



The X-Press

Volume 50 Issue 1

Dryden Flight Research Center

December 2008



NASA's 50th Anniversary:

Five decades of Dryden contributions and contributors



EC66 1017

NASA photo

Above from left are X-15 pilots Joseph Engle, Robert Rushworth, Jack McKay, William J. "Pete" Knight, Milton "Milt" O. Thompson, and William "Bill" Dana. At top, the NB-52 launches the X-15A-2 with its ablative coating and external tanks. (EC68 1889 NASA Photo)

Welcome to this supplement to the X-Press "Happy Anniversary NASA" edition. The 20-page main publication includes profiles of 61 people and 28 projects gathered during a vote by Dryden employees and retirees in March and April of 2008.

Originally, a small photo spread was planned for that publication, but there was insufficient room in it to give a true taste of the center's history and contributions to NASA's success.

This separate supplement still strains to contain the more than five-decade history of Dryden's myriad contributions and the people who made them. But this separate edition allows more room for showcasing some of Dryden's brightest moments, many of which will be seen for the first time by new employees.

It is hoped that these editions will be treasured for the snapshots they provide of the legacy Dryden employees become part of when they work at the center. It is the current group of employees that seeks to take up the mantle, helping Dryden further enrich NASA's efforts to reach for heights in the present and an as-yet-unimagined future.

Special Photo Edition



ECN 2203

NASA Photo

This classic 1969 photo shows the workhorse Dryden NB-52B flying over the HL-10 lifting body aircraft and its pilot, Bill Dana.



Photo courtesy Wen Painter

M2-F1 and M2-F2 lifting bodies are side by side on the ramp in this 1966 image.



EC66 1017

NASA Photo

Ground crewmen Jay L. King, left, Joseph D. Huxman, and Orion D. Billeter, right, help pilot Milt Thompson into the M2-F2, attached to the NB-52 mothership.



Photo courtesy Wen Painter

From left, Jerry Gentry, Pete Hoag, John Manke and Bill Dana are lined up by the HL-10 lifting body aircraft.



EC01 0339-33

NASA Photo

The X-38 vehicle 131R drops away from its launch pylon on the wing of NASA's NB-52B mothership as the X-38 begins its eighth free flight on Dec. 13, 2001.



E 33092

NASA Photo

Following a successful five-minute, 28-second unpowered second free flight of the Shuttle Approach and Landing Tests on Sept. 13, 1977, a formation of six aircraft, including five T-38s and the specially modified NASA 747 that had carried Enterprise aloft for the test, fly overhead to commemorate the event. Enterprise had been perched on top of the 747 Shuttle Carrier Aircraft until explosive bolts separated the two aircraft.



EC05 0166-08

NASA Photo by Jim Ross

From left, Dryden Deputy Director Steve Schmidt and Dryden Shuttle Program Manager Joe D'Agostino greet Discovery Commander Eileen Collins and the crew.



EC80 14126

NASA Photo

F-15 no. 281 and F-104 no. 826, top, fly in formation during space shuttle tile testing.



EC02 0131-10

NASA Photo by Jim Ross

NASA Dryden X-Press



EC05 0028-50

NASA Photo by Carla Thomas

Above, Dryden's F-15B testbed aircraft flies one of the Lifting Insulating Foam Trajectory research flights. At left, Endeavour, mounted securely atop one of NASA's modified Boeing 747 Shuttle Carrier Aircraft, departed from Dryden at sunrise on June 28, 2002, nine days after concluding mission STS-111 with a landing at Edwards.



E 11146-47

NASA Photo

At left, from left, then Center Director Paul Bikle, Hugh L. Dryden and former Center Director Walt Williams converse beside X-15 no. 2 in April 1964.



EC00 0037-33

NASA Photo

At right, Dryden life-support technician Jim Sokolik, left, assists pressure-suited pilot Dee Porter into the cockpit of NASA's ER-2 Earth resources aircraft.

At right, Milt Thompson prepares for a water-skiing excursion on Rogers (not very) Dry Lake following some storm activity.



