



michoud messenger

STS-133 crew visits Michoud

The crew of STS-133 visited Michoud Assembly Facility April 20 to thank workers for a job well done and have lunch with Space Flight Awareness honorees. Mission Commander Steve Lindsey introduced his crew and shared their mission video with a crowd of 250 MAF workers. Lindsey thanked the workers, stating, "When we launched in February, we were confident that we had a good tank."

Lindsey went on to congratulate workers for the dedication and effort that went into producing the external tank. The crew of STS-133 closed out space shuttle Discovery's roster of accomplishments with a virtually flawless 13-day flight to attach a new module to the International Space Station (ISS) and helped the residents there outfit the orbiting laboratory for continued research.

Along with Lindsey, Pilot Eric Boe and Mission Specialists Alvin Drew, Michael Barratt, Nicole Stott and Steve Bowen talked about the last Discovery mission that took off from Kennedy Space Center on Feb. 24, 2011.

With Lindsey at the controls, Discovery rendezvoused with the station two days later and then backed the shuttle to its berthing port. Discovery was docked at the ISS on this mission with three other countries, Russia, United Kingdom and Japan. It is rare that all of these ships convene at the same time. Along with the shuttle and the Russian Soyuz capsules, the European Space Agency's uncrewed Automated Transferred Vehicle-2 and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's H-II Transfer Vehicle, or HTV, were attached to the station.

The successful mission ended on March 9 when the crew guided Discovery onto Kennedy's runway. After the landing, reflection mixed with celebration after Discovery completed the last of its 39 missions into orbit for a total of 365 days in space.

Members of the STS-133 crew address workers at the Michoud Assembly Facility Apr. 20 inside building 103 in front of final assembly.



MAF at Expo



Michoud Assembly Facility's Shelly Breault, procurement specialist, attended the 2011 Women's Business Enterprise Council South Expo at the Riverfront Hilton Apr. 14. Hundreds of small business people participated in the event, attending workshops and a luncheon. Contract specialist Rachel Williams (not pictured) also represented MAF at the expo with Breault.

Scholarship Winners



This year's Manufacturing Support and Facility Operations Contract scholarship winners were announced Apr. 20. David Bouchereau, Aubree Colombo, and Blaise Dempster each won \$2,500.00 college scholarships. From left to right: Joe, Sharlene and Aubree Colombo; Blaise and Galen Dempster; David, Marie and William Bouchereau.

Raffle Launch Winners



Heavy equipment operator Chris Koch (left) and Engine Mechanic Miles Arthur (right) are the Manufacturing Support and Facility Operations Contract launch raffle winners. Koch traveled to Kennedy Space Center to see the STS-134 launch. Arthur will travel to see the final launch – STS-135 – this summer.

Southern holds small business fair



Jacobs Technology employees Shelly Breault (left) and Brie Trocquet (right) talk to a small business owner at Southern University's small business fair in Baton Rouge, La. Mar. 29. Breault, a procurement specialist, and Trocquet, a contract specialist, work at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility. The Small Business Administration sponsored the fair, themed "Connecting Businesses with Contracts." The deputy commander of the Army Corps of Engineers' New Orleans District spoke during the event, that was attended by more than 500 people.

Modified Building 115 Construction Closure Plan:

1. Close Gates 11, 505 & 512 – Return site to pre-construction security arrangement
2. Re open Shelters 1 & 2 (Turnstiles 507 511 & 516 518) and restore Zone 2 configuration
3. 102 café deliveries will resume via Zone 2 (Mars Drive)
4. Lot "C" east closed for office trailer and laydown
5. Re-open Lot "D" for general use, except north area to remain closed for joint project laydown and storage
6. Remove all temporary security fencing from site and use police style barricades for modified closure areas

Letters from Leadership

We're entering the boating season in this area and I'd like to discuss some very important safety tips, focusing this month on Very High Frequency (VHF) radios. Although certain vessels are required by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to carry a VHF radio, most recreational vessels are not. What is required if you choose to have a VHF radio on your boat is the radio must be on and you must monitor Channel 16 even if you're a small boat like a bass boat.

The VHF radio is considered part of your safety equipment and like all safety equipment everyone on the boat should know how to operate it. All marine stores sell what is called an Emergency Broadcast Placard. Buy one and post it next to the radio. This card will tell anyone unfamiliar with the proper step-by-step use of a radio how to make an emergency MAYDAY call.

Unfortunately there is case history of a vessel's primary operator becoming incapacitated due to injury or a medical emergency and someone onboard died because others on the boat did not know how to use the radio. A cell phone is great to call 911, however, there can be problems with cell phones. Most mobile phones do not work in unpopulated areas such as on the water and if you get one to work, you are only speaking to the 911 operator.

When you broadcast your emergency via VHF radio everyone within your broadcast area will hear the call. This means a quicker response and possibly multiple responses. If you boat with your family and you are the primary operator, teach your family how to use the radio so if something happens to you they can call for help. I like to tell a person that if they boat with their kids and the child is old enough to learn how to call 911, they are old enough to learn how to make a MAYDAY call on the VHF radio.

Learn proper use of your radio, teach those that boat with you, and most importantly remember to always tell someone where you're going, who's going with you and when you expect to return. Make sure that person knows the description of your vessel or the float plan. If you have any questions or want more information on using your radio please feel free to contact me.

– Capt. Terry Fitzgerald, MAF Harbor Master

Launch Rescheduled for May 8 at earliest



Technicians and engineers at NASA's Kennedy Space Center have identified the likely source of what caused heaters on a fuel line for space shuttle Endeavour's auxiliary power unit-1 (APU-1) to fail on Friday, scrubbing the first launch attempt for the STS-134 mission. The failure appears to be a power problem within the aft load control assembly-2 (ALCA-2), a box of switches controlling power feeds. The plan is to remove and replace the box, but that work and related testing will take several days to complete. Once the new box is installed, the team must verify it's working properly and perform forensics on the failed box. Managers will determine the next launch attempt, but it is expected to be no earlier than May 8.

McQueen receives Snoopy Award



Wendy McQueen, Lockheed Martin Mission Support, received the coveted Silver Snoopy Award Apr. 12 from Astronauts David Wolf (left) and Jim Dutton (right). A Silver Snoopy is awarded to those who make significant contributions toward enhancing the probability of mission success. This is the astronauts' personal award.

MAF Donates Trailers to Alabama School

Huxford Elementary in Mobile, Ala., had an overcrowding challenge. The school's auditorium doubled as the special education classroom, library and media center for years. "We were maximizing our resources to the best of our ability but were still in need of space," said Carol Middleton, the Huxford Elementary guidance counselor.

Now Middleton says the overcrowding challenge has been solved thanks to the NASA Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF). The MAF logistics department, led by Arlan Cochran, took on an effort to relocate excess government assets at MAF which led to the donation of two trailers to Huxford Elementary. The school is located in southern Alabama near an Indian reservation, where 50 percent of the nearly 300 children are

Native American.

Cochran said moving the trailers helped reduce MAF's operating costs and obtain more square footage for future production at MAF. "I'm glad the trailers were able to be reutilized to benefit the children at Huxley," said Cochran.

Middleton says the trailers are being used as a library, media center, offices and a teacher's conference room. "We have never had that luxury before," said Middleton, who has been at Huxford for 15 of her 34 years in the Escambia County School system.

Huxford Elementary School has been awarded a Torchbearer Award -- a state award recognizing high performing schools that are in high poverty areas.



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