

# 26 Years Ago at MSC

'Flight, this is EGIL!'

## Controllers run first of Skylab sim sessions

Reprinted from the Feb. 4, 1972, edition of Space News Roundup

The faces are familiar, the consoles look much the same, but the chatter on the loops sounds new and strange. And rightly so, because a new Mission Control Center is in the offing.

EGIL-pronounced "eagle"-is just one of the many new call signs for Skylab in the MCC. The letters stand for the console position, "Saturn Workshop, Electrical General Instrumentation Life Support Systems."

This past week a team of flight controllers, flight planners, and "backroom" experts assembled in the MCC's third floor rooms for a series of preliminary planning simulations.

These first simulations are aimed at exercising the basic plans and procedures necessary before more detailed sims, involving other elements of the Skylab team, can begin later.

Flight planners and controllers are taking an initial look at procedures involved in integrating the four areas of experimental planning in Skylab, particularly the ATM (Apollo Telescope Mount) and EREP (Earth Resources Experiments Package) areas, and to evaluate the effects of solar activity and Earth weather on Skylab's operation.

Participating in these preliminary sims are members of the Flight Control Division, Space Flight Meteorology Office, Crew Procedures Division, and Mission Planning and Analysis Division.

No real-time computer support is involved in the sims, and no data from the spacecraft or spacecraft problems are injected into the sims.

The main variables being considered at this time are weather in the target areas, resulting in flight plan updating to work around predicted

cloud cover along the groundtrack, and unexpected solar activity necessitating changes in the ATM plan.

The sims cover the period between command module rendezvous with the Skylab and undocking for the return to Earth.

A list of Skylab instrument ON/OFF times for each instrument as it passes over the target (based on the fields of view) during each revolution is provided to the teams in Mission Control.

Graphical display of the ground tracks superimposed on the targets is projected on the TV displays in the front of the Mission Operations Control Room and on the consoles.

To provide weather realism for these initial sims, the Space Flight Meteorology Office began in December to record daily real-time data from areas around the world which Skylab will cover to make weather forecasts for that day and projected five-day forecasts.

During the current simulations, meteorologists in the MCC provide the cloud cover forecast for the countries scanned by Skylab and give flight controller teams the probabilities of cloud cover in the areas under the groundtrack of Skylab.

A typical day of planning begins with the awakening of the crew at 6:00 a.m. Houston time and at 6:30 a.m., giving the "go-no go" for the day's EREP pass and experiment plan.

At 10:00 a.m., the initial selection of EREP passes for the next five days is made. Information on special experiment requirements is also relayed at that time.

At 1:00 p.m., the flight controller teams look at a summary flight plan and alternates available to the MOCR operations. The summary flight plan is approved around 5:00 p.m. After plan approval, experiment detail planning begins, and



NASA Photo

Above: The Apollo Telescope Mount Staff Support Room in the Mission Control Center was one of the focal points of activity during the initial simulations for the Skylab missions. Flight controllers, flight planners and "backroom" experts assembled in third-floor rooms for a series of preliminary planning simulations aimed at exercising basic plans and procedures. Below: Astronauts Bob Crippen, left, and Bill Thornton familiarize themselves with equipment that would fly aboard the Skylab space station.

the final plan is passed to the Skylab crew at 6:00 p.m.

By 9:00 p.m., detailed planning for the ATM experiments, and medical experiments is under way. The EREP update is sent to the crew at this time.

Milt Windler of the Flight Control Division has directed planning and coordination of these initial simulation exercises.

This series of sims, in addition to exercising the basic plans and procedures, provides an excellent opportunity for the flight control team to become familiar with the new terminology and call signs used between the various console positions in the MCC.

Simulations involving the other elements connected with the Skylab mission will begin sometime late this fall.



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## Gilruth Center News

**Hours:** The Gilruth Center is open from 6:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 6:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday.

