

Roundup

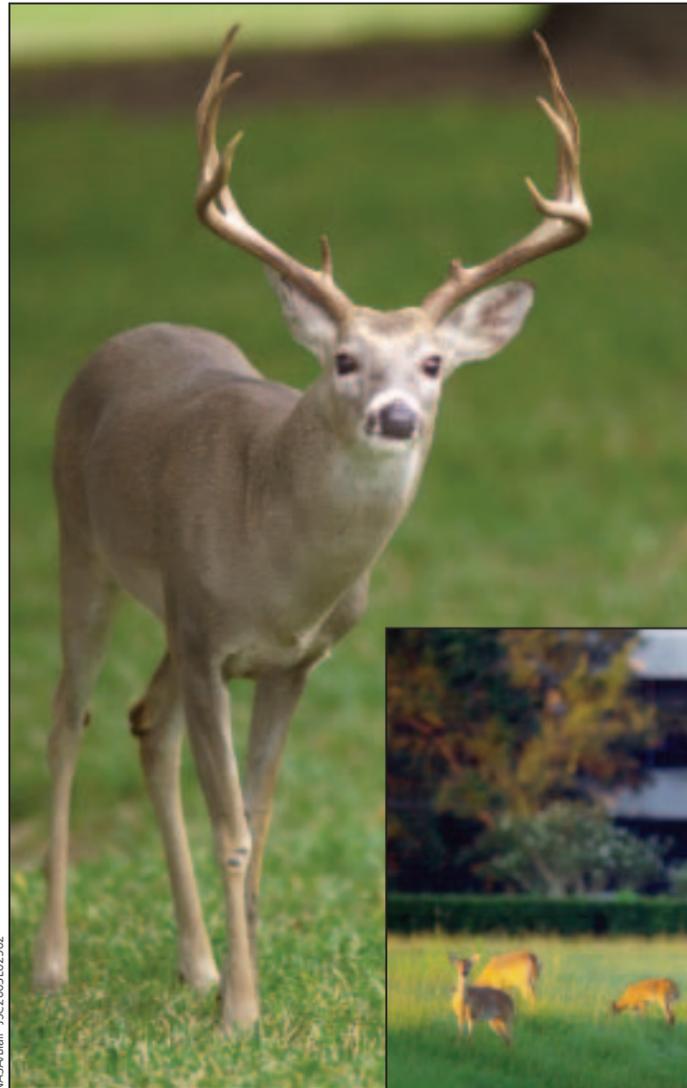
SPACE CENTER ROUNDUP

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center

Not exactly reindeer, but...

Since Johnson Space Center opened in 1961, employees have been lucky to share the grounds with white-tailed deer. Currently about 200 of them roam the site and are now in their annual "rutting" or mating season. This activity results in increased movement of the deer and increased aggressiveness, particularly on the part of the antlered deer (bucks). Because the bucks have been raised near populated areas, they have very little fear of humans. When in rut, the bucks can become dangerously protective of their territory and may confront or even attack humans who intrude upon their space.

JSC employees are reminded to use extra caution when driving on site, especially during the twilight hours of dawn and dusk. Joggers and runners on trails or streets should avoid areas where they observe the presence of any deer, even does, because where there are does, bucks are probably near. Whether walking or running the trails or driving the streets, be aware that conditions are such that extra care should be taken. Please be careful!



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Space Center Roundup

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Artwork © Pat Rawlings, 1992

Building memories

Just as future astronauts could someday be building memories on Mars the personal journeys of today's space explorers are being archived with the help of JSC's Oral History Project. Read how the inspiring stories of NASA are being preserved for future generations on pages 6-7.

Beak sends...

A MESSAGE FROM CENTER DIRECTOR LT. GEN. JEFFERSON D. HOWELL JR.



En garde!

I took great pride in being an officer of the Marines. However, the driving motivator that kept me in the service was the opportunity to fly fighter aircraft. I had several tours of duty in the Pentagon and other places that I didn't particularly care for [an understatement], but the lure of returning to the fleet and getting back into the cockpit was the carrot that kept this donkey sauntering down the military career path.

I obtained incredible pleasure flying jets, each and every time I did it. An interesting aspect is that the more difficult or "hairy" the mission, the more satisfaction derived. Many was the time that I would be back in the ready room, feeling like a million dollars after scaring the heck out of myself in an aircraft only an hour or so earlier. Whether it was almost hitting the ground or another aircraft, or being shot at and missed by the enemy in combat, the thrill of it all was, in the words of the MasterCard commercial, "priceless."

I don't think my attitude was much different from that of any other fighter jock. If you didn't feel that way, you couldn't stay in the fighter business very long. You wouldn't be able to sleep at night.

Looking back on the experience, I realize that not many of the mishaps that our flying units experienced were associated with the difficult, high-risk aspects of the flying missions. Most of the losses of men and machines caused by pilot error were suffered during the routine parts of flying, usually in formation, while returning to base, or while in the landing pattern. We also tended to have a rash of accidents following periods of inactivity, such as long weekends or holidays. Why was that?

I believe it's because people in high risk activities have a tendency to drop their guard while doing routine things, particularly following either unusual or exciting activity, or long breaks in which they have been off the job. In both cases bad things happen because of a lack of needed intensity and attention to the task at hand.

We have just returned from the extended Thanksgiving/Christmas/New Year holiday season. Hopefully, all of you have had an opportunity for some rest, relaxation and family activities. It is now imperative that we clear out all the mental cobwebs that might have accumulated during this time and get "back on the step."

We are in a high stakes endeavor in which the consequences of lack of attention or dropping our guard could be catastrophic. We cannot allow that to occur. We must set the example in being vigilant, correct and paying attention to detail in everything we do, during every minute of every day. That's what it means to be in Human Space Exploration at JSC.

EN GARDE!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jefferson D. Howell Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



NASA will forever be in the history books. Here at Johnson Space Center, the JSC Oral History Project team is working to ensure that even the finest details of our personal journeys in space exploration are being preserved for future generations.

Capturing history... one memory at a time

by Catherine E. Borsché

A front view of the Apollo 14 lunar module Antares, which reflects a circular flare caused by the brilliant sun. The unusual ball of light was said by the astronauts to have a jewel-like appearance. At extreme left, the lower slope of Cone Crater can be seen.