

# Spaceport News

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John F. Kennedy Space Center



**Mission:** STS-79 on Atlantis.

**Launch date, time:** Target date of Sept. 16, 4:54 a.m. from Launch Pad 39A.

**Status:** Atlantis was returned to Launch Pad 39A on Sept. 5 after being sent back to the Vehicle Assembly Building Sept. 4 as a precautionary move due to the approach of Hurricane Fran.

**Mission Synopsis:** STS-79 is the fourth in a series of NASA docking missions to the Russian Mir Space Station, leading to the construction and operation of the International Space Station. A launch on the 16th will set Atlantis up for a rendezvous and docking on the fourth day of flight. Astronaut John Blaha will be replacing Shannon Lucid aboard the Mir.

**Landing date, time:** Sept. 26, 8:49 a.m. at KSC's Shuttle Landing Facility.



IN THE Multi-Payload Processing Facility, workers install the Interstellar Medium Absorption Profile Spectrograph atop the Astronomy Shuttle Pallet Satellite.

**Mission:** STS-80 on Columbia.

**Launch date, time:** No earlier than Oct. 31, 2:40 p.m. from Launch Pad 39B.

**Primary payloads:** ORFEUS-SPAS-2, Wake Shield Facility - 3

**Landing date, time:** No earlier than Nov. 16, 7:25 a.m., at the SLF.

## Mars Rover undergoes checks



THE MARS Pathfinder small rover undergoes a final functional check by Jet Propulsion Laboratory technicians in KSC's Spacecraft Assembly and Encapsulation Facility-2 (SAEF-2) before being attached to the Pathfinder lander. The six-wheeled robotic vehicle will become the first autonomous rover to explore the surface of another planet when it begins crawling over the Martian terrain next year. The rover will be attached to one of three petals of the Mars Pathfinder lander. After the petals are closed, a protective aeroshell will be installed around the lander and parachutes attached to it. This assembled entry vehicle will then be mated to the cruise stage that will carry the spacecraft on its interplanetary trajectory. The completed spacecraft will be mated with an upper stage booster before going to the launch pad. Liftoff on a Delta II expendable launch vehicle currently is set for Dec. 2, the beginning of a 24-day launch period. See more photos, page 4.

## KSC sets a record in bone marrow drive

The KSC community extended a helping hand to patients suffering from leukemia and other blood related diseases by signing up to be potential bone marrow donors. KSC's efforts stand out with a record breaking number of registrations in a single day.

Eight hundred and eighty-eight employees turned out for KSC's first bone marrow registration drive on Aug. 28, surpassing any one-day drive conducted by the Leukemia Society of America in the state of Florida, Georgia or Alabama.

"The success of this drive was phenomenal," said Robyn Kornhaber, the organization's national director.

Only a small blood sample is required from each participant for testing and further screening. Bone marrow is later requested only if a suitable match is made.

(See MARROW, Page 3)

## Office of Inspector General seeks two-way communication

A call from the Office of Inspector General is often met with about as much enthusiasm as news that an Internal Revenue Service auditor is on the other end of the line.

Those who regularly make those calls would really like to see that change. By offering some information on the office's history and purpose, Kennedy Space Center's Office of Inspector General personnel hope to put employees a little more at ease with their occasional requests for assistance.

(See OIG, Page 6)



FROM THE LEFT are Lanny Van Camp, southeast regional inspector general, Jack Buchert, special agent in charge of investigations at KSC, and Len Diamond, audit field manager.

## Hispanic Month celebration planned

Hispanic Heritage Month, to be celebrated at Kennedy Space Center from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15, is designed to give employees an opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of Americans of Hispanic ancestry while looking ahead to achievements yet to come.

The 1996 observance has been given the theme "Hispanics: Challenging the Future." Highlights of the month will include a presentation by folk singers and the Ballet Folklorico of the Autonomous University of the State of Morelos on Sept. 16, and the annual "Meet your Directors" luncheon Sept. 20.

Martin Torres Gutierrez, Mexican consul, and Maestro Gerardo Avila Garcia, rector of the university, will accompany the group which will be performing at EPCOT the follow-

ing week.

