

Inside Wallops

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



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Shuttle Atlantis Crew Returns Home After Successful Mission

Space Shuttle Atlantis descended to a smooth landing at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., concluding a successful assembly mission to the International Space Station. With Commander Rick Sturckow and Pilot Lee Archambault at the controls, Atlantis landed at 3:49 p.m. EDT on Friday.

The challenges posed during STS-117 are invaluable learning experiences that will help the agency prepare for future exploration, William Gerstenmaier, NASA's associate administrator for space operations, explained at a post-landing press conference.

"My hat's off to the team that really pulled off an awesome mission," he said.

The astronauts were to return to their home base, NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, on Saturday.

According to Shuttle Launch Director Mike Leinbach, Atlantis may be returned to Kennedy Space Center in Florida in six or seven days. At that point, the orbiter will immediately begin processing for the STS-122 mission, set to launch late this year.

The STS-117 crew began its mission June 8 and arrived at the station June 10. They quickly began work to install the Starboard 3 and 4 (S3/S4) truss structure to the outpost and retracted a set of arrays on the Port 6 (P6) truss. The (S3/S4) contains a new set of solar arrays that increases station power-generation capabilities. The P6 will be relocated during a future assembly mission.

Mission Specialists Patrick Forrester, John "Danny" Olivas, Jim Reilly and Steven Swanson conducted a total of four spacewalks to activate the S3/S4 and to retract the P6 arrays.

During the third spacewalk, Olivas repaired an out of position thermal blanket on the left orbital maneuvering system pod.



Space shuttle Atlantis touches down at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

NASA Photo

Landing also marked the end of a record-setting spaceflight by Mission Specialist Suni Williams. She broke the record for the longest spaceflight by a woman early in the morning on June 16.

Williams' journey began in December with the launch of STS-116. She lived on the space station for six months before switching places on the STS-117 crew with

Clayton Anderson, who is now a flight engineer on the station. When Atlantis landed, she had accumulated 194 days, 18 hours and 58 minutes during her spaceflight.

STS-117 is the 118th shuttle mission and 21st mission to visit the space station. The next mission, STS-118, is slated to launch in August.

Jamestown Artifact Back on Earth

A small piece of America's history returned to Earth with space shuttle Atlantis on June 22 at the conclusion of the STS-117 mission.

An artifact from Jamestown, Va., rocketed into space June 8 on space shuttle Atlantis. The artifact and a set of commemorative coins were stowed in the shuttle's middeck section.

With Atlantis' return to Earth, the Jamestown artifact completed a four-century, 4,000,000-mile journey.

Later this year, the artifact will be returned to historic Jamestowne to be placed in a new archaeological museum.



NASA Photo

The 'YAMES TOWNE' cargo tag that was carried aboard space shuttle Atlantis during the STS-117 mission.

Wallops Shorts

Launches

A NASA Terrier MK 12 Improved Orion sounding rocket was launched from White Sands Missile Range, N.M., on June 21.

The purpose of the mission was to demonstrate and flight qualify the ST5000 Star Tracker and the NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract (NSROC) Celestial Attitude Control System. Good data was obtained. The flight was nominal. The ST-5000 acquired and locked on stars. The payload was recovered.

Walt Costello, NSROC, was the principal investigator. Bruce Scott, NSROC, was the mission manager.

A NASA scientific balloon was launched from Palestine, Texas, on June 21.

The 11.82 million cubic foot balloon carried the Gamma Ray Polarimeter Experiment

Learning New Skills

Remember when you were learning how to drive? As a 14-year old, you were at the unconsciously incompetent stage meaning that you didn't realize that you didn't know how to drive!



At around age 16, you ventured into the consciously incompetent stage with a learner's permit and began to comprehend that there are rules to driving a vehicle.

After years of driving experience, you reached the stage of being consciously competent. Driving has become second nature to you. To reach this level meant learning the secrets of being a good driver and practicing behind the wheel.

Would you like to have the same level of comfort and ease when speaking before a group?

Debedeavon Toastmasters can provide the training, feedback and practical experience needed to become a skilled and professional public speaker. Join us on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 11:30 a.m. at the Cropper Center.

For more information, contact Brenda Mulac at x2454 or e-mail Brenda.L.Mulac.1@gsfc.nasa.gov

(GRAPE) payload, which has two principle components.

The first is a prototype of a detector being developed to measure polarization of hard X-rays and gamma rays as the basis for several possible experiments to study polarization of celestial sources.

The second component is a gamma ray detector with a new type of scintillator material, Lanthanum Bromide, that has been proposed for use in the CASTER Black Hole Finder Probe mission concept. The flight also was to verify that the balloon would perform successfully in a warm atmosphere.

Dr. Mark McConnell, University of New Hampshire, and Debbie Fairbrother, NASA Wallops Flight Facility, were co-principal investigators for the mission. Total flight time was 9 hours, 20 minutes. The flight was an operations and science success.

Diversity Council Words to live by.....

"Civilizations should be measured by "the degree of diversity attained and the degree of unity retained."

W.H. Auden, English poet

Technology Transfer Overview Course

9 a.m. to noon
August 16
Building E-2, Training Room

Introduction to NASA technology transfer familiarizes NASA personnel with NASA policies and procedures related to technology transfer, including Goddard-specific practices. This course provides participants with a resource for working with Goddard's Innovative Partnership Program office as well as concepts to guide them through future technology transfer and partnership activities.

For further information, call Dale Hithon at x66-2691. To register, visit <https://satern.nasa.gov>. Contractors should register by sending an email request to Dale.L.Hithon@nasa.gov.

Women of Wallops Day- June 27

Mastering Excellence
Building E-2 Training Room
8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Excellence or mastery is learned over time, with practice, patience and the guidance of a teacher or mentor. Join Coach Rhona Post as she demonstrates the five key steps to mastery. Participants will outline their personal development plan, enabling them to close the gaps between where they are now, and where they wish to be. Following the morning program, you can sign up for individual coaching sessions.

Presentation Skills
Pat Dworske & Kathryn Redden
1:30 -3:30 p.m.
Building E-2 Training Room

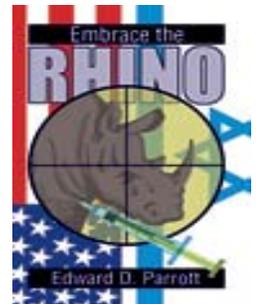
The difference between a speaker who **WOW's** the audience and one who has to prod them awake is effective presentation skills. Come learn how to develop presentations, make clear transitions, and use delivery techniques that make you sound like the professional you are. From the Toastmasters bag of tricks, learn ways to camouflage mistakes and regain control. A good dose of humor will be added to make this workshop a pleasant and enriching experience.

Register for these sessions on SATERN at: <http://satern.nasa.gov>

New at the Wallops Exchange Store

Ed Parrott, Teacher-on-Loan, Public Affairs Office, has recently published a novel.

"*Embrace the Rhino*" is a fictional piece involving espionage and bio-terrorism in and about the Washington, D.C. area.



Pick one up at the Exchange Store, Building E-2.

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

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