

THE WRIGHT STUFF



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Publisher J.R. Fisher
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Wright Flyer from NASA/Ames PAO photo archive; *U.S.S. Kitty Hawk* (USN CV-63) from navicp.navy.mil; *Constitution* class cruiser from gwu.edu/~rljones/khawk.

IMAGE - Featured Front Page

The International Space Station streaks through the Big Dipper in May. Photo taken by member Jeff Cohn at Duke Forest using a Sony DSC-717 digital camera and a 30-second exposure.



A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher



It seems like we did not even have a spring, rather we went from winter into summer, and now, even though we are only halfway through June, that we are

seeing the end of summer. So many of our crew are taking vacations already and at least ten will not be at the July meeting/cookout. We do not have an August meeting because of the conflicts with family vacations, but we will have the July meeting even if it is small.

For that occasion, we will provide hot dogs and hamburgers and ice, but crew will be expected to bring their own beverage and one side dish to share with others.

We only have thirteen weekends for the summer, four are gone, one is a meeting, one a convention, and one an away trip. That does not leave but six; oh yeah, plus two family visits, so that is four. If you have an idea for a ship

activity or trip, present it quickly before the opportunity is lost. When we get to September, we will be starting our busy season.

I have made several attempts to make crewmembers aware of their status regards STARFLEET. This is a STARFLEET chapter and we are required to maintain a minimum of 10 active STARFLEET personnel. You need to renew your membership and carefully follow the instructions if you are doing it online. Also, you need to state that you are being assigned to *U.S.S. Kitty Hawk*. Several people have given me their assignment cards but do not appear on STARFLEET's roster for the *Kitty Hawk*. Others have taken courses (OTS and OCC) but have not gotten their results. You need to go online and get all of these problems solved.

Come September, the crew will decide how much of our treasury we will donate to charity(ies) and to which one(s). Please be there for those discussions as it is your monies which we will dispense.

All of the ones that have been suggested are worthy causes, and deserve our help; but we will narrow it down to one or two.

Also, Amy will have sold the badges on E-bay by September so we should have enough money to make it a reasonable gift. Thanks again, Buddy.

Speaking of giving, the "jar" has only about twenty dollars in it and most of that seems to have come from the sale of aluminum that Elaine and I collect. If you have bought books, etc. on the honor system, it is a good time to honor those debts. We used to have more than one hundred dollars by this time of year.

To those of you we will not see much of this summer, be careful, stay well and drop us a card or e-mail; and we will look forward to seeing you in September. To the rest of you, let's have some fun together while we are off duty and see if we can recruit some new crew for when we again start our new voyage in September.

Esse Quam Videri

Security Report By Spring Brooks

IT'S HURRICANE SEASON!

2004 PREDICTION

NOAA's 2004 Atlantic hurricane season outlook indicates a 50% probability of an above-normal hurricane season, a 40% probability of a near-normal season, and a 10% chance of a below-normal season, according to a consensus of scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center (CPC), the Hurricane Research Division (HRD), and the National Hurricane Center (NHC).

The outlook calls for 12-15 tropical storms, with 6-8 becoming hurricanes, and 2-4 of these becoming major hurricanes. These numbers reflect a predicted ACE index in the range of 100%-160% of the median, and indicate a likely continuation of above-normal activity that began in 1995.

Many of the tropical storms and hurricanes in 2004 are likely to form during August-October over the tropical

Atlantic and Caribbean Sea between 9°N-21.5°N. These systems generally track westward toward the United States and Caribbean Sea as they strengthen. Historically, similar seasons have averaged 2-3 land falling hurricanes in the continental United States and 1-2 hurricanes in the region around the Caribbean Sea. However, it is currently not possible to confidently predict at these extended ranges the number or intensity of land falling hurricanes, or whether a given locality will be impacted by a hurricane this season.

