

Inside Wallops

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Wallops Flight Facility Recognized for Environmental Excellence

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility was recently recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia for achieving the level of Exemplary Environmental Enterprise (E3) in its Environmental Excellence Program.

The VEEP program was established in 2005 to recognize Virginia facilities that have reduced or eliminated their impact on the environment through their environmental management system, pollution prevention program, and record of sustained regulatory compliance.

NASA Wallops is one of only three federal facilities in Virginia to achieve the E3 award.

Wallops was honored for having demonstrated proactive environmental management, compliance with

environmental requirements and continuous improvement in its environmental performance.



Photo by James Mason-Foley

John Campbell, Wallops Senior Manager, receives the VEEP flag and plaque from Frank Daniel, Director, DEQ Tidewater Region, (left), and Richard Weeks, Deputy Director of the Virginia DEQ.

Representatives from the State of Virginia on hand to present John Campbell, NASA WFF Senior Manager with a VEEP flag and a commemorative plaque included Richard Weeks, Deputy Director, Department of Environmental Quality; Frank Daniel, Director, DEQ Tidewater Region; and Sharon Baxter, DEQ Office of Pollution Prevention.

Others attending the ceremony included Craig Purdy, Deputy Director, NASA Suborbital and Special Orbital Projects; Caroline Massey, Assistant Director, NASA Management Operations Directorate; Michael Anderson, Commanding Officer, and Gerald Herman, Executive Officer, Navy Surface Combat Systems Center; and Doug Crawford, Wallops Station Manager, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Steve Currier Receives NASA Honor Award



NASA Photo

(left to right) Robert Satcher, Jr., Mission Specialist; Steve Currier; and Krista Paquin, GSFC Associate Director

Currier's dedication to the mission, perseverance and creativity has greatly increased the reliability, cost effectiveness and quality of tracking and data acquisition services for human space flight missions. He also has been instrumental in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of NASA's space tracking systems over his career.

Steve Currier, NASA Ground Network Manager, has been honored with a Space Flight Awareness Award for providing continuous outstanding support to Goddard Space Flight Center's support of Human Space Flight missions for over 20 years.

Wallops Shorts.....

Balloon Launches

A NASA scientific balloon was launched from Ft. Sumner, N.M., on August 26. The 29.47 million cubic foot balloon was a flight qualification mission for the Stratofilm SF-450 balloon. Danny Ball, Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility, was the principal investigator. Total flight time was 5 hours, 15 minutes.

A second scientific balloon was launched from Ft. Sumner on September 4. The 11.82 million cubic foot balloon carried the High Altitude Student Platform, HASP, a collaborative effort of the NASA Balloon Program Office, Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility, and Louisiana State University. The platform is designed to carry up to 12 student payloads to an altitude of approximately 120,000 feet. Dr. Gregory Guzik, Louisiana State University, was the principal investigator. Total flight time was 18 hours, 11 minutes.

Black Brant MK 1 Motor Static Fire is Successful



Photo courtesy of John Hickman

A static fire of the Black Brant MK 1 motor was conducted at the Air Force Research Lab, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., on August 30.

The motor burned for approximately 31 seconds, had a total impulse of approximately 552,000 lbs per second, and reached a peak pressure of 1,184 pounds per square inch during the ignition transient. The test was conducted with the motor temperature conditioned to 90 degrees F.

A post test visual inspection including an internal view with a bore scope was conducted. There were no signs of anomalies with the case or insulation.

With the successful completion of the static firing, Wallops Sounding Rocket Program Office will move forward with the next phase of the return to flight activities, which is the launch of 12.064 currently scheduled for September 20 from Wallops Island.

It Was Hot, Humid and Dry During August

by Bob Steiner, Meteorologist

The summer's hot and humid trend continued into August. Temperatures climbed to 90 degrees or above on 10 days during the month, and we set four daily record highs for the month. A reading of 97 degrees on August 2 and 3 were the hottest days of the month and also record setters. The 95 degree reading on the August 4 and a 94 degree reading on the 29th also set new daily record highs for the dates. The coolest temperature was recorded on the morning of the August 13 when the mercury fell to 53 degrees. No record low temperature records were set or tied. Wallops experienced 23 days and 23 nights with at or above average temperatures. The average monthly temperature for August was 78.6 degrees, which is 3.1 degrees above average.

Just the reverse trend for precipitation was the case in August. With a measly 1.36 inches of measurable precipitation, we fell 2.35 inches short of our average of 3.81 inches for the month. The wettest day of the month was the August 7 with 0.44 inches of rain fall recorded.

Winds of 30 mph were recorded on two days in August. A reading of 35 mph at 10:09 p.m. on the August 31 was the strongest recorded for the month.

By the beginning of October we will be enjoying comfortable days with highs of 73 and night time lows of 54 degrees. As October winds down, we can look forward to daytime highs near 64 and overnight lows near 46 degrees. Light jacket time for sure! The record high for October is 90 degrees recorded on the 3rd and the 5th of the month in 2002. The record low at Wallops during October is a reading of 26 degrees on the morning of Oct. 28, 1976. Measurable precipitation normally falls on eight days during the month with an average monthly total of 2.90 inches. The wettest October on record occurred in 1971 with 8.03 inches of rainfall recorded. Meanwhile, the 0.01 inches recorded in 2000 is the driest October and month ever on record at Wallops Flight Facility. The wettest day on record in October is Oct. 8, 1996, when 3.64 inches was recorded.

Wallops in the News

Southernmost Flyer, "New Hurricane-Hunting Technology to Test Here Next Week"

Eastern Shore News, "Area Space Ventures Expand With new UMES Activities"



The Key West Citizen, "Unmanned Airplane to Probe Hurricanes"

MSNBC, "Unmanned Drones to Probe Hurricanes"

WBRZ, Louisiana Broadcasting, "Balloon Carries Experiments to Edge of Space"

Fire Apparatus Journal, Feature Story on the Wallops Fire Department

Scientist Deems EUNIS a Success

by Douglas Rabin, Principal Investigator

We received excellent support during all phases of the Extreme Ultraviolet Normal Incidence Spectrograph (EUNIS) mission.

The NSROC team provided outstanding support at White Sands Missile Range.

Other than to mention the experienced and steady guidance of Mission Manager, Bill Payne, I will not try to single out individuals for fear of forgetting a valuable contribution. NSROC and our field crew functioned as a team with a success-oriented approach and without unnecessary organizational boundaries.

They Make us Crazy September 19 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. Building E-2, Training Room

Rhona Post, NASA executive coach, will offer a lively discussion about how our assumptions and expectations about ourselves and others make us crazy.

To register contact Rhona Post at x66-4777 or e-mail : rhpost@pop100.gsfc.nasa.gov

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Editor
Asst. Editor

Betty Flowers
Rebecca Hudson