00:00:01,399 --> 00:00:10,320
station this is Houston are you ready

00:00:03,810 --> 00:00:15,299
for the event Houston space station here

00:00:10,320 --> 00:00:16,320
we're ready for the event and Houston

00:00:15,298 --> 00:00:18,600
Chronicle this is Mission Control

00:00:16,320 --> 00:00:23,189
Houston please go ahead and call station

00:00:18,600 --> 00:00:28,560
for a voice check okay this is eric

00:00:23,189 --> 00:00:30,810
berger Derek burger Mike Fossum with you

00:00:28,559 --> 00:00:36,558
loud and clear hey Mike good morning how

00:00:30,809 --> 00:00:39,450
are you I'm living the dream about you

00:00:36,558 --> 00:00:41,820
well I'm not quite that high but I in

00:00:39,450 --> 00:00:43,789
space but I appreciate that so I want to

00:00:41,820 --> 00:00:46,289
start with an important question Mike

00:00:43,789 --> 00:00:49,500
your Twitter I your twitter handle is

00:00:46,289 --> 00:00:51,929
Agee or astro Aggie and so I know you're
a big fan but your Aggies have blown three second-half double-digit leads this year should the coach be fired absolutely not he's doing a great job when you're when you're just a handful of points away from from you know three wins you know a lot of things are good right talk about the technology that you have in space to be able to watch football games is it something that has to be uploaded to you or are you able to watch the games when you have some time off how does that work there's several different ways of doing it one is they
can send it up live if it's on television and again readily available

they could ship it up when we have the right kind of satellite coverage up here and we've watched a little bit that way we catch some news sometimes certainly the big events we watch the progress launched live a few days ago and we look forward to watching a Soyuz launch live in another week and a half four games and special things like that of interest for us they turn those into video files and uplink come for us so we can watch those later at our own time I for me I
get some television shows set up as well

00:02:03,390 --> 00:02:10,979
as Aggie Aggie games and church sermons

00:02:07,170 --> 00:02:12,390
from my church in Houston okay uh you

00:02:10,979 --> 00:02:13,940
been up in space for a while now what

00:02:12,389 --> 00:02:20,779
what what you miss most about

00:02:13,939 --> 00:02:24,620
Texas but gee I really missed not been

00:02:20,780 --> 00:02:26,840
home for the summer this year so sorry I

00:02:24,620 --> 00:02:29,360
know it’s been a brutal summer one of

00:02:26,840 --> 00:02:31,370
the benefits of this particular schedule

00:02:29,360 --> 00:02:33,479
has been missing out on an entire summer

00:02:31,370 --> 00:02:35,650
we went over to a to Russia well it was

00:02:33,469 --> 00:02:39,349
still a little bit cool in Houston area

00:02:35,650 --> 00:02:41,510
late less or less spring to go through

00:02:39,349 --> 00:02:43,879
the final preparations what I miss the

00:02:41,509 --> 00:02:45,919
most of course is my family my wife and
my kids and my granddaughter who I can't
wait to see in a few weeks yeah you you
missed the hottest and driest summer on
record here in the state so I don't
think you have a lawn anymore I'm sorry
to say I'm sure that's true my family is
intentionally not sent any pictures to
me so you've had an interesting rotation
with the the progress launched problems
has it been challenging going back to a
three-person crew on the station after
being at six for a while there's pluses
and minuses associated with it certainly
it's a it's very busy because the
station requires a certain amount of care and feeding once you take care of the care and feeding which is mandatory then you get the science and I know that's not our priority but the fact is you have to clean the things replace things stuff like that and so we had our hands full keeping the science load moving forward and we've done a good job of that I'm proud of that so they're in ways it's you know there's a little you don't have to wait for the right piece of equipment when you go to the gym because there's you know no lines for
the treadmill or for the resistive exercise machine and so there's a little some benefits from having fewer people some things take a little less time because we just have three it's been an enjoyable time for us we're close friends from three corners of the world and we've had the chance to spend more time together and you know but we definitely look forward to the new guys showing up soon yeah at the same time you mentioned you guys spend time together but it's a big place so you can go in go quite a while without seeing
someone right when you're working during the day

we work often will work in different corners or different areas there's a two of us down here on the US end of the station if we will satoshi furukawa on myself and we're helping each other a little bit more sergei volkov spends a

good bit of his time down in the Russian segment which is down back this way I mean we're in the u.s. lab today and so we make a point of going down there you know and having a just having a quick coffee with Sergey and we get together for lunch and dinner so we may be
working in different areas but we keep touch with each other so we all in case an emergency it's important to know where people are working especially if you're not going to be in one of the prime work areas and right now Sergei is working down in the progress ship the docked yesterday so he's he let me know that hey I'm gonna be down in the progress so if anything's if you plan on going anywhere come get me yeah speaking of the progress our cargo ships you took an amazing photo I think it was last week of a cargo ship burning up in the
Earth's atmosphere did you think about

