Inside Wallops

American’s first Space Shuttle, Columbia, will return to orbit fresh from two years of work that have left it safer and more capable than ever before.

Columbia is set for launch no earlier than February 28 at 6:48 a.m. EST on mission STS-109, pending review of data on the Space Shuttle’s hydraulic pump attach bolts. The mission is dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the Hubble Space Telescope, the fourth such flight since its launch in 1990.

“This year will be as challenging, complex and exciting as any we have ever had,” said Space Shuttle Program Manager Ron Dittemore. “We have more spacewalks planned in the next 12 months than we have ever done in a single year. We are going to fly diverse missions, dedicated to satellite maintenance, research and Space Station assembly, showcasing capabilities unique in the world. The shuttle team has done a great job in preparing for this mission. Returning Columbia to orbit to improve the Hubble Space Telescope is a fitting start to what will be a busy and vital year in space.”

A maintenance and upgrade period completed last year installed a new “glass cockpit” in Columbia, increased its cargo capacity, strengthened its crew cabin and enhanced the protection of its cooling system from orbital debris. Columbia’s new cockpit replaced mechanical instruments with 11 full-color, flat-panel displays. The new cockpit is lighter, uses less electricity and sets the stage for the next generation of improvements — a “smart cockpit” under development that will make the cabin even more user-friendly.

Columbia is the second of NASA’s four Space Shuttles to be fitted with the new “glass cockpit.” Technicians also performed comprehensive inspections of Columbia’s more than 200 miles of electrical wiring, installing protection to prevent future damage in high-traffic areas. Intensive structural inspection of Columbia also was performed as well as 133 modifications and upgrades.

Columbia will fly under the command of Scott Altman (Cmdr., USN), Duane Carey (Lt. Col., USAF) will serve as pilot. Mission specialists will be John Grunsfeld (Lt. Col., USA), Richard Linnehan, James Newman and Michael Massimino. Grunsfeld, Linnehan, Newman and Massimino will work in alternating teams of two to perform the five planned spacewalks.

Columbia’s flight is scheduled to end with landing back at the Kennedy Space Center on March 11. STS-109 marks the 27th mission for Columbia and the 108th in Shuttle program history.

Presidential Message for National Engineers Week
February 17-23, 2002

“I am pleased to send warm greetings as you recognize National Engineers Week.

Americans have always been innovators, pioneers, and explorers. Through their work, engineers play an important role in carrying on this tradition. They provide the design and structure that enable new ideas to become tangible benefits to our society. Engineers help expand our horizons, from planning essential infrastructure for the growth of our cities to finding better ways to preserve America’s beautiful wilderness for future generations.

I commend the professionals, teachers, and students participating in National Engineers Week. This week’s activities will showcase the interests and talents of America’s engineers and provide inspiration for our young people to set high goals and work hard to achieve them.

Best wishes for a successful week.

George W. Bush
Groundhog Job Shadow Day

NASA Wallops Flight Facility employees joined with the Navy Surface Combat Systems Section (ACSC) for Groundhog Job Shadow Day on February 13. Almost 45 fifth grade students from Kegotank Elementary School spent the day at NASA and ACSC.

The goal of Groundhog Job Shadow Day is to provide local students with a meaningful introduction to the world of work, to give students a context for decisions about their education, to foster positive relations between students and employees.

Job shadowing also shows the students that even the basic subjects being taught in school, such as reading, writing, and arithmetic, will be used in their everyday life on the job.

Wallops employees participating were Lisa Johnson, NASA; Joe Conaty, Wallops Fire Department; Marianne Simko, EG&G; Cheryl Outten, NSI; Al Beebe, SESI; and Jeff Reddish, ASRC.

Groundhog Job Shadow Day was first conducted by the Boston Private Service and contractors, Navy, Coast Guard, NOAA, Park Service, and the Marine Science Consortium.

Industry council in 1996 as part of its School-to-Work effort. This successful initiative was repeated throughout the Southeast in 1997, when BellSouth sponsored Job Shadow Day as a component of its School-to-Work effort.

In 1998, a national coalition was formed to encourage participation throughout the United States. The coalition has expanded and now includes America’s Promise, the National School-to-Work Opportunities Office, junior Achievement, the Society for Human Resource Management, and some U.S. Department of Defense agencies.

Financial Planning Workshop
February 26
11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
Building E-2

Learn about investment fundamentals in uncertain times from Burrell Taylor and Ed Rock of Taylor, Rock & Assoc., Inc.

Mark your calendar
Career Development Forum 2002
March 28

For additional information visit: http://ohr.gsfc.nasa.gov/Hot/CareerForum.htm

Wanted
Car pool member wanted, Salisbury to Wallops, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. schedule, call Chuck Brodell, x1827.

House For Rent
The house is located in the historic town of Accomac at 23410 Front Street. It may be rented as a residence and/or office. It has a high efficiency heating and air conditioning system. It rents for $575 per month. For details call (757) 623-8855 or e-mail: hahaha@pinn.net

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Printing Management Office
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