**Sign up policy:** All classes and athletic activities are on a first come, first served basis. Sign up in person at the Gilruth Center and show a yellow Gilruth or weight room badge. Classes tend to fill up two weeks in advance. Payment must be made in full, in exact change or by check, at the time of registration. No registration will be taken by telephone. For more information, call x30304.

**Gilruth badges:** Required for use of the Gilruth Center. Employees, spouses, eligible dependents, NASA retirees and spouses may apply for photo identification badges from 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday; and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays. Cost is \$10. Dependents must be between 16 and 23 years old.

**Nutrition intervention program:** Would you like to learn more about the role diet and nutrition play in your health? This six-week program includes lectures, a private consultation with the dietitian and blood analysis to chart your progress. Program is open to all employees, contractors and spouses. For more information call Tammie Shaw at x32980.

**Defensive driving:** One-day course is offered once a month at the Gilruth Center. Pre-registration required. Cost is \$25. Call for next available class.

**Stamp club:** Meets every second and fourth Monday at 7 p.m. in Rm. 216.

**Weight safety:** Required course for employees wishing to use the Gilruth weight room. The next classes are scheduled for at 8 p.m. Feb. 26 and Mar. 12 (must be on time to receive credit for class). Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$5. Annual weight room use fee is \$90. Additional family members are \$50.

**Exercise:** Low-impact class meets from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Cost is \$24 for eight weeks.

**Aikido:** Introductory martial arts class meets from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday. New classes begin the first of each month. Instruction is by a fourth-degree black belt. Learn to defend yourself and get a great aerobic workout. Cost is \$35 per month.

**Step/bench aerobics:** Low impact cardiovascular workout. Classes meet from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cost is \$32 for eight weeks. Call Kristen Taragzewski, instructor, at x36891 for more information.

**Ballroom dancing:** Classes meet from 7-8:15 p.m. Thursdays for beginner advanced classes and from 8:15-9:30 p.m. for beginner-intermediate and intermediate students. Cost is \$60 per couple.

**Country and western dancing:** Beginner class meets 7-8:30 p.m. Monday. Advanced class (must know basic steps to all dances) meets 8:30-10 p.m. Monday. Cost is \$20 per couple.

**Fitness program:** Health Related Fitness Program includes a medical screening examination and a 12-week individually prescribed exercise program. For more information call Larry Wier at x30301.

**Gilruth Home Page:** Check out all activities at the Gilruth online at: <http://www4.jsc.nasa.gov/ah/exceaa/Gilruth/Gilruth.htm>

## Ticket Window

The following discount tickets are available for purchase in the Bldg. 11 Exchange Store from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday and in the Bldg. 3 Exchange Store from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday - Friday. For more information call x35350 or x30990.

**Moody Gardens:** Tickets are \$9.50 for two of four events

**Space Center Houston:** Adults, \$10.25; children (4-11), \$7. JSC civil service employees free.

**Movie discounts:** General Cinema, \$5.50; AMC Theater, \$4.50; Sony Loew's Theater, \$5.

**Shirts:** International Space Station logo pique golf shirts, \$26 and \$28

**Stamps:** Book of 20, \$6.40

**1998 Franklin Planners:** Replacement refill orders being taken now.

**Sweetwater Pecans:** Orders are being taken now; cost is \$5.75 per pound.

**Metro passes:** Tokens and value cards available.

**Book available:** Suddenly Tomorrow Came: A History of Johnson Space Center.

**Balloons:** Balloon bouquets for all occasions, prices vary.

## Roundup Deadlines

The Space News Roundup is published every other Friday. Story ideas should be submitted as far in advance as possible, but no later than two weeks prior to the date of publication.

The deadline for Dates & Data calendar items is three weeks prior to the date of publication.

Stories and ideas should be submitted to Kelly Humphries in Bldg. 2, Rm. 180, or via e-mail to [kelly.o.humphries1@jsc.nasa.gov](mailto:kelly.o.humphries1@jsc.nasa.gov)