NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
ASTROGRAM
Newsletter of NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California

September 2008

Ames hosts Round Table with four former Ames center directors

by Michael Mewhinney

As part of NASA's 50th anniversary, four former Ames directors provided a glimpse into the center's colorful history during a Director's Round Table held Sept. 16, 2008 at NASA's Ames.

Ames Center Director S. Pete Worden invited four of his distinguished predecessors to return to the center to share some of their memories about Ames during their careers as director.

"Each of these individuals has made significant contributions to Ames and NASA and it will be interesting to hear about the challenges they each faced and the key contributions they feel they and the center made during their tenures as center director," Worden said.

Held in the main auditorium, the Director's Round Table drew hundreds of employees to hear remarks from former directors Hans Mark, Sy Syvertson, Dale Compton and G. Scott Hubbard.

Four former Ames directors recently were invited to Ames to share some of their memories of the center during a special Director's Round Table. The four former directors were G. Scott Hubbard (far left); Sy Syvertson (third from left); Dale Compton (fourth from left) and Hans Mark (far right) shown with Ames historian and senior advisor to the director, Jack Boyd (second from left) and Ames Center Director S. Pete Worden (second from right).

NASA photo by Dominic Hart

Jack Boyd, Ames historian and a senior advisor to Worden who worked with each of the four former directors, gave a brief introduction and welcomed them back to Ames.

First up was Hans Mark, who served as Ames director from 1969 to 1977 and then as Deputy Administrator of NASA, Secretary of the Air Force and Chancellor of the University of Texas.

"I worked for him," said Mark, pointing at Boyd. "They all worked for me – they just didn't know it," Boyd jokingly responded.

Sporting a jacket festooned with patches of various NASA missions that he bought in 1970 (despite being 38 years old, the jacket still fit perfectly), Mark noted that one of the major projects during his tenure, the Tilt-Rotor, which began with the XV-15 prototype at Ames and later evolved into the V-22 Osprey Tilt-Rotor aircraft that is

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Ames celebrates 2009 Moon mission

NASA photo by Eric James

In early September, NASA's Ames held a"Return to the Moon Family Night" where visitors had an opportunity to speak to scientists and engineers to learn more about the Lunar CRater Observation and Sensing Satellite (LCROSS) mission. Launching early next year, LCROSS will search for water ice in one of the moon's permanently shadowed craters. Family night included hands-on activities and presentations by key NASA and space industry experts that provided information about NASA's exciting new plans to explore the moon and destinations beyond. Activities and exhibits included: driving a rover through a lunar obstacle course, making and using spectroscopes, competing in a lunar trivia competition, launching paper rockets, demonstrating robotics and viewing the moon's features through large amateur telescopes.

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On the Inside . . .

Enthusiastic crowd enjoys 'Return to the Moon Family Night'

BY JONAS DINO

Thousands of moon enthusiasts of all ages gathered at NASA's Ames Research Center on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2008 to participate in NASA Ames' second 'Return to the Moon Family Night.'

Approximately 4,000 guests braved late afternoon temperatures that soared into the 90s to learn about NASA's plans to return to the moon, initially with robotic missions, then with humans and eventually establishing a lunar outpost by the year 2020.

NASA photos by Eric James

"Return to the Moon Family Night" recently drew thousands of visitors to the center. The event featured many hands-on activities and displays, including an opportunity to look at the moon through telescopes set up on the parade grounds.

A steady stream of cars passed through the main gate from the beginning of the event at 3 p.m. PDT and continued into the evening as its evolved into a moon-viewing party.

For the visitors, event organizers developed a comprehensive collection of space-themed presentations and displays, robotics demonstrations and hands-on activities that highlight the moon and NASA's Lunar CRater Observation and Sensing Satellite (LCROSS).

Evidence suggests that near the moon's poles, craters that have not seen sunlight in billions of years, may contain water ice. The LCROSS mission, launching in early 2009 will investigate one of these craters.

For those wanting to learn about the mission, key LCROSS personnel gave hourly presentations and representatives from Northrop Grumman, United Launch Alliance, Ecliptic Enterprises Corp. and the Lewis Center for Educational Research staffed information booths and discussed their roles in the mission.

Visitors participated in the science hands-on activities during the recent "Return to the Moon Family Night" held at Ames.

In conjunction with the presentations, visitors were encouraged to make dirty snowballs to mimic a comet; construct home-made spectrometers that split light into its component wavelengths; test their knowledge of the moon; or dance in front of the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) project's infrared camera.

Kids were especially fascinated with how the camera displayed different body temperatures from a red-hot forehead to a tongue cooled by a drink of water.

As anticipated, the event attracted large numbers of young children filled with curiosity. The event exhibitors were happy to respond to that curiosity with information about astronomy, math and science. These children are the right age to help carry out NASA's exploration plans for the moon, Mars and beyond as the next generation of scientists and engineers.

The event also attracted large numbers of high school students interested in robotics. NASA's Robotics Alliance Project sponsored booths featuring NASA-sponsored FIRST Robotics teams and the chance to run micro rovers through a lunar obstacle course.

