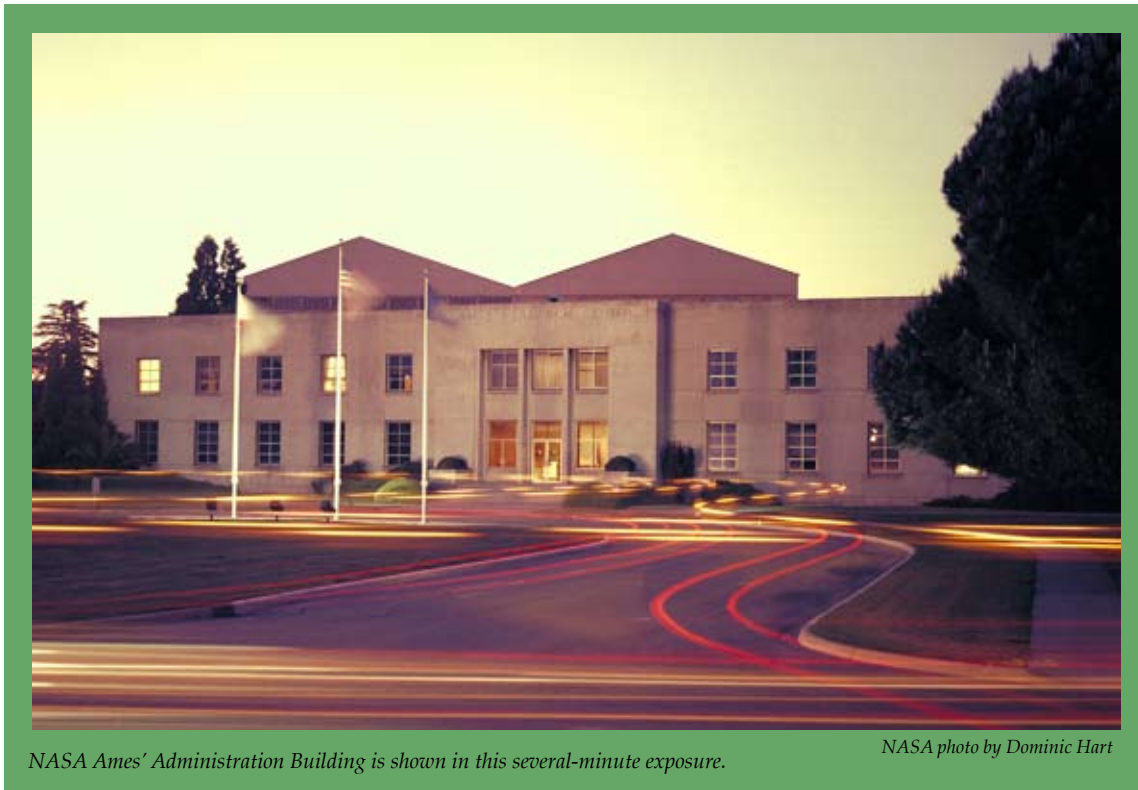


December 2008



NASA Ames' Administration Building is shown in this several-minute exposure.

NASA photo by Dominic Hart

Season's greetings from the Ames center director

BY S. PETE WORDEN

As we look back on 2008, the year NASA marked its 50th anniversary with celebrations across the agency, we all can feel proud of our many accomplishments here at Ames. Building on our achievements in 2007, we continued to make major contributions in several crucial areas, including lunar science, exploration, environment, partnerships and key collaborations.

We launched 2008 with a rare visit by SOFIA, the world's largest airborne observatory, in January. An estimated 3,500 people, including Ames employees and their families, local community leaders and news media who came to see and tour the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy.

Lunar science played a starring role in 2008. In April, we opened the NASA Lunar Science Institute, ensuring that Ames will play a major role in the agency's future lunar exploration. In July, we hosted a three-day Lunar Science Conference attended by some 500 scientists from all over the country.

