Wallops Senior Manager Appointed

Dr. John H. Campbell has been appointed senior manager at the NASA Wallops Flight Facility and Director of the Goddard Suborbital and Special Orbital Projects Directorate. He assumed the position January 13.

Dr. John H. Campbell

Campbell said, “I am very excited with the opportunities that coming to Wallops provides. The Facility is participating in ground-breaking research projects, and I look forward to being a part of this effort.”

Al Diaz, Director of Goddard, said, “John is well known and respected at Goddard as well as throughout the aerospace community. This respect, coupled with his ability to think and act strategically, will be critical assets for Wallops’ future.”

Campbell began his career with NASA in 1987 at Goddard in Greenbelt, as the Systems Engineering Manager for the Flight Systems Software Branch. He joined the Hubble Space Telescope team in 1988 as the Deputy Project Manager. He held several leadership positions within the Hubble organization and managed two servicing missions to the orbiting observatory.

In 2000, he became Director of Flight Programs and Projects at Goddard and is responsible for all flight programs and projects at the Center.

Prior to joining NASA, Campbell worked at the Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Ill.; Singer-Kearfott Co., Wayne, N.J.; and IBM Federal Systems Division, Gaithersburg, Md.

He received his bachelor’s degree in physics from Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pa. and his master’s in physics and Ph.D. in high-energy physics from Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind.

Campbell has been awarded the NASA Distinguished Service Medal, the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal and the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal.

Campbell is replacing Arnold Torres, who retired January 3.

NASA Begins 2002 with New Administrator

Sean O’Keefe was sworn in as NASA’s 10th Administrator on Dec. 21, 2001, following his nomination by President George W. Bush on November 14 and confirmation by the U.S. Senate on December 20.

O’Keefe came to NASA from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, where he served as Deputy Director since March 2001. Before joining OMB, O’Keefe served in various senior-level positions at the Syracuse University Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs and at Pennsylvania State University.

He also served as Director of National Security Studies, a partnership of Syracuse University and Johns Hopkins University. Prior to appointment as the Secretary of the Navy in July 1992 by President George Bush, he had served as Comptroller and Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Defense since 1989.

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Wallops Shorts.................. Congratulations to our newest retirees

Gracie Drew, Wallops Mail & File, retired January 3 with more than 36 years of government service. Arnold Torres, Suborbital and Special Orbital Projects Directorate, also retired on January 3 with more than 23 years of government service.

Balloon launch

A NASA scientific balloon was successfully launched on December 20 from McMurdo Station, Antarctica. The 29.47 million cubic foot balloon carried the TIGER experiment to take measurements that are useful in studying the origin of cosmic rays and how they propagate through the Galaxy. Dr. Robert Binns, Washington University, is the principal investigator. The balloon is still at float.

Sounding rocket launch

A NASA sounding rocket was successfully launched from Poker Flat Research Range, Alaska, on January 14. The four-stage Black Brant XII carried a geospace science payload. Dr. Paul Kintner, Cornell University, was the principal investigator. Preliminary science results indicate the payload was on target and received good data.

Accomack County Students “Visit” Antarctica

Students, taught by Ruth Grillo, in Metompkin and Pungoteague Elementary schools were able to “visit” McMurdo Station in Antarctica as a result of a partnership formed with Earl Frederick, EG&G.

Frederick, part of an Observational Science Branch team, was in McMurdo with the Airborne Terrain Mapping LIDAR mapping the “Dry Valleys”, a set of valleys carved by glaciers flowing seaward from the East Antarctic ice cap. The students prepared questions about the mission and McMurdo and corresponded with Frederick.

“I learned a lot more about Antarctica than I would have on my own by responding to the nearly 60 students with a diverse set of interests,” said Frederick. “I plan to visit the schools to meet the students and describe my experiences.”

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is responsible for carrying out mapping duties in Antarctica for the U.S. Government. McMurdo Station is operated by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The mapping mission was a collaboration between NASA Wallops Flight Facility, USGS, and NSF. For information on the mission and Antarctica visit the team’s web site at: www.qsl.net/antarctic
Women of Wallops Day

The Women of Wallops (WOW) Federal Women’s Program will sponsor the third annual Women of Wallops Day on January 17.