As darkness approached and temperatures cooled, lines formed behind the 25 large telescopes set-up to view the moon's features. A network of local amateur astronomers eager to share their passion about space provided the telescopes for the event.

"Visitors waited in long lines to get a glimpse of our constant companion, the moon," said Brian Day, one of the organizers of the event. "As an amateur astronomer, it is great to see in others the excitement that looking through a telescope brings."

This second Return to the Moon Family Night was a success due to the participation of countless exhibit personnel, volunteers and NASA employees.

I'm very thankful to all of the participant and visitors that helped make this event a success," said Day. "It has been a very exciting, fun-filled night of exploration."

Exhibitors included: Orion, SETI, United Launch Alliance, Northrop Grumman, the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, the Lewis Center for Education Research, the NASA Ames Small Spacecraft Office, the NASA Robotics Alliance Project, the SOFIA project, the NASA Ames Supercomputing Facility, the Planetary Society, Ecliptic Enterprises Corp., the NASA Lunar Sciences Institute and the Ames Education and Public Outreach team.

Employees recognized at 2008 Ames Honor Awards ceremony

The 2008 Ames Honor Awards were held Sept. 17, in the Main Auditorium (N-201). This center-sponsored program features a peer nomination process and is considered one of Ames' most prestigious honors. A committee made up of a cross section of employees determined the finalists based on write-ups submitted for consideration.

Awards were presented to 28 employees who have been selected for individual awards, and to the leads of 10 groups which have been selected for their excellence in the Group/Team category.

NASA photo by Dominic Hart

Ames Center Director S. Pete Worden (left) presents a Group/Team 2008 Ames Honor Award to the Agency Budget Execution Dashboard Team, at the recent awards ceremony held at the center.

Admin Professional
John Adams
Jimmy Fong
Michael Hutnik
Marianne Shelley
Caroline To

Best First Paper
Rodger Mueller

Commercialization/Tech Transfer
David Blake

Community Service
Alan Dunn

Contractor
Greg Bennett
Bosco Dias
David Encisco
Yvonne Ibarra
Lynnette Jacome
Michael Kupfer
Steve Prescott
Eduardo Solis

EEO
David Morse

Engineer
Robert Barber
Adel Belous
Nans Kunz

Group/Team
Small Exploration Cost Estimating Team
Shuttle Database Development Team
Security Operations Center Team
NASA Astrobiology Institute Central Team
NAS Visualization Team
Lunar Science Conference Organizing Team
En Route Descent Advisor Tailored Arrival Research Team
ARC AP/AR/FBWT
Application Performance and Productivity Group
Agency Budget Execution Dashboard Team

Mentor
Jennifer Heldmann
Andrew Mattioda
William Warmbrodt

NASA Employee
Glenn Fuller
Karlin Toner

Project Management
Kenneth Freeman
Michael Landis

Safety/Environment
Gregory Zilliac

Scientist/Researcher
Cetin Kiris
Aaron Zent

Secretary/Admin
Gabriel Lozano

Supervisor/Manager
Jolen Flores
Mark Fonda
Richard Papasin

Student
Daniel Federman

Technical Support
Boris Rabin

Technician
Ronald Hovland

Ames remembers 9/11 with solemn ceremony

BY MICHAEL MEWHINNEY

Ames remembered the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001 during an emotional ceremony held seven years to the day the tragedy occurred.

A small, respectful audience gathered on the lawn of the former Moffett Field parade grounds on Thursday, Sept. 11, 2008, to pay tribute to those who lost their lives on that fateful day now simply known as 9/11.

Hosted by the Admiral William A. Moffett American Legion Post 881 based at Moffett Field, the ceremony brought together soldiers, firefighters, police officers, first responders, American Legion officials, local community leaders and NASA officials and employees.

It was a day to remember and reflect on the series of events that shaped that horrific day when terrorists hijacked four commercial airliners and crashed them, killing thousands of innocent people.

It was a day that began at 8:45 a.m. when American Airlines Flight 11 struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. A few minutes later at 9:03 a.m., United Airlines Flight 175 struck the South Tower of the World Trade Center, and shortly thereafter, at 9:43 a.m. American Airlines Flight 77 struck the Pentagon. Finally, at 10 a.m., United Airlines Flight 93 slammed into a field near Shanksville, Pa.

And, it was also a day to remember not only the many lives that were lost, but also the heroes who helped save the lives of countless other victims of the terrorist attack.

During the ceremony, the American flag was raised and then gently lowered to rest at half mast. Bells were struck slowly in remembrance. The national anthem was sung, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited and prayers were said softly.

Carolann Wunderlin, founding post commander of the Admiral William A. Moffett American Legion Post 881, delivered welcome remarks and introduced the various speakers who paid tribute to sacrifices that were made.

NASA photo by Dominic Hart

NASA photo by Dominic Hart

NASA photo by Eric James

NASA photo by Dominic Hart

On Sept. 11, 2008, the Moffett American Legion Post 881 remembered the sombre events of Sept. 11, 2001, with a ceremony on the parade grounds at Moffett paying tribute to those who perished on that fateful day.

