

# Spaceport News

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John F. Kennedy Space Center

Inside

## 2003 Spaceport News Summary

The 2003 Spaceport News used the above banner for the year. The Inside feature stayed for the year, with article titles and page numbers on the left hand lower side of the first page of the Spaceport News.

### Introduction

The first issue of the Spaceport News was December 13, 1962. The 1963, 1964 and 1965 Spaceport News were issued weekly. The Spaceport News was issued every two weeks, starting July 7, 1966, until the last issue on February 24, 2014. Spaceport Magazine, a monthly issue, superseded the Spaceport News in April 2014, until the final issue, Jan./Feb. 2020. The two 1962 Spaceport News issues and the issues from 1996 until the final Spaceport Magazine issue, are available for viewing at [this website](#). The Spaceport News issues from 1963 through 1995 are currently not available online.

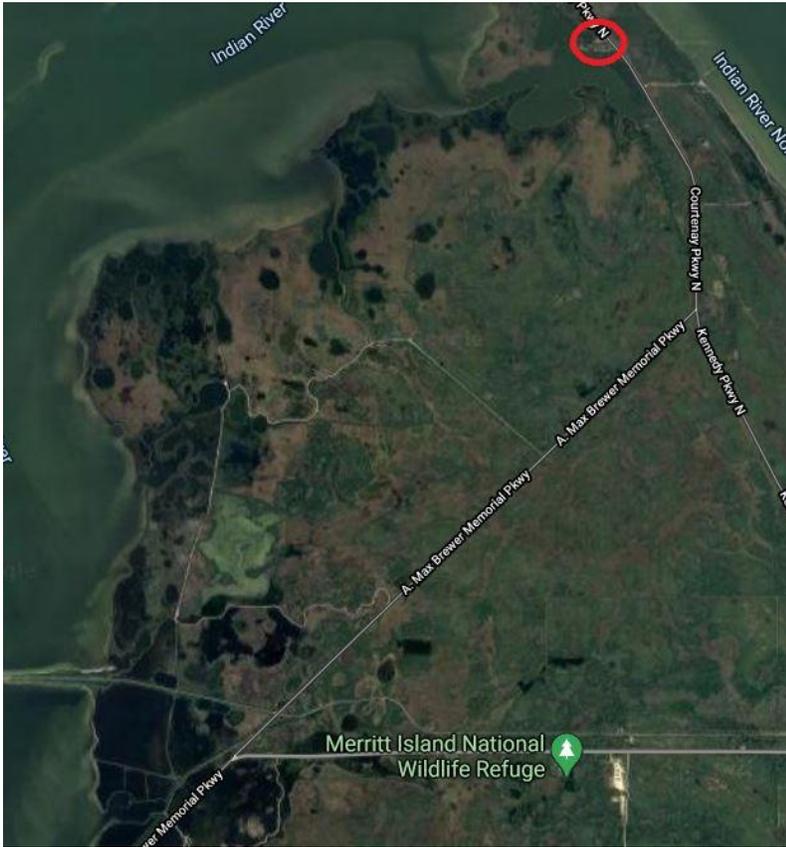
In this Summary, black font is original Spaceport News text, blue font is something I added or someone else/some other source provided, and purple font is a hot link.

All links were working at the time I completed this Spaceport News Summary. The Spaceport News writer is acknowledged, if noted in the Spaceport News article.

### Followup From the 2002 Spaceport News Summary

On page 41 of the 2002 Spaceport News Summary, there is the article "**Education Outpost dedicated to former KSC manager, space pioneer**", mentioning the Sandler Education Outpost. The exact location of the Outpost is not mentioned in the article, but with the help of Kristin Dean and Mike Womack, the location is now known. The first

photo below, from Google Maps, shows the Outpost location circled in red, north of KSC Gate 4, and on the west side of SR3/Courtenay Parkway North and the second photo is from Google Maps Street View. **Thanks a bunch John and Kristin!!!!**



## From The January 10, 2003, Spaceport News

On pages 1 and 7, “**STS-107 research mission**”. Part of the article reads “With hundreds of tests, and more than 40 experiments and payloads, some developed here at Kennedy Space Center, Space Shuttle Mission STS-107 is designated a research flight. STS-107 at press time was set to launch Jan. 16... Fifteen other STS-107 investigations will monitor space flight effects on basic body systems, specifically on cardiovascular and musculoskeletal systems...”.



“As part of In-Flight Maintenance training, members of the STS-107 crew check out one of the BioTube experiments that will be part of their research mission. From left (in uniform) are Payload Specialist Ilan Ramon of Israel, Mission Specialists David Brown and Kalpana Chawla, Pilot William “Willie” McCool, Commander Rick Husband, and Mission Specialist Laurel Clark. Also pictured are BioTube/MFA Project Engineer April Boody and Project Manager Dave Cox.”

On page 2, “**JBOSC Adopt-A-Child program**”.



“JBOSC employees donated Christmas toys for 513 children in the JBOSC Adopt-A-Child program. Pictured from left are program supporters Bill Sample, Susan Kroskey, Michael Butchko and Col. Thomas Eye.”

On pages 4, 5 and 6, “**Holiday Celebration and KSC Christmas Coffee**”. The first two photos below are from the Holiday Celebration and the other two photos are from the Christmas Coffee, held on December 10<sup>th</sup>, at the KSC Visitor Complex Debus Conference Facility.



On page 8, “**30 years ago: Apollo 17**”.

## Remembering Our Heritage



“Almost 30 years to the day after they took man’s last steps on the surface of the moon, Apollo 17 astronauts Eugene Cernan (second to right) and Harrison Schmitt (in front of Cernan) recounted their historic journey. The commander and lunar module pilot of the last Apollo flight to the moon made two special appearances at Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex Dec. 13.”

The following STS-107 mission patch and description are from Wikipedia.



“This is the insignia for STS-107, which is a multi-discipline microgravity and Earth science research mission with a multitude of international scientific investigations conducted continuously during the planned 16 days on orbit. The central element of the patch is the microgravity symbol,  $\mu\text{g}$ , flowing into the rays of the astronaut symbol. The mission inclination is portrayed by the 39 degree angle of the astronaut symbol to the Earth's horizon. The sunrise is representative of the numerous experiments that are the dawn of a new era for continued microgravity research on the International Space Station and beyond.

The breadth of science conducted on this mission will have widespread benefits to life on Earth and our continued exploration of space illustrated by the Earth and stars. The constellation Columba (the dove) was chosen to symbolize peace on Earth and the Space Shuttle Columbia. The seven stars also represent the mission crew members and honor the original astronauts who paved the way to make research in space possible. The Israeli flag is adjacent to the name of the payload specialist who is the first person from that country to fly on the Space Shuttle.”

## From The January 24, 2003, Spaceport News

On page 7, “**Presidential Management Interns**”. The feature says “The class of 2001 Presidential Management Interns (PMIs) hosted a conference at Kennedy Space Center Jan. 16-17 for all Southern Region 2001 PMIs.



In attendance were PMIs from the Centers for Disease Control, Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Transportation. Conference participants were invited to attend the Administrator's Briefing and meet NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe (pictured left at center). O'Keefe started his federal career

as a PMI and often refers back to his time in the program. Along with attending the Administrator's Briefing and launch, conference participants heard from a variety of former PMIs serving in various positions at KSC. Presenters were Rick Arbuthnot, director of Workforce and Diversity Management, Susan Kroskey, acting director of

Cape Canaveral Spaceport Management Office, and Janice Robertson, chief of the Central Budget Office.

The conference was organized by the 2001 Presidential Management Interns Matthew Lacey, VA, Dr. Doresa Perry, BA, and Randy Wasserman, GG. The PMI program was established by Executive Order in 1977 to attract to the Federal service outstanding individuals from a wide variety of academic disciplines who have an interest in, and commitment to, a career in the analysis and management of public policies and programs. By drawing graduate students from diverse social and cultural backgrounds, the PMI Program provides a continuing source of trained men and women to meet the future challenges of public service. Presidential Management Interns have completed a master's degree or Ph.D. and have committed to a career in federal service."

On page 8, "**Columbia launches STS-107 experiments**".



"...Space Shuttle Columbia is pictured as it rises above the launch tower on Launch Pad 39A on mission STS-107. Following a flawless and uneventful countdown, liftoff occurred on-time at 10:39 a.m. EST. The 16-day research

mission includes FREESTAR (Fast Reaction Experiments Enabling Science, Technology, Applications and Research) and the SHI Research Double Module (SHI/RDM), known as SPACEHAB. Experiments on the module range from material sciences to life sciences."

## **From The February 14, 2003, Spaceport News**

On page 8, "**Special issue**". The feature states "This special issue of "Spaceport News" is dedicated by the Kennedy Space Center family to the memory of the Columbia astronauts and astronauts lost in the Challenger and Apollo 1 accidents. The world has benefited and will continue to benefit because of these heroic astronauts' determination to fulfill NASA's mission of space exploration."

This Summary only covers several of the issue's articles. The article titles include "We will remember Columbia", "Columbia astronauts gave their all", "President George W. Bush comforts nation", "Sean O'Keefe shares his condolences", "KSC and the world

grieves”, “Investigation teams search for answers”, and “Columbia’s reentry stopped short”.

On pages 1 and 6, **“We will remember Columbia”**. In part, the article states “Kennedy Space Center workers and space program followers around the world were watching for the return home of Columbia and the STS-107 crew during the clear morning of Feb. 1. The astronauts’ families and others had gathered along the Space Shuttle Landing Facility runway to hear the twin sonic booms and see the fast approaching orbiter. Columbia was scheduled to land at 9:16 a.m. As that time came and passed, everyone continued to wait, wondering when the orbiter would appear...

The Mission Control Center at Johnson Space Center broadcast the message that Columbia had been lost. The public was warned to be careful of any debris that fell to Earth because it could be covered in toxic chemicals... Soon the nation and the world would be in shock over the loss of Columbia and the beloved crew the ship carried: NASA astronauts Rick Husband, William McCool, Michael Anderson, David Brown, Kalpana Chawla, Laurel Clark, and Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon...

Then NASA began a series of press briefings with Space Shuttle Program Manager Ron Dittmore, Chief Flight Director Milt Heflin and others to express concern for the families of the fallen astronauts and to thoroughly discuss investigations into what caused Columbia to break up during its reentry...”.



On the left, “The STS-107 crew exits the O&C Jan. 16: In front are Pilot William “Willie” McCool (left) and Commander Rick Husband (right). Following in the second row are Mission Specialists Kalpana Chawla (left) and Laurel Clark; in the rear are Payload Specialist Ilan Ramon, Payload Commander Michael Anderson and Mission Specialist David Brown.” On the right, “...are flowers, messages and photos guests left at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in a memorial to the Columbia astronauts, who lost their lives Feb. 1 during the orbiter’s reentry.”

On page 2.

