

DATES & DATA**January 1**

NSS meets: The Clear Lake area chapter of the National Space Society meets at 6:30 p.m. at the Parker Williams Branch of the Harris Co. Library at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. For more information contact Murray Clark at (281) 367-2227.

January 2

Quality Society meets: The Bay Area Section of the American Society for Quality will meet at 6 p.m. at Franco's Real Italian Restaurant on NASA Road 1. No reservations are required. For more information, contact Ann Dorris at x38620.

January 3

Astronomy seminar: The JSC Astronomy Seminar Club will meet at noon January 3, 10 and 17 in Bldg. 31, Rm. 248A. For more information contact Al Jackson at x35037.

Spaceteam Toastmasters meet: The Spaceteam Toastmasters meet at 11:30 a.m. January 3, 10 and 17 at United Space Alliance, 600 Gemini. For more information contact Patricia Blackwell at (281) 280-6863.

January 4

Communicators meet: The Clear Lake Communicators, a Toastmasters International club, meet January 4, 11 and 18 at 11:30 at Wyle Laboratories, 1100 Hercules, Suite 305. For more information contact Allen Prescott at (281) 282-3281 or Richard Lehman at (281) 280-6557.

Warning System Test: The site-wide Employee Warning System performs its monthly audio test at noon. For more information contact Bob Gaffney at x34249.

January 5

Chess Club Meets: The Space City Chess Club meets each Friday evening from 5:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the Clear Lake United Methodist Church, 16335 El Camino Real, Rm. 423. All skill levels are welcome. For more information, please call James Mulberry at x39287 or James Termini at x32639.

January 9

Aero Club meets: The Bay Area Aero Club meets at 7 p.m. at the Houston Gulf Airport clubhouse at 2750 FM 1266 in League City. For more information contact Larry Hendrickson at x32050.

IAAP meets: The Clear Lake/NASA Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals meets at 5:30 p.m. in the Colonial Room at Grace Community Church, 14325 Crescent Landing. Cost is \$12.

January 11

Airplane club meets: The Radio Control Airplane Club meets at 7 p.m. at the Clear Lake Park building. For more information contact Bill Langdoc at x35970.

January 12

Astronomers meet: The JSC Astronomical Society meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Center for Advanced Space Studies, 3600 Bay Area Blvd. For more information contact Chuck Shaw at x35416.

January 17

Scuba club meets: The Lunarfins meets at 7:30 p.m. For more information contact Mike Manering at x32618.

January 18

Directors meet: The Space Family Education board of directors meets at 11:30 a.m. in Bldg. 45, Rm. 712D. For more information contact Lynn Buquo at x34716.

January 25

Radio Club meets: The JSC Amateur Radio Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Piccadilly, 2465 Bay Area Blvd. For more information contact Larry Dietrich at x39198.

Roundup takes holiday break until January 12

This issue of *Space Center Roundup* will be the last of 2000. The next scheduled date of publication would have been December 29.

The first *Roundup* of 2001 will be published on January 12.

The *Roundup* editors wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and a great 2001.

GILRUTH CENTER NEWS**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, by cash or by check, at the time of registration. No registration will be taken by telephone. For more information, call x33345.

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 \$12. Dependents must be between 16 and 23 years old.

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. Contact the Gilruth Center at (281) 483-3345. <http://www4.jsc.nasa.gov/ah/exceaa/Gilruth/Gilruth.htm>

Nutrition intervention program: This is a free seven-week program designed to provide an understanding of the role diet and nutrition play in health. The program includes a series of lectures and private consultations with a dietitian. You will learn how to use dietary vitamins, minerals and herbal nutraceuticals for optimizing health. Classes are held on Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. For details call Tammie Labiche, registered dietitian, at (281) 483-2980.

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. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$5. Annual weight room use fee is \$105. The cost for additional family members is \$58.

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

Step/bench aerobics: Low-impact cardiovascular workout. Classes meet from 5:25-6:25 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cost is \$40 for eight weeks.

Yoga stretching: Stretching class of low-impact exercises designed for people of all ages and abilities in a Westernized format. Meets Thursdays 5-6 p.m. Cost is \$40 for eight weeks. Call Darrell Matula, instructor, at x38520 for more information.

Ballroom dancing: Classes meet Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for beginner, 8:30-9:30 p.m. for intermediate and 7:30-8:30 p.m. for advanced. Cost is \$60 per couple.

Country and western dancing: Beginner class meets 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays. Advanced class (must know basic steps to all dances) meets 8:30-10 p.m. Mondays. 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.

Aikido: Martial arts class for men and women meets 5-6 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. No special equipment or knowledge is needed to participate. Aikido teaches balance and control to defend against an opponent without using strength or force. Beginning and advanced classes start each month. Cost is \$35 per month.

NASA BRIEFS**NASA PROGRAM HELPS BRAIN-INJURED PATIENTS**

Brain-injured patients are exploring the stars with a click of a computer mouse, thanks to a special hands-on, interactive NASA education program.

Through Telescopes In Education, sponsored by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, patients are no longer limited by their physical barriers, and are free to stretch their imaginations.

In May, a dozen patients who suffered severe head injuries, took control of a science-grade reflecting telescope located at the Mount Wilson Observatory, high above the Los Angeles basin in the San Gabriel Mountains. Using the Internet, patients at Delta Rehabilitation Facility for the Severely Head-Injured in Snohomish, WA, downloaded digital images of nine deep space objects, including several galaxies and star clusters.

The director of Internet Services for the Brain Injury Association of Washington, Paul Walsh, and his wife, Valarie, began teaching basic astronomy to a roomful of Delta residents nearly one year ago. Walsh discovered the patients were an eager and attentive group of students.

"People who have sustained a major brain injury often have a keen and hungry intelligence that has been masked and hidden behind the devastation caused by their injuries," Walsh said.

The program allows educators and students around the world to remotely control research-quality telescopes and charge-coupled device cameras created at JPL and located at the Mount Wilson Observatory. All they need is a computer modem and special astronomy software.

In 1999, the program enabled more than 10,850 students, located in 25 states, to conduct astronomical observations and meaningful research. Use of the system is free except for the purchase of the remote software, which controls the telescope.

Information on the Telescopes In Education program is available at:

<http://tie.jpl.nasa.gov/>

Delta Rehab information on this special project and a link to the Brain Injury Association Web site is located at:

<http://www.nwlink.com/~filmdos/m111/infinityproject.htm>

NASA ASTROBIOLOGY ARCHITECT DIES

NASA Scientist Dr. Gerald Soffen, who led the Viking science team that performed the first experiments on the surface of the planet Mars and a guiding force in NASA's effort to search for life in the universe, died Nov. 22 at George Washington University Hospital in Washington, DC. He was 74.

A close advisor to NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin, Soffen helped shape NASA's Astrobiology program, the study of life in the universe. Soffen also was instrumental in the establishment of the NASA Astrobiology Institute, a virtual organization comprising NASA centers, universities and research organizations dedicated to studying the origin, evolution, distribution and destiny of life in the universe.

Soffen worked for NASA for more than 30 years. He began his NASA career at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory where he managed biological instrument development at the Pasadena-based facility. He also was the principal investigator for the proposed Mars Microscope.

Soffen was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on Feb. 7, 1926. He received his Ph.D. in biology in 1961 from Princeton University. He earned his master's of science degree from the University of Southern California and bachelor's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles.

He is survived by his wife, Kazuko, and a sister, Nancy Guy, who lives in California.

SPACE CENTER Roundup

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