



National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Goddard Space Flight Center

Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia

# Inside Wallops

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## Year 2000 (Y2K) Readiness At Goddard Space Flight Center

Who has not considered all the “what if’s” of what could happen at the stroke of midnight, Dec. 31, 1999? Like many organizations, GSFC is planning and conducting drills to get ready for the rollover.

Our interests cover the safety of personnel, assets like our facilities and spacecraft and all other associated and valued holdings. GSFC is preparing for potential anomalies including mission software problems, external utility interruptions and telecommunication problems.

A team of trained individuals will be at Greenbelt and Wallops to address problems as they occur.

Our Y2K Team developed procedures to ensure operations during the millennium rollover. Every employee should follow the Center’s guidelines, listed below, to ensure a safe work environment:

\* Employees should observe the federal holiday on Friday, Dec. 31, 1999. Employees on daytime, Monday through Friday work schedules, may plan to return to work on Monday, Jan. 3, 2000, unless the Center’s operating status changes.

\* Beginning at 7 a.m. Friday, Dec. 31 through 6 a.m. Jan. 3, 2000, only emergency employees specifically identified by their Director of will be allowed on Center. Special badges will be issued to these emergency employees.

\* If there are no effects of the rollover, or they are minor, we will provide early access for specific non-emergency employees identified by Directors of. Early access is for personnel who will check out systems or operations before resuming normal business on Jan. 3, 2000. This will occur no earlier than noon Jan. 1, 2000.

\* An emergency on-call list is being developed, and those individuals will be contacted if serious problems arise related to Y2K or other events.

The non-emergency early access and emergency on-call employees will report only when notified by the Y2K Team.

We are hoping for the best but preparing for mission and facility problems.

While we will be prepared to provide continuous services to our previously designated mission critical buildings, the possibility exists for a loss of external utilities. This scenario, coupled with the potential for extreme winter weather conditions, will impact services to other buildings. Facilities Management and Security personnel will inspect buildings for anomalies such as leaks and extreme temperatures.

### Operating Status

Wallops employees may call (757) 824-2050, (757) 824-1176 or (800) 521-3415 or check their phone mail to receive a recorded status message if there is an emergency condition and/or change of operating hours.

Before returning to work on Monday, Jan. 3, 2000 employees may also listen to the following local radio stations or television reports for the operating status:

Tasley, VA  
WESR-AM (1330)  
WESR-FM (1330)

Onancock, VA  
WKHI-FM (107.5)

Accomac, VA  
WVES-FM (99.3)

Pocomoke City, MD  
WKHI-FM (106.5)

Princess Anne, MD  
WOLC-FM (102.5)

Salisbury, MD  
WLVW-AM (960)  
WQHQ-FM (104.7)  
WMDT-TV (Channel 47)  
WBOC-TV (Channel 16)

## Wallops Equal Opportunity Program Manager Named

Lisa C. Johnson has been selected as the Equal Opportunity Specialist for the Wallops Flight Facility effective Jan. 3, 2000. In this capacity, she will be responsible for developing strategies to coordinate both the Wallops affirmative action and diversity programs with those at Greenbelt. She also will be responsible for conducting analyses of issues facing women, minorities and people with disabilities at Wallops and developing recommendations to address them. In addition, Johnson will coordinate activities related to minority universities on the Delmarva Peninsula.

Johnson can be reached in Building E-105, Room 210 or on extension 1412.

## Bill Krabill Serves on Review Panel



Bill Krabill, (above) Observational Science Branch, recently visited McMurdo Station in Antarctica as a National Science Foundation (NSF) Review Panel Member. Among other things, the NSF sponsors aerogeophysical research in Antarctica.

While there, the NSF Review Panel reviewed the Support Office for Aerogeophysical Research (SOAR) project. SOAR acquires laser altimetry, ice penetrating radar, gravity, magnetics, and precision GPS similar to the Wallops Arctic Ice Mapping (AIM) Project that Krabill also is involved with.

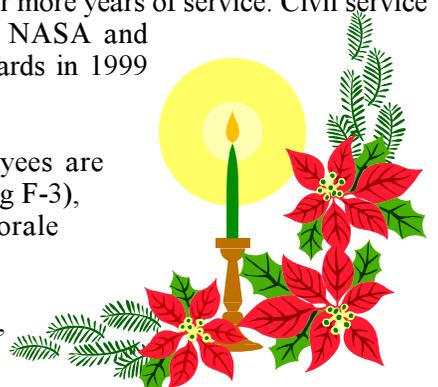
## Wallops Awards Ceremony

Center Director A. V. Diaz will be the key speaker at the annual Awards Ceremony that will be held Friday, Dec. 17, 1999, beginning at 2:30 p.m. in Building D-10. Diaz will discuss the “Center Director’s Perspective on the Upcoming Year”.