## A statement from the families of Columbia

*On January 16th, we saw our loved ones launch into a brilliant, cloud-free sky. Their hearts were full of enthusiasm, pride in country, faith in their God, and a willingness to accept risk in the pursuit of knowledge – knowledge that might improve the quality of life for all mankind. Columbia’s 16-day mission of scientific discovery was a great success, cut short by mere minutes – yet it will live on forever in our memories. We want to thank the NASA family and people from around the world for their incredible outpouring of love and support. Although we grieve deeply, as do the families of Apollo 1 and Challenger before us, the bold exploration of space must go on. Once the root cause of this tragedy is found and corrected, the legacy of Columbia must carry on – for the benefit of our children and yours.*

On pages 4 and 5, “**KSC and the world grieves**”. Part of the feature says “Following the Columbia tragedy Feb. 1, people across the world began sending condolences to the astronaut families and the NASA centers, including Kennedy Space Center... A memorial was held at Johnson Space Center Feb. 4 and the Washington National Cathedral Feb. 6. KSC held its memorial service the morning of Feb. 7 at the Space Shuttle Landing Facility...



“...Kennedy Space Center managers and workers and community members listen to the Columbia crew memorial service held at Kennedy Space Center Feb. 7... Speakers for the event included, from left, NASA Associate Deputy Administrator for Institutions and Asset Management James Jennings, Florida Governor Jeb Bush, NASA Administrator Sean O’Keefe, Columbia’s first pilot and former KSC Director Robert Crippen, astronaut Jim Halsell and members of the clergy.”

On page 6, **“Investigation teams search for answers”**. A portion of the article states “NASA Administrator Sean O’Keefe announced a Mishap Interagency Investigation Board would provide an independent review of events and activities leading to the loss of the seven astronauts on board Space Shuttle Columbia Feb. 2, the day after the Columbia accident. All members of the panel, according to O’Keefe, are “Safety and Mission Assurance related officials in other departments of the Federal government, from the Air Force, the Navy, the Department of Transportation, and across the federal expanse.”...

Chairing the panel is U.S. Navy Adm. Harold W. Gehman Jr. The admiral co-chaired the independent commission that investigated the attack on the U.S.S. Cole in Aden, Yemen, in October 2000 and once served as commander-in-chief of U.S. Joint Forces Command... Under the umbrella of the Mishap Interagency Investigative Board, there are more than 20 investigatory teams working on the various aspects of the Columbia accident....

There is a Mishap Investigative Team based in Houston, at the Johnson Space Center... The recovery part of the investigation is under the direction of FEMA... A Rapid Response Team from KSC includes 80-plus engineers... Mike Leinbach, launch director, is leading the KSC teams... A Management Recovery Team at KSC is coordinating KSC technical support and assets to the Mishap Investigation Team...”.



“A Kennedy Space Center team works to support the investigation.”

## **From The February 21, 2003, Spaceport News**

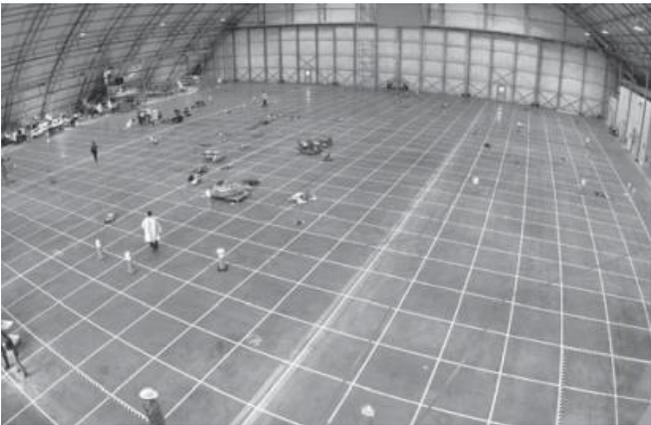
On pages 1 and 6, **“Investigators visit KSC”**. A portion of the story reads “Two trucks containing debris from the space shuttle Columbia arrived at Kennedy Space Center Feb. 12. They were the first to bring debris from Barksdale Air Force Base near Shreveport, La., to KSC where investigators are placing the pieces in relation to their original positions on Columbia. Members of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board (CAIB) also arrived at KSC Feb. 12. The group toured facilities, including the Orbiter Processing Facility Bay 2, housing the Shuttle Endeavour, and Bay 3, where Discovery is undergoing maintenance...”

Retired Navy Admiral Harold Gehman, CAIB chairman, spoke briefly with news media representatives. He said the CAIB wants to look at four things at KSC: launch procedures; Shuttle refurbishment between flights; the Columbia mishap reconstruction site; “and be sure in our own minds the process here for Columbia reconstruction meets our investigatory needs.”...



“Members of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board were in the Vehicle Assembly Building Feb. 13 to look over Space Shuttle Atlantis. In the center (gesturing) is the chairman, Retired Navy Adm. Harold Gehman Jr. The board visited sites at KSC to become familiar with the Shuttle launch process and elements. The independent board is charged with determining what caused the destruction of the Space Shuttle Columbia and the loss of its seven-member crew on Feb. 1 during reentry.”

Left to right in the above photo, are Bryan O'Connor (NASA HQ S&MA), Harold Gehman, Ruth Harrison (KSC), Scott Hubbard (CAIB Board Member) and Wayne Hale (Shuttle Program Management).



“The grid on which the pieces of Columbia debris will be organized is captured in this aerial view of the RLV Hangar floor. The debris has begun arriving at KSC from the collection point at Barksdale Air Force Base, Shreveport, La. As part of the ongoing investigation into the tragic accident that claimed Columbia and her crew of seven, workers will attempt to reconstruct the orbiter inside the RLV.”

On pages 2 and 6, **“Florida teachers celebrate at KSC”**. Part of the story reads “Jan. 24, the Florida League of Teachers kicked off its 10th anniversary celebration at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex Universal Theatre... The guest speaker, former astronaut Charlie Walker, enlightened the audience with his educational experiences and warmed his listeners with his open appreciation for the difficult role that they play as educators of the next generation of explorers. The Florida League of Teachers was organized in 1993 by the Florida Department of Education, Division of Human Resource Development to establish a vehicle for engaging some of Florida’s most outstanding teachers in statewide implementation of school improvement and accountability...”.



“Members of the Florida League of Teachers listen to the program at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex Universal Theater.”

On page 3, “**Wayne Hale new launch integration manager**”. In part, the feature

## **Recognizing Our People**

states “Veteran NASA Flight Director Wayne Hale has been named Space Shuttle Launch Integration manager stationed at the Kennedy Space Center. Hale replaces Astronaut Jim Halsell, who has begun training as commander of Space Shuttle mission STS-120. Space Shuttle Program Integration Manager Linda Ham served as acting Space Shuttle Launch Integration manager through the launch of Space Shuttle mission STS-107 and will continue in that role until Hale assumes full duties. The Space Shuttle Launch Integration manager oversees all launch preparations and has the final responsibility for a go or no-go decision at each Shuttle liftoff...”

Hale began his career at NASA in 1978 as a flight controller in JSC's Propulsion Systems Section. He served as a propulsion officer for 10 Shuttle missions, beginning with STS-2. He went on to head the Integrated Communications Section in Mission Operations and the Propulsion Systems Section before being named a Space Shuttle Flight Director in 1988. He has served as an ascent and entry flight director for 28 shuttle missions, most recently for mission STS-113 in November. He also has served as a lead flight director for three Space Shuttle flights....”.



“Kennedy Space Center’s new Space Shuttle launch integration manager is Wayne Hale, formerly a NASA flight director.”

## From The March 7, 2003, Spaceport News

On pages 1 and 6, **“Students pay respects to Columbia crew”**. Part of the article states “Sixth grade classes from the namesake of our fallen orbiter, Columbia Elementary School, visited Kennedy Space Center’s Visitor Complex Feb. 21 to honor the STS-107 Crew. The 100 Palm Bay students participated in an afternoon of dual-purpose activities. Not only did they gently remember the heroic astronauts, but they were also encouraged to fulfill the crew’s unanimous hope – to continue exploring Space despite challenges, and now, fears.

Kirstie McCool Chadwick, STS-107 Pilot William “Willie” McCool’s sister, provided a human connection to the lost crew for the caring students. She discussed her brother’s childhood and family life, and explained Willie’s academic and professional background... Before presenting Columbia Elementary with a print of the McCool family’s autographed STS-107 Crew photo, she shared her favorite memory about growing up with her brother. “We used to play Dungeons and Dragons all the time,” she said. “He always wanted to be the Dungeon Master because it meant he was in charge.”



“Columbia Elementary School students gather Feb. 21 at the Space Mirror at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex to honor the fallen Columbia astronauts.”

On page 8, **“OSB II ribbon cutting held February 25”**. In part, the story reads “Kennedy Space Center broke ground Feb. 25 on a new home for its Shuttle processing team, the Operations Support Building II (OSB II). The five-story, 189,000-square-foot complex will house more than 860 offices for NASA and contractor support staff involved directly in Shuttle operations. The new facility will replace modular housing constructed more than 20 years ago, buildings that have outlived their initial design life by more than 12 years...

The structure was facing critical safety issues, due to the wooden support structure’s exposure to two decades of central Florida weather. The temporary structures were due for replacement, and got final go ahead through NASA’s Safety and Health Initiative. “If

you are a little appalled looking at the outside, go in. It will literally take your breath away,” joked Center Director Roy Bridges in reference to the old facilities...”.



“Above, Kennedy Space Center Director Roy Bridges Jr. addresses attendees Feb. 25 at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Operations Support Building II. At top, manager ceremonially shovel dirt at the site. Pictured from left are William Pickavance (United Space Alliance), Mike Wetmore (NASA), Miguel Morales (NASA), Mike Sumner (NASA), David Wolfberg (Architect and Engineers Wolfberg, Alvarez and Partners), Bridges, Don Minderman (NASA). Not pictured is David Boland, head of the construction company.”

The heritage modular structures are in the background of both photos!

## **From The March 21, 2003, Spaceport News**

On pages 1 and 6, “**KSC managers visit East Texas recovery team**”. Part of the article states “Kennedy Space Center Director Roy Bridges Jr. and a group of senior NASA and contractor managers toured Columbia recovery sites in East Texas during the last week in March, boosting the morale of search and recovery workers... “When I

went to Texas to visit our NASA KSC Team of approximately 250 people, representing our civil service and contractor workforce, I found that we were integrated into an organization of about 5,300 people at Lufkin and four remote sites. Most of these were from the U.S. Forest Service, but many other federal agencies are represented by smaller numbers,” Bridges said...

About 40-50 KSC workers from NASA, United Space Alliance, the Boeing Co. and Space Gateway Support rotate in and out of the recovery team every week, said KSC Launch Manager Ed Mango, who is serving as KSC recovery director...Bridges' visit greatly boosted morale of all the workers because it showed them he cares about what's being done in the field and appreciates their efforts... Accompanying Bridges on the trip were David Culp, Don Myrick, Steve Minute, Doug Lyons, Bill Dowdell, Charlie Abner, Mike Butchko, Bob Herman, Chuck Fontana and John Elbon.”



“Roy Bridges Jr. and senior Kennedy Space Center managers visited Columbia search and recovery workers in the field March 27-29 to help boost their morale...Above, the team briefing is held in the Sabine National Forest (Bridges and Butchko pictured at right) prior to the morning search.”

On pages 1 and 7, **“Schirra, Lovell cheer KSC workers”**. In part, the story reads “Former astronauts Jim Lovell and Wally Schirra spoke to KSC employees March 3, offering encouragement to workers to help get the space program “back on its feet.” Through all their comments ran a theme of wonder at the scientific knowledge and ability of workers to work together to accomplish the feats of putting men and women into orbit and on the moon. They stressed it would take that kind of coordinated effort to find and fix the problem encountered by Columbia on its last mission.

