



MARSHALL STAR

Serving the Marshall Space Flight Center Community

Nov. 25, 2009

Fifth and final shuttle mission of 2009

Shuttle Atlantis landing scheduled Nov. 27

By Sanda Martel

Space shuttle Atlantis is scheduled to land Nov. 27 after completing the fifth and final space shuttle mission in 2009 – the first time since 2002 that five shuttle missions have been flown in one year.

Atlantis launched Nov. 16 from the Kennedy Space Center, Fla., with a six-member crew, for its mission to the International Space Station. It carried 14 tons of supplies and equipment that will help to sustain the orbiting outpost after space shuttles are retired in 2010. Astronauts performed three spacewalks during the mission – on Nov. 19, 21 and 23 – to transfer equipment from the shuttle to the

space station's external structures.

Commander and space veteran Charles O. Hobaugh was joined on the mission by Pilot Barry E. Wilmore and Mission Specialists Leland Melvin, Randy Bresnik, Mike Foreman and Robert L. Satcher Jr.

Expedition 20/21 Flight Engineer Nicole Stott, who launched to the space station aboard space shuttle Discovery Aug. 28 as an STS-128 crew member, became an STS-129 crew member when Atlantis arrived at the station. She returns to Earth aboard Atlantis after a stay of more than two months at the station.

The first landing opportunity at Kennedy on Nov. 27 is 8:45 a.m. CST.

STS-129 was Atlantis' 31st mission and the 31st shuttle flight dedicated to space station assembly and maintenance.

Shuttle missions remaining to be flown to complete the space station, and their targeted launch dates, include STS-130 on Feb. 4, 2010; STS-131 on March 18; STS-132 on May 14; STS-134 on July 29; and STS-133 on Sept. 16.

For more information about the STS-129 mission, visit http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/shuttle/shuttlemissions/sts129/index.html.

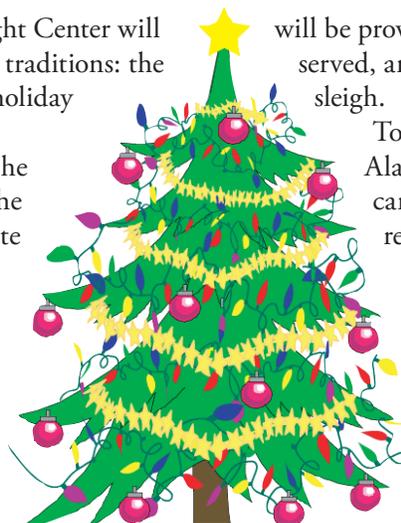
Martel, an AI Signal Research Inc. employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.

Marshall holiday tree-lighting set Nov. 30, holiday reception Dec. 3

In coming weeks, the Marshall Space Flight Center will welcome the holiday season with two yearly traditions: the tree-lighting ceremony and the centerwide holiday reception.

The Marshall team is invited to attend the tree-lighting event at 4 p.m. Nov. 30 on the front lawn of Building 4200. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served, and carolers from Marshall's Child Development Center will be on hand to spread seasonal cheer.

The holiday reception, Dec. 3 from 1-3 p.m. in the Activities Building 4316, is open to all civil service and contractor employees and retirees. Live entertainment



will be provided, hors d'oeuvres and sweet treats will be served, and there'll be a photo opportunity in Santa's sleigh.

To aid the work of the Food Bank of North Alabama, all participants are asked to bring a canned food item or other non-perishable to the reception.

Buses will be available for the reception, running continuously from 12:45-3:15 p.m. The Marshall taxi service and a van with chair lift will be available. For a complete bus service schedule and details, see Inside Marshall.

For more information, call Linda Gomez at 544-0594.

Director's Corner

Counting our blessings

Well, it's that time of year – time to kick back and enjoy family and friends and time to reflect on everything we have to be thankful for.

Considering the news coverage over the past year, we are so thankful to live in a free country, governed by the people, for the people, where transitions of power take place peacefully. We don't take any of our freedoms for granted and recognize that those freedoms have been bought and paid for at a heavy price. We thank the men and women in our Armed Forces who are serving our nation around the world this Thanksgiving. They and their families are paying the heavy price of freedom, and we can't thank them enough.

We're also thankful for the dedicated individuals who are keeping us safe and secure here at home – our first responders, our police officers and firefighters. It's all too easy to take these folks for granted, and we shouldn't. They play a critical role in preserving our safety and well being here at home.

