# Space News Roundup 

## New crew interfaces standardized

 By Billie Deason A new NASA-wide standard for designing crew interfaces promises greater efficiences both on Earth and in space, officials saySince the beginning of the space program, each NASA Center has established its own man-systems standards for development of spacecraft hardware. None of these standards has ever been a man datory part of a contract to build a spacecraft.
But that situation is changing as result of a collaboration of ind viduals from JSC and the Marshal Space Flight Center on the devel pment of an agency-wide set of standards for the design of space craft crew interfaces. Crew inter faces include all systems, controls ools, hardware and parts of the spacecraft that the crew uses
JSC's Man-Systems Division and Marshall employees working in the design of man-systems joined forces in late 1985 to propose development of an agency-wide standard for crew interface systems The Chief Engineer's Office at Headquarters has given the go ahead to compile a set of standards called NASA STD 3000, that defines man-systems engineering require ments for all systems that fligh crews use. The effort was jointly funded by Headquarters' Office of space Flight (Code M) and the (Continued on page 2)


Evidence of JSC's new policy limiting smoking in public areas sits in a stairwell of BIdg. 1. The new guidelines, which prohibit smoking in public areas and shared offices, necessitated the recent removal of the ashtrays.

## New STS-26 launch target is June 1988; exact date later

or the next Space Ser larget date NASA Administrato Fletcher announced Wednesday The exact date will be selected by the Administrator based upon the results of expanded testing of Shuttle systems, revised launch crew procedures and actual hardware deliveries.
Current plans are for two additional flights in 1988 and seven flights in 1989. Adm. Richard H . Truly. NASA Associate Administrator for Space Flight, said necessary adjustments to the Shuttle manifest published in October 1986 will be worked out over the next few months. Safely returning the Space Shuttle to flight is NASA's highest priority. Dr. Fletcher said.

Our revised plan for Space Shuttle recovery is ambitious and assumes that we will successfully complete our test and processing objectives. know I can count on the whole NASA team -- and, of course, include our contractor partners to move out enthusiastically toward this new goal."
The new target date reflects the decision, announced in April, to perform two major systems tests
prior to flight.
These tests are a "wet" countdown demonstration test, in which the external tank is filled with fuel for a simulated launch countdown, and a flight readiness firing in which the hree main engin
bout 20 seconds
The tests, which will be conducted approximately six weeks prior to aunch, will provide engineering data o evaluate various systems modifi ations and provide an opportunity oxercise launch and mission ontrol teams and revised proce dures.
The plan also permits acquisition of new fabrication tooling to improve the tolerance on the redesigned solid rocket motor insulation J-seal The crew is pleased with NASA' imely action in selecting a new target date and we fully support the new schedule," said STS-26 Com mander Rick Hauck.

We recognize the wisdom of incorporating the wet countdown demonstration and flight readiness firing into the schedule. A grea deal of work remains to be don before we return to flight and we are encouraged by the progress being made toward that goal.

## Electrical transient caused AC-67 loss

An electrical transient, caused by a triggered lightning flash, was the most probable cause of the loss of the Atlas/Centaur-67 on March 26
Those were the findings of the Accident Investigation Board chaired by Jon R. Busse, Director of the Office of Flight Assurance, Goddard Space Flight Cente
In a report May 11 to Rear Admiral Richard H. Truly, Associate Admin istrator for Space Flight, the investigation board reported that the launch commit criteria associated
"The most probable cause of the mission failure was launching the AC-67 vehicle into atmospheric conditions conducive to triggered ightning and in violation of the
established criteria used to avoid board said.
The board made recommendations concerning weather criteria, the launch decison process and future launch vehicle operations. One of the technical challenges to the board, Busse said, was to find the mechanism by which the lightning reached the digital com puter unit (DCU) and how tha equipment was affected. Busse said the investigation board determined that the triggered lightning strike on the nose fairing found several paths to the gro
Both the wiring from the booster external equipment pod and the nose fairing accelermometers pro vided pathways. Once the voltage
surge entered the DCU, it altered a single word in the DCU memory associated with the Atlas engine yaw commands
As a result, the board made a number of observations and recommendations for future launch vehicle design including reducing the susceptibility of control and electrical systems to external electrical interference and increased redundancy of critical electrical systems. The board also found that an existing weather criteria, one dealing with the depth of middle layer clouds when a freezing level is present, had been violated. It also recommended further tightening of the weather criteria in general "The criteria should be revised take into consideration the add orkikion
techniques of lightning pnenomena that have been developed since the present expendable launch vehicle (ELV) criteria were established. The Shuttle and ELV weather criteria should converge where practical." The board said the electric field mill system, which indicates the potential for lightning, should be transitioned to operational status. To permit the continuation of ELV launches while the weather criteria are being evaluated, the board recommended that field mill data and a mandatory weather aircraft be added to the existing list of launch constraints. Air Force weather aircraft were grounded the day of the AC-67 launch due to bad weather.

The board further suggested that the only time the requirement for a
weather aircraft be waived is when a cloud-free line of sight exists fo the vehicle flight path.

In presenting the report, Busse said that no one person in the launch team should be singled out for the failure He said one of the board findings was that before the launch there were a significant number of indications that gener ally the weather was unfavorable and that specifically, therable and that, specifically, there was a ightning hazard. Yet the rea mportorthese indications escaped the launch team because of im precise communications, lack of awareness or both," the report said
The investigation board report will be reviewed by various offices at NASA Headquarters before it is accepted in its final form.

## Ten JSC inventors honored at luncheon

Ten JSC inventors were honored efforts which led to the granting of two patents in 1986. NASA as a whole have lost their technological edge. But you here today are evidence that JSC does have talented, creative people, said Patent Counsel Ed Fein, whose office sponsored the uncheon
The message is clear: The management of JSC really does appreciate its inventors, and does take notice of your efforts," Fein said.

