

# Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Goddard Space Flight Center  
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va.

Volume XX-05

Number 29

August 22, 2005



## NASA Targets March For Next Space Shuttle Mission

NASA is targeting March for the next Space Shuttle mission, designated STS-121.

"We are giving ourselves what we hope is plenty of time to evaluate where we are," said NASA Administrator Mike Griffin. "We don't see the tasks remaining before us being as difficult as the path behind us."

Based on NASA's self-imposed optimum lighting requirements, the earliest possible launch opportunity for the STS-121 mission would be March 4, 2006. Also, Space Shuttle Discovery will be used for the mission instead of Space Shuttle Atlantis.

A no-earlier-than-March launch for STS-121 will allow engineering teams more time to properly evaluate the issue of large pieces of insulating foam that came off the external fuel tank during Space Shuttle Discovery's launch last month.

Changing Orbiters from Atlantis to Discovery for the STS-121 mission will enable Atlantis to be used for the following mission, STS-115, which will resume assembly of the Station.

This would free up Atlantis to fly the remaining Space Station truss segments, which are too heavy to be carried on Discovery, in 2006.

Air Force colonel, Steve Lindsey, will command Discovery. He is making his fourth spaceflight, and second as commander. The pilot will be Navy

Cmdr. Mark Kelly, making his second flight.

Others on board, will be European Space Agency Astronaut Thomas Reiter and mission specialists Mike Fossum, Stephanie Wilson, Piers Sellers and Navy Cmdr. Lisa Nowak.



## NFB Educator Sends Thanks

Dr. Campbell:

I want to thank you again for the once-in-a-lifetime experience I had along with the NFB (National Federation of the Blind) camp this summer.

Your staff treated our group with the utmost courtesy, respect, hospitality, and understanding.

I grew up with NASA folks as my "science gods". It was so gratifying to work side by side with some of your people and experience them as not only great scientists but as good friendly people, too.

Although the "NASA experience" was tremendous for me personally, I have to say that seeing the growth of the students

who participated in the program was the most satisfying.

As each student presented their material at the Friday press conference, I could point to each one and name the substantial growth that they had attained at the camp.

Your staff played a large role in that growth and I particularly thank you and your staff for that outcome of the camp.

A special thanks goes to Berit (Bland) and Charlie (Lipsett). They were wonderful!!

Matt Maurer, Professor of Education  
Butler University

## Wallops Shorts.....

### In the News

Washington Post

"Shuttle Brings Local Students' Experiments Home From Space"

### Range Activity on the Airport

Tests continue this week with NASA's 757 aircraft from Langley Research Center in the Radar, Enhanced and Synthetic Vision Systems Integrated Technology Evaluation. For further information contact John Valiant at x1422.

Water ingestion tests will be conducted August 23-26 to demonstrate water displaced on the nose and main wheels of a Boeing 717 aircraft during takeoff and landing. For further information contact John Dickerson at x1482.

## Pam Pittman, New Branch Head

Pam Pittman was recently named head of the Wallops Systems Software Engineering Branch.

A computer scientist with a bachelor's of science degree in mathematics, Pittman has nearly 20 years experience at NASA Wallops Flight Facility. She has led a number of systems software engineering projects, including the Automated Tracking Station Master; the Control Center for the Long Duration Balloon, Trans-Iron Galactic Element Recorder; the Advanced Range Integrated Simulation Environment; and Mission Visualization and Analysis Tool.

Pittman also has gained leadership experience as the Wallops Federal Women's Program chairperson. She was recognized with an "AETD Unsung Hero" award for technical expertise and support of outreach activities.

Information Systems Division Chief Joe Hennessy said, "Pam's experience at Wallops and her skill and enthusiasm for guiding Branch efforts supporting the Wallops mission will be important to a successful future."

## A Day at the Beach

The annual beach cleanup of Wallops Island is scheduled for Saturday, September 17. The activity is part of the U. S. Coastal Cleanup.

The cleanup begins at 9 a.m., takes about two hours and is open to employees and their family and friends.

The records from classification and counting of collected items will be sent to the Center for Marine Conservation, an organization responsible for monitoring the health of the U. S. coastline.

To register, contact Marianne Simko at Marianne.F.Simko.1@gsfc.nasa.gov or call x2127 by September 14. Employees must bring their badge.



Cleaning the beach is a yearly event.

PAO Photo

### Road Closed for Hang Test

Balloon Programs Office personnel will be conducting hang testing of the CREAM II (Cosmic Ray Energetics and Mass) balloon craft in the area immediately west of Building F-7.

This will require closure part of the Building F-10 parking lot and the road between Building F-7 and F-10.

For further information contact Linda Thompson at x1072.

### Classic Automobile, Truck Show

Employees who have an antique or classic automobile, motorcycle, tractor, or truck are invited to display them during the Wallops 60th Anniversary Open House to be held on Saturday, October 1.

Respond to Terry Ewell by email: [terry.a.ewell@nasa.gov](mailto:terry.a.ewell@nasa.gov) or call extension 1133, if you would like to participate or be the person in charge of this employee activity.



### Women's Equality Day

With Guest Speaker

**Dr. Rhonda Hall**  
Assistant Superintendent of  
Accomack County Schools

August 26  
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Williamsburg Room

Contact Freda Johnson  
at x1466 for further  
information

### Tickets at the Exchange

Discount tickets are now available in the Wallops Exchange for:

The Maryland Renaissance Festival  
Crownsville, Md. (just outside Annapolis)  
Every weekend August 27 through October 23



### The Virginia State Fair

Richmond, Va.  
Daily - September 22 through October 2

Tickets for Busch Gardens and Kings Dominion are still available. For further information contact Karen Shannon at x2020.

### ARRAY Flights are Successful

Acoustic Risk Reduction Array (ARRAY) flights using the NASA Cirrus aircraft from Langley Research Center were completed August 18, well within the allotted two-week schedule window.

The project had requested 5 flight days and a minimum of 60 runs. It was expected to require at least 10 hours of flight test time in the pattern at Wallops.

With everyone's great efforts and cooperation, the project flew 5 days but required less than 5 hours of flight test time in the pattern at Wallops and completed 109 runs. We did almost twice the data runs in half the time.

We flew three different pilots, two different ops engineers and two different experimental systems operators, not to mention all the maintenance, avionics, weather, instrumentation, researchers and Wallops folks involved. There was some great experience and cross-training taking place, too.

I would like to offer my congratulations and thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of this project.

Michael S. Wusk  
B757 Flight Test Director  
NASA Langley Research Center

*Inside Wallops* is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: [www.wff.nasa.gov](http://www.wff.nasa.gov)

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