The Ballet Folklorico presentation is set for Mexican Independence Day, Sept. 16, at 10 a.m. in the Training Auditorium.

The luncheon is scheduled for Sept. 20 at 11:30 a.m. in the Operations and Checkout Building's Mission Briefing Room.

Tickets are available through members of the Hispanic Employment Program Working Group at \$8 apiece through September 19.

Tables will be set up in the lobbies of the Headquarters, O&C, Space Station Processing Facility and Operations Support Buildings on Sept. 17 through 20 with arts and crafts for display and sale.

For more information on any of the events contact Oscar Gamboa at 867-8025.

## Employees of the month



HONORED IN SEPTEMBER are, sitting from the left, Kennetta Campbell, Spacelab Program Office; Dorothea Jardine, Logistics Operations Directorate; and Janet Thompson, Safety and Mission Assurance Directorate. Standing are, from the left, Ed Markowski, Shuttle Operations Directorate; Charles Conley, Engineering Development Directorate; and Maret Tennison, Administration Office. Not pictured are Stephen Ernest, Payload Processing Directorate; Mack McKinney, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, and Celene Morgan, Procurement Office.

## Barker retires from Sherikon Space Systems

Raoul Barker, president and general manager of Sherikon Space Systems, Inc., retired effective Sept. 6. He will be replaced by Jarvis L. (Skip) Olson, currently with Northrop Grumman Corporation in Melbourne, on Jan. 1. Larry Hall, Sherikon's division manager, will be acting general manager in the interim.

Barker worked in the defense industry 39 years before activating Sherikon's subcontract with KSC's Base Operations Contractor EG&G Florida, Inc. in 1993.

He said he is proud of the fact that Sherikon's subsequent performance has given the company room to grow.

"Starting during the bid phase, Sherikon's capabilities and responsiveness convinced EG&G to give Sherikon more functions," he said. "Sherikon has done extremely well and is positioned to do even more due to the different capabilities we've developed," he said.

As a small disadvantaged business, Sherikon can offer

United Space Alliance the opportunity to meet federal goals in that area while delivering a proven product, Barker said.

Barker was born in France and lived there until he was 7 when he returned to the United States where his parents owned a home in Mount Dora.

Barker attended public schools, graduating from Mount Dora High School in 1950.

After attending Princeton University and the University of Florida Barker joined the Air Force in 1954 and remained in the service until 1975.

He said he stayed largely because of a piece of advice his father gave him — never quit anything.

While in the Air Force he obtained bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from the University



BARKER

of New Hampshire.

After leaving the service he went to work for Northrop Worldwide Aircraft Services, Inc. as the Washington Support Group director and BDM International, Inc. as vice president for International Programs before retiring to the family home- stead in Mount Dora in 1989.

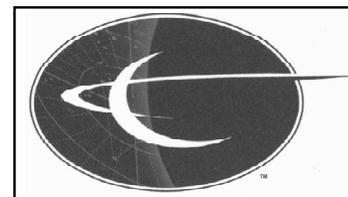
The following year he was convinced to leave retirement to head Sherikon's System Technology Division in Orlando.

Barker will remain in Mount Dora with his wife of 41 years, Betty.

His three grown children have all moved on but the family, including 8 grandchildren, still gathers together whenever possible.

Barker said he will miss the people at Sherikon but plans to spend more time with his own family and working around his home.

"We've got eight and a half acres including orange grove," he said. "There's quite a bit to do."



### 'The Cape' is set for TV premiere this week

The pilot movie for the dramatic series "The Cape," shot largely on location at Kennedy Space Center, will premiere locally tonight.

The two-hour movie will air on WKCF, Channel 18, Sept. 13 at 8 p.m. with an encore performance on Saturday, Sept. 14 at 4 p.m. The one-hour series will air on the same station at 8 p.m. Fridays.

"The Cape" follows the personal and professional endeavors of a dedicated group of astronauts and astronaut candidates. MTM Entertainment, the production company, was given access to KSC facilities for filming the series. Many KSC employees assisted in the production and served as extras in the film.