NASA Ames Research Center Director S. Pete Worden, a retired Air Force Brigadier General, recalled that day seven years ago when "we came together as a community to share our grief… and to stand tall against terrorism." Worden paid tribute to the brave people, including Ames' own Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team (DART), who worked well past exhaustion to help rescue victims, and said that the heroic efforts of September 11 provide a lasting legacy.

The solemn ceremony was marked by symbolism. Occupying a prominent place in front of the speaker's podium, stood a long table with only one empty chair because those who lost their lives could be there; a single red rose tied with a red ribbon, an inverted glass, a slice of lemon to signify the bitterness of the event, and a shaker of salt to represent the tears that have been shed.

Another symbolic event involved a fire service tradition, called the "Striking of the three threes" which dated back to the mid-1800s, before the advent of radios, pagers or fire alarms. In those early days, daily announcements were sent from headquarters to firehouses by a system of bell commands and telegraph, and when a firefighter died in the line of duty, headquarters would transit three bell strikes, repeated in three series. The custom has continued to this day.

As a military detachment retired the colors, a mournful bagpipe played Amazing Grace and the solitary sound of Taps pierced the morning air to conclude the remembrance event.

San Jose Mayor visits Ames' Osmotic Lab and hyperwall-2

San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed recently met with Ames Center Director S. Pete Worden and also took a quick tour of the Osmotic Lab and hyperwall-2 at Ames. Reed is seen here (sitting, right) at the hyperwall-2 with Steve Hipskind, Chief, NASA's Earth Science Division (left).

NASA photo by Dominic Hart

NASA, San Francisco Giants celebrate 50 years of history

BY MICHAEL MEWHINNEY

It was a day to remember – in more ways than one for NASA and the San Francisco Giants.

Both NASA and the Giants turned 50 this year, and as part of their joint birthday celebration, NASA Ames employees, their families and friends were invited to enjoy NASA Day at AT&T Park in San Francisco on Sunday, Sept. 7, 2008 and watch the Giants battle the Pittsburgh Pirates.

On a bright, sunny afternoon, an estimated 150 Ames employees, their families and friends turned out for the game, enjoying hot dogs and other refreshments. The game provided plenty of highlights, as the Giants, who were behind by five runs, scored an amazing 10 runs -- all in the fourth inning -- and won the game by a score of 11 to 6 over the visiting Pirates.

Special commemorative t-shirts were distributed and highlights of NASA's and the Giants' first 50 years were featured on the ballpark's Jumbotron screen in center field. A filmed segment featuring the crew of the International Space Station throwing out the first pitch and leading the seventh inning stretch were shown on the screen.

Also featured in the NASA highlights were clips from 1958 of the founding of NASA, shots from astronaut John Glenn's orbital flight in 1962, clips from the 1969 Apollo 11 mission and space shuttle Columbia's first flight in 1981.

Highlights of the Giants' colorful history were also shown on the big screen, much to the delight of the more than 34,000 fans who attended the game.

All in all, it was a great way to celebrate a birthday!

Highlights of NASA's and the Giant's first 50 years were displayed on the ballpark's Jumbotron screen shown at left.

NASA employees enjoy the recent NASA Day at AT&T Park in San Francisco.

NASA photos by Eric James

Ames reaches major safety milestone

This year's Safety Awareness Week in early September included several safety aware events including a street fair (right) that included many health and safety related booths; a presentation given by Marine L. Col. Wes Sharp, sharing his account of an F-18 midair collision and lessons learned from the experience; the safety awards program (ASAP II) awards ceremony and various safety briefings. Ames reached a major safety milestone earlier this year when it achieved a record of more than five million hours worked by the civil service staff without a lost- time injury.

NASA photo by Eric James

Ames Contractor Council holds successful golf tournament

by Doreen Cohen

The Ames Contractor Council recently held a very successful golf tournament fund-raising event with proceeds exceeding $5,000.

Co-chaired by Jennifer Kremer (Planners Collaborative) and Terry Reichert (Tessada), the event was completely sold out and also received generous sponsorships from ACC company donations. This year, both a chipping and a putting contest were added to the fun.

The ACC Golf Tournament is open to all members of the Ames community, and the proceeds go to benefit Ames community programs and events, such as education programs designed to inspire the next generation of explorers.

The Ames Contractor Council (ACC) is a non-profit (501)(c)(4) organization whose membership consists of representatives from the contractor companies performing work at NASA Ames.

To learn more about the ACC and how it actively supports the Ames community, visit the Web site at: www.amescontractorcouncil.org. If you are eligible for membership in the ACC, you are also eligible to be included in the online list of companies under the "About" section of the Web site. This list links directly to each company's Web site, where company information and job opportunities may be found.

Ames Contractor Council (ACC) President Kathleen Starmer (right photo) welcomes golf tournament attendees to the start of the ACC golf tournament held in August at Ames.

photo by Doreen Cohen

photo by Steve Perry

First place low gross score golfers at the recent Ames Contractor Council golf tournament (left to right) Terry Reichert, Jordan Pogon, Mel Carter and Danny O'Sullivan.