Beginning with 1995 all of the Atlantic hurricane seasons have been above normal, with the exception of the two El Niño years (1997 and 2002). This increased activity contrasts sharply with the generally below-normal activity observed during the previous 25-year period 1970-1994. The atmospheric and oceanic conditions controlling these very long-period fluctuations in hurricane activity are referred to as the Atlantic multi-decadal signal. The active phase of the Atlantic multi-decadal signal began in

1995 (Goldenberg et al. 2001, Science), and has been a primary contributing factor to the increased hurricane activity observed since that time.

HISTORY, MYTH, and FOLKLORE

The National Hurricane Center and local Emergency Managers are forever hearing questions, and "facts" about hurricanes, based purely in fiction. Some may come from simple misinformation, others from that deep seeded need to believe that "It can't happen to ME!"

These "facts" may lead some people to make poor decisions in time of crisis. Usually long time residents of an area are a source of local hurricane history. Much of their information may be solidly based in fact, but our memories have a nasty habit of fooling us at times. In Collier County, the benchmark hurricane (at least before Hurricane 'Andrew') was hurricane 'Donna' in September of 1960. At the time, there were about 20,000 full time residents of Collier County, but if you look hard enough, you can probably find

50,000 people who 'rode out the storm in a shelter, or at Uncle Frank's house, or somewhere else!

There are also an abundance of hurricane tips, some based in fact, others in folklore. Some may save your home, others may cost you your life. No one knows everything about hurricanes, but a good deal of research is done each year.

"The storm surge? Never bother me! I'm two whole blocks from the beach!"

Myth: And this one really worries us, and we hear it a lot! A storm surge is a wind driven dome of water that rushes inland ahead of, and to the right of, the center of a hurricane. The dome can reach to 25-30 feet in the right place on the coastline, in a category 5 land falling hurricane! It will NOT stop in a block, or two blocks, or in some cases, for miles!

The National Hurricane Center has developed a computer model called SLOSH, to predict surge inundation, which has been found to be very accurate. In a category 1 hurricane exiting the state at Ft. Myers, the surge will affect the immediate coastal area only. A category 5 land falling hurricane at Bonita Springs could push the Gulf of Mexico inland more than 12 miles! Remember: 90 percent of the people who die in a hurricane drown in the storm surge! PLAN AHEAD!

"I'm ready for a hurricane! I've shuttered the whole east side of my house. THAT'S where the winds will come from!"

Myth: This is another one that frightens us! The winds of a hurricane can come from any direction, including above! To protect a building from wind damage ALL sides must have window, door, and gable end protection, and it must be properly applied!

"They don't get any meaner than 'Donna!'"

Folklore: The problem is that hurricanes can get a LOT meaner than 'Donna!' The 1960 storm paralleled the southwest Florida coast, which reduces the storm surge considerably. The surge from 'Donna' was about 11 feet at Naples, but had the storm hit the coast on a perpendicular track, the surge could have reached 15-18 feet. 'Donna's' winds in Collier County were estimated at a

sustained 130 mph, but there have been several stronger storms.

The Labor Day 1935 hurricane (which missed Collier County by less than 100 miles) devastated the Keys with winds of 200 mph and killed over 400 people! The force of those winds would have been about 3 times as strong as the force of 'Donna!'

"The worst part of a hurricane is the wind."

Myth: Wind accounts for only about 3 percent of the energy of a hurricane. Moisture condensation and rainfall make up most of the rest. Tropical Storm 'Jerry' (1995) dumped 17 inches of rain on southwest Florida in 12 hours, flooding many areas. When Hurricane 'Opal' hit the panhandle three months later, another 7 inches fell. Some residents of Bonita Springs in Lee County spent more than 8 weeks in emergency shelters.

"I'm going to open the windows on the side opposite the wind so the difference in air pressure doesn't explode my house!"

Folklore: This used to be the rule in areas affected by hurricanes and/or tornados, but not any more! In fact, studies have shown that opening a window can actually increase the amount of damage done by wind. When a hurricane threatens, you want your home closed up tight, with solid window protection to keep the wind out. What causes the most damage is the wind getting inside, and pushing up on the roof. This lift can rip the roof off your home, especially if it's not properly strapped down.

