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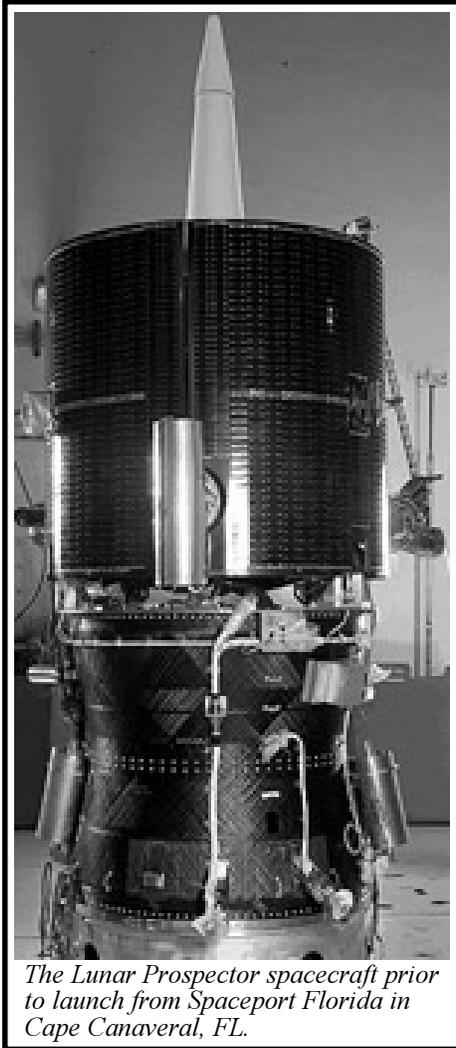
NASA Returns to the Moon, Prospector in Lunar Orbit

The spacecraft Lunar Prospector was launched to the Moon, Jan. 6, 1998. Within a month it will begin returning answers to long-standing questions about the Moon, its resources, its structure and its origins.

The first and most exciting data returned will answer the question first raised in the early '70s and underscored by the 1994 Clementine mission: Is there water in the form of ice in some polar craters?

Lunar Prospector will conduct a one-year primary mission, mapping the surface composition and internal structure, volatile activity, and magnetic and gravity fields of the Moon from an altitude of approximately 63 miles. Additional mapping at altitudes as low as six miles above the lunar surface is planned over the following six months. This information is expected to provide definitive evidence of the presence or absence of water ice in the shaded lunar Polar Regions.

On Jan. 14, the Lunar Prospector spacecraft was successfully placed into a preliminary mapping orbit, when the third lunar orbit insertion burn was completed, according to mission operations personnel at the NASA Ames Mission Control Center. By firing the two aft axial thrusters on the vehicle for a period of 27 minutes, Lunar Prospector was placed into a lunar orbit at the desired altitude of approximately 63 miles. All science



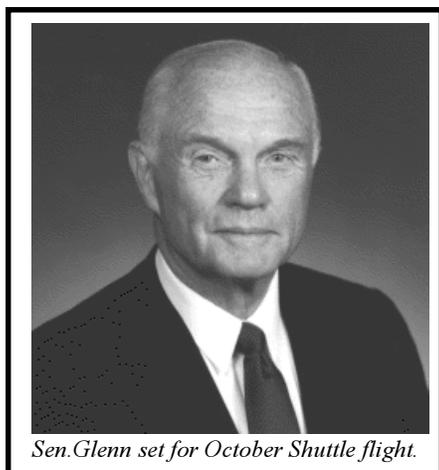
The Lunar Prospector spacecraft prior to launch from Spaceport Florida in Cape Canaveral, FL.

instruments are collecting good data, and the spacecraft continues to work precisely as planned.

For more information and daily updates on the Lunar Prospector visit the following web site: <http://lunar.arc.nasa.gov>

Sen. John Glenn Gets a "GO" for Space Shuttle Mission

NASA has named John Glenn to the crew of the Space Shuttle Discovery, scheduled to launch in October. Glenn will serve as a payload specialist on that mission.



Sen. Glenn set for October Shuttle flight.

Glenn made history 35 years ago when he strapped himself into a nine-by-seven foot capsule atop an experimental rocket and became the first American to orbit the Earth.

"Not only is John Glenn a Marine test pilot, an astronaut and the first American to orbit the Earth, he brings a unique blend of experience to NASA," said NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin. "He has flight, operational and policy experience. Unlike most astronauts, he never got the opportunity for a second flight. He is part of the NASA family, an American hero, and he has the right stuff for this mission."

NASA has previously flown astronauts up to 61 years old. At least eight crew members over the age of 55 have flown multiple missions.

Before NASA made the decision to fly Glenn, the senator underwent a battery of medical tests conducted by NASA physicians and independent consultants. They all found him medically qualified for space flight.

Astronomers Discover An Infrared Background Glow In The Universe

Astronomers have assembled the first definitive detection of a background infrared glow across the sky produced by dust warmed by all the stars that have existed since the beginning of time.

For scientists, the discovery of this "fossil radiation" is akin to turning out all the lights in a bedroom only to find the walls, floor and ceiling aglow with an eerie luminescence.

The telltale infrared radiation puts a limit on the total amount of energy released by all the stars in the universe. Astronomers say this will greatly improve development of models explaining how stars and galaxies were born and evolved after the Big Bang.

The discovery reveals a surprisingly large amount of starlight in the universe cannot be seen directly by today's optical telescopes, perhaps due to stars being hidden in dust, or being too faint or far away to be seen.