Said Lovell, “In our present problem, we’ve got to look for a solution, fix it and then continue.... This is sometimes risky business, but the rewards that we get, the work that we do, the innovations and the technology ... that spills over to the private sector, are worth the risk.”... Lovell stated, “Things don’t always work the way you think they’re going to work and the only way to overcome the problems is to work hard and find the solutions to fix the problem and continue...”

Schirra recalled Gemini 6, and having to wait for another launch attempt after an Agena rocket exploded. Lovell said Apollo 8 was the high point of his career, recognizing “how great it was to work with the kind of people who can get us to the moon. “On Apollo 13 we learned something different,” he added. “We had the opportunity to work together (from space and on the ground) to face the crisis and get us back from an almost catastrophic situation.”



“Astronauts Jim Lovell and Wally Schirra give a thumbs up to KSC employees during their March 3 visit.” “In the RLV Hangar, looking over a piece of Columbia debris are (from left) Launch Director Mike Leinbach, Acting Deputy Director of External Relations & Business Development Lisa Malone, Space Shuttle Test Director Steve Altemus, reconstruction engineer John Cowart, and former astronauts Wally Schirra and Jim Lovell. The latter two visited several sites, encouraging workers to help get the space program “back on its feet.”

[Jeff Wheeler is in between Lisa and Steve.](#)

## **From The April 4, 2003, Spaceport News**

On pages 1 and 7, **“Debris collection develops under Leinbach’s leadership”**. In part, the article reads “As the grid at KSC’s collection hangar for Columbia continues to evolve, the challenging task of overseeing assessment of debris is handled by Shuttle Launch Director Mike Leinbach and his dedicated staff... “It is still fairly early in the process, so most of the people that work here on a daily basis have gotten used to the idea that this is the wreckage from Columbia,” said Leinbach. “We’ve gotten into the mode that this is our job now. We need to put the wreckage out on the floor and try to figure out what happened.”

The 150 people who work in two shifts six days a week are familiar with the grid and can make that mental connection of different areas of the orbiter laid out. They continue to get in two trucks a week, each with approximately 3,000 pounds, and go through the same process for every truck that arrives... “People who work at the Kennedy Space Center love the orbiters,” said Leinbach. “They become part of our family. From our aspect, we felt we lost an orbiter that we’ve worked on, crawled through and sweated over. It is an unusual feeling and one that is hard to describe.”...



“Shuttle Launch Director Mike Leinbach (second from left) and his dedicated staff have worked the past seven weeks assessing Columbia debris.”

On page 2, “**KSC team testifies to investigation board**”. A portion of the article reads “Kennedy Space Center Director Roy Bridges Jr. opened testimony before Columbia Accident Investigation Board (CAIB) members, chaired by retired Navy Adm. Harold Gehman Jr., at the third session in a series of public hearings... Bridges answered questions regarding KSC’s role in the Shuttle program, Shuttle ISS and Payload Processing, Expendable Launch Vehicle management and Shuttle safety. When asked about KSC’s safety practices, Bridges said, “Our number one guiding principle at KSC is safety and health first...”



“Center Director Roy Bridges Jr. testifies at Columbia Accident Investigation hearing held March 25-26.”

William Higgins, chief of the Shuttle Processing Safety and Mission Assurance Division, testified on the roles and functions of the division. Steve Altemus, Shuttle test director at KSC and NASA reconstruction director, provided an overview of the debris layout, identification and analysis efforts at KSC... Others who testified were Mike Rudolphi, deputy director, Stennis Space Center; Dr. Gregory T.A. Kovacs, associate professor of electronics, Stanford University; Mark Tanner, vice president and senior consulting engineer, Mechanical and Materials Engineering; and retired USAF Lieutenant General Aloysius G. Casey...”.

On page 3, "**Aerial debris recovery team suffers losses in Texas**". Part of the article says "The NASA family has expressed its sincere condolences when a Bell 407 helicopter involved in the search for Columbia debris went down March 27 in the Angelina National Forest in Texas. Pilot J. "Buzz" Mier of Arizona and Texas Forest Service Ranger Charles Krenek of Lufkin were killed in the accident. Three other crew members were injured and treated for non-life threatening injuries at Memorial Medical Center of East Texas, including Ronnie Dale, NASA Safety and Process Assurance Branch, KSC; Richard Lange, United Space Alliance, KSC; and Matt Tschacher, U.S. Forest Service...".

[This website](#) has a pretty thorough summary of what happened.

## **From the April 18, 2003, Spaceport News**

On page 3, "**Ronnie Dale returns**".



"Ronnie Dale (right) is welcomed back to KSC by Director Roy Bridges Jr. (center). At left is Andrew Thomas, deputy chief, Astronaut Office. Dale, with the NASA Safety and Process Assurance Branch at KSC, was aboard a helicopter that crashed while searching for debris from Columbia in East Texas in March. He was treated for nonlife-threatening injuries and recently released."

Also on page 3, "**Maggie recognized for Shuttle safety contributions**". In part, the story says "NASA Quality Assurance Specialist Larry Maggie received Kennedy Space Center's Quality Assurance and Safety Achievement Recognition (QASAR) award for discovering two displaced four-inch upper aft thrust structure bearings on Orbiter Vehicle OV-104, Atlantis, in 2001... What began as an unscheduled surveillance inspection resulted in several well-deserved recognitions. The first nod was an On-The-Spot Award accompanied by a monetary gift. The next acknowledgment was his work's eventual designation as KSC's "Best of the Best" QASAR recipient...

Finding the faults resulted in additional Structure Engineering inspections of all orbiters, and the fortunate discovery that the others were not defective. The two defective bearings were structurally modified, making OV-104 dependable again....".

## From The May 2, 2003, Spaceport News

On pages 1 and 3, “**KSC workers proud to be Reservists**”. A portion of the article reads “More than 50 NASA KSC civil servant and contractor employees are serving in the U.S. armed forces reserves. Some were called recently, while others have been serving for more than a year. Many are stationed thousands of miles away from home and family...”

Albert Gibson, NASA quality assurance specialist, is with the Combat Rescue Unit at PAFB. He was called to Air Force duty for one year in December 2001, with a possible 12-month extension. He returned home for the birth of his daughter, Taramina Kiara, and then was deployed to Asia in February 2002. He came home to be with his family for Christmas last year, returned to Southeast Asia shortly after and will serve through September...

Enrique Barnes, NASA quality assurance specialist, joined the U.S. Air Force Reserves in 1989 after three years in the Army, and was called to duty in Kuwait nearly three months ago... According to Barnes, his search and rescue missions involved an F-18 and A-10 aircraft, and several wounded Army soldiers. His work day is 12 hours with four hours of sleep “if you are lucky. The real heavy burden was the amount of maintenance and work in order to be ready for each mission.”...



“These four NASA KSC Quality Engineers (from left), Enrique Barnes, Matt English, William Feller and Al Gibson, are serving as reservists in the war with Iraq.”

On page 3.



“Members of the Columbia Reconstruction Project team show their team spirit around an enlarged replica of the STS-107 crew emblem delivered to the RLV Hangar. The...”

emblem is now on the outside front wall of the hangar. At press time, ground search teams have completed approximately 80 percent of their primary search area, airborne spotters have finished more than 80 percent of their assigned areas, and underwater search operations were completed. More than 70,000 items, weighing more than 78,000 pounds and about 37 percent of the Shuttle by weight, have been delivered to KSC for use in the investigation.”

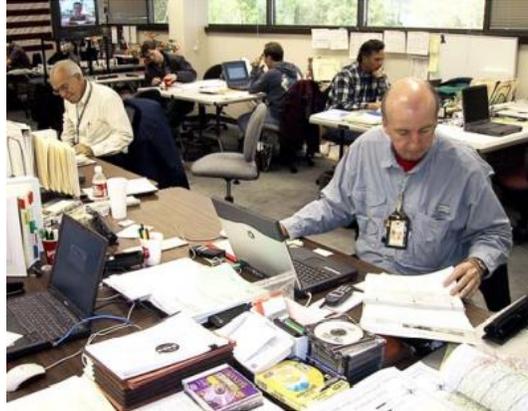
On pages 4 and 5, **“Recovery team in East Texas draws members, volunteers from KSC”**. A small portion of this issue’s article is shown here. In part, the article states “The major Columbia recovery efforts in East Texas required a cast of thousands and produced approximately 40 percent of the Space Shuttle by weight as the mission wound up in late April. Although the task was a somber one for workers from across the country, it was a challenge that often brought out the best in those who served in the field. “It showed us what happens when the country sees the vehicle on the ground,” said Kennedy Space Center Launch Manager Ed Mango, who served as recovery director for about three months. “We learned firsthand that people love the space program and want to support it any way they can.”...

After the first two weeks, the search was organized by coordinating federal agencies funded by FEMA. Teams of full-time and seasonal Texas and U.S. Forest Service workers were accompanied by space program and Environmental Protection Agency workers as they scoured woods and fields for Shuttle materials for about three and a half months... Full-time and seasonal U.S. Forest Service workers were up to the rigors of the search because of their experience over the years fighting fires. Their stamina and appreciation of the space program was an inspiration to space program workers, said Jeff Angermeier, who relieved Mango at the Lufkin Command Center...

NASA KSC’s Ronnie Lawson, who served as lead at the Nacogdoches site, said he experienced many touching moments during his tour of duty. “It has been so uplifting to me to see people of diverse cultures from all over the country work together for the common good,” said Lawson...”.



“...David Mclaughlin (left), Prototype Lab technician at KSC, listens to a coworker at the Hemphill site in East Texas before going to the field with his search team...”



“...Lisa DeVries uses a sensor to test a piece of Columbia at the Barksdale Hangar for toxic fumes. DeVries, on assignment at Barksdale, La., works with United Space Alliance Safety at KSC...” “...Eric Baker (right), a United Space Alliance project engineer at KSC, works at the Lufkin Command Center to track hazardous tank finds...”

Dennis Lombardo is to the left of Eric Baker, facing the same direction, in the one photo.

On page 6, “**Shuttle Program Manager to resign**”. A portion of the article reads “Ronald D. Dittmore, a 26-year NASA veteran, has announced his intention to step aside as the Space Shuttle Program (SSP) manager at the Johnson Space Center (JSC) in Houston to pursue other opportunities... “You get to work with some of the most capable and creative people ever gathered together in one place for one common cause, but you also recognize you cannot do this forever,” said Dittmore. “I think the coming months of return to flight activities and responding to recommendations and implementing corrective actions is going to be a very formative time frame for the Space Shuttle program. “It will be very important to have new leadership in place to have that foundation established...”



Ron Dittmore

Shuttle Launch Director Mike Leinbach has known the Shuttle Program manager since the late 1980s when Dittmore was the Ascent and Entry Flight Director. Leinbach recalls when Dittmore performed an ascent simulation in Mission Control at JSC that experienced technical problems. “He not only did the whole simulation without taking any notes, he led the flight control team through the entire debriefing, not reviewing any data at all, correcting his flight controllers when they erred in their troubleshooting for the problems,” said Leinbach. “It was an impressive show of his depth of technical understanding of the Shuttle systems and his natural leadership abilities...”

