

# Spaceport News



John F. Kennedy Space Center - America's gateway to the universe

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## NASA's next step to prepare for a new era of exploration

By Elaine Marconi  
Staff Writer

The enormous open space of Kennedy Space Center's Operations and Checkout Building was filled with anticipation as representatives from NASA, Lockheed Martin, Space Florida, the state of Florida, honored guests and center employees participated in a ceremony on Jan. 30 to commemorate the conversion of the facility's high bay for use by the Constellation Program.

The event recognized the initial step in the transition of the first facility at Kennedy to accommodate the next generation of space vehicles.

"We are proud of this building and its rich history, and together with NASA and the outstanding men and women of the Kennedy Space Center, we look forward to its exciting future," said Russell Romanella, director of NASA's

International Space Station and Spacecraft Processing directorate.

NASA has selected Lockheed Martin as the prime contractor to design, develop and build Orion, America's spacecraft for future exploration activities. The capsule will carry astronauts back to the moon and later to Mars.

In its illustrious past, the five-story structure was once called the Manned Spacecraft Operations Building and was used to process and test the Apollo modules for flight.

Later in the space program, the renamed Operations and Checkout Building was used to house and test the Spacelab science modules before their journey to the International Space Station.

Kennedy Space Center and Space Florida partnered to begin the monumental task of preparing the building for the new program. The state of Florida provided

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DIGNITARIES LOOK at the banner unfurled by Kennedy Space Center Director Bill Parsons (center), spotlighting the Orion crew exploration vehicle that will be assembled in the Operations and Checkout Building. From left are Russell Romanella, director of International Space Station/Payload Processing; Thad Altman, representative of the state of Florida; Cleon Lacefield, Lockheed Martin program manager; Steve Kohler, executive director of Space Florida (turned away); and Skip Hatfield, Orion project manager.

## THEMIS mission set for Cape launch aboard Delta II

NASA's Time History of Events and Macroscale Interactions during Substorms (THEMIS) is scheduled to launch aboard a Delta II rocket on Feb. 15 from Launch Pad 17-B at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. THEMIS consists of five identical probes, the largest number of scientific satellites ever launched into orbit aboard a single rocket.

On a clear night over the far northern areas of the world, skygazers may witness a beautiful light display in the sky that can disrupt satellite TV signals and leave people in the dark. The glow of the northern lights seems exquisite and quite harmless. Most times, it is harmless. The display, resembling a slow-moving ribbon

in the sky, is called the aurora. It is also visible in far southern regions around the South Pole.

Occasionally, however, the aurora becomes much more dynamic. The single auroral ribbon may split into several ribbons or even break into clusters that race north and south. This dynamic light show in the polar skies is associated with what scientists call a magnetospheric substorm.

Substorms are very closely related to full-blown space storms that can disable spacecraft, radio communication, GPS navigation and power systems while supplying harmful electrons to the radiation belts surrounding Earth. THEMIS scientists will study the trigger mechanism for magnetospheric substorms.



WORKERS INSIDE the mobile service tower on Launch Pad 17-B at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station maneuver the upper canister away from the THEMIS spacecraft.

# World Space Expo will open with U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds

By Cheryl Mansfield  
Staff Writer

As onlookers watched, a single fighter plane streaked across the patchy Florida winter sky. Its touchdown at the Shuttle Landing Facility heralded the announcement of a new way for the public to experience the excitement of space exploration: the first World Space Expo.

The F-16 and its pilot, Maj. Tad Clark, are part of the U.S. Air Force's elite precision-flying team, the Thunderbirds. Clark was visiting Kennedy to pave the way for the Thunderbirds which will perform over KSC for several days, including a preview day for employees, during the Expo to be held Nov. 3 – 11 at the KSC Visitor Complex.

During the Expo, special exhibits highlighting space accomplishments and commercial ventures will be on display and distinguished speakers will be invited to share stories with visitors.

"When we flew overhead today, it was a very humbling experience," said Clark. Reflecting on the space history that has taken

place at Kennedy, from the beginning of U.S. space exploration through the present, he called the area "sacred ground."

Through the Expo, NASA's External Relations Directorate and the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex hope to educate and excite the public and the next generation of space explorers about all aspects of space exploration.

