



# Inside Wallops

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

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## Space Shuttle Atlantis Ready for Launch

NASA mission managers set October 2 for the launch of the Space Shuttle Atlantis to the International Space Station (ISS). Atlantis will launch between 2 and 6 p.m. EDT. The precise launch time will be announced about 24 hours before liftoff.



Space Shuttle Atlantis NASA Photo

Atlantis is carrying the first starboard integrated truss segment, S-One (S1), to the ISS as well as what will be the first pickup truck in space. The 45-foot truss structure adds to the length of the space railroad and provides the necessary cooling and power systems for future international expansion of the space laboratory. Attached to the truss, the Crew and Equipment Translation Aid (CETA) Cart A is the first of two human-powered carts that will ride along the railway, providing mobile work platforms for future spacewalking astronauts history.

For the first time, space shuttle astronauts will carry television viewers along for the initial ride into orbit.

A color video camera mounted to the top of Atlantis' external tank will offer

a unique perspective as launch occurs. NASA TV plans to provide a live feed from the camera as the shuttle begins its ascent until it reaches near-orbital speed, about 56 miles above the Earth. The camera is expected to provide video for approximately 30 minutes.

The camera, which will provide a view of the front and belly of the orbiter and a portion of the solid rocket boosters (SRBs) and external tank, will offer the STS-112 team an opportunity to monitor the shuttle's performance from a new angle.

The camera is mounted to the external tank's liquid oxygen tank, one of two propellant tanks. The external tank – the "gas tank" for the shuttle's three main engines – carries liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen in two separate tanks.

Located high on the external-tank liquid-oxygen-tank cable tray, the camera is inside an aluminum fairing covered in protective insulating foam. The battery pack and transmitter are contained in an electronics box and mounted in the intertank crossbeam inside the external tank.

The camera will be turned on fifteen minutes prior to launch and will show the orbiter and solid rocket boosters on the launch pad. The video will be downlinked from the external tank during flight to several NASA data-receiving sites including Wallops and then relayed to the live television broadcast.

The launch can be viewed on Wallops TV Channel 6.

## Wallops Shorts.....

### Balloon Launches

A NASA scientific balloon was successfully launched from Ft. Sumner, N.M., on September 16. The 39.57 million cubic foot balloon carried a cosmic ray astrophysics experiment. Dr. Dietrick Muller of the University of Chicago was the principal investigator. Total flight time was four hours. The payload was recovered.

Another NASA scientific balloon was successfully launched from Ft. Sumner, N.M., on September 20. The 29.47 million cubic foot balloon carried a IR/submillimeter astrophysics experiment. Shaul Hanay of the University of Minnesota was the principal investigator. Total flight time was 22 hours, 34 minutes. The payload was recovered in good condition.

### Personnel Action

Douglas Voss was selected for an AST, Launch and Flight Operations position in the Range and Mission Management Office. Voss had previously served in an AST, Flight Systems Safety position in the Safety Office.

### Thanks

Maria Tobin, Range Safety Manager, NASA John F. Kennedy Space Center, sent her thanks to Ed Melson, Computer Sciences Corporation, for his support of the recent NASA Headquarters Independent Assessment of Dryden Flight Research Center, Range Safety Organization. His experience, professionalism and expertise in the areas of range safety analysis and operations were key in the successful completion of the assessment.



## NASA Administrator Visits Students

NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe visited Penn State University on September 13 and 14.

During the Administrator's visit, members of the team for the student sounding rocket mission, Spirit II, had the opportunity to meet with him and talk about the project and their hands-on experience.

Spirit II is scheduled for flight on a Terrier-Orion sounding rocket from Wallops Island in November.

Pictured (left to right) Nicholas Hickly, Dawn Noga, Administrator O'Keefe, and Katy Fisher

Penn State Photo



**Kickoff on Monday, October 7**

8 to 9 a.m. -- Ribbon cutting for the Wallops Timeline display in the Cafeteria

9 to 10 a.m. -- Coffee and Cake (cake is courtesy of the NASA Federal Credit Union)

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. -- Name That Flag Contest, Building E-2 Classroom

2 to 3 p.m. -- Native American workshop with Odette Wright, Building E-2 Classroom

3 to 3:30 p.m. -- Tai Chi demo by John Brinton, Building E-2 Classroom

3 to 4:30 p.m. -- Reiki sessions by Pat Dworske, Building F-160, Health Unit



*Autumn arrived  
September 23*

**2003 FEHB Plan Rates Published**

The Office of Personnel Management has placed the 2003 FEHB Plan Rates on their homepage at the following website:

<http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/03rates/index.asp>

**Government Auction**

October 9, 2002  
Inspection is 8 to 11 a.m.  
Auction begins at 11:15 a.m.