The moon is big news these days and the public can't get enough of it. Hundreds of local residents turned out for a week-long 'Moon Week' featuring a festive public event celebrating the 39th anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing on the moon on July 20, 1969. In September, thousands of space enthusiasts of all ages attended the second annual 'Return to the

Moon' family night.

Lunar science also made news in November, when we unveiled a 42-year-old iconic image of Earth taken by the Lunar Orbiter 1 spacecraft in 1966. The new Lunar Image Recovery Project, located here at the center, restored the image, using refurbished machinery and modern digital technology. This data may help the next generation of explorers as NASA prepares to return to the moon. Also in November, we celebrated Moffett Field's 75th anniversary and the return

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On the Inside . . .

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NASA unveils third-fastest supercomputer in the world



On Dec. 11, 2008, NASA Ames held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Pleiades, the world's third-fastest supercomputer. The ceremony was held in the NASA Advanced Supercomputing (NAS) facility at NASA Ames. Featured during the ceremony were brief remarks by, left to right, Bo Ewald, chief executive officer of SGI, Sunnyvale, Calif.; S. Pete Worden, Ames Center Director; William Thigpen, chief of the Engineering Branch, NASA Advanced Supercomputing Facility at Ames (in back); Walter Hussey, director of the Strategic Capabilities Assets Program at NASA Headquarters; Pat Gelsinger, senior vice president, Intel Corp., Santa Clara, Calif.; and Rupak Biswas, chief, NASA Advanced Supercomputing Division at Ames.

NASA photo by Dominic Hart

Google Lunar X PRIZE 'Mystery Team' revealed at Ames



NASA photo by Eric Janms

The X PRIZE Foundation revealed the identity of a "Mystery Team," (Next Giant Leap) competing for the \$30 million Google Lunar X PRIZE during a media briefing hosted at NASA's Ames Dec. 17, 2008. The Google Lunar X PRIZE is an international competition among privately funded teams to land a robotic craft on the moon. The craft must be capable of completing several mission objectives, including roaming the lunar surface for at least 500 meters and sending video, images and data back to Earth. Speakers included, left to right, Gary Martin, director of the New Ventures and Communications Directorate at NASA Ames; William Pomerantz, senior director X PRIZE Foundation; Mike Joyce, Next Giant Leap founder; Jeff Hoffmann, professor of practice at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and a former astronaut; Sean Murphy, Draper Laboratories; and John Roth, president of MicroSat Systems, Inc. For information about the Google Lunar X PRIZE, visit: www.googlelunarxprize.org.

Airborne observatory visit, lunar image restoration highlight 2008

BY MICHAEL MEWHINNEY

High profile visits by the world's largest airborne observatory and the California governor, opening the new NASA Lunar Science Institute at Ames, restoration of an iconic image of the moon taken during the Apollo era, and the return of airships to Moffett Field, were among the top stories for NASA Ames Research Center in 2008.

Airborne Observatory visit:

An estimated 3,500 people toured the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA), the largest airborne astronomical observatory in the world, during a rare visit to Ames on Jan. 14, 2008. The observatory consists of a Boeing 747SP aircraft modified to carry a 2.5-meter (98-inch) diameter telescope mounted in a chamber behind a retractable door on the left side of the aircraft. Science operations are scheduled to begin in 2009.

To view and download images and for additional information, visit: http://www.nasa.gov/centers/ames/news/releases/2008/08_02AR.html

NASA Lunar Science Institute opens:

NASA's new Lunar Science Institute opened on April 11, 2008. Having the NASA Lunar Science Institute based at Ames ensures that the center will play a key role in future exploration as NASA returns to the moon and later travels to Mars. As evidence of the significant interest in the moon by the American public, a 'Return to the Moon Family Night' held at NASA Ames drew thousands of local residents.

