



Spaceport News

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John F. Kennedy Space Center

2005 Spaceport News Summary

The 2005 Spaceport News used the above banner for the year. The Inside feature which changed to an INDEX feature on the left-hand lower side of the first page of the Spaceport News was removed.

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 Spaceport Magazine, a monthly issue, superseded the Spaceport News in April 2014, until the final issue, Jan./Feb. 2020.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.

From The January 7, 2005, Spaceport News

This issue is a recap of 2004, by month. Several articles are highlighted below.

January

On page 3, "**NASA improves view of Space Shuttle launches**". Part of the article states "The space Agency added more cameras and digital resolution to track the

Space Shuttle as it lifts off from Kennedy Space Center. Along with two new camera positions to better examine the Shuttle's ascent, major improvements in tracking capabilities help in fulfilling recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board. Cameras at KSC are sited for short-range tracking (T-10 through T+57 seconds), mediumrange (T-7 through T+110 seconds) and long-range (T-7 through T+165 seconds)...

For Return to Flight, two new camera positions have been added to the northeast side of the pad. This ensures a view of the underside of the right wing and the area between the external tank and the orbiter to view any debris during its roll maneuver. Each camera is loaded with 400 feet of film. There are also 42 fixed cameras with 16 mm film."



"NASA camera operator Kenny Allen stands in the center console area of one of the recently acquired Contraves-Goerz Kineto Tracking Mounts (KTM)."

The following is some bonus information provided by Armando Oliu: "None of the short range cameras were manual, those were all remote controlled. Most if not all of the mid range, and definitely all of the long range ones were manually operated. The KTM in the photo was manually operated. In the photo Kenny is standing at the controller position. If he sat down he could see through the view port at the center of the KTM (just above the center two cameras). It had a wide angle view of the vehicle. There was always at least one video camera at each tracker...". **Thanks a bunch Armando!!!!**

March

On page 5, "**Discovery undergoes major technical upgrades**". Part of the story says "Through modifications and upgrades to Space Shuttle Discovery during its Orbiter Major Modification period, technicians made important improvements that will total more than a million hours of work. Discovery's overhaul, which began in September 2002, marks the first time an OMM was performed at Kennedy Space Center... Modifications range from the simple, such as changing a part's label, to something as complicated as the first-time changeout of the orbiter's rudder speed brake's operating mechanism..."

In the cockpit, a series of flatpanel displays called the Multifunction Electronic Display Subsystem replaced Discovery's original monochrome screens and tape meters...".



"Discovery undergoes its Orbiter Major Modification period."

August

On page 8, "**MESSENGER launches on Mercury mission**". Part of the story says "NASA's MESSENGER, designed to become the first spacecraft to orbit the planet Mercury, launched aboard a Boeing Delta II rocket from

Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Its goals include determining Mercury's composition and imaging its surface globally and in color. Launched Aug. 3 at 2:15 a.m. aboard a Boeing Delta II rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, the 1.2-ton spacecraft was placed into orbit 57 minutes after launch. During a 4.9 billion-mile journey that includes 15 trips around the Sun, MESSENGER will fly past Earth once, Venus twice and Mercury three times before easing into orbit around its target planet...".

[Wikipedia](#) has a good write-up about Messenger. Messenger's mission ended on April 30, 2015, when it ran out of propellant for maneuvering, and crashed onto the surface of Mercury.

December

On page 11, "**STS-114 Return to Flight astronauts train at Center**". The article reads "While training at the Center, the STS-114 crew poses with the employees in the Solid

Rocket Booster Assembly and Refurbishment Facility.



Kneeling at far left is Roger Elliot, director of design engineering for SRB Elements, United Space Alliance; next are Mission Specialists Stephen Robinson and Wendy Lawrence; Commander Eileen Collins; Mission Specialists Charles Camarda and Andrew Thomas; at center is Paul Gutierrez, associate program

manager in SRB Elements; Pilot James Kelly; Mission Specialist Soichi Noguchi; and astronaut Steven Frick.”

Steve Frick did not fly on STS-114. He was the pilot for STS-110 and the Commander for STS-122. He retired from NASA in 2015.

From The January 21, 2005, Spaceport News

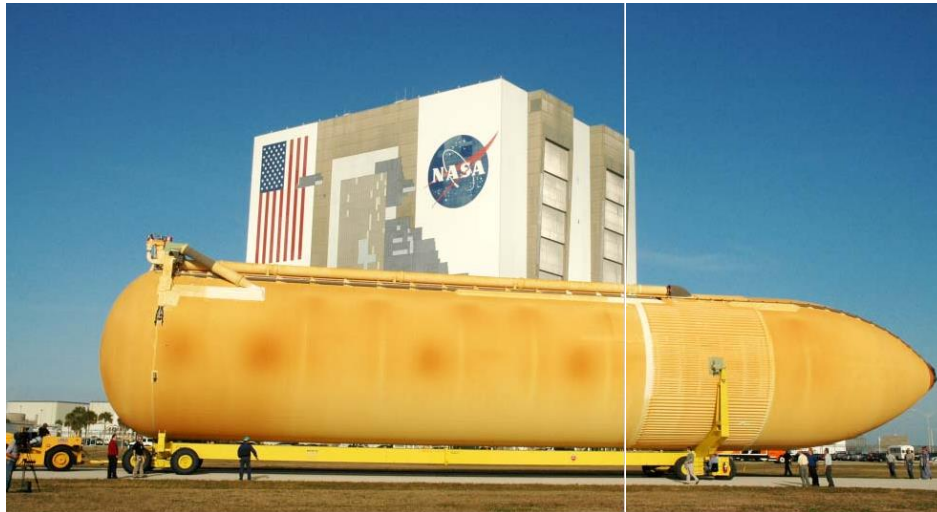
On pages 1 and 2, **“Deep Impact to provide its own Fourth of July fireworks”**. Part of the feature says “ASA’s Deep Impact spacecraft began its 268-million-mile journey to Comet Tempel 1 Jan. 12 when it launched into the bright afternoon sky aboard a Boeing Delta II rocket from Pad 17-B at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station...”



Deep Impact is comprised of two parts: a fly-by spacecraft and a smaller impactor. The impactor will be released into the comet’s path for a planned collision on July 4. The crater produced by the impactor could be as large as a football field and two to 14 stories deep... The fly-by spacecraft will observe the effects of the collision...”

On pages 4 and 5, **“Safest-ever Space Shuttle External Tank arrives at Kennedy”**. A portion of the story says “The External Tank that will hold the propellants for the Space Shuttle’s Return to Flight mission has reached its final Earthly destination: Kennedy Space Center... “This will be the safest tank we’ve ever flown, no doubt about it,” said Space Shuttle Program Manager Bill Parsons, who celebrated his birthday by watching the tank’s arrival...”

A crowd of eager spectators - media representatives, NASA and contractor executives and dozens of employees - gathered to watch the bulky tank emerge from the barge and begin its 30-minute trek to the neighboring Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB). In the VAB's 50-story transfer aisle, the tank was lifted vertically and placed into a "checkout cell," where it will begin final preparations for launch. Later, Discovery will be attached to the tank and the entire assembly will make the trek to the launch pad."



Of note, the VAB panels damaged by hurricanes Frances and Jean have been repaired in the above photo.

From The February 4, 2005, Spaceport News

On page 1, "**Remembering Columbia crew at Space Mirror Memorial**". Part of the feature states "At a public memorial service honoring the Columbia STS-107 crew Feb. 1 at the Space Mirror Memorial, Kennedy Space Center Director Jim Kennedy expressed to 300 members of the public in attendance that NASA has made safety its top priority as the Center looks toward Return to Flight... The Feb. 1 memorial service was hosted by The Astronauts Memorial Foundation and led by Dr. Stephen Feldman, the group's president. The crew of STS-107 included Rick Husband, Willie McCool, Michael Anderson, Kalpana Chawla, David Brown, Laurel Clark and Ilan Ramon, whose names are inscribed on the Space Mirror Memorial.



"CENTER DIRECTOR Jim Kennedy and Kirstie McCool Chadwick place a wreath at the base of the Space Mirror Memorial."

Kirstie McCool Chadwick, sister of Columbia pilot Willie McCool, said he had the time of his life while in orbit. "He loved to fly and he loved science," Chadwick said. "Since the mission was dedicated to science, Willie was living his ultimate dream. While the last two years have been incredibly difficult for my family, as well Willie's crewmates' families, I wish I could bottle up the love the nation has shown our families and share it with others in their time of need."...

On page 6, "**Fincke shares Space Station experience with work force**", by Cheryl Mansfield, Staff Writer". In part, the article states "...Mike Fincke was awestruck by men walking on the Moon and imagining himself as one of them. He's now NASA astronaut Fincke, the flight engineer for Expedition 9 who returned in October from a six-month stay aboard the International Space Station. For the U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel, the mission was the ultimate journey that truly made his childhood dream a reality. Fincke gave a presentation about his time spent in space to the Center's work force Jan. 26 at the Training Auditorium..."



"NASA astronaut Mike Fincke, the flight engineer for Expedition 9, talks to an employee during his Jan. 26 visit to Kennedy Space Center."

The path that led him from being a toddler watching the Apollo program unfold to flying aboard the Space Station came by way of hard work, including earning two bachelor's degrees and two master's degrees in astronautics and science... His ride to and from the Space Station - Fincke's first trip into space - was aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft. He holds the distinction of being the only U.S. astronaut to fly in space without ever having flown on a U.S. spacecraft...

"During our mission, we were first able to characterize the long-term effect of how muscle and bone are lost over time by using an ultrasound machine," said Fincke. But by far, the biggest and longest-lasting impression left by his days aboard the Space Station seems to be the view of planet Earth, in all its beauty - so much so that he took more than 21,000 pictures of the planet..."

Mike subsequently was the Commander for Expedition 18 and a Mission Specialist for STS-134. He is currently scheduled to fly on the Boeing Crew Flight Test (Boe-CFT) which will be the first crewed mission of the Boeing Starliner to the International Space Station, along with astronauts Barry Wilmore and Nicole Mann.

