

# Inside Wallops

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Goddard Space Flight Center  
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va.



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## Historic Tag Returns Home After Six-Million-Mile Space Trek

A small piece of early American history has returned to Jamestown, Va., after a trip to the International Space Station. The nearly 400-year-old lead cargo tag was on board NASA's space shuttle Atlantis during June's STS-117 mission.

Astronaut Pat Forrester, one of the space walkers on the 14-day mission, brought the one-inch in diameter tag and some commemorative coins back to Virginia. His visit also marked a homecoming of sorts for the 50-year-old astronaut. He graduated from West Springfield High School, Springfield, Va., in 1975 and received a master of science degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering from the University of Virginia in 1989.

"Because our mission was extended by three days the tag and coins logged 5.8 million miles in space," said Forrester in ceremonies at Historic Jamestowne. "As a former Virginian, I'm excited to return these priceless mementos to the Commonwealth to help commemorate this year's 400th anniversary of Jamestown, the first permanent English

settlement in North America."

NASA returned the "Yames Towne" shipping tag to Historic Jamestowne where it will join hundreds of other artifacts in a new archaeological museum called the Archaearium. Since 1994 archaeologists at the Jamestown Rediscovery project have dug up more than a million items, including the long-lost remains of James Fort. For centuries, the fort was believed to have eroded into the James River.

A \$5 gold piece and a silver dollar, both of which depict Jamestown symbols, make up each commemorative coin set that also flew on Atlantis. One set of the coins, authorized by Congress and issued by the U.S. Mint, will be displayed at the National Park Service's Historic



*Astronaut Pat Forrester (right) presents the Jamestown cargo tag to Va. Secretary of Technology Aneesh Chopra (far left) and Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) Executive Director Elizabeth Kostelny (front, center)*

Jamestowne Visitor Center. The other set can be seen at Jamestown Settlement, a 17th century living history museum.

NASA teamed with Jamestown 2007 to promote the spirit of exploration then, now and in the future. The artifacts' out-of-this-world trip was just one of a number of events held during the last 18 months that honored the nation's pioneering spirit.

## PI Comments on Launch

Reference: Terrier-Black Brant 36.224 launched Nov. 26, 2006, WSMR

"The level of success achieved by the NSROC systems was 100% from the perspective of the experimenters.

The level and quality of service received from our payload support team was extremely high. Bruce Scott was a competent and helpful mission manager. Much of the success of this mission was due to his hard work. Shane Thompson's work

as the mechanical engineer was also of high quality. Since this was the longest BBIX payload ever flown there were many unique issues that Shane worked out. The ACS team's work also was of high quality. Given that this was a test flight of their new celestial ACS system and ST5000 star tracker, the team had many exceptional issues. The work of Charlie Kupelian and Neil Shoemaker was first rate. Our mechanical technician, Clay Merscham, also produced work of the highest quality. He dedicated many long, hard hours resolving

some key mechanical problems and always had the right solution. Bernita Justis, the TM technician provided a high quality of service.

Overall this was a success, particularly for the first flight of a new payload."

Dr. Webster Cash  
Professor of Astrophysics  
Chair, Dept. of Astrophysical & Planetary Sciences  
University of Colorado at Boulder

## Wallops Shorts.....

### In Competition

Anthony Bream, Transystems, competed in a qualifying event for the annual Ironman competition held in Louisville, Ky., on August 26, finishing the event in 15 hours, 18 minutes. Qualifiers in the three events, a 2.4 mile swim in the Ohio River, 112 mile bike ride and 26.2 mile run around the Louisville metro area, become eligible to compete in the Ironman World Championship in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, on October 13.

### Balloon Launches

A NASA scientific balloon was launched from Ft. Sumner, N.M., on August 30. The 37.73 million cubic foot balloon was a flight qualification test. The mission was an operations and science success. Debbie Fairbrother, NASA Wallops Flight Facility, was the principal investigator. Total flight time was 5 hours, 50 minutes. Float altitude was 122,700 feet.

A second NASA scientific balloon was launched from Ft. Sumner on September 2. The 11.82 million cubic foot balloon carried the High-Altitude Student Platform (HASP). The HASP is designed to carry up to 12 payloads and is used to flight test compact satellites, prototypes and other small payloads designed and built by students from several universities. Dr. Greg Guizik, Louisiana State University, is the principal investigator. The flight was an operations and science success. The science team reported that all experiments functioned successfully. The payload was recovered. Total flight time was 19 hours, 29 minutes. Float altitude was 122,700 feet.

### Sounding Rocket Launch

A NASA Terrier Mk70 Improved Orion sounding rocket was launched from Wallops Island, Va., on September 6. The Inflatable Reentry Vehicle Experiment (IRVE) was to develop and validate an inflatable ballute decelerator concept. Charles Player, NASA Langley Research Center, was the experimenter. Libby West, NASA Range and Mission Management Office, was the project manager, and Jay Scott, NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract, (NSROC), was the mission manager. The payload was not recovered.

### In the Field

A NSROC team is currently at the Andoya Rocket Range, Andenes, Norway, replacing the jack screws and ball nuts on the Athena launcher. They also will configure the rail for the launch of three Black Brant XII sounding rockets currently scheduled for December 2007 and January 2008.

The P-3 and team are in the field as part of the Global Ice-Sheet Mapping Orbiter 2007 (GISMO2007) Mission. The mission purpose is to conduct high and low altitude remote sensing in specified locations over the Greenland Ice-Sheet. The three-week mission is designed to measure both surface and sub-surface topography of the ice-sheet. GISMO2007 will test one newly developed NASA Instrument Incubator Program (IIP) sensor, re-fly two previously flown sensors, and fly one university sensor not having previously flown on the P-3. Bill Krabill, Wallops Observational Sciences Branch, is a principal investigator on the GISMO2007 mission.

### Diversity Council Words to Live By

"If we are to achieve a richer culture, rich in contrasting values, we must recognize the whole gamut of human potentialities, and so weave a less arbitrary social fabric, one in which each diverse human gift will find a fitting place.".....Margaret Mead

## NOMAD/Outlook Training

September 17  
Building E-104, Room 308

In this course, you will learn the basics of using Microsoft Outlook as a communications tool. You will send and receive mail messages, manage your emails, create and send appointments, work with meeting requests and responses, and customize Outlook.

To sign up for a session, go to SATERN at <https://satern.nasa.gov/> On the SATERN site, put WFF in the search catalog and click go. Then click on the course title WFF-Microsoft Outlook NOMAD and register. The course is available to both NASA civil servants as well as contractor staff who have a nasa.gov email address. Further information may also be obtained from April Hildebrand at x66-5680.

## Johnson Receives Award

Freda Johnson, (left), NASA Facilities Management Branch, received the Toastmasters International Competent Communicator Award on September 5 from Pat Dworske, President, Debedeavon Toastmasters, Wallops Island.

Johnson completed a series of 10 speeches to qualify for the award.



Photo by Brenda Mulac

*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](http://www.wff.nasa.gov)  
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