"We are hoping to offer the public something more and see a large turnout during the Expo," said Dan LeBlanc, Chief Operating Officer, Delaware North Companies Parks and Resorts at KSC, Inc.

"We hope many students will visit KSC during the Expo and become inspired to pursue careers in math, science, engineering and tech degrees so they can be the work force of the future and take us to back to the moon and on to Mars," said Lisa Malone, director of Kennedy's external relations.

She envisions the event growing to become an annual event.

Main venues at the Visitor Complex and the nearby Apollo-Saturn V Center will feature a wide variety of special exhibits, and the contributions of the many NASA



MAJ. TAD Clark, pilot of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbird F-16D (background), announces to waiting media that the KSC Visitor Complex will host the inaugural World Space Expo from Nov. 3 to 11. Behind Clark are (from left) Dan LeBlanc, chief operating officer of the KSC Visitor Complex, Lisa Malone, director of External Relations at KSC, and Col. Dave Thompson with the Air Force 45th Space Wing

centers around the country will be showcased in a special pavilion. "We're trying to have the coolest, cutting-edge displays we can," said LeBlanc.

Come November, Clark in his F-16 will once again streak across

the Florida sky above Kennedy, this time accompanied by the rest of the Thunderbirds. While demonstrating their precision-flying skills, they will help to usher in the nine-day expo.

## ORION . . .

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additional funds to clear the facility of about 50 tons of steel stands, structures and equipment.

"We are very humbled that we can bring the Orion project to the same place where Apollo went through processing," said Cleon Lacefield, Orion program manager with Lockheed Space Systems Company. "It's great to be part of the KSC family."

Now poised to serve the Vision for Space Exploration, the 40-year-old building will be used by Lockheed Martin to complete the final assembly and testing of the new Orion crew capsule.

In the next few years, it will be great to see the "move from the empty building you see today to a bustling factory assembling the spacecraft of the future for our

exploration initiative," said Skip Hatfield, manager of NASA's Crew Exploration Vehicle Project Office.

Kennedy Center Director William Parsons spoke about the importance of partnerships in keeping the Constellation Project moving forward.

"I'm committing NASA Kennedy Space Center to helping each one of you be successful," Parsons told the project partners. "That's my pledge to you."

Cheers and applause erupted when a new banner highlighting the Orion crew exploration vehicle was unfurled in the historic building, marking the official transfer of the facility to the Constellation Program.

NASA's next-generation spacecraft is targeted for flight no later than 2014, and Orion's first flight to the moon is planned for no later than 2020.



THE U.S. Air Force Thunderbird F-16D, piloted by Maj. Tad Clark, arrives at the Shuttle Landing Facility. The Thunderbirds are scheduled to appear at the KSC Visitor Complex's World Space Expo in November.

# KSC special agent completes FBI academy training

By Linda Herridge  
Staff Writer

**D**ann Oakland, a NASA senior special agent in the Protective Services and Safeguards Office for Kennedy Space Center's Center Services directorate, recently returned from 11 weeks of training at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va.

The training academy is a professional course for leaders in U.S. and international law enforcement, including state and local police, sheriff's departments, military police organizations and federal law enforcement agencies.

Participation is by invitation only, through a formal nomination process. Those selected come from every state, U.S. territories and more than 150 foreign nations.

Among the 250 participants in the session, Oakland said he was the only representative from NASA.

Three other NASA agents in the KSC Protective Services Office are graduates of the National Academy and another is enrolled in the current session.

Oakland said it can take two to three years after nomination to be selected to participate.

"It was an honor to be nomi-

nated," he said. "While there, I quickly became the 'go-to guy' for answers to space program questions."

Oakland participated in courses that focused on law, behavioral science, forensic science, leadership development, communication, and health and fitness. His teachers included academy instructors, special agents and other staff members holding advanced degrees and internationally recognized in their fields of expertise.

"You can't get any better than this," Oakland said. "The instruction is top of the line."

Oakland said the Contemporary Issues in Police and Media Relations course was very interesting. He participated in numerous live-camera scenarios on the FBI Academy's soundstage, playing the role of head law enforcement officer in mock press briefings with hostile reporters. He also took part in talk show scenarios dealing with the media in crisis or high-profile situations.