On page 8, "**NASCAR crew visits Kennedy**".



"WHILE TESTING for NASCAR takes place at Daytona International Speedway, crews from the racing circuit often tour the Center to learn about new engineering techniques and to see the Space Shuttle fleet up close. Pictured from left are crew members from Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s team, including H.A. Mergen, test engineer; Jay Gerst, engineer; and Tony Eury, crew chief, who commented when standing next to the Space Shuttle Discovery in the Orbiter Processing Facility, "Nothing goes much faster than this."

From The February 18, 2005, Spaceport News

On page 6, "**Space exhibit opens in Tampa museum**".



The story reads "STUDENTS FROM one of NASA's Explorer Schools, Stewart Middle School in Tampa, pose for a photo with other guests visiting the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) in Tampa. At left, in the back row, are former astronaut Dan Brandenstein, current vice president of Consolidated Space Operations Centers, and KSC Deputy Director Dr. Woodrow Whitlow Jr. In the center is Ronte

Smith, southeast regional sales manager for General Motors, and Gail Rymer, with Lockheed Martin. On the right are Dr. Adena Williams Loston, chief education officer at NASA Headquarters, and Wit Ostrenko, president of MOSI. The MOSI is featuring the space exhibits "Space: A Journey to Our Future," an extraordinary, interactive exhibition designed to entertain, educate and inspire; and "SPACE STATION," the first cinematic journey to the International Space Station in which audiences can experience for themselves life in zero gravity aboard the Station."

On page 8, “**O’Keefe leaves lasting legacy**”.



“NASA ADMINISTRATOR Sean O’Keefe’s many contributions to the Agency were highlighted in the "Administrator’s Farewell Celebration" Feb. 11, broadcast from NASA Headquarters. O’Keefe’s last official day as administrator is Feb. 19. "It is with great satisfaction that I prepare to leave NASA for a new path in my life’s journey, knowing that the foundation is set for an incredibly productive era of exploration and discovery," O’Keefe said.”

From The March 4, 2005, Spaceport News

On page 1, “**External Tank mates to boosters**”. A portion of the article states “NASA marked the first major step in assembling the Space Shuttle system for flight Feb. 28 by successfully mating the redesigned External Tank and twin Solid Rocket Boosters (SRBs) that will help launch Space Shuttle Discovery on its mission to the International Space Station in the May-June time frame... Following integration and final checkout of the External Tank with the SRBs, orbiter Discovery will roll over from the Orbiter Processing Facility later this month to mark the completion of Return to Flight processing. The orbiter then will be attached to the stack in the VAB...”.



“THE REDESIGNED External Tank is mated with twin Solid Rocket Boosters in the Vehicle Assembly Building. The tank and boosters will be attached to the Space Shuttle Discovery later this month.”

On pages 1 and 6, “**Retired KSC engineer earns place in Hall of Fame**”, by By Jeff Stuckey, Editor. A portion of the feature states “Since retiring from Kennedy Space Center, engineer Judy Kersey has enjoyed spending time in the rose and vegetable garden at her Cape Canaveral home... Kersey also enjoys cultivating young girls for a future in engineering, which has led to her selection by Florida Gov. Jeb Bush for

induction into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame March 15 in Tallahassee... Kersey was the first female guidance systems engineer in the history of NASA during the Apollo program. She retired in 1995 as NASA deputy director for Electronic Engineering after many assignments...

"A large amount of my time is now spent encouraging girls to go into engineering because of the importance of them having a choice in what they want to do," Kersey said. "Everyone at the Space Center should be encouraging their daughters, granddaughters and their neighbors that they can be anything they want to be and that engineering is a choice for them, too."



"JUDY KERSEY will be inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame."

Being one of the first female engineers at the spaceport, Kersey felt she had to earn her respect. When working as a new engineer during the ApolloSaturn days, she supported a test for the Saturn in the Central Instrumentation Facility. "We were going through a launch simulation and I tried to tell the senior engineer who was sitting on the console he was making a mistake," Kersey said. "Of course, he did not listen to me. The mistake manifested itself in a failure of the operation about an hour later. After that, they started to listen to me."...

On page 2, "**Endeavour temporarily moves to RLV Hangar**".



"THE ORBITER Endeavour arrives inside Florida Space Authority's Reusable Launch Vehicle hangar, where it is being held for temporary storage. Endeavour was moved from the Orbiter Processing Facility (OPF) to allow work to be performed in the OPF that can only be accomplished while the bay is empty. Endeavour was pulled out of service in December 2003 for Orbiter Major Modification (OMM). OMMs are scheduled at regular intervals to enhance safety and performance and, in this case, perform RTF modifications."

On pages 4 and 5, **“Return to Flight update: STS-114 crew tours facilities for close-up look at equipment”**, by Anna Heiney, Staff Writer. In part, the article states “All seven members of the STS-114 crew were busy at Kennedy Space Center last month, further familiarizing themselves with the spacecraft that will take them on the Space Shuttle’s Return to Flight mission... During the two-day... **Crew Equipment Interface Test (CEIT)**... event, the crew members spent the bulk of their time in the Orbiter Processing Facility, where orbiter Discovery is undergoing final preparations for its historic flight. The CEIT allowed the astronauts to work closely with the hardware they’ll be required to operate on orbit.

“We’re getting really excited about flying,” said Eileen Collins, commander of the STS114 mission to the International Space Station. “We’re going to have a great mission.”... The astronauts also stopped by the Space Station Processing Facility for a quick look at the payloads they’ll bring with them on their mission, including the Multipurpose Logistics Module Raffaello, a new Control Moment Gyroscope, several racks of experiments and other equipment and supplies...”



“AFTER LOOKING over some of the hardware in the Space Station Processing Facility, STS-114 crew members answer questions from the media. At the microphone is Commander Eileen Collins. Behind her are (from left) Mission Specialists Charles Camarda, Wendy Lawrence, Stephen Robinson, Soichi Noguchi (with the Japanese Space Agency) and Andrew Thomas, and Pilot James Kelly.”

From The March 18, 2005, Spaceport News

On page 1, **“Bush nominates Griffin as new NASA administrator”**. Part of the article states “President George W. Bush announced his intention March 11 to nominate Michael D. Griffin to be NASA’s 11th administrator. Griffin currently serves as Space Department head at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory... Earlier in his career, Griffin served as chief engineer at NASA and as deputy for technology at the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization. He received a bachelor’s degree in physics from Johns Hopkins University; a master’s degree in aerospace science from Catholic

University of America; and a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering from the University of Maryland, among other degrees.”



Dr. Michael D. Griffin

On page 7, “**Launch simulation keeps team sharp**”. Part of the article states “In Firing Room 1 at KSC, Space Shuttle launch team members put the Shuttle system through an end-to-end Mission Management Team (MMT) launch simulation... The simulation included L-2 and L-1 day prelaunch MMT meetings, an external tanking/weather briefing, and a launch countdown. The simulation transitioned to the Johnson Space Center for flight activities, with the STS-114 crew in a simulator at JSC.”...



On page 8, “**Bike Week extends to the Visitor Complex**”.



“MOTORCYCLISTS PARTICIPATING in this year's Bike Week had a chance to take a photograph in front the Space Shuttle on display at the Visitor Complex. Pictured is Center Director Jim Kennedy on his 2005 Harley Davidson Road King Classic.”

From The April 1, 2005, Spaceport News

On page 1, **“Discovery rollover to VAB symbolizes milestone”**.



SPACE SHUTTLE
Discovery enters the
Vehicle Assembly
Building early morning
March 29.

The article states “The orbiter Discovery recently rolled into the Vehicle Assembly Building, marking a major milestone in the march to Return to Flight. Inside the VAB, Discovery was mated to the External Tank/Solid Rocket Booster assembly for mission STS-114. Discovery is scheduled to roll out to Launch Pad 39B next week. The launch window for mission STS-114 is May 15 to June 3.”

On pages 1 and 6, **“KSC News Center skyline receives makeover”**, by Kay Grinter, Reference Librarian. A portion of the story says “Visitors to Kennedy Space Center may be surprised to find that the skyline has changed at the Press Site, located across from the Vehicle Assembly Building. Two longtime structures at the Press Site, the ABC Television Network’s skybox and the media grandstand, have been removed. Several other temporary structures are being replaced with permanent facilities...

A total of 130 launches from the twin pads at Launch Complex 39 - 17 of the Saturn V and 113 of the Space Shuttle - were viewed by the press from the grandstand beginning with Apollo 4, the first launch of an unmanned Saturn V rocket, on Nov. 9, 1967, and concluding with STS-107, Space Shuttle Columbia’s final launch, on January 16, 2003...”.



“THE NEWS CENTER media grandstand, built in 1967, had a seating capacity of 350. A total of 130 launches were viewed by the press from the grandstand, beginning with Apollo 4.”

On page 3, "**Howard, Lovell launch Apollo 13 DVD**".



"RON HOWARD (left), director of the film "Apollo 13," and Jim Lovell, commander of the mission, spoke to Visitor Complex guests March 22 for the release of the Apollo 13 anniversary edition DVD."

From the April 15, 2005, Spaceport News

On page 1, "**Nation watches Discovery's roll out to launch pad**". A portion of the article states "NASA's Space Shuttle Discovery arrived at its launch pad April 7 at 12:30 a.m., completing the next major milestone for Return to Flight of America's Space Shuttle program. "My personal feeling is just one of elation," said Mike Leinbach, Space Shuttle Program launch director... Once in place at the launch pad, the Shuttle team continued preparing Discovery for its scheduled launch, set for a window of May 15 - June 3."



"...Discovery, atop the Mobile Launcher Platform, slowly rolls out of the Vehicle Assembly Building April 6. First motion was at 2:04 p.m."

On page 2, “Respected author Covey discusses successful traits with management”.