Organizers of the luncheon said they hope to make the hono ceremony an annual event to
highligh
The honorees were Timothy E Pelischek, William C. Schneider, Reginald B. Berka, Herbert C Kavanaugh, Kornel Nagy, Richard C. Parish, John A. Schliesing, Paul D. Smith, Frederick J. Stebbins and Clarence J. Wesselski Pelischek's was honored for his design of a foldable, self erecting joint with space station applications. The design, U.S. patent number $4,615,637$, originated during the "skunk works" days of the initial Space Station design effort at JSC as part of the Dita con at JSC as
joint was designed for
(Continued on page 2)


The ten JSC employees honored for their patents pose for a group photo during the award luncheon May 6.

## Bulletin Board

## Employee rebadging effort continues

ued through badges are a standard NASA format which does no identify specific centers," he said. "The security clearance of the bearer is determined by he background color of the employee's photograph." The color codes are red for secret or above clearance, blue for confidential clearance and valid until May 29 when the said. Both the new and old badges will be Employees who miss rebadging in their respective buildings should to Bldg. 100 after May 28.

## Drivers reminded to douse headlights

SSC Security has requested that drivers be reminded that when entering the center at night they should turn off their headlights at least 100 feet from the gate. Entering the gate with only parking lights on prevents

## glare and helps oficers propenly identify vehicles.

## Station progress is Lunch and Learn topic

Clarke Covington, Manager of the Space Station Projects Office, will discuss recent developments in the program during a Lunch and Learn presentation May 26. The session, sponsored by the Space Systems Technical Committee, will begin at 11:30 a.m. in the BIdg. 3 Cafeteria. or more information, call Andre Sylvester at x31537

## NARFE to meet June 2

The NASA Area Chapter of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees will hold a dinner meeting at 6 p.m. June 2 . The meeting will take place at the Harris County Park Bldg., Clear Lake Park, on NASA Road One. All retirees and those planning retirement are invited to attend. For more information, call Phil Hinton at 334-2455 or Burney

## FIBER-TEX issues call for papers

advanced engineering fibers ind for FIBER-TEX 87, a conference on onference, theeribers and textile structures for composities. The Greenville, South Carolina, is being jointly sponsored by NASA and the Advanced Engineering Fibers Laboratory at Clemson Unive sity. Sessions will cover areas such as composite structures and produc ${ }^{+i}$ in methods, future applications, structural fabric production machinery composite matrix materials and fiber and whisker production methods. A one-half page abstract should be submitted for acceptance prior to June 30. Accepted papers will be notified by July 17. Abstracts should Hall, Clemson University Clemson SC The ZIP Code is 29634-0909

## Space Port Houston membership drive underway

ducational organization being organized for the purpose of spon a space training camp for young people. Volunteers are needed to participate in fund raising and other organizational activities. For mor information, contact the Junior Astronaut Corps of America, 403 NASA Road One, Suite 360, Webster, TX 77598, or call 778-4183.
Blood pressure screenings to be offered
As part of National High Blood Pressure Month, the JSC Clinic will offer free screenings from June 1 to 5 . The screenings will be offered at the following times and places: June 1, 8:30 a.m. to noon, Bidg. 1, for personnel from Bldgs. 1, 2, 3 and 100; June 1, 1 to 3 p.m., Bldg. 7A, for personnel from Bldgs. 4, 5, 7, 29 and 35; June 2, 8:30 a.m. to noon, Bldg 30, for personnel from Bldgs. 12 and 30 ; June 2, 1 to $2: 30$ p.m., Bldg. 16 for personnel from Bldgs. 13 and 15; June 2, 2:30 to 4 p.m., Bldg. 17, for personnel from Bidgs. 17 and 18; June 3, 8:30 to $9: 30$ a.m., Bldg. 32, for personnel from Bldgs. 24, 25, 32, 32A, 33, 36, 41 and 49; June 3, 10 to 11 a.m., Bldg. 37, for personnel from Bldgs. 31 and 37; June 3, 1 to 2 p.m. Bldg. 44, for employees in Bldg. 44; June 3, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., Bidg. 14, fo employees in Bldg. 14; June 4, 8:30 to 10 a.m., Bldg. 276, for all Ellington employees; June 4, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Bldg. 325, for personnel in all of
the 300 -series buildings; June 4, 1 to 2:30 p.m., Bidg. 419 , for personnel the 300 -series buildings; June 4, 1 to $2: 30 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} .$, Bldg. 419 , for personnel
in all 400 -series buildings; June $5,8: 30 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. to noon, Bidg. 45 , for in all 400 -series buildings; June $5,8: 30$ a.m. to noon, Bidg. 45 , fo personnel in Bldgs. 45 and 48 ; June 5 , 1 to 2 p.m., Bldg. 9 , for Bldg. 9
employees; June 5, 2:30 to $3: 30$ p.m., Bldg. 227, for personnel in all employees; June 5, $2: 30$ to $3: 30$ p.m., Bldg. 227, for personnel in al
200-series buildings. The Clinic also will offer screenings daily from 10 200 -series buildings. The Clinic also will offer screenings daily from 10
a.m. to noon and from 2 to $4 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. for employees of BIdgs. 8,10 and 11

## Gilruth Center News

Moon Walk softball tournament - Men's open C and women's open
softball tournament will be conducted June 13-14. Entry fee is $\$ 95$ Registration deadline is June 10
SCUBA - The next NAUI-certified scuba course begins June 8. For details, call the Rec Center
Weight safety - This is a required course for those employees wishing to use the Rec Center weight room. The class will be held June 3 and 18 from 8 to 9:30 p.m
Defensive driving - Learn to drive safely and qualify for a 10\% reduction in auto insurance rates. All-day Saturday class meets June 20.
Physical fitness - The next 12-week course of the JSC Physical Fitness Program will be held July 6 to Sept. 25 from $6: 30$ to 7:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. All NASA and contractor employees and dependents are eligible upon completion of an acceptable physical exam and a maximal treadmill stress test. Call the Rec Center for more information.
Karate - The next four-week Karate class starts June 1 and will meet

