



# CIRCLE V RANCH CAMP & RETREAT CENTER



## NEWS

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## Circle V Ranch Camp Welcomed Alumnus Tom Nolan, Operations Engineer with NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory to Lead Science Demos on July 16, 2015

*~Special Program Celebrated 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summer of Circle V Ranch Camp outreach*



**Tom Nolan, NASA  
JPL Engineer,  
Circle V Ranch Camp  
Alumnus (1962-65)**

*Santa Ynez Valley, Santa Barbara County, California*— On July 16, 2015, more than 175 Circle V Ranch campers ages 7-17 and 50 staff members participating in “Lost in Space” week experienced and discovered STEM (Science, Technology Engineering, and Math) interactive demonstrations from experts led by **Circle V Ranch Camp alumnus (1962-65) Tom Nolan, Operations Engineer with NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory** and a group of his colleagues. All shared their passion for science and special experiences. Circle V Ranch Camp Director Ray Lopez exclaimed, “This day was simply amazing for everyone here. Tom Nolan and his team of scientists shared their research and exploration of the universe and told us we all are scientists as long as we are curious. It’s been such a blessing to have these incredible people giving so much of their time and talent to inspire us!”

*Hi-Res JPG images of Circle V Ranch Camp “Lost in Space” NASA/JPL Day available from [csariego@svdpla.org](mailto:csariego@svdpla.org) and [laura@mariahmarketing.com](mailto:laura@mariahmarketing.com)*

During 8 specially designed 25-minute sessions, campers experienced hands-on demonstrations of the following:



### 1. Tom Nolan, NASA JPL: "Sink or Float?"

*Subject - Density and Buoyancy.* Throwing objects in pool to see if they sink or float. For example, throwing the watermelon up and in the shallow end of the pool was exciting as the campers shouted out their predictions.



**2. Linda Chilton, USC Wrigley Institute: "ROV Pilot and Crew"**

*Subject - Operating Remote Operated Vehicles (ROVs) underwater.* The campers helped figure out how to get the rovers neutrally buoyant and then drive them around the deep end of the pool



**3. Ken Ostrowski, Huntington Beach High School Science Teacher: "How Tall is That Tree?"**

*Subject – Clinometers.* Measuring tree heights by measuring a camper's height and their shadow, then measuring the shadow of a tree, and using the ratio of the camper's height/shadow to calculate the tree height.



**4. Roger Burry, NASA JPL: "A Hitchhikers Guide to the Solar System"**

*Subject – Scaling the Solar System distance and planet size.* Campers stepped out the distance of a scaled solar system and learn about the various sizes (and why Pluto is a dwarf planet).



**5. Bob Anderson, NASA JPL: "Make it Fly!" Stomp Rockets**

*Subject - Stomp Rocket trajectory and power.* Campers built their own paper rockets and by stomping on a soda bottle connected to PVC pipe, the rocket went about 100 feet, and by angling the launch tube, they went for distance or height or both.



**6. Gwen Noda, Ocean Sanctuaries: "From Trash to Gyro Gliders" aka Groove Tubes**

*Subject - Gyro Flight Dynamics.* At the picnic table area, campers constructed "Groove Tubes" to fly using the physics of gyroscopes.



**7. Christine Fuller, NASA JPL: "Climbing the Walls"**

*Subject - Robots that climb.* Indoors at Dolan Lodge; campers watched a video of climbing robots plus actual demonstrations of the "hands" that a robot would use to climb rough or smooth surfaces and asked plenty of questions.



#### **8. Lionel Humphrey, NASA JPL: "3-2-1 . . . PUFF!" Straw Rockets**

*Subject Trajectory and flight dynamics.* The campers will build and fly "straw rockets" using a NASA designed template and then challenging each other to see who can go highest and furthest.

#### **Static displays around the Circle V Ranch Camp included:**

- 3-D canvas 8' x 15' backdrop of Martian landscape & 3-D glasses for the campers—chance to "be" on Mars
- Relief sculpture of the Gale crater where the Curiosity Rover is exploring (approximately 12 x 12 inches).
- Rover wheels models (to shoe size comparisons); 1997 Pathfinder, 2004 Spirit, 2004 Opportunity, 2013 Curiosity
- 8-wheel Mars rover prototype

#### **About Circle V Ranch Camp**

Founded by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Los Angeles Council in 1945, Circle V Ranch Camp & Retreat Center has been located on 30 acres in the Los Padres National Forest in Santa Barbara County's Santa Ynez Valley near Cachuma Lake since 1990. In seven summer sessions of six days/five nights each; Circle V campers enjoy activities including archery, hiking, swimming in the pool, learning about nature, reading skills, arts & crafts, painting, photography, playing games of baseball, basketball, ping pong, foosball, soccer, miniature golf and of course, campfires, skits and songs. (There is no TV, radio or internet access to affect the experience.) Campers stay in spacious wood cabins or canvas tents. Three nutritious daily meals are served family-style in the Dining Lodge and provide not only a chance for food but also for more camaraderie and fellowship. In summer 2014, the camp hosted more than 1,200 children for this time-honored experience. The Circle V Ranch Camp fee for six days/ five nights including lodging, all meals, activities, recreation and supervised fun is \$425 per child; and "camperships" (made by individuals and groups' donations) are available for qualified campers. During autumn, winter and spring, Circle V Ranch Camp & Retreat Center is available for rental to other non-profit groups and organizations. For complete information visit [www.circlevranchcamp.org](http://www.circlevranchcamp.org)

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