On page 7, “**KSC All-American Picnic enjoys beautiful day**”. Part of the story reads “Everything that is wonderful and fun about a picnic was on display at the annual KSC All-American Picnic April 26 at KARS Park – family and friends, delicious food, games, entertainment and great weather. NASA/ UB and the Boeing CAPPS team provided almost 200 volunteers under the leadership of Picnic Committee Co-Chairs Patrick Breen and Roy Tharpe... “During these hectic times, it was great to see so many people enjoying themselves in KARS Park with games, entertainment, shows and the opening ceremony Golden Knights Black Team jump,” said Tharpe...”

The crowd then started to arrive in time for the start of the parade featuring Center Director Roy Bridges Jr. and astronauts Mike Good, Doug Hurley, Soichi Noguchi, Janice Voss and Terry Wilcutt riding in a 1938 Ford fire truck...”



Left to right in the photo are Doug Hurley, Terry Wilcutt, Janice Voss, Roy Bridges, Soichi Noguchi and Mike Good.



## **From The May 16, 2003, Spaceport News**

On page 7, “**Spacehab dedicates tribute to Columbia crew**”. In part, the article states “The Spacehab Payload Processing Facility in Cape Canaveral unveiled a tribute to the flight crew of Columbia May 1 with employees, legislators and astronaut Pam Melroy. Within the facility, the STS-107 crew performed all the necessary training and testing associated with the payload components prior to the Research Double Module’s

(RDM) final integration into the Shuttle... After a posting of the colors by the Patrick Air Force Base Honor Guard, Marty McLellan, vice president of Spacehab Ground Operations, gave an invocation then welcomed the crowd....



“Astronaut Pam Melroy, Spacehab Ground Operations Vice President Marty McLellan and others unveiled the company’s tribute to the Columbia crew.”

Perhaps the most emotional moments of the tribute were when astronaut Pam Melroy gave her personal recollections of the STS-107 flight crew. “They were my friends. Three of them were my classmates going through Astronaut Training and the other three were in the class behind me. Of course, we knew Ilan because he had been with the office for several years, training for 107. They were all special people.”

Melroy described Commander Rick Husband: “Just the most spectacular person I’ve ever met in my life. One of the things you may not know about him was that he had a beautiful singing voice. I remember the first time that he sang for our astronaut class in a skit. When he opened his mouth, the entire class stared at him aghast because his voice was so beautiful...”

She then talked about Pilot Willie McCool, “who was the sweetest person in the office. “He never said a negative word about anybody or anything. He was so kind and thoughtful.”

Melroy also described Mission Specialist David Brown, who interviewed her the year she was selected to the Astronaut Corps. “One of my favorite stories about Dave was when we were going through the selection process, at the end of it only the nerviest group of interviewees dared to give a skit for the people who were interviewing us,” said Melroy. “He put together a skit, ‘The Top 10 Reasons Why You Weren’t Selected As An Astronaut,’ with himself playing the part of David Letterman, to whom he bore somewhat of a resemblance. “His number one reason was “you showed up at your interview wearing a Star Trek uniform.”...

[Spacehab Inc., is now Astrotech Corporation. The subject facility, at 620 Magellan Road in Port Canaveral, is now used by SpaceX.](#)

On page 1, "**LAST DELIVERY**".



"The final shipment of Columbia arrived at KSC May 6. Prior to this shipment, the number of items at KSC was 82,567, weighing 84,800 pounds. Of those items, 78,760 have been identified. The Disaster Field Office in Lufkin, Texas, is closed and a Columbia Recovery Office is being established at Johnson Space Center."

## **From The May 30, 2003, Spaceport News**

On pages 1 and 7, "**Columbia Board pays visit to debris hangar**". A portion of the story reads "Hoping to gain insight that led to its breakup, the Columbia Accident Investigation Board (CAIB) looked over the remains of the Space Shuttle May 17, paying close attention to the left wing. "We saw the things today which we believe are compelling pieces of evidence that tell us how the heat got into the vehicle and where the flaw started," said the chief investigator, retired Navy Adm. Harold Gehman Jr. Board members said it was their duty to see the wreckage one last time as a group before winding up their investigation and writing their final report..."



"In the Columbia Debris Hangar, Adm. Harold Gehman (third from right), chairman of the Columbia Investigation Accident Board, looks at Columbia debris. Gehman and the board visited KSC May 17 as part of the ongoing investigation. Flanking Gehman are U.S. Representatives Dave Weldon (left) and Tom Feeney (right), who accompanied the board."

Also in view in the photo is Mike Wetmore, in the background, between Representative Weldon and Admiral Gehman. Mike Leinbach is just to the right of Representative Feeney.

The gentlemen in the maroon shirt on the right is Woody Woodworth. **Thanks a bunch Armando Oliu!!!!** Shelley Ford is just to the left of Representative Feeney. **Thanks a bunch Tom Ford!!!!**

On page 2, **“Parsons named Shuttle Program Manager”**. In part, the article states “NASA recently announced the selection of William (Bill) W. Parsons as the new manager for the Space Shuttle Program. Parsons, the former director of the John C. Stennis Space Center (SSC), succeeds Ronald D. Dittmore, who announced his resignation April 23. Parsons has served as the SSC director since August 2002...

Parsons began his career in the United States Marine Corps as an Infantry Officer... In 1990, Parsons joined the NASA team at Kennedy Space Center as a Launch Site Support manager in the Shuttle Operations Directorate, worked as an Executive Management intern, and later as the Shuttle Flow director of the Shuttle Operations Directorate at KSC...”.



Bill Parsons

Also on page 2, **“Marshall Space Flight Center implements management change”**. A portion of the story says “NASA Associate Administrator for Space Flight William F. Readdy recently announced David A. King as the new center director for the Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Ala. King is currently Marshall’s deputy director and will succeed Arthur G. Stephenson when he steps down June 15. King, whose NASA career began in 1983, has held the number two position at Marshall since November 2002...

King has also played a key role in NASA’s Shuttle recovery operations in Lufkin, Texas, beginning earlier this year. He was dispatched to Lufkin within hours of the accident and immediately began serving as the senior on-site NASA official... Prior to serving as deputy director at Marshall, King was director of Shuttle processing at KSC... In addition to those duties, King reassumed the responsibilities as Shuttle launch director from July 1999 until the position was filled in August 2000...”.



Dave King

On page 8, “**Skylab 1 was first manned space station.**” In part, the feature states

## **Remembering Our Heritage**

Skylab 1 was launched on a modified Saturn V rocket from KSC into Earth orbit on May 14, 1973. The project was an orbiting space station comprising a cluster of four units. The units included the Orbital Workshop (OWS) containing the primary crew quarters and work areas; the Airlock Module (AM) containing an extravehicular activity port and the station’s control and monitoring instrumentation; the Apollo Telescope Mount (ATM) used as a solar observatory; and the Multiple Docking Adapter containing docking ports and controls for the ATM and earth resources instruments. The OWS was a converted Saturn IV-B rocket stage, 21.6 feet in diameter and 48.1 feet long...”

The following photo, provided with the subject article, is a neat view of Skylab, in the VAB transfer aisle.



“Skylab was an orbiting space station comprising the Orbital Workshop, Airlock Module, Apollo Telescope Mount and Multiple Docking Adapter.”

## **From The June 13, 2003, Spaceport News**

On page 1, “**Third grade student names twin Mars rovers**”. The article reads “NASA Administrator Sean O’Keefe was at KSC June 8 as part of the launch activities for the first Mars Exploration Rover, which was postponed due to weather constraints. At a press conference he unveiled the names of the two robots, Spirit and Opportunity.

Nine-yearold Sofi Collis of Scottsdale, Ariz., wrote the winning essay in a naming contest sponsored by NASA and the LEGO Co. that saw 10,000 entries. “Now, thanks to Sofi Collis, our third grade explorer-to-be, we have names for the rovers that are

extremely worthy of the bold mission they are about to undertake,” O’Keefe said. Sofi read her winning essay for the media. At press time the launch of the first Mars Exploration Rover, called Spirit, was rescheduled for June 10 at 1:58 p.m. EDT.”



“At a Mars press conference are, from left, Brad Justus, LEGO Co; Sofi Collis; Dr. John Marburger, science advisor to the President and director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy; and NASA Administrator Sean O’Keefe.”

The following photo is a better resolution of Sofi, with the NASA Administrator, from the web. [This article](#) is a story, from 2012, about Sofi, in the Phoenix New Times. Sofi was adopted as a young child from a Siberian orphanage.



On page 2, “**Space Station modules make way to KSC**”. In part, the feature says “After traveling thousands of miles, two major components of the International Space Station completed the first leg of a journey that will eventually end 240 miles above the Earth. NASA’s Node 2, built for the agency by the European Space Agency (ESA) in Italy, and the Pressurized Module of the Japanese Experiment Module (JEM) arrived in Florida and were transported to KSC...”

The arrival of Node 2, the next pressurized module to be installed on the Station, sets in motion the final steps toward completing assembly of essential U.S. components. When installed, Node 2 will increase the living and working space inside the Space Station to

approximately 18,000 cubic feet. It will also allow the addition of international laboratories from Europe and Japan... The JEM is Japan's primary contribution to the Station. It will enhance the unique research capabilities of the orbiting complex by providing an additional environment for astronauts to conduct science experiments. The JEM also includes an exposed facility (platform) for space environment experiments, a robotic manipulator system and two logistics modules..."



"Node 2, the pressurized module of the Japanese Experimental Module (JEM) is offloaded at the SLF."

On page 6, "**KSC Columbia Recovery Team reunites at KARS**". The article reads "The Columbia Recovery Team from the Cape Canaveral Spaceport gathered at KARS Park May 30 and were recognized for their hard work. KSC Director Roy Bridges Jr., astronauts and KSC Recovery Directors thanked the group for their efforts. Food, drink, prizes and entertainment were provided."



Roy Bridges and Jeff Angermeier are in view in the left photo. Danny Wyatt is in the colorful aqua shirt on the right.

## **From The June 27, 2003, Spaceport News**

On page 1, "**Bridges accepts new post at Langley**". In part, the story reads "Kennedy Space Center Director Roy D. Bridges has been named Center Director for

the agency's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va. Bridges, a retired U.S. Air Force major general and former Space Shuttle pilot, will assume his new duties Aug. 10. "My six-plus years with the KSC Team are the highlight of my career," said Bridges. "The people here have such a passion for the mission and produce amazing results. Clearly, there is no finer team on the planet, and I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to serve here for so long."

Bridges was named KSC Director in March 1997... As a NASA astronaut, Bridges piloted the Space Shuttle Challenger on mission STS-51F in July 1985... Bridges is a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, where he earned a bachelor's degree in engineering science. He received his master's degree in astronautics from Purdue University...".

A NASA Langley website states "...A retirement social in honor of Roy Bridges is planned for Dec. 14, 2005". [This Vail Symposium website](#) says "...General Bridges retired from Northrop Grumman on January 31, 2019, after a 13-year tenure...".



Roy D. Bridges

Also on page 1, "**Spirit begins seven-month trip to Mars**". Part of the article says "The first Mars Exploration Rover (MER-A), named Spirit, began its seven-month journey to Mars at 1:58 p.m. June 10 when its Delta II vehicle launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station... Spirit will roam a landing area on Mars that bears evidence of a wet history Spirit's twin, Opportunity, which is being prepared for launch no earlier than June 28 at 11:56 p.m. at press time, will be targeted to a separate site with different signs of a watery past....".