NASA Headquarters promises timely funding for science

by Ruth Dasso Marlaire

"Tell me how much money you need," Paul Hertz, chief scientist of NASA's Science Mission Directorate, told a crowd of scientists gathered Aug. 27 in the Space Science auditorium for an Ames all-hands meeting.

In the past, scientists were held to end-of-year accounting metrics that seemed impossible to meet, given that they received their research dollars late in the year.

"Getting money obligated on time" has become a central issue of Edward Weiler, associate administrator of the Science Mission Directorate (SMD) at NASA Headquarters, and to meet the agency's fiscal guidelines, new strategies have been developed to help scientists at field centers accomplish that goal, according to Hertz.

How serious is the new associate administrator? "Ed Weiler is so serious about meeting SMD accounting metrics that two-thirds of my performance evaluation is on how fast we get the R&A money into your hands," said Hertz.

"If you can't spend all of your research money in a given year, we'll take it back and give it to you when you need it," said Hertz. A data tracking program called RAPTOR will be used for SMD's budgets and disbursements, which gives the centers viewing privileges of their cash flows in the following year.

"It is time to trust each other on this," said Yvonne Pendleton, NASA Ames deputy associate center director. After a year and a half working in SMD as the Senior Advisor for Research and Analysis (SARA), Pendleton has recently returned to Ames to lead the center's research efforts with Steve Zornetzer, associate director of research.

In a competitive environment for research funding, NASA scientists are urged to be realistic with their proposal costs. "Labor costs should be honest, or the burden falls back on the centers," said Pendleton. "Everybody needs to work together," she said, adding that Weiler clearly understands the funding difficulties scientists have experienced in recent years.

Another area where SMD is prepared to meet the next fiscal challenge involves the next White House administration, regardless of which party wins the election in November. "We have briefings to answer a variety of questions a transition team might ask, especially if we are asked what we would do with more money," said Hertz.

"I don't think science will get any big offer," he said. "The really big question is if the total budget will increase, or if they'll just increase one budget, while reducing another," Hertz noted.

Overall, the exchange of information between the scientists, Hertz and Pendleton was well received by all, indicating a good foundation for future communication and collaboration.

NASA photo

Paul Hertz, chief scientist of NASA's Science Mission Directorate, spoke at the center about the agency's commitment to helping scientists at the field centers accomplish their goals by providing timely funding for research.

SETI seeks to learn if we are the only intelligent life out there

NASA photo by Dominic Hart

Seth Shostak, a senior astronomer at the SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) Institute and an observer for Project Phoenix as well as an active participant in various international forums for SETI research, recently spoke at a Director's Colloquium at Ames entitled, "When Will We Discover the Extraterrestrials?" about the prospects for finding aliens. The scientific hunt for extraterrestrial intelligence is now into its fifth decade, and still no confirmed "peep" from any cosmic company. Could this mean that finding aliens, even if they exist, is a project for the ages -- one that might take centuries or longer? New technologies suggest that, despite the continued dearth of signals from other societies, there is good reason to expect that success might be just around the corner -- that we might find evidence of sophisticated civilizations within a few decades. Why this is so, and what contact would mean, was the subject of the talk on the continuing efforts to establish our place in the universe of thinking beings.

Utah State professor discusses microbial-based products

Dr. Ronald Sims, professor and head of the Biological and Irrigation Engineering Department at Utah State, presented a colloquium entitled, "Algae-based Research and Synthetic Biomanufacturing for Biodiesel and Other Products at Utah State University." Utah State University (USU) has been awarded a Utah Science Technology and Research Center (USTAR) for microalgae-based production of biodiesel utilizing both open pond systems as well as enclosed photobioreactors that utilize sunlight and fiber optic systems to manage light distribution and intensity for algal growth. USU also has been awarded a USTAR Center for Biosynthetic Manufacturing utilizing synthetic biology tools and engineering methodologies for the production of new microbial-based products. The new centers are related to the new Biological Engineering Program implemented at USU, and also involve the participation of other units, including the university's Electrical Engineering Department, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department, Chemistry and Biochemistry Department, Biology Department and the state of Utah Water Research Laboratory. Sims described the current research of these two microbe-based centers and the interest of USU in collaborating on relevant research.

NASA photo by Dominic Hart

U.S., Russian Foton-M2 & Foton-M3 mission reviewed

NASA photos by Dominic Hart

Recently, Mike Skidmore (left), Eduardo Almeida (center), Richard Boyle (right) and other members of the Foton team gave a general description of the Foton-M3 mission and the differences between Foton-M2 and Foton-M3, which was followed by a summary of the scientific results derived from these joint US-Russian missions. The Foton-M3 spacecraft launched from Baikonur Cosmodrome (Kazakhstan) on Sept. 14, 2007 and landed 12 days later, approximately 130 km south of Kustanay, Northern Kazakhstan. The Foton-M3 flight, following the 16-day Foton-M2 spaceflight (June 2005), represented a unique opportunity to re-fly and improve the Foton-M2 experiments. For Foton-M3, important improvements were made in hardware, experimental design and operational logistics.

