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HOTLINE

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

PPPL Open House Draws Crowd of 2,000

Photos by Elle Starkman

The chance to tour a fusion machine and play with plasma — the fourth state of matter — drew about 2,000 visitors to the Open House at PPPL on Saturday, June 12.

The Laboratory's visitors, ranging from tots to seniors, walked around the National Spherical Torus Experiment (NSTX), learned about the physics behind sports games, and participated in tabletop demonstrations about electromagnetism, thermodynamics, and common plasmas, as well as in hands-on safety activities.

"We had a great time showing our Laboratory to our neighbors, entertaining children with our science, and explaining fusion energy," said PPPL Director Rob Goldston.

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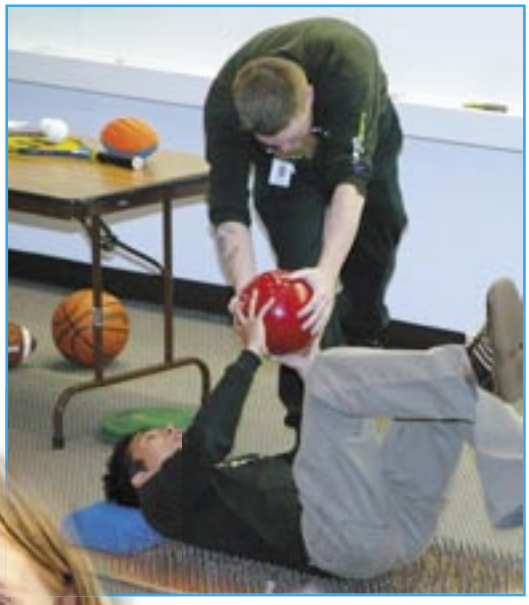
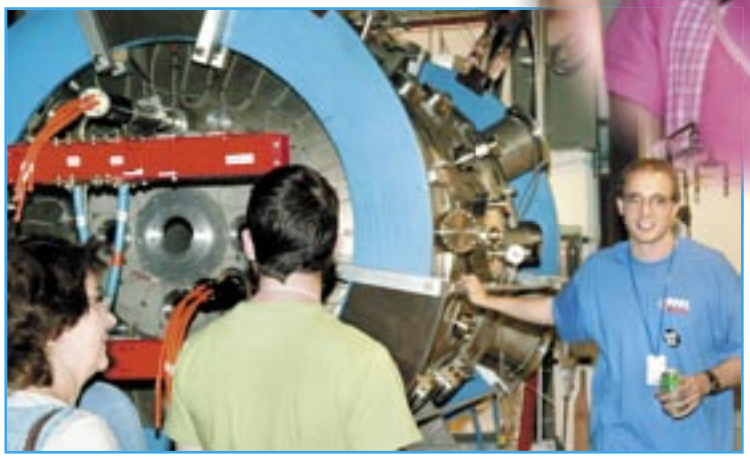
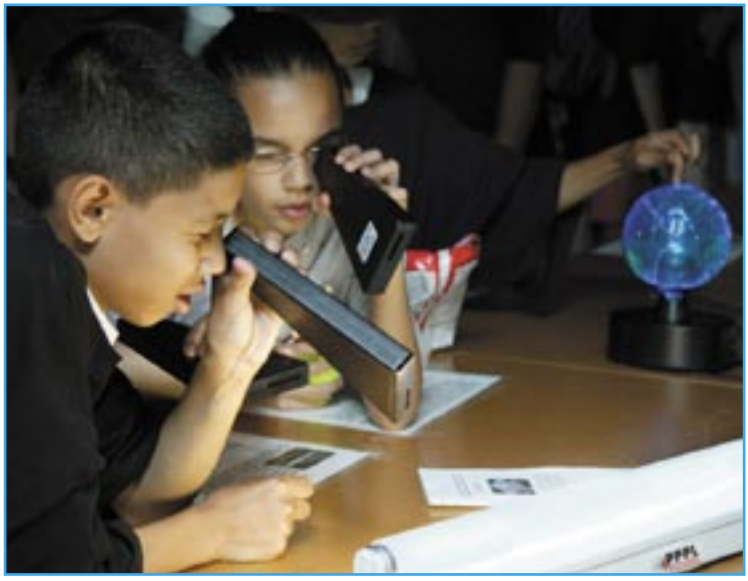
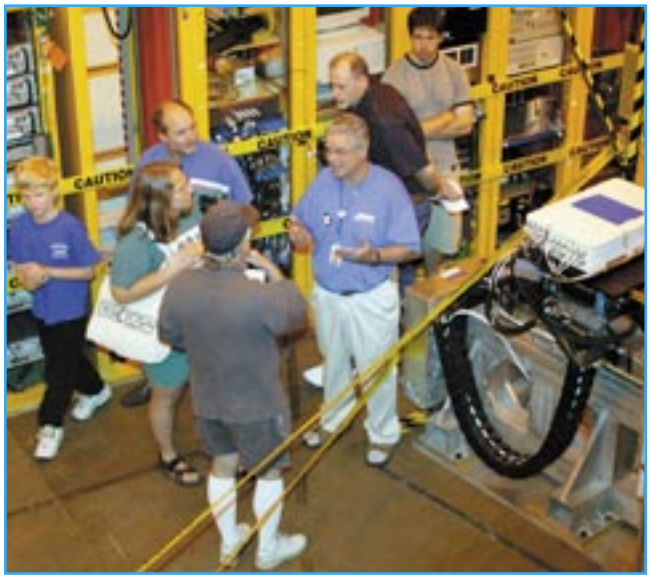
Above: Emily Margolis (right) helps a young visitor with a prototype of a vehicle propelled by human-powered wings designed by PPPL's Dave Cylinder.