For additional information, visit: http://www.nasa.gov/centers/ames/news/releases/2008/08_25AR.html

Yuri's Night Bay Area

On April 12, 2008 approximately 7,000 people attended the 2008 Yuri's Night Bay Area event, making it the largest of 178 Yuri's Night celebrations held around the world. Young-minded

people celebrated space exploration with music, dance, technology and art. The celebration commemorated the anniversary of the first human space launch by Yuri Gagarin, the first space

Airship Ventures Arrival at Moffett Field/75th Anniversary

In October, the Airship Ventures Zeppelin arrived at Moffett Field where it is now based. On Nov. 21,



NASA photo by Dominic Hart



NASA photo by J.P. Weins



NASA photo by J.P. Weins

The world's largest airborne observatory the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) (top photo) briefly visited NASA Ames on Jan. 14, 2008. The public and news media were invited for a tour. A huge crowd, estimated at more than 3,500 persons, lined up to see and tour SOFIA (photo bottom left). Visitors admire the telescope assembly inside SOFIA (photo bottom right.)

shuttle mission and NASA's golden anniversary.

To view and download images and for additional information, visit: http://www.nasa.gov/centers/ames/news/releases/2008/08_31AR.html

California Governor visit:

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger visited Ames on July 14, 2008 to see first-hand how NASA helped firefighters battle widespread wildfires that raged throughout the state. During his visit, Schwarzenegger toured a flight simulator used to display visible light and fire imagery and saw a demonstration of the hyperwall-2, a high-resolution visualization system displaying images from the wildfires.

To view and download images and for additional information, visit: http://www.nasa.gov/centers/ames/news/releases/2008/08_63AR.html

2008, Ames celebrated Moffett Field's 75th Anniversary and naming of the new Airship Ventures Zeppelin airship.

To view and download images and for additional information, visit: http://www.nasa.gov/centers/ames/news/releases/2008/08_90AR.html

For more information and images, visit: http://www.nasa.gov/centers/ames/news/releases/2008/08_102.html

Lunar Image Restoration Project:

NASA announced in November that the new Lunar Orbiter Image Recovery Project at Ames has restored a 42-year-old image of Earth taken by the Lunar Orbiter 1 spacecraft in 1966. Using refurbished machinery and modern digital technology, NASA produced the image at much higher resolution than was possible when it was originally taken. The data may

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Employees and family members enjoy holiday festival at Ames



NASA photos by Dominic Hart

Ames Research Center initiated its first, new-look holiday festival at the center on Dec. 6, 2008. Attendees were treated to holiday-themed food items, the singing of Frances Busby and the Mountain View Madrigals (bottom left photo), the stylings of the Viajero Mariachi Band, and dance performances by the Grito De La Lectura to Folklorico Nacional Juvenil (top left photo) and the Peninsula Ballet Theatre (top middle photo). Younger attendees enjoyed a puppet show, magician (bottom middle photo), face painter, story teller, balloon man and visiting with Santa (right photo). The Ames Exchange sponsored the event.

NASA hosts holiday Cops Care event for sick children

BY JONAS DINO

NASA's Hangar N211 was once again transformed into the 'North Pole' for the annual Cops Care Cancer Foundation Christmas Fantasy Flight for children with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. The event was held on Saturday, Dec. 13, 2008 in the San Jose Police Department Air Support Unit hangar, N211, at NASA Ames.

Children from San Francisco Bay Area hospitals, including Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford, Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara Medical Center and Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland, were treated to a day of fun with their families complete with fun activities, food, drinks and music.

Highlighting the event was the arrival of Santa in a police helicopter, bearing gifts for each child and their siblings. Other activities included a 'bubble zone', jumper houses, face painting, carnival games and special access to police and fire department vehicles.

Police officers and firefighters from the San Jose Police Department and Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety greeted the children at Yahoo! Inc.'s Sunnyvale campus before



NASA photo by Eric James

Children enjoyed the festivities at the Cops Care Cancer Foundation Christmas Fantasy Flight held at Ames Dec. 13, 2008.

boarding buses to NASA Ames. Upon their arrival, special guests, including California Assembly member Alberto Torrico, local police officers, cartoon characters and more than 100 foundation volunteers, greeted the children and made each one feel like a VIP.