“IN THE Vehicle Assembly Building, author Stephen Covey (center) looks up at the External Tank/Solid Rocket Boosters stack for mission STS-114. Human Resources Director Pat Simpkins (left) and NASA Space Shuttle Atlantis Vehicle Manager Scott Thurston accompanied Covey in the VAB. Covey and his executive assistant, Julie McAllister (at Covey's right), recently toured the Center.” “COVEY ALSO spent time discussing his book, "The 8th Habit." Seated next to Covey are, from left, Deputy Director Woodrow Whitlow Jr. and Center Director Jim Kennedy.”

On page 7, “NASA astronaut candidates tour Center”.



“THE 2004 class of astronaut candidates gather inside the Vehicle Assembly Building in early April as part of familiarization tours. The class of 14 candidates includes three candidates from JAXA and three educator astronauts.”

The 2004 class of astronaut candidates, per Wikipedia; “NASA Astronaut Group 19 was a NASA spaceflight team that saw the training of two pilots, six mission specialists, and three educator mission specialists to become NASA astronauts...”. Per a National Geographic article, “...Nicknamed by the previous cohort, “The Peacocks” were the last astronauts to fly the space shuttle and the first to be selected after the Columbia

disaster...". The aforementioned National Geographic article, "[HOW 'THE RIGHT STUFF' HAS CHANGED](#)", tracks the astronaut classes between 1959 and 2017, in some amazing detail. The last astronaut class was selected in 2017; "The Turtles". [Wikipedia](#) also breaks down the astronaut selection groups.

The following photo and caption, of the 2004 astronaut class, are from the mentioned National Geographic article.



"Front row, L-R: Robert L. Satcher Jr., Christopher J. Cassidy, Richard R. Arnold II and Robert S. Kimbrough. Back row, L-R: Jose M. Hernandez, Thomas H. Marshburn, Joseph M. Acoba, Dorothy M. Metcalf-Lindenburger, James P. Dutton Jr. and Shannon Walker. Not pictured is Randolph J. Bresnik

From The April 29, 2005, Spaceport News

On pages 1 and 2, "[Michael Griffin takes helm as NASA administrator](#)". A portion of the article reads "Michael D. Griffin reported to work April 14 as NASA's 11th administrator, becoming the Agency's new leader on the day the Expedition 11 crew launched to the International Space Station..."

During his confirmation hearing before the U.S. Senate, the administrator stated his priorities... • Fly the Space Shuttle as safely as possible until its retirement... • Bring a new Crew Exploration Vehicle into service as soon as possible after the Space Shuttle is retired... • Develop a balanced overall program of science, exploration and aeronautics at NASA... • Complete the International Space Station in a manner consistent with our international partner commitments... • Encourage the pursuit of appropriate partnerships with the emerging commercial space sector and • Establish a lunar return program having the maximum possible utility for later missions to Mars and other destinations...

[Michael Griffin](#) "...has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins University and George Washington University. He taught courses in spacecraft design, applied mathematics, guidance and navigation, compressible flow, computational fluid dynamics, spacecraft attitude control, astrodynamics and

introductory aerospace engineering. He is the lead author of more than two dozen technical papers, as well as the textbook, "Space Vehicle Design."



"NASA ADMINISTRATOR Michael Griffin (right) listens as Kennedy Space Center Director Jim Kennedy briefs him during a Space Shuttle Program meeting at KSC. Griffin said his first priority as administrator is Return to Flight."

On page 2.



"IN THE Orbiter Processing Facility, the STS-121 crew receives a briefing and up-close look at the Space Shuttle Atlantis. They include, from left, Mission Specialists Michael Fossum, Piers Sellers, and Lisa Nowak; Commander Steven Lindsey; Pilot Mark Kelly; and Mission Specialist Stephanie Wilson."

On page 7, "**USA's Beagley garners 2005 Debus Award at banquet**", by Jeff Stuckey, Editor. In part, the feature says "As winner of the 2005 Dr. Kurt H. Debus Award, Richard Beagley of United Space Alliance is touched by what the honor represents."



"2005 DEBUS Award winner Richard Beagley of United Space Alliance addresses guests at this year's banquet."

"I never met Dr. Debus, but he has always been a presence on the space program and his leadership qualities had an effect on all of us in the performance of our jobs," Beagley said... The National Space Club Florida Committee presented Beagley with the honor April 16 at the 16th annual Debus Award Banquet at the Kurt H. Debus Center...

"This is a bit overwhelming, to say the least," Beagley said after receiving the award. "It's unbelievable to me that I started some 40 years ago at Launch Complex 15 as a very young guy just out of the Navy and trying to establish a career in the aerospace business. Most of my memorable days, besides Shuttle, are with the Apollo Program. Roy (Tharpe) and I worked together for a long time and shared a lot of memories."

From The May 13, 2005, Spaceport News

This is a special [Return to Flight Spaceport News](#) issue. Several of the issue's articles are highlighted here.

On page 1, "**Discovery, crew ready to return Space Shuttle fleet to flight**", by Jim Kennedy, Kennedy Space Center Director. [In part, the article states](#) "...After more than two years of safety modifications and vehicle upgrades, Discovery stands poised for liftoff at Pad 39B, launching NASA and America's Space Shuttle Program back into space...The major focus of mission STS-114 will be evaluating new safety measures, including new inspection and repair techniques... Thanks for all you've done to ensure a safe mission and for sharing in the excitement as we embark on this exciting new chapter of NASA history...".



"MEMBERS OF STS-114: In front (left to right) are astronauts James Kelly, pilot; Wendy Lawrence, mission specialist; and Eileen Collins, commander. In back (left to right) are astronauts Stephen Robinson, Andrew Thomas, Charles Camarda and Soichi Noguchi, all mission specialist."

On page 6, "**Discovery undergoes 286 modifications**". [The article states](#) "While in the Orbiter Processing Facility, Discovery underwent 41 modifications in response to the Columbia accident and the recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board. They included the addition of the new Orbiter Boom Sensor System; equipping

the orbiter with cameras and laser systems to inspect the Shuttle's Thermal Protection System while in space; and placing sensors in the leading edge of the Shuttle's wings, a new safety measure that monitors the orbiter's wings for debris impacts. Discovery also completed its Orbiter Major Modification period. Technicians completed 107 modifications to Discovery, 17 of which will be flying for the first time. An additional 138 modifications were performed as well. "I could not be more proud of the team that spent the last two years working on Discovery," said Stephanie Stilson, NASA vehicle manager for Discovery. "We are excited to reach this point. Seeing the orbiter roll to the VAB is the culmination of all of that hard work. We look forward to a safe Return to Flight."



"STEPHANIE STILSON is the NASA vehicle manager for Discovery."

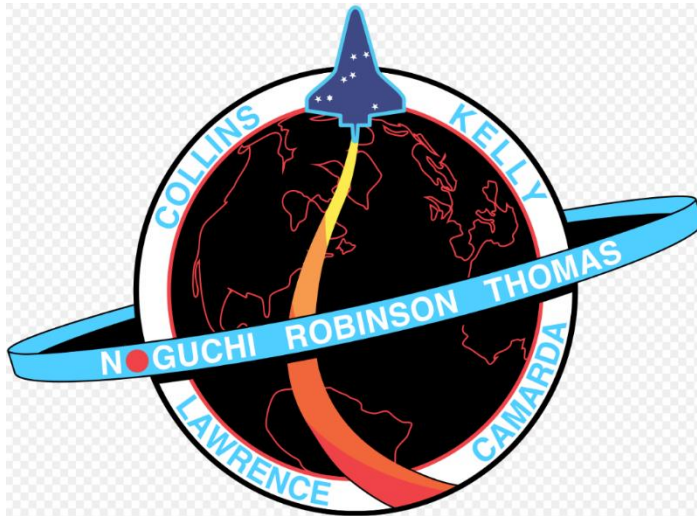
On page 8, "**Mendoza proud to part of NASA's vision**", by Jennifer Wolfinger, Staff Writer. A portion of the feature says "...Vehicle processing engineer Alicia Mendoza tracks vital signs related to the Space Shuttle's Return to Flight. She mainly monitors the pulse of Orbiter Processing Facility Bay 3 activities and resolves processing issues while meeting increasing technical requirements. The NASA civil servant is also involved in operational risk assessments, Process Failure Modes Effects Analysis, college recruiting and outreach, and the occasional speaking engagement..."

"Childhood dreams of becoming a fighter pilot or astronaut led me down the path of mathematics and sciences," she shared... Mendoza eagerly anticipates being at Kennedy for Discovery's launch, so she can feel the sound waves generated by liftoff... "It is a privilege to be a part of this major milestone in the U.S. space flight program to safely return the Shuttle to flight..."



"ALICIA MENDOZA, a NASA vehicle processing engineer, monitors Space Shuttle processing issues..."

The following STS-114 mission patch and description are from Wikipedia.



“The STS-114 patch design signifies the return of the Space Shuttle to flight and honors the memory of the STS-107 Columbia crew. The blue Shuttle rising above Earth’s horizon includes the Columba constellation of seven stars, echoing the STS-107 patch and commemorating the seven members of that mission. The crew of STS-114 will carry the memory of their friends on Columbia and the legacy of their mission back into Earth orbit.

The dominant design element of the STS-114 patch is the planet Earth, which represents the unity and dedication of the many people whose efforts allow the Shuttle to safely return to flight. Against the background of the Earth at night, the blue orbit represents the International Space Station (ISS), with the EVA crewmembers named on the orbit. The red sun on the orbit signifies the contributions of the Japanese Space Agency to the mission and to the ISS program. The multi-colored Shuttle plume represents the broad spectrum of challenges for this mission, including Shuttle inspection and repair experiments, and International Space Station re-supply and repair.”

From The May 27, 2005, Spaceport News

On pages 1 and 2, “**Return to Flight date signifies doing the right thing**”, by Wayne Hale, Space Shuttle Deputy Program Manager. A portion of the story reads “I don’t know about you, but I didn’t think it was going to take this long to get the shuttle flying again. Two years ago, the job seemed rather simple. Just a couple of months ago, I thought we just about had it in the bag. But recent events have set us back some, and dealing with that is tough... Late last year, when the preparations were being made to ship External Tank-120 to KSC as the Return to Flight tank, we knew there was insufficient data to determine the tank was safe to fly...”