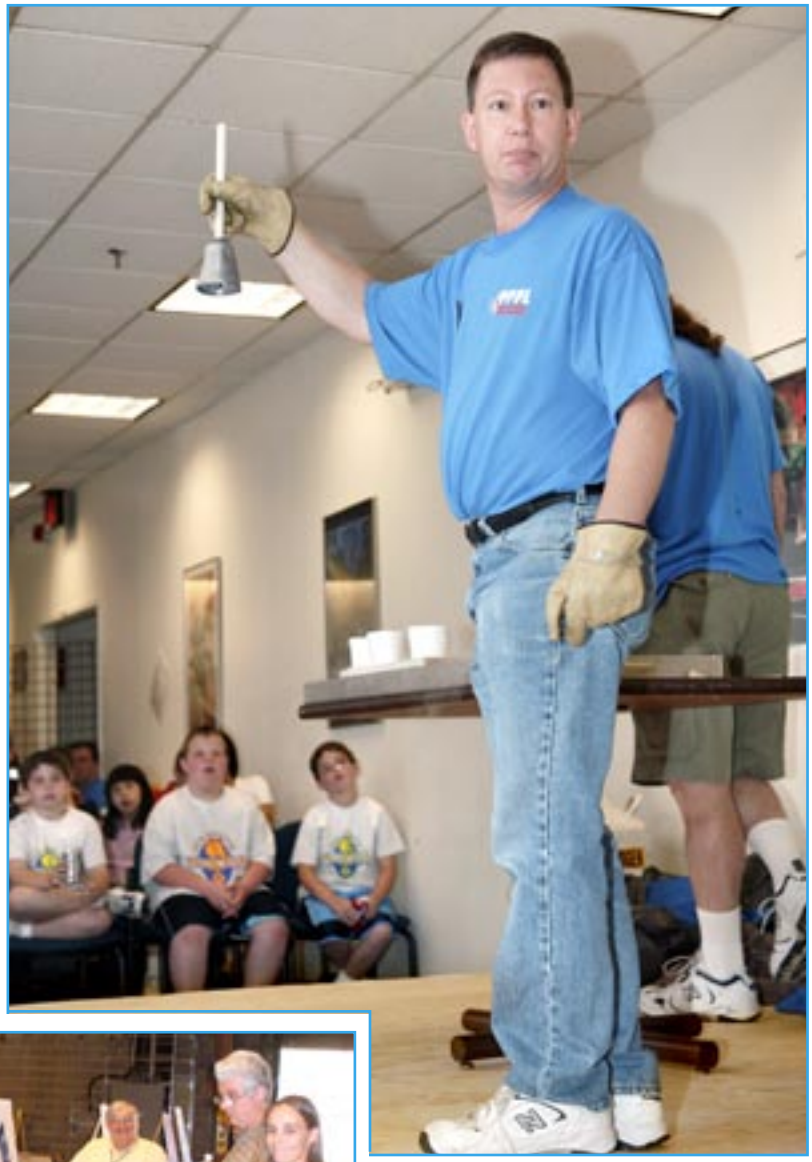
At left: Oak Ridge National Laboratory visiting scientist Martin Peng takes Doreen Spitzer, the widow of PPPL founder Lyman Spitzer, Jr., and her family on a tour. From left are Mrs. Spitzer, Peng, Mrs. Spitzer's granddaughter, and Mrs. Spitzer's daughter. They are at the test cell where the National Compact Stellarator Experiment will be built.