In addition, Yahoo! Inc., Sunny-

vale, Calif., provided check-in gifts for the children and the Cops Care Cancer Foundation gave each family gift cards to help purchase Christmas dinner and presents.

For more information, visit the foundation Web site at www.Cops-CareCancerFoundation.org

Ames scientists, researchers present at 2008 AGU meeting

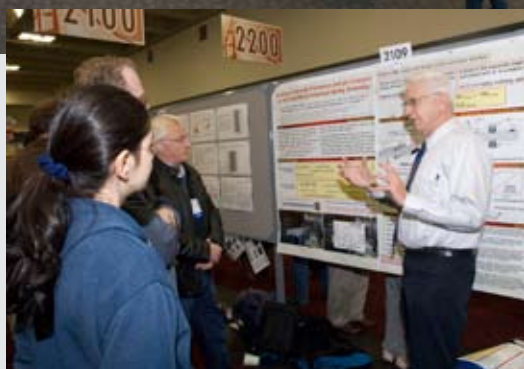
BY RACHEL PRUCEY

NASA Ames scientists, researchers and educators presented approximately 140 posters, conference sessions and media panel briefings on various Earth and space science topics during the Fall 2008 American Geophysical Union meeting, held Dec. 15 through 19 at the Moscone Center in San Francisco. News briefings held during the meeting featured the latest results from NASA missions studying Mars, the moons of the solar system's outer planets, Earth's protective magnetic field and the changing face of the Arctic.



Photo above: Fall 2008 American Geophysical Union meeting participants hustle and bustle through more than 180 Exhibits at the Moscone Center in San Francisco.

Friedemann Freund, a scientist at NASA Ames Research Center, gathers crowds as he discusses his poster about electric currents that go through rocks when they are stressed.



NASA photos by Eric James

Season's greetings from the Ames center director

continued from front page



NASA composite photo by Dominic Hart
The annual holiday star is a familiar sight atop Hangar One at Moffett Field in celebration of the holiday season.

of airships to the field with Airship Ventures Zeppelin.

This year, we celebrated the announcement that our Pleiades supercomputer was ranked the third fastest

supercomputer in the world – a significant achievement. We also welcomed visits by top government officials, including California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, who visited Ames to see first-hand how we helped firefighters battle fierce wildfires raging throughout the state.

As we look ahead to 2009, we expect to continue to make major achievements and significant contributions to the agency. Next year, we're launching a really cool mission called the Lunar CRater Observation and Sensing Satellite (LCROSS) that will slam into the moon near one of its poles. The data obtained from this mission will provide scientists with a wealth of information that will tell us a great deal about the lunar surface and help prepare NASA to put boots on the moon by the end of the next decade.

We're looking forward to seeing the Kepler mission begin its search for habitable planets in 2009 and SOFIA begin conducting airborne astronomy. We're continuing to forge key partnerships with some of the best and brightest companies on the planet. Needless to say, it's an exciting time to be here at NASA Ames.

So as we say goodbye to 2008, I want to express my sincere appreciation to each and every one of you for all your hard work and your numerous contributions that have helped make Ames NASA's premier research center. With all of us working together, I am confident that we can make 2009 even better. I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your families happy holidays and best wishes for the new year.

AA for Aero discusses past and future



NASA photo by Eric James

Dr. Jaikwon Shin, associate administrator for Aeronautics, came to Ames for a quarterly center visit on Dec. 3. He gave an all-hands address to the Ames employees in the morning. In his address, he discussed Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate programs and projects and plans for the coming year.

VMS rotorcraft research explained



NASA photo by Eric James

Employees were invited Dec. 17 to hear Bimal Aponso, chief for Aerospace Simulation Operations Branch (SimLabs/Code AFJ), discuss "Rotorcraft Research at the NASA Vertical Motion Simulator (VMS)." After nearly 30 years of operation, the VMS has significantly advanced rotorcraft research and increased the knowledge base about rotorcraft performance, handling qualities, flight control, guidance and displays.