Ames hosts Round Table with four former Ames center directors

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still in use today by the U.S. Marines Corps.

Mark was followed by Sy Syvertson, who began his career at Ames in 1948 ("about 20 years after Jack") conducting research in hypersonics and was named Ames center director in 1977.

Syvertson, who retired in 1984, recalled that in those early days, a three-bedroom bungalow cost only $5,000. He said he has always been impressed by the quality of the staff at Ames, "that started when I came to Ames in 1948."

Compton joined Ames in 1958 and rose through the ranks of the center's aeronautics and space sciences divisions before being named center director in 1989. He said during his tenure as director, he worked hard to bring the center's facilities up to good condition, to improve the center's project management capabilities, and to retain Moffett Field under NASA's control after the U.S. Navy closed its naval base.

Hubbard arrived at Ames in 1987 and served in various project management and science mission management capacities. He served as center director from 2002 to 2006 and currently is a professor at Stanford University. He cited three "guiding principles" from his tenure, including achieving research excellence; maintaining a connection to space and staying grounded with Silicon Valley.

NASA photo by Dominic Hart

Jack Boyd, Ames historian and senior advisor to the center director (on stage left), introduced the four former Ames Center Directors, Hans Mark, Sy Syvertson, Dale Compton and G. Scott Hubbard at the recent Directors Round Table held at the center. Ames Center Director S. Pete Worden is seated at right.

Following their brief remarks, the former directors fielded questions from employees, ranging from how they viewed Ames as a research center, to what it took to become a center director. They noted that it was a combination of "dumb luck", doing a good job and being recognized for their hard work that led to their being named as center directors.

"If you're given a job and do it well, promotions will come," Compton concluded.

Stanford professor explains atom wave interferometry

NASA photo by Dominic Hart

On Sept. 2, Mark Kasevich, a professor of physics and applied physics at Stanford University, presented a Director's Colloquium entitled, "Atom Interferometry." Attendees learned about how atom interferometry can lead to new breakthrough technologies relevant to NASA's mission. Atom de Broglie wave interferometry has emerged as a tool capable of addressing a diverse set of questions in gravitational physics, and as an enabling technology for advanced sensors in geodesy and navigation. This talk reviewed basic principles and discussed recent applications and future directions.

Ames Ongoing Monthly Events Calendar

Ames Amateur Radio Club, third Thurs., of ea. month, 12 noon, N-T28 (across from N-255). POC: Michael Wright, KG6BFK, at ext. 4-6262.

Ames Ballroom Dance Club, Classes on Tuesdays. Beginning classes meet at 5:15 p.m. Higher-level class meets at 5:50 p.m. Held in Bldg. 944, the Rec. Center. POC: Helen Hwang at helen.hwang@nasa.gov, ext. 4-1368.

Ames Bicycling Club, every third Wednesday of each month, 12 noon - 1 p.m., Bldg. N-245 Auditorium. POC: Julie Nottage at jnottage@mail.arc.nasa.gov, ext. 4-3711.

Ames Bowling League, Homestead Lanes on Thursday nights at 6:20 p.m. Seeking substitute bowlers. Questions to sign up: Mike Liu at ext. 4-1132.

Ames Child Care Center Board of Directors Mtg., every other Monday, 1 - 2:30 p.m., Bldg. N-262/Rm 180. POC: Sally Miller, ext. 4-5411.

Ames Contractor Council Mtg., first Wednesday of ea. month, 11 a.m., Bldg. N-200, Committee Room. POC: Kathleen Starmer, ext. 4-6959

Environmental Forum, first Thursday every other month, 9 a.m. - 10 a.m., T20-G conference Rm. 129. URL: http://q/qe/events/EHS-series/ POC: Stacy St. Louis, ext. 4-6810.

Ames Federal Employees Union (AFEU) Mtg, First Wednesday of November (7th), noon. First Wednesday of December (5th), noon. Bldg. N-247, Rm. 109. Beginning 2008, third Wednesday each month, same location. Guests welcome. Info at: http://www.afeu.org. POC: Paul K. Davis, ext. 4-5916.

The Hispanic Advisory Committee for Excellence (HACE) Mtg., first Thursday of each month, 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m., Bldg. N-255, Rm. 101C. POC: Eric Kristich, ext. 4-5137 and Mark Leon, ext. 4-6498.

Jetstream Toastmasters, Mondays, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. N-269/Rm.179. POC: Miwa Hayashi, ext. 4-1397, mhayashi@mail.arc.nasa.gov. Web: http://jetstream.freetoasthost.com

Ames Mac Support Group Mtg., third Tuesday of each month, 11:30 a.m.to 1 p.m., Bldg. N-262, Rm 180. POC: Tony ext. 4-0340.

Ames Model Aircraft Club, flying radio-controlled aircraft at the north end of Parsons Ave. on weekend mornings. POC: Mark Sumich, ext. 4-6193.

Native American Advisory Committee Mtg., fourth Tuesday each month, 12 noon - 1 p.m., Bldg. 19, Rm 1096. POC: Mike Liu, ext. 4-1132.

