

DINNER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

"A Pocketful of Rockets; History and Stories Behind White Sands Missile Range"

Speaker: **Jim Eckles,**
Public Affairs Office, White Sands Missile Range, Retired

Abstract: please see next page.

Biography: please see next page.

- Place:** **Courtyard® by Marriott Santa Fe**
3347 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe, NM (505-473-2800)
- Directions:** From Albuquerque, take I-25 North approximately 55 miles to Exit 278 (Cerrillos Road). Hotel is 3 miles from the exit on the left-hand side of Cerrillos Road at Richards Avenue.
- Date:** **September 30, 2022**
- Time:** **6:00** Social Hour with Cash Bar
(for networking between students and professionals of all levels)
7:00 Dinner (catered by Courtyard® by Marriott Santa Fe)
7:45 Speaker
- Cost:** \$45 per person (by web sign-up in advance),
\$50 per person (not pre-paid, at the door),
\$20 for students and children

Current NM DOH and CDC recommendations for COVID-safe conduct of in-person activities will be in place. ANS Trinity Section requires that all dinner attendees be fully vaccinated against COVID and will require attendees to produce proof of vaccination upon entering the dinner venue. Face masks / coverings are currently optional, which can change based on CDC recommendations. Guests may present a physical copy of their vaccine cards or a smart phone photo of their card as proof of vaccination.

We strongly encourage you to sign up and pay for this event by 26 Sep using the ANS Trinity PayPal payment account. Visit the "Calendar" page of our web site and select the appropriate payment button (<http://local.ans.org/trinity/calendar.html>). You may use any credit card and do NOT need to have your own PayPal account to make the payment.

RSVP: If you do not use on-line payment, please RSVP no later than **26 Sep** to:
Chris Perfetti: cperfetti@unm.edu (505-277-1945) or
Nick Thompson: thompn4@gmail.com (505-309-6400).

*RSVP must be received by **26 Sep** in order to give final numbers to the caterers. While we strongly encourage everyone to use on-line payment to sign up and prepay, an RSVP is a commitment to attend/pay at the door. We cannot afford "no shows" after the final count is given to the caterers, as the Section is partially subsidizing the cost of this event. If you cancel after **26 Sep**, you will still be responsible for paying.*

**"A Pocketful of Rockets;
History and Stories Behind White Sands Missile Range"**

Jim Eckles,

Public Affairs Office, White Sands Missile Range, Retired

Abstract:

As a National Park and an active missile range of the US Army, White Sands is a major landmark of the state of New Mexico. Perhaps no one has more experience in White Sands Missile Range than Jim Eckles. After 30 years of service in the White Sands Public Affairs Office, Jim is a treasure trove of history, stories, and lore surrounding the Tularosa Basin. In Jim's book, ***A Pocketful of Rockets***, he lays out not only tremendous detail and insight on the flagship tests of the missile range, but also historically fascinating archeological hunts, public and political discourse, and popular culture. Whether or not you have read the book, Jim's presentation of the White Sands Missile Range, from its ancient native inhabitants to the Trinity test, will be sure to teach you something you never knew about New Mexico and its atomic history.

A Pocketful of Rockets is the book selected for the Trinity Section Nuclear NM Summer Book Club this year (see <https://local.ans.org/trinity/nnmsbc.html>). This presentation by the author will be in place of the group discussion. Jim will be available for book signing following his presentation.

Biography:

Jim Eckles grew up in Nebraska and attended the University of Nebraska. He majored in psychology and English lit. A masters degree in literature followed at the University of Washington but he was saved from a life in academia when he was offered a job in the White Sands Public Affairs Office in 1977. He worked there until 2007 when he retired. In 2013, he was inducted into the missile range Hall of Fame.

During his time at the range –

- he saw the Space Shuttle Columbia land,
- he followed the Noss treasure hunters into Victorio Peak,
- he escorted dozens of ranch families to visit their old homes,
- he experienced many ear-splitting explosions and missile launches,
- and he has probably been to Trinity Site more than any other human being.

He rides a bicycle, hikes, takes pictures, travels and plays golf, and is on the board of directors for the White Sands Missile Range Historical Foundation as well as the Dona Ana County Historical Society. His book on the history of White Sands Missile Range, ***Pocketful of Rockets***, was published in 2013. He followed that with ***Trinity: The History Of An Atomic Bomb National Historic Landmark***. His latest book is ***Deming New Mexico's Camp Cody: A World War One Training Camp***.