Another interesting feature of the academy is a mock city called "Hogan's Alley Complex," which consists of building facades replicating a typical small town. This provides a realistic, urban and practical training area for new

agent trainees, law enforcement officers and FBI agents in the areas of surveillance, arrest procedures and tactical street survival.

Upon completing the training, Oakland and his classmates received their graduation certificates from FBI Director Robert Mueller during a special ceremony.

Oakland worked previously at NASA Headquarters and then KSC for the majority of his 29 years of federal service. His main responsibilities are program manager in security for mission-essential infrastructure for KSC, including the Constellation Program, and physical security for facilities and ground processing equipment.

Oakland also manages the Astronaut Protection Program and the Executive VIP Protection Program, and serves as an executive protection specialist for NASA astronauts, celebrities and government officials when they visit KSC. Among past visitors were actors Leonardo DiCaprio and Clint Eastwood, Presidents Bill



DANN OAKLAND, a senior special agent in the Protective Services and Safeguards Office, recently trained at the FBI National Academy in Virginia. He was the only NASA representative among 250 participants.

Clinton and Jimmy Carter, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and several dignitaries from other countries.

The FBI National Academy was created in 1935 with 23 students in attendance. Since then, about 40,000 graduates now represent the academy, with more than 22,000 still active in law enforcement work.

## KSC program analyst helps plan for Constellation facilities

By Linda Herridge  
Staff Writer

**E**ntrepreneur is a word that could describe Glenn Butts, a management program analyst in Center Operations at Kennedy Space Center. His varied background includes owning his own general contracting company, designing and constructing jet engine test facilities, and helping to design and build a portable medical waste disposal unit.

Since April 2004, Butts has been responsible for all aspects of estimating the cost for KSC projects associated with the repair, renovation, modification or new construction of facilities as the center prepares to transition from

the space shuttle to the Constellation Program.

For his exemplary work on several construction data analysis projects, Butts received the 2006 Employee of the Year Award from the Engineering Development directorate "in recognition of dedication in developing and helping engineers perform and verify cost estimates for the KSC infrastructure, support for the current space program, future Crew Exploration Vehicle Program and future Launch Vehicle Program."

"This is the best job I've ever had," Butts said. "The reason is the people that I work with." Butts said management cares about the employees and that makes for a very good work environment.

Scott Kerr, deputy director for the Engineering directorate, said Butts was a key contributor in developing the KSC Constellation Program ground processing infrastructure cost and schedule baseline.

"His depth of knowledge and extensive experience in aerospace ground systems construction cost estimating and project scheduling proved invaluable," Kerr said.

Current projects for Butts include determining the cost of new or remodeled facilities for the Constellation Project office based on conceptualization. He looks forward to seeing the future space exploration projects he is working on become a reality.



GLENN BUTTS is a program analyst for Center Operations.

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# Hundreds gather at Space Mirror for ce

By Linda Herridge  
Staff Writer

The morning sun cast a warm glow on the Space Mirror Memorial at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex as family and friends gathered on Jan. 27 to mark the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 1 tragedy and the loss of all astronauts who sacrificed their lives in pursuit of space exploration.

On the same day in 1967, a flash fire occurred in the command module during a launch pad test of the Apollo/Saturn space vehicle being prepared for the first piloted flight, the AS-204 mission, later designated Apollo 1. Three astronauts, U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Virgil I. Grissom, Air Force Lt. Col. Edward H. White and Roger B. Chaffee, died in the accident.

KSC Director William Parsons shared words of encouragement during the public ceremony, which was hosted by the Astronauts Memorial Foundation.

"I stand before you today representing the 15,000 men and women of KSC. I bring with me heartfelt thoughts as we reflect on the tragic loss of the brave men of Apollo 1 and the tremendous sacrifice they gave to further the

cause of space exploration," Parsons said.

"We pause with our NASA family and the nation to remember not only our lost crew members of Apollo, but the men and women of Challenger and Columbia and all those who lost their lives in the quest to explore," he said.

William Gerstenmaier, associate administrator for NASA's Space Operations, said the Apollo 1 fire was the first real tragedy of the U.S. space program and was a difficult lesson.