Ames Nimble Knitters Club, every Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Bldg. N-241/Rm 237. POC: Rosalyn Jung, knitfan2@yahoo.com or Diane Alexander at ext. 4-3140. URL: http://knit.arc.nasa.gov

Ames Safety Committee, third Thursday of each month, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m., Bldg. N-237, Rm. 201. POC: John Livacich, jlivacich@mail.arc.nasa.gov, ext. 4-3243 or Terry Reichert, treichert@mail.arc.nasa.gov, ext.-4-0375.

Ames Sailing Club Mtg., second Thursday of each month (March through November), from 12 p.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. N-260, Rm. 113. URL: http://sail.arc.nasa.gov/. POC: Clif Horne, ext. 4-4571.

Ames emergency announcements

To hear the centerwide status recording, call (650) 604-9999 for information announcements and emergency instructions for Ames employees. You can also listen to 1700 KHz AM radio for the same information.

Safety Data

NASA-Ames Occupational Illness-Injury Data for Calendar Year-to-Date 2008 Jan. 1, 2008 - Aug. 31, 2008

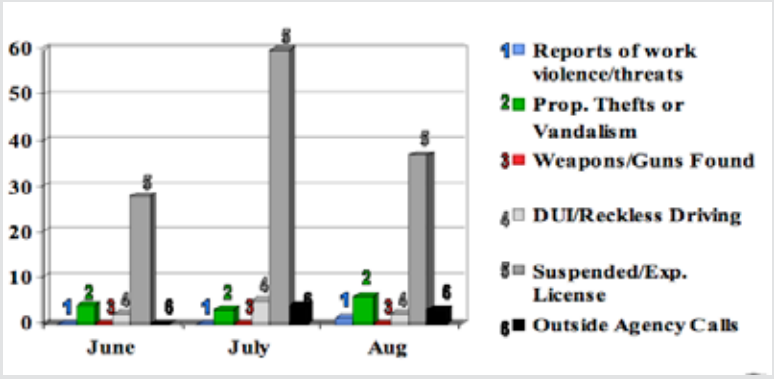
	Civil Servants	Contractors
First aid cases	17	13
Lost Workday cases	1	2
Recordable cases	2	5
Restricted duty days	0	2

Above data are as of Aug. 31, 2008. May be subject to slight adjustment in the event of a new case or new information regarding an existing case.

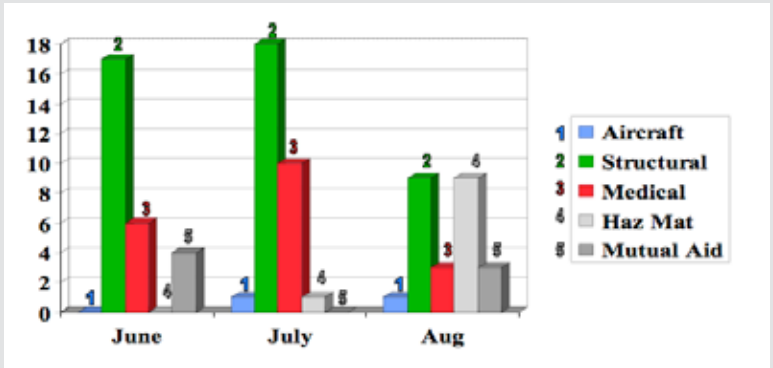
Protective Services monthly activity

A statistical summary of activities of the Protective Services Division's Security/Law Enforcement and Fire Protection Services units for the month of August 2008 is shown below.

Security/Law Enforcement Activity



Fire Protection Activity



Ames Classifieds

Ads for the next issue should be sent to astrogram@mail.arc.nasa.gov and must be resubmitted for each issue. Ads must involve personal needs or items; (no commercial/third-party ads) and will run on a space-available basis only. First-time ads are given priority. Ads must include home phone numbers; Ames extensions and email addresses will be accepted for carpool and lost and found ads only. Due to the volume of material received, we are unable to verify the accuracy of the statements made in the ads. Caveat emptor!

Housing

2 bd/2 1/2 ba spacious townhome in Sunnyvale, a den and two private patios, central heating and airconditioning. Excellent neighborhood within walking distance to shops, restaurants, golf course, schools and parks. Easy access to highways 101, 280, El Camino Real, Central Express and Lawrence Expressway. $1,900/month plus $1K deposit. Call (408) 393-7641.

One bedroom duplex for rent in Mountain View, one mile from Ames. Call (408) 829-1890.

Miscellaneous

Minn Kota electric trolling motor, 30 LB Thrust, never been used. $125, Call (650) 369-0578.

Need help on your next tech eval?

NASA has a free automated tool to help you evaluate change proposals. Find out more and get your user ID and password at https://turbotech.gsfc.nasa.gov . Sign up today for a web-based demo with Joann.M.Carter@nasa.gov.

Astrogram deadlines

Please submit articles, calendar and classified advertisements to astrogram@mail.arc.nasa.gov no later than the 10th of each month. If this falls on a weekend or holiday, then the following business day becomes the deadline. For Astrogram questions, contact Astrid Olson at the aforementioned e-mail address or ext. 4-3347.

