

**EARTH'S MAGNETIC FIELD**—Research studies conducted under the auspices of NASA have produced an abundance of evidence regarding the magnetic field of the earth. Because we have it, our planet is protected from powerful solar and cosmic radiations.

The chart, below, shows the magnetosphere (also called Van Allen radiation belts) as traced by satellites. These belts, which appear on the chart as lines, appear to be made up of charged particles trapped in the earth's magnetic field.