Prognostics Day showcases technologies at Ames

The Prognostics Industry Day was recently held at Ames and was co-sponsored by the Intelligent Systems Division (Code TI) and the Entrepreneurial Initiatives Division (Code VP). There were more than 70 registered attendees. Prognostics Center of Excellence at Ames showcased technologies with various presentations and demonstrations. For more information, visit the Web at <http://ti.arc.nasa.gov/event/industry-day/>



NASA photo by John Schultz

Airborne observatory visit, lunar image restoration highlight 2008

continued from page 3

help the next generation of explorers as NASA prepares to return to the moon.

To view and download images and for additional information, visit: http://www.nasa.gov/centers/ames/news/releases/2008/08_99AR.html and also <http://www.nasa.gov/topics/moonmars/features/LOIRP/index.html>

NASA Team Receives Celebrated Collier Trophy

NASA was part of a team that received one of the most prestigious awards in aviation in June. Judges for the Robert J. Collier Trophy, awarded by the National Aeronautic Association, chose the Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast, or ADS-B, team of public and private groups to receive the 2007 honor. According to the selection committee, "ADS-B is a ground-breaking effort for next-generation airborne surveillance and cockpit avionics. Its implementation will have a broad impact on the safety, capacity and efficiency of the national airspace system." Researchers at NASA's Ames and NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., were part of the extensive team that developed and



NASA photo by Kyle Cavallaro

NASA's Lunar Science Institute opened at Moffett in Building 17 on April 11. The institute features teams of scientists across the U.S. collaborating in lunar science research and future lunar exploration.

tested ADS-B.

For more information, see http://www.nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2008/jun/HQ_08148_Collier_Trophy.html

Collaborations:

NASA Ames continues to forge key partnerships with some of the best and brightest companies on the planet, including its Silicon Valley neighbors, Google and Microsoft. Under an agreement with Google, NASA Ames is helping make NASA's vast archives of images and planetary data more

accessible to the public. NASA Ames also continues to collaborate with Microsoft to make images of NASA available to anyone with a computer.

Exploration:

NASA Ames continues to play a major role to support the space shuttle program with its work in thermal protection systems and the heat shields that protect the space shuttle during its fiery re-entry to the Earth's atmosphere. Public viewing opportunities of live broadcasts of space shuttle launches routinely attract standing-room only crowds at Ames and are expected to continue in 2009.

The Year Ahead:

Next year promises to be even more exciting for NASA Ames. In 2009, the Kepler mission will begin its search for habitable planets. Kepler is NASA's first mission capable of finding Earth-size and smaller planets. Also in 2009, the Lunar CRater Observation and Sensing Satellite (LCROSS) mission will begin its mission to the moon in search of water ice at one of the lunar poles. The data will provide scientists with a wealth of data that will tell us a great deal about the lunar surface and help prepare NASA to put boots on the moon by the end of the next decade. Also in 2009, NASA's airborne observatory, SOFIA, will begin conducting science flights in 2009. Next summer, NASA Ames will host the International Space University's Space Studies Program.



NASA photo by Eric James

Steve Hipskind, Earth Sciences director at NASA Ames, shows a fixed-base flight simulator to California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and explained how sensors aboard NASA's Ikhana remotely piloted unmanned aircraft are used to monitor California wildfires. Schwarzenegger visited Ames July 14, 2008, for a behind-the-scenes tour and briefings about NASA's support to firefighters battling California wildfires. Ames scientists collaborate with colleagues at Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, Calif., to send NASA's remotely piloted Ikhana aircraft on reconnaissance flights using sophisticated visual and thermal sensors to provide up-to-the-minute information to firefighters in the field.

Ames Ongoing Monthly Events Calendar

African American Advisory Group (AAAG) Mtg., every fourth Wednesday of each month, 12 - 1 p.m., Bldg. N255 Rm 101C. POC: Chair - Jim Busby, ext. 4-2792.

Ames Amateur Radio Club, third Thurs., of ea. month, 12 noon, N-T28 (across from N-255). POC: Michael Wright, KG6BFBK, 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 Thursdays at 6:20 p.m. Need substitute bowlers. Sign up questions: 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 Weds. 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., third Wednesday ea. month, noon. Bldg. N-247, Rm. 109. 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.