Exchange Information

Information about products, services and opportunities provided to the employee and contractor community by the Ames Exchange Council. Visit the web site at: http://exchange.arc.nasa.gov

Beyond Galileo Gift Shop N-235 in the cafeteria , 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., ext. 4-6873

Don't forget to purchase your baby shower, birthday, holiday gifts at Ames' two gift shops!

Visitor Center Gift Shop N-943 M-F, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., ext. 4-5412

NASA logo merchandise, souvenirs, toys, gifts and educational items.

Tickets, etc... N-943 outside the main gate, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., ext. 4-5412 and Beyond Galileo, 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. ext. 4-6873

Mega Bites Cafeteria N-235, 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., ext. 4-5969/Catering ext. 4-2161

See daily menu at: http://exchange.arc.nasa.gov

Moffett Field Golf Club with 'Tee minus 1' Grill and Sports Bar. Call (650) 603-8026.

RV Lots Available Call to reserve a space at (650) 603-7100/01.

Civilian/Contractors, $50/mo; military $25/mo

NASA Lodge (N-19) 603-7100

Where to stay when you're too tired to drive home? What about the lodge?! Two types of rooms: Bldg. 19 (43 rooms), rate: $55/night ($5 ea add'l adult); Bldg. 583 (150 rooms), rate: $45/night ($5 ea. add'l adult)

Ames Swim Center (N-109) 603-8025

The pool is heated year round! The pool is currently available for lap swim, pool parties and special events. POC -Chana Langley, Pool Manager (650) 603-8025. Memberships: single memberships: $40/yr. Family memberships: $60/yr. After purchasing a membership, there is an entrance fee: daily entrance fee - $3/day or lap pass fee - $40 for 20 uses. Platinum membership - $360/yr. (no daily fee). Special events: include military training, swim team events, kayak role practice, etc. The cost for special events is $50/hr.

Ongoing Vacation Opportunities

Lake Tahoe-Squaw Valley Townhse, 3bd/2ba, View of slopes, close to lifts. Per night: $250, plus $145 cleaning fee. Two night minimum. Includes linens, propane fireplace, fully equipped. Call (650) 968-4155, DBMcKellar@aol.com.

Bass Lake vacation rental, 4 mls south of Yosemite. 3bd/1.5 ba, TV, VCR, MW, frplc, BBQ, priv. boat dock. Sleeps 8. $1,050/wk. Call (559) 642-3600 or (650) 390-9668.

Big Sur vacation rental, secluded 4bd/2ba house in canyon setting. Fully eqpd kitchen. Access to priv. beach. Tub in patio gdn. Halfway between Carmel and Big Sur. $175/night for 2; $225 for 4 and $250 for more, plus $150 cleaning dep. Call (650) 328-4427.

Pine Mountain Lake vacation home. Access to golf, tennis, lake, swimming, horseback riding, walk to beach. Three bedrooms/sleeps 10. $100/night. Call (408) 799-4052 or (831) 623-4054.

Incline Village, Forest Pines, Lake Tahoe condo, 3 bdrms/2 ba, sleeps 8, fireplace, TVs/VCR/DVD, stereo w/CD player, microwv, W/D, jacuzzi, sauna, outdoor pool. Walk to lake. Close to ski areas. Visit web site for pictures: http://www.ACruiseStore.com $135/night spring and fall, $173/night summer and winter (holidays higher) plus $125 cleaning fee and 12 percent Nevada room tax. Charlie (650) 743-8990.

New York, 5th Ave., one fully furnished bedroom apt. in 24 hour security fbldg. overlooking Washington Square Park, $1,000/week or 3,000/month, negotiable. Call (650) 430-6977.

Paris/France: Fully furnished studio. 5th arr, Latin Quarter, Notre Dame and Lie-St. Louis, $1,400/week, negotiable. Call (650) 430-6977.

Santa Cruz townhouse, 2 bedrooms plus study, 2 baths, decks, totally furnished, 3 blocks from beach, available July, August, September; $1,600 per month. Call (831) 423-5777 (H) or (831) 277-8476 (C).

Lake Tahoe cabin rental in Agate Bay, North Shore. 4bd/3ba tri-level, AEK, cable TVs, fireplace, BBQ, deck, sleeps 10. Closest skiing is Northstar, Alpine and Squaw. Rates are $375 a weekend, $1,000 a week. Call (408) 867-4656.

Florida west coast vacation in St. Petersburg, beautiful 2bd/2ba condo, fully equipped kitchen and furnished, sunset views, 1/4 mile from St. Pete Beach, monthly or 2 week minimum rentals only. Call (703) 299-8889 or e-mail: jdgoehler@aol.com

Monterey Bay vacation rental at Pajaro Dunes, 20 miles south of Santa Cruz, 3bd/2ba beach house with distinctive architecture. Beautiful ocean and valley views, only 150 ft from the beach, first-class tennis courts. $700/wkend, $2,100/wk including cleaning by the maid service when you depart. Call (408) 252-7260.

