



NASA Celebrates 45th Anniversary of Life Insurance Coverage



Bill Johnson (left) shares with Lisa Johnson a plaque presented to NEBA by the Anthem Insurance Company. Photo by Tom Burton.

The NASA Employees Benefit Association (NEBA) has been protecting NASA families since 1952 with low cost life insurance coverage.

During the past 45 years, the plan has been characterized by decreasing premiums and increasing benefits while \$69 million has been paid in claims to beneficiaries.

NEBA was established to provide low-cost life insurance protection to NASA employees. Management of the Association is vested in a Board of Directors consisting of a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson designated by the NASA Administrator, and Officers designated by the respective Center Director at each NASA Center, all of whom are NASA employees.

Coverage is available to all NASA employees occupying a permanent full-time/part-time position. Premiums are paid through bi-weekly payroll deduction. Member's unmarried children, between the ages of 14 days and 19 years, are insured free while spouse coverage is available at a nominal fee. An excellent travel accident plan is also available.

Consider increasing your family's security by calling NEBA President Bill Johnson at x1099 or Vice President Lisa Johnson at x1151. Let Johnson & Johnson get you covered for just a few dollars per pay period!

Hubble is First to Spot Colliding Supernovas

Astronomers using the Hubble Space Telescope have taken the first images clearly showing interactions between two or more exploding stars, called supernovas, which are producing a tremendous display in a galaxy 17 million light years from Earth.

Debris speeding out from the supernovas is slamming together in a cosmic collision, the likes of which have never before been seen. The images are especially startling because the collision is taking place over a time period of perhaps a few hundred years, a fleeting blink of an eye in the ancient cosmos, according to William P. Blair, a Johns Hopkins University astrophysicist who led a team of scientists making the discovery.

The astronomers were puzzled when they first spotted the object with a telescope at the Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona and with the ROSAT X-ray satellite. It was extremely bright in optical and X-ray light -- just like a young supernova -- a star much more massive than the Sun destroying itself in a titanic

explosion. But further analysis showed that it did not have the proper mixture of elements, and it was expanding too slowly to be a young supernova. Instead, it had all the characteristics of a much older remnant of a supernova, in which the expanding bubble of debris has spread far into space, diffusing into the interstellar gas.

How, then, could it be so bright? They found the answer after using the Hubble Telescope's Wide Field and Planetary Camera 2. The space telescope's superior resolution brought the matter into clearer focus. Whereas the bright point of light had looked like a single supernova from the ground, the Hubble image clearly showed the remnants of two or more objects colliding.

Astronomers had predicted the process, but because the phenomenon is so short-lived, it had never been seen directly. Blair said, "The reason this object is so bright is that we caught it at a very specific time in its evolution, and Hubble's resolution is what allowed us to see it."

NASA Joins the Fight Against Diabetes

NASA's Office of Life and Microgravity Sciences and Applications and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation are embarking on a cooperative partnership to conduct research that addresses the treatment and monitoring of diabetes and diabetes-related problems.

The two parties signed a Space Act Agreement June 8, 1997, enabling NASA and the Foundation to initiate joint research activities that will build on the strengths of the two organizations and support their respective goals. In addition, the agreement provides for a technology transfer mechanism to make techniques and technologies developed by NASA researchers available to the diabetes research community. There is no exchange of funds under this agreement.

While NASA does not have a diabetes research program, the Agency is conducting research that would have an impact on the fight against diabetes. NASA sponsors research in the areas of protein crystal growth, three-dimensional tissue culturing and noninvasive diagnostic technologies that can support the development of improved treatments.

NASA has grown human insulin crystals on two Space Shuttle missions to a quality that has not been achieved on Earth. Through the use of X-ray defraction crystallization, a more precise structural view of insulin molecules has provided a new understanding which could lead to new insulin therapies through improved control over the effective rate of release of insulin into the blood stream.

Scientific Balloon Launched

A scientific balloon carrying a solar cell payload was successfully launched June 11 at the National Scientific Balloon Facility in Palestine, TX.