## Marrow. . .

(Continued from Page 1)

The Leukemia Society of America and the American Red Cross held the event to educate and recruit volunteers to join the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP). Established in 1986, the NMDP guides patients in their search for a compatible bone marrow donor. Their organizational network consists of recruitment groups, donors and transplant centers.

KSC's Biomedical Office and various ethnic working groups teamed up to generate civil service and contractor interest in the program. With minority numbers low on the NMDP computer registry of potential donors, an emphasis was placed on registering minority employees. "An astounding 22 percent of those registered were from KSC's minority population," said Dr. George Martin, of KSC's Biomedical Office.

Marrow compatibility between donor and recipient is an

important part of a successful bone marrow transplant. "The characteristics of bone marrow are inherited much like hair and eye color," explained Katosha Belvin, spokesperson for NMDP.

If a match cannot be found in a recipient's family, the search continues within their ethnic group.

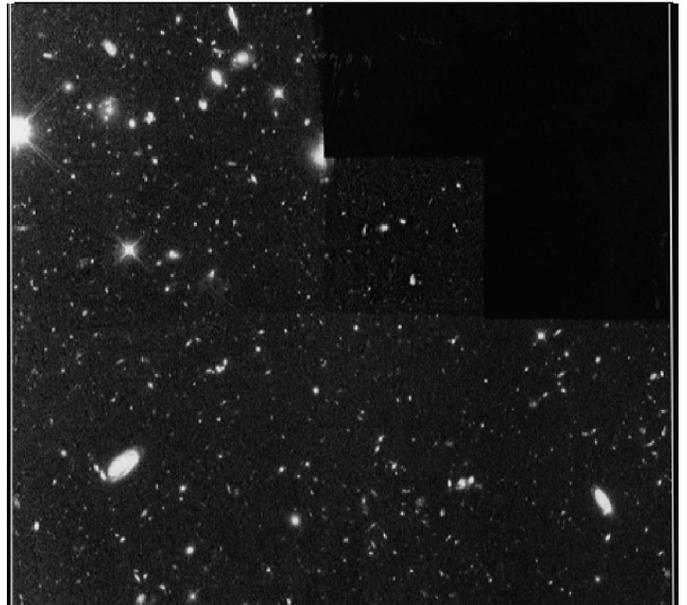
"The chance of finding a match that is not directly related to the recipient averages about 70 percent," said Belvin.

Their registry of potential volunteer donors is over 2 million strong.

"While the numbers on the registry are encouraging there is still much work to be done." Thirty percent of the patients searching our registry still find no match," said Belvin.

"After I registered and gave the blood sample, I felt that I was possibly saving a life. I felt good about it," said Christopher Whittaker, a McDonnell Douglas engineer.

## Young galaxy survey



EMBEDDED IN THIS newly released Hubble Space Telescope image of nearby and distant galaxies are 18 young galaxies or galactic building blocks, each containing dust, gas and a few billion stars. Each of these objects is 11 billion light-years from Earth and much smaller than today's galaxies. The picture was taken with the Wide Field Planetary Camera 2. It required 48 orbits around the Earth (more than one day of exposure time) to make the observation.

## Prestigious road race leads to valuable life lessons for KSC couple, son

**R**obert Nelson, an EG&G security officer, and his 16-year-old son Chad spent the month of June participating in the adventure of a lifetime. Robert's wife Ann works for NASA in the Installation Operations Directorate's Travel and Transportation Office.

Chad and several of his Titusville Astronaut High School classmates entered a Model-A Speedster they had rebuilt from scratch into one of the most prestigious vintage automotive events in the world, and, in a fairy tale ending, won the event's spirit trophy for their enthusiasm and perseverance.

The sojourn began more than a year ago when Titusville Astronaut automotive instructor Jim LaCoy witnessed a portion of the Corel Great Race as it passed through Binghamton, New York. The race features 1,300 vehicles dating from 1909 to 1942 traveling 4,000 miles across the country in 14 days. The timed, controlled speed endurance rally requires entry fees ranging from \$6,500 to \$10,000 and offers a total purse of \$250,000. LaCoy decided his automotive students should enter.

