Balloon-Borne Instrument Collects Antimatter

NASA launched a 60-story-high scientific balloon to the upper fringes of Earth’s atmosphere to collect precious particles of some of the rarest stuff in the Universe - antimatter - and, just possibly, evidence that entire antigalaxies exist.

Carrying a Japanese-built instrument, one of NASA’s largest scientific balloons, 39 million cubic feet in volume, was launched from Lynn Lake, Manitoba, Canada, at 9:22 a.m. EDT, Aug. 11 for a 38-hour flight more than 20 miles above earth. The 5,000-pound instrument was recovered Aug. 12 and will be prepared for another flight next year. The Balloon-borne Experiment with a Superconducting Solenoidal magnet (BESS) was sponsored by NASA and Mombusho in Japan.

Although many theorists believe that the entire Universe is made of “ordinary” matter, some speculate that the entire Universe is made solely of matter, not antimatter.

“We have collected excellent data, which should contain several hundred anti-protons among a hundred million cosmic-ray particles that passed through our detector,” said Prof. Shuji Orito of the University of Tokyo, who along with researchers from Japan and the United States was at Lynn Lake for the launch.

The Center’s ISO 9001 Registration Audit will occur this week. Any of us may find ourselves subject to a visit or a question from the audit team, and we all need to be prepared to answer them. The ISO Team has put some helpful information on the internal web page (http://internal.gsfc.nasa.gov/) that will guide you through the process and help you prepare for meeting with and answering questions from an auditor.

I would encourage you to look at the information, familiarize yourself with our quality policy and be prepared to deal with questions concerning procedures, work instructions, and quality records that pertain to your job. Be positive in describing your work to an auditor — this is your system, it works and you know it works. We can be very proud of the Quality Management System we have put in place at Goddard. I personally believe it is second to none in NASA.

This will be our opportunity to show the registrar how much work we have done and that we have the system in place to deliver quality products to our customers.

The audit will end with a closing meeting on Friday afternoon in which we will find out if the lead auditor recommends us for certification. I am confident we are prepared for this audit and that we will be successful in obtaining certification.

With the P-3 Orion in the background, Wallops Fire Department members remove seagulls from the runway.

Although several of the birds were struck at approximately 100 knots, Rogers was able to control the aircraft and taxied back to the hanger.

There were no personnel injuries and a total assessment of damage to the aircraft is being conducted. Preliminary reports are that damage was done to the radome (nose), leading edge of the right wing and possibly to an engine. Several birds struck the windshield but no damage resulted.

Directorate Name Change

Effective Aug. 1, the name of Suborbital Projects and Operations Directorate (Code 800) was changed to Suborbital and Special Orbital Projects Directorate.

This new name reflects changes in Code 800’s mission that occurred with the implementation of Wallops Mission 2000.
Women's Equality Day
August 26
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Williamsburg Room, Bldg. E-2
Speaker: Dr. Dolores Spikes
President, University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Tickets ($3.00) are available at the Exchange.

Management Operations Directorate Presents Awards
Mike Bundick and Mike Hill were honored with the Gold Star Award, the top award presented by the Management Operations Directorate (Code 200) during an Awards Ceremony held Aug. 13 in the Greenbelt Rec Center.

TeamWork Awards went to the following Wallops employees:
• Center Rehousing Team -- Tom Arceneaux, Barbara Lusby and Marshall Ryan.
• Wallops Y2K Team -- Thomas Bell, Bill Bott, James Brady, Mike Bundick, James Hill, Carl Johnson, A.J. Kellam, Glenn Lilly, Everett Noble, Bernie Pagliaro, Dave Quillen, Bob Reynolds, Robert Sneed, Joseph Thornton, Kirk Webb, Scott Webb, Warren Williams and George Young.

Wallops Island Seawall Restoration Team -- Tom Arceneaux, Bill Bott, David Brittingham and Peter Turlington.

Software Development
Introduction to MATLAB
DATES: Sept. 21-22, 1999
TIMES: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
WHERE: Wallops Flight Facility, Building E-104, Room 308
COST: Directorate funded at $1035, (dependent on enrollment)
DESCRIPTION: This hands-on class is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of MATLAB as a programming language. The course topics include: working with matrices; data manipulation; graphical visualization; programming; file I/O; advanced data types; and handling graphics.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Aug. 31 NASA civil service personnel should forward training requests to Tracey White, fax x66-1679, or Sherry Kleckner, fax x2313. Non-NASA federal employees may register by submitting a copy of their Training Request and a purchase Request to Tracey White, Code 114.

Contractor employees may register by sending a memo to White stating they are interested in taking the course and that their company is willing to pay a pro-rated cost for the course. The memo must be on company letterhead and signed by the employee’s immediate supervisor and contract monitor (ATR/COTR). Contractors are admitted on a “space available” basis.

Wallops Aerobics Club Session
August 16 to October 1, 1999
$20 for Members (attend as many sessions as you like)
$2.60 per hour for Non-Members or Members Option Plan

Schedule:
Lunchtime classes on the gym stage behind the curtain -- 11:30 AM - Noon
Evening classes on the gym basketball court -- 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Wallops contractor, civil service, and tenant employees are invited to participate. New participants are welcome throughout the session.

For more information, call Donna Smith, x1346.
Sponsored by WEMA/Morale Activities Committee

Cellular Telephone Service
Bell Atlantic Mobile is offering a special promotion for all NASA employees, civil service and contractors. A representative will be at Wallops from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Aug. 26 in the entrance to the cafeteria.

During this promotion, cell phones will be offered starting at $9.99 while monthly service will be $9.99 per month with 20 hours for peak and 1 off-peak rates per minute. You may sign on as a new subscriber or you may switch from another Bell Atlantic Mobile plan.

As an added bonus, if you sign up prior to Aug. 31 you will receive free minutes after 9 p.m. weekdays and on weekends. For more information, call Jennifer Mace, (410) 430-7575.