Moffett Aikido Club, Monday and Wednesday evenings, 6:30 p.m., Bldg. 944, across from former McDonalds. Aikido is a non-competitive, defensive martial art known as the "Way of Harmony." POC: Diane Pereda (650) 575-9070 or Robert Dean (650) 787-1007, email: mfaikido@aol.com

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.

Safety Data

NASA-Ames Occupational Illness-Injury Data for Calendar Year-to-Date 2008 Jan. 1, 2008 - Nov. 30, 2008

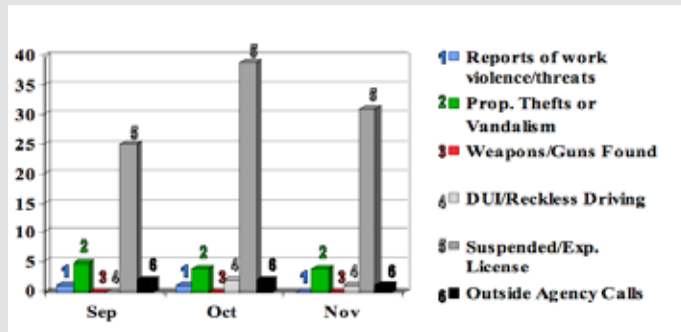
	Civil Servants	Contractors
First aid cases	21	17
Lost Workday cases	1	2
Recordable cases	3	5
Restricted duty days	0	3

Above data are as of Nov. 30, 2008. May be subject to slight adjustment in the event of a new case or new information regarding an existing case.

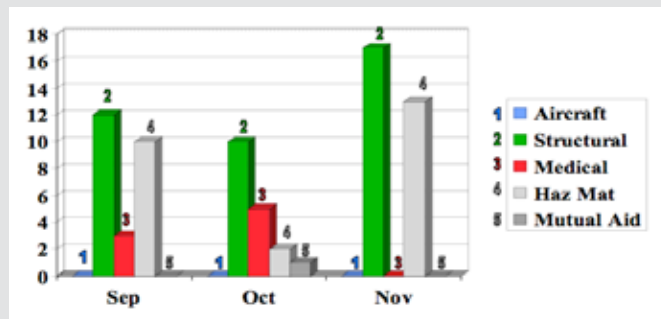
Protective Services monthly activity

A statistical summary of activities of the Protective Services Division's Security/Law Enforcement and Fire Protection Services units for the month of November 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

Private room for rent (12-foot-by-12-foot) w/ bath in north San Jose. Close to highways 880 and 101. \$750 a month. Call (650) 255-1977.

PM Challenge Exhibit Opportunities

PM Challenge invites internal NASA organizations to exhibit this year. Space is still available. Check out the PM Challenge Website <http://pmchallenge.gsfc.nasa.gov> For more information, please contact JoAnn.M.Carter@nasa.gov

For All Your Supply Needs On Installation
 NASA Ames Supply Store • Building N255 • DeFrance Ave. (North Side)

<p>Huge In-Store Selection 50,000 Catalog Items FREE on Installation Delivery</p>	<p>SKELCRAFT JWOD NAME BRANDS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office Products • Paper • Paper Products • Janitorial & Cleaning Supplies • Computer Accessories • Furniture & Tools
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AIB EXPRESS
 Retail Store 650-604-6801 • Fax 650-604-6802
 On-Line www.aibexpress.com

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.

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.

The NASA Lodge
 Rooms starting at \$45 a night.

Having a B-I-G family reunion and just run out of bedrooms and inflatable beds? Reserve rooms at the NASA Lodge

Ames employees and contractors can "book" their friends or relatives at the Lodge, and it doesn't have to be government or NASA related.

Let Us Welcome You!
 Call (650) 603-7100

<http://www.catermail.nasa.gov/booking.html>

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 twnhouse, 2 bd/2 ba plus study, decks, totally furnished, 3 blocks from beach, avail. 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.