Other Center management officials will join Diaz in recognizing Wallops civil service employees who have completed 25 or more years of service. Civil service and contractor employees who received NASA and Goddard Annual and Quarterly Honor Awards in 1999 also will be recognized.

Following the Awards Ceremony, employees are invited to the Wallops Open House (Building F-3), sponsored by the Wallops Employee Morale Association.

All employees, civil service and contractor, not involved in essential operations are encouraged to attend.



## Monthly Weather Summary

By Jim Buchanan, Meteorologist

November is the month we begin thinking about getting ready for the cooler weather with temperatures generally become cooler as we make the transition into fall. This year was an exception.

Although no new record high temperatures were set, we reached 70° or warmer on five days during November. There were 18 days with the high readings being above normal that that date. There was even one day when the actual overnight LOW was warmer than the NORMAL HIGH for the day. The low temperature was above average on 16 nights. Daytime highs averaged 62° and nighttime lows averaged 44° giving a combined daily average of 53°.

Two good-sized rocks might hold more rain than what we had in November. The 1.27 inches of rainfall we actually received was more than 1.5 inches below normal. Measurable rainfall occurred on seven days during the month. The most recorded for a 24-hour period was .66 inch on Nov. 2. Even with the dry weather in November, the heavy rains in the spring and rain resulting from passing hurricanes during September and October helped drive the annual rainfall total to 5.6 inches above normal. We've had a total of 41.2 inches of rain thus far this year.



What do we anticipate for January? If we think back to January 1996, there was a major snowstorm that dropped from 4 to 10 inches of snow on the Eastern Shore. This followed periods of drought and a mild fall in 1995. We might be in for a good one!

During January the average daily high is 44° and nighttime lows are 28°. Rainfall averages 3.28 inches for the month with 10 days of measurable rainfall. Averages tell us to expect two days of measurable snowfall with an average monthly snowfall of three inches. The melted snowfall becomes a part of the rainfall total for the month.

As you decorate for the holiday season, remember not to overload electrical circuits, check all wiring of lights and other decorations and extinguish candles and fires before leaving them unattended.

From the Wallops weather office, "we wish everyone a safe and joyful holiday season and a very Merry Christmas."



## Message From the Administrator Health & Safety Topic #6:

### Skin Cancer

To use a hackneyed phrase, "it doesn't take a rocket scientist" to see the effect of too much sun exposure. Visiting various NASA sites, I have experienced the intense effects of the sun. When I'm outside, I try to make sure I wear a hat. The reason is simple: exposure to the sun can increase your risk of skin cancer.

Risk reduction is fairly simple, but to get the word out I am launching NASA's skin cancer prevention program as one more health facet in the overall Agency Safety Initiative (ASI). The program focuses on reducing risks, early detection and health education about skin cancer.

Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer and is responsible for one-half of all new cancers. Approximately one million cases of skin cancer will be diagnosed in the U.S. this year alone. About 38,000 people in the United States will develop malignant melanoma annually, and one in five of those that develop this disease will not survive. People in the U.S. die of skin cancer every day, yet these cancers are the most easily detectable, curable and preventable of all cancer types.

Since the majority of NASA sites are located in the Sunbelt, our employees have an increased risk of excessive and prolonged sun exposure. There are also additional personal risk factors such as fair complexion, history of a blistering sunburn in childhood, family history of skin cancer and presence of large numbers of skin moles that increase the likelihood of developing skin cancer. Measures such as limiting outdoor activities during peak solar exposure hours, wearing protective clothing and using sun blocking agents are all very effective in reducing sun exposure.

Minimizing the occupational and personal risk factors for developing skin cancer is a priority in protecting the health of the NASA workforce. Providing health education and skin cancer screening and reducing exposure to the sun can help us avoid these troublesome and often deadly diseases.

The complete text of this message and previous health topics are available on the NASA web site: <http://www.nasa.gov>

## Wallops Shorts

### Balloon Launch

A NASA scientific balloon was successfully launched from Esrange, Sweden on Dec. 3. The 11.82 million cubic foot balloon carried a payload to conduct upper atmosphere research. Dr. Geoffrey Toon of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory was the principal investigator. Total flight time was 6 hours 43 minutes.

### Fire Department

The Wallops Fire Department participated in the annual Chincoteague Christmas Parade on Dec. 4.



*Season's Greetings*

*from the Wallops  
Public Affairs Office*

*Betty, Keith and Tony*

## Goddard's 1999 Culture Survey

Responses due on or before Dec. 15, 1999. Each employee should have received a package in their mailboxes with the 1999 Culture Survey.

Al Diaz encourages you to take this opportunity to make your views known as Goddard attempts to understand more fully the changes that have taken place over the last two years and to be able to use your insights in planning for the future.

The electronic version is at <http://gsfc-culture.gsfc.nasa.gov> Check your blue Instruction Sheet for your password to access this version.

*The next edition of  
"Inside Wallops"  
will be  
Jan. 10, 2000*



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