



Mission: Polar expendable vehicle launch on a McDonnell Douglas Delta II rocket.

Launch date, time: Feb. 24, 6:24 a.m. (EST) from Space Launch Complex-2, Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA.

Mission synopsis: Polar is one of two spacecraft in NASA's Global Geospace Science mission. Polar and sister spacecraft, Wind, will perform simultaneous, coordinated measurements of key regions of Earth's space environment.



Mission: STS-76 on Atlantis.

Launch date, time: March 21, 3:35 a.m. from Launch Pad 39B.

Synopsis: The third docking between the U.S. Space Shuttle Atlantis and the Russian Space Station Mir will be highlighted by several activities: a crew transfer, an extravehicular activity (EVA), logistics operations and scientific research.

Landing date, time: March 30, 8:05 a.m. at Kennedy Space Center's Shuttle Landing Facility.

Spaceport News

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John F. Kennedy Space Center

Civil servants offered new retirement options

Kennedy Space Center is offering a program to eligible civil service employees that will enable them to sample retirement while giving the center the benefit of utilizing their years of experience.

The Careers Plus program offers employees two new options for retirement. The first will allow a worker to "try out" retirement for 12-18 months at which time they may choose to be rehired, either full time or part time, as reemployed annu-

itants. The pay structure for the full-time positions will essentially make up the difference between the worker's retirement income and the step salary at the time of retirement. For part-time positions that differential will be divided and paid per hours worked.

The second option will allow participants to retire and immediately be rehired. Employees may work up to 1,040 hours a year for up to two years. Work may be either part time or full

time until the annual limit on hours is reached.

Program participation is strictly voluntary and only those civil servants who are eligible for early or optional retirement can participate.

Positions the rehired retirees fill will be consistent with the retiree's previous grade and qualifications and will involve work that is needed to accomplish the agency's mission. Work will be either inside or outside

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A SMOOTH COUNTDOWN culminates in an on-time liftoff as the Space Shuttle Columbia climbs skyward after its launch at 3:18 p.m. Feb. 22. Aboard for Mission STS-75 is an international crew headed by Mission Commander Andrew Allen; Pilot Scott "Doc" Horowitz; Payload Commander Franklin Chang-Diaz; and Mission Specialists Jeffrey Hoffman, Maurizio Cheli and Claude Nicollier. Cheli, from Italy, and Nicollier, from Switzerland, both represent the European Space Agency. Assigned as payload specialist is Italian Umberto Guidoni, who represents the Italian Space Agency.

'Beautiful' launch draws big crowd

The STS-75 launch drew a near-capacity crowd of spectators, featured a new viewing site, and increased the number of astronauts and cosmonauts working in space to a dozen.

"It was a beautiful countdown and it turned out to be a beautiful day," Launch Integration Manager Loren Shriver said in a post-launch briefing Feb. 22. The Space Shuttle Columbia lifted off on time from Kennedy Space Center's Launch Pad 39B at 3:18 p.m.

Although the primary payload on the mission, the Tethered Satellite System (TSS-1R) unexpectedly separated just as the satellite was nearing the full extent of its deployment from the Shuttle at about 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 25, science activities on the mission resulted in the collection of about five hours of extensive data on the performance of the satellite and tether dynamics and electrodynamics. NASA is forming an indepen-

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African-American History Month celebrates culture, contributions



KSC employees enjoy an array of food offered during the African-American breakfast held at the Space Station Processing Facility. The breakfast, which was held in place of the traditional luncheon, attracted a sellout crowd of 224 people.



THROUGHOUT the month of February the contributions of Kennedy Space Center's African-American employees were highlighted during activities planned to commemorate African-American History Month. In the photo at left, Fred Gregory, associate administrator of the Office of Safety and Mission Assurance at NASA Headquarters, speaks at the Training Auditorium Feb. 2 on the month's theme "Building for Tomorrow on the Foundation of Our Past." Prior to accepting his current position in 1992, Gregory logged 455 hours in space as a pilot on STS-51-B, and spacecraft commander on STS-33 and STS-44. In the photo below, Kimberley Jenkins, chairperson of the Black Employee Strategy Team, presents a plaque to Amanda Harris, deputy director of Safety and Mission Assurance at Marshall Space Flight Center. Harris spoke at the BEST breakfast, Feb. 14.



Torch bearers to carry Olympic spirit through Kennedy Space Center

Kennedy Space Center will be well represented when the Olympic flame passes through Brevard County and the space center on its way to the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. At least 22 KSC employees will be among those carrying the flame through Central Florida after it begins its journey in Los Angeles.

The number of KSC employees selected surprised even the organizers of the event.

"We had a disproportionate number selected from Brevard," said Judy McGinty, director of Community Initiative and Fund Raising for the United Way of Brevard County. The United Way agency was used nationwide as the local coordinating group for the torch teams.

McGinty said the selection process was complicated by the fact that candidates from Brevard, Orange, Seminole and Lake counties were all chosen by a team of 24 judges at a central judging site in Orlando. Two-thirds of the more than 400 nominations received at that location were sent in from Brevard County, McGinty said.



the positions.