He and class members located an abandoned Model A chassis in a Scottsmorr palmetto field (near Mims) and went to



CHAD AND ROBERT NELSON hold the trophy the Titusville Astronaut team received for their spirited run in the "Astro Flyer" in the Corel Great Race.

work. The students not only spent a year creating a showpiece out of a rusted relic, they won the support of hundreds in the community who contributed toward their entry fees and other expenses. The team located a decommissioned school bus which they bought for a dollar and renovated to transport their car, named the "Astro Flyer," to Tacoma, WA, for the start of the race.

LaCoy, five of the students and three chaperones/mechanics including Robert Nelson, started the race in Tacoma on June 16 and ended in Toronto, Ontario, Canada

on June 29. Although the team had plans to take turns sleeping in the bus in order to save money, they found local regulations and cold temperatures prevented them from doing so. As word of their story spread through the media they were taken out to meals, their accommodations were paid and they received more than \$2,000 in unsolicited donations.

Overall the team placed 19th out of 84 cars and was awarded the "Doc" Robert Fuson Spirit of the Event trophy for best illustrating the sense of sportsmanship and fair play the race represents.

"When our name was announced as the winner, we received a standing ovation," said Chad Nelson. "All the racers were so helpful and supportive and they cheered us on every day."

ESPN filmed the entire event for a special to air sometime this fall.

Ann Nelson said aside from the excitement generated by the event, she is thrilled by the positive message the experience sent to the students.

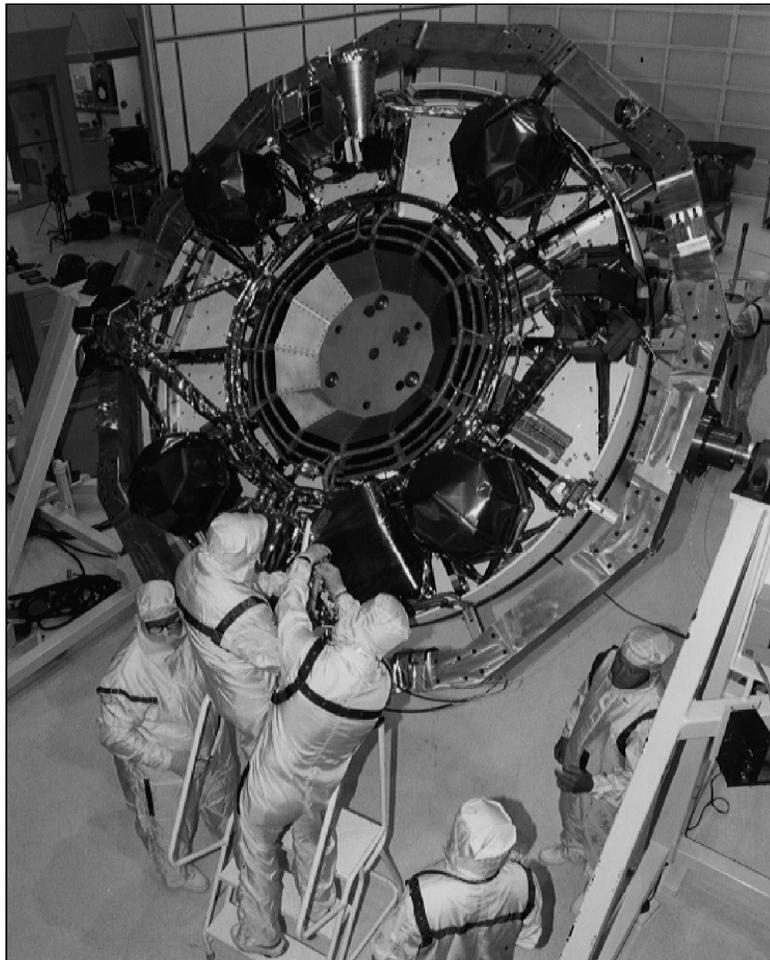
She said the team is already planning to enter the 1997 race and has planned a fund-raiser for Sept. 21 at Fox Lake Park in Titusville. Next year, she said, she plans to go along for the ride.