NASA Photo

Below, Dryden personnel take a break. Pictured from left are Wen Painter, Don Beacon, Dick Stratman, Bill Burcham, Larry Caw, Berwin Kock, Kevin Petersen, Jim Stewart, Jim Phelps and kneeling is Earl Wilson.



Photo courtesy Wen Painter



EC84 33111-2

At right, Joe Walker stands next to the Lunar Landing Research Vehicle. The presence of wheels on the vehicle indicates that this photo was taken during an early flight in the program. The wheels were later removed because there were no brakes to stop the vehicle from rolling after it touched down on the runway.



E 12217

NASA Photo



NASA Dryden X-Press



Photo by Jim Ross

ED04 0095-38

NASA Photo by Tom Tschida



NASA Photo

Above, after the X-43A's second flight successfully achieved Mach 7, celebration ensued. Relieved and excited with the research flight's results are, from left, Dryden mission controller Brad Neal, NASA Associate Administrator for Aeronautics J. Victor Lebacqz, Dryden X-43A deputy program manager Paul Reukauf, Dryden Center Director Kevin L. Petersen, Ryan Warner (seated), Dryden chief engineer Griffin P. "Griff" Corpening, Dryden X-43A manager Joel Sitz and Robert Shannon (partially hidden).

At left, some F-8 Digital Fly-By-Wire team members included, from left, Ken Szalai, Wilton Lock, Bill Peterson, Jim Phelps, Jim Craft, Leo Lett, Dwain Deets and Cal Jarvis. Current Center Director Kevin L. Petersen worked on the program as a research engineer.



EC97 44064-8

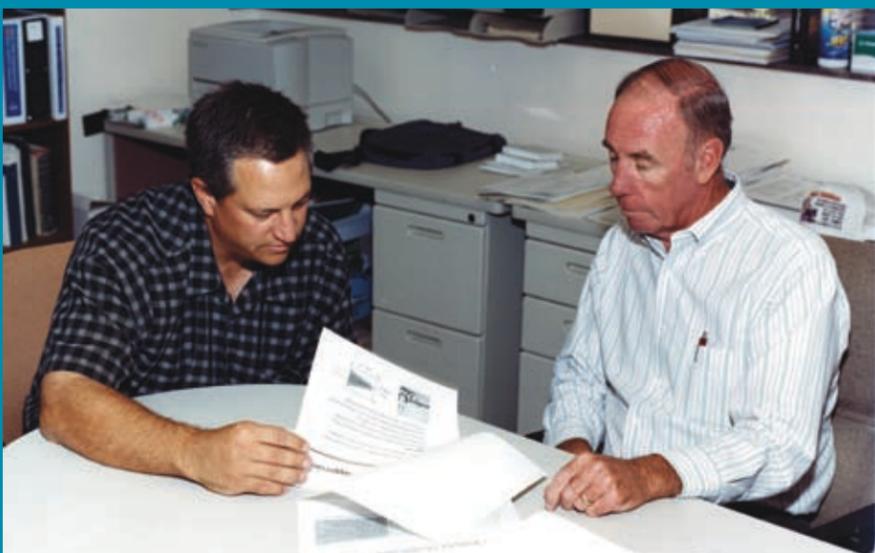
NASA Photo by Carla Thomas

Above, the remotely piloted X-36 is prepared on Rogers Dry Lake for its first flight. The X-36 vehicle was designed to fly without the traditional tail surfaces common on most aircraft.



Photo courtesy Jim Mills

At left, work continues on the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy. From left to right are Keith Schweikhard, lead flight systems engineer, Jonathan Brown, software quality engineer, Kevin Goodwin, flight systems engineer, Peter Salewsky, telescope assemble software engineer, and Holger Jacob, lead telescope assembly software engineer. When the SOFIA is fully operational, the aircraft will help scientists to study the heavens.



ED07 0078-065

NASA Photo by Tony Landis

Above, Dryden AAW Chief Engineer Dave Voracek, left, and Dryden AAW Project Manager Larry Myers discuss research plans. At left, Rogers Smith, left, and Ed Schneider share a laugh on their final flight as Dryden pilots in 2000. (EC00 281-6 NASA Photo by Tony Landis)



ED08 0066-3

NASA Photo by Tom Tschida

Brent Cobleigh, left, passes Ikhana project management responsibilities to Thomas Rigney. Cobleigh recently accepted a position as the director of the Exploration Mission Directorate at Dryden.



