

From the Editor

# Curiosity on Mars and a Busy Horizons Team

DOUGLAS YAZELL, EDITOR



Special thanks go to Dr. Dorothy Oehler for our cover story this issue. She worked with me patiently during a busy time for her work on this inspiring project.

Wes Kelly suggested the [article](#) about the late science fiction writer Boris Strugatsky, and I enjoyed learning about the writings of the Strugatsky brothers. Thanks to this article, we also have a new resource for Horizons reporting, the biweekly Russian language newspaper [Our Texas](#). The NASA/JSC family includes a Russian community thanks to ISS work, and projects like this article can expand Horizons readership. Wes Kelly contributed another [article](#) in response to my request, a report about

the Tau Ceti candidate exoplanets.

Our French sister section 3AF MP has been great about exchanging newsletter articles, and that tradition continues in this issue. In related news, Orion is going international. The Orion ESA service module is very big news for our NASA/JSC community. This issue includes a NASA [press release](#) and a reporter's contribution to the [question](#) and answer session during the NASA/JSC press conference.

The alligator in the photographs below has been living in that ditch in the center of Bay Area Blvd for a year or two, my neighbor tells me. I took those snapshots while the

gator spent a few days just east of Boeing Way, a short street which exists only to cross Bay Area Blvd as part of the entrance and exit for the Boeing parking garage. As shown in one of the images, the gator is only about four feet long and its weight is about 70 pounds, I would guess. There are plenty of turtles in the ditch, too, so maybe that is its diet. Adult and baby ducks sometimes wander into those ditches from behind the Boeing building, so I hope they stay away from the gator. Small dogs walk near there now and then, but the dogs are safe while being walked on leashes by owners. The University Park neighborhood [web site](#) has more photos which serve to keep those residents informed and warned.

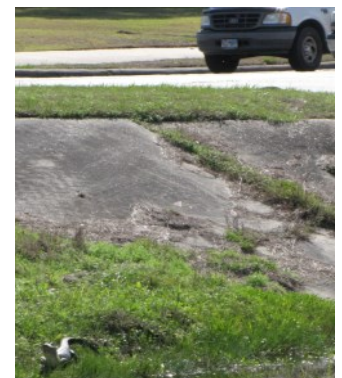
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