But once the full analysis and testing on ice was completed and presented at the Debris Verification Review (DVR), there was no doubt that eliminating the ice from dangerous locations must be done. To be true to our commitment to safety, we have to stop and do this right... Remember what we have done in the last two years. It turns out that there are many areas - not just a few - where we had let our guard down to dangerous levels before STS-107 and didn’t realize it. Having taken a critical eye to every aspect of our

business, we uncovered the problems and then proceeded to pound them flat, and we will be tremendously safer because of this work...

It is not easy. I find myself slipping back into old, bad habits, especially when under stress, when fatigued, and mostly when frustrated. So look out for each other. Encourage each other. We succeed or fail as a team, not as individuals. I told you before that we should remember that “troubles produce perseverance, perseverance produces character, character produces hope, and hope will not disappoint us.” Don’t doubt it. The character that we will need to explore the universe in this and the succeeding generations is being formed today...”



“WAYNE HALE (left), Space Shuttle Deputy Program Manager, greets Retired Navy Admiral Harold Gehman, chairman of the Columbia Accident Board, after his arrival at the KSC Shuttle Landing Facility in February 2003.”

On pages 4 and 5, **“STS-114 crew simulates launch events during Terminal Countdown Demonstration Test”**, by Anna Heiney, Staff Writer. In part, the article states “In preparation for the Return to Flight mission, STS-114, the Space Shuttle Discovery crew spent three days at Kennedy Space Center in the first week of May participating in the Terminal Countdown Demonstration Test. This milestone, highlighted by a countdown dress rehearsal on May 4, marked the first time astronauts boarded a Shuttle on the launch pad in more than two years. “We had a very successful test,” said Commander Eileen Collins at the conclusion of the activities. “It felt to me like it was a real launch day, the way people were talking and handling issues as they came up.”...



“FOLLOWING THE emergency egress practice from the Fixed Service Structure on Launch Pad 39B, STS-114 crew members stand for a group photo on the 225-foot level. Pictured, from left, are Mission Specialists Andrew Thomas, Charles Camarda and Wendy Lawrence, Commander Eileen Collins, Mission Specialists Stephen Robinson and Soichi Noguchi, and Pilot James Kelly.”



“AFTER ARRIVAL at Kennedy Space Center, the STS-114 crew members are greeted by KSC officials. Seen from left are Deputy Director Woodrow Whitlow Jr., Commander Eileen Collins, Mission Specialist Charles Camarda (behind Collins) and Andrew Thomas, astronaut Jerry Ross, who is chief of the Vehicle Integration Test (VIT) office, STS-114 VIT Lead Robert Hanley, Shuttle Launch Director Mike Leinbach, and Center Director Jim Kennedy.”

On page 6, “**Astronaut Hall of Fame gains three new pioneers**”, by Charlie Plain, Staff Writer. A portion of the article states “Astronauts, employees and patriotic space enthusiasts gathered on April 30 to induct three American space explorers into the Astronaut Hall of Fame at Kennedy Space Center’s Visitor Complex. The event honored astronauts Joseph P. Allen, Gordon G. Fullerton and Bruce McCandless II with a ceremony highlighting their incredible achievement. Actor LeVar Burton of Star Trek: The Next Generation fame served as the event’s master of ceremonies...”.



“MEMBERS OF the Astronaut Hall of Fame are applauded by guests at the Astronaut Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony held at the Apollo/Saturn V Center. From left are Al Gordon, John Young, Walt Cunningham, Bill Anders, Owen Garriott, Ed Mitchell, Gordon Fullerton, Al Worden, Charlie Duke, Joe Allen, Jack Lousma, Bruce McCandless, Bill Pogue, Robert Crippen, Jim Lovell, Dan Brandenstein, Robert “Hoot” Gibson, Fred Haise and Stephen Covey.”

There are at least a couple of mixups in the photo IDs. Instead of Al Gordon, it is Dick Gordon, and he is on the far right front of the photo. Fred Haise is on the left, to the right of John Young. Ed Mitchell is to the right of Fred Haise. Walt Cunningham is to the right of Owen Garriott.

From The June 10, 2005, Spaceport News

On pages 1 and 2, **“Troops in Iraq show support for Return to Flight”**, by Cheryl Mansfield, Staff Writer. Part of the article says “You could normally find NASA engineer Bill McQuade at the Kennedy Space Center, where he works on the fuel cells that will power the Space Shuttle Discovery during its Return to Flight mission. But as the work continues on Discovery, McQuade is half a world away filling a far different role. He’s in Baghdad, helping to restore legal order as Lieutenant Colonel William McQuade, a reservist with the U.S. Army’s Judge Advocate General Corps...

Inspired by a January meeting with the STS-114 astronauts at Kennedy just before deploying to Iraq, McQuade and his Governorate Support Team in Baghdad have expressed their support by signing a “Go Discovery” banner sent to them by his co-workers at the Center... “There is great enthusiasm here for the upcoming Shuttle launch and great support for the space program, in general,” says McQuade. “So even here in the middle of a war zone in Baghdad, Iraq, the Shuttle Program is closely followed.”...



“THE “GO DISCOVERY” banner will be displayed at Kennedy Space Center, where Lt. Col. William McQuade (top row, second from left) works as an engineer. As an Army Reservist, he was deployed in January to Iraq and is serving with the U.S. Army’s Judge Advocate General Corps. Pictured from

left in the back row are: Spc. Rick Bennett, McQuade, Lt. Col. Bill Duddleston, 1st Lt. Davy Calkins (USAF), Lt. Col. Bill Stroud, Sgt. D.W. de Ganne, Maj. Todd Shattuck and Capt. Deanne Bryant. Pictured in the front row from left are: Ebel Shehab (translator), Sgt. Vanessa Ahrstrom, Capt. Eric Phillips, Capt. Brian Hilton (USAF), Capt. David Noteboom, Capt. Joseph Casabonne, Maj. Chris Lewis, Sgt. 1st Class Maier Reaves and Staff Sgt. Dominick Fernandes.

On page 1, **“Discovery attaches to new External Tank in VAB”**. The feature says “SPACE SHUTTLE Discovery is back in the Vehicle Assembly Building and was attached to a new, modified external fuel tank to ensure a safe Return to Flight mission. Discovery entered the VAB May 26 at 4:30 p.m. The 4.2- mile trip from Launch Pad 39B lasted approximately 10 hours. The rollback was the 15th in Space Shuttle Program history.



Technicians de-mated Discovery from its External Tank (ET-120) and Solid Rocket Boosters, then attached ET-121 afterward. ET-121 was scheduled to fly with the Shuttle Atlantis on the second Return to Flight mission. In the VAB, a new heater was added to ET-121 on the feedline bellows.”

On pages 3 and 7, **“Electrical engineer Nguyen relies on teamwork for success”**, by Jennifer Wolfinger, Staff Writer. [Part of the article states](#) “Lead Orbiter Electrical System Engineer Hung Nguyen has spent the past five years managing and executing a plan so workers can perform a baseline inspection of the orbiters’ wiring to measure its integrity. “Visual wire inspection is the best tool we have to detect wiring damage that may not be detected during functional testing,” said Nguyen...

Nguyen said he accomplished this important project through close collaboration with NASA, USA and Boeing orbiter electrical engineers and quality inspectors. “We are a team, and through teamwork we overcame many technical challenges to improve the integrity of the orbiters’ wiring system and improve the safety margin,” he said... Nguyen has been a NASA employee for 16 years. “I am overwhelmed with great pride, humbled by NASA’s lifechanging accomplishments, and proud to be associated with the men and women of KSC and all of the NASA family,” said Nguyen.



“HUNG NGUYEN, a NASA orbiter electrical engineer, teamed with United Space Alliance and Boeing employees to develop criteria for Space Shuttle wiring inspections.”

From The June 24, 2005, Spaceport News

On pages 1 and 4, **“With Discovery back at pad, launch day nears”**. In part, the story reads “With new safety modifications, the Space Shuttle Discovery is back at Kennedy Space Center’s Launch Pad 39B. Carried by a giant Crawler Transporter, Discovery arrived at the pad at 12:17 p.m. June 15 in preparation for its historic Return to Flight mission (STS-114) planned for July... “Seeing Discovery back on the launch pad is a visible testament to the dedication of everyone involved in making sure STS-114 is the safest mission it can be,” said Space Shuttle Program Manager Bill Parsons...

Discovery was de-mated from its previous External Tank (ET-120) and attached to a new External Tank (ET-121) on June 7. The new tank was fitted with temperature sensors and accelerometers to gather information about the tank’s performance and measure vibration during flight. “Returning Discovery to the launch pad is the last major processing milestone prior to launch,” said NASA Launch Director Mike Leinbach...

NASA plans to launch Discovery during a window from July 13 to 31. A launch date will be set during the Flight Readiness Review scheduled for June 29 and 30...”



“SPACE SHUTTLE Discovery moves into position on the hardstand of Launch Pad 39B. First motion for the 4.2-mile journey was at 1:58 a.m. on June 15. This is the second rollout of Discovery.”

On page 2. In part, the feature reads “Hi, everyone! What a wonderful sight it was



Jim Kennedy
Center Director

The Kennedy Update

to see Discovery heading back out to Pad B on June 15. I was privileged to ride on the crawler for part of the trip and it was a thrill... It is definitely time to get excited about STS-114. As I write this, we are set for launch at the opening of the launch window on July 13. I know our KSC team has worked hard to ready Discovery and her crew for a safe return to flight. I can’t wait to

see Discovery take her rightful place in space...”

On page 6, “**Spacesuit used for secret training program uncovered**”. Part of the feature states “A recent venture into a long locked room at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station uncovered interesting artifacts of a by-gone era: retired spacesuits from Americans who trained in the 1960s to be astronauts aboard an Air Force orbiting reconnaissance laboratory... Investigators started looking into who owned the spacesuits...

The manufacturer, however, determined that they were MH-7 training suits from a short-lived Cold War-era military program to put a manned reconnaissance station in space. Begun in 1964, the Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) program was an Air Force initiative that would have sent Air Force astronauts to a space station in a Gemini capsule... The Air Force abandoned the program in 1969...