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Space News Roundup


## Secretaries receive accolades

Four JSC employees recently earned the Marilyn J. Bockting Secretarial Excellence Award for outstanding performance. Martha L. Kramer, Nina E. Lamb, Elizabeth W. Pieberhofer and Doris J. Roberts each received a plaque and $\$ 500$ in recognition of their services.
Kramer is branch secretary for the Flight Training Branch of the MOD Training Division. She acts as personal secretary for the branch chief and chief secretary for the branch. Her duties include making maintaining schedules, receiving calls and visitors, preparing correspondence and maintaining files. She was specifically cited for a "can-do" attitude that draws her organization's staff together. Following the 51-L accident, Kramer worked extra hours to ensure that all appropriate training material from the flight was gathered, cataloged and impounded. She also prepared several briefings for the Presidential Commission investigating the accident, and several of her charts appeared unchanged in
Inventions keep JSC technically hea

## (Continued from page 1)

 with the tetratruss frame of theDelta configuration, which required that most of the tubing making up the framework be folded in the payload bay of an Orbiter for transport to low Earth orbit
The novelty of the design is in its use of an over-center, four-bar linkage having two springs to prolock the mechanism over center to provide a slop-free joint
The second patent, for
The second patent, for which the ored was for the triangular honstation also known station, also known as the Delta configuration. The Delta was one of the final three designs considered nine employees were honored, was
by the Skunk Works before the Power Tower was ultimately chosen

Lamb is secretary for the Fligh Production Office and the manage of the Manifest and Performance Office. During the past year, she has helped prepare numerous pre sentations and letters to Head quarters, Congressional committe es and other high-ranking official on short deadlines She is recog nized as a word processing and personal computer expert in the office, and as a leader in using office, and as a leader in using automated data bases for tracking Her positive attitude and con items Her in dealing with problems cooperat on in dealing with problems created by a major reorganization have helped keep the office functioning Pmoothly.
Pieberhofer is secretary for the Technical Resources Managemen Office in the Data Processing Sys ems Division. She prepares letters reports, purchase requests, con tractor evaluations, presentations and briefings to all levels of JSC and contractor management Sh has distinguished herself by ac-
by ac
sociated with administering a cooperative agreement between JSC and the University of Houston Clear Lake (UHCL). The additional duties include maintaining a status log for program change requests, and program change requests, and correspondence between drop for Corresp
Roberts is secretary to the deputy director of Mission Support, and provides support to the director and directorate office. She was specifically recognized for her processors, mainframe and personal computers and a variety of electronic communication methods in her work as a trip planner scheduler, mail handler, action tracker, typist and editor. Her ability to find inconsistencies and errors in presentations and documents has raised the quality of many of the directorate's work products, and her stamina, patience and clear thinking have made her someone to depend on in tight situations.

Standard will improve crew efficiency
(Continued from page 1) Office of Space Station (Code S) Under a competitive contract, Boeing Aerospace reviewed all known with systems, a total of over 300 with systems, a total of over 300
documents. From those, Boeing collected relevant data representing all major interfaces of astronauts with systems. Data were then divided into sub-system categories
A government-industry advisory group was organized representing all NASA centers, DOD, the FAA all major aerospace contractors and academia. The 60 -membe group held four one-week meetings throughout the program to guide the standard's development. Ultimately, the advisory group reviewed standard
Standards Manager Clete Boohe of JSC's Man-Systems Division, said, "I was pleasantly surprised in agreement on group coalesced mation that would be included in mation that wo

Volume 1 is the parent document and contains all generic require ments. All information in the docu ment is coded into an interactive computer data base according to key words. A user might request, fo example, engineering requirements for the microgravity environment o near-Earth orbit, or for multiple gravity forces such as those en
countered during launch and reentry
se reference configuration Later, during Phase B, the Dual the baseline Station design The framework of the Delta design is formed from three tetra hedral trusses which can be fabricated on the ground, collapsed into bundles and deployed on orbit Advantages of the Delta design a include large stiff area upon which construction, satellite servicing and ther station tasks could be carried out, a center of mass internal to the the dymanic sensitivity of the sta the dymanic sensitivity of the sta-
tion, and stiff supporting structures tion, and stiff supporting structures Each inventor was presented with a plaque bearing a metal etching of the cover sheet of their respective patents.
d by Daniel A. Nebrig, Executive Assistant to JSC Director Aaron Cohen. Nebrig, who was acting in Cohen's stead when the Director was unexpectedly called out of town on business, said, "Dr. Cohen very much wanted to be here today, and asked me to express how much he values the contributions all of you have made to the technical health and well being of the center. Dr. Cohen said he sees this ceremony as milestone of truth that technologica excellence is alive and well at JSC. Nebrig also thanked the inventors' wives, many of whom were present for "putting up with your husbands their times of inventive fervor. The luncheon was held in the upstairs dining room at the Gilruth Recreation Cente

Volume II contains all of the appendices, including a user's guide for the data base. Users may access the entire data base using an IBM PC AT or
Base 5000 software.
Volume lll, still in
whll be pook, will be a pocket guide condensation of Volume I. The pocket guide will feature charts, graphs and data for engineers and designers to use in the field.
Volume IV, the first in a series of program-specific standards derived from Volume I, is dedicated to Space Station crew interfaces. The only man-systems standard ever adopted by a program as a mandatory part of a contract, Volume $V$ is part of the common content of the Space Station RFP for all work packages. Compliance with Volume IV standards is required for all contractors involved in the Space Station program.
To enhance the standard's use, a 34 -minute videotape is available to users. Called a "tremendous teach ing tool" by Booher, the videotape includes footage of on-orbit scenes from Gemini through Shuttle mis sions. A time display across the bottom of the screen gives systems developers a first-hand look at why the crew interface standards are necessary.
Dr. James Lewis, JSC Man Systems Division's Manager for Space Station, said, "The standards
enable the crew to work more efficiently in space. Crew produc ivity will be enhanced. Whethe working in one of the internationa modules or their own quarters, th interfaces with equipment will b Agency-wide use of the standard Agency-wide use of the standard should generate cost savings, par ticularly since contractor participation will be consistent in all con tracts. "It really means you get less engineering and programmatic overhead while getting more crew productivity for your on-orbit cost, Lewis said.
Lewis and Booher have already conducted briefings on the docu ment at JSC, Marshall, Headquar ters, Goddard, Lewis and Ames Briefings also are planned for Langley and Kennedy. The Lewis Center plans to use the document and its development methodology as a model for a similar document in other disciplines.
Booher sees "lots of enthusiasm across industry and government for the standard." The Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) plans to adopt NASA Standard 3000 as its first space standard. "This standard can be a pathfinder for all other systems areas to develop the same type of agency-wide standards," Lewis said

