Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
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JASON 2 Begins Mapping Oceans -- Wallops Tracks JASON

Less than a month after launch, the NASA-French space agency Ocean Surface Topography Mission (OSTM)/ Jason 2 oceanography satellite has produced its first complete maps of global ocean surface topography, surface wave height and wind speed.

The new data will help scientists monitor changes in global sea level and the distribution of heat in the ocean. This information is used to monitor climate change and ocean circulation, and to enable more accurate weather, ocean and climate forecasts.

The new mission extends a 16-year continuous record of global sea level measurements begun in 1992 by NASA and the French Space Agency, Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) TOPEX/Poseidon mission and continued by the two agencies on Jason 1, launched in 2001.

Launch and early orbit telemetry and command support for Jason 1 was provided by the NASA Wallops Flight Facility, Ground Network Project and Poker Flat Research Range (Alaska) 5 meter antennae. Tracking data support for Flight Dynamics Facility (FDF) orbit determination was provided by the Wallops and Poker Flat 8 meter antennae on every orbit for the first five days.

Jason-1 is currently being supported by Ground Network's services via Universal Space Network (USN) Poker Flat 5 meter and USN Alaska 13 meter as the prime antennas. The Wallops 5 meter antenna support is used for proficiency, contingency and remains available in case of a spacecraft emergency. Jason-1 is scheduled for six to seven contacts a day at the combined sites until the end of the mission.

Data from TOPEX/Poseidon and Jason 1 shows that mean sea level has been rising by about .12 inches a year since 1993.

An artist concept shows the Ocean Surface Topography Mission instruments as they fly on the Jason-2.

The new maps were generated from the first 10 days of data collected once the new satellite reached its operational orbit of 830 miles on July 4.

Jason 2 and its predecessor, Jason 1, now are flying in formation in the same orbit approximately 55 seconds apart, making nearly simultaneous measurements that are allowing scientists to precisely calibrate the new satellite's instruments. Comparisons of data from the two satellites on sea-level anomalies, significant wave height and ocean wind speed all show very close correlation of all measured parameters.

The satellite's first radar altimeter data were acquired just 48 hours after its launch on June 20 from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., on a Delta II rocket. The Ground Network Project's USN, Alaska 13 meter and Poker Flat 11 meter antennae successfully supported the Delta II launch vehicle requirements. In addition, the Wallops 11 meter and the USN Poker Flat 7.3 meter antennae provided tracking data support for FDF orbit determination every orbit for the first two days.

CNES processed the first test results, followed by more advanced data results a week after launch. The more advanced results were produced after calculating the precise location of the satellite's preliminary orbits. After it has been fully calibrated and validated, the satellite will begin providing oceanographic products to users around the world.

Lee Wingfield

Landscaping is now complete where Building E-108 formerly stood.

WEMA's Annual Employee Picnic

Thursday, August 7
11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.
At the Pavilion

The Wallops Exchange and Morale Association (WEMA) would like to invite NASA Wallops Flight Facility employees to an employee appreciation picnic. Hotdogs, kielbasa, hamburgers, sodas, and chips.

Desktop Services Showcase

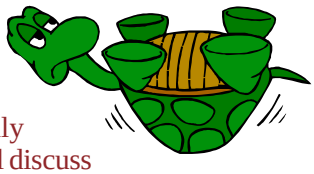
August 7
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Bldg. D-10, Wallops Gym

The Information Technology Communications Directorate, Code 700, will host a Desktop Services Showcase. Exhibitors will be on hand with the latest in information technology products and services, including Code 700 services (help desk, VPN/RSA tokens, wireless, NOMAD, and more).

Refreshments will be available and promotional items will be given away.

Lunch & Learn
Dealing with Difficult People

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



Peggy Swan and Sharon Parker of Accomac Family Counseling will discuss strategies to deal with difficult people; those who are passive-aggressive, hostile, sarcastic, condescending, stubborn, argumentative, critical, judgmental, pushy, demanding, complaining, boring, or superficial.

by Ted Wilz, Senior Meteorologist

Mid-summer weather on Delmarva was rather tranquil. The weather during July proved to be uneventful.

There were no new record highs or lows set during the month, with temperatures reaching at least 90 degrees on five days. The temperature reached 95 degrees on July 21, the hottest day of the month. The coolest temperature of the month, 63 degrees, occurred on the morning of July 17.

July 26 brought a brief taste of autumn when the high temperature reached only 74 degrees. Temperatures for July were just about normal, averaging less than ½ degree above normal.

July was a somewhat dry month, rainfall-wise, even though there were 11 days with measurable rain. The rainfall total was 2.90 inches, below the monthly average of 3.74 inches. More than half of July's total precipitation fell when a thunderstorm dropped 1.55 inches of rain on July 24.

Although fairly typical in most weather statistics, July proved to be a breezier than normal month. There were 10 days with 25 mph or greater winds, with the strongest wind being a 40 mph gust on July 22.

September brings the most active portion of the hurricane/tropical storm season, and the beginning of relief from the summer heat.

High temperatures are usually in the low 80's at the beginning of September, cooling to the low to mid 70's by end of the month. Low temperatures start out in the mid 60's and are down to the mid 50's as October approaches. The record high temperature (96 degrees) for September occurred on September 11, 1983. The all time monthly low is a chilly 40 degrees recorded on September 30, 1970.

There are usually eight days with measurable rain during September, totaling 3.50 inches. Those totals can vary considerably with any tropical activity.

Watch The Energy Consumption

The following is a list of buildings on the Main Base and Wallops Island. The percentage, either a minus (–) or a plus (+), indicates electric consumption from June 20 to July 19, 2008, as compared to the same month last year.

Building F-160 was the leader for the past two months until Building N-161 made some big changes and took the lead this month.

Overall Rankings by Building

1.	N-161	-31.5 %
2.	F-160	-29.2 %
3.	F-001	-16.2 %
4.	F-006	-15.1 %
5.	F-019	-13.3 %
6.	E-107	-12.9 %
7.	D-010	-11.4 %
8.	N-159	-9.7 %
9.	E-106	-9.1 %
10.	E-002`	-9.1 %
11.	F-007	-6.7 %
12.	AEGIS	-6.3 %
13.	E-104	-3.3 %
14.	N-162	-3.3 %
15.	F-004	-2.3 %
16.	X-015	-2.2 %
17.	E-105	-2.1 %
18.	B-129	-1.1 %
19.	A-001	+0.2 %
20.	X-075	+2.8 %
21.	D-008	+5.4 %
22.	F-005	+13.7 %
23.	F-010	+14.6 %
24.	V-024	+17.1 %
25.	U-070	+17.6 %
26.	F-016	+22.9 %
27.	W-020	+27.9 %
28.	Z-040	+39.4 %
29.	F-003	+43.4 %
30.	D-001	+49.4 %
31.	F-002	+92.0 %

Idealism is what precedes experience; cynicism is what follows.....
David T. Wolf

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Public Affairs Office, x1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found at: http://www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/news/newsletters.html

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