## Rover processing forges ahead at KSC



IN KSC'S Spacecraft Assembly and Encapsulation Facility-2 (SAEF-2), Jet Propulsion Laboratory workers mate the Mars Pathfinder rover to one of the landers three petals on Sept. 3. When the lander touches down on the surface of Mars next year, the three petals of the lander -- closed for the six to seven month journey to the Red Planet -- will open like a flower to allow the rover to begin its quest to explore the Martian surface.

ONE OF THE FOUR major elements of the Mars Pathfinder, the cruise stage -- shown here mounted inside a support assembly -- will carry the Mars Pathfinder lander on a direct trajectory to Mars. The Pathfinder lander, encased in a protective aeroshell, still must be attached to the cruise stage. The rover will be located inside the lander.



## 8th annual Fall Intercenter Run is set for Oct. 8

The 8th annual Fall Intercenter Run, sponsored by the KSC Fitness Center, will be held Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 5 p.m. at the Shuttle Landing Facility Runway.

Registration forms are due by midnight, Sept. 27.

Three races will be offered - a 10K Run, 5K

Run and 2 mile Run/Walk.

Although there is no entry charge for the race, T-shirts or tank tops will be available for a fee at any NASA Exchange store. Order deadline for T-shirts is Sept. 30.

To obtain an entry form for the race, contact one of the KSC Exercise Facilities.

## NASA retiree Torrence dies at Lady Lake home

Bernard Torrence, an engineering support supervisor who played a crucial role in the development of exhibits for Kennedy Space Center's Visitors Information Center, died Aug. 17 at his home in Lady Lake.

Torrence joined NASA in 1955 from his position as supervisor of the electrical/electronic shop for the Army Ballistic Missile Agency, Missile Firing Lab. He worked for the Navy in Portsmouth, VA, before joining the ABMA.

He retired from NASA on Nov. 10, 1977 after 29 years of federal service.

Torrence was known for his fresh, straightforward approach to problems, said Dick Young, former chief of the Public Affairs Office of the Media Services Branch.

"Bernie was a 'what you see is what you get' individual and I always looked forward to work sessions with him," Young said.

Torrence and Young worked together on modifying and designing exhibits for the VIC, some of which were hand-me-downs from NASA Headquarters and other science centers.

Torrence's daughter, Wanda Wenner, who works in medical services for EG&G Florida, Inc., said she recalls when her father built the lunar rover at the VIC using an old golf cart and aluminum foil. At one time the VIC "astronaut" would drive visitors around the center's grassy area in the rover.

She said he loved being affiliated with the space program and was particularly struck by the Apollo 1 fire.

Torrence and his wife Hilda moved to Virginia after his retirement before relocating in Lady Lake.

# KSC employees lend helping hands during Day of Caring



KSC EMPLOYEES participated in the fourth annual Day of Caring sponsored by the United Way of Brevard County, Inc. on Sept. 6. Employees formed teams of two to ten people and participated in activities ranging from serving lunch to the homeless in Brevard County soup kitchens; painting and landscaping community centers; assisting with chores for elderly, frail and disabled adults; and providing enrichment activities for pre-school and elementary classes among other activities.



ABOVE, GEORGE VEAUDRY, left, and Dawn Steele, right, deliver a meal to Charles Connell at Titusville Towers as part of the Senior Nutritional Aid Program.

LEFT, JEAN ABERNATHY, left, Terry Willingham and Laura Rochester help paint the Salvation Army building in Titusville.

DELIVERING MEALS on Wheels in Titusville are, from the left, Marina Harris, Joanna Johnson, Jay Diggs, Marlene Squires, Tina Adams, Jacqueline Morales, Cathy DiBiase, and Joni Richards.



# OIG...

(Continued from Page 1)

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) was created by the Inspector General Act of 1978 to provide independent oversight over 61 federal agencies. They conduct audits and investigations in an effort to prevent and detect fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement in agency programs and operations.

KSC's OIG has 19 employees — ten auditors, five investigators, a special agent in charge, an audit field office manager, three program assistants and the southeast regional inspector general for investigations.