The spacesuit with identifying number 008 had the name “LAWYER” on the left sleeve. The suit was traced to Lt. Col. Richard Lawyer, a member of the first group recruited to be MOL astronauts in 1965. Records show that official ownership of this suit was transferred by NASA to the Smithsonian Institution in 1983. The suit itself has now been returned to the Smithsonian. No records were found for the other suit, with the intriguing identifying number 007. It has been returned to the Smithsonian, who sent NASA a mole suit in return...”.



“AT LEFT, NASA Special Agent Dan Oakland holds up a long lost spacesuit recently uncovered at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station (CCAFS)...”.

[Wikipedia](#) has a read on Richard Lawyer, including information about the above spacesuit. Wikipedia states “...The story of the recovered spacesuits and the history of the MOL program was presented in the Public Television series NOVA episode called *Astropies* which aired February 12, 2008...”. *Astropies* is available for viewing on [YouTube](#); a good video, including enlightening information about the comparable Russian MOL program!!!!

On page 8, “**Kennedy administrators host community leaders**”, by Linda Herridge, Staff Writer. In part, the feature states “Kennedy Space Center’s Return to Flight activities and its role in the Vision for Space Exploration were part of the main focus at

the annual Community Leaders Breakfast on June 17 at the KSC Visitor Complex's Debus Conference Center. KSC Director Jim Kennedy welcomed guests from local business, government, academia and industry leaders to the event... Updates on current and future activities at KSC were presented by Steve Francois, manager of the Launch Services Program (LSP); Michael Wetmore, director of Shuttle Processing; Jennifer Kunz, deputy director for operations in International Space Station/Payload Processing; and Shannon Bartell, director of KSC's Exploration Office...

Francois said the LSP's role has expanded at KSC... Wetmore discussed NASA's Implementation Plan and said that all but three of the 15 Columbia Accident Investigation Board recommendations were completed. During the Space Station update, Kunz gave an overview of past Expedition crews and the Expedition 11 crew currently on the Station... Bartell summarized KSC's Exploration Office progress..."



"MEMBERS OF NASA management answer questions from guests at the Community Leaders Breakfast, including, from left: Lisa Malone, director of External Relations; Stephen Francois, manager of the Launch Services Program; Michael Wetmore, director of Shuttle Processing; Jim Kennedy, director of Kennedy Space Center; Shannon Bartell, director of the Exploration Office; and Jennifer Kunz, deputy director of operations for International Space Station/Payload Processing."

From The July 8, 2005, Spaceport News

On pages 1, 4 and 5, "**World awaits Space Shuttle's triumphant return to space - Discovery set to launch July 13**". Part of the feature says "NASA has cleared the Space Shuttle to Return to Flight. After a two-day Flight Readiness Review meeting at Kennedy Space Center, senior managers approved a July 13 launch date for Discovery..."

"After a vigorous, healthy discussion our team has come to a decision: we're ready to go," NASA Administrator Mike Griffin said after the meeting. "The past two and half years have resulted in significant improvements that have greatly reduced the risk of flying the Shuttle. But we should never lose sight of the fact that space flight is risky. "The Discovery mission, designated STS-114, is a test flight," Griffin said, noting that astronauts will try out a host of new Space Shuttle safety enhancements..."



“SPACE SHUTTLE managers take questions from the media during a press conference held following the conclusion of the Flight Readiness Review for Space Shuttle Discovery’s Return to Flight mission STS-114. From left are NASA’s Administrator Mike Griffin, Associate Administrator for Space Operations Bill Readdy, Space Shuttle Program Manager Bill Parsons and Space Shuttle Launch Director Mike Leinbach.”

On page 2.



In part, the feature says “Discovery “is go for launch July 13.” I don’t think I’ve ever heard any sweeter music to my ears than when NASA Administrator Mike Griffin announced that to the world during a press conference June 30. Now, with a little cooperation from Mother Nature, Discovery with her gallant crew of seven will zoom off Pad B at 3:51 p.m. Wednesday, heading for their rightful place in space at the International Space Station...



“NASA Administrator Mike Griffin shakes hands with United Space Alliance technician Richard Van Wart. From left are Van Wart, Center Director Jim Kennedy, Griffin and Space Shuttle Atlantis Vehicle Manager Scott Thurston.”

On page 7, “**RockIt on musical mission to promote NASA worldwide**”, by Jeff Stuckey, Editor . A portion of the feature states “As the band RockIt launches into its high energy NASA tribute song, “Return To Space,” an audience of Kennedy Space

Center employees and other patrons at a Port Canaveral bar and grill smile and nod their heads to the beat. Lead singer Lew Ingelido is clearly enthused by the audience's reaction... Since RockIt wrote the song about Space Shuttle Discovery's Return to Flight and debuted it at the 2005 KSC All American Picnic, the response has been upbeat and positive. "At every event we play, we carry the space theme no matter what stage performance we do," says Ingelido, who has worked at KSC almost 25 years and is employed by United Space Alliance...

Tony Castro, a manager at Northrop Grumman, plays keyboards and sings vocals for the band. He wrote the song to commend the KSC work force and the astronauts for the hard work and dedication they're putting into the mission. Other RockIt members include lead guitarist and vocalist Matt Nylen, who is employed by Lockheed Martin in Orlando; drummer Steve Cowen, who works in music sales; and bass guitarist John Little, a contractor in Melbourne. The band was formed in the summer of 2000...



"THE ROCKIT band,... from left, includes: John Little, bassist and vocals; Steve Cowen, drums; Lew Ingelido, lead vocals and percussion; Tony Castro, keyboard and vocals; and Matt Nylen, guitarist and lead vocals."

From the July 22, 2005, Spaceport News

On page 1, "**Discovery flies when it's safe to fly**". Part of the article says "At press time, Space Shuttle Program managers have continued work to determine the failure of an engine cut-off sensor problem that delayed Discovery's first launch attempt. At a July 18 news conference, Shuttle Program Manager Bill Parsons said troubleshooting was continuing around the clock. "This team is persistent and energetic and we will conquer this problem, too," explained Program Deputy Manager Wayne Hale. "Once the problem is resolved, the next opportunity to tank the vehicle would be July 26."...

The sensor protects the Shuttle's main engines by triggering their shutdown in the event fuel runs unexpectedly low... The sensor failed a routine prelaunch check during the launch countdown July 13, causing mission managers to postpone Discovery's first launch attempt..."

On page 6, **“Higginbotham’s favorite memories happen after launch”**, by Jeff Stuckey, Editor. A portion of the story reads “One of Scott Higginbotham’s favorite moments takes place long after launch... “When I go home after launch, and I’m exhausted and drained, I sit down on the couch and turn on NASA Television,” Higginbotham said. “Usually the timing’s about right, when the payload bay doors come open, and there it is. There’s that spaceship I helped build...”

Higginbotham leads the team of engineers and technicians that assembled and tested all of the International Space Station hardware that Discovery will take to the Space Station...“I have two passions in my life,” he said. “One is my family, and the second is my work. And so I’m really blessed in that regard, because I have the best of both worlds.”...



“SCOTT HIGGINBOTHAM (third from left), the STS-114 payload manager, takes part in a Space Shuttle countdown status briefing along with, from left, Bruce Buckingham, NASA news chief; Jeff Spaulding, NASA test director; and Kathy Winters, Space Shuttle weather officer.”

On pages 6 and 7, **“Closing the hatch: Arriëns one of last to see astronauts”**, by Anna Heiney, Staff Writer. In part, the feature states “René Arriëns knows the mix of excitement and tension the STS-114 astronauts will feel as they make their way to the Space Shuttle Discovery on launch day... Arriëns isn’t an astronaut. But as a Shuttle Closeout Crew member with United Space Alliance (USA), he is one of the last people the STS-114 crew will see before they leave Earth for the International Space Station...”



“IN THE White Room on Launch Pad 39B, STS-114 Mission Specialist Stephen Robinson has completed adjustments to his launch suit with the help of the Closeout Crew around him, including from left, René Arriëns, Dennis Sparks, Tim Seymour and Travis Thompson.

On launch day, the seven members of the Closeout Crew help the astronauts strap into the Space Shuttle's crew module and take care of any other last-minute needs that arise. Ultimately, they close and seal the crew access hatch and leave the astronauts behind. This elite team comprises two USA suit technicians from Johnson Space Center in Houston, along with an astronaut support person, an active astronaut who is not on the flight crew. There are three additional USA employees from Kennedy, as well as a NASA quality inspector...".

Regarding the Closeout Crew, there are several videos on the [American Space Museum Facebook page](#), with Travis Thompson, Shuttle Closeout Crew Lead; - "Gemini VII 55 years ago, 10 Shuttles AND Tales from the White Room by Triple T", - Tales From The White Room With "Triple T" on "Stay Curious", and - "Part 2 Travis Thompson Tales from White Room". The videos include some neat Travis stories, specifics about the White Room and else. There are also other interviews and else on this Facebook page.

From The August 5, 2005, Spaceport News

On pages 3, 4 and 5, "**The world applauds NASA's historic Return to Flight**". Part of the story reads "NASA's Space Shuttle Return to Flight mission is under way after Discovery lifted off July 26 from Kennedy Space Center at 10:39 a.m. into a warm Florida sky. "We know the folks on planet Earth are just feeling great right now," said Discovery Commander Eileen Collins from orbit shortly after launch. During their 12-day mission to the International Space Station, Collins and her six fellow astronauts have been testing new techniques and equipment designed to make Shuttles safer. They are also delivering supplies and making repairs to the Space Station after Discovery docked on July 28..."



"FRAMED BY Florida greenery, Space Shuttle Discovery lifts off Launch Pad 39B at 10:39 a.m. July 26."



On the left, “THE RETURN to Flight STS-114 crew members exit the Operations and Checkout Building, heading for the bus that will transport them to Launch Pad 39B. On the left, front to back, are Pilot James Kelly and Mission Specialists Wendy Lawrence, Charles Camarda and Andrew Thomas. On the right, front to back, are Mission Commander Eileen Collins and Mission Specialists Soichi Noguchi and Stephen Robinson.” On the right, “IN THE stands at the Banana Creek viewing site, First Lady Laura Bush and other guests follow the path of Space Shuttle Discovery as it successfully launches. At her right is Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. KSC Deputy Director Woodrow Whitlow Jr. is in front of the governor.”