The 3.46 million cubic foot balloon carried an experiment to fly and measure solar cells to be used as calibration standards for setting the intensity of solar simulators. The payload was recovered. The principal investigator was Dr. Bruce Anspaugh, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA.

Health Hints

by Dianne Hargrove, R.N.

Plan Ahead

There is no way to prevent natural disasters. Some result from rapidly changing weather conditions, such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and thunderstorms. Some are the result of earth movement, such as an earthquake. Make sure each member of your family knows what to do in an emergency. Being prepared can make a life-or-death difference.

Most communities have plans for what to do in an area-wide emergency. The following steps can help prepare for a natural disaster.

1. Find out what to prepare for. Know which weather related disasters might occur in your area, such as flooding. Low-lying or waterfront areas are threatened by exceptionally high tides. Have an evacuation plan in place.

2. Hold a family meeting to make a family emergency plan. Walk around the house and make sure every family member knows where and how to shut off electricity, gas and water at main switches and valves. For insurance purposes, make a list of all personal property such as furnishings, clothing and valuables. Place the list, including photographs or a videotape of items in a bank safety deposit box.

Designate a meeting place outside the home for your family in case you get separated during an emergency. Choose an out-of-state person to serve as your "family contact" - after a disaster it is often easier to call long-distance than in the local area.

3. Take action. Hold family meetings periodically to review emergency procedures. To help prepare, post emergency phone numbers, install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, practice escape and evacuation routes, assemble a survival kit and take courses in first aid and CPR. Periodically check and replace any outdated items in the survival kit. Determine locations of nearby official storm shelters. If you have to evacuate your home, post a note telling the date and time, where you are going and with whom.

Emergency Supply Kit

- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Non-electric can opener
- Battery operated radio or television
- First-aid kit
- Drinking water
- Non-perishable food
- Extra prescription medications
- Extra warm clothing
- Blankets
- Tool Kit

Celebrating the 4th Annual INTERNATIONAL LUNCHEON in honor of INTERNATIONAL DAY

June 24, 1997
Building F-3, Starting at
11:30 a.m.

Admission: One covered dish containing food of any nationality.

For more information or to register your dish, contact one of the following: Sandra Banks x2526, Linda Thompson x1072, Nicole Turner x1418 or Roland Wescott x1624.

All dishes will be labeled with title of dish and origin.

Sponsored by the EO Advisory Committee on Minorities and Persons with Disabilities.



Betty Flowers, (Code 130), presented a seminar on resume writing and interviewing to students at the Eastern Shore Community College on April 3.

Lisa Johnson, (Code 113), participated in mock job interviews for students at the Eastern Shore Community College on May 2.

Code 130, Code 800 and Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) personnel voluntarily supported a Wallops hands-on astronomy exhibit at the Holly Center Spring Fair in Salisbury on May 10.

Roger Mason, (Code 822), and Sandy Bogan (CSC) participated in the Snow Hill High School Career Day on May 13.

Betty Flowers (Code 130) and Bob Stancil (CSC) participated in the Central Middle School Career Fair on May 14.



July 4 Picnic

The annual July 4 picnic will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Wallops ballpark and picnic area.

Margot's New Band will provide music from noon to 4 p.m. Bring the kids out to meet Mr. Bill, the ventriloquist, and his friends.

There will be hay rides, volleyball, baseball, horseshoes, and a water slide along with other children's games.

Everyone attending is asked to bring any covered dish of their choosing. Hamburgers, hotdogs, corn on the cob and beverages will be provided.

Gerry McIntire, x1889, and Bev Hall, x1714, are organizing this year's event, sponsored by the Wallops Morale Activities Committee. Anyone interested in helping is asked to give them a call.

WBA Heavyweight Championship

Evander Holyfield vs
Mike Tyson

Doors open 8 p.m. June 28
Bldg F-3

\$3 advance \$5 at the door
For tickets call Bob Tittle,
x1244

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