"I'll protect my manufactured home with storm shutters and tie downs!"

Myth: Mobile, or manufactured homes are simply not designed to withstand the winds of anything more than a minimal hurricane -- and even that may be risky! Regardless of your location and possible storm surge threat, you will be advised to leave your manufactured home during the evacuation process. Storm shutters or panels are helpful with wood frame or CBS construction, because they protect the windows. The exterior walls are strong enough to take most of what a hurricane can throw at them (literally!). Manufactured homes are

just not reinforced enough to survive high winds, even if tied or strapped down. Besides, screwing a tie down a few feet into the ground (which quickly becomes saturated with rain) does not provide enough of an anchor to keep the home from rolling.

"We've been through 'Bob,' 'Keith,' and 'Marco,' and even 'Andrew' wasn't THAT bad. What's the worry?"

Folklore: All of these storms (with the exception of Hurricane 'Andrew', and then only in Everglades City and Marco Island) have one important thing in common: THEY COMPLETELY MISSED US!

'Bob' brought heavy rains in 1985 but the center passed well north of us. 'Keith' (1988) and 'Marco' (1990) passed us by well offshore. Even 'Andrew' brought only minimal hurricane conditions as far north as the southern part of Naples.

Hurricanes are killers. They damage property and disrupt lives. Rainfall and storm surge cause flooding. Winds destroy homes and businesses. But they are survivable! Plan ahead for the storm that will someday strike our area. It WILL happen. Will you and your family be ready?

"They say 'Andrew' was a 500 year storm, so we don't have to worry about another storm that strong until 2492!"

Folklore: Just because a hurricane or flood event is described as a 25, 50, 100 or 500 year event doesn't mean it won't happen again tomorrow. The number gives you an idea just how rare (or common) an event is, and is not a forecast of when it will be repeated. Hundred year storms indicate one so severe that statistically it's not likely to happen again for a long time, sort of a once in a lifetime event.

A 500 year event would be catastrophic, of a scale that can not be imagined. On the shorter scale, a 25 year storm won't happen every 25 years, but is an event that could happen fairly often, and is usually less severe, though damage may still be extensive.

"What's a little wind? We have 50 mph winds in some thunderstorms, so 100 or even 150 won't be THAT bad!"

Myth: Even 50 mph winds can do some damage, but the wind force increases at a much faster rate as the wind speed increases. Each time the wind speed is doubled, the wind force increases by a factor of 4! If you triple the wind speed the force increases by NINE times! That means a 100 mph winds has four times the force of a 50 mph wind, and a 150 mph wind is nine times as strong as that of a 50 mph wind! We think of a steady 20 mph breeze as refreshing, but a bit on the "windy" side. Now try to imagine a 200 mph wind. It would have 100 times the force of that 20 mph "breeze!"

"Even so, it's not like anything will blow through the walls of my home!"

Myth: One more thing to consider: a 74 mph wind (minimum hurricane strength) has the ability to drive a piece of 2x4 lumber through a reinforced concrete wall 4 inches thick! Don't scrimp on that window protection!

"Southwest Florida, especially Naples, is protected against hurricanes by geography."

Folklore: You'll hear this one a lot, and to a remote extent it may have a ring of truth to it...sort of. As far south a Collier County is, it's difficult for a major hurricane to develop and hit the area in the worst case possible: land falling. But it's NOT impossible! Even exiting storms can cause heavy wind damage... remember 'Andrew'?

HISTORY shows though, that 53 tropical storms have passed within 60 miles of Naples in the years between 1886 and 1998. Several have been major storms. While the risk of a major hurricane making a direct hit is slim, it can and has happened. The east coast has taken far more direct hits because it is often the first land a storm encounters, coming from the east. (You may want to pick up a copy of another pamphlet from Emergency Management, called "Hurricanes NEVER Happen Here...or DO they?" You may find some of our local hurricane trivia interesting!) (Numbers updated to include 'Mitch', a direct Collier County 'hit' in 1998. 'Georges' did not quite make it inside the 60 mile circle.)

