



Inside Wallops

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Nighttime Clouds Excite Sky Watchers

A NASA project to study the ionosphere using man-made nighttime clouds excited sky watchers in the mid-Atlantic and lower northeastern United States last night.

Four rockets were launched Sunday night and Monday morning from the NASA Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia.



Photo by J. Mason-Foley.

Cloud formed by last night's TMA releases.

Three of the rockets released trimethylaluminum, a substance that formed milky-white clouds, allowing scientists to monitor winds in the ionosphere, a high and poorly accessible layer of Earth's atmosphere.

Observers in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania reported seeing the clouds that

remained visible for up to 20 minutes after forming.

The Coast Guard near Kitty Hawk, N.C., received about 20 calls but were able to inform the callers about the launches.

The clouds allow scientists to monitor the Earth's winds at the edge of space, said Dr. Gregory Earle from the University of Texas in Dallas, the lead researcher for the project. "The clouds act as a tracer and allow researchers to view the winds at various altitudes over a period of time," he said.

The ionosphere is strongly affected by solar activity, such as solar flares and ultraviolet radiation. The state of the ionosphere affects such things as radio communications

and Global Positioning System reception on Earth.

Earle said, "The data gathered from this project will aid in our understanding of the relationship between the winds and ionospheric activity."

The rockets were launched between 11:19 p.m., Sunday and 3:07 a.m., Monday. All four rockets and experiment systems performed as planned.

Wallops Shorts..

In the News

SpaceFlight Now.com

"Nighttime Clouds Shed Light on Space Weather"

Baltimore Sun

"NASA Experiment may be Visible Tomorrow"

Eastern Shore News

"NASA to conduct Launch Rocket Experiments"

Eastern Shore News

"A Passion for Plants – Feature on Mike Bundick"

Eastern Shore Post

"Ground-Breaking Projects are Being Launched at Wallops"

Daily Times

"Wallops Set to Launch Four Rockets"

Launches

Four NASA sounding rockets were successfully launched from Wallops Island between 11:19 p.m. on June 29 and 3:07 a.m. on June 30. Three Terrier-Improved Orions carried Mother/Daughter payloads into the nighttime E-region winds and plasma layers. A Black Brant carried instruments. The principal investigator was Dr. Greg Earle from the University of Texas. The mission manager was Tracy Gibb, NSROC and the project manager was David Moltedo.

Additional Summer Students

Conan Noronha – Univ. of Southern California, **Deepak Mishra** – Univ. of Nebraska, and **Kurt Yungel** - St. John's Univ. (Queens, N.Y) are working on the EAARL project, (Experimental Advanced Airborne Research Lidar). Wayne Wright, NASA Observational Science Branch is their mentor.

Management Operations Directorate Announces Two New Divisions

Due to increased visibility nationally and within the agency regarding the Safety, Environmental and Security functions, effective June 29, the Safety, Environmental and Security Office, Code 205, will be split into two divisions.

The Security Division, which was Code 205.1, will become Code 240. The Safety and Environmental Division will become a new Code 250. All office locations and telephone numbers will remain the same.

Wallops Population Increasing in July

Wallops will be hosting a Combat System Ship Qualification Trials (CSSQT) and other Navy exercises July 7 through 24.

During the two weeks, the Wallops population will increase nearly 40 percent when an additional 600 people will be badged to enter the Facility to support the activity.

CSSQT is one of the largest and complex missions ever conducted at Wallops. Access to the Range Control Center will be restricted, open only to those supporting the project.

Employees are advised to consider this population increase and allow extra time to enter the Main Base or eat in the cafeteria during the two weeks.

Wallops Island Closing for Recreational Use

Wallops Island will be closed for all recreational activities July 7 - 30 because of mission operations.

Gauges for Marble Competition Flown on NASA Balloon

This year, NASA and the National Institute of Standards and Technology cooperated on the design and manufacture of a marble gauge, which is used to ensure the marbles are of official size.