"We honor their lives," Gerstenmaier said. "They are not heroes because they died; they are heroes because they lived."

Others who spoke included Gemini, Apollo and shuttle astronaut and U.S. Navy Capt. John Young, Grissom's brother Lowell, and U.S. Marine Col. Walter Cunningham, who was the Apollo 7 lunar module pilot. Cunningham said all of the early astronauts were volunteers.

"We wanted to do something that was courageous, noble and bold," he said. "We willingly embraced the risks in space exploration. We say a prayer in memory and move forward boldly."

Faith Johnson, daughter of the

late Theodore Freeman, also spoke at the event. Freeman was an astronaut killed in a T-38 jet training accident. "Children can feel a sense of awe and pride here," Johnson said.

Kathy Brandon, recipient of the 2006 Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award, spoke about the national "Star Base" Program, a five-day, hands-on experience that reaches 45,000 at-risk youth each year with a focus on aviation and space technology. Brandon said the curriculum also incorporates one of the program founder's life lessons: "Dreams plus action equals reality."

At the end of the ceremony, Chaffee's daughter Martha, Ed White III and Gerstenmaier came forward to place a wreath at the memorial site. The Visitor Complex provided flowers for all ceremony guests and visitors to place at the memorial throughout the day.

Dr. Stephen Feldman, president of the Astronauts Memorial Foundation, served as master of ceremonies. Other presenters from the foundation were Chairman of the Board of Trustees Dr. Mick Ukleja, who gave the invocation, and William Potter, chairman of the Board of Directors.



ED WHITE III touches his father's name engraved on the Space Mirror Memorial.



KENNEDY SPACE Center Director Bill Parsons (right) addresses guests attending a ceremony at the KSC Visitor Complex held in remembrance of the astronauts lost in the Apollo 1 fire: Virgil "Gus" Grissom, Edward H. White II and Roger B. Chaffee.



# Ceremony remembering Apollo 1 tragedy



Engraved in the Space Mirror Memorial at the KSC Visitor Complex.



ASTRONAUT BOB Crippen places a rose in the fence surrounding the Space Mirror Memorial at the KSC Visitor Complex. The Space Mirror was designated as a national memorial by Congress and President George Bush in 1991 to honor fallen astronauts. Their names are emblazoned on the monument's 42 1/2-foot-high by 50-foot-wide black granite surface as if to be projected into the heavens.



GUESTS AND attendees salute the U.S. flag during a ceremony at the KSC Visitor Complex held in remembrance of the astronauts lost in the Apollo 1 fire. Among those gathered on stage are (from left) Kathy Brandon, Faith Johnson, daughter of Theodore Freeman, Associate Administrator for Space Operations William Gerstenmaier, KSC Director Bill Parsons, astronaut John Young and Lowell Grissom, brother of Gus Grissom (far right). At the podium is Stephen Feldman, president of the Astronauts Memorial Foundation.

## Israeli students pay tribute to Ramon

By Jennifer Wolfinger  
Staff Writer

Each year, on Feb. 1, junior and senior high school students from Beer Sheva, Israel make a pilgrimage to Kennedy Space Center to honor and be inspired by the late Ilan Ramon, an Israeli Space Agency crew member who lost his life aboard Space Shuttle Columbia during the STS-107 accident upon re-entry.

"We choose to visit on Feb. 1, the day of the disaster, on purpose. Our first purpose is to honor the memory of Ilan and the crew of Columbia. Our second purpose is to create as much interest as possible in space sciences for kids," said Kee Koch, the students' English teacher and program co-coordinator from Makif Gimel High School, Ramon's alma mater.

After reviewing applications and screening candidates, Koch selected this year's 44 students based on good behavior and their potential to benefit from the trip. The students are responsible for securing funds for the weeklong experience, while people in the Brevard County Jewish community provide lodging in their homes.

"Many of these students are in special programs and take college

courses starting in ninth grade. This is a reward for doing a wonderful job," said Jeffrey Fishkin, a Launch Vehicle Processing directorate engineer who organized the spaceport events.

