Ripped from the ROUNDUP

Ripped straight from the pages of old Space News Roundups, here's what happened at JSC on this date:

1976

Electric propulsion research took a giant step forward as engineers at NASA's Lewis Research Center surpassed the old world mark with the completion of 15,000 hours of successful operation of an eight-centimeter mercury ion thruster.

Initiated in the summer of 1973, the tests sought to evaluate ion chamber erosion and peeling of sputtered metal observed in previous life tests; to determine the reliability of thrusters under cyclic operation; and to identify longer term failure modes not apparent in shorter tests.

During the 15,000 hours of operation, Lewis engineers performed 460 re-starts over the 26-month period.

1981

NASA's test version of the space shuttle's main propulsion system successfully completed on Saturday, January 17, its last scheduled test firing before the shuttle's maiden flight planned for March. The test was conducted at the National Space Technology Laboratories, near Bay St. Louis, Miss.

The firing, which lasted 10 minutes, 25 seconds, was the twelfth and longest test of the system to date. It brings the total firing time on the main propulsion test article to more than one hour - the equivalent of more than seven shuttle flights. This included six firings that were programmed to meet or exceed the duration necessary to put a shuttle into orbit.

The shuttle's main propulsion test article consists of three high-performance, liquid-fuel main engines mounted in a simulated tail section of an orbiter; a large external propellant tank; and associated hardware. The shuttle's main propulsion system, together with its two solid rocket boosters, will generate the thrust necessary to launch the vehicle on its flight to orbit.

1986

NASA has switched the launch of the Hubble Space Telescope with the launch of the first Earth Observation Mission. Under the new schedule, the Space Telescope will be launched on Oct. 27 and EOM will lift off on Aug. 18, 1986.

Crews assigned to the missions will also switch to stay with the payloads for which they have been trained.

The change was made to provide additional contingency time for the delivery of the Space Telescope from the West Coast, through the Panama Canal to the Kennedy Space Center. While satisfactory progress is being made by the major contractor, Lockheed Missiles and Space Co., Sunnyvale, Calif., to support the earlier launch date, it was deemed desirable to provide the added contingency time to insure that no slips occur in the space shuttle launch schedule.

ROUNDUP
Frosch, Yardley cover new space technology in STS development

Brown and Root Services, Pioneer earns OSHA VPP recognition

NASA JSC Photo 2000e30044 by Bill Stafford

BRSP Safety Action Team receives VPP Merit flag. Pictured with the team are George Abbey, JSC director; Dick Castleberry, BRSP general manager; and O. J. Alverez, OHSA Region VI VPP coordinator.

On December 1, Brown and Root Services, Pioneer (BRSP) officially received "Merit" recognition in the OSHA Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) and ISO 14001 certification for its environmental management system.

O. J. Alverez, OSHA Region VI VPP coordinator, presented a certificate and VPP Merit flag to Richard T. Castleberry, BRSP general manager, and BRSP's Safety Action Team at an awards luncheon held at the Gilruth Center.

On hand were George Abbey, JSC director; Bill Parsons, JSC deputy director; Nate Wright, Center Operations Directorate director; John Stout, BRSP vice president of Operations, Maintenance & Logistics; and more than 400 BRSP employees.

"This is a truly gratifying occasion for me," said Castleberry. "Today, OSHA is recognizing the remarkable achievement of our employees in creating and maintaining a safe workplace for themselves and our customers. They've earned this recognition and I'm intensely proud of them."

VPP recognizes and promotes effective safety and health management through a cooperative relationship among management, labor and OSHA.

BRSP's employee-driven Safety Action Team led by Ino Castillo played a critically important role in the project achieving VPP status. Each team member received a trophy: Kenneth Hawley, Construction; Glenda Locher, Engineering; Jim Hayman, Jim Tindall, and David Farrill, Maintenance; Charles Nelms, Operations; Gary Steadman, Castillo, Mike Yelton, Ron Johnson, Logistics; Keith Arnone, Environmental; Russ Tucker, OMNISEC; Roosevelt Owens, Tolman Building Maintenance; Brian Turner, Tolman Grounds Maintenance; John Fayle, Rigging and Welding Specialists; Elaine Cates, CC Distributors; and Donna Vaughn, Tim DeLong, Abel Garza, Safety.

The December 1 date held special significance for BRSP as it marked one year with no BRSP "days away" lost workday cases. Four BRSP major sections were recognized for having gone 1,340 days without a "days away" lost workday case: BRSP Construction, Engineering Design, Plant Operations, and Environmental.

Two BRSP subcontractors were also recognized for their exceptional safety performance: Rigging and Welding Specialists had gone 1,250 days without an OSHA recordable case, and Tolman Grounds Maintenance had gone 1,340 days without a "days away" lost workday case injury. ■

Texas travel counselors tour JSC

Texas travel counselors from the twelve official Texas Travel Information Centers are greeted at Space Center Houston by the astronaut mascot as they are taken for a tour of the space center and the Mission Control Center on Nov. 9. The counselors were hosted for their one-day study tour of the Clear Lake area by the Clear Lake—NASA Area Convention & Visitors Bureau as part of their weeklong tour of the Gulf Coast region. Also acting as hosts for the guided tour were Roger Bornstein, director of marketing; Mike Wampler, general sales manager; and Jay Austin, tour guide, all from Space Center Houston; Lynn Shigekawa, development director, and Mark Kramer, naturalist, Armand Bayou Nature Center; and Brett Kellerman, executive vice president, and Tim Anderson, general manager, Kemah Boardwalk. The group was accompanied by Francy Phelps, director, Clear Lake–NASA Area Convention & Visitors Bureau. ■

TICKET WINDOW

The following discount tickets are available at the Exchange Stores

AMC Theaters	$5.00
Moody Gardens (2 events) (does not include Aquarium Pyramid)	$10.75
Moody Gardens (Aquarium only)	$9.25
Space Center Houston . . . . . adult . . $11.00 . . . .child (age 4-11)	$7.25
(JSC civil service employees free.)	
Space Center Houston annual pass	$18.75
Postage Stamps (book of 20)	$6.60
Entertainment Books	$20.00
Franklin Planner refills (Classic Style)	$25.50
Franklin Planner refills (Seasons and Montecello)	$30.25

Check out our new Web site on the JSC People page at: http://hro.jsc.nasa.gov/giftshop/

Exchange Store hours

Monday-Friday
Bldg. 3 7 a.m.-4 p.m.
Bldg. 11 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

- All tickets are nonrefundable.
- Metro tokens and value cards are available.
- Sweetwater Pecans . . . . . $6.25 per lb.
- Chocolate-covered Pecans . . . . $8.00 per lb.

For additional information, please call x35350.

Please bring your driver's license to pay by personal check.