This year’s WOW Day events include two workshops and a luncheon with speaker. The presenter for the day is Lee Milteer, executive coach, and author with an impressive list of clients including NASA, Ford Motor Co. and AT&T.

Schedule:

Morning Workshop
Capitalize on Change; Creating New Solutions to Old Problems

Luncheon Presentation
Take Back Your Life; Self Esteem and Stress Management for Real People

Afternoon Workshop
Success is an Inside Job

A training request is required for attendance to any of the events. For further information contact Pat Pruitt, x1245 or Lisa Johnson, x1412.

Winter Roars In! by Ted Wilz, Senior Meteorologist

Although we failed to deliver the requested “dusting of snow” for Christmas Eve, December finally brought some much-needed rainfall to the Eastern Shore after one of the driest falls on record.

During December, we had 8 days with measurable rainfall. A little over two inches of precipitation was recorded. This was still below our monthly average of nine “precipitation days” and over an inch below our average December rainfall, which is 3.20 inches.

The rainfall was a positive note after having received just a scant total of .52 inches of rain during the previous two months.

Snow enthusiasts also had to look elsewhere, as no snow fell during December at Wallops Island.

Temperature-wise, December started out rather balmy. The warmest temperature of the month was a record 73 degree reading on December 1, eclipsing the previous 66 degree record high for the date established in 1977. We also set a new record high when we reached 68 degrees on December 14, which was one degree warmer than the previous high of 67 degree reading of 1991. The second warmest day of the month also tied our record high for the date when we reached 72 degrees on December 5.

Winter officially arrived December 21 and brought much colder temperatures.

While early December was much warmer than normal, late December was just the opposite with temperatures only reaching the mid-50’s twice after December 18. No record lows were established during December, however.

So what will February’s weather bring us? Usually, quite cold temperatures, lots of clouds and the best chance for snow for the year!

Average high temperatures start out in the mid-40’s, but are closer to 50 degrees by the end of the month.

Average low temperatures warm up only from the mid to upper 20’s at the beginning of February to around 30 degrees as March approaches.

There are usually nine days with measurable precipitation during February and two days with measurable snow. We average 3.02 inches of precipitation during February. Historically, it is our snowiest month, with 3.3 inches being the norm.

Winter is here and will continue to provide some very challenging weather situations for the next few months.

Snow and ice are inevitable and require some extra effort to navigate through. Slow down, drive carefully and watch out for the “other guy” who may not recognize existing hazards.

Safety Alerts

The Center routinely receives information from the Government/Industry Data Exchange Program concerning product recalls.

A GSFC Safe Alerts website has been created. Alerts are entered as they are received in the Systems Safety and Reliability Office. The website address is: http://ssro.gsfc.nasa.gov/Safety_Alerts/safealert.html

Use of Hand-Held Wireless Phones

The following is reproduced from a NASA Headquarters memorandum providing guidance to NASA employees.

NASA’s number one core value is “Safety”. In order to be proactive in the prevention of needless risk to, or loss of, life or damage to property, the following policy regarding the use of hand-held wireless phones is effective immediately:

The use of hand-held wireless (cellular) phones is prohibited by NASA employees when driving motor vehicles owned, leased, or rented by the Federal Government.

Employees are further reminded that they are expected to comply with all state and local laws of the jurisdiction in which they are operating a motor vehicle owned, leased or rented by the Federal government.

This is an interim policy change announcement. It will be codified in a subsequent change to NPG 8715.3, NASA Safety Manual.

WEMA Presents a Craft and Goodies Show

February 13, 2002
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Building E-2 Training Room

Wallops Aerobics Club News

February 13, 2002
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Building E-2 Training Room

Aerobics from noon to 12:30 p.m.
Step Aerobics/Toning from 4:40 p.m.
Tai Chi class will be starting on February 14. Call John Brinton on x1099 for more details.

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