Lewis summed up the joint JSC-
SFC accomplishment
ble for a

## Chili challenges <br> The chili was hot, but the weather was not during the 9th Annual

 Mission Operatıons Directorate Chili Cook-off. That's why the only well, almost - benty-eight teams and an estimated 600 tasters participated in the 'Twenty-eight teams and an estimated 600 tasters participated in theMay 16 cook-off and related games at the Lunar Planetary Institute. Winning teams were:
Best Chili - Two-Hump Chili, 1st; Up-The-Creek, 2nd; Bay Area Rodeo Foundation and Red Baron, tie for 3rd. People's Choice ChiliSlight Activities and 12th-Man Chili, tie for 1st; Public Affairs Office (PAO), 3rd. Showmanship - Bayou Brewers, 1st; PAO, 2nd; Texas Crude, 3rd; Slight Activities and Crocodile Dundeke, honorable
mention. three members of the Bayou Brewers team and "Mr. Syringe"; the entrance of the Texas Crude team's Crude McKenzie and his settle a dispute team building a pyramid; and two cooks concocting their beefy brew.


# Mars sample return details emerge <br> Studies focus on mission profile, engineering challenges 

Design details and mission parameters are still emerging for the proposed Mars Sample Return
Mission as teams at JSC and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory continue their conceptual studies.
A mission to Mars using a robotic rover to traverse the planet's surface and a lander to return surface and sub-surface samples to Earth is
one of several advanced program one of several advanced program
options under review by NASA. The sample return mission also has been recommended by the Solar System Exploration Com-
mittee of the NASA Advisory Council.
The committee stipulated that the mission should be undertaken
before the year 2000. Such a mission would provide a wealth of scientific information about Mars and increase the understanding of the origin and evolution of all terrestrial planets, including Earth.
Studies of a Mars Sample Return mission have been ongoing for seven years. The focus has been
on an all-US mission in which this country would provide all the major country would provide all the major
elements. That approach remains elements. That approach remains
a high priority goal, but NASA also has recently considered a mission which could involve one or more international partners.
Currently there is a joint study
being conducted by JPL and JSC and including Science Applications International Corp. (SAIC), to examine the possible concept for a U.S. unmanned mission in the mid to late 1990s. This mission would be a step toward an eventual manned mission to Mars in the next century.
Industrial firms will participate hrough contracts with both centers. The overall concept involves
flying a vehicle to Mars that will be flying a vehicle to Mars that will be initially placed into Mars orbit. A lander will separate from the rest of
the vehicle and descend through the vehicle and descend through
the atmosphere to the surface. That the atmosphere to the surface. That lander payload would include a
rover that would move over the rover that would move over the
Martian landscape, selecting scientifically significant rock and soil samples amounting to a few kilograms.
After about one year later, the rover would return to the lander to a small rocket that would lift them back into Mars orbit. There, the sample package would rendezvous with the original orbiter which would then launch the samplecontaining vehicle back to Earth. The team is studying the tech-
nique of aerocapture to use the thin Martian atmosphere to brake the arriving spacecraft into orbit around the planet at the end of a 300 -day voyage from Earth. This decreases the weight of the whole vehicle below that required if retro rockets would be used. Atmos-
pheric drag from the $17,000 \mathrm{MPH}$ approach into the Martian atmosphere would dissipate excess speed to decelerate and "capture" the Mars.

Accurate guidance would steer the spacecraft into the Martian
atmosphere at an altitude of 110 atmosphere at an altitude of 110
miles above the surface.


## Lichen or not, Mars studies may benefit

The study of lichens in Antarccontinuing search-and debate -over the existence of microbial life on Mars.
A professor and graduate student's research, supported by grants from NASA and the Na tional Science Foundation, suggests that the method by which lichens grow and live and the traces they leave in Antarctic rocks when they die might be clues in the search for any evidence of life on Mars.
Dr. E. Imre Friedmann, a protessor at Florida State University, student at the University of Maine, outlined in a published paper that fungi and algae, which form symbiotic lichen associations, grow in the porous sandstone rocks of the Ross Desert of Antarctica and are representative of the simple developed in what is believed to developed in what is believed to earlier in the evolution of Mars Friedmann and Weed Mars. that evidence of the preso said that evidence of the presence of
water during the early history of Mars raises the possibility that

Mars' atmosphere is almost enirely carbondioxide with a surface pressure less than one one hundredth that of Earth's atmos-phere-about the same density as air 31 miles above Earth
Descent through the Mars atmosphere to an automated, intact landing presents a major technical challenge to lander designers. After separation from the orbiter and a deorbit rocket burn, the entry guidance system would use the entry aeroshell's aerodynamic lift o aim at a selected landing site. Following a parachute deceleration on the way to the surface, retro rockets would be ignited and the lander's guidance system would automatically sense and avoid hazardous terrain. Television picures of such hazards could take as ong as 20 minutes to reach JPL's planetary flight control center, and

## primitive veloped.

If such forms of life were present during conditions of loss of atmosphere, water and the general cool ing of the planet, these organisms may have with drawn into porous rocks. The rocks would have repre sented the last habitable niche in a deteriorating Martian environmen as they do in the Antarctic today.

