Burkett.

The White Sands Museum is a member of the consortium.

A busload of museum directors and curators made the trip to White Sands on Sept. 17. They were given a tour of the Cox Range Control Center along with a history and mission briefing in the public lobby of the building. Then it was out to Launch Complex 33 to see where the first rockets were fired at White Sands as the U.S. blasted into the Space Age.

After that, the group went to the museum for a reception and to puruse the outdoor and indoor displays.

Many were not aware of the broad scope of the White Sands museum. Most seemed impressed and many talked of coming back when they have more time.

Burkett has been working with several of these museums to establish a "Space Corridor." This would be a grouping of museums with space themes like WSMR's, the Space Center in Alamogordo and the Roswell Museum & Arts Center. Such a corridor would bring visitors who are interested in space exploration and how it has played out in New Mexico.

# The Board Asks Members to Make a Difference

The current board of directors appreciates the monetary support given by all members. But, you are encouraged to take a more active role in the Foundation.

As you know, the Board of Directors are all volunteers. We are all motivated by the strong desire to document and preserve the rich history of what has and will be done here at White Sands Proving Ground/Missile Range. We need new ideas, new energy,

and a broader cross section of the "White Sands" experience.

To that end, we encourage you to consider becoming a member of the Board of Directors and "make a difference." Over the years "we" have not done a good job of documenting and preserving our history. We need help in turning that around and recovering as much as we can.

The Board of Directors meets the second Tuesday of each month,

usually at 10 a.m. at various locations on White Sands. These meetings normally last about two hours. Current government employees are encouraged to join us as well.

If you are interested and willing to "make a difference," contact Doug Messer, 505-678-8828, (messed@wsmr.army.mil) or Doyle Piland, 505-523-7034, (dpiland@zianet.com), or any member of the Board of Directors.

## Thanks to Summer Haro, the Summer Intern at Museum

**By Terrie Cornell  
Museum Registrar**

One of the museum's volunteers became our summer intern in May. Throughout the 2002-2003 school year, Summer Haro volunteered on Tuesdays while working on her masters in history at NMSU. In the spring, she was accepted for a summer hire position, and then assigned to the museum. It was a perfect fit.

Summer worked hard for us all summer. Her chief accomplishment was researching and writing text panels about the V-2 at WSPG, for display with the refurbished V-2 in its new building in December. She also compiled a booklet about the missiles in the park, for use by the gift shop. She organized the Col. Harold R. Turner Collection of documents and photographs so that we can locate individual items as needed. And she set up a database file for names of former employees taken from old post phone books. Starting with the 1983 book, Summer began inputting names and work places of White Sands folks.

Best of all, she assisted as

needed in the day-to-day operation of the museum, greeting visitors, cleaning exhibit cases, writing letters and emails - always cheery and ready to help.

Now Summer begins a new chapter in her life, attending law school at the McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, Ca. International Law will be her focus. Summer's husband, Matt, has a year and a half left at Holloman as a F-117 crew chief, so they will have a long-distance marriage for awhile.



Summer Haro

## Museum Needs Volunteers to Assist

The White Sands Missile Range Museum, supported by the Historical Foundation, needs volunteers. For the most part, volunteers work with the Museum's Archival Holdings. Our current needs are for two categories of people.

First, we need folks who can review documents for their historical value to White Sands history, and document or describe what their significance is. This will require some knowledge of White Sands and what has gone on here.

Secondly, there is a significant

need for people to do data entry in databases. Typing is the only requirement for the data entry positions. For the most part, volunteers work at the Archive facility every Thursday. It may be possible to work other times if enough people want that. For anyone living in the Las Cruces or Alamo areas, carpooling may be arranged with some of the current volunteers.

If you are interested, please contact Terrie Cornell at 678-3358, or e-mail [cornellt@wsmr.army.mil](mailto:cornellt@wsmr.army.mil); or Doyle Piland 505-523-7034, or e-mail [dpiland@zianet.com](mailto:dpiland@zianet.com).

