



NEWSLETTER 184

Feb 2008



STS-122 head's into Space - What's the MV connection?

DEBRIEFING

Six members made it out for the beginning of Feb meeting. Well, we all had a good time! Not sure there was any business conducted, but some summer activities were kicked around. We have some obligations and some customary participation lined up, including Prairie Dog RR - Armed Forces Day, Princess Auto 75th Anniversary celebration, Transcona Hi Neighbour day, Oakbank, all British meet (for those with right hand steering or center steering or RR rolling stock, Steinbach Car Show and a few others scattered throughout the summer, Legion 215 for example. President Jeff wants a push for Gimli on a long weekend venture...it can be a busy summer, and the price of fuel probably

won't help any of us plan participation!

As this is written, the wind-chills are neg forty and lower at Prairie Command Hq. ACMVA are enjoying the umpteenth snow dump of the year and Toronto has a great video of buried Lexus' and desperate citizens crying out for the troops to come home and dig them out. "We're not making this up" they say. Membership returns are trickling in...keep 'em rolling!

NEXT MEETING

Will be at the Museum again, March 3 at 19:30 hours. This is a great venue and much to do for the curious and for the scholars. We want to get out to a few garages and shops for following meetings but need the warm weather

and a few volunteers. Gord Falk has promised us his BBQ skills on the first Sunday of May.

EVENTS

☛ The Club Calendar will be up and running in the next few weeks with a list of the events scheduled to date. Keep an eye there for the latest info in addition to what we post here.

DISPATCHES

Bill Spence is well launched into a movie career. As I write this, he is singing Christmas Carols and enjoying neg fifty wind chill's with 250 other hearty souls. He gets the babes though, we understand. Show must go on!

Eight hours will get the floor out of your M-series jeep. Some techniques expedite and keep you warm too. Angle grinder cut-off discs for the gut-shot, spot-weld cutters to tidy up. A little cold weather to hurry you along. Check Jeff's pics (page 2) for the hole story.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well folks, one of the unfortunate parts of my job is travel. I am a member of a number of ANSI Standards committees and often have to attend meetings which takes me away from the wonderful Manitoba weather. Such was the case when I traded -26C here for + 28 in Orlando Florida. It's a thankless task but someone has to do it! My wife and I decided to make a short holiday of it and so added a few days vacation to my trip and then started looking to see what was touristy in Orlando. Low and behold the Shuttle was scheduled to

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launch on the afternoon of Thursday the 7th of February and my meetings were scheduled to finish by noon! How's that for luck? Unfortunately there were still some problems with the shuttle and the word on the street was that it might not be ready. After we got to Orlando one of the committee members was from NASA and his inside info was that there was a 70% chance the shuttle would be ready but only a 30% chance that the weather would hold. He did however tell us the best FREE place to go and watch - Titusville about 12 miles from the pad. On the chance that the weather would hold and the Gremlins would depart, my wife and I made the 45 minute drive where we found perfect weather and the prediction for launch was now optimistic. We managed to stand next to some folks who had been to launches numerous times before and had a radio with them that was tuned to the countdown, giving me time to get the camera ready and get the shot you see on page one. Right on schedule the shuttle roared of the pad and into the sky. What is the MV connection you ask? On Saturday we toured the space centre and were taken to the pad where the shuttle



Pad 39-A with the crawler transporter in the foreground

TECH TIPS

Well those CFL bulbs are good but they can be whapped! They take quite a beating though before they fail the drop test in a trouble light, about a five to one drop ratio.



had launched. If you look closely at the photo of the pad you can just see a number of wires sloping down to the left. This is part of the emergency escape system. Should anything go wrong while the shuttle is on the pad with the walkway connected, the astronauts leave the shuttle and run to a number of cages that slide down the wires away from the pad. Waiting for them at the bottom is the M-113 you see above. For each launch an APC is located at the bottom of the slide with engine running. The first astronaut in jumps into the drivers seat and once everyone is in, heads off as fast as they can travel away from the pad. The tour was amazing, the launch fantastic and I would recommend it to anyone who has interest in the space program!

In addition to the usual summer events we have two key ones this year, the 75th anniversary of Princess Auto at their Panet road location and the Modelfest in Gimli on the August long weekend. We need an idea of how many vehicles will be attending each event to ensure that we get space set aside. Please let Don or I know as soon as you can that you will be participating.



Don Trueman's M38A1 with the floor removed