Marty Winkel, a Lockheed Martin Space Operations Company employee who assists with KSC's intercenter runs and coordinates running events for the Space Coast Runners organization, said he was pleasantly surprised to learn he had been selected for the relay.

"I knew my wife had put my name in but I guess a couple other people did too," he said.

Team members have been given T-shirts and hats with the Olympic emblem but won't be told until a few weeks before the event

Olympics officials told the United Way that a number of the positions would be allotted to KSC employees to carry the flame through the center. Application forms were distributed to all KSC employees, who were encouraged to nominate themselves or others for

where exactly they will carry the flame.

The relay begins April 27 in Los Angeles after the flame is delivered from Greece. It is scheduled to arrive in Atlanta July 19.

Torch bearers were selected on the basis of outstanding contributions to the community. Kennedy Space Center employees selected include:

NASA employees Robert Nagy Jr., Lee Davies, Joanne Maceo, Jill Burkard, Jane Hodges and Loren Shriver; EG&G employees Thomas Arceneaux, Kathleen Weaver and Maria Emmick; Lockheed Martin Space Operations Company employees Michael Phillips, Claude Overfelt, Robin Seymour, Mike Chappell, Marty Winkel, Sara Delmonte, Tom Grimm and Michael McCulley; McDonnell Douglas Space and Defense Systems employees Donna Hoven and Thomas Anderson; Rockwell International Corp. employees Theresa Clifton and Richard Unrue and Analysis & Technology Inc. employee Deborah Prongue.

STS-72 crew return



KOICHI WAKATA from the Japanese Space Agency signs autographs for Kennedy Space Center employees during a crew return ceremony for members of that mission Feb. 12 in the Training Auditorium. The mission featured the retrieval of the Japanese Space Flyer Unit.

Employees eligible for Disney discounts

Special arrangements have been made for KSC employees to purchase one-day Disney park tickets at reduced rates during the months of March, April and May.

KSC employees can take advantage of the offer at three Disney theme parks — The Magic Kingdom, EPCOT or Disney-MGM Studios.

Ticket purchases will also include a discount coupon for Pleasure Island.

The single ticket price during KSC Disney days is \$24 which is a savings of \$15.22 per person over the regular admission price.

Parking is not included in the ticket price.

And children under age 2 are admitted free.

Effective dates for the specials and ticket availability are as follows:

March 1 - 17 — (Ticket sales Feb. 26 - March 15)

April 19 - May 5 — (Ticket sales April 15 - May 3)

May 17 - June 16 — (Ticket sales May 13 - June 14)

The effective dates are printed on the tickets and will only be valid for those dates.

Tickets are available at all NASA Exchange retail stores.

Women's History Month event planned

The Federal Women's Program Working Group (FWPWG) will host a celebration in honor of Women's History Month on Thursday, March 14 from 2-4 p.m. in the Space Station Processing Facility cafeteria. Guest speakers will be Ann Montgomery, deputy director of logistics operations, and Bev Merrilees, personnel officer.

Free refreshments will be served.

Seating for the forum is first-

come, first-served due to limited seating in the cafeteria.

The theme of the month is "See History in a New Way" and is meant to illustrate women's lives and accomplishments as part of our national history.

The FWPWG invites KSC employees to view posters that will be on display across the center throughout the month. The posters feature 12 hand-tinted historical photographs assembled into a collage.

Hattaway named procurement director

James Hattaway has been appointed director of the Kennedy Space Center Procurement Office. He had served as deputy director since 1994 and assumed the duties of acting director of the organization in 1995.

He said he was honored by the appointment and excited about working with the procurement staff on new challenges.

Hattaway attended Middle Georgia College and the University of Georgia until 1970, when he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was ultimately assigned to United States Readiness Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa.

Upon completion of his military service, Hattaway earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Tampa in 1973, and a master's degree in acquisition management from the Florida



HATTAWAY

Institute of Technology in 1979.

Hattaway entered federal service in 1974 as a contract negotiator for the U.S. Air

Force at Warner Robins Air Force Base, Georgia.

He joined NASA at KSC in 1977 as a contracts specialist. In 1984, he advanced to the position of chief, contract placement section. Prior to serving as deputy director, Hattaway was chief of the Operations Contracts Office.

Throughout his career Hattaway has received numerous honors and awards, including certificates of commendation from the KSC center director in 1988 and 1994, and the NASA Exceptional Service Medal in 1990.

Watson appointed OP deputy director

Ann Watson has been appointed deputy director of the Procurement Office. Watson has been with KSC since 1971 and has extensive experience in the procurement and contract management field. Her most recent assignment has been as chief of

the Acquisition Management Office. Watson has been cited for achievements in leadership and professionalism and was awarded the KSC Director's Award in 1994. She will continue to serve as KSC's small business specialist.

Scholarship fund taking applications

Applications are being taken through March 29 for scholarships offered by the NASA Scholarship Fund.

Five scholarships of \$2,000 each are being offered for the 1996-97 school year.

Applicants must be dependents of NASA employees or retirees and must be pursuing an undergraduate science or engineering degree at an accredited college or university in the United States.