The discovery culminates several years of meticulous data analysis from the Diffuse Infrared Background Experiment aboard NASA's Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE), which was launched in 1989.

"This is another big step in bringing cosmology to a science based on observation as well as theory," said Michael Hauser of the Space Telescope Science Institute, Baltimore, MD, principal investigator on the Diffuse Infrared Background Experiment.

Wallops Shorts.....

Student Extern

Robert Boatwright, a student at the University of Virginia, spent the week of Jan. 5 at Wallops as a part of the Extern Program. Mike Bundick, Wallops Automation and Planning, was Boatwright's mentor.

Career Day

Bruce Scott, Carrier Systems Group, participated in the Career Fair at Stephen Decatur Middle School, Berlin, MD, on Jan. 14.

Monthly Morning Coffee

Employees are invited to attend an informal morning coffee with Wallops managers from 8 to 9 a.m., Jan. 21, in the cafeteria.

Weather Summary

by Jim Buchanan, Meteorologist

Temperatures during December were very close to being normal. The recorded high temperature of 61 degrees was on Dec. 25, making for a rather balmy Christmas Day. The coolest daytime reading was 39 degrees on Dec. 6. During the month, there were 16 occasions when the low temperature was 32 degrees or less. The coldest recorded was 25 degrees on Dec. 15 and 16. The average daily high for December was 48.8 degrees, which is only .1 degree below normal. The average daily low was 32.7 degrees, .9 degrees above normal. The average temperature for the month was 40.8 degrees, .4 degrees warmer than normal.

Precipitation, including snowfall, also was very near average. One inch of snowfall was recorded on Dec. 27 and a mere trace fell on Dec. 6 and 28. The Dec. 27 snowfall also yielded the greatest amount of precipitation during a 24-hour period, .76 inches. A total of 11 days with measurable precipitation yielded only 3.34 inches.

A review of 1997 shows an average high temperature of 64.8 degrees, average low temperature of 47.9 degrees for an overall average temperature of 56.4 degrees which is only one half a degree above normal. Measurable precipitation of 39.04 inches was one half an inch above normal. With the exception of the remnants of Hurricane Danny in July, the Wallops area was spared any significant tropical weather activity. A series of coastal storms in November made it the wettest month in 1997 with 7.35 inches of rainfall.



Looking ahead to February, daytime highs should average 46 degrees with an average daily temperature of 38 degrees.

Record temperatures for February are a high of 77 degrees set in 1977 and a low of -4 degrees recorded in 1971. February is one of the driest months. An average of slightly less than three inches of precipitation is usual. With an average of two days with measurable snow, February is the month for the most snowfall.

Don't be fooled by the unusually warm weather we've had during the first part of January. We still might need the snow shovels.

Career Counseling Available

Wallops career counselor, Mac Saddoris, will be available Jan. 21, 22 and 23. As the reorganization settles and shifts, many people have concerns about how they should manage their careers within the larger organization. If this or a career transition is of concern to you, call 66-5794 for an appointment or to leave a message.

Upcoming Courses

To be held at Wallops

Grammar and Punctuation Review

Feb. 23-25, 1998

9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This workshop reviews basic rules of grammar and punctuation. It does not analyze all aspects of English usage; instead, it focuses on the most common troublesome problem areas (e.g., commas vs. semicolons, that vs. which, who vs. whom). Participants are, in part, responsible for determining course content by bringing samples of work-related documents to class.

Helping Others Succeed

Feb. 26-27, 1998

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This workshop provides an opportunity for managers, supervisors and team leaders to increase their individual, team and organizational performance using detailed self-assessment and employee feedback data. Prior to the workshop, participants complete self-assessment instruments that yield important information about their values, their management style, the perceived importance of various skills to their current supervisory role, their level of development in these skill areas and other performance variables. By comparing self-assessment and employee feedback data, participants can:

—Develop a more flexible management style;

—Understand and manage the differing values that they, the organization, and their employees bring to the workplace;

—Develop better coaching relationships with their direct reports;

—Identify their personal strengths and improvement opportunities within the supervisory skill matrix;

—Discover possible sources of miscommunication between themselves and the people they manage;

—Manage performance problems and career expectations; and

—Evaluate their current and future career path.

For further information on these courses call Sherry Kleckner, x1204 or e-mail: skleckne@pop800.gsfc.nasa.gov

Mike Conger Receives Awards

During an awards ceremony held recently in Charlotte, NC, Mike Conger, Computer Sciences Corporation, received two awards from the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA). Conger was named the PDGA Senior Player of the Year and also received the Jim Olsen, Sr. Memorial PDGA Sportsmanship Award.



The Senior Player of the Year Award is given to the leading pro player in their division and is based on tournament records for the previous year. The sportsmanship award is based on admiration from one's peers. Congratulations to "Captain Snap".

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events.....

Super Bowl Party

January 25

Bldg. F-3

Doors open one hour before kickoff.



Bring a covered dish to share.

For more information call Joyce Green, x2010.

Valentine's Day Party & Spaghetti Dinner

February 13

Bldg. F-3,

Dinner at 6 p.m.

D.J. in the evening

Tickets will be on sale

at the Exchange and Rocket Club.



NASCAR Season Opener

Daytona 500

February 15

Bldg. F-3

Noon to 5 p.m.

Hot dogs & chips provided

Bring a covered dish to share.

Contact Charlie Randall, x1890



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