Under these conditions, lichens leave trace fossils of their existence and much of Mars' surface structure is believed to be intact over the geologic time period under considration.
Friedmann and Weed further suggest that the search for these fossil types is a legitimate goal for the future exploration of Mars.
The sandstone found in Antarctica seems well suited for preserving a fossil record of microorgan isms because of the way the rock is weathered by both the microorganisms living inside the rock and the weathering processes affecting the rock from non-biologic sources such as winds and hot and cold emperatures.
The Antarctic lichens exist on
the very edge of their ability to remain alive. The delicate balance of factors include temperature, moisture and the preserving abilities of the siliceous crust formation inside the rock itself. If these conditions fall outside the stress limits of the lichen, it dies and the further biologic weathering of the rock ceases.
The lichen is metabolically active for only a few hundred hours a year and has a very slow growth rate. Once the biological activity is interrupted, the non biologic processes take over and more quartz rind is developed. The mosaic of rind and biologically leached rock are preserved as a trace fossil of past microbial activity. This cycle can be initiated countless times for a single rock as new lichen colonize the same rock.
Minimum ages for such trace fossils can be determined from the ages of the quartz rinds Calibration of the rind with other sandstone boulders from a geologic area of known age place the age of the trace fossils at between 70,000 and from 2 to 4 million years old.
ing data. The current study of the Mars rover has considered a design concept that includes a stereo camera vision system, sensors, a computer brain, controlled manipulators and a drill system for acquiring samples.
The current design concept for a roving vehicle would have a mass of no more than 3,300 pounds and could take a variety of configura tions. One of those includes three two-wheeled cabs connected by flex ible ties which would permit pitch yaw and roll motions. The thr pitch diameter wheels and the flexible-foo nection would permit climbin nection woun per than chmbing obstacles of more than three feet climb grades of about 30 degrees on packed ground and about 20 degrees on loose soil or sand. The front cab would contain the surface sample science, including the drill mechanism

The middle cab would contain the communications, power conditioning and storage, control and navigation subsystems. The stereo vision system for navigation would be mounted on a mast with thiee degrees of freedom, with the base of the mast able to rotate in azimuth and elevation while the camera head could nod. The rover would be steered by counter rotation of the two end cabs. The third of the three cabs would carry a radio isotope thermoelectric generator,
(RTG) with average power of 280 (RTG) with average power of 280 watts.
Two telerobotic methods were The first in the design concept Remote Driving (CARD) method. It relies on images acquired by the relies on images acquired by the
rover's camera system to designate rover's camera system to designate
an extended path in excess of 800 an extended path in excess of 800 analys
niques
A fail-safe laser range finde would measure the distance be-
tween the rover and any obstacles tween the rover and any obstacles
not previously considered and not previously considered and
planned for. It is expected that the rover could traverse at an average speed of more than one kilometer per day with this technique.
Another technique is semiautonomous and allows longer range traverses during a single command cycle using high-resolution images from an orbiter. An operator on Earth could plan traverses of up to a few kilometers in one day

All the rover design proposals reflect fundamental guidelines consistent with reasonable extrapola tions of current technology. The study group has emphasized, however, that the current concept as described is not considered a rover mission baseline design. Rather a wide range of concepts will be studied at NASA centers, univer sities and in private industry.
Once the rover has completed a 300-day quest for widely dispersed surface samples and has reached a rendezvous with the return vehicle, the sample container would be transferred to the ascent vehicle for liftoff to Mars orbit and rendezvous with the orbiter. Then another transfer would pass the sample canister to the Earth return vehicle attached to the orbiter
The task team will study several combinations of liquid and solid fuel ascent vehicle propulsion and techniques for Mars orbit rendezvous with the orbiter, all with related trade-offs between weight and performance
After its $10-$ month return to the Earth, the vehicle will approach at 2.5 miles per second, but will speed up to 8 miles per second, or about $28,800 \mathrm{MPH}$, as it nears Earth. At that point, a solid retrorocket or aerobraking maneuver would place the Earth return spacecraft into an elliptical orbit. By comparison, Apollo command modules returning phom the Moon entered the atmos-
phere
$25,000 \mathrm{MPH}$. phere at $25,000 \mathrm{MPH}$
Current plans are to rendezvous the Earth return spacecraft with the Space Station for quarantine and analysis of the Mars sample cargo prior to return to Earth.

## Scientists air view that Pluto may have atmosphere

atmosphere may add new stature to the planet that gets no respect. Variously described as an
asteroid masquerading as a planet, or a burnt-out cometary core captured by the gravitational pull of
the Sun, Pluto has been a mysterious object since its 1930.

But the new evidence indicating that a significant atmosphere surthe planet's standing
Scientists at NASA sion Laboratory (JPL) Jet Propulthe British science journal Nature last week tha

Thesere may surround Pluto. n result fluto findings are based nomical Satellite (IRAS) and exten sive observations through telescopes on Earth taken over the past three years.
JPL astronomers Edward F Tedesco, Glenn J. Veeder and R Arizona astronomer Larry $A$ Lebofsky reported that Pluto's overall temperature, as measured planet to be very different from an planet to be very different from an Jupiter or Saturn. The scientists aid that Pluto's thermal charact

## Pluto has a significant methan

 atmosphere.Previous studies of Pluto found evidence of a tenuous methane atmosphere. The new studies, however, indicate that Pluto's atmosphere may be much more extensive. The results reported in Nature also refine the poorly known diamto about 1,370 miles for Pluto and to about 800 miles for Charon, each with an uncertainty of 100 miles. (Earth's Moon is about 1,538 miles in diameter.)
Very little is known about Pluto,
billion miles. The planet, the smallest in the Solar System, wa discovered in 1930 by astronomer Clyde Tombaugh at the Lowell Observatory. Charon was discover ed in 1978 by James Christy of the U.S. Naval Observatory.

Pluto is the only solid-surfaced planet in the outer Solar System compared with Jupiter, Saturn Uranus and Neptune, all gas giants. A number of Pluto's character istics have caused astronomers to question whether deserves to be called a planet. For example, Pluto has an elliptical and sharply tilted
planet or asteroid. It's orbit is so skewed relative to the other planets that it actually crosses Neptune's orbital path. Pluto has been inside


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# Roundup Swap Shop 

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Property \& Rentals
Lease/purchase: Miramar, Seabrook 5-2-2, fenced. corner lot. FPL, custom books
1004.
Sale: Forest Bend 2BR townhouse, quiet neighborhood, miniblinds, ex. 0462.