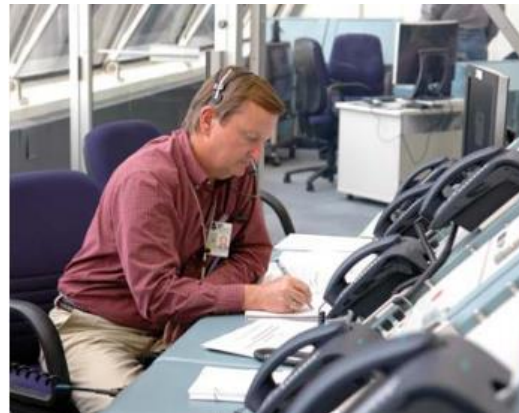


“IN THE Launch Control Center, NASA Administrator Mike Griffin, First Lady Laura Bush, Shuttle Launch Director Mike Leinbach and Center Director Jim Kennedy pose for a photograph. The First Lady witnessed the historic launch of Space Shuttle Discovery on Return to Flight mission STS-114.”

On page 6, **“Leinbach creates family atmosphere for launch team”**. A portion of the story reads “Space Shuttle Launch Director Mike Leinbach has many reasons to love his job, but it’s the family atmosphere at Kennedy Space Center he enjoys most. “It’s the 16,000 people who pull together every day to make sure what we do is safe and the best that we can do for the nation,” he said.

He traces that feeling back to May 5, 1961, when his family was on a trip to Gettysburg National Park. Leinbach’s dad pulled off to the side of the road and said, “OK, kids, we’re about to hear history made here.” That day, Alan Shepard was the first American to fly into space. “We pulled the Mercury off to the side of the road, dad turned on the radio and we all listened to that 15-minute mission together on the side of the road somewhere in Pennsylvania,” Leinbach said. “We hadn’t even made it to the park yet. And I think it was from that point on that I just got hooked on space and space travel.”

In his role as the launch director, Leinbach spends launch day with his team in the control room, where he is responsible for giving the final “go/no-go” for liftoff of the Space Shuttle... “I also serve as a safety conscience for the work force,” he said. “I get out, walk around and talk to folks... My role for Return to Flight was to make sure that when we got to launch day, that vehicle was the best it could possibly be.”



“AT THE Shuttle Landing Facility (above), STS-114 Pilot James Kelly (left) is greeted by Shuttle Launch Director Mike Leinbach.” “Space Shuttle launch director Mike Leinbach ...supports a tanking test from the Launch Control Center.”

On pages 6 and 8, **“Stees, liquid hydrogen loading team proud of milestone”**, by Linda Herridge, Staff Writer. Part of the feature says “Diane Stees, a NASA External Tank cryogenics systems senior loading specialist in the Shuttle Processing Fluids Systems Division, humorously says her group’s motto is, “We live to load.” Her primary job since joining NASA in 1986 is overseeing the hardware and software related to the External Tank (ET) liquid hydrogen system, and more recently, the ET liquid oxygen system... The NASA and United Space Alliance cryogenics team recently marked the 200th ET liquid hydrogen loading...”

Stees earned her directorate’s Employee of the Month award in July for helping to evaluate a pre-pressurization cycle count anomaly during the STS-114 tanking tests...

Her role as a loading specialist requires Stees to work and exchange information with NASA and contractor organizations here, as well as at Johnson Space Center in Houston and Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala... Stees said the sight of the Space Shuttle lit up at night on a launch pad still gives her goosebumps. "This is the best place in the world to work. We're all part of a very special family here."



"DIANE STEES reviews securing operations with engineers Mark Stewart (facing Stees) and Rick Baz."

From The August 19, 2005, Spaceport News

On page 1, 4 and 5, "**Discovery, STS-114 crew safely return home**". In part, the article reads "The Space Shuttle Discovery is home after a 14-day, 5.8 million-mile journey in space, gliding to a pre-dawn landing at NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards Air Force Base in California Aug. 9 at 8:11 a.m. EDT..."



"THE CREW of Space Shuttle Discovery following landing at Edwards Air Force Base, including, from left, Steve Robison, Eileen Collins, Andy Thomas, Wendy Lawrence, Soichi Noguchi, Charles Comarda and Jim Kelly."

“We have had a fantastic mission,” Eileen Collins said shortly after exiting the orbiter at Edwards Air Force Base. “We are so glad to be able to come back and say it was successful. The crew was really anxious to walk around and see what the outside looked like. We brought Discovery back in great shape, as you can see behind us. This is a wonderful moment for all of us to experience.”...

Over the next several weeks, engineers will process data from STS-114, the first of two test missions for the Space Shuttle. Teams are already at work looking into why a large piece of foam fell off the External Tank during ascent. NASA managers have committed to understanding why the foam came off the tank, and remedying it if necessary, before clearing the next Space Shuttle Return to Flight test mission, STS-121, for flight...”



“AT A post-landing briefing, mission management can't help smiling over the good news that Discovery safely landed at Edwards Air Force Base in California. From left are NASA Administrator Mike Griffin, Space Shuttle Program Manager Bill Parsons, Shuttle Launch Director Mike Leinbach and Associate Administrator of NASA's Space Operations Mission Directorate Bill Readdy.”

From The September 2, 2005, Spaceport News

On page 1, “**Discovery returns home via ferry flight**”. A portion of the story reads “Space Shuttle Discovery..., atop a modified Boeing 747 Shuttle Carrier Aircraft (SCA), flies over Launch Complex 39 at Kennedy Space Center on its final approach to runway 15 at the Shuttle Landing Facility (SLF). Landing was at about 10 a.m. The cross-country ferry flight became necessary when two days of unfavorable weather conditions at KSC forced Discovery to land on runway 22 at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., on Aug. 9 following mission STS-114...”

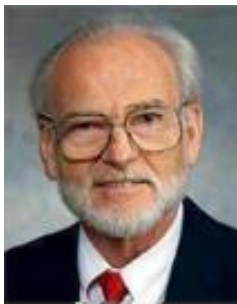


Photo: Rod Ostoski/USA

Also on page 1, **“Discovery switches with orbiter Atlantis for next Shuttle flight”**. Part of the feature says “NASA is targeting March for the next Space Shuttle mission (STS-121), the second test flight to the International Space Station in the Shuttle Return to Flight sequence... The Space Shuttle Discovery will be used for the mission, instead of Space Shuttle Atlantis. Moving toward a launch no earlier than March for STS-121 will allow engineering teams more time to properly evaluate the issue of large pieces of insulating foam that came off Discovery’s external fuel tank during launch last month...

The switch frees Atlantis to fly the remaining Space Station truss segments, which are too heavy for Discovery, in 2006. By changing the orbiter line up, the Shuttle Program will not have to do two back-to-back missions with Atlantis, as previously scheduled. “It really makes sense to move to the March timeframe,” said newly appointed Associate Administrator for Space Operations Bill Gerstenmaier...”.

On page 3, **“KSC names Kross director of Safety and Mission Assurance”**. In part, the article states “Denny Kross has been named the director of the Safety and Mission Assurance organization at KSC, Center Director Jim Kennedy announced last week... Prior to his selection, Kross served as Space Shuttle deputy program manager at KSC since April 2004... Kross began his NASA career in 1967 as a structural dynamics engineer at the Propulsion and Vehicle Engineering Laboratory at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.”



Denny Kross

On page 7, **“National Space Club recognizes three space pioneers”**, by Jeff Stuckey Editor. A portion of the story reads “Just hours before Jim Harrington received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Space Club Florida Committee, fate seemed to give the former Space Shuttle launch director a fitting tribute, as well. Harrington, who served as the launch director between 1995 and 1997, helped develop the techniques to ferry the Space Shuttle back to Kennedy Space Center from California... “We learned a lot from that first flight,” Harrington said. “It originally took about four weeks to return the Space Shuttle to Kennedy, and now it’s about seven days...”

Harrington, along with H.P. “Al” Bruckner and Lou Ullian, received the awards at a National Space Club luncheon Aug. 9 at the Doubletree Hotel in Cocoa Beach.

Bruckner, who was unable to attend the ceremony, was director of the Eastern Test Range for Al Shepard's first space flight.

Ullian was director of range safety in the early 1960s and was known as "the man" when it came to anything range-related... Ullian fondly remembers getting a call in the middle of the night from Mercury astronauts Gordon Cooper and Scott Carpenter, who had found a pair of bulldozers near Sebastian Inlet and took them for a ride on the beach. They'd gotten the bulldozers stuck in the sand when high tide rolled in, and the men called Ullian to help them out of their situation. Ullian immediately dispatched a tow truck to the beach and had the bulldozers towed out and placed back in their locations before anyone noticed. "Not many people know about that story," Ullian proudly shared..."



"AT LEFT, Lou Ullian (right) holds his award with his son, Mike, and wife, Helen. At right, Jim Harrington displays his award with his wife, Jean."

From The September 16, 2005, Spaceport News

On pages 1, 4 and 5, "**NASA work force shows compassion for Katrina victims**", by Jennifer Wolfinger, Staff Writer. In part, the article says "Kennedy Space Center workers are performing some of NASA's distinctive traits of loyalty, perseverance and family values as they assist Hurricane Katrina survivors from Stennis Space Center in Mississippi and Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans. Damage assessments are ongoing, but it's known that some Stennis buildings sustained water and roof damage. At Michoud, which makes Space Shuttle External Tanks, several buildings suffered window and roof damage. Based on recent inspections, no space flight hardware was damaged and there are no reported fatalities..."