During their visit, they participated in interactive Exploration Station demonstrations at the KSC Visitor Complex, learned about the STS-107 mission and how students contributed to its experiments, were encouraged by KSC leaders including astronaut Randolph Bresnik, Launch Director Michael Leinbach and Fishkin, and memorialized Ramon at the Space Mirror Memorial. The students also visited local schools, the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame, and enjoyed Orlando theme parks during their leisure time.

According to Fishkin, education was important to Ramon, so the program was created in 2003 to continue spreading his message by offering a cultural and educational experience.

"If you want to be an astronaut, pilot or engineer, you have to get an education and learn science and math," he said. "We hope to establish a program where we can send some of our kids to Israel, too."



A GROUP of 44 students from Israel paid tribute to the late Ilan Ramon, an Israeli Space Agency crew member who lost his life aboard Space Shuttle Columbia during the STS-107 accident. The program was created in 2003.

## Learn to prepare during Florida Hazardous Weather Awareness Week

The need to prepare for severe weather was evident after parts of Central Florida experienced powerful tornadoes in the middle of the night on Feb. 2 that claimed lives and leveled thousands of homes. Learn what you can do during Florida Hazardous Weather Awareness Week, held Feb. 11 through 17.

The most immediate weather threat to the Space Coast is tornadoes. The strong tornado season in Central Florida begins in February, peaks in late March and decreases in April.

A National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio is strongly recommended. Day or night, these radios will sound an alarm whenever the National Weather Service issues a warning for the area.

Be sure to test the radio, since 2 percent of the region is not covered by NOAA weather radios. Know where to take shelter and secure small, light outdoor objects like patio furniture and garbage cans when strong cold fronts are approaching.

Lightning is the leading cause of weather deaths in Florida, and inflicts lifelong debilitating injuries on many more than it kills.



FLORIDA HAS more tornadoes per square mile than any place on Earth, with the stronger tornadoes occurring from February to April.

Florida is the “lightning capital” of the U.S. and leads the nation in lightning casualties; no other state even comes close.

Hurricanes are another weather hazard in Florida. In addition to the high winds, large waves and storm surge, hurricanes also bring the dangers of flooding and tornadoes. A hurricane still poses a threat even if it is making landfall, or passing by at sea, up to 250 miles away. Flooding is the

biggest cause of death from hurricanes and is the most frequent impact from tropical cyclones on the Space Coast. Hurricane season runs June through November.

Tornadoes and thunderstorms are another Florida weather hazard. Florida has more tornadoes per square mile than any place on Earth. The state’s stronger tornadoes, rated F2 or greater, occur with strong cold fronts from February to April. A statewide

tornado drill will be conducted on Feb. 14, including at most schools.

Florida’s marine hazards include rip currents, waterspouts, high winds and rough seas. Swimmers in the ocean, surfers and boaters need to be weather wary.

Extreme temperatures and wildfires are the last weather hazard covered by the week. Heat stress is often a problem during the high temperatures and humidity in summer. Wildfires can be a large hazard if summer rains don’t arrive, or during early spring thunderstorms after the winter dry season.

For more information, visit [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org). A section especially for kids is at <http://www.floridadisaster.org/kids>.

For weather forecasts and severe weather outlooks for Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, see the 24-hour and weekly planning forecasts from the 45th Weather Squadron at <http://www.patrick.af.mil>.

For off-center forecasts, see the National Weather Service in Melbourne at [www.srh.noaa.gov](http://www.srh.noaa.gov). SGS Protective Services provides emergency preparedness guidelines and can be contacted at 853-9809.

## Center revises smoking policy near entryways

By Jennifer Wolfinger  
Staff Writer

Through education and health discoveries, Kennedy Space Center has progressed from a place where, generations ago, employees would smoke cigarettes at their desks or in launch control centers, to today’s smoke-free setting.

The center’s revised policy requires all federal buildings, non-smoking and single entryways and General Service Administration vehicles to be smoke free. These guidelines apply to all government employees, associated contractor and tenant employees, and visitors.

“We revised the policy to make it more stringent because a recent Surgeon General report indicated second-hand smoke is a carcinogen and can cause lung disease,”

said David Tipton, chief of the Aerospace Medicine and Occupational Health Branch within the Center Operations directorate. “We felt we needed to be a little more stringent in protecting our non-smoker employees when they egress and ingress buildings.”

