Chairman's Letter

In lieu of the conventional message this month, I am reprinting the following (author unknown) from AIAA Membership News. Need I say more?

FANTASY ISLAND

Many will be shocked to find
When the day of judgment nears
That there's a special place in heaven
Set aside for volunteers.

Furnished with big recliners,
Satin couches and footstools,
Where there's no Committee Chairman,
No group leaders or car pools.

You ask, who'll serve these privileged few
And work for all they're worth?
Why, all those who reaped the benefits
And NOT ONCE volunteered on earth!

Telephone lists will be outlawed,
But a fingersnap will bring
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners,
And rare treats fit for a king.

No eager team that needs a coach,
No bazaar and no bake sale,
There will be nothing to staple,
Not one thing to fold or mail.

Opportunities for involvement

Partners in Space announces new location

Partners in Space announces a new office location at 16903 Buccaneer, Suite 104, Houston TX 77058, telephone 283-8225, fax 283-5472. The office will serve as an educational "clearing house" designed to build partnerships between industry and education.

They are currently recruiting volunteers for the Public Relations/Marketing Committee, the Fundraising Committee and the Project Committee. If you are interested in volunteering, or if you would like further information, call Susan Spencer, Executive Director, or Cheryl Irving, Administrative Coordinator.
Section activities

Credit where it's due

To: Charles Blacknall
Vice-Chairman, Operations

I was pleased to see the letter of thanks from the Science Engineering Fair of Houston for the continuing support that our section gives each year. However, as with many volunteer organizations, their mailing lists are out of date. The SEF activity this year was directed by Dave Dannemiller, Student Affairs Committee Chairman. His crew did another fine job dealing with an even larger number of exhibits than before.

Dick Bennett
McDonnell Douglas

ISAC hosts Japanese students

The International Space Activities Committee (ISAC) had the pleasure of entertaining a group of graduate students from Japan who attended the International Space University (ISU) this last summer. On September 5, 1990, ISAC hosted a visit by the students to the Johnson Space Center. The group consisted of Yoshihide Kita, Mamoru Takahashi, Ryuji Yamouchi, Takahashi Miyazaki, Hiroyuki Aoi, Mikiya Okumura, Hisahito Tadokoro and Kenji Nozaki. Accompanying the students was a representative of the Shimizu Corporation, Ms. Okazaki.

Carolyn Blacknall gave the students a guided tour of the Visitors Center, Building 9B and the Lunar Sample building. The tour was followed by a Lunch and Learn in the Building 3 cafeteria, which was also attended by Dr. Wendell Mendell, one of the guest professors at the ISU. Former astronaut Bob Overmyer gave a very interesting overview of his Spacelab 3 flight. He discussed materials processing, crystal growth processes and various experiments that were carried out on the flight, as well as what types of experiments will be done on Space Station Freedom. After the presentation, there was a question and answer period.

BOO!
Also included

What's happening?

Perhaps you've noticed that, like last month, this issue of Horizons is a bit skimpier than average. Let me assure you that this is not by choice. We'll print almost anything we get, but if we don't get it we can't print it.

Even though summer is normally a period of reduced activity, it's hard to believe that so little is going on in a section with a thousand members. There are so many technical committees I've lost count, and almost as many operations committees. Even if some of them aren't hyperactive, a few are bound to be doing something. How about letting the rest of the section know what you're doing, or what you plan to do? A lot of our members would like to know; some of them might even get involved if they knew what was going on.

Repeating from last month, below are the input deadlines for the rest of the year. Inputs for Horizons should reach Charles Blacknall, VC-Ops, MDSSC/T7E, by the date given to be included in that month's issue. A floppy disk with an ASCII or equivalent file would be appreciated, but anything legible will be welcome.

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Technical activities schedule, October

1—Monday
NASA Area Macintosh Users (Group) "NAMU"
Symantec/Norton Utilities Gisela Salazar
RSOC Cafeteria 600 Gemini 7:00PM
Information: Sharyn Best 488-6522

3—Wednesday
IEEE, ISA, CLCTS Video Conference
"Computer Graphics"
JSC Gilruth Center 10:00 to 2:00 PM ($60/$50 Members)
Information: Andy Lindberg 483-1474

3—Wednesday
JSC Astronomy Seminar  Open Discussion
JSC Bldg 31 Rm 129 Noon to 1:00 PM
Information: Al Jackson 333-7679

3—Wednesday
LPI Seminar Series
"Comets vs Asteroids: Cratering in the Solar System"
Mark E. Bailey, University of Manchester, England
LPI 3303 NASA RD1 Berkner Room 3:30PM
Information: Pam Jones 486-2113

5—Monday
AIAA International Space Activities TC
Monthly Meeting
Information: Charles Blacknall 283-1073

9—Tuesday
Clear Lake Council of Tech. Societies Monthly Meeting
Lockheed Plaza 3 1150 Gemini 11:45AM
Information: Andy Lindberg 483-1474