South Lake Tahoe large cabin surrounded by protected forest, 8 miles from Stateline Sleeps 12 comfortably, 4 bd/3ba. Hot tub/pool table/65" TV Matt (408) 482-5286

South Lake Tahoe cozy home backs up to large open meadow, 1 mile from Heavenly Valley. Sleeps 11, 3 bd/2.5 ba. Large deck with hot tub. Matt (408) 482-5286.

Ames Cat Network

The Ames Cat Network needs help finding homes for cats trapped at Moffett. They range from feral to abandoned/lost pets. Tested, altered and inoculated. Call Iris at ext. 4-5824 if you or someone you know are interested in fostering or adopting a cat.

What's on InsideNASA . . .

NASA Deputy Administrator Shana Dale's corner on Inside-NASA this month features an article entitled, "Skyrocketing Student Performance in Kentucky." Following is an excerpt from the article.

Educating American students in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) is vitally important to the survival of America's space program. And though NASA's benefits are national in scope, its real beneficiaries are students in communities all across the country.

Kentucky's Phelps High School exemplifies NASA's benefits. Phelps, a small rural school (450 students in grades 7-12), located at the eastern corner of Kentucky, had a drop-out rate of almost ten percent and ranked near the bottom of Kentucky's schools according to an assessment of the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS) a decade ago. Andy Dotson, the school's former social studies teacher became principal in 1999, and the school began to make steady improvements in performance.

That improvement wasn't enough. School leaders realized that reaching their goal of a 100 score on the CATS assessment by 2014 required more. Phelps needed an extra push. And that push came from NASA.

In 2002, Dotson attended a special leadership academy for Kentucky administrators at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va. After returning from the academy, Dotson initiated several actions. He created school leadership teams and established solution-oriented attitudes by encouraging teachers to express a "we can" instead of "we cannot" attitude with students. Dotson and his team also developed a clearer vision for the school, established higher expectations, created an instructional plan, and focused on overall student performance.

Simultaneously, Phelps' teachers received support from NASA experts at the Langley Research Center through training at the NASA Leadership Academy. The teachers began to use NASA's Digital Learning Network, including interaction with the crew of the International Space Station. They participated in three national conferences and experienced a full partnership with NASA when Phelps High School's sister school, Phelps Elementary, became a NASA Explorer School in 2004. Phelps students and staff are still working toward their goal of scoring a perfect 100 on the assessment test by 2014.

Over the past six years, student performance has skyrocketed. Phelps now ranks sixth in academics in Kentucky, and its dropout rate was reduced to just over one percent in 2006. "This educational partnership has made a significant difference in the lives of students, staff, and community in rural Kentucky," declared Dotson To learn more about this partnership, visit http://insidenasa.nasa.gov/nasa_stories/Education_Success.html

'Black Hole wars' explained

On Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 7 p.m, physicist Leonard Susskind of Stanford University will give a non-technical, illustrated lecture entitled, "The Black Hole Wars: My Battle with Stephen Hawking." This talk kicks off the 2008-2009 series of the Silicon Valley Astronomy Lectures.

The talk will be held in the Smithwick Theater at Foothill College, El Monte Road and Freeway 280, in Los Altos Hills. There is no cost to attend and the event is open to the public. Parking on campus costs $2. Call the series hot-line at (650) 949-7888 for more information and driving directions. No background in science will be required for this talk. Seating is first come, first served.

Black Holes, the collapsed remnants of the largest stars, provide a remarkable laboratory where the frontier concepts of our understanding of nature are tested at their extreme limits. For more than two decades, Susskind and a Dutch colleague have had a running battle with Stephen Hawking of Cambridge University about the implications of Black Hole theory for our understanding of reality -- a battle that he has described in his book "The Black Hole Wars."

During the discussion, Susskind tells the story of these wars, explains the ideas that underlie the conflict, and recounts how he got Hawking to retract some of his claims. What's at stake is nothing less than our understanding of space, time, matter and information. Susskind is Felix Bloch professor of theoretical physics at Stanford University and the author of two books and many articles on recent developments in science and their meaning.

The lecture is co-sponsored by NASA Ames; the Foothill College Astronomy Program; the SETI Institute; and the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

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Special Olympics golf tournament set

A charity golf tournament, the "Walmart Golf for the Gold Classic" for the Northcal Special Olympics, is scheduled for Oct. 13, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., at The Brentwood Golf Country Club, located at 100 Summerset Drive, Brentwood, Calif., 94513. The Walmart Corp. is sponsoring the golf tournament. NASA personnel are invited to participate in this event.

The teams consist of four golfers ready to spend the day golfing, eating and having fun. Each team contributes $600 ($150 per member) for the charity which includes green fees and use of golf cart.

There will be raffles throughout the day and goodie bags given to all participants as well as meals and snacks for the day. The winners will receive a large trophy and all bragging rights for helping the Special Olympics.

After the event, golfers will be treated to a steak dinner to celebrate the participation of all concerned. For more information, contact Dan Jones at (408) 607-7679.