"There are wet hurricanes and dry hurricanes... Just hope for a dry one."

Myth: Actually the moisture from tropical storms and hurricanes appears to be about the same, regardless of the strength. The amount of rainfall seems to be dependent on the forward motion of the storm. Here's how it works: Divide the number 100 by the storm's forward speed. If it's moving at 10 mph, divide 100 by 10, and you get an estimated rainfall of 10 inches. Movement of 20 mph means you should expect about 5 inches. It works very well.

- 'Andrew' was moving at about 18 mph, and the rainfall was under 6 inches.
- A weak tropical storm wandering through east Texas at 2 mph dropped 47 inches of rain!
- And look what slow moving 'Alberto' (1994) and Hurricane

'Danny' (1997) did in the southeast! Tremendous flooding in south Georgia and north Florida.

- In 1998, category 5 Hurricane 'Mitch' sat over the coast of Honduras for four days, dumping over 4 feet of rain in the mountains of Central America, causing massive mudslides and flash flooding which killed thousands.
- A week later, weak tropical storm 'Mitch' raced through Naples at 20 mph. Rainfall was about 6 inches.
- Finally, remember tropical storm 'Jerry?' A weak tropical storm which barely moved while over Florida, 'Jerry' unleashed 19 inches of rain in Collier County . . . in twelve hours in 1995.

Science Report

By Elaine Pischke

It's not exactly "To Infinity --- and Beyond!" but if some entrepreneurs have their way, within a few years it may be possible to book a flight on a rocket (or a modified jet) to the edge of the Earth's atmosphere. Start saving your quarters, though. The price tag is likely to be around \$100,000 for the first brave adventurers who sign up. However, some folks in the business think it won't be long before the price drops to a mere \$20,000 per trip.

In environmental news, the UN has issued an alarm concerning the fate of cold water corals. These delicate structures are similar to their better known tropical relatives, but differ in that they grow in sunless waters up to 3.5 miles deep, and grow at 1/10th the rate of the tropical corals. These delicate structures, sometimes as much as 8,000 years old, are being destroyed at an alarming rate, primarily by deep sea bottom trawling fishing practices, but also by fossil fuel prospecting, waste disposal and seabed telecommunication cables. It is unknown what the consequences of this damage are at this point, because scientists have only just begun to study

these corals, but already some of the marine life found in and around the corals have been identified as species previously thought to be extinct. If the corals are destroyed, there's a good chance the creatures that live around them will die as well. And the potential for new medicines and other products may never be realized if the corals are destroyed.

In space news, the international *Cassini* spacecraft, which left earth in 1997, is nearing it's approach to Saturn, where it will fly by Saturn's outermost moon, Phoebe, next week, and shortly thereafter settle into orbit around Saturn, where it will spend the next four years observing the ringed planet.

Meanwhile, the Mars rover *Opportunity* will be beginning a risky mission, to enter the Endurance Crater to more closely examine the rock bed there for signs that it once contained water and possibly life. The risk is that *Opportunity* may not be able to climb the slope back out again. NASA officials felt the potential knowledge was worth the risk and *Opportunity* will proceed on its mission next week.

Medical Report

By Amy DeJongh

Before you beat yourself up about how you've only once visited the swanky gym you joined last year, think about whether you enjoy the exercise that you do there. If the idea that physical activity can instill anything other than dread seems shocking, it may be time to reconsider your exercise choices, keeping in mind that the most important thing is consistency. People need to choose activities that are realistic, comfortable and keep you coming back.

One of the best ways to figure out what kind of exercise is right for you is to try to match your activity with your personality. If you're loner you're probably not going to drag yourself to volleyball practice after a long day, but you'll show up if you're competitive or if you love the camaraderie of a team. A more contemplative or introverted person might have better luck with walks in the woods, tai chi or martial arts.

