

## About the Huntsville Alabama L5 Society (HAL5)

HAL5 is the Huntsville Alabama chapter of the National Space Society (NSS). It was formed in 1983 and incorporated in 1984. Both HAL5 and the NSS are not-for-profit 501(c)(3), grassroots, space educational/advocacy organizations. Members share the enthusiasm that space development can stimulate our world with immeasurable benefits in the areas of education, energy, environment, industry, resources, and ultimately room to grow for our society. HAL5 and NSS believe that by educating and working with the public, the government, and private industry, we can speed up the date when routine, safe, and **affordable** space travel is available to **anyone** who wants to go.

Over the past 13 years, HAL5 has sponsored numerous educational projects and activities in Huntsville. It has hosted a continuing series of public lectures, forums, and events on space-related topics, at both the U.S. Space & Rocket Center and the Huntsville Public Library. Hot topics have included the Space Station, space science, and both public and private attempts to provide cheap access to space. In May of 1995, HAL5 was presented an NSS Chapter Excellence Award for the outstanding public lecture series it held in 1994. For years, HAL5 has coordinated or provided programs for the Con†Stellation science fiction convention. HAL5 is devoted to speeding the transition of science fiction into science fact.

Four years ago, HAL5 hosted the 1993 International Space Development Conference (ISDC), the 12th annual conference of the NSS, and of one of its most successful. Over 700 space enthusiasts from Huntsville and around the nation and the world gathered at the Hilton to hear over 120 speakers lecture and debate on the benefits of space and on what it will take to get there. The City of Huntsville honored HAL5 for making the 1993 ISDC one of its top ten conferences. HAL5 is considering hosting the 2001 ISDC, when it will be able to promote the successful completion of Project HALO.

In 1987, HAL5 supported a local grade school's "Get-Away-Special Canister" project. In 1993, HAL5 hosted a highly successful 3-day "Junior Cadet Program" as part of the 1993 ISDC. Early in 1995, HAL5 purchased and donated a reusable tethered balloon to the Huntsville elementary school system to support its HOPE program. HAL5 has sponsored "Space Week" activities on numerous occasions, including this past March. HAL5 has also created a pilot program, called HALO Achievement, designed to take space and science education into the grade-school classroom in the same manner as Junior Achievement does for business. In 1997, HAL5 plans to demonstrate this program at several schools.

As a space advocacy group, HAL5 has hosted many activities to build non-partisan political support for space. Many HAL5 members participate in letter writing campaigns to alert our governmental representatives of our interest in space. HAL5 hosts lectures designed to call the public attention to space-related issues and to urge them to write, call, fax, or E-Mail their elected officials. HAL5 also distributes petitions and surveys on space exploration, development, and tourism.

In 1994, HAL5 began its biggest project ever, Project HALO (for "High-Altitude Lift-Off"). The goals of the project are no less than to provide cheap access to space for small clubs and student groups. In 1997, HAL5 will construct its own hybrid rocket (fueled by only asphalt and laughing gas!) and will launch it into space from a high altitude balloon floating 20 miles high! As of February 1997, HAL5 has flown balloons 4 times to 20 miles, test-fired 40 rocket motors, and ground launched to 30,000 feet.

Above all, HAL5 has pledged to keep Huntsville and its neighbors informed of the positive benefits of space research and development, whether by NASA, other governments, or private industry. HAL5 has also pledged to alert Huntsville and vicinity during the times for action, whenever letters, calls, and petitions can improve our chances for becoming a spacefaring civilization. And lastly, via Project HALO, HAL5 has pledged to lead the way in showing the public, the government, and private industry that cheap access to space can indeed be made a reality!

As the NSS motto states: Ad Astra per Ardua! (Latin for "To the Stars by Our Own Hands!")