Rent: Lake Livingston on Bethey Creek cabin. sleeps 6 -plus, bathroom, 3824.

Lease: Condo, 2BR, 2 baths, 940 sq. ft., W/D conn., fan, appliances, pools. playground, low deposit, $\$ 330 / \mathrm{mo}$. 280-9822
Lease: Condo, 1 BR , security gates, Wicrowave refrig. FPL, lake view. cable, S. $\$ 300 / \mathrm{mo}$. . $\$ 200$ deposit. 554-6892. Sale/trade: 2 adjorning lots on Lake Livingston, tennis courts, pool, clubtrade one or both for beach property or trade one or both for beach property or boat of eq
$422-5123$.
Rent: Galveston Gulf-front condo, Victorian complex, furnished, sleeps 6 , Lease Leekly rates. 280-8644 Lease: League City, The Landing 3$\$ 350$ deposit. 486-9811.
Lease: EI Dorado Way 2BR condo, W/D, FPL, downstairs, end unit, \$375/ ${ }_{5754}$ mo., 1 yr. lease. Danny Taylor, 326-
Lease: League City, Countryside 3-
2-2, fenced, FPL, miniblinds, $\$ 525 / \mathrm{mo}$
Sale: Camino South
Sale: Camino South 3-2-2D, both formals, $\$ 72,500.483-7027$ or 488-0217. Rent: Mobile home, $14 \times 80$-ft., 3BR, 2 screened patio, near bay. 559-2925.
,850 sq. ft. DR den w/FPL remodeled. $\$ 75,000$ or $\$ 550 / \mathrm{mo}$. Tom, remodeled. $\$ 75,000$
$\times 38162$ or $280-0689$.
Sale/lease: LaPorte townhouse, ad jacent to golf course, 2-1.5-2. pool,
tennis, $\$ 38.500$ or $\$ 425 /$ mo $471-3425$. Lease: CLC Baywind II condo, 1 BR drapes, new carpet. FPLs, appliances, W/D, tennis, pool, \$298. 488-5019.
Sale: 4-2-2, carpet, fenced, atrium
wiwaterfall, miniblinds, nearshopping, schools, hospital, no money down, assumable loan. Ethel or Debbie, $\times 36148$ 481-9438.
Sale: Lakeside lot near 1-45 and Sawdust Rd., paved streets, assume Sale: Bayridge League City 3-2-2, deck, $\$ 58,400.334-4361$
Lease: Condo, 2-1-2, W/D connec ge, cable TV. new paint floors, no pets. near NASA. 488-0719.
Lease: Lake Livingston waterfront pier, fishing, skiing, swimming, weekend r weekly rates. 482-1582.
CLC 1BR
CLC 1BR condo, fan, new paint, drapes, FPL, appliances, tennis, exercise room, 2 wks. free. Jim Briley, 282-1880
or $488-7901$.
Lease: West Galveston Island beach house, 3-2, furnished, day, week, month Ed Shumilak, $\times 37686$ or 482-7723. security, pool, tennis, $2-1, \$ 400$ plus security, pool, tennis, 2-1, $\$ 400$
utilities. $480-5583$ or 482-7156.
Sale: LaPorte 3-1.5-2 house, no ap proval $9.5 \%$ assumable loan, alum, siding, new paint, remodeled kitchnen
near Underwood/Spencer. 930-9348. Sale: Custom-built 3,100 -sq.-ft. house across from water, large wooded lot, 4-2.5-2, open floorplan, many decorator features, $\$ 149,000$. Jerry, x38922 or 474-4310
Sale/lease: Nassau Bay, 2,200-sq-ft townhouse, 3-2-2, new carpet, paint, large garage, deck, atrium, $20-\mathrm{ft}$. FPL,
$\$ 109,000$ or $\$ 890 / \mathrm{mo}$. Jerry, x 38922 or 474-4310.
Sale/rent: Galveston Island condo, 2 day min. Clements 72 nd and Seawall, 2

## Cars \& Trucks

'73 Plymouth Fury, 76K mi., rebuilt A/C, new battery, no rust, good ' 84 Pontiac Fiero SE, A/C, AM/FM cassette, 47 K Mi, white w/brown in-
terior, $\$ 5,900$. Rick, $\times 32695$ or $559-$ ${ }^{7} 74$ Triumph Daytona $500,2.7 \mathrm{~K} \mathrm{mi}$., garaged, BO. Jim, 280-2249. ' 78 Mazda GLC, 4 spd., A/C, new tires, body work, $\$ 500$. Frank, 282-3858. ' 84 Jetta, 35 K mi., black, tinted windows, ex. cond., 5 spd., all gauges,
$\$ 5,500$. Plauche, $\times 39034$ or $474-2660$. 82 Camaro Z28 Coupe, auto V8, A/C, all power, cruise, T-top, AM/FM/ cassette, white, blue velour interior,

467 or 937-7648.
' 81 Olds Cutlass Supreme Brougham dark brown, tan vinyl roof, tan viny
seats, PS, PW, PL, PS, PB, A/C, stereo, seats, PS, PW, PL, PS, PB, A/C, stereo
ex. cond., $75 \mathrm{~K} \mathrm{mi.} \$ 3,$,100 . Woody 709 or 532-3408.
'83 Buick LeSabre, loaded, ex. cond Scott, x 39156 or 488-3118.
'85 Chevy Cavalier
ark metallic blue 4 drew miles, ex $\times 39156$ or $488-3118$. '52 Studebaker dump truck, 1 ton steel bed, runs, $\$ 1,400$ OBO. Glen $\times 36541$ or $486-0462$.
' 84 Ford van, customized by Milburn's loaded, .302, auto. w/overdrive, one owner, 37 K mi., no rattles, $\$ 9,500$ OBO Richard, x33743 or 474-9334.
' 67 Mustang Classic, 289 V8, 3 spd., new paint, new air shocks, mags wires, good tires, A/C, $\$ 3,395$. $\times 38169$ wires, good
' 81 Cadillac Fleetwood Brougham, 4 dr., loaded, 49 K mi., black,
$\$ 5,500$. $481-1363$ or $\times 30160$.
' 83 Camaro Berlinetta, ex. con options, $\$ 6,000$ OBO. 482-6027 82 Olds 98 Regency, 4 dr., ex '77 Ford Supercab 482-6027 land VC8, 78 K mi . on truck 351 Cleveengine, auto., air, good paint, 5 radials, camper top, $\$ 2,900$. Dave Walker, x 32754 or 474-5315.
76 Toyota Corolla, 2 dr . sedan, runs '84 Ford 554-6173.
' 84 Ford Ranger S, 4 cyl., 4 spd., 54 K mi., $\$ 3,200$ OBO. Chuck, 326-1628. ' 69 Ford Galaxy, $2 \mathrm{dr} . \mathrm{A} / \mathrm{C}$, runs well,
good cond., two owners, $\$ 700$ OBO. good cond., two
Lisa, 855-6079.
' 80 Ford Mustang Ghia, ex. cond., gray $w /$ red interior, AM/FM/cas
V4, A/C, $\$ 1,800$ OBO. $524-0048$.
V4, A/C, \$1,800 OBO. 524-0048
white w/black interior AM/FM/ cassette, V6, $\$ 1,900$ OBO. 524-0048.