On page 6, “**Grand reopening and inductions highlight Hall of Fame Weekend.**” A portion of the feature says “A ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the grand reopening and the induction of four Space Shuttle astronauts highlighted Astronaut Hall of Fame Induction Weekend June 20-21. The festivities got underway Friday at the Astronaut Hall of Fame when 17 former astronauts helped KSC Director Roy Bridges Jr. cut the ribbon to signify the Hall as part of the Visitor Complex...

Story Musgrave, Sally Ride, Daniel Brandenstein and Robert 'Hoot' Gibson were added to the current class of 48 others enshrined in the Hall of Fame since 1990...

The standing room only crowd was treated to a stirring rendition of "America the Beautiful" and the "National Anthem" by the 100-member Philadelphia Boys Choir to open the ceremony. Actor Lance Henriksen, who portrayed astronaut Wally Schirra in "The Right Stuff," served as master of ceremonies for the event and introduced KSC Deputy Director James Kennedy for welcoming remarks...”.



Upper left, “...KSC Director Roy Bridges Jr. (second from left) and 17 astronauts cut the ribbon for the Astronaut Hall of Fame Grand Reopening June 20. Upper Right: Apollo 13 Cmdr. and Astronaut Scholarship Foundation chairman Jim Lovell (left) welcomes Story Musgrave into the Astronaut Hall of Fame. Below Left: Jim Lovell applauds as Sally Ride is introduced to the crowd at the June 21 Astronaut Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Bottom right: Daniel Brandenstein (center) and Robert "Hoot" Gibson are welcomed to the Astronaut Hall of Fame by member Robert Crippen.”

[Wikipedia](#) has a good read about the United States Astronauts Hall of Fame.

## From The July 11, 2003, Spaceport News

On page 1, "**Jim Kennedy named KSC Director**". Part of the feature says "William F. Readdy, Associate Administrator for Space Flight at NASA Headquarters in Washington, named James W. Kennedy as the new Director of Kennedy Space Center June 26. Kennedy has served as KSC's Deputy Director since November 2002..."

Prior to his assignment to KSC in 2002, Kennedy was deputy director of NASA's George C. Marshall Space Flight Center... Kennedy also served as project manager for major initiatives, such as the X-34 and the DC-XA... Kennedy first joined NASA in 1968 in the Aerospace Engineering Cooperative Education program at KSC. He earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Auburn University in 1972... After being called to active duty in the U.S. Air Force, he earned his master's degree in business administration from Georgia Southern University in 1977.



"Future KSC Director Jim Kennedy (left) shakes hands with current Director Roy Bridges Jr. following the announcement at the Training Auditorium. Kennedy will assume his new post Aug. 10."

On page 8, "**Storage of Columbia debris to be determined**". Part of the article reads "After the Apollo 1 tragedy occurred, the launch pad was used for another launch and then "abandoned in place" with a memorial plaque. Following the Challenger accident investigation, the debris was placed in two Minuteman missile silos and adjacent underground equipment rooms at abandoned Launch Complexes 31 and 32 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station (CCAFS). Now that Columbia debris reconstruction efforts at Kennedy Space Center are complete... the questions on many minds are where will the debris be stored?..."

"Several facilities are being considered for storage purposes," said Scott Thurston, Columbia Preservation Team lead with NASA. These include using a section of the current reconstruction hangar, the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) B Tower, the Spacecraft Assembly and Encapsulation Facility, an offsite lease building, or Complexes 31 and 32 silos at CCAFS. "The reconstruction hangar and the VAB are the most likely," said Thurston..."

To honor Columbia, Spaceport News will publish a 12-page color commemorative issue July 25. The issue will contain stories highlighting debris workers' experiences in the field, the efforts of the Reconstruction Team, the history of the first Space Shuttle and more...".



This is a view of Columbia's reconstructed remains in the Space Florida hangar at the Shuttle Landing Facility.

Getting ahead of things, Columbia's remains are stored on the 16<sup>th</sup> floor of A Tower in the VAB.

On page 4, "**NASCAR group visits KSC**



"Clockwise: Above, Winston Cup drivers (from left) Jimmie Johnson, Ryan Newman and Dale Jarrett visited the SSPF during a tour of KSC July 2."

On page 5, "**New flags in VAB pay tribute to military**". The article says "Two United Space Alliance (USA) fixed crane technicians, Brent Worlow and Bill Taylor, came up with the idea of installing the Armed Forces flags to pay tribute to the members of the NASA and contractor families who have served, or are currently serving, in the Armed Forces. The two employees purchased the flags with their own money and requested permission to install them in the VAB Transfer Aisle. Permission was obtained from

NASA, and a NASA flag protocol officer was consulted on the proper order of the flag display. The flags were framed by the Launch Equipment Shop and installed by the USA Mobile Cranes Shop.”



“New U.S. military flags on display in the VAB, from left, include branches of the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Prisoners Of War Missing In Action.”

On page 6, **“Shuttle engineer mentors winning team”**. A portion of the feature states “The Merritt Island Merrymakers, four sixth-grade girls from Tropical Elementary, swept the top three prizes in the Great Toy Challenge held June 21 in Northhampton, Mass. The group’s “Wet Your Pants” game won best in their category (Get Out and Play outdoor games and toys), as well as the Challenge Choice Award...”

Troy Heron, an orbiter logistics engineer in the Shuttle Processing Directorate, mentored the group to prepare for the event... The toy and game-design competition was created by the Sally Ride Science Club and Smith College to encourage students’ interest in engineering and science... “This was an outstanding result of the hard work that the young ladies have put in since last October,” said Heron. “The team and our toy were featured on ABC’s Good Morning America recently in a segment. They set our toy up on the sidewalk outside the studios in New York and actually played it.”...

“It was inspiring to see how these girls and boys embraced the challenge to engineer an original toy,” said Sally Ride



“The Merritt Island Merrymakers won first place at the Great Toy Challenge, a national engineering and science fair. The group received ribbons from Astronaut Hall of Fame member Sally Ride and include, from left, Megan Heron, Natalie Edinger, Sara Jones and Jamie Dodich.”

On page 8, “**Twin Mars Exploration Rover lifts off**”. Part of the article says “NASA launched its second Mars Exploration Rover, Opportunity, on July 7 aboard a Delta II launch vehicle. Opportunity’s dash to Mars began with liftoff at 11:18 p.m. EDT from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station... As of early Tuesday, July 8, Opportunity’s twin, Spirit, has traveled 48 million miles since its launch on June 10 and is operating in good health. Opportunity is scheduled to arrive at a site on Mars called Meridiani Planum on Jan. 25, 2004, three weeks after Spirit lands in a giant crater about halfway around the planet...”.



“Opportunity liftoff aboard a Delta II.”

## **From the July 25, 2003, Spaceport News**

On page 1.

### ***Special Issue***

This commemorative issue of *Spaceport News* is dedicated to the memory of Space Shuttle Columbia and her achievements, as well as the tireless workers who brought her home. As we prepare to return to flight, we also salute the employees of Kennedy Space Center who have supported the investigation.

This Summary will highlight a few articles in the issue. Some of the article titles include:

- Debris recovery team experience compelling events
- Coordinated recovery efforts key to Return to Flight
- Columbia was the first Space Shuttle to launch
- Inspirational messages flood KSC offices
- Students encouraged to carry on Columbia legacy
- Columbia remembered with inspirational messages

On page 1, **“Columbia: Flagship of the Shuttle Program”**. A portion of the story states “From April 12, 1981, with the crew of Bob Crippen and John Young, until Feb. 1, 2003, with the crew of Michael Anderson, Dave Brown, Kalpana Chawla, Laurel Clark, Rick Husband, Willie McCool and Ilan Ramon, the Space Shuttle Columbia flew 28 missions and set NASA on a new course of exploration. It arrived piggyback on a 747 at Kennedy Space Center on March 24, 1979, to a team who had never worked on this type of spacecraft.

Former Shuttle Launch Director Bob Sieck credits the first Space Shuttle with training the program team that is in place today: “It wasn’t just the technicians. . .who managed the operations and checkout. It was the project managers, the program managers, it was NASA, the NASA contractor team. Columbia trained us how to run a reusable vehicle program.” Shuttle Commander Rick Husband talked about his favorite moments on STS-107: “. . . watching everyone perform as a team. I really love seeing a team come together, and the bigger team who makes this entire mission possible is the team on the ground.”...



“Left: The crew of Columbia poses outside the orbiter during prelaunch training for mission STS-107. Clockwise from top are Mission Specialist Kalpana Chawla, Commander Rick Husband, Mission Specialists Laurel Clark and Dave Brown, Pilot Willie McCool, Payload Specialist Ilan Ramon and Payload Commander Michael Anderson.”

On page 4, **“Columbia reconstruction efforts at KSC will help Shuttles fly again”**, by Linda Herridge. In part, the story reads “Almost immediately following the Center’s Feb. 7 Columbia Memorial Service, NASA, United Space Alliance and Boeing workers started the labor intensive task of preparing the Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) Hangar for the arrival of Columbia debris. According to Steve Altemus, NASA-KSC reconstruction director, one of the reasons KSC was selected was because of the experienced workforce of engineers, technicians and quality inspectors who knew the vehicle “inside and out.”

Debris reconstruction preparations in the RLV Hangar, now known as the Columbia Hangar, included reconfiguring equipment and areas to make room for a 110 percent scale grid of the outer structure... The first truck carrying recovered debris arrived at KSC from Barksdale, La., Feb. 12... As debris was processed, it was tagged with a bar code and an identification number and the information was entered into the Columbia Reconstruction Database... Approximately 75 engineers and technicians were in the hangar at any given time. The team worked six days a week, in two eight-hour shifts, from Feb. 7 through the end of May to identify 84,000 recovered pieces from as large as landing gear to as small as a quarter. They processed 85,000 pounds of debris representing 38 percent of the dry weight of the orbiter...

“The reconstruction of Columbia was a monumental and painstaking effort. Imagine a giant puzzle that you’re trying to put together,” said Steve Altemus. “This team by far was probably the closest, well-adapted team I’ve ever seen. Being part of the reconstruction process helped to give us all a sense of closure in some ways.”...

“I have been associated with many teams in my 18-plus years at KSC and the Columbia Reconstruction Team is without a doubt the most courageous, creative and compassionate group of folks I have ever had the privilege to know and work with, bar none,” said Shuttle Launch Director Mike Leinbach...”



“The floor of the Columbia Hangar is full of pieces of Shuttle debris delivered from the search and recovery efforts.”



“Members of the Columbia Reconstruction Project Team seek to place a piece of debris from Columbia on this replica of the leading edge of the left wing.”

On page 10, **“Inspirational messages and information requests flood KSC offices”**, by Jennifer Wolfinger. Part of the feature states “The first bouquet of flowers arrived at NASA’s Protocol Office at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex a few hours after the loss of Columbia, and months later it’s overwhelming what that single compassionate act prompted... More than 500 institutions, including schools, sent heartwarming tokens, including cards, letters, drawings, paper doves and Space Shuttle models... In six weeks, more than 600 condolence cards arrived and several still arrive weekly... “The most precious and touching gift received was a ‘bouquet of hands’ by pre-school children from Bethany Lutheran Sunday School of Cranston, R.I.,” said Pat Christian...