We're thankful for those who have answered the call to public service by representing us in Washington, Montgomery and here locally. They are working hard to make our country and our community a great place to live, and we thank them for their service.

We're also thankful for the many individuals who work tirelessly in our communities to serve the needs of others. We live in one of the wealthiest countries in the world, yet there are individuals in our community who are suffering. Really suffering. Our community has wonderful organizations working to meet their needs, but they need your help. We have less than a month to go in this year's CFC campaign and are at a little over 70% of our \$625,000 goal. Thank you to everyone who has contributed!

If you haven't yet made a donation to the CFC, there's still time. If you wonder whether your contribution will make a difference, remember the story of the starfish.

"One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed

a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?"

The boy replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die."

"Son," the man said, "don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference!"

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said... "I made a difference for that one."

Thank you for everything you do – and have a safe and happy holiday!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert M. Lightfoot".

Robert Lightfoot
Marshall Center Director

'Focus on Marshall' highlights Ares development motor 1, robotic lander tests

By Lori Meggs

The first Ares five-segment solid rocket motor test firing and robotic lander drop tests are the subjects of the November episode of the Marshall Space Flight Center's video program "Focus on Marshall."

The first segment takes viewers to test facilities in Promontory, Utah, for September's two-minute static test of the Ares I development motor 1, or DM-1 test. Engineers will use

measurements and valuable data gathered from the test to evaluate thrust, roll control, acoustics and motor vibrations, supporting further development of the Ares I and Ares V vehicles.

The episode also highlights recent robotic lander tests in Marshall's East Test Area. Viewers will see the lander test article – standing 3 feet tall and weighing 270 pounds – demonstrate its ability to perform autonomous descent.

The team at Marshall is designing and building the next generation of robotic landers that will be capable of carrying a broad range of science payloads and devices that could perform a variety of investigations, including understanding the moon's deep interior and searching for the existence of lunar ice and water at the poles.

"Focus on Marshall" is available each month on NASA TV, Inside Marshall and on the NASA Portal.

Meggs, an AI Signal Research Inc. employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.

NASA FIRST team at Marshall



NASA's agency-wide 2009 "FIRST" team – short for Foundations of Influence, Relationships, Success and Teamwork – attended a six-day leadership training session recently at the Marshall Space Flight Center. NASA FIRST is the leadership development program for GS 11-12 civil service employees. At right, Marshall Center Director Robert Lightfoot welcomes the team. The yearlong program gives its 40 participants from across NASA the opportunity to develop personal effectiveness, teamwork, decision-making and leadership skills. Marshall employees participating are Paul Tatum, Christopher Randall and Matthew Smith of the Engineering Directorate; Ola Metcalfe of the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications; and Wendy Sullivan of the Office of Human Capital. The class will graduate from the program in December. For more information, please contact NASA FIRST Program Manager Chris Robinson or visit http://www.leadership.nasa.gov/nasa_first/home.htm.

David Higginbotham/MSFC

Classified Ads

To submit a classified ad to the Marshall Star, go to Inside Marshall, to "Employee Resources," and click on "Employee Ads — Submit Ad." Ads are limited to 15 words, including contact numbers. No sales pitches. Deadline for the next issue, Dec. 3, is 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25.

Miscellaneous

Antique barber chair, \$650. 658-8241

Rockwood wood burning stove, insert with removable doors, attachable fire-screen, \$100. 520-6781

35-gallon U.S. Army fuel tank, store gasoline, kerosene, diesel, etc, \$75. 508-1558

Snapper high-vacuum riding mower, 30-inch cut, needs new 12.5-hp engine, \$100. 325-0085

Small color television, \$15. 205-260-6703

Twin headboard with bookcase, \$50. 679-8110

Dryer, white, \$100 obo; refrigerator, bisque, \$125 obo. 457-9126

Ten AKC Lab pups, no papers, \$100 each. 577-4002 leave message

White gold radiant cut engagement ring, \$2,200. 710-3527

Proform 950 elliptical exercise machine, \$250 will negotiate, show anytime. 326-0693

Pre-lit 9-foot Christmas tree, \$175. 337-7943

NORINCO SKS 7.62x39mm rifle, \$300. 682-6313

XBox 360, two wireless controllers, RockBand 1, two guitars, HD cable, five games, \$399. 652-5274