Lanny Van Camp, who headed up the KSC office since 1990, was recently named as a regional inspector general for investigations over the southeast region. He is still, however, based at KSC.

The work at the KSC office is divided between audits and investigations. Len Diamond is the audit field office manager.

Diamond says 70 percent of the audit work pertains to major programs such as Space Flight. Fifteen percent had been concentrated on auditing NASA financial statements, however that is in the process of changing as the agency begins to hire private contractors to complete those tasks.

An additional 10 percent of the auditors' responsibility is to offer direct support to OIG investigations, and the balance of the time is spent working procurement and local issues, Diamond said.

The investigative side of the KSC office is headed by Jack Buchert, special agent in charge of investigations at KSC. Buchert said that 90 percent of the work done by his investigators arises out of various reports from concerned employees, both contractor and civil servant, congressional inquiries, and NASA management. About 5 percent of the cases come from proactive work by investigators who have sensed a problem or

## Questions and Answers about the OIG

The OIG at NASA Headquarters has prepared some basic information about that office and the how to report suspect activities.

A synopsis of that information follows:

**Question:** If I am asked to be interviewed, am I required to answer questions posed by a NASA OIG representative?

**Answer:** Yes, you have an obligation to cooperate and respond fully, promptly, and honestly to inquiries from representatives of the NASA OIG. However, your constitutional rights under the Fifth Amendment are protected.

**Question:** What about requests

for written or electronic records, files and documents?

**Answer:** Under the IG Act, representatives of the OIG are entitled to complete access to all books, records, data and other information maintained by NASA (including contractor operations) and NASA employees in the performance of their official duties. This access is only limited by other laws (e.g., 42 U.S.C. 290dd-2, alcohol and drug abuse treatment records).

**Question:** Must I report my contact with or what I said to OIG staff to my supervisor or any other management representative?

**Answer:** No. Your contact with OIG staff may be anonymous and confidential. The IG Act specifically

grants all employees whistleblower protection from reprisal for cooperating with the OIG.

**Question:** What should I do if I am asked or directed to report meetings or discussions with the NASA OIG?

**Answer:** Immediately contact the OIG representative identified as handling the matter, the OIG hotline, or call or write the NASA OIG. Your contact will be treated confidentially, to the extent possible, if you request.

**Question:** How do I contact the Hotline?

**Answer:** Call 1-800-424-9183. More information on the OIG is available on the Internet at [www.sba.gov/ignet/](http://www.sba.gov/ignet/)

felt a need to explore a particular area. The remaining 5 percent result from conditions uncovered by audits.

"We focus our resources on criminal work that is definitely or potentially a violation of the criminal code of the United States," Buchert said.

While the majority of calls received by the OIG office are related to perceived mismanagement or employee misconduct, most of those issues are ultimately handed over to the appropriate KSC or contractor management officials. The true criminal cases worked by the office usually focus on improprieties related to procurement or contracts.

Most people are surprised to learn that a typical investigator has a background in accounting as opposed to law enforcement, Buchert said.

"I don't need a Rambo," he said. "I need a person with a visor shade."

Buchert said employees should realize that the OIG is working for the taxpayer and, more than 90 percent of the time, contacts employees strictly to gather background information on a case, not to imply that the employee has

any knowledge of any wrongdoing.

The office strives as hard to exonerate an individual unjustly accused of impropriety as it does to convict those who have perpetrated a crime, he said.

"We have exonerated far more people and processes than we have found fault with. The report card for our work is the excellence of the product, not whether or not someone is charged with a crime or punished administratively," he said.

Statistics on the office's accomplishments are published every six months in a report

addressed to NASA Administrator Dan Goldin and forwarded to Congress.

In the latest report, for the period from Oct. 1, 1995 to Mar. 31, 1996, OIG audits and investigations were shown to have the following impact:

Audits identified \$508.5 million in funds that could be saved or put to better use. Investigations recovered \$18.5 million in misused funds and \$1.7 million in funds that could have been better used. Investigations also resulted in 16 indictments and 18 convictions throughout the period.



John F. Kennedy Space Center

## Spaceport News

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