

HOTLINE

The Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory is a United States Department of Energy Facility

Open House Draws Record Crowd



Photo by John Benneville

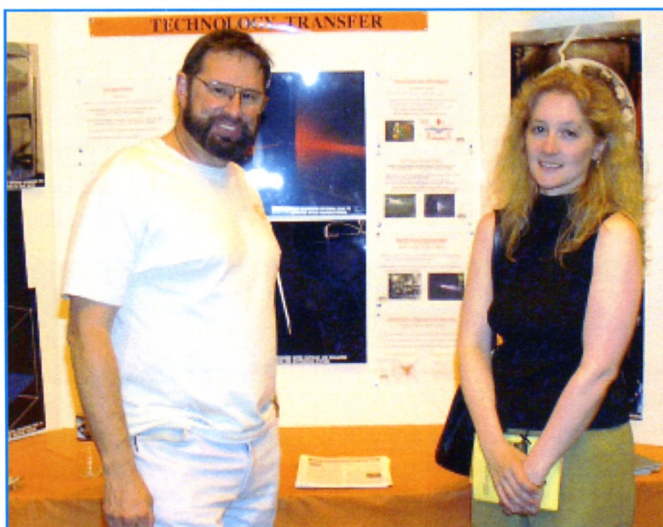
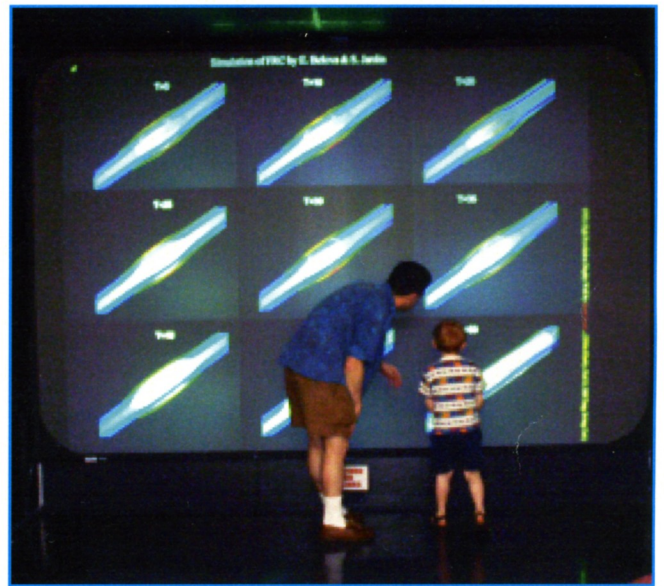
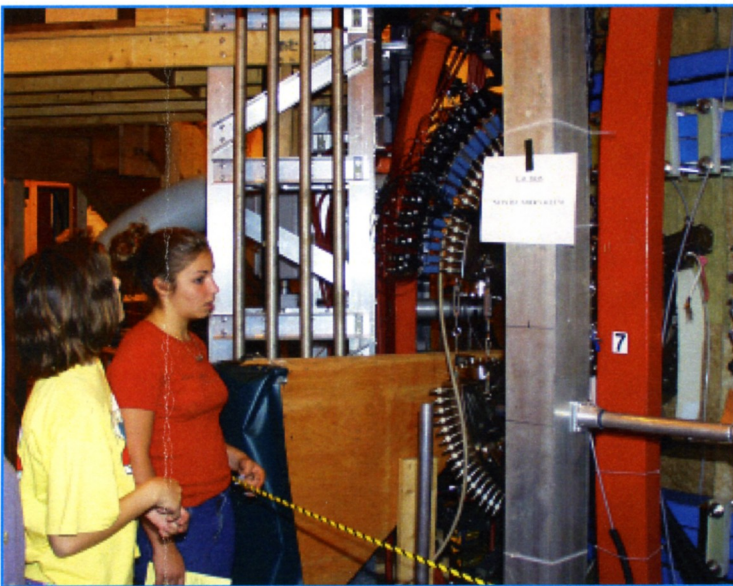
PPPL's Marianne Tyrrell has a "hair raising" experience during the Lab's Open House. Tyrrell tried out the Van de Graaff generator at the hands-on science demonstrations. The generator develops an electrostatic charge, making the hair of anyone who touches it stand on end. Behind Tyrrell is her husband, PPPL's Mike Viola (wearing white T-shirt), and at left is PPPL's Bob Simmons (in cap).

Science, fun, and a chance to tour the nation's newest fusion machine — the National Spherical Torus Experiment (NSTX) — attracted about 2,400 people to PPPL's June 3 Open House. The Lab's visitors, ranging from tots to seniors, walked around NSTX, learned about the physics behind sports, crawled into a portable planetarium, and participated in safety activities, as well as tabletop demonstrations about electromagnetism, thermodynamics, and common plasmas.

John DeLooper, PPPL Associate Director of External Affairs, said, "This was a wonderful opportunity for the public to see what we do at the Laboratory and to get a sense of the staff's excitement about working on a complex problem — fusion energy. Our employees and students really enjoyed explaining what they do at PPPL." DeLooper headed the Open House efforts.

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Open House

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Open House guests talked to PPPL researchers about fusion and the Laboratory's progress while taking self-guided tours of NSTX, TFTR, and smaller experimental areas, including CDX-U and MRX. The event also featured activities ranging from cryogenics shows that demonstrated how ordinary objects behave when cooled to the temperature of liquid nitrogen (-320 degrees Fahrenheit)



to robot demonstrations to tours of the Hall Thruster, a plasma-based propulsion system for space vehicles such as satellites.

Other popular features included a lecture, "PPPL: The Hottest Place on Earth," by PPPL Director Rob Goldston; fire extinguisher training; and computer-controlled milling machine demonstrations. Along the route, there were a variety of energy and plasma-related exhibits, as well as displays about PPPL departments and activities. ●

PPPL'ers,

Our Open House was a big success! Everyone seemed like they had a good time and learned a lot about what we do. I saw a lot of smiles and heard "thank-you" repeatedly.

So let me personally thank all of you for your help in making this happen. This kind of activity contributes tremendously to the positive feeling about the Laboratory in our community — which is crucial for our success and for the success of fusion.

Great job!
— Rob Goldston

Inside photos: page 2, clockwise from bottom left, Eric and Ryan Starkman playing with hands-on science "toys"; Masayuki Ono (far right with glasses) hosting NSTX tours; Ray Camp (glasses) giving a cryogenics demonstration; PPPL Director Rob Goldston (left) and Congressional candidate Dick Zimmer at NSTX; a young visitor; Kevin Rhoades teaching a visitor how to use a fire extinguisher. Page 3, clockwise from bottom left, Lew Meixler (left) operating a Tech Transfer exhibit; visitors touring NSTX; food and relaxation in the courtyard; lunch break for guests; visitors checking out the high-resolution wall; Goldston (left) giving Zimmer a tour of NSTX. Page 4, Alex Illic (right) showing a guest the machines.

- Photos by Elle Starkman

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