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NASA Wallops Flight Facility Launches Student Balloons

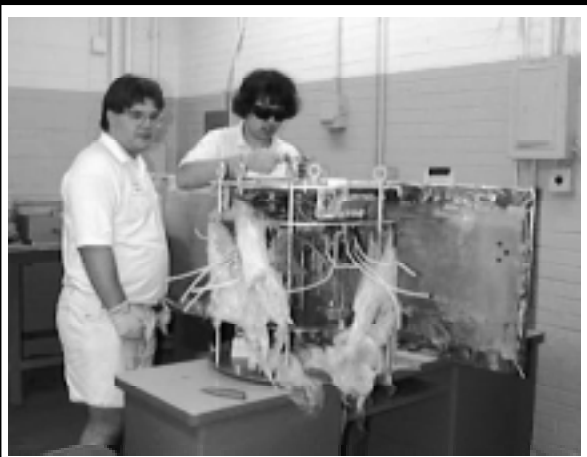
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility and college students from Virginia and New Jersey joined forces last week to launch two scientific balloons carrying atmospheric measurement experiments designed and built by the students.

The payloads are part of the NASA Student Balloon Program which provides students the opportunity to develop balloon launched experiments that will produce valid scientific results. The students are responsible for all technical and managerial aspects of the project.

Experiments were conducted by undergraduate and graduate students from the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), Newark, NJ and four of the member institutions of the Virginia Space Grant College Consortium (VSGCC). The first of the two scientific balloons and experiments was successfully launched from the Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) for NJIT on Aug. 21 at 6:42 a.m. EDT. The Virginia launch was successfully conducted from WFF on Aug. 22 at 6:44 a.m. EDT. Both payloads were recovered.

The NJIT payload was a Multi-Altitude Air Collection System (MAACS). MAACS, took air samples as the

balloon ascended to an altitude of approximately 90,000 feet. Bruce Bukiet was principal investigator for the flight that lasted 2 hours 18 minutes.



Following a successful flight and recovery, NJIT students examine their payload.

The flight for the Virginia students lasted 2 hours 42 minutes and reached an altitude of approximately 95,000 feet. An onboard imaging experiment provided live videos of portions of the flight. In addition to the onboard imaging experiment was a high altitude air sampling experiment that collected eight air samples taken from 65,600 feet to 71,350 feet. There also were two Global Positioning System

(GPS) experiments. Ann Pierce, VSGCC, was the principal investigator.

The Virginia students are from Old Dominion University, the College of William and Mary, Hampton University and Tidewater Community College, all of which are located in Southeastern Virginia.

Students from Prairie View (Texas) A&M, who also are participating in the Student Balloon Program, successfully launched a scientific balloon on Aug. 18 from the National Scientific Balloon Facility, Palestine, TX. The experiment was a test of memory integrated circuits for radiation tolerance in the upper atmosphere. Richard Wilkins, Prairie View (Texas) A&M University was the principal investigator. The total flight time was 9 hours, 11 minutes.



Balloon carrying VSGCC experiments takes flight.

Security Measures Increased

In response to the activities in Afghanistan and Sudan, the NASA Security Director has declared the Agency to be in a THREATCON Bravo status.

Increased security measures will be implemented at Greenbelt and Wallops. You are required to display your badge on the Center at all times. You are requested to challenge anyone not displaying a badge. Report anyone without one to the Wallops Security Office, x2536.

All employees should:

-be sensitive to any suspicious person or activity and report it to the Security Office.

-secure rooms and storage areas when not in regular use.

-consider additional secure measures when planning special events or receiving visitors.

-notify the Security Office as soon as possible in your planning.

-review security measures in your work area and implement changes if necessary.

Have badges ready to display to the security officer upon approaching the front gate. You may be delayed a few moments for closer inspection of badges and vehicles. We ask your patience as we endeavor to provide the necessary protection.

You will be notified when THREATCON Bravo status is lifted.

Can't wait?

The latest edition of *Inside Wallops* is posted on the Wallops homepage on Monday of each week: <http://www.wff.nasa.gov>

Wallops Shorts.....

Balloon Launches

A 39.57 million cubic foot NASA scientific balloon was successfully launched Aug. 4 from Lynn Lake, Canada. The experiment measured the amount of a rare radioactive component of cosmic radiation. The principal investigator was Dr. Robert Streitmatter, Goddard Space Flight Center.

On Aug. 15, a 3.46 million cubic foot NASA scientific balloon was successfully launched from Palestine, TX. The experiment was to perform solar cell calibration for principal investigator, Dr. Bruce Anspaugh of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Wallops Fire Department

Emergency medical technicians (EMT) responded on Aug. 15 to a mutual aid request from Accomack County 911 for a patient with chest pains in Captain's Cove. Aug. 18, EMTs responded to a mutual aid call for medical assistance for a patient on Chincoteague.