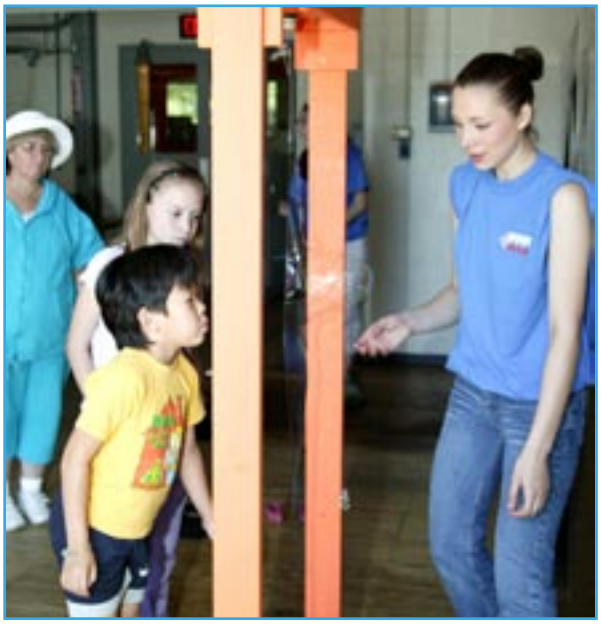


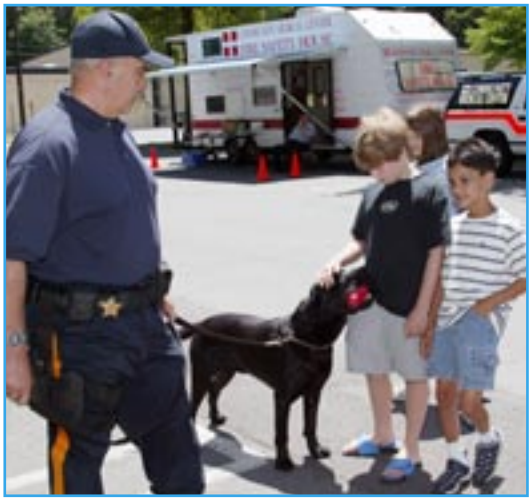












Open House

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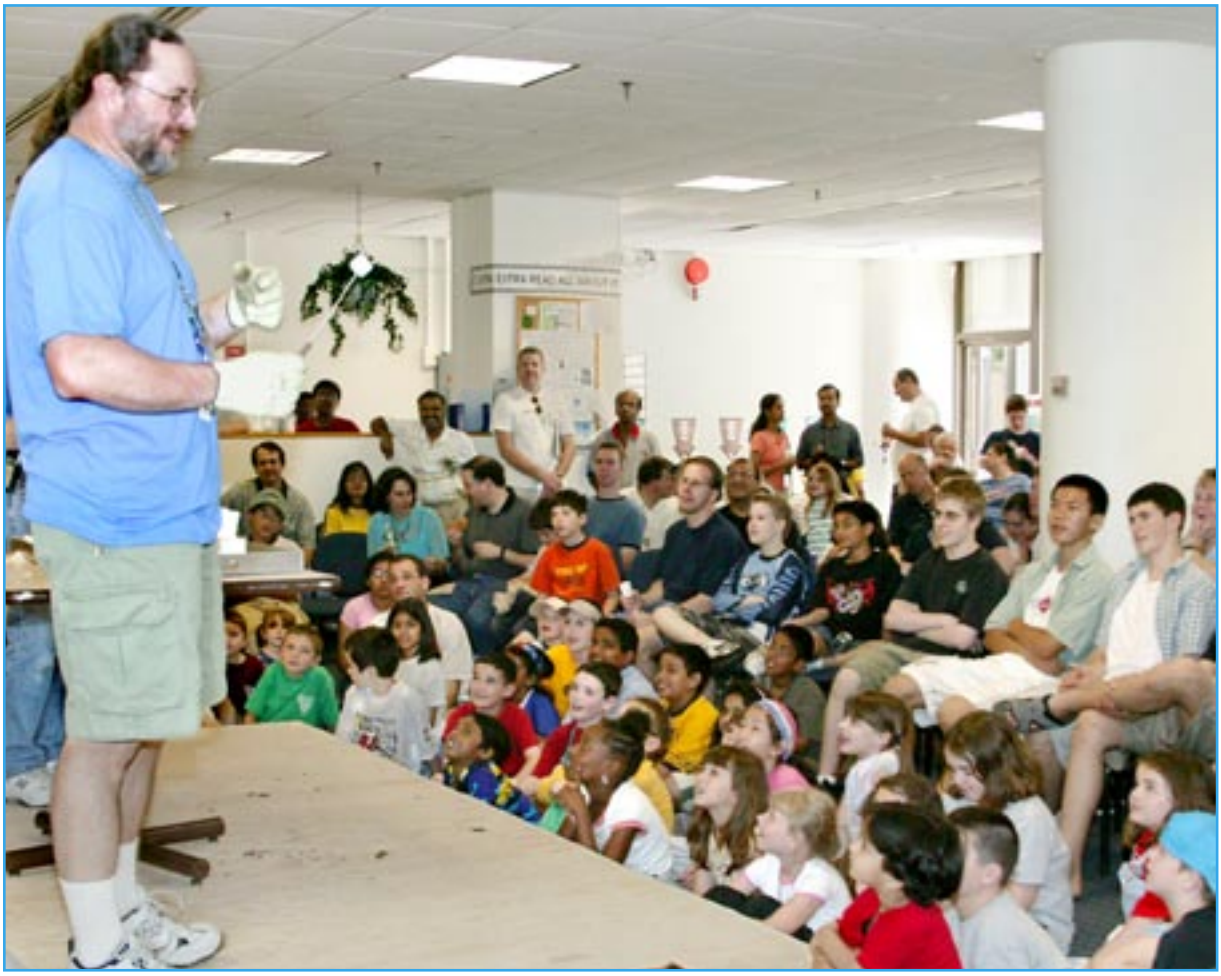
Added John DeLooper, PPPL Associate Director of External Affairs, "An Open House lets us show the community what we do at PPPL and spread the message about fusion. Our staff, students, and guests all had a great time together on Saturday." DeLooper headed the Open House efforts.

Open House guests talked to PPPL researchers about fusion and the Laboratory's progress while taking self-guided tours of NSTX, smaller experimental areas, and the test cell where a new experimental facility, the National Compact Stellarator Experiment, will be built. The event also featured activities ranging from cryogenics shows that demonstrated how ordinary objects behave in strange ways when cooled to the temperature of liquid nitrogen (-320 degrees Fahrenheit) to tours of the Hall Thruster, a plasma-based propulsion system for space vehicles such as satellites. Other popular features included a lecture, "Lighting a Star on Earth," by 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. ***A PDF file of Professor Goldston's talk is available on the web at www.pppl.gov*** ●



PPPL's Ray Camp gives a cryogenics demonstration to a crowd in the cafeteria.

Hotline

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