Specifically, smoking is prohibited outside in areas near air intake ducts, within 50 feet of non-smoking building entries, and areas with potential hazards such as flammable gases, fueling operations or land affected by drought. Approximately half of all entrances are non-smoking areas and are marked with signs. For the convenience of smokers and non-smokers, cigarette smoking should occur in approved areas only.

While these smoking areas are provided, smokers are always encouraged to use the smoking

cessation programs offered through Occupational Health Services. To support the healthy efforts of employees, NASA Exchange Stores stock cessation aids such as therapeutic nicotine gum.

Through the free Last Resort Tobacco Free Program, health professionals assess the needs of smokers and tobacco users, explain the latest treatment options and provide individualized support. To participate in the five-phase program, visit the Occupational Health Facility, or call the Employee Assistance Program at 867-7398 or the Health Education and Wellness Program at 867-3414. Visit [http://businessworld.ksc.nasa.gov/Businessworld/html/ksc\\_directives.html](http://businessworld.ksc.nasa.gov/Businessworld/html/ksc_directives.html) to read the official directive.

## BEST celebration is Feb. 24

Tickets are now on sale for the Black Employee Strategy Team (BEST) African American History Month Dinner, set to begin at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Radisson Resort at the Port in Cape Canaveral. The theme is “Experience the Arts! Exploring African American Culture through Music, Theatre and Arts.” Tickets are \$30 each and are available from Maxine Daniels, Space Station Processing Facility, room 3238x, 867-5976; Wanda Petty, Headquarters Building, room 2114B, 867-8188; Latasha Walker, Logistics Building, room 2710F2, 861-7439; and Willie Mae Moore, Operations Support Building I, room 4401W2, 861-4862.

# Remembering Our Heritage

## 40 years ago: Dreams of a visitor center at Kennedy become reality

By Kay Grinter  
Reference Librarian

Plans for Kennedy Space Center's first Visitor Information Center were released in January 1967, but public curiosity in the center was already piqued.

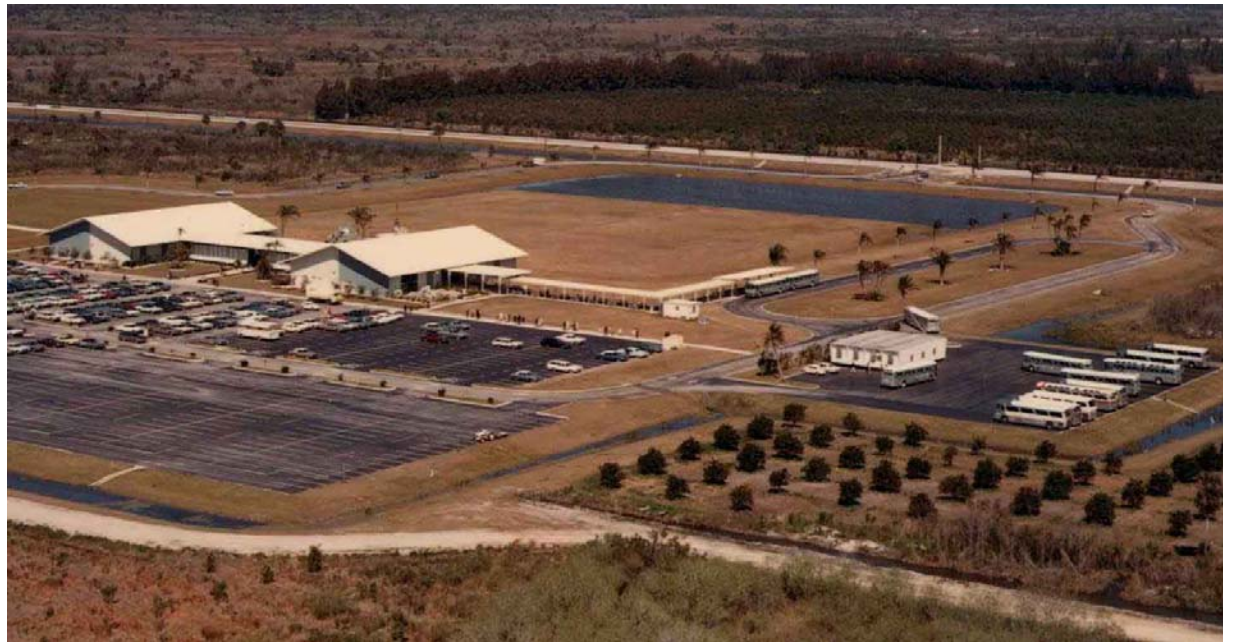
Public drive-by tours of the pads on Cape Canaveral were first permitted on Sundays in December 1963, following the final manned Mercury launch the year before. No stops or cameras were permitted along the well-marked route per U.S. Air Force policy. Nevertheless, 400,000 guests took the tour in the first year.

