

Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va.

Volume XX-05

Number 05

February 7, 2005



NASA Celebrates Black History Month

by Sean O'Keefe, NASA Administrator

NASA joins Black History Month celebrations during February, and I encourage all NASA employees to recognize the outstanding contributions of African-Americans to our national life and, specifically, to this agency.

Here at NASA, we are proud of our efforts to partner with historically black colleges and universities, the long heritage of African-Americans in our astronaut corps, and our ongoing efforts to make our workforce among the most diverse in the nation.

Through events like Black History Month, we're celebrating the wonderful contributions that every member of the NASA Family brings to our common goal of advancing knowledge through exploration. In that spirit, I hope you will take the opportunity this month to learn something new about the history and culture of African Americans and their role in the bold history of our great agency. I also encourage you to exemplify the spirit of NASA's commitment to diversity by participating in activities at work and in your communities that celebrate our nation's rich diversity.

The New Sciences and Exploration Directorate

A new Sciences and Exploration Directorate has been established at the Goddard Space Flight Center transforming the Space Sciences Directorate, Code 600, and the Earth Sciences Directorate, Code 900.

Additional information on the Sciences and Exploration Directorate, including other key positions and organization functions, can be viewed at <http://science.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

Ultra Long Duration Balloon Test Flight



NASA Photo

A test flight for the Ultra Long Duration Balloon was conducted from Ft. Sumner, N.M., on February 4, 2005. The 6.21 million cubic foot balloon reached a float altitude of 100,000 feet. The flight was terminated safely. The balloon and payload were recovered approximately 20 miles north and northeast (respectively) of Amarillo, Texas. Total flight time was 2 hours, 43 minutes.

Wallops Shorts.....

CREAM Flight In the News

New Scientist (London)

"Antarctic Balloon Breaks Endurance Record"

SpaceRef.com

"NASA Research Balloon Makes Record Breaking Flight Over Antarctica"

SpaceFlight Now

"NASA Research Balloon Makes Record Flight"

Live Science

"Huge Helium Balloon Sets High-Flying Record"

ANANOVA LTD, United Kingdom

"NASA Balloon's Record Breaking Flight"

Space Daily

"NASA Balloon Makes Record Breaking Flight"

PhysOrg.com (The latest physics and technology news)

"NASA Research Balloon Makes Record Breaking Flight"

Unexplainable.net

"Balloon Makes It to the Edge of Space"

Technocrat.net

"NASA Balloon Breaks Endurance and Distance Records"

Eastern Shore Post

"Wallops Project Keeps Scientific Balloon Aloft 42 Days"

Scenta

"NASA Balloon Breaks Record"

Intranet Now Available

The NASA's Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) has an internal Web site available for employee use.

The web site is designed to provide a "one-stop portal" that includes many professional and administrative references throughout the government, agency, and facility. It includes quick links, internal facility and employee news, as well as links to employee services, a facility event calendar and other NASA intranets.

Also available at this site are very useful search tools for acronyms and for employee/organizational information (both NASA-wide and internal to Wallops).

The WFF Intranet should allow users to reduce those long lists of bookmarks. The site can be assessed throughout the Agency internally at: <http://internal.wff.nasa.gov/>

Feedback is welcome and may be directed to the following: Sandy Kleckner at x1929, Lisa Bass at x1202, or Rayce Shelton at x1757.

Warm Start – Cold Middle – Warming End

by Bob Steiner, Meteorologist

A reading of 69 degrees on January 1, 2005, tied a daily record high for that date. A 60 degree reading on January 7 set a new daily record high for that date.

Following a warm start, a new record low was set on January 24 when the mercury fell to 11 degrees. When the total temperatures for the month are compiled, the monthly average temperature of 37.3 degrees for January was 1.3 degrees warmer than average. The warmest day during January occurred on the 4th with a reading of 70 degrees. A reading of 11 degrees on January 24 and 28 were the coldest temperatures recorded during the month.

Measurable snow fell on three days during January, with the greatest one day total of one inch recorded on January 19.

Measurable precipitation fell on 10 days with 1.43 inches of rain on January 14 being the greatest single day total for the

Stressed?

Are you totally stressed out? Try a relaxing massage.

A representative from Massage For Wellness will be coming to Wallops on February 15 from 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Building E-2 Training Room

Call the Health Unit TODAY at x1766 to schedule your massage.

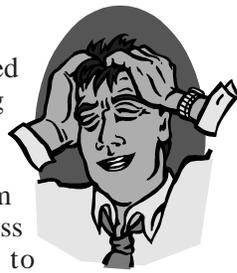
The charge is \$15 for a 15 minute massage and \$45 for a 30 minute massage.

Engineer's Week

Engineer's Week is February 20 - 26. This is an excellent time to talk to children about the opportunities and careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

Contact your local school and volunteer to help enlighten students on the benefits of continued education. The teacher is the best source of information and/or topics to present.

For more information contact Ed Parrott at x1681.



Employee Express Security Alert

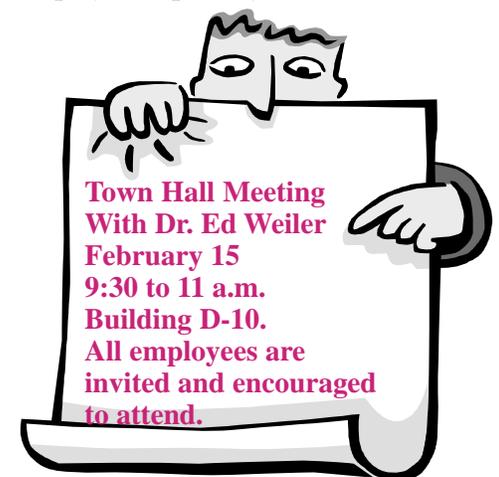
The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has discovered that there is another company hosting a web page that is www.employeeexpress.com. It has a link to a web page that claims to be and looks like the official government home page of Employee Express. The .com site can load spy ware on a PC and can capture your Social Security Number and pin.

Identity theft is a possibility if you think you are accessing the secure official government site when in fact you are accessing this .com site. The .com website is a commercial site and not the government's Employee Express website. You should use caution when accessing the Employee Express website. Be sure to only access the .gov site for employment related personnel actions and services.

When you are linked to the official government employee express web site, the URL:

<https://www.employeeexpress.gov> will display at the top of the browser window and the padlock/security icon will appear near the lower right hand corner of the browser window. OPM has updated the official .gov employee express web site to include the following warning message in the announcements: *** security alert - all employees***

Contact Nিকেisha Hamilton at x66-8208 if you need assistance with accessing the Employee Express system.



Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov
Editor
Asst. Editor

Betty Flowers
Rebecca Hudson

month. The liquid equivalent total of 3.94 inches .79 inches above average for the month.

March is the last month of winter, and we can look forward to daily highs of 49 degrees at the beginning of the month. Hopefully, temperatures will warm to near 56 degrees by the end of the month.

Overnight lows should average near 31 degrees on March 1, improving to 40 degrees by the 31st. The record high for March is 86 degrees recorded on March 13, 1990. The extreme low for March is 14 degrees and occurred on March 1, 1980, and March 4, 1996.

We can look for measurable precipitation to occur on 10 days during the month with an average total of 3.94 inches.

Stay alert to warnings, winter storms have been experienced into March. By the end of the month, we will be looking forward to the onset of spring.