Sports Put the Eyes at Risk

An estimated 38,000 sports-related eye injuries are treated in hospital emergency rooms each year.

The following sports account for more than two-thirds of these injuries: baseball, basketball, racquet sports (squash, racquetball, paddle ball, badminton and tennis), football, swimming, soccer, hockey, boxing and volleyball.



Among 5- to 14-year olds, baseball accounts for most eye injuries. Basketball is the leading cause of eye injuries for 15 to 24 year olds and 25 to 64 year olds. Racquet sports are the second leading cause of injuries for the 25 to 64 age group.

Although most eye injuries are classified as mild to moderate, too frequently other injuries are severe and may result in permanent vision loss. Any traumatic eye injury can increase the risk of other eye health problems such as glaucoma or cataracts.

The following conditions should be treated as medical emergencies, requiring immediate attention at a hospital or by an eye doctor.

- Blurred vision that does not clear with blinking.
- Loss of all or part of the visual field. Sharp stabbing or deep throbbing pain.
- Double vision.
- Cut or torn eyelid.
- Cut, scratched or punctured eye.
- One eye that does not move as completely as the other.
- One eye that protrudes as compared to the other.
- Abnormal pupil size or shape as compared to the other.
- Layer of blood between the cornea and iris. (Blood in the white part of the eyeball, if caused by a blunt blow, may be painless and symptom free. No immediate action is necessary, but the player should be examined by an eye care specialist within 24 hours.)

If a blow to the eye produces none of the above symptoms, the eye moves freely and without pain in all directions, and the player's vision has been found normal by the use of a vision-test card, probably only a "black eye" may result. Place a cold compress or ice bag over the eye to slow any swelling. Have an eye-care specialist examine the eye within 24 hours.

Almost all sports-related eye injuries can be prevented. Whatever your game, whatever your age, be sure to protect your eyes!

Upcoming Training

Introduction to JavaScript

(16 hours - 2 day session)
DATE: Sept. 28 and 29, 1998
PLACE: Greenbelt, MD
FUNDING: Directorate

Students will learn to describe the JavaScript language syntax, use built-in JavaScript objects and functions, write applications using JavaScript for text field validation and input processing and identify the major issues to consider when writing a JavaScript application.

Prerequisites: Familiarity with reading and writing HTML structure tags. Experience with using a Web browser. Experience writing simple programs in a programming or macro language. Experience creating tables, frames, and forms is helpful but not required.

Note: The Java and the JavaScript languages are different. JavaScript is a scripting language used to add interactivity to HTML. Java is a full fledged programming language that can be used to create cross platform applications. This course covers JavaScript.

Training requests should be submitted to Code 114 no later than Aug. 26. For additional information contact Tracey White, x6-5378 or Sherry Kleckner, x1204.

Remote Sensing, Data Analysis, Visualisation and Animation

DATE: Oct. 6-8, 1998
PLACE: Greenbelt, MD
FUNDING: Directorate

This course provides an overview of the latest techniques used in analysis and visualization of remote sensing data. An introduction to digital image processing techniques is followed by an in-depth discussion of more advanced topics. Applications examples include scientific analysis of space imagery, visualization and interpretation of earth observation data from a variety of sensor systems, weather forecasting, environmental monitoring, and global dynamics. Use of web browsers for image data management and distribution is described. The course is designed for individuals seeking to apply the latest image data analysis and visualization techniques to their applications.

Training requests must be submitted to Code 114 no later than Sept. 6. For more information, contact Don Wolford, x66-9236 or Analisa Potze, x66-5756.

"Karaoke"

Sept. 18, 1998
6-10 p.m.
Building F-3

Featuring
New Millennium
Entertainment
with
Greg Michaels and Tanya



There is **NO CHARGE**. For further information, contact Jan Neville, x1526.

Women's Equality Day

"Today, as Americans engage in a serious and profoundly important dialogue on the future of our multiracial, multiethnic, and multicultural society, we do well to remember that we are all immeasurably enriched when we choose the path of inclusion and empowerment. Women's Equality Day and the anniversary of Title IX remind us that by demanding an equal opportunity for every American, we ensure a brighter future for all Americans." William J. Clinton in a 1997 Presidential Proclamation designating Aug. 26 "Women's Equality Day".

On Aug. 26, the Wallops Federal Women's Program (FWP) is presenting Federal Women's Day in celebration and recognition of the varied accomplishments and contributions of Wallops female employees. 1998 is the 150th Anniversary of the Women's Rights movement, launched at the world's first Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, NY.

Activities will begin at the Monthly Morning Coffee where the FWP committee will join Wallops senior management. Committee members will be available to answer questions and provide information on the Program's goals. There will be morning and afternoon seminars and a luncheon with a dynamic speaker who will outline characteristics of the "Women of the 90's".

Federal Women's Day is the first in a series of events designed to promote career development and advancement for Wallops women.

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.

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