

# Kotzebue teacher completes NASA space camp

by Steve Kakaruk

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"Teachers in Space" attended NASA training camps at the Kennedy Space Center while others attended the "Adult United States Space Camp" at the Alabama Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

Urtha S. Lenharr, Correspondence Teacher in Kotzebue, applied for the "Teachers in Space Program" and didn't get to represent Alaska. He then contacted NASA to see if he could help. The Adult U.S. Space Camp then sent Lenharr an invitation to participate in the "Adult United States Space Camp," along with 20 other persons.

The camp consisted of discussions with representatives of the Marshall Space Flight Center, on-site visits to the NASA Research Facility and specialized training on Shuttle Mission Simulations.

Lenharr completed a three-day specialized training that astronauts would complete. He received a certificate of graduation for his efforts which covered space technology, space exploration, the discovery as applied to the U.S. in space and space rockets.

Edward O. Buckbee, Director of the Alabama Space and Rocket Center said, "we had many parents of campers who said they wished there had been such a camp when they were younger." The Space Camp has been popular with youngsters for three years. Buckbee continued, "we gave the idea a lot of consideration and now Space Camp is available to adults as well as girls and boys."

Lenharr said, "I have made educational material for use with the students." Lenharr travels by snomobile to camps outside Kotzebue. The camps are used exclusively by subsistence lifestyle Eskimos that have children. Lenharr said, "the NASA material is used for a teaching aid on Science."

While at the training in Alabama, two missions were completed. The first was that of an astronaut in space. The other was a mission controller. Lenharr was responsible for flying a space shuttle and deploying satellites in space. Space walks were conducted in a neutral buoyancy tank. At the mission control Lenharr conducted the instruction for the release of a satellite.

Lenharr visited Marshall Field where all the rockets are tested and the space museum is located. He received a plaque and wings were presented at an awards ceremony prior to his departure from Huntsville to Alaska.