Clearly, public interest in the space program was growing, as was the need to make guests feel more welcome.

NASA alumnus Arnold Richman was executive assistant to Gordon Harris, the head of NASA Public Affairs at Kennedy, and assigned to the team that planned the first permanent facility to accommodate visitors.

"I was fortunate to attend the meeting when Walt Disney briefed KSC senior management on his plans for a tourist attraction in Central Florida," Richman recalled, now retired and living in Cocoa Beach. "Disney said he was going to spend a lot of money on exhibits and shows, and to not try to outdo him.

"He pointed out that we had one advantage, however: the real thing. He thought we should capitalize on that to educate the public and help earn their support for the space program."



THIS 1969 aerial view shows the Visitor Information Center. The center first opened in August 1967.

The initiative to make the newly constructed space center accessible to visitors had the full support of Center Director Kurt Debus, who recognized the value of public support.

Bus tours for the general public began in July 1966. The 300,000th visitor toured in March of the following year.

The popularity of the bus tours gave impetus to the construction of a permanent Visitor Information Center. The site was selected for its proximity to the center's industrial area. Although outside the security gates, the approach to the site — over a causeway to the east side of the Indian River — provided visitors with the sense that they were no longer on the mainland but had arrived on the Cape.

The design connected two

rectangular buildings by a portico. Food service, a souvenir shop and ticket booth were housed on one side, exhibits and a small theater on the other. With support from NASA Headquarters and non-appropriated funding from the ongoing bus tours, the Visitor Information Center opened for business in August 1967.

The bus tours were expanded to include tour stops at the Vehicle Assembly Building and an Apollo firing room. The millionth visitor was recorded in July 1968.

"Even so," Richman said, tongue-in-cheek, "I was never able to gain support for one of my favorite ideas for a rotating restaurant on top of the VAB."

### ANALYST . . .

(Continued from Page 3)

"(Butts) has brought to the KSC Facilities Division a wealth of knowledge in construction and cost estimating from his experience in the private construction industry," said Mike Benik, Center Operations director. "He researched and organized historical cost data and is training others on how to use it to prepare realistic parametric cost estimates."

Prior to working for NASA, Butts was a construction inspector with Space Gateway Support. He is a licensed general contractor and owned his own construction company in Winter Garden. From October 1999 through June 2002, Butts worked on designing and constructing the Delta IV launch pad at Complex 37 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station for the

Washington Group.

From 1995 to 1997, Butts was a project manager with Vital Link Inc. in Houston, where he designed jet engine test cell facilities. Later, he was part owner in a company called On Site Med-Waste, for which he helped to design and build several portable medical waste disposal units. The basic design is being used in the health field today.

Butts was born in Orlando, but spent some time in Cuba while his father worked in the U.S. Navy. He has traveled to 48 states and 27 countries, mostly for work. Countries he visited include Germany, England, Mexico, Canada, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria and Italy.

He also spent time in Arizona and the upper peninsula of Michigan while working for Vital Link Inc.



THIS MAY 1967 photograph shows one of 32 buses acquired by NASA Tours. A total of 46 buses were available to accommodate the throngs of visitors taking the daily escorted bus tours of the spaceport and Cape Kennedy.

# Launch Services Program acquires eco-friendly cars

By Linda Herridge  
Staff Writer

Because Kennedy Space Center is situated on the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, it strives to maintain a balance between space operations and conserving the surrounding environment. These efforts include using alternative-fuel, eco-friendly vehicles for short-term trips around the center.