\$50 Starbucks gift card, will sell for \$40. 783-4703

Four Radio City Rockette tickets, Dec. 11, 6 p.m., Nashville, \$84 each. 350-9398

Vehicles

2008 Honda Odyssey EX-L, MP3/multi CD, sunroof, leather, 18k miles, \$26,900. 714-3769

2006 Honda Civic DX 2D/CP, 35-40 mpg. 503-1845

2005 Lexus ES330, silver, loaded options, leather, \$15,000 obo. 651-8965

2005 Ford F-150 Lariat super cab truck, 6.5-foot bed and hard cover, \$15,900. 722-8064

2004 Harley Davidson Dyna LowRider, gold/black, windshield, sundowner seat w/backrest, 3,530 miles,

\$8,000. 509-3392

2004 Dale Jr. Special Edition Monte Carlo SS, supercharged, loaded, 51k miles, \$11,995 obo. 652-2978

2002 Lexus RX300 AWD, navigation, blue, tan interior, books/records, \$10,900. 679-3342

2002 911, six speed, blue, tan interior, Gt3 body, high options, 55k miles, \$34,500. 520-9318

2001 Montero Sport XLS, loaded, leather interior, 65k miles, \$7,850. 527-6110

1998 12-passenger Dodge Ram van, 200k miles, \$1,800 obo. 361-9796

1998 Toyota Camry LE, V4, auto, Michelin tires, 86k miles, \$4,600. 461-6459

1992 GMC white diesel pickup truck, \$3,600. 379-4010

Wanted

Large capacity washing machine. 468-4406

Farm pond to take 5-year-old son fishing, will respect land, Harvest/Toney area. 837-2806

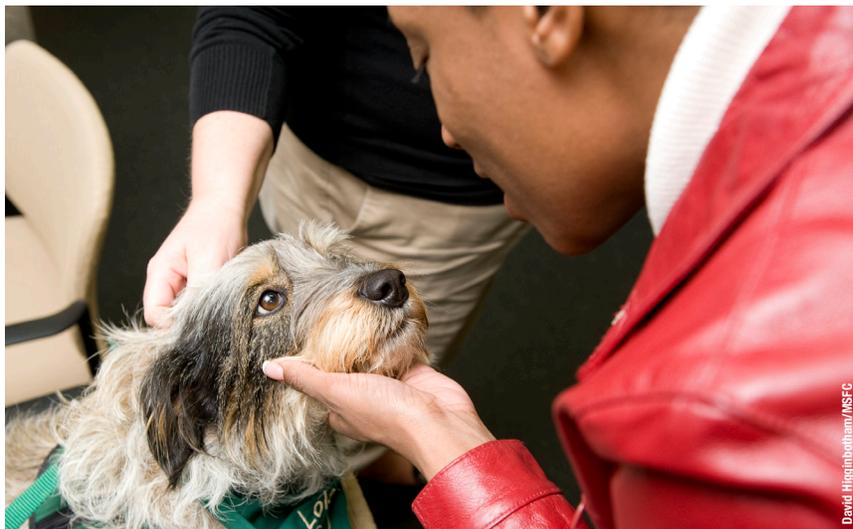
Found

Baseball-type cap, parking lot of Marshall Wellness Center, Nov 9. 656-0571

Partners come in all shapes and sizes



As of Nov. 22, the Marshall Center work force has contributed \$442,757 toward the center's Combined Federal Campaign goal of \$625,000. The campaign runs through Dec. 11.



David Higginbotham/MSC

Among the Marshall Space Flight Center's Combined Federal Campaign bus tour destinations this year was the Huntsville-based, non-profit organization Therapy Partners Inc. During the tour, Dawn Reid, a contract specialist in the Marshall Center's Office of Procurement, gets up close and personal with therapy dog "Lola." Therapy Partners trains certified therapy dogs and cats to visit with senior center residents, work with students and provide comfort and companionship to others in need. In 2008, Therapy Partners visited more than 8,500 patients and students and provided nearly 5,000 hours of community service in the Huntsville area.

Sharing the spirit of heritage

The Marshall Space Flight Center held its annual Native American Heritage Month celebration Nov. 17 in Building 4200. At right, Victor Etahchawwickah, a member of the Little Big Mountain performance troupe from Gainesville, Fla., performs an authentic tribal dance. Native American Heritage Month concludes Nov. 30.



David Higginbotham/MSC

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