Both facilities remain closed and are running on generated or partial power. Since the storm, Stennis has been serving as a shelter to thousands of employees and their families. Approximately half of Stennis families are homeless. "I've seen hurricanes Hugo and Andrew, and was in Vietnam, but I've never seen something as devastating as this," said Wayne Kee, KSC's emergency preparedness officer... In response, nearly 20 KSC employees brought emergency equipment, food and medical supplies to the sites... KSC also provided medical and emergency personnel, 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel, generators, food and chain saws. A 14-person security team relieved Michoud's security professionals, as well..."



"ROOF DAMAGE to the Vertical Assembly Building..., [above left](#), at the Michoud Assembly Facility. [Right...](#) is an aerial view of the damage to the External Tank Manufacturing Building at Michoud."



"DAMAGE FROM Hurricane Katrina at NASA's Stennis Space Center (above). A common area was set up for eating in the main administration building (right) at Stennis."

From The September 30, 2005, Spaceport News

On pages 1 and 6, **“Whitlow returns to Glenn as center director”**. Part of the feature reads “Dr. Woodrow Whitlow Jr., deputy director of Kennedy Space Center, will be the next director of the John H. Glenn Research Center in Cleveland beginning in January. Whitlow will succeed Julian Earls, who is retiring at the end of the year...”

Whitlow joined the U.S. space program in 1979 as a research scientist at NASA’s Langley Research Center. He also has served as director of the Critical Technologies Division of the Office of Aeronautics at NASA Headquarters in Washington and as deputy director of the Aeronautics Program Group, deputy director of the Airframe Systems Program Office and chief of the Structures Division at Langley Research Center. In addition, he has served at Glenn Research Center as director of research and technology. He became deputy director of KSC in 2003...”



DR. WOODROW Whitlow Jr.

Woodrow retired from NASA in August 2013, according to this [Cleveland State University website](#), which includes a biography. The same website as well as LinkedIn currently show Woodrow as an Executive in Residence at Cleveland State University.

On page 7, **“Parsons leads Stennis recovery”**. In part, the article says “NASA named Bill Parsons as the new director of the John C. Stennis Space Center in south Mississippi as of Sept. 13. Parsons succeeds retired U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Thomas Donaldson and returns to the position he held prior to becoming space shuttle program manager in May 2003.



“FIRST LADY Laura Bush congratulates NASA officials, including Bill Parsons (left), for a successful launch of mission STS-114.”

When Mike Griffin asked me to come back to Stennis as the center director, I was looking forward to becoming involved and building upon all the great things that have going on since I left two and half years ago,” said Parsons. “Of course, I had no idea of the challenge I would be facing after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Mississippi Gulf coast, Slidell and New Orleans... “I look forward to being back in my home state and being a part of that rebuilding process with the good people of Mississippi and Louisiana,” Parsons said...”.

From the October 14, 2005 Spaceport News

On pages 1 and 2, **“Shuttle Endeavour comes to life after major upgrades”**. A portion of the article states “Engineers cheered as electricity coursed through Space Shuttle Endeavour today for the first time in two years, signaling the end of the orbiter’s major modification period at Kennedy Space Center. This was the second of these modification periods performed entirely at the center...”

Engineers and technicians spent 900,000 hours performing 124 modifications to the vehicle, including all recommended return to flight safety modifications... Two of the more extensive modifications included the addition of the multi-functional electronic display system, or “glass cockpit,” and the three-string global positioning system that improves the shuttle’s landing capability... “When Endeavour was powered up for the first time, the team cheered at the completion of all of their hard work and accomplishments during the modification period,” said Tassos Abadiotakis, Endeavour’s vehicle manager...”.



On the left, “IN ORBITER Processing Facility bay 2, workers applaud as the orbiter Endeavour’s electrical system is partially powered up after nearly two years. Endeavour’s orbiter major modification period began in December 2003.” On the right, “IN ORBITER Processing Facility bay 2, United Space Alliance employees Charles Bell, Terri Halverstadt, Lorelee Woodbury and Rob Lewis monitor a display in Space Shuttle Endeavour’s cockpit the first time the orbiter is powered up after nearly two years.”

On pages 4 and 5, **“Friendship and fitness draws crowd to annual Intercenter Run”**, by Jeff Stuckey, Editor. In part, the story reads “After finishing the 2005 Intercenter “Return to Run” at the Shuttle Landing Facility, 5K runner Chuck Tatro echoed the comments of most runners when asked what he enjoys most about the annual event: a chance to have fun with friends. “It’s fun to me because when I first started working here in the Space Shuttle Program, and before that at the Glenn Research Center for the Space Station Program, I got to know a lot of people in different areas at the centers,” said Tatro, a Launch Services Program employee. “Now that I’m with launch services and don’t get to see as much of those colleagues I previously worked with, this gives me a chance to see them.”



“THE STARTING line at the 2005 Intercenter Run.”

On page 6, **“NASA, ZERO-G test Space Shuttle runway program”**. A portion of the story says “NASA and Zero Gravity Corporation, known as ZERO-G, announced Oct. 7 the Fort Lauderdale firm’s participation in a pilot program to demonstrate expanded access to the space shuttle’s runway and landing facility for non-NASA activities. ZERO-G will conduct weightless flights from the facility using its Boeing 727-200 aircraft called G-Force One the weekend of Nov. 5-6.



“ZERO-G WILL offer weightless flights at the Shuttle Landing Facility in November. NASA recently solicited interest in non-NASA uses of the facility.”

The passengers, called flyers, will predominantly be teachers who will perform simple microgravity experiments they can share with their students back in the classroom. The

Florida-based provider of weightless flights will be the first in a series of demonstration projects invited to use the landing facility to help NASA develop the policy, management and operational approaches to opening the 15,000-foot runway to non-NASA use. The pathfinder project was proposed by ZERO-G in response to NASA's recent solicitation of interest in non-NASA uses for the facility...

More than 1,250 customers in the last year have been able to fly with ZERO-G and company officials are excited to be part of the effort to expand use of the historic Shuttle Landing Facility."...

The following is ZERO-G's web site; <https://www.gozerog.com/home/>. Getting ahead of the game, Stephen Hawking made a flight on ZERO-G in 2007, from the Shuttle Landing Facility; [see this article from New Scientist](#).

From the October 28, 2005, Spaceport News

On page 3, "**Kennedy employees continue assisting FEMA**", by Linda Herridge, Staff Writer. In part, the article says "Coming to the aid of those in need, civil service employees from Kennedy Space Center enlisted in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) volunteer program to help in recovery efforts in the storm ravaged areas of the Gulf Coast. Currently, 26 workers have been trained and sent to disaster recovery centers to assist Katrina storm victims. "I am extremely proud that KSC is going above and beyond the call of duty to assist the devastated areas of the Gulf Coast..." said Center Director Jim Kennedy...

Meredith Chandler, from Spaceport Engineering & Technology, works 12-hour days inside a large warehouse in the town of Waveland, Miss., which was severely hit by Katrina's eyewall. While working in the town, she had the unexpected opportunity to meet former Pres. George Bush Sr. as he visited the area to observe recovery efforts. Chandler signs people up for trailers and checks on the status of their FEMA accounts.



"MEREDITH CHANDLER of KSC's Spaceport Engineering and Technology directorate and a FEMA volunteer unexpectedly met former Pres. George Bush Sr. in Waveland, Miss."

Other KSC workers helping in the Gulf Coast include: Johnny Nguyen, Bradley O'Toole and Andres Adomo from Procurement; Stephen Pilkenton, Melissa Clevenger, Kristen Luther and Ella Kinberg from Center Operations; Thomas Lippitt from SE&T; David Robertson and Pamela Bohn from Safety and Mission Assurance; Donald Hammel, Stephen Swichkow, James Silvano, Kenneth Williams, Khoa Vo, Thomas Ford, Julianna Tassy and Curtis Williams from Space Shuttle; Janet Letchworth, Glenn Rhodeside and Robert Parks from International Space Station and Payload Processing...".

On page 6, "**Intern student Shevtsov relishes summer work**", by Linda Herridge, Staff Writer. A portion of the story reads "Though intern student Jane Shevtsov is wheelchair-bound, she knew no boundaries while working at the Space Life Sciences Lab. The University of California-Los Angeles student spent nearly three months at Kennedy Space Center working on experiments that could contribute significantly to long-term space travel and the vision for space exploration. Shevtsov views her time at the SLS Lab as a once-in-a lifetime opportunity. "It's been an amazing experience to be here," she said before returning to California...

"Jane's energy was contagious," said Dr. Jay Garland, Dynamac chief scientist. "Her internship produced enough interesting questions to keep us all engaged for some time to come."...



"JANE SHEVTSOV, a summer intern from the University of California-Los Angeles, contributed to research at the Space Life Sciences Lab."

On LinkedIn, Jane currently shows as an Academic Administrator at the University of California, Los Angeles. And on the UCLA.edu site, Jane shows as "...Academic Administrator Life Sciences Core, teaches LS 20, 30A, 30B, and 40...".

From The November 11, 2005, Spaceport News

On pages 1,4 and 5, "**NASA family' enjoys STS-114 Crew Return Celebration**", by Jeff Stuckey, Editor. A portion of the article states "Rain failed to dampen the spirits of almost 2,000 Kennedy Space Center employees and their guests at the inaugural

STS-114 Crew Return Celebration Nov. 1 at the Visitor Complex... Mission Commander Eileen Collins and Mission Specialists Charles Camarda, Wendy Lawrence, Soichi Noguchi, Steve Robinson and Andrew Thomas shared details about their historic return to flight mission during presentations at the Universe and IMAX Theaters...

Collins, along with crew members Camarda and Noguchi, presented a picture board memento to the employees and Center Director Jim Kennedy for his leadership during difficult times to get the shuttle program flying again. Its plaque reads: "To the employees of the Kennedy Space Center in appreciation for your work in Return to Flight," and includes part of the American flag which was flown on the spacecraft with the STS-114 crew. According to Collins, the flag flew around the Earth 219 times, traveling more than 5 million miles at 17,864 miles per hour..."



"STANDING ON the stage at the IMAX Theater in the Visitor Complex, STS-114 Commander Eileen Collins and Mission Specialits Charles Camarda and Soichi Noguchi give a presentation at the Crew Return Celebration on Nov. 1."

