

NEWS FROM WHITE SANDS

HOT OFF THE PRESSES

Keystone Committee expands safety awareness

By Cherrie R. Patneau

Members of the Keystone Committee—the White Sands Test Facility (WSTF) safety awareness committee—expanded their mission to the Region VI Voluntary Protection Program Participant's Association's (VPPPA) annual 2001 Conference with two employee participation workshops.

The conference was held in Corpus Christi with 1,200 in attendance for the week-long activities. Guest speakers at the conference were Ed Foreman, Cynthia Cooper and Certified Speaking Professional John W. Drebing, Jr.

The Keystone Committee (named for the locking stone at the top of an arch) has been active at WSTF for more than two years. Holger Fischer, committee chair, shared the successes of safety

initiatives to the audiences.

Recently, an issue of the Porcelain Press, a safety awareness newsletter posted to the site's restroom walls, was honored by being flown on STS-106 with Commander Terry Wilcutt. The committee accepted the plaque signed by the STS-106 crew and the framed newsletter. Members of the committee are: Larry Wiedmaier, Marcus Dunford, Jose Lopez, Don Hall, Ed Havenor, Jill Rollings, Cherrie Patneau, K. C. Schlotterbeck, Holger Fischer, Richard Von Wolff, Danny Aranda, John Kelley, Eric Crespino, Fred Dishman, Raul Estrada and Jesse Wells.

Fischer's talking points to the audiences during the workshops highlighted these site-wide accomplishments:

- Raised the safety awareness onsite
- People are not afraid to raise safety concerns
- Safety problems are fixed
- Employee participation and awareness has increased
- Management has open door policy
- Management is concerned about employee's well being
- Management makes every effort to provide feedback to employees

After the presentation, Fischer challenged the audiences with his customary motto: "Shut up, stop whining and do something!" about safety.

Following Fischer's presentation, Barbara Bengel, a United Space Alliance JSC employee (EVA Robotics) who shared the workshop with the WSTF

group, showed the audiences that when "a break in the corporate ladder from the top down regarding a genuine concern for safety [occurs], there will be an increased risk of hazards and accidents."

Bengel also presented examples of employee participation in safety/health workstations, safety bulletin boards with visual aids, safety quotes, safety tips, safety flyers and contests. Bengel believes that when employee awareness is combined with motivation, a site will have employee participation, but it must be combined with a genuine concern for safety.

The Keystone Committee also attended other VPPPA workshops and will be implementing initiatives from the conference to improve safety of WSTF employees.

WSTF Manager Joe Fries commented on several issues relating to the Keystone Committee recently. "All the members of the Keystone Committee have been instrumental in making our safety awareness what it is today, and for that I would like to thank them for the hard work they have done," he said. "As Chair of the Keystone Committee, Holger has done an outstanding job. He has shown himself to be a leader, while managing many other projects and daily tasks."

Honeywell Technology Solutions, Inc. Program Manager Bob Baker said, "The conference was an excellent learning experience for me and others attending. The presentations were of a high quality and served to reinforce that we're doing the right things for our current VPP projects. The conference helped to reinforce our belief that we can eliminate all accidents and injuries at our site.

"Congratulations to Holger Fischer, Don Hall, and all the members of the Keystone Committee who helped with the presentation. It was the best at the conference, judged by the number of people attending." ■



Recently Joe Fries, White Sands Training Facility manager, and Bob Baker, program manager for Honeywell Technology Solutions, Inc., met with committee members of the Porcelain Press—a safety awareness newsletter that is posted on the restroom walls at White Sands. Pictured above, from left, is K.C. Schlotterbeck, Raul Estrada, Fred Dishman, Cherrie Patneau, Marc Dunford, Joe Fries, Holger Fischer, Bob Baker, Case Van Dyke, John Bernal, Richard Von Wolff, Jill Rollings, Pete Garcia and Ed Havenor. Fries and Fischer hold a plaque; Baker holds a framed Porcelain Press.

What a beautiful day for a picnic! *Thousands attend JSC event at Astroworld*

The weather was perfect this year for the thousands of employees attending the NASA-JSC Family Picnic April 1 at Astroworld.

JSC Employee Activities Association President Ginger Gibson said this year's picnic, the seventh consecutive one to be held at Astroworld, drew well over 3,000 NASA employees, retirees, contractors and their families and friends. This was the largest crowd to date—the EAA sold more than 3,100 tickets for the event.

Astronauts Dave Brown, Barbara Morgan, Willie McCool, Joe Tanner, Stan Love and Dan Burbank signed autographs, and the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo speakers committee entertained the crowd with singers, rodeo clowns and dancers. Face painters and balloon clowns also provided some smiles. In addition, those who attended received free complimentary passes for another visit to Astroworld later this year.

"The picnic at Astroworld was a huge success. What a great day—the weather cooperated and the food was plentiful and really good, with all you could eat

barbecue, assorted beverages and ice cream," said Gibson, who chaired this year's picnic committee. "We also had great entertainment, and all the rides and attractions that Astroworld offers. What more could you ask for?"

The Family Picnic was a hit with everybody. "This is a great family day for our folks and they seem to be pleased with the variety of things to do for kids of all ages," she said. "The A&W ranch area offered a nice reprieve for people to take a short break, recoup, grab a bite to eat, drink, visit and then hit the rides again."

Gibson said many people never even went into the park. "They just stayed around The Big Red Barn and enjoyed the fun, food and fellowship," she said. "It is always a fun-filled day for everyone who attends." ■



Photographs show some of the fun that took place at Astroworld's A&W Ranch, where JSC employees gathered to enjoy barbecue and each other's company, play horseshoes and dance to the music.

White Sands says Good Luck Miguel!



Miguel Maes will be competing in the Alumni Western Horsemanship and Alumni Reining at the 2001 IHSA National Horse Show. It will be held at the Georgia International Horse Park in Conyers, Ga., May 4-6. Maes is pictured here, center, standing with his trainers, friends and the saddle he won at Nationals last year.