The gauges are arguably the most precise marble gauges ever manufactured and were flown on a NASA long duration balloon, launched from Ft. Sumner, N.M., on May 24.

Jack Shue, Space Power Systems Branch, GSFC, Greenbelt, presented several of these gauges, including one as a permanent display, to the Marbles Hall of Fame at this year's tournament.

The 80th National Marbles Tournament was held in Wildwood, N.J., the week of June 16 and invited guests included Al Diaz, Director of Goddard Space Flight Center and NASA Astronaut, Tony Antonelli.

Centennial of Flight Milestones

91 years ago on July 1, Harriet Quimby, the first woman to be issued a pilot's license in the U.S., died in a plane crash.

76 years ago on July 5, the Germans formed the first "Society for Space Travel".

Have a Safe 4th of July Holiday Weekend

Independence Day is an annual holiday commemorating the formal adoption by the Continental Congress of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, in Philadelphia.



Although the signing of the Declaration was not completed until August, the 4th of July holiday has been accepted as the official anniversary of U.S. independence and is celebrated in all states and territories of the United States.

The holiday was first observed in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776, at which time the Declaration of Independence was read aloud, city bells rang, and bands played. It was not declared a legal holiday until 1941.

IFMP Questions and Answers

- When can we use credit cards?

July 7.

- If I write a PR for more money than I can spend, will that be committed because the money is now kept in a bigger pot?

It is important to separate funds tracking and funds control, which are separate in Core Financial. Funds control is at a much high level than before. In the past, we could program and reprogram so that someone could only spend what was allocated to him.

Yes, one can write a PR for the remaining balance for that pot of money, putting more responsibility on managers to track the funding at the WBS level.

However, for tracking purposes, we will have one additional Center-unique level beyond the agency-wide coding structure. So, if you have a 7-digit UPN, you can track at the 9-digit level. Those 9 digits get you to the current JON structure, without the Goddard function codes, which are not represented in CF.

- What about tracking IT technology? Isn't that why we have certain function codes?

In the past, you tracked everything out of the JON, but there are other elements within CF, such as WBSs and object classes, that replace the functions codes. Most IT work has its own object class, which matches to an OMB object class.

- Who will track funds?

The Resources Management community is the front line for tracking. If you are an initiator, then you should run reports in the system to check when you spent your money. The RAs will come to you, if you spend more than you have.

- The resource person doesn't get it until it is committed, right?

The PRs are committed before the resources person receives it, which is different, but they are also the first people who can reject it. As long as it is not obligated, a PR can be de-committed as quickly as it is committed— within minutes.

- I assume the 7 days to activate our IDs starts on July 7?

You have 7 days after your go-live date, whatever day that is, to enter the system and change your password.

NASA Visitor Center July Events

July 5 & 19 — 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.

July 19 — Flight Day

10 a.m.

Aeronautical Oddities movie. 15-minute film about early aviators and their "flying" machines.

10:30 a.m. Puppet Show

Puppets and Planes. Airplane enthusiast puppets, Jenny and Jeff, teach kids about aeronautics.

11 a.m. Make your own sled kite. Kids make and fly their own kites during this 30-minute hands-on program. All materials are provided.

Noon Wright Brothers Movie

1 p.m. Model Rocket Launch

2 p.m. Puppet Show
Puppets and Planes.

2:30 p.m. Basics of Flight.

An introduction to the basics of flight and experiment with paper airplanes.

3:30 p.m. Aeronautical Oddities Movie.

15-minute film about early aviators and their "flying" machines.

Available all day.

Aviation Challenge and Bernoulli table

Saturdays and Sundays —

"Puppets in Space", a 10-minute puppet show, will be presented at 11 a.m.

Sundays: "Humans in Space"

"Humans in Space" is the subject of a 1 p.m. program that lasts 30 minutes.

Daily: "Space Ace"

Children ages 5-10 years can earn a "Space Ace" certificate and a lithograph by completing an activity sheet.

The Visitor Center is open daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., July 1 through Labor Day. Admission to all Visitor Center programs is free. For further information call x2298.

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