Pontiac Astre, small wagon, runs tenance records manuals, $\$ 750$ OBO Jim, 280-7426.
' 81 Datsun 310 GX hatchback, 4 cyl., 5 spd., 57 K mi ., AM/FM/cassette, new tires, dependable, \$1,600. 481-1382
' 80 Ford Fairmont station wagon good cond., \$850. 532-4237.
' 76 VW van, 7 passenger, custom interior, good cond., S1,000. Lane, $\times 30524$ or 334-4608.
' 83 Escort station wagon, 43 K mi ., A/C, PS, PB, 4 spd., AM/FM/casset 22,450. Bob, 282-4381 or 554-2250.
cond., $\$ 1,850$. Gary, $x 34231$ or 486 cond.
9620
.79
' 79 280ZX sports coupe, 5 spd., A/C removable sunroof, tinted windows, clutch, brakes, tires, AM/FM cassette 64 K mi., slight body damage, $\$ 4,000$ OBO. Kay, x 34826 or $331-3379$
' 78 Camaro, A/C. PS, PB
wheel, chrome custom wheels, clean $\$ 1,800$ OBO. Bill Wood, $\times 33838$ or 554

## Boats \& Planes

'84 Baja 164SS, 115 hp Johnson, galvanized Sportsman trailer, garaged 50 mph , ex. cond., $\$ 4,500$. Barry, x 3084 r 538-1563.
'78 Renken outboard $15-\mathrm{ft}$. fiberglass trailer, no motor $\$ 600$ OBO Little Dille garaged $\$ 5800$ OBO Hector $\times 37027$ or 488-0217.
Windsurfing sail and boom, 6.2 sq m., Mistral Pinhead sail, \$40, 7 -ft. boom
\$40, \$70/pr. Ron, x 32756
$25-\mathrm{ft}$. Boston Whaler Outrage, twin
40hp, VHF, Loran, Lowrance, canvas op, dual axle Sportsman trailer. Lori, 35294 or 668-3277
14-ft. Laser sailboat, Dilly trailer, good
cond., $\$ 1,650$ OBO. 488-4173
ond., $\$ 1,650$ OBO. $488-4173$.
$19-\mathrm{ft}$. Mallard sailboat on
$19-\mathrm{ft}$. Mallard sailboat, on trailer stored at Seabreeze Sailing Cente
$\$ 1,800$. Ralph, $\times 34979$ or $428-7787$ 18 -ft. AMF Trac Catamaran iz-ft. AMF Trac Catamaran Kayak and accessories, \$250.9961624.

Free Sail sailboard, \$450. x 36514. 18-ft. Riveria, 110 hp Johnson, galvanCycles

## ' 79 Honda 750 motorcycle, runs, no

well, BO. Schultz, x36493.
Bridgestone $27-\mathrm{in}$. men's $10-\mathrm{spd}$ bi

## cycle, It, blue, go $\$ 50$. Gail, $\times 33456$

'79 Honda CX500 fairing, hard saddle bags, luggage carrier, good cond., dependable, $\$ 800$ 16. Rich, $\times 36900$

10-in. child's bike, training
cycle, custom frame and rims, $\$ 95$.
David, $488-3966$.

## Audiovisual \& Computers

Apple lle, $128 \mathrm{~K}, 2$ drives, modem softw
4403
OS-9 for Radio Shack color computer models I or II, never used, includes guide, $\$ 30$. Doc Pepper, 282-3130. Commodore 1525 E dot matrix printer 83 model, ex. con
$\times 34784$ or $482-5190$
Everex 10 mb hard drive, controlle card, IBM, Compaq or compatible \$175 OBO. T White, 474-2214
IBM PC Jr., 256K, NEC amber monitor Panasonic printer Model KX P109
carrying case, adapter cable, sotwar \$550., Harnage, 333-2560 or 481-2335 HP digital cassette Drive for HP-41C w/HP-IL Interface Module, ex. cond
$\$ 500$ OBO. Carlos, $\times 38879$ or $554-7727$ C-64 Commodore software: Multiplan \$18; Simons Basic, \$12; Sideways, \$18 Batteries Unlimited Mail-List, \$6; Hes writer 64, $\$ 14$;
$\$ 4.481-0468$.
C-128 Commodore software: time
works Partner, \$24; Timeworks Data Manager, \$24; Superbase 128, $\$ 24$ for computer, printer, monitor, disk Commodore 1526 printer needs rint head, $\$ 50$. Samouce, $x 35053$. Heathkit 5 mHz single trace oscillo scope kit, new in box, \$150. Joe, x 31597 r 996-1667.
JVC belt-drive turntable, Rega "cult" cartridge, \$65; Radio Shack 7-band equalizer, $\$ 30$; Radio Shack VCR video enhancer, \$30; Radio Shack VCR audio enhancer-synthesizer, \$25. Musgrove 48-3966
Apple lle, $128 \mathrm{~K}, 80 \mathrm{col}$. text card double disk drive, so
$\times 35463$ or $996-0618$.
$\times 35463$ or 996-0618.
CDC 360 K floppy disk drive, full HT 1 yr . old, $\$ 60$; 135 W XT power supply
couple mos. old $\$ 70$ Charlie $\times 34647$ Intel 330 computer system, iSBS $86 / 30$, three $8-\mathrm{in}$. DS/DD floppies and 82MB hard drive, 896K RAM w/8087 and iSBS 534, 4 additional serial ports, languages and utilities, Hazeltine Espirit terminal, C.Itoh 467 terminal ( 8 color, $640 \times 4804027$ and VT100 comp., was \$24,000, now \$2,000. 488-4453.
XT Compatible computer clone, one 360 K floppy and 12 MB hard drive, 640 K RAM. 6 pack clone card, software printer coprocessor card, mono card, CRT, software, $\$ 850.488-4453$.
IBM Displaywriter, Textpack 4 and 6 ,
Reportpack, IBM 5218 Quality Printer, Reportpack, IBM 5218 Quality Printer, 50 diskettes, 5 ribbons, 3 print whee
books, $\$ 5,000$. De Lynn, 331-6822 books, $\$ 5,000$. De Lynn, 331-6822. floppy, 31 MB hard disk, manuals, printer, stand, paper, surge protector,
software, etc., $\$ 1,750$ OBO. Tim, 4848191.

