

We had been listening to Launch Control for a while when finally we started counting down anxiously along with it, "…4, 3, 2, 1, lift-off!" A gazillion eyes on it now, the shuttle slowly and silently lifts into the sky leaving behind what seem like clouds on earth. And on our end, only the sounds of clapping hands, whistles, and clicking cameras are heard, until of course a bunch of seconds later, when that incredible thundering sound wave reached and absorbed us. Wow! The amazing sights and sounds of men being launched into space. I say a quick prayer for their safety; it's all I can think to do at that moment. Quite the experience; definite travel for the soul.

Ever since I can remember I've been a fan of everything air and space, and although not my first launch viewing, it was just as exhilarating as ever, as we gathered once again, this time packed house style, at Space View Park in Titusville this past Friday for Atlantis' last planned journey into space.

There are two more launches left in the space shuttle program. Currently, Discovery is scheduled for lift-off on September 16th, and Endeavour in mid-November. If you can find or make the time to go see a launch, I highly recommend it. To view the remaining shuttle launches click on Lift-off!

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The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality… Never lose a holy curiosity.

~ Albert Einstein

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