The auction will be held in the U.S. Navy Morale, Welfare, Recreation (MWR) Building.

A valid driver's license is required for registration. Bidders must be U.S. citizens.

There will be bus transportation from the MWR building to Disposal Warehouse for inspection of equipment and back to the MWR building for the auction and bidding process. Vehicle passes will be issued to successful bidders to allow pickup of equipment at the warehouse. Vehicles may be searched prior to entering the Main Base.

For information call Terry Ewell, on x113. For a complete listing, which includes make, model & serial numbers, visit:  
<http://sales.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

**October Events at the Visitor Center**

October 5: "Model Rocket Launch"

A model rocket launch will be held at 1 p.m. Models of various rockets will be launched. Model rocketeers are invited to bring their own rockets and launch them. The launch will be canceled if it is raining or winds exceed 18 mph.

October 12: "Kite Flight" children's program

This program teaches kids about different kite designs and provides an opportunity for them to construct and fly their own kites. The program begins at 1 p.m. and will last 40 minutes. All materials are provided by the Visitor Center.

The Visitor Center is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Monday. It will be closed October 14 for the Columbus Day Federal holiday. Admission to the Visitor Center and all programs is free.

For further information, call x2298 or visit the web site: <http://www.wff.nasa.gov/vc/>

**Tailgate Sale**

11:30 a.m. at the Flag Court  
September 25

**Virginia State Fair**

September 26 to October 6  
Coupons for \$5 off the \$17.99 admission price are still available at the Exchange, Credit Union and Public Affairs Office.

**Wanted**

Two tickets to the Harvest Festival, October 2. Call Betty Flowers, (757) 665-4283

**For Sale**

1989 Buick Park Avenue excellent condition, runs great, great gas mileage. Approximately 100K miles, silver with blue leather top and interior \$3,000 OBO. Call (757) 442-6780 anytime or (757) 336-2477 after 5 p.m.

1997 Dodge Grand Caravan 80K miles, 4 cyl., good condition. \$6400 Call Teena, (757) 336-2477 after 5 p.m.

**For Sale**

25" Television, TV Stand, Echostar Receiver, and Dish 500 Satellite dish. The price is \$125. Contact Amanda on 757-646-3537.

**Editor's Note:**

The Wallops designed and built flight modem also is on board the MagPlane MPX-100 collecting data for the Iturralde Crater Expedition in Bolivia.

**Defining Conflict**

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) will present a Lunch N Learn from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on September 24 in the Williamsburg Room, Building E-2. This is a continuation of the August session, Defining Conflict, with an emphasis on communication. Topics covered include:

- Defining Conflict
- Discussion - causes of conflict and characteristics of conflict
- Stages of conflict
- Conflict in the Workplace
- Methods of Dealing with Conflict
- Interpersonal Styles
- The DESC Method

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Training**

**Date:** September 24, 2002  
**Time:** 8 a.m. to noon  
**Place:** Building F-3 Conference Room

Facility employees, including contractors currently supporting NASA projects, may register by contacting Shari Silbert on x2327, or by e-mail at [Shari.A.Silbert.1@gsfc.nasa.gov](mailto:Shari.A.Silbert.1@gsfc.nasa.gov).

**American Heritage Week Show your stuff!**



Now's your chance to show the rest of Wallops what your organization does. Perhaps you have a special project or have built new hardware that you'd like to exhibit.

From noon to 3:30 p.m. the different NASA organizations, contractors and our partners will showcase their organizations under the Navy's "Big Tent", beside Building E-2.

Sign up now to reserve your space at the Celebrate Wallops Day, October 8.

For information or to reserve a table call Lisa Johnson, x1412, by September 27.

*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)

Editor Betty Flowers