Along the same line, a goal-oriented personality is often drawn to a single activity. That way, they can train like an athlete and excel at their sport. But alternating between different activities might be a good choice for other people, especially older adults who don't want to overstress their joints, or those who are easily bored.

Even a "coach potato" can make a gradual transition to exerciser, as long as they begin with realistic goals such as opting for the stairs rather than the elevator when possible. Or people can make time to do household chores, such as gardening or scrubbing the tub, for the sake of their health.

Studies confirm exercise doesn't have to be painful to be effective, so pick an activity that gives you some joy, whether it's mall walking, yoga or ballroom dancing, and stick with it.

Comp Ops Report

By John Troan

Just a few things I'll mention to fill my space this time around.....

Star Trek: Enterprise has been renewed, but *TV Guide* is reporting that was because Paramount the studio dropped how much it was going to charge Paramount the network per episode. Based on the lower per-episode charge, the network decided that they could now afford to air it-- in the Friday night slot it's been given. Even though the studio will take a loss on the fourth season, the series is now in a much better position for any syndication possibilities by having 100 episodes, assuming there will be 24 episodes in the upcoming season.

In additional space news (above what Elaine wrote in her column), the Mars rover *Spirit* is reported to have developed problems with one of its six wheels, requiring more power to turn it. NASA is debating between lifting the wheel off the surface unless it's needed and just letting things continue as-is. With both rovers in what's called an "extended mission", NASA and JPL are willing to take a few more chances, but only to a point. (Before *Opportunity* was sent into the crater, some experiments were done with a "third" rover to make sure getting out of the crater would be possible.)

Also, NASA is accepting proposals for a robotic servicing mission to the Hubble telescope. (Proposals are due to NASA by mid-July.) Key tasks are attaching a reentry control system (allowing for a guided re-entry) and replacing the batteries & gyroscopes to extend the observational life. There are also hopes of possibly swapping out one or more of the science instruments, something previously done in the prior servicing missions.

Hubble's replacement -- the James Webb Space Telescope -- is scheduled for launch in 2011. The primary mirror will be bigger than Hubble's (more light-gathering capability) and will be able to

Physical Activity Tailored to Your Personality

Introverted	Walking, Pilates, yoga, martial arts, swimming, home gym
Competitive	Sports such as tennis, hockey, basketball
Extroverted	Group activities such as golf, mall walking, hikes, public health club
Creative	Dancing
Outdoors-y	Hiking, in-line skating, mountain biking, ice skating, skiing or snowboarding
Hard-working	Housework, gardening, lawn-mowing
Lump	Anything: get off a stop or a floor early and walk the rest, walk to the store instead of drive

better-cover the infrared part of the spectrum.

NASA's *Cassini* space probe is due to arrive at Saturn on June 30. Below is one of the pictures taken by *Cassini* on its approach. (The probe has already passed the point at which it can image the entire planet and ring system in one shot.)

The picture on the front cover of this issue was provided by member Jeff Cohn. He was able to catch the