Recently, the Launch Services Program received two electric vehicles from the Miles Automotive Group in Malibu, Calif. The Miles OR70 four-seat vehicles take three to five hours to charge and can travel up to 60 miles before needing a recharge, according to Chris Buehrer, military sales coordinator for Miles.

Launch Services Program Deputy Director Ray Lugo, along with Bruce Chesson, Center Operations transportation alterna-

tive fuel manager; Bobbi Gnan, Launch Services Program chief of the program business office; Benjamin Studenski, Launch Services Program integration manager; and Alan Miller, Procurement contracting officer, were on hand to receive the keys from Buehrer in front of the Operations and Checkout Building.

“Acquiring these vehicles will help to reduce the need for General Services Administration vehicles and help our environment at the same time,” said Lugo. “They will be a great asset to the program for short trips around the industrial area.”

Buehrer said the vehicles cost six to seven cents per mile to operate, and reach speeds of 35 to 40 miles per hour.

Chesson said KSC is the only NASA center to acquire Miles Automotive Group vehicles so far. Last year, KSC acquired other



CHRIS BUEHRER (center) of the Miles Automotive Group delivers keys to the new Miles OR70 electric vehicles to Ray Lugo (right), Launch Services Program deputy director. At left is Bruce Chesson, Center Operations transportation alternative fuel manager.

alternative-fuel vehicles, including a PT Cruiser II that runs on rechargeable lithium batteries. The PT Cruiser and two other electric vehicles are located in front of the Headquarters Building.

Lugo said he is happy that the Launch Services Program has eco-friendly vehicles to use. “We are moving in the right direction for our KSC environment,” Lugo said. “It’s the right thing to do.”

## KSC All American Picnic is March 10, volunteers needed

Just days before the next space shuttle liftoff, employees can share their excitement and pride in working for NASA by attending the KSC All American Picnic on March 10 at KARS Park I, located off of Hall Road on Merritt Island.

Whether it’s shaking the hand of a NASA astronaut and getting an autograph, enjoying the many interesting booths and displays set up around the park grounds, or socializing with family and friends, there will be plenty to enjoy on this day of fun. Scheduled events include a robust lunch, live entertainment, a children’s carnival, a car and motorcycle show, the popular Chili Cookoff and much more.

Teams can register for the cookoff, which benefits a charity of the winning group’s choice, until Feb. 21 or until eight registrations have been made.

There will be three competitions, including Official Judges Chili, People’s Choice Chili and the Best Store Front. The People’s Choice sampling, available by purchasing a ticket, begins at 11 a.m. and extends through 2 p.m. Submit registrations to [Jennifer.tharpe@nasa.gov](mailto:Jennifer.tharpe@nasa.gov).

The picnic committee needs help the day of the picnic for everything from parking patrollers to ring-toss referees. Employees or family members who are ages 16 and older can volunteer two hours of their day and receive a free KSC All American Picnic T-shirt and a discounted admission ticket. To volunteer, contact Roger Liang (861-2224) or Sandy Walsh (867-4255). For general information about the picnic, visit <http://kscpicnic.ksc.nasa.gov> beginning Feb. 12.

## FEW offers annual training program

The Space Coast Chapter of Federally Employed Women invites employees to attend a one-day Annual Training Program from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 28 or March 1 at the Cocoa Beach Holiday Inn.

Janie Walters from Madison, Miss., will conduct the morning session, entitled “Normal is Gone and It Won’t be Back: Coping With and Embracing Change.”

The afternoon will feature break-out sessions with four topics to choose from, including “Changing of the Guard” by J. Leigh Moore of Atlanta, and “No

More Excuses: Take Charge of Your Career” by Nancy Lewis of Fayetteville, Ga.

The cost is \$99 per participant and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. A completed form must be submitted for each attendee, or use the group registration form for four or more attendees. All registration forms and payment are due by Feb. 16. For information, contact Becky Fasulo at 321-636-8525 or [beckyjf@yahoo.com](mailto:beckyjf@yahoo.com), or Karin Biega at 321-784-2890 or [canprops@bellsouth.net](mailto:canprops@bellsouth.net).



John F. Kennedy Space Center

## Spaceport News

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