# Biographies for the Foundation Board Nominees

**Karen J. Douds** – Graduated from NMSU in 1961 with a BS in Physical Education and minors in English and Biology. She taught at Hart Elementary School in El Paso from 1961 until she began her career in 1963 as a Stay Home Mom and Volunteer Worker. While living at White Sands Missile Range, she was a Junior Girl Scout leader; and their daughter Cheryl, was born at McAfee. She coached girls' basketball, softball, and volleyball for 10 years and was for one year VP in charge of score keeping and umpires for the Las Cruces Girls' Softball League. After returning to the workplace, she worked two years as a payroll clerk for McDonald's restaurants, one year doing bank reconciliation for the WSFCU Supervisory Committee, two years as a Village Inn Hostess, eighteen months as Accessories Dept. Head at Dillards, two years as Supervisor of Sales at Casual Corner, and five years as Assistant Buyer and Sales Clerk for the Queen Bee. During her workplace career she completed self-improvement and interest courses in education, accounting, math, and engineering at NMSU. In November 1998 she became Secretary for the White Sands Historical Foundation Operating Council and accepted the Treasurer/Secretary job in June 2000; in 2001 she became President. Other interests include reading, genealogy, silversmithing, metal crafts, lapidary, needlepoint (blue ribbon and best of show winner), mosaics with glass and stone, sewing, and stamping. She considers her best job yet to be Grandmother for four girls and a boy.

**Frances Williams** – She currently serves as the Vice President of the White Sands Historical Foundation. Employed at White Sands for 37 years in a variety of positions to include Finance and Accounting, Logistics, and the Instrumentation Directorate. Currently serves as a Commissioner on the Housing Authority for the City of Las Cruces. Is the recipient of Secretary of Army's EEO Award, Army Material Command and USATECOM's EEO Award, and the Governor's Award for Public Service. She is also a member of the WSMR Hall of Fame. Currently owns and operates her own business, Professional Excellence, which provides

consulting, mediation, investigation and training services to both the public and private sector employers. Desires to contribute to White Sands and its current and past employees and to be a part of preserving the legacy and history where the missile and space age dawned. She considers serving on the Board of Directors to be a privilege, and will work hard to see that the Museum completes Phase II and III, and that it is a place where current and future generation can come to enjoy the heritage of their past and future.

**Jon E. Gibson** - retired at White Sands Missile Range on 3 Dec 99 as Director of the Information Operations Directorate. The Information Operations Directorate was responsible for communication operations, development, and installation support functions at White Sands Missile Range. Prior to his appointment as Director of Information Operations he was Chief of the Operations Control Division in the National Range Operations Directorate. As Operations Control chief he was responsible for missile flight safety, safety engineering, range scheduling, range operations, and the National Range Operations Directorate's internal operating budget. Jon accepted a lateral reassignment to Operations Control Division from Chief of the Data Sciences Division in the National Range Operations Directorate.

The Data Sciences Division had responsibility for both real-time and post-test data acquisition and processing at White Sands. The real-time responsibility included the critical data (radar, telemetry, optics, etc.) acquisition, development of real-time algorithms, data processing, and display support for missile flight safety officers and project engineers - a Range Control Center operation.

Jon started his career at the then White Sands Proving Ground after graduation from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia where he majored in math, minored in physics, and earned a BS degree. His initial assignment at White Sands was in the Doppler Velocity and Position (DOVAP) Unit of the Data Reduction Branch in the Flight Determination Laboratory. In the years prior to being selected Data Sciences Division Chief Jon was assigned to a large variety of positions and projects. An early assignment was as a member of the team responsible for development and implementation of White Sands' first real-time digital data processing system. Later, at another end of the spectrum he was a member of the team detailed to TECOM headquarters to develop the first set of TECOM wide standard business applications. However, the majority of his efforts and achievements were in the real-time and post-test data processing areas.

## *Pertinent Foundation Bylaws*

*ARTICLE III, Section A – “The governing body of the Foundation will be composed of unpaid volunteers and consist of a Board of Directors (the board) of 9 elected members and up to 6 members appointed by the elected board. ...”*

*ARTICLE III, Section B – “The members of the board shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the membership in attendance at the annual General Membership meeting and shall assume duties immediately. ...”*

*ARTICLE III, Section D – “The officers of the Foundation are a president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary, all elected annually by the board from its members.*

*ARTICLE III, Section E – “Board members are elected for three-year terms. One third of the directors' three-year terms will expire each year. ...”*

*ARTICLE III, Section F – “...The Director of the White Sands Missile Range Museum is a non-voting ex officio member of the board. The President of the White Sands Pioneer Group or his representative is a voting ex officio member of the board. ...”*

***White Sands Missile Range***  
**Historical Foundation**

*P.O. Box 171 • White Sands Missile Range, NM 88002*



## **The Back Page**

From the left are Austin Vick, Joe Gold and Joe Marlin. The three are volunteers assisting in the refurbishment of IGOR (Intercept Ground Optical Recorder) #2 for placement under a dome in Missile Park. Work is slated to be completed in Dec.