The scholarship fund was established through a substantial gift by Pulitzer Prize-

winning author James A. Michener.

Continued success of the program comes from private donations, as well as NASA employee deductions via the Combined Federal Campaign.

Applicants will be notified of the results in May.

The program is managed by the NASA/KSC Exchange Council.

Applications are available from Diane Holden in room 1645, KSC Headquarters, 867-4957.

Brown named Engineer of the Year

James T. Brown, branch chief of the Logistics Operations Directorate's Logistics Services Branch, has been named engineer of the year by the Canaveral Council of Technical Societies and Florida Engineering Society.



BROWN

The award was presented at the council's engineering banquet Feb. 24 at the Cocoa Beach Holiday Inn Resort.

Prior to his appointment as branch chief in 1995, Brown served as a technical staff assistant for the Logistics Directorate from 1993 to 1995; as an aerospace engineer at the Johnson Space Center Resident Office at Kennedy Space Center from 1987 to 1993; and as an electronics engineer for NASA's Mission Operations

Directorate at Johnson Space Center from 1984 to 1987.

Brown holds a Ph.D. in industrial engineering from the University of Central Florida, a master's degree in engineering management from the Florida Institute of Technology, and a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Tennessee State University.

He has served as an adjunct faculty member at the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne since 1994.

Other honors Brown has received include the NASA Certificate of Commendation, the Society of Logistics Engineers Specialty Award and the NASA Special Achievement Award. Additionally Brown and Robert Armacost of the University of Central Florida (UCF) have developed a new project scheduling algorithm for which UCF has applied for patent protection.

Launch...

(Continued from Page 1)

dent panel to review the loss of the satellite, said Wil Trafton, acting associate administrator for the Office of Space Flight. The team will be chaired by Kenneth Szalai, director of the Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, CA. A preliminary report with recommendations is due to Trafton by mid-May.

Experiments continued, meanwhile, with the United States Microgravity Payload, which is advancing research efforts into development of new materials and processes that could lead to a new generation of computers, electronics and metals.

At press time, Columbia was scheduled to land at KSC's Shuttle Landing Facility at about 7:32 a.m. on March 7.

The combination of unseasonably warm weather, the recent President's Day holiday and the strong European interest in the TSS joint experiment with the

Italian Space Agency, drew more than 24,000 people to KSC for the launch.

Approximately 1,000 employees and their families watched the launch from a new viewing site located at the LC-39 Barge Turn Basin. NASA and contractor employees deserving of special recognition received vehicle passes for the site. Plans are to use the site again for the STS-76 launch scheduled for March 21.

The successful launch of STS-75's seven-member crew was preceded by the Feb. 21 liftoff of the Russian Mir 21 crew, Commander Yuri Onufrienko and Engineer Yuri Usachev, to the space station to relieve astronaut Thomas Reiter of the European Space Agency and Russian cosmonauts Yuri Gidzenko and Sergei Avdeyev, who were scheduled to depart the space station this week. Mission Specialist Shannon Lucid, who trained in Russia, will join that crew when she launches aboard STS-76 this month.

Teacher resource center opens in Puerto Rico

By Joe Green

In late February KSC accomplished a long-sought goal — the establishment of a Regional Teacher Resource Center (RTRC) in Puerto Rico. The first KSC-sponsored RTRC, in Marietta, GA, opened in 1993.

"Teacher groups in Puerto Rico who can get Air National Guard transportation have been flying to KSC for years," according to Education Services Chief Steve Dutczak. "And we send our two Spacemobile lecturer/demonstrators there as often as we can. But Puerto Rico has a population of almost 3.5 million, and more than 2,500 schools. With numbers like those, we needed a local facility that was available to a much larger number of teachers."

All NASA centers, as well as the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the Wallops Flight Facility, offer teacher resource centers to serve educators in their region. But where a region is large and diverse — KSC serves the Virgin Islands in addition to Florida, Georgia and Puerto

Rico — RTRC's bring NASA educational resources closer to home.

"We are delighted to have a permanent NASA presence in Puerto Rico," said Maria Schwarz, who will help operate the new facility at the University of Puerto Rico in Mayaguez. "The teachers in our local schools are very interested in the space program, but transportation costs are too high to visit the states very often. Now we can supply NASA publications, videos and slides to teachers at very little expense. We think this will create a much stronger interest in science and math in the school systems here."

Plans are already underway to open a subsidiary RTRC in Jayuya, an isolated mountainous province in central Puerto Rico. Other subsidiaries are being considered for the future.

"We can help open the door to good careers for the young people of Puerto Rico," said Dutczak. "And that's what education is all about."

Retire ..

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of the retiree's previous organization or functional area.

The program has been developed by NASA to take advantage of the expertise offered by employees eligible for retirement while at the same time saving salary costs and meeting

federally mandated downsizing targets. An estimated 30 percent of the KSC workforce is eligible for early or optional retirement.

The program is effective immediately. The window of opportunity for the "trial" and "phased" retirement expires Sept. 30. For more information, contact the KSC personnel office at 867-2514.



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