NASA has signed an agreement with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), France’s Centre National d’Etudes Spatiales (CNES) and the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT) to launch the Ocean Surface Topography Mission in 2008.

The satellite, named Jason-2, will increase our understanding of ocean circulation and improve climate forecasts and measurements of global sea-level change. The 3- to 5-year mission will extend the ocean topography measurements collected since 1992, first by TOPEX/Poseidon and now by Jason.

“This agreement substantially advances the continuation of a long-term record of sea-level measurements based on satellite measurements of sea level height,” said Eric Lindstrom, NASA’s Ocean Surface Topography Mission program scientist.

The mission also will study how ocean circulation varies from season to season, from year to year and decade to decade.

Operational organizations and researchers will use the data in marine meteorology and sea-state forecasting, operational oceanography, seasonal forecasting, climate and ocean monitoring and Earth and climate research.

NASA will provide several of the mission’s science instruments, including an advanced microwave radiometer, laser retroreflector array and Global Positioning System payload receiver package and launch services on a Boeing Delta II rocket.

NOAA will provide a satellite-control center, stations for commanding the spacecraft and acquiring data, data processing, and the infrastructure for archiving and distributing mission data. After the satellite’s launch and an engineering assessment, CNES will hand over management of the satellite to NOAA.

CNES will provide a PROTEUS satellite platform and payload module as well as several of the science instruments, including a Poseidon-3 dual-frequency radar altimeter and the Doppler Orbitography and Radiopositioning Integrated by Satellite orbit-determination system. They also will provide a satellite command and control center, data processing and infrastructure for archiving and distributing mission data.

EUMETSAT will provide a site and infrastructure for the European Earth terminal, which will be integrated into the EUMETSAT ground segment infrastructure as well as data processing and archiving and distributing mission data.

For further information, visit: http://sealevel.jpl.nasa.gov/mission/ostm.html

Representatives from the Wallops Aircraft Office, Range and Mission Management Office and Fire Department attended an Aircraft Recovery Divert Procedures class for the Global Hawk Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (pictured) at the Patuxent River (Md) Naval Air Station on April 13.

(left to right) Ed Sudendorf, David Kulley, David Allen, Jay Brown, Rob Hurley, Tim McCready, Jeff Sigrist, and Ron Walsh

NASA 8 Scheduling

NASA 8, a twin-engine turboprop aircraft, is housed at Wallops Flight Facility and is available for program support purposes.

One of the functions of this aircraft is to facilitate meetings which take place in remote locations, or locations not conveniently served by commercial airports.

The following web link contains information about the capabilities and scheduling of the aircraft. http://wacop.wff.nasa.gov/ OtherNAS8Desc.cfm

The web site includes:
- SCHEDULE gives rough guidelines of how many persons are required to justify a trip. There also is a link to view currently scheduled flights.
- FLIGHT REQUEST is an online tool to complete and submit to the NASA 8 scheduler.
Discount Tickets to Local Attractions
Discount tickets are now available at the Exchange Store, Building E-2 for the following:

Kings Dominion
Busch Gardens
Water Country
Delmarva Shorebirds

Call Karen Shannon at x2020 or 2010 for more information.

Recalls
Another “wireless” conference phone is being recalled for a burn hazard.

For further information on the Rechargeable Battery Packs sold with MAX Wireless Conference Phones visit:
http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06134.html

Some of the Phillips Plasma Flat Panel Televisions are a fire hazard.

For further information visit:
http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06536.html

If any of these items are located in your area, call Howard Kilmon at x 1486.

Feedback Tool
Would you like the opportunity to provide constructive and anonymous feedback to your immediate supervisor (and up to two supervisors you have been matrixed to)?

Civil Service employees have until May 10 to enter comments on the Supervisory Feedback Tool web site: http://ohcm.gsfc.nasa.gov/performance/supervisor_survey.htm.

Rate your supervisor in the following areas: organizational communication, diversity, accountability, teamwork, human resources management, change management, and financial/technical/technological management.

For additional information, call Lori A. Moore at x66-5087, or Danielle B. Tolbert at x66-7283.

For Sale
1993 Cutlass Ciera Good Condition
ONLY 89,000 miles, $1,000 OBO.
Call 854-1844 after 5 p.m.

19 pints of blood were donated during the Red Cross Blood Drive. Thanks for your support!

T.G.I.O.
Thank Goodness It’s Over…Tax Season, that is.
Come celebrate with us!

Thursday, April 20
5 p.m. in the Rocket Club

Free Food and Drink Specials
Sponsored by the Wallops Exchange and Morale Association (WEMA) and Morale Activities Committee (MAC)

EAP LUNCH & LEARN
with Tom Northern

Balancing Work and Family
How to Survive Chaos

Thursday, April 20
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Williamsburg Room
– Bldg E-2

Are you beginning to burn out? “What can I do to make things go better?”

We will answer these questions and more: avoiding the morning rush, mealtimes suggestions, bedtime, clothing, commuting time, and how to de-stress.

Wallops Shorts........
Launch
A NASA Terrier-Black Brant was launched from White Sands Missile Range, N.M., on April 12.

The purpose of this mission was to study the physical properties of the solar corona.

The principal investigator was Dr. Douglas Rabin, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

Bill Payne, NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract, (NSROC), was the mission manager. The payload was recovered, and experiment data is being evaluated.

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www.wff.nasa.gov
Editor
Betty Flowers
Asst. Editor
Rebecca Hudson

Engineering Bldg:
* Concrete contractor will fill pan stairs in stairwells one and three and pour two exterior stairs at loading dock?
* Masonry contractor has nearly completed the masonry veneer in the courtyard.
* Iron contractor has completed the installation of the kickers and miscellaneous steel items.
* The framers are working in the courtyard and have begun framing the east end of the building exterior.
* Mechanical contractor is continuing work on installation of hot and chilled water supply lines above first and second floor ceiling, piping in the mechanical rooms and installation of sheet metal ducts.
* Electrical contractor is installing electric panels on the second floor and above ceiling conduit runs.

Project Support Facility:
* New water line installation completed and tested.
* Paving contractor patched the entrance to the new parking area.
* In-wall electric going in as CMU walls are going up – ongoing.
* Electrical contractor to work on underground conduit for main primary electrical connection for the new transformer.
* Masonry work continuing with the exterior ribbed block installation.
* Steel scheduled for arrival the week of April 24.

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