10—Wednesday
JSC Astronomy Seminar
"Solids In the Sky" Al Jackson, LESC; Report on Austin
Symposium McDonald Observatory, UT
JSC Bldg 31 Rm 129 Noon to 1:00 PM
Information: Al Jackson 333-7679

11—Thursday
IEEE Monthly Meeting
"Neural Network Applications" Dr Jack Aldridge, MDC
JSC Gilruth Center 11:30/12:00 Noon
Information: Dr. Zafer Taqvi 333-6544

12—Friday
LPI Seminar Series
"The Application of Imaging Radar to Volcanology"
Lisa Gaddis, Arizona State University
LPI 3303 NASA RD1 Berkner Room 3:30PM
Information: Pam Jones 486-2113

17—Wednesday
Houston Space Business Roundtable Monthly Luncheon
"Canadian Space Activities" Mr. Brian Erb
Nassau Bay Hilton 300 NASA Rd 1 11:30AM
Information: Bill Nash 280-0460

17—Wednesday
JSC Astronomy Seminar  Open Discussion
JSC Bldg 31 Rm 129 Noon to 1:00 PM
Information: Al Jackson 333-7679

17—Wednesday
AIAA Dinner Meeting
"Role of Robotics for Space Station Applications"
Charley Price, NASA
JSC Gilruth Center 5:30/6:30/7:30PM
Information: Dr. Zafer Taqvi 333-6544

18—Thursday
Clear Lake SigAda Business Meeting
Holiday Inn 1300 E. NASA Rd 1 11:45AM
Information: Tom Sullivan 333-5040

23—Tuesday
LPI Seminar Series-Brown Bag Seminar
"Earth Resources & Environment: The Geologist's
Schizophrenia", Petri Jakes, LPI
LPI 3303 NASA RD1 Hiess Room 12:00 Noon
Information: Pam Jones 486-2113

23—Tuesday
Bay Area PC Organization (BAPCO) Monthly Meeting
Hard Disk Horror--Failure, Repair, and Recovery
(DiskTec)
League City Bank & Trust 303 E. Main 7:30PM
Information: Don Wechsler 335-8517

24—Wednesday
Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Assoc.
Monthly Luncheon (Public is Welcome)
Lt. Gen Thomas W. Kelly, Dir of Operations, Jt Chiefs,
Wash, D.C.
(?)Holiday Inn 1300 E. NASA Rd 1 11:45AM
Information: Mike Denard 280-1532

24—Wednesday
JSC Astronomy Seminar
"Nedlin Space Catastrophe-Snooping Out the Facts"
Jim Oberg
JSC Bldg 31 Rm 129 Noon to 1:00 PM
Information: Al Jackson 333-7679

25—Thursday
Society for Computer Simulation 11:45AM
Speaker: Ed Smith LESC
Lockheed Plaza 3, PIC Rm 1150 Gemini Ave
Information: Robin Kirkham 280-7345

30-1 Nov—Tuesday-Thursday
"Space Exploration 90"
Sponsored by the NASA Alumni League
South Shore Harbour Resort and Conf. Center 8:00AM
Information: Gwen Griffen 623-6591

31—Wednesday
JSC Astronomy Seminar
Science vs Pseudo-Science" Steve Williams, LPI
JSC Bldg 31 Rm 129 Noon to 1:00 PM
Information: Al Jackson 333-7679

Please send additions, corrections and comments to:
Bill Best /R12A-130, Rockwell Shuttle Operations Co., 600
Gemini Ave., Houston, TX 77058, telephone 283-0261.
Wednesday, October 17, 1990

SPACE STATION FREEDOM
ROBOTS AND THEIR ROLE IN
EXTERNAL MAINTENANCE

CHARLES R. PRICE
CHIEF
ROBOTIC SYSTEMS
DEVELOPMENT BRANCH
JOHNSON SPACE CENTER

PROGRAM:
The External Maintenance Task Team recently completed a six month study that found the external maintenance required for the Space Station Freedom (SSF) to be substantial. Known colloquially as the Fischer-Price committee, the team also evaluated the use of extravehicular activity (EVA) astronauts and robots to meet these maintenance needs. Results of this study were given to the NASA Administrator and Congressional oversight committees. Mr. Price, who co-chaired the study with astronaut Dr. William Fischer, will discuss the source of the maintenance requirements, the techniques used in evaluating the performance of EVA crew and the SSF robots, and the major recommendations of the study. He will describe the configuration of each of the five SSF robots and their utility for performing inspection, orbital replacement unit (ORU) replacement, and EVA support.

DINNER MEETING:
SOCIAL: 5:30
DINNER: 6:30
PROGRAM: 7:30

MENU: Breast of Turkey (Cordon Bleu)
MEMBERS & SPOUSES $8.00
NONMEMBERS $9.00
STUDENTS/YOUNG MEMBERS $7.00

NOTE: The dinner reservations deadline is Friday, October 12, at 12:00 noon. Any cancellations are required prior to deadline. No-shows will be billed. All are welcome.
Dinner reservations are not required for attending the program only.