Above, the second X-43A and its modified Pegasus booster rocket accelerate after launch from NASA's NB-52B launch aircraft over the Pacific Ocean. (EC04 0092-39 NASA Photo)



At right, the SR-71B with "shock diamonds" in its exhaust were captured in this 1992 image. (EC92 1284 NASA Photo)



Below, the XB-70 and its contrails streak against the sky during this 1967 flight. (EC67 1826 NASA Photo)

The Orion pad abort crew module is lifted by crane and placed on instrumented jacks at Dryden to determine the vehicle's weight, balance and vertical center of gravity.



ED08 0230-163
NASA Photo by Tony Landis



ED08 0078-1

NASA Photo by Tom Tschida

The F-15 Intelligent Flight Control System aircraft team was selected as the top new project that will have lasting impacts on NASA mission. The F-15 IFCS team includes front row, from left, Loc Bui, Starla Carroll, Gina Branco, Claudeliah Terry, Jim Smolka, Carrie Rhodes, Lori Losey, Howard Trent, Wilt Lock, Jim Disbrow, Jacob Barnett, Tim Moes and Ashante Jordan. In the second row are Hector Rodriguez, John Bosworth, Daniel Burgdorf, Andres Hernandez, Nelson Brown, Cindy Brandvig, Sarah Samples, John Burken, Jim Urnes, Dick Larson, Linda Hoger, Mary Alice Grossman and Marty Brenner. In the third row are Tim Burt, Kia Davidson, Joe Innis, Leonard Voelker, Jim Lee, Miguel Vigil, Brad Butler, Dave Mosley, Mark Browder, Paul Everhart, Nils Larson, Bob Fleckenstein, Tim Smith, Bruce Cogan, Curtis Hanson, Shawn Albertson, Bob Guere, Chris Miller, Robert Rivera and Eric Miller.



ECN 32107

NASA Photo



ED07 100-03

NASA Photo by Jim Ross

Far left, the NASA B-52H won't be flying because of snow? It happens rarely, but that was the case Dec. 17, 1984.

At left, the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy flies a second checkout flight from Waco, Texas.



EC03 0152-466

NASA Photo by Carla Thomas

NASA's Helios Prototype electrically powered flying wing began a checkout flight June 7, 2003, from the Navy's Pacific Missile Range Facility on the Hawaiian island of Kauai.

At right, the Highly Maneuverable Aircraft Technology subscale and remotely piloted aircraft demonstrated advanced fighter technologies that have been used in the development of many modern high-performance military aircraft.



ECN 14280

NASA Photo

Below, the Gossamer Penguin in flight above Rogers Dry Lake, with the solar panel perpendicular to the wing and facing the sun.



ECN 13413

NASA Photo



ECN 438

NASA Photo

Above, The Paresev 1-B project tested the concept of a paraglider, designed to enable a Gemini capsule to fly to a controlled ground landing. Capsule designers eventually chose the idea of an ocean landing.



EC98 44393-52

NASA Photo by Carla Thomas

At left, this bird's eye view shows the Eclipse project QF-106 under tow by an Air Force C-141A transport aircraft during one of its flights in late 1997 and early 1998.

The X-Press is published for civil servants, contractors, retirees and others interested in the work of the Dryden Flight Research Center.

Editor: Jay Levine, Tybrin, ext. 3459

Assistant Editor: Sarah Merlin, Tybrin, ext. 2128

Managing Editor: Steve Lighthill, NASA

Chief, Strategic Communications: John O'Shea, NASA

Address: P.O. Box 273,
Building 4839
Edwards, CA 93523-0273
Phone: 661-276-3449
FAX: 661-276-3566

www.nasa.gov



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Dryden Flight Research Center
P.O. Box 273
Edwards, CA 93523-0273

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use, \$300

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #4593
SANTA ANA, CA