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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.

Intrinsyx receives 2008 Small Business Industry award

BY CHRISTOPHER LEIDICH

Intrinsyx Technologies Corporation recently received the NASA Ames Research Center 2008 Small Business Industry Award (SBIA) Small Business Subcontractor of the Year. This award was presented in Washington, DC by NASA Deputy Administrator Shana Dale, to Arshad Mian, president and chief executive officer of Intrinsyx Technologies Corporation.

Intrinsyx Technologies Corporation is involved in all aspects of Constellation Data Systems Projects at NASA Ames, including: systems engineering, requirements management, enterprise architecture, IT security, semantic modeling and software development for a large number of enterprise applications. Intrinsyx is

also solely responsible for developing the Security Operations Center (SOC) Incident Management System implementation. In September 2008, two Intrinsyx personnel received an Ames Honor Award for their work with the Security Operations Center. Intrinsyx also is developing collaboration tools and data warehousing solutions for the Ames Aeronautics Division.

For more information on Intrinsyx Technologies Corporation visit: www.intrinsyx.com or contact Mike Schultz at (650) 210-9220.



NASA photo

From left to right, NASA Deputy Administrator Shana Dale; Intrinsyx Technologies Corporation President Arshad Mian; and NASA Assistant Administrator - Office of Small Business Programs, Glenn Delgado. Dale recently presented Mian with the NASA Ames Research Center 2008 Small Business Industry Award for Small Business Subcontractor of the Year.

NASA's Kepler spacecraft ready to ship to Florida

BY MICHAEL MEWHINNEY

Engineers are getting ready to pack NASA's Kepler spacecraft into a container and ship it off to its launch site at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla.

The mission, scheduled to launch on March 5, 2009, will seek to answer an age-old question -- are there other Earths in space?

"Kepler is ready to begin its journey to its launch site, and ultimately to space, where it will answer a question that has been pondered by humankind at least as long ago as the ancient Greeks," said James Fanson, the project manager for the mission at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif.

Kepler will monitor more than 100,000 stars for signatures of planets of various sizes and orbital distances. It has the ability to locate rocky planets like Earth, including those that lie in a star's "habitable zone," a region where liquid water, and perhaps life, could exist. If these Earth-size worlds do exist around stars like our sun, Kepler is expected to be the first to find them, and the first to measure their frequency.

"Kepler's mission is to determine whether Earth-size planets in the habitable zone of other stars are frequent or rare; whether life in our Milky Way galaxy is likely to be frequent or rare," said William Borucki, the Kepler science principal investigator at Ames.

Kepler is currently at Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. in Boulder, Colo. It passed all its environmental tests, ensuring that it is prepared for the harsh trip to space. It also passed what's called the "pre-ship review," meaning that it is ready to be shipped via convoy to Florida in early January. Its first stop will be Astrotech in Titusville, Fla., where the spacecraft will be processed before being carried to its launch pad at Cape Canaveral. Kepler will launch atop a Delta II rocket.

"An outstanding team of engineers overcame some difficult hurdles to achieve this considerable milestone," said Ball Aerospace Program Manager John Troeltzsch. "The culmination of this effort will put a spectacular mission in orbit designed to increase our understanding of the cosmos."

Kepler is a NASA Discovery mission. In addition to being the home organization of the science principal investigator, NASA Ames Research Center is responsible for the ground system development, mission operations and science data analysis. Kepler mission development is managed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. is responsible for developing the Kepler flight system and supporting mission operations.

For more information about the Kepler mission, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/kepler>



NASA/JPL/Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp.

The Kepler spacecraft shown at Ball Aerospace preparing to be shipped to Florida.



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Managing Editor.....Michael Mewhinney
Editor, Layout and Design.....Astrid Olson

You can reach the Astrogram Office at: astrogram@mail.arc.nasa.gov or by phone at (650) 604-3347.
Astrogram Web site: <http://www.nasa.gov/ames/astrogram>.