

Inside Wallops

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Local Students Participate in "Robotics in the Classroom" Competition

Students from Arcadia High School in Oak Hall, Va., demonstrated their understanding of underwater remotely operated vehicles (ROV's) by participating in a program called "Robotics in the Classroom".

Five student teams designed and built the ROV's using low cost materials that were funded under the 2004 Educational Director's Discretionary Fund, (DDF), "Goddard Space Flight Center, University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, Education Outreach for Remote Sensing Operations at Wallops Flight Facility."

Dr. Douglas Levin, a geologist at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, (UMES), led the educational program sponsored by the National Aeronautics & Space Administration, (NASA); the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, (NOAA); and the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, (UMES).

A poolside competition, (below), was sponsored by NASA, the Delmarva Discovery Center, the UMES Earth Mapping Laboratory and the Lower Shore YMCA. The event was conducted at the YMCA in Pocomoke, Md.



Photo by J. Thompson

Russell Dufrene, Jessica Thompson and Joel Simpson, from NASA's Guidance, Navigation and Control and Mission Systems Engineering Branch at Wallops worked with the students and judged the performance contest.

"Robotics in the Classroom" events that began with the GSFC educational DDF effort continues to grow. This educational outreach effort now extends to six Delmarva high schools and across eight Tampa, Fla. counties.

"Robotics in the Classroom" students will get a chance to compete for a spot in the 4th Annual National ROV Competition for High School & College Students, June 17-19, in the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory at the Johnson Space Center.

See <http://www.marinetech.org/> for more information.

Wallops Shorts.....

In the News

Houston Chronicle

"NASA To Launch Balloons Carrying Telescopes"

Space Travel

"Spectacular Balloon Flights From Esrange to Alaska This Spring"

CNN

"NASA To Launch Balloons from Sweden"

Palestine Herald-Press

"NSBF Teams up With Area Youth" and "NSBF To Launch Telescope"

On the Road

Brenda Dingwall, NASA Equal Opportunity Program Office, recently participated in the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, Internship Fair.

On the Road continued

Rob Hurley, NASA Range and Mission Management Office, and Dwayne Morgan, NASA Systems Software Engineering Branch, visited their childrens' classrooms at the Salisbury Christian School.

Terry Ewell and Freda Johnson, NASA Logistics Team, participated in a Career Day event at Northampton High School, (NHS), Machipongo, Va., for students from NHS and Broadwater Academy.

Lissette Martinez, NASA Electrical Engineering Branch, recently spoke to the Berlin, (Md.), Youth Group.

In the Field

Wallops personnel are currently in Hawaii and Alaska supporting sounding rocket launches.

Principal Investigator Comments on Launch

"I would like to commend the efforts of the field support team and NSROC as a whole for their effort in the flight of 36.209 (White Sands Missile Range on June 1, 2004).

There were several instrument anomalies that occurred during vibration testing that required repair and re-test at White Sands. These necessitated launch delays that the team accommodated with good spirits and professionalism.

The expertise of the ACS team, in particular, was a great utility to the experiment team. Charlie Kupelian, in particular, was of great assistance and I wish to thank him for his efforts above and beyond the call of duty."

James C. Green
University of Colorado

Achieving Accountability and Expediting the Excess Process

Anyone that is excessing government equipment should properly care for the equipment until it is picked up. Store it in a secure area, such as an empty office, your office or the property custodian's office.

Equipment too large to fit in an office probably will remain where it is placed. Smaller items, like cameras, computers, and monitors left lying around unattended, may be picked up and carried off to another office for use. In this case, potential users must notify the property custodian.

Fax the GSFC Form 20-9 Report of Excess Property (for non-controlled items) and GSFC 1602 NASA Equipment Management System Transaction Document (for controlled items) to x66-0255.

Flagging an item in CHIRPS for excess does not complete the action. Either print the 1602s completed in CHIRPS and fax to x66-0255 or copy the NASA Form 1602 from CHIRPS, paste it into an E-mail and send it to:

Janice.L.Woodfork.1@gsfc.nasa.gov or to Diane.C.Goddard.1@gsfc.nasa.gov

For questions regarding the disposal process or if you feel the Wallops Disposal Office fails to expediently pick up your excess property, call Terry Ewell at x1133.

Preventive Maintenance of the Electrical Distribution System Completed by John Clauss, NASA Facilities Management Branch



J. Clauss Photo

Larry T. Harper Sr, Cube employee with the Facilities Electric Shop performs maintenance on an electrical box.

Thanks from the Air Force

"I want to express my gratitude and appreciation for Bruce Underwood and Jay Pittman and their staff's hospitality in hosting us for a visit last month. All of us at the conference table could tell from our first round of discussions that we resonated with one another over similar launch range issues and concerns. The meeting was more than we expected.

We realize this type of visit and tour takes people away from their normal duties, and we believe it's important to thank them. From our first contact with your public affairs staff to the demonstration of a launch from the Control Center, we couldn't be more pleased. Please pass on special thanks from us to Brian Hall for serving as our main point of contact and organizing the presentations, flight operation simulation and tours. Thanks to Keith Koehler and Betty Flowers for cordially handling our initial request to visit. Our appreciation also goes to those who provided detailed explanation and tours of your mobile range instrumentation – Jay Brown, Jimmy Holloway, Reginald Wessells, and Charles Bowden.

Our visit to Wallops enhanced our knowledge of range systems and sparked some new relationships, making our trip that much more worthwhile."

Dwight D. Rauhala, Col, USAF
Chief, Reconnaissance, Surveillance, and Spacelift Requirements Division

Return to Flight Training Mission at Wallops

The Wallops Near Earth Network Services, (NENS), team recently took part in a Return To Flight, (RTF), training mission. The Shuttle Training Aircraft, a NASA Gulfstream, outfitted with a portable satellite simulator conducted low flybys at the Wallops airport. The portable satellite simulated the Space Shuttle Discovery's downlink and processing of the command uplink.

The Merritt Island (Florida) Launch Annex station tracked the Gulfstream as it flew up the East Coast until it was out of range. Wallops systems picked up the aircraft as it entered the Wallops 6604 restricted airspace and tracked the aircraft, which was flown in a pre-defined pattern. Several simulated anomalies were included in the tests. They included exciter failures, loss of the Wallops Front End Processor, a corrupted downlink to the portable satellite simulator, and TDRS spacecraft failures that required Wallops to activate uplink command equipment.

The mission provided site training on the S-band telemetry, C-band radars and the Shuttle UHF air-to-ground system for the NENS and Ground Network teams.

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Editor Betty Flowers
Asst. Editor Rebecca Hudson

The NASA Wallops, Facility Operation and Maintenance Branch recently completed the biennial preventive maintenance on the electrical distribution system for the Main Base.

This work was a very critical process to ensure the proper operation of the electrical distribution system.

Thanks to everyone for the cooperation, patience, and support of this event.