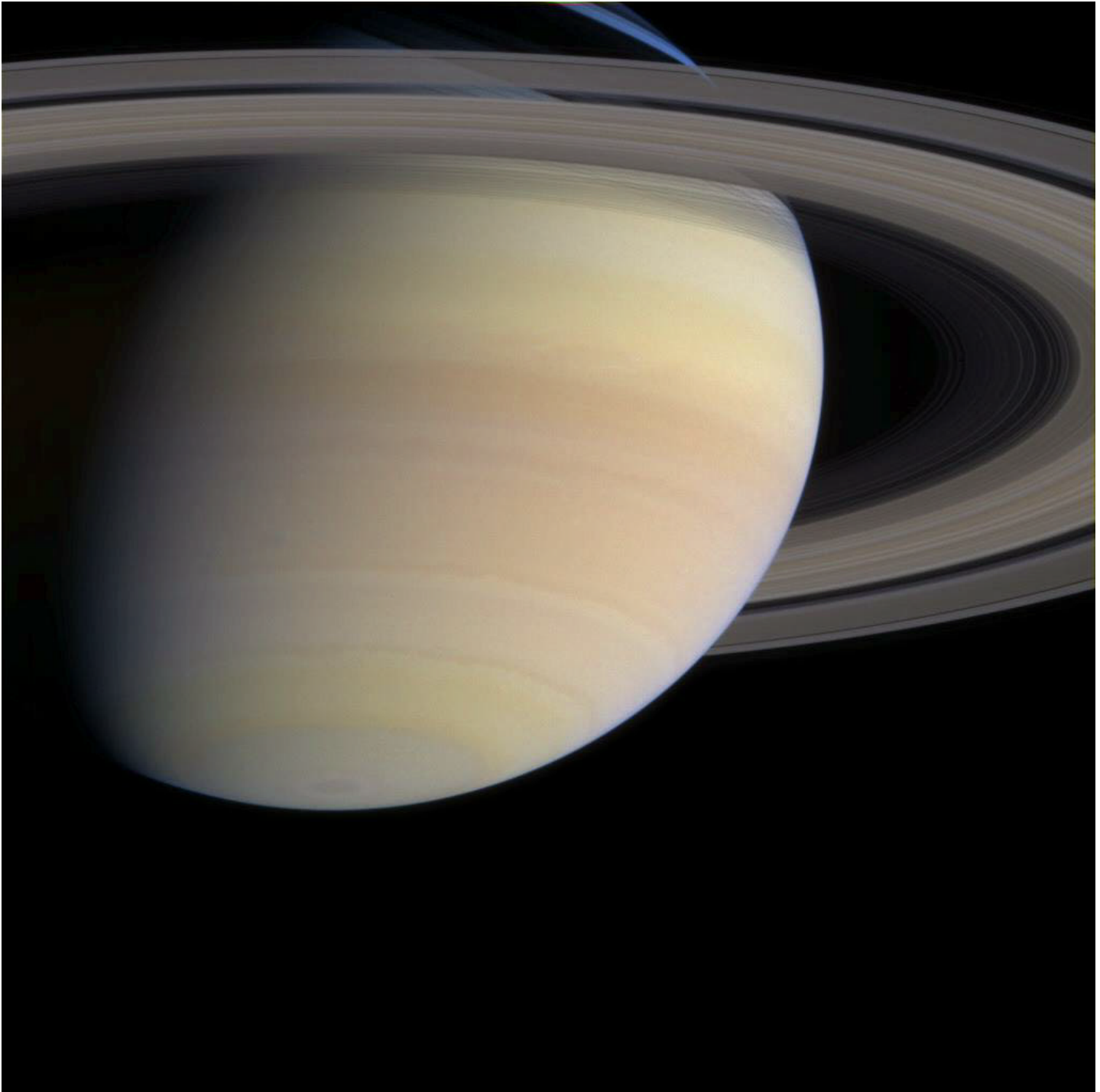
international space station as it went through the Big Dipper last month.

In non-NASA space news, the first private (no government sponsorship) space flight just occurred this past Monday (June 21). Other attempts have been made, but this was the first flight to reach above the 62.5-mile threshold for space.

To close on something relating to computers, Microsoft will be releasing the Windows XP Service Pack 2. I strongly recommend wait a couple of

weeks for any major problems to be reported, then install it. (There is a history of service packs having problems in the past.)

There is also a very strong note of caution. Microsoft has already stated that SP2 may break some programs because of several changes incorporated. However, SP2 should still be installed because it tightens up several security holes XP has that won't be fixed any other way.



Upcoming Events

Jul.	3	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home (Cookout follows, see J.R.'s article for details)
	6	<i>Voyager</i> (Season 3) DVDs Released
Aug		<i>No August Meeting</i>
	20	Articles for Jul/Aug newsletter due
	31	<i>Original Series</i> (Season 1) Box Set Released (StarTrek.com reports new exclusives to this set)
Sep.	4	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home

Also, *Voyager* (seasons 4 - 7) and *Original Series* (season 2 & 3 box sets) are supposed to be released through the end of 2004.

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