what was burning up inside that ship

when you took the photo oh you bet I

helped pack it and so it was kind of

funny I got a series of photos there and

so it was interesting to see as a for a

short amount of time you could really

see some details the lighting and

everything worked out great and you

could see I mean big pieces that were

we're glowing as their own you know

their own bright spark as the ship was

coming apart so that was a quite

interesting yeah you've tell me about
your photography background are you an

amateur photographer or you just you

just have such a great vantage point up

there it's easy to get these shots you

do a very nice job well thanks Eric no

I'm a hack I like photography but I've

never had much training outside of what

NASA provides to us but I have a lot of

interest in it particularly the

low-light photography because it brings

out things that you can see once you get

into the cupola and really light a judge

or light adapt to the darkness just as

you can when you get away from the city
lights and get away from

00:06:37,839 --> 00:06:43,239
you know lights even even in Texas even

00:06:40,240 --> 00:06:44,889
in the area around Houston and adjust

00:06:43,240 --> 00:06:46,990
and you see a lot more stars after you

00:06:44,889 --> 00:06:49,300
after you're looking for 20 minutes or

00:06:46,990 --> 00:06:51,460
so to adjust to the light so up here the

00:06:49,300 --> 00:06:54,910
cameras can do that same thing for us

00:06:51,459 --> 00:06:56,500
and capture that view so that we can

00:06:54,910 --> 00:06:59,550
share it because it's it's really

00:06:56,500 --> 00:07:02,470
amazing / tility I mean the city lights

00:06:59,550 --> 00:07:05,560
and the I mean the earth lit by

00:07:02,470 --> 00:07:07,720
moonlight is a very interesting too as

00:07:05,560 --> 00:07:10,750
well as of course the aurora is which

00:07:07,720 --> 00:07:13,330
was not a real significant feature on my

00:07:10,750 --> 00:07:14,918
previous two space flights a little
green glow on the horizon was about all we got but man we have flown through it this time and have been able to capture some of that it's great have been some pretty amazing shots as well you were on the station before the couplet after the cupola what what kind of a difference does that make in terms of being able to look back at her it really the cupola is I mean it's such a window and it's it's to me it's it's an amazing thing I have a history with it I was working on the space station redesigned back in the early 90s and the cupola came perilously
close to being eliminated from the program and there was an astronaut now deceased named Charles Lacey who really gave it everything he had to to fighting the fight to make sure everybody understood the value of the cupola not just for watching the earth but to support robotic operations and I can't imagine reaching out and grabbing the free flyer HTV cargo ship and the future ones that are coming without that direct eyeball view so it has a very definite operational need but the the value to the just a human to see the
earth go by and because of the angles we can see the stars too and that's something that you can't see that the lab has a window right underneath me. It's primarily dedicated to scientific instruments right now that even if it wasn't clustered with other cameras, it's you can't really see the hurt you can't really see the horizon and certainly can't see the stars so that's a cupless really huge benefit so there. have been a couple of successful progress launches since the do you feel confident that the Russians
have are not the issues that would

destroy you some progress launch

vehicles i believe so Eric with as many

successful launches as they've had for

many years it's clearly not a design so

it goes back to some kind of a process

problem and they went all the way

through those they tore them apart they

rebuilt the engines to make sure there

were no questions no lingering concerns

and and you know it's great successful

launch and I think these launches are

going to be some of the you know the

highest probability success launches

ever because every you know all
attention is on every detail and maybe a

renewed emphasis on on some of the
details something escaped us somewhere

that's pretty clear we know when a ship
goes down like that but I think think

we're in really great shape that
launches have been flawless and I look

forward to another one in a week and a

half hey what have you learned about

yourself after after nearly six months

in zero gravity you know I really
thought six months half a year that is

that's you know a huge chunk out of your

life and I thought this would just go on
forever but there must be something to Einstein said you know there is a relative speed and time because this has gone by in a flash I can't believe we've been up here five months there's no way and it surprises me just how quick the days go by and and the weeks and months tick by so you know and I've enjoyed the opportunity to really dig in and and live what literally was a childhood dream of living and working on a space station as some people were dreaming about going to the moon i really did dream about living
on a space station and so this has been a just a great thing for me well Mike have a safe trip home later this month thanks very much for the time thanks Eric great talking to you look forward to seeing you in a few weeks station this is Houston ACR that concludes the event to you Eric Verger from Houston Chronicle we appreciate your time today station please stand by while we reconfigure the video and audio comms