KSC received numerous requests from the public and media for Columbia-related records pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)... As of mid-May, NASA received 432 requests. Many single FOIA requests seek dozens of documents, involving hundreds of pages, making the total requests quite substantial...”.



"Above, co-op student Amber Marek (left) and Claudette Beggs, XA team member, change out posters and mementos sent by groups across the country. Up to 50 posters are being circulated around KSC. Right, Pat Christian, External Relations and Business Development office, displays the “bouquet of hands” created by pre-school children from Bethany Lutheran Sunday School, Cranston, R.I.

The upper left photo is in the Launch Control Center lobby.

On page 11, **“Students encouraged to carry on Columbia legacy”**, by Jennifer Wolfinger. In part, the story says “Kennedy Space Center is reaching out to educate communities about the loss of Columbia and offering outlets for remembrance ensuring everyone understands the need for exploration to continue... Many schools have visited KSC’s Visitor Complex to honor the lost STS-107 crew and are encouraged to fulfill the crew’s unanimous hope – continuing space exploration despite challenges...

“Teachers are going through a revival of interest in teaching space-related topics, so as they reach the kids, the kids are reaching out to us for more information,” said Education Program Manager Patricia Gillis... “Teachers expressed that the Columbia tragedy was one of those events you can look back on in 10 years and remember exactly where you were when you heard the news,” said Gillis....

KSC engineers often venture to schools to describe their personal and professional NASA experiences... Shuttle fuel cells engineer Amy Houts Gilfriche encourages all KSC employees to exert a little effort to help the public understand NASA’s missions and clarify misconceptions. “Several people said they had no idea what we do in space, or if there were benefits from space exploration. We have a chance to encourage and inspire students to pursue their dreams,” explained Gilfriche, who recently spoke at two schools...”.



On the left, “Students from Columbia Elementary School in Palm Bay place flowers in front of the Astronaut Memorial Mirror at the KSC Visitor Complex.” On the right, “Students from Deerwood Elementary School in Florida present a quilt to KSC in memory of the Columbia crew. Pam Biegert (third on left of the quilt), chief, Education Programs and University Research Division, accepted the gift.”

## **From The August 8, 2003, Spaceport News**

On pages 1 and 3, “**Bridges' merits transformed KSC**”. Part of the story reads “On the eve of his departure as director of Kennedy Space Center, Roy Bridges Jr. stands as a beacon that helped to bring KSC closer to its vision and mission as NASA’s home for human spaceflight and unmanned launches. While serving as KSC’s director for nearly seven years, Bridges helped lay the groundwork for partnerships with state and local agencies and institutions of learning, helped transform the Center into a viable spaceport technology center, and led the KSC 2000 reorganization efforts...”

He was also a steadfast leader in environmental and safety and health issues, keeping in line with KSC's Guiding Principles... According to Bridges, NASA's emphasis on safety and health "started here before it became a big NASA-wide program... Bridges helped to consolidate NASA's Expendable Launch Vehicle programs at KSC, and KSC was named lead center in 1997... Another major accomplishment was making the vision of becoming a spaceport technology center a reality. "It started with the need for KSC to have a vision," said Bridges... Another example of a new partnership was the association with the state. The 50-Year Master Plan was a part of it...

"This team is up to the challenges, and I'm convinced that we will return to flight and be successful in continuing to open the space frontier," said Bridges."



"Congressman Tom Feeney, R-Oviedo, congratulates Roy Bridges Jr at a National Space Club dinner July 11 honoring the Director's contributions. If anybody can engender the sort of confidence that needs to be engendered for the future of manned space flight, it is Roy Bridges, said Feeney."

On page 2, "**Wetmore appointed launch integration manager**". In part, the article reads "Michael E. Wetmore has been named the new launch integration manager for the Space Shuttle program. He assumes the responsibilities of this role effective immediately. "Mike's technical expertise and high level of energy will be a great asset to the Shuttle program," said KSC Director Roy Bridges. "His leadership abilities will be an enormous benefit to the Agency helping to develop and implement NASA's plans for the Shuttle's return to flight."... Wetmore succeeds N. Wayne Hale, who was recently assigned as deputy manager, Space Shuttle program. Until a replacement is named, Wetmore will also maintain his current responsibilities as acting director of Shuttle processing at KSC..."



Michael E. Wetmore

On page 6, **“JoAnn Morgan retires after 45-year career”**. A portion of the story says “JoAnn Morgan, director of External Relations and Business Development at Kennedy Space Center (KSC), has retired from NASA after 45 years of service, including her appointment as the first woman senior executive at the space center. She has been in leadership roles at KSC for the past 20 years. “JoAnn’s career is a model of success,” said KSC Director Roy Bridges Jr. “She is the pioneer for all the female engineers at NASA. She is my hero, too. She has a passion for excellence that is rarely exceeded. She thinks ‘out of the box’ and makes things happen...”

Morgan entered the federal work force as a University of Florida student trainee with the Army Ballistic Missile Agency in 1958, and worked for NASA on the Mercury and Gemini programs. During her years in the Apollo, Skylab and Apollo-Soyuz programs, she was a key member of the KSC launch team... Morgan worked on teams at all the NASA centers and NASA Headquarters, including assignments at Marshall Space Flight Center and Langley Research Center. During the early part of her career, she spent 15 years on launch teams as an engineering member in instrumentation systems.”

On page 7, **“Take Our Children To Work Day”**.



“A number of activities were planned as part of this year’s Take Our Children To Work Day July 24, including fingerprinting, emergency vehicle displays and various activities at the Debus Center.”

On page 8, **“KSC activates new security gates and opens Space Commerce Way”**.



Part of the article states “Kennedy Space Center has completed construction of two new security gates on State Road 3 and State Road 405, complementing the opening of the Space Commerce Park and a new roadway. The new roadway, Space Commerce Way, will provide an alternate route for the general public

between Titusville and Merritt Island and be accessible by the general public 24 hours a day. The new gates and roadway opened Aug. 1.”...

The above photo is of Gate 2, on State Road 3.

On page 8.



“The Kennedy Space Center Store inside the Orlando International Airport terminal opened for business July 21. An extension of the Visitor Complex, the store will promote the space program to more than 26 million travelers who use the airport each year.”

## **From The August 23, 2003, Spaceport News**

On page 1.



“A farewell gathering was held Aug. 8 at the Debus Conference Facility for JoAnn Morgan, former director of External Relations and Business Development at KSC. Guest speakers spoke of Morgan’s 45-year career of NASA service and told personal stories. KSC Chief Financial Officer Napoleon Carroll (pictured) presented Morgan with various mementos from her career.”

On page 2.



“What a great two weeks it’s been since I was given the privilege to serve as the KSC Director... As I begin my tenure, I want everyone to know I consider communicating with you, the work force (civil service and contractor), a top priority. I plan on accomplishing this in several ways. I’ll utilize CD Comms and host periodic All Hands Meetings... An additional

medium for open and honest communications is the column you’re reading now. It will be a regular feature in Spaceport News, always appearing on page 2. Hopefully, you’ll

find the information useful... I'll use the column to keep you informed on important events, highlight upcoming activities and celebrate some of your great accomplishments...".

[Also on page 2.](#)



"From left, KSC Director Jim Kennedy, former KSC Director Roy D. Bridges and Brig. Gen. Greg Pavlovich, Commander of the 45th Space Wing, dedicate the Roy D. Bridges Jr. Bridge on NASA Causeway in honor of the man who helped establish the partnership between KSC and the space wing."

On page 7, **"Return to flight activities begin at KSC"**. In part, the story reads "As NASA gears up for a return to flight, a number of activities took place at Kennedy Space Center during the first week of August in anticipation of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board's final report later this month. A press conference was held Aug. 5 at the KSC Press Site in which NASA Deputy Administrator Frederick Gregory, NASA Associate Administrator for Space Flight William Readdy and NASA Associate Administrator for Safety and Mission Assurance Brian O'Conner talked about the Stafford-Covey Return to Flight Task Group (SCTG) and future Shuttle missions..."

"This morning we kicked off the General Stafford/Dick Covey Return to Flight Task Group (SCTG) in which we will perform an independent assessment of our actions to implement the findings and recommendations that will be submitted in the Columbia Accident Investigation Board's (CAIB) report that we anticipate this month," said Gregory...

O'Connor commented that the schedule for return to flight is important to keep personnel focused on their jobs. "Among the things we are looking at is how we are structured with the support program and how the Safety and Mission Assurance organization for Shuttle and our other programs are there to help with not only the program itself, but also with the certification of flight readiness," he said...

"As Roy Bridges moves up to the Langley Research Center, one of his main tasks will be to set up this NASA engineering and safety center to give us more engineering capability and a quicker response when we do need a second look at some of the technical issues we deal with on our major programs."...



“From left, NASA Deputy Administrator Frederick Gregory, NASA Associate Administrator for Space Flight William Readdy and NASA Associate Administrator for Safety and Mission Assurance Brian O’Connor discussed the issues facing the Agency for return to flight.”

## From The September 5, 2003, Spaceport News

On pages 1 and 2, **“CAIB Report released - - NASA will comply”**. A portion of the story reads “The Columbia Accident Investigation Board (CAIB) presented its final report on the causes of the Feb. 1 Space Shuttle accident to the White House, Congress and NASA on Aug. 26. The CAIB report concludes that while NASA’s present Space Shuttle is not inherently unsafe, adjustments are required to make the Shuttle safer in the short term...

“This KSC work force stands ready to the challenge ahead,” Jim Kennedy said... “We understand that for the safety of flight, for the future astronauts that will fly on the Shuttles, we must do business differently. We will stay focused on our number one objective of safety, and we will embrace change....

The report, which consists of 11 chapters, was the result of a seven-month investigation by the CAIB’s 13 board members, more than 120 investigators, 400 NASA and contractor employees and more than 25,000 searchers who recovered Columbia’s debris.



““We understand that things have to change,” said KSC Director Jim Kennedy in response to the Columbia Accident Investigation Board’s final report.”

On page 4, **“Texas family recalls recovery contributions”**. Part of the feature says “A tragedy sometimes brings out the best in humanity. And when the tragedy occurs in your own ‘backyard,’ the experience can be life-altering. That was the feeling relayed to workers at Kennedy Space Center by Roger and Belinda Gay of Hemphill, Texas, while they recently toured the Center... Hemphill, a town of approximately 1,100 people, is a close-knit community with “huge hearts,” according to Belinda. “People donated money, brought food every day and donated their time to work at the VFW Hall without hesitation,” said Belinda...

Residents joined the searchers in the field, walking side-by-side with U.S. Forest Service other agency workers, and the NASA team. Belinda, drawn to the search efforts and the people, joined in the first few days... According to the Gay family, a bond was formed between the searchers and the Hemphill community... So, many weeks after recovery efforts had ceased and searchers had returned home, the Gays, along with their son Chad, daughter Andrea, cousin Matt, and other relatives and friends, traveled to KSC. They came to see where orbiters are processed and launched, and to meet the workers...

Columbia’s nose cone and all seven crewmembers were recovered at or near Hemphill... The community plans to build a memorial site to honor the memory of the seven crew members, the Columbia vehicle and all its missions, the two recovery workers who also lost their lives and all the volunteers...”.



“From left: Roger Gay, son Chad, daughter Andrea, wife Belinda and Belinda’s cousin Milt Watts, tour the Columbia Debris Hangar during their Aug. 12 visit.”

