

**SAS Honors Seminar 256:  
Extraterrestrial Life**

**11/15/2011**

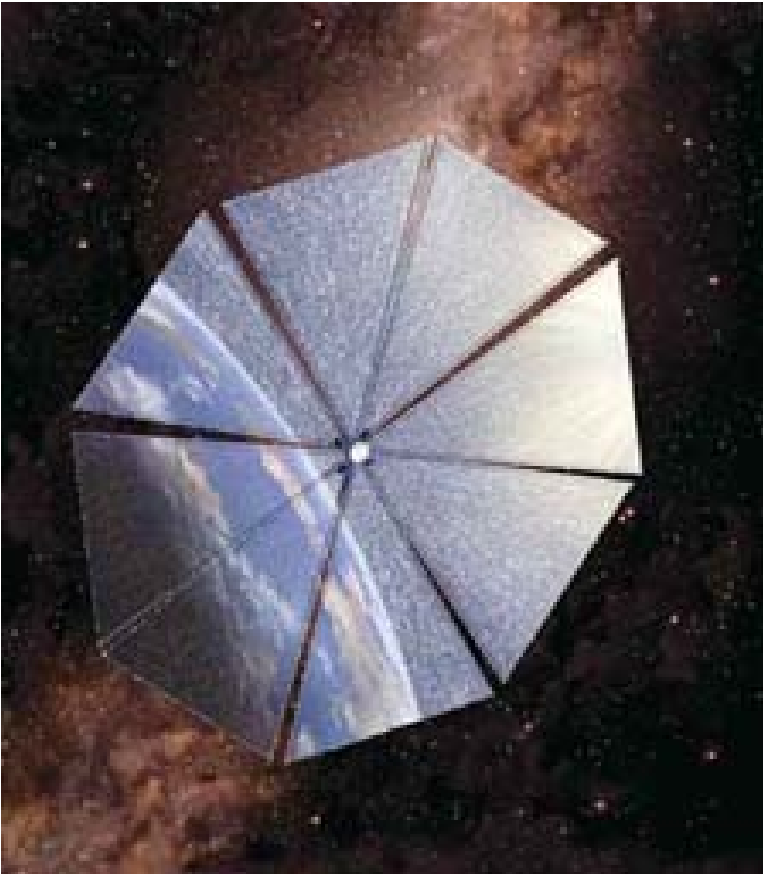
# Reading for Thursday

**Bennett & Shostak 13.1-13.4 – interstellar travel**

**Friedman (2010) – update on Planetary Society's  
solar sailing program**

**Phillips (2011) – update on NASA's solar sailing program**

# The ill-fated Cosmos 1 mission



**what didn't happen**



**Volna rocket (former ICBM,  
launched from Russian sub)**

# Due next Tuesday

## Response paper #9:

The Arecibo Message, the *Pioneer* Plaques, and the *Voyager* Golden Records are three examples of **deliberate** efforts to communicate with extraterrestrial civilizations. Assess the effectiveness of one or more of these communications, and describe what information you feel our next such electromagnetic or physical message to the cosmos should contain.

# Term paper: basic parameters

Length: 10-15pp **double-spaced** (not including images/references)

Topic: your choice of subject matter related to astrobiology

(subject to my veto if too far afield or too speculative)

Sources: must be cited; Wikipedia is a guide, **not a reference!**

Submission: any time before noon December 23rd; may be emailed

in .doc(x) or .pdf format

Late policy: usual 10% per day

Contribution to course grade: 30%

# Term paper: evaluation

**30%** accuracy, comprehension, correctness of emphasis, etc.

**20%** style and readability

→ whatever I've been marking on your response papers

**10%** comprehensiveness/scope in terms of subject matter †

**10%** appropriate selection of references (quality + quantity) †

**10%** proper listing and citation of references

**10%** clearly drawn connection to astrobiology

**10%** expression of a point of view

→ don't write in the first person, but do (via choice or organization of topic, or explicit commentary) incorporate your opinion(s) on at least some of your subject matter

Again: Wikipedia is not a reference!

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roswell\\_UFO\\_incident](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roswell_UFO_incident)

**“[A]n alien craft was found and its occupants were captured, and... the military then engaged in a cover up.”**

**“Additional witnesses added significant new details, including claims of a huge military operation dedicated to recovering alien craft and aliens themselves, at as many as 11 crash sites.”**