Apple McIntosh computer w/Imagewriter, \$1,500, 482-0935.

## Apple software, Bankstreet writer,

\$15. 481-0468.
Radio Shack VHF 4-channel crystal:ontrolled pocket scanner, AC adapter, DC cigarette lighter adapter, 8 local police crystals, all $\$ 65$. Frank, x 34752 . Commodore Amiga A 1000 computer, 512 K, monitor, Okidata Okimate 20 color printer, software, ex. cond., $\$ 1,100$. Joe, x31597 or 996-1667
Apple IIC computer, mono monitor,
software, $\$ 750$ OBO; 2nd drive Image-
writer pri
482-4949. w/HP-IL interface module, ex. cond., was $\$ 675$.
$554-7727$.
T199/4A computer, extended Basic,
games. 488-2822

## Household

Loveseat in earthtones, ex. cond \$75; coffee table, \$25. 488-4890 or 32933
Amana Radarange microw
ex. cond., $\$ 150$. Jan, $\times 32262$.
ex. cond., $\$ 150$. Jan, x 32262 .
Puff chair, tan, ex. cond., $\$ 30.944$ -

## Contemporary

Contemporary biege sectional sofa OBO. Gail, $\times 33456$.
OBO Extra-long 4 -section couch, 2 matchLinda, x 39658 or 486-6873.
King-sized waterbed, almost new
motionless mattress, 2 -shelf wooden headboard, 6 drawers, $\$ 300$ OBO. $\times 32786$ or 280-0122.
Wood storage cabinet, $6 \times 4 \times 2-\mathrm{ft}$. helves, double doors, \$45. 332-0492. Philippine wicker set, 7 pieces, lounge table, 3 flower planters, color, $\$ 550$ OBO $482-7616$ a Antique, circa 1900 4-pc Royal
Altonbow
green design, \$150; 3-pc. English set, circa 1880 , white whe-green design, \$125. 554-2665 after 1 p.m.
Wooden dinette set. 2 chairs, $\$ 50$; small desk, \$25; corner end table, $\$ 15$ all for $\$ 75$. Alan, 334-5478 or $\times 32554$. Office desk, $32 \times 60$, solid oak, $\$ 200$.
Thompson, $332-2229$ Thompson, 332-2229
 silver and glass coffee server, $\$ 15$ King-sized watere
finish, headboard booksatural wood finish, headboard bookcase, pedestal Smith, $\times 36893$ or $485-2287$

## Photographic

Pentax, $\$ 10$. Samouce, $\times 35053$
Olympus OM-25 35 mm SLR.
1.8 ins OM-25 35mm SLR, 50 mm used, $\$ 200$. Joe, $\times 31597$ or $996-1667$.

## Pets \& Livestock

Free cat, gray, declawed, neutered, all shots current, indoor pet. 488-1217. Free kittens, 8 wks. old, solids, stripes,

## Musical Instruments

Electric guitar, amplifier, \$150. 996 1624.

Electronickeyboards, not MIDI, stage set-up, Micro-Moog for "fat" bass, Moog-Prodigy for solos, Oberheim sounds, Krumar Tocatta B-3 leslie combination sound, Krumar 3-tier stand $\$ 1,500$. Mark, x 30160 or $643-4726$.
Guitar, Gibson model J-50 deluxe,
string, metal strong, dreadnought style, ex. cond., tone, $\$ 500$. Ernie Smith $\times 36893$ or $485-2282$
Buffet Clarinet, ex. cond., was $\$ 1,500$, now $\$ 500$; Signet Clarinet, ex. Cond
$\$ 175$. Barbara, 282-3318 or 331-5346. $\$ 80$. Plauche, $\times 39034$ or 474-2660.

## Wanted

Want non-smoker to share 3-2-2 Mouse in Heritage Park behind Baybrook Mall, own room and bath, $\$ 225 / \mathrm{mo}$ Want to Ken, X35463 or 306 -0618. Want to lease Cherokee 6-class or Club, based at Houston Gulf. Rick $\times 32695$ or 559-2735
Want inexpensive sewing table to support average-sized portable. Kathy $\times 39029$.
Want old slide rules for educational project, will accept donation or pay Mike, $\times 33636$
Want non-smoking car-pooler from
Spring High School to JSC, 7 a.m. to $\times 32459$ or Roy Parker, x 38233 .
Want ride for blind person to and from work, 8 a.m. to $4: 45$ p.m.. Monday thru Friday, live in Bay Glenn subdivision, 14607 Oak Chase Dr., work at Computer Sciences, 16511 Space Center Blva. 486-7673.
Want band members, keyboardis looking for serious musicians who won depend on band financially, would onsider joining existing band, have studio time available. Alan, 282-3968 or