The Patricia Huffman Smith NASA “Remembering Columbia” Museum in Hemphill, Texas, is at [this website](#).

On page 7, **“Why we send people to space”**, by N. Wayne Hale, acting deputy director of the Space Shuttle program. In part, the article reads “To the Space Shuttle Team: This is probably a good time to remember what we are about and why we do it. We are in the business of sending people into space - nothing more and nothing less. Actually, there is quite a bit more, but certainly nothing less. Is this a worthwhile activity?...”

I believe there are four major reasons to continue. First of all, NASA is an instrument of national policy. The United States determined to send people into space, even to the moon, as a demonstration of national will and of national capability.... Second, byproducts of developing space technology have improved the quality of life in our world.... Third, exploring space advances science. Contrasted to technological improvements, pure science helps us to understand our place in the universe and how the forces that shape our world work... Finally, space exploration – like all exploration – is about the human spirit. What is over the next hill? To inspire our young people and motivate our nation, the only objective is up. The new version of manifest destiny is to explore the universe...”.



“At the KSC Shuttle Landing Facility Wayne Hale (left), acting deputy manager of the Space Shuttle program, greets Ret. Navy Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr., chairman of the Columbia Accident Board, after his arrival.”

## **From The September 19, 2003, Spaceport News**

On pages 1 and 8, “**KSC hears NESC plans for return to flight**”. In part, the article says “Following the release of the Columbia Accident Investigations Board’s final report, NASA has issued its “Implementation Plan for Return to Flight and Beyond” as a response to the report. The Agency has also established the NASA Engineering and Safety Center (NESC) at Langley Research Center to address safety concerns. The NESC rolled out to several hundred civil service and contractor personnel at KSC’s Training Auditorium and thousands more via NASA TV, Sept. 8, during a presentation by Ralph Roe, special assistant to Langley Center Director Roy D. Bridges...”

“NASA’s Implementation Plan for Return to Flight and Beyond” is the Agency’s blueprint for acting on the recommendations from the CAIB and safely returning to flight... The CAIB issued 29 recommendations; the plan addresses every one of them...

According to Roe, the NESC will focus on engineering excellence. “Safety starts with engineering excellence. The NESC will touch every aspect of the Agency.” NESC’s purpose is to provide technical expertise to perform independent assessment of NASA’s programs. The scope of the NESC will include independent, in-depth technical

assessment, independent trend analysis, system engineering analysis, mishap investigations, and a focus on high-risk programs and projects... The NESC will operate from Langley Research Center, with the 10 NASA centers reporting to it



“Ralph Roe, special assistant to the Langley Center Director Roy D. Bridges, explains the function of the new NASA Engineering and Safety Center.”

On page 2, **“Discovery modifications are successful”**.



“Shuttle Program Manager Bill Parsons, right, is briefed on Orbiter Major Modifications (OMM) that were recently completed on Space Shuttle Discovery. From left are a Boeing representative; Bill Pickavance, vice president and deputy program manager, Florida operations, United Space Alliance (USA); and Mark Nappi, deputy associate program manager, ground operations, USA. The OMM work ranged from wiring, control panels and black boxes to gaseous and fluid systems tubing and components.”



“In the Orbiter Processing Facility, the processing team applaud the successful power-up of the orbiter Discovery. The vehicle has been undergoing Orbiter Major Modifications, in which systems were deserviced, disassembled, inspected, modified, reassembled, checked out and reserviced, as were most other systems onboard. The work includes the installation of the Multifunction Electronic Display Subsystem (MEDS) ñ a state-of-the-art glass cockpit.”

On page 4, “**Space Life Sciences Laboratory set for opening**”. [Part of the story reads](#) “From blueprints on paper to a work in progress, construction of NASA’s Space Life Sciences Laboratory, formerly the Space Experiment Research and Processing Laboratory at Kennedy Space Center is now complete, and the facility is ready for its new occupants... “I am gratified to see the Space Life Sciences Laboratory open for business,” said Jim Kennedy, center director. “This is a hallmark of the relationship between the state of Florida and NASA...”

Inside the life sciences laboratories, scientists and researchers will investigate and search for answers to several questions including: How does life respond to gravity and the space environment? What new opportunities can research bring to expand our understanding of the laws of nature and enrich lives on earth?... Biological experiments bound for the International Space Station, as well as other ground-based research, will be designed, built, and/or tested within the laboratories...”.



“Completed and ready for a ribbon cutting ceremony in October, the new Space Life Sciences Laboratory (formerly the Space Experiment Research and Processing Laboratory, or SERPL) will combine a state-of-the-art facility with world-class researchers to perform space-related research and provide spaceport technology that will have international applications.”

[A more current view from Google Maps 3D of the Space Life Sciences Lab is below.](#)



On page 8, "**Columbia debris moves from hangar to VAB**". A portion of the story says "Starting Sept. 15, members of the reconstruction team moved parts of Space Shuttle Columbia to the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) 16th floor 'A' tower for long-term preservation. The team is boxing and trucking the parts to the VAB very similar to the way the orbiter was brought from Barksdale, La., in large, tri-walled boxes..."

The debris will be stored in a 6,800-square-foot room inside the VAB. The project is scheduled to be complete before Oct. 1. NASA has received approximately 20 proposals from researchers hoping to study the debris. More than 83,000 pieces of debris were shipped to KSC during recovery efforts in East Texas and Louisiana. That represents approximately 38 percent of the dry weight of Columbia."



"Reconstruction team members gather one last time in the Columbia Debris Hangar where items will be transferred to storage in the Vehicle Assembly Building. About 83,000 pieces were shipped to KSC during search and recovery efforts in East Texas."

More information about the Apollo Challenger Columbia Lessons Learned Program (ACLLP) is available at [this website](#). If you click on some of the selections on the right hand side of the webpage, it will take you to more things, like the "Critical Knowledge inSight: Lessons and Legacies: Space Shuttle Columbia" video, a panel discussion with Wayne Hale, Mike Leinbach, Mark Kirasich, Kathy Lueders and Pat Forrester. The "Widow Provides Perspective on Columbia Accident" writeup is moving! There are also links to the CAIB report if you click enough.

## **From The October 3, 2003, Spaceport News**

On pages 1 and 4, "**NASA celebrates 45 years of service**". Part of the feature reads "On Oct. 1, 1958, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) began a rich history of unique scientific and technological achievements in human space flight, aeronautics, space science and space applications. Formed as a result of the Sputnik crisis, NASA inherited the earlier National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) and other government organizations, and almost immediately began working on options for human space flight..."

Kennedy Space Center has been an integral part of the 45- year history. Its origin got started on Aug. 24, 1961, when NASA announced its intent to expand the Cape Canaveral facilities for manned lunar flight, and other missions requiring advanced Saturn and Nova boosters, by acquiring 80,000 acres of land north and west of the Air Force Missile Test Center facilities at the Cape...”.



On page 3, “**Intercenter Walk/Run attracts more than 200**”. In part, the article says “This year’s Intercenter Walk/Run at the Shuttle Landing Facility had 203 people participate under cloudy skies. Spaceport employees enjoyed getting cooled off, as well as free massages and a catered dinner from Kelsey’s...”.



At left, runners leave the starting line. At right, the group enjoyed a catered dinner from Kelsey’s after the event.”

On page 5, “**Director conducts first all hands meeting**”. A portion of the article reads “KSC Director Jim Kennedy held an all hands meeting on Sept. 17 at the Training Auditorium, in which he addressed the Center’s return to flight efforts and other activities before giving the stage to Deputy Director Woodrow Whitlow, Shuttle engineer Tim Wilson and United Space Alliance’s Bill Pickavance to address other Agency issues...”

The director then shifted to his first priority - teamwork. Whether you’re government, contractor or academia, it doesn’t matter, we’re all part of this team, according to

Kennedy. "Team work is one of the themes today... "Fundamental to us being a team is that we have to develop trust for each other. If we don't trust the person we're dealing with, we will never be the team we want to be. Once we have that trust, we have to promote an environment where everybody feels free and comfortable speaking what's on their mind anytime, anyplace."...

Whitlow was followed on stage by Tim Wilson, deputy chief engineer for the Space Shuttle program and lead point of contact at KSC for the NASA Engineering and Safety Center. He started his speech by encouraging everybody to read the CAIB's final report and the Return to Flight Implementation Plan..."



"Representatives from the Shuttle program and contractor team are part of Center Director Jim Kennedy's first all hands meeting for employees. From left are Kennedy; Bill Pickavance, vice president and deputy program manager for United Space Alliance; Mike Wetmore, Space Shuttle launch integration manager; and Bert Garrido, associate director, Safety and Mission Assurance. They discussed where KSC stands in its progress toward return to flight."

## **From the October 17, 2003 Spaceport News**

[On page 2.](#)



**Jim Kennedy**  
Center Director

# The Kennedy Update

I'd like to bring everyone up to speed on the details of recent announcements made by NASA which affect our daily business at KSC. The Space Flight Leadership Council decided Oct. 3 to defer the return to flight launch date to no earlier than Sept. 12, 2004. This is a target date and could be adjusted if needed. NASA did this to ensure it complies

with the recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board and our own requirement to "raise the bar" in the safety arena. The eventual official launch date is milestone driven, not schedule driven...

I see everyone here as a part of the tremendous progress we are making for return to flight... I see it at the program level with our leadership making tough decisions as they did with changing the launch date... They aren't allowing anything but safety to drive the return to flight agenda, and it's the right way to bring our Shuttles back to space..."

On page 5, "**Huge quilt commemorating Columbia given to KSC**".



"Kathy Walsh, a Kentucky homemaker, and her family presented KSC with a STS-107 memorial quilt at the Visitor Complex on Oct. 8. For seven months, Walsh worked on this 10-foot by 16-foot creation, comprising fabric decorated by children and adults from all over the U.S."

On page 8, "**Pad A support building completed**". In part, the article says "A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place Sept. 30 to open the new Pad A Operations Support Building. The new building provides replacement work areas for personnel performing around the clock support of pad operations. The 30,000-square-foot facility supports approximately 160 engineering and technical personnel with office, shop, documentation storage and break room areas..."



"...Participants in the ribbon cutting (from left) included Krista Shaffer, NASA project manager; David Nash, president of Canaveral Construction; Conrad Nagel, chief Shuttle project officer; Scott Kerr, director of Spaceport Services; Dr. Woodrow Whitlow, KSC deputy director; Andy Allen, United Space Alliance associate program manager for ground operations; and Maurice Amozig."

The new buildings at Pad A are part of a larger project to replace substandard housing across the Center, including a new Pad B Operations Support Building and logistics facility..."

A view from Google Maps 3D of said building at LC39A is below, labeled as “SpaceX Horizontal Assembly Facility, as the facility is currently used by SpaceX. The Google Maps label is a misnomer as said building is more of an administration building, at least it was for Shuttle. The building labeled “SpaceX Falcon 9 & Falcon Heavy” below is really the Assembly Building for said SpaceX rockets.



## **From the October 31, 2003, Spaceport News**

On page 1, “**Mirror memorializes Columbia heroes**”. In part, the article reads “A sentimental dedication ceremony was held at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex to honor the crew of STS-107 by adding their names to the National Space Mirror Memorial. Rick D. Husband, David M. Brown, Kalpana Chawla, William C. McCool, Laurel B. Clark, Michael P. Anderson and Ilan Ramon were added to the existing 17 names on the mirror at the Oct. 28 ceremony...