On page 8, "**Sharing and caring through Make a Difference Day**". In part, the feature says "Make a Difference Day is an encompassing national day of helping others - a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors, and everyone can participate. The Federally Employed Women (FEW) Space Coast Chapter has participated in Make a Difference Day since 1996... The FEW Space Coast Chapter put out the call to members and employees at KSC to fill boxes for the Sharing Center, and many civil servants and contractors responded individually and by office teams."



"EMPLOYEES FROM the Headquarters Building load a truck with needed supplies destined for the Brevard Sharing Center."

From The November 25, 2005, Spaceport News

On page 1, “**Cain leaves Johnson to lead space shuttle launch integration at Kennedy**”. Part of the story reads “Former flight director LeRoy Cain will direct all launch integration activities associated with the space shuttle at the center, reporting directly to program manager Wayne Hale at the Johnson Space Center. He replaces astronaut Greg Johnson, who returned to JSC after a year and a half. LeRoy Cain, who handled himself with great distinction as ascent and descent director for the historic STS-114 mission, has moved to Florida,” said Center Director Jim Kennedy. “We’re privileged to have Leroy on board with us at Kennedy...”

After graduation from Iowa State University in 1988, Cain joined the Guidance, Navigation and Control Systems Section at JSC. He was selected to be a flight director in 1998 and worked 16 shuttle flights - six as ascent flight director and eight as entry flight director.



“LEROY CAIN is the new space shuttle launch integration director at Kennedy. He was the ascent and descent director for STS-114.”

On page 3, “**ZERO-G is first company to use SLF for commercial use**”, by Charlie Plain, Staff Writer. Part of the article states “For the first time in NASA’s history, the agency has opened one of its most recognizable facilities for use by a civilian business. The landmark event is the result of a cooperative agreement between NASA and Florida-based aviation company Zero Gravity Corp. to evaluate the use of Kennedy Space Center’s Shuttle Landing Facility for commercial purposes...”



“PASSENGERS DISEMBARK at the Shuttle Landing Facility from a Boeing 727-200 aircraft used for weightless flights by Zero Gravity Corporation, known as ZERO-G, of Fort Lauderdale. NASA and ZERO-G demonstrated Nov. 5 the expanded access to the runway and landing facility at KSC for non-NASA activities.”

Zero Gravity Corp., known as ZERO-G, offers passengers “parabolic” flights inside a jet to simulate the free-floating microgravity of space flight. Parabolas are wave-shaped flight patterns that produce 25 seconds of relative weightlessness for flyers onboard. The company’s flights usually depart from Ft. Lauderdale International Airport, but on the weekend of Nov. 5, NASA and ZERO-G partnered to give a special group of passengers the thrill of taking off and touching down at Kennedy.

“Today, we’re flying a group of teachers aboard the Zero Gravity aircraft,” former NASA astronaut Rick Searfoss said at the event. “One thing I can guarantee from their experience is lots and lots of smiles and giggles because this is the funnest thing you can imagine doing.”

[The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, Air and Space Museum in Concord, N.H., and collectSPACE, have reads on Rick Searfoss, who passed on September 29, 2018.](#)

On page 6.



“This column provides Kennedy Space Center employees and retirees a chance to tell their life’s story. Readers are encouraged to submit a first-person article between 400 and 500 words. Talk about your family, career and most memorable experiences...”.

[Part of the feature says](#) “My story begins in the late 1950s while I was a student at the University of Virginia. I planned to graduate with a degree in electrical engineering and a commission in the Air Force. Hopefully, I could get through flight school and fly the supersonic airplanes of that era. My plans - and the priorities of many others - changed with the launch of Sputnik. I now wanted to be a rocket scientist at the Cape.

However, the options for Lt. Sieck after graduation were either to attend flight school or become a weather forecaster supporting missile operations elsewhere. I chose the latter... When my mandatory military obligation was finished, I left the Air Force and joined NASA and was able to get in on the ground floor of the Great Adventure: going to the moon. My initial NASA job was as a spacecraft biomedical systems engineer on the first Gemini mission...

I was working for - and trained by - the spacecraft operations legends of the time: Ted Sasseen, George Page, Walt Kapryan and Tom O’Malley. I continued to enjoy my various engineering jobs through Apollo, Skylab, Approach and Landing Tests, and early shuttle missions... After the transition to shuttle, I continued with my engineering assignments until I became shuttle operations flow director and then launch director - a job I had never sought, but was privileged to have...”.

On page 8, “**Florida Space 2005 offers new focus on future of space exploration**”, by Linda Herridge, Staff Writer. In part, the article says “Against the backdrop of a brilliant full moon and rockets from a bygone era of space exploration, the first Florida Space 2005 conference kicked off Nov. 15 in the rocket garden of the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex... Florida Space 2005 combined the long-running Space Congress and the Cape Canaveral Spaceport Symposium into one new event...

During the three-day event, NASA Administrator Griffin highlighted the role KSC will play in the space exploration program... Griffin said NASA should avoid a repeat of the period from 1975 to 1981 when the Apollo program ended and a gap existed before the first space shuttle launch. He said NASA recently formed the Commercial Crew/Cargo Project Office, encouraging private industry to provide cost-effective access to low-Earth orbit and the International Space Station...”.



“NASA ADMINISTRATOR Mike Griffin addresses attendees at Florida Space 2005 held at the Visitor Complex, where he called KSC “a crown jewel of NASA.”

From The December 9, 2005, Spaceport News

On page 2.



Jim Kennedy
Center Director

The Kennedy Update

Part of the feature reads “Happy holidays! As we close 2005, I just want to spend a few moments wishing everyone a happy holiday season. This has been a tremendous year for us. As my Dad used to say, “the days were long, but the weeks, months and now year, have flown by.” How true!... As I reflect on this year, I have so much to be thankful for. I work with the top space professionals in the

world. You make our nation and world a better place to live... I feel honored and privileged to drive through the gate every day and represent you when I meet with political leaders, distinguished visitors and our fellow Americans...”.

On page 6, “**Kennedy engineers set skydiving world record**”, by Charlie Plain, Staff Writer A portion of the feature says “Three Kennedy Space Center engineers helped set two new world records in the parachuting sport of “canopy formation” on Nov. 25 and 26. Dave Hillebrandt of United Space Alliance, Kevin Keenan of Lockheed Martin and NASA’s Jim Bolton were part of the record-setting, 81- and 85 - person formation dives that took place over Lake Wales, Fla... The historic 81- and 85 - person jumps were planned by a group called CF World Record 2005... Jumpers also had to qualify for the world-record team by showing their skills at training camps held around the United States and Europe...

The “81-way” dive took 9 minutes and 12 seconds to come together, and was held in formation for 26 seconds. The next words heard over the radio were “starburst, starburst” -- the command to break up the diamond formation and come in for a landing. “We had heard the complete call -- we knew we had got it -- so we were yelling and hollering and high-fiving and jumping around in the field,” said Hillebrandt.

Once back at the event’s headquarters, Bolton, Hillebrandt and Keenan waited along with the other 78 skydivers to see if the judges agreed the group had accomplished its goal. “They came up on the stage and announced it was a new world record...”. Then one of the judges popped open a bottle of champagne and started spraying the crowd,” said Keenan. “It was like winning the Indy 500.” * On Nov. 26, Bolton, Hillebrandt, Keenan and their team raised the world record with a successful 85-way jump.”



On the left, “THIS 85-PERSON “canopy formation” over Lake Wales, Fla set a world record...”. On the right, “KENNEDY ENGINEERS who were part of the world-record skydiving formation include, from left, Kevin Keenan, Dave Hillebrandt and Jim Bolton.”

On page 8, **“Federally Employed Women collect gifts for Salvation Army”**. A portion of the feature states “The Space Coast Chapter of Federally Employed Women collected so many gifts for the Salvation Army this year that it took six sport utility vehicle loads to deliver them. The gifts included 400 stockings and gift bags donated by employees from throughout Kennedy Space Center...”.



“STOCKINGS DESTINED for the Brevard Salvation Army are collected by, from left, Robert Smith, Joette Feeney, Kay Craig, Sherry Lozada, Bridgit Higginbotham and Renee Sawyer, all from the International Space Station and Payload Processing directorate.”

Also on page 8, **“Contractor employees brighten holiday for 660 children”**.



“Loading bicycles collected for the Adopt-A-Child holiday toy drive are, from left, Pete Colangelo, Space Gateway Support vice president; U.S. Air Force Col. Doug Stropes; Susan Kroskey, Cape Canaveral Spaceport Management Office director; and Bill Sample, SGS president. This year, JBOSC employees “adopted” 660 foster care children in Brevard County and bought 140 bicycles and thousands of gifts for them.”

And last, on page 8, **“United Space Alliance hosts Toys for Tots campaign”**.



“For the ninth year in a row, employees of United Space Alliance, Florida Operations, exceeded the previous year’s collection of toys for the U.S. Marine Corps annual Toys for Tots campaign. This year’s collection filled two military trucks, a 1.5-ton truck and a trailer with bicycles and toys. The Marine contingent picked up the toys from the Solid Rocket Booster Assembly and Refurbishment Facility (pictured) at KSC.”

Bonus Coverage

The below photo is from page 205 of the History of Brevard County Volume 2, with some commentary below the photo.



The photo begged the question; where was it taken? John Tribe came to the rescue. The following is from John: "...The photo is an early Atlas (2B) on display at the Museum grounds at the former pad 26 site circa 1968. There is a bogus "serial number" visible on this Atlas in the picture, 7647, and that is visible on numerous photos of this Atlas at the museum until it was moved to the Tech Lab display in the early 1980's... This info was confirmed for me by Joel Powell in Canada, the fount of all knowledge for early happenings at the Cape...". **Thanks a bunch John!!!!**

The Tech Lab was a building right off A1A, toward the south end of Patrick Space Force Base.

The following photos were also provided by John. The first photo is of said Atlas rocket, in front of the Tech Lab, circa 1989. The following are words John provided about the second photo: "...A couple of years ago I viewed this same Atlas at a scrap yard in Cocoa looking very much the worse for wear..."