Various dignitaries remembered the crew with speeches in front of the memorial, including KSC Director Jim Kennedy, Dr. Jon Clark and Associate Administrator for Space Flight William Readdy... Chairman of the AMF Charles Clemente, U.S. Rep. Dave Weldon and Associate Director of the Johnson Space Center John Young also spoke about the accomplishments of the crew, before Dr. Jon Clark, husband of Laurel Clark, spoke for the crew families..

“Within the NASA family, the 107 crew was viewed as much more than pilots and engineers,” said Readdy. “They were people who dedicated their lives to expanding the horizons of the frontier in space. They were our friends and colleagues. Readdy then accompanied Evelyn Husband to base of the memorial to place a wreath. A fly over of the Missing Man Formation was then performed by astronauts currently training at KSC.”



“Dr. Jon Clark (above), husband of STS-107 mission specialist Laurel Clark, spoke for the crew families at the Oct. 28 National Space Mirror Memorial ceremony while Dr. Stephen Feldman, president of the Astronauts Memorial Foundation, listens. William Readdy (right), associate administrator for Space Flight, and Evelyn Husband, wife of Columbia commander Rick Husband, place a wreath at the Space Mirror.”

On page 2, **“Columbia debris finds final home in VAB”**. A portion of the story reads “NASA has moved the Columbia Recovery Office (CRO) to Kennedy Space Center. By moving the CRO from Johnson Space Center to KSC, NASA has the storage and coordination of Shuttle debris at one location... “We are still interested in retrieving any debris reported by the public,” said Dave Whittle, chairman of the NASA Mishap Investigation Team and head of the CRO. “From the standpoint of those calling in, the change should be invisible...”



“The Columbia Recovery Office has moved from Johnson Space Center to KSC. More than 83,000 pieces of Columbia debris are stored inside the Vehicle Assembly Building.”

## From The November 14, 2003, Spaceport News

On page 5.



“VOLUNTEERS FROM the Cape Canaveral Spaceport Management Office (above) converged on the Salvation Army's Domestic Violence Center to take on various cleaning projects. Denise Coleman (right), an employee from KSC's External Relations and Business Development directorate, coordinates a card game at the Cuyler Senior Center in Mims as part of Days of Caring. Tiffany Lindsley and Pat Christian also helped out at the center.

On page 7, “**F.I.T. honors Columbia**”.



“FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY in Melbourne honored the Space Shuttle Columbia and its crew with a ceremony Oct. 28 by christening Columbia Village and its seven residence halls. Lani McCool (back row, left), wife of STS-107 Pilot Willie McCool, accompanied by her children and other family members, stand in front of the hall named for her late husband. Rick Husband, Laurel Clark, Michael Anderson, David Brown, Kalpana Chawla and Ilan Ramon also have residences named in their honor.

## From The November 28, 2003, Spaceport News

On page 1, “**Crawler and launch platform shake, rattle and roll**”. In part, the feature says “The first in a series of engineering data gathering tests was performed last week at KSC involving the Space Shuttle’s crawler transporter and the Mobile Launcher

Platform (MLP). The crawler transporter moved the MLP, carrying a set of twin solid rocket boosters, slowly out of the Vehicle Assembly Building in support of engineering analysis vibration tests on the crawler and MLP. The crawler moved along at various speeds up to 1 mph in an effort to gather vibration data as it left the VAB. The purpose of these rollout tests is to gather data that will be used to develop future maintenance requirements on the transport equipment and the flight hardware. Various parts of the MLP and crawler transporter have been instrumented with vibration data collection equipment...”.



“AS THE CRAWLER TRANSPORTER slowly moves the Mobile Launcher Platform (MLP) out of the Vehicle Assembly Building, the two solid rocket boosters on top are framed in the doorway. The move is in support of engineering analysis vibration tests on the crawler and MLP.”

Notice this is MLP-3, and also, the cross-beam, connecting the two SRBs, near the top of the boosters, at the forward ET-SRB attach point.

On pages 2 and 3, **“New lab provides a gateway to space research”**. In part, the story reads “The Space Life Sciences Laboratory was dedicated Nov. 19 in a ceremony hosted by Kennedy Space Center and the state of Florida. The 100,000 square-foot facility houses labs for NASA’s ongoing research efforts, microbiology/microbial ecology studies and analytical chemistry labs. Facilities for spaceflight experiment and flight hardware development, new plant growth chambers and an Orbiter Environment Simulator that will be used to conduct ground control experiments in simulated flight conditions for Space Flight Experiments also call the new lab home....

“Today we celebrate the dedication of the new Space Life Sciences Lab and a new era in education and economic partnership,” said Lt. Gov. Toni Jennings. “This new facility will greatly benefit Florida’s university community.” “The SLS Lab provides NASA’s gateway to space with operations and research capability to effectively use the International Space Station and take full advantage of research and commercialization opportunities,” said KSC Director Jim Kennedy...

The facility, completed in August, represents a partnership between NASA and the state of Florida.



“OFFICIALS WHO HELPED DEDICATE the Space Life Sciences Lab include (from left) Capt. Winston Scott, executive director of Florida Space Authority; Dr. Robert J. Ferl, director of Space Agriculture Biotechnology Research and Education (SABRE), University of Florida; Charlie Quincy, chief of the Biological Sciences Office, Kennedy Space Center; Jose Perez-Morales, NASA Project Manager for the Space Life Sciences Lab; Jim Kennedy, director of Kennedy Space Center; The Honorable Toni Jennings, lieutenant governor of Florida; Frank T. Brogan, president of Florida Atlantic University; and Dr. Samuel Durrance, executive director of Florida Space Research Institute.”

On page 2, **“Quilt stitched with memories of Columbia, crew for SSPF team”**. Part of the article states “Sandra Bodiford, a quality engineer in the Safety and Mission Assurance division of the ISS/Payload Processing directorate, and Tip Talone, KSC director of ISS/Payload Processing, stand next to her quilt “Tribute,” created in memory of Columbia and her seven member crew. When Talone saw the quilt, he suggested that it be displayed in the Space Station Processing Facility for all to see..



“BLUE FOR JUMPSUITS and orange for flight suits: Sandra Bodiford and Tip Talone stand by the quilt Bodiford created in memory of the STS-107 mission and crew. The quilt is on display in the SSPF.”

Bodiford started collecting the materials to make the quilt in March. She spent two hours a night and eight hours on weekends putting it together, and completed the colorful quilt in mid-September. The colors of the quilt were chosen as a salute to the astronauts. "Blue for their ground jumpsuits and orange for their flight suits," said Bodiford. The quilt contains patches from each of Columbia's flights and a commemorative first flight anniversary patch."

On pages 4 and 5, "**Return-to-flight crew can't wait to get the show on the road**". A portion of the feature says "The STS-114 crew, augmented by three new members, is in place for the Space Shuttle's Return to Flight mission. The group has been training at KSC over the past weeks. Three mission specialists have been added to the four astronauts already in training for the STS-114 mission planned for launch no earlier than September 2004. The new crew members, Andrew Thomas (Ph.D.), Wendy Lawrence (Capt., USN) and Charles Camarda (Ph.D.) join mission commander Eileen Collins (Col., USAF), pilot James Kelly (Lt. Col., USAF), and mission specialists Stephen Robinson (Ph.D) and Soichi Noguchi, of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, who were named to this flight in 2001...

"STS-114 was always slated to have a crew of seven. "But now, instead of three crew rotating on-and-off the International Space Station, all crew members will be dedicated to the STS114 mission objectives," NASA's Associate Administrator for Space Flight William Readdy said.

The major mission objectives of the STS-114 flight have shifted from International Space Station logistics and crew rotation to testing and evaluating new procedures for flight safety. This includes Shuttle inspection and repair techniques. It also includes a smaller set of Space Station tasks from what was scheduled before the Shuttle Columbia accident in February...".



"...STS-114 Mission Commander Eileen Collins signs autographs for workers in the OPF... STS-114 Mission Specialist Stephen Robinson looks closely at the tiles underneath the orbiter Atlantis."

## From The December 12, 2003, Spaceport News

On page 2.



“Season’s greetings everyone! While we have important work to accomplish, I hope everyone takes advantage of the Holiday Season to spend quality time with family and friends...”

A great deal of hard work related to the Columbia accident and return to flight was accomplished this year, and there is still a great deal of work ahead to return our Space Shuttle fleet safely to flight...

Remember, when people are in their twilight years, nobody ever looks back on life and says, “I wish I had spent more time at work and less time with my family.”...I know many of our people, whether NASA or contractor, are veterans and currently serve in the military Reserves. Some have even been called to duty in the Middle East this year. Please keep all of these brave men and women in your prayers, not only through the holiday season, but every day! They protect the very freedoms we all enjoy...

As we close out 2003, and on behalf of Dr. Woodrow Whitlow, Jim Hattaway and my wife Bernie, I’d like to wish everyone the joyous of holiday seasons and a prosperous 2004! God Bless you all!”

On page 3, “**FEW get the Christmas spirit early**”. In part, the article states “The Space Coast Chapter of Federally Employed Women (FEW) began filling stockings for the Salvation Army Christmas Kids in 1999. The first year, between 35- 50 stockings were filled by chapter members. Many of the group’s coworkers became interested in the project and volunteered their help. So each year, FEW solicits support for filling the stockings from other KSC employees...”



“THE SPACE COAST CHAPTER of Federally Employed Women (FEW) filled stockings for the Salvation Army Christmas Kid program. This group, including (from left) Renee Sawyer, Patti Lacanne, Cherry Lozanda, Melinda Smith, Dana St. Jean, Cris Dundys and Lisa Smith, helped fill the stockings.”

This year, FEW will be delivering 400 stockings, plus many shoe boxes filled with goodies and other gift items to the Salvation Army. The ISS/ Payload Processing directorate, under the guidance of Dana St. Jean, has exceeded the expectations of FEW, filling 100 stockings and coming up with the idea of filling shoe boxes when no more stockings were available. A special 'Thank You' goes out to all the KSC individuals that shared in the holiday spirit for this program."

On page 8, "**Lighthouse restored to original 1894 specifications**". In part, the article reads "Restoration work has begun at one of the oldest historical landmarks on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station - the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. Originally run by the U.S. Lighthouse Service and then the U.S. Coast Guard, the lighthouse became property of the U.S. Air Force in December 2000..."

Work was recently completed on the restoration of a small facility used as part of the lighthouse operation over a hundred years ago... The original and now-restored oil house is 16 feet in length, 12 feet in width and 18 feet in height. Within it on numerous shelves were the many containers of kerosene used to keep the flame of the lantern lit that burned within the center of the Fresnel lens... The fuel was carried in five gallon buckets by the lighthouse keeper up the 167 steps to the lantern room, where it was used to keep the wick of the lamp burning. It was brought to Cape Canaveral by boat every six months and stored in the oil house.,,

The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse is still a working aid to navigation. While the Air Force owns and maintains the lighthouse structure, the U.S. Coast Guard still maintains its modern optic..."



"BUILT IN 1894, the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse is the Spaceport's oldest historic landmark. Work was recently completed on the restoration of a small facility used as part of the lighthouse operation over a hundred years ago."

The oil house is just to the left of the lighthouse, at the bottom of the photo.