

National Aeronautics and
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Goddard Space Flight Center

Inside Wallops

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Pegasus Launch Successful

A Pegasus XL vehicle carrying the U.S. Air Force STEP-4 spacecraft was successfully launched Oct. 22 from the Wallops Flight Facility.

The Orbital Sciences Corp. Pegasus vehicle was dropped from an L-1011 aircraft at 9:13 a.m. approximately 80 miles off the coast from Wallops.

The Air Force announced Oct. 24 that they were unable to establish communications with the spacecraft since the launch. They did confirm that the solar arrays did not deploy after separation from the the Pegasus. Even with the solar arrays in stowed

configuration and the batteries in a low state of charge, the power system can still support space functions. The Air Force and contractor team has not yet determined the cause of the existing spacecraft problem.

During one attempted contact on Oct. 23, the ground station received a signal in the same orbit and frequency band as would be expected from STEP-4. This provided some hope that the satellite is receiving power from the stowed solar arrays, Air Force officials stated.

Congratulations to the Wallops launch team!

NASA Selects Two Small Explorer Missions

The selection of two new science missions to investigate flares on the Sun and the evolution of galaxies was announced Oct. 16. Also selected was a mission of opportunity which will pinpoint the location of gamma ray bursts in the sky.

The first mission, High Energy Solar Spectroscopic Imager (HESSI), will observe the Sun to study particle acceleration and energy release in solar flares. The principal investigator is Dr. Robert Lin, University of California, Berkeley. HESSI, which is scheduled for launch in 2000 aboard an OSC Pegasus rocket, will cost \$67 million including launch.

The second mission, called Galaxy Evolution Explorer (GALEX), will use an ultraviolet telescope during its two-year mission to explore the origin and evolution of galaxies and the origins of stars and heavy elements. The principal investigator in Dr. Christopher Martin, California Institute

of Technology, Pasadena. The mission will cost \$65 million including launch, and will be launched aboard a Pegasus rocket in 2001.

The missions were selected under the Small Explorer (SMEX) program. This program provides frequent flight opportunities for highly focused and relatively inexpensive science missions that typically weight around 500 pounds or less.

Selected as a mission of opportunity, the \$15 million Two Wide-Angle Neutral-Atom Spectrometers (TWINS) mission will be launched in 2001 or 2003 aboard a currently undesignated U.S. Government mission. TWINS will provide stereo imaging of the Earth's magnetosphere, the region surrounding the planet controlled by its magnetic field and containing the Van Allen radiation belts and other energetic particles. Dr. David McComas, Los Alamos National Laboratory, NM, is the principal investigator.

Founder of NASA College Scholarship Fund Dies

Pulitzer Prize winning author, James A. Michener, died at his home in Austin, TX, Oct. 16, 1997 at the age of 90. Michener was the author of 48 books including Tales of the South Pacific (which was his first novel in 1947 and won him the Pulitzer Prize).

Michener and his wife, Mari, contributed over \$110,000 to establish the NASA College Scholarship Fund, Inc., in 1982, and made a \$25,000 contribution to the fund in 1991. He gave as his reasons for the gifts, that he held the people of NASA in such high esteem for their good work and that he thought it important for education to go forward in this country. He specifically requested that the scholarships be awarded to children of NASA employees who were pursuing science or engineering degrees.

To date, 73 scholarships have been awarded. Of these, 35 have graduated and a large number have gone on to obtain masters and doctorates. Many NASA employees have contributed to the fund directly or through the Combined Federal Campaign.

Mission 2000 Logo Vote

The final vote for the Wallops Mission 2000 logo will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 29 in the cafeteria. The four semi-finalists logos will be on display only during the voting. The winning entry will be in the next issue of *Inside Wallops*.

Cooper to Retire from NASA

Benita Cooper, Associate Administrator for Management Systems and Facilities, has announced her retirement from NASA effective Oct. 31.

Cooper was responsible for Agency oversight of facilities and maintenance, logistics, aircraft management, security, environmental management, information systems, internal controls and audit liaison.

Previously, Cooper had worked at Goddard-Greenbelt holding several positions, including Director of Management Operations, dating back to 1973.

NASA Visitor Center Events for November

November 1 — “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.

November 29 — “Flight With Wings”

“Flight With Wings” is the subject of a 1 p.m. program for children ages 6-12 years. This 40-minute activity will look at the basic properties of flight and how airplane control surfaces manipulate flight. The children will be given the opportunity to construct paper airplanes.

Saturdays and Sundays — “Puppets in Space”

“Puppets in Space”, a 10 minute puppet show, will be presented at 11 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Puppet astronauts and Sam the monkey will explore space flight, including the space suit. An eight-minute version of the film “Astrosmites” follows the puppet show.

Daily — “Space Ace”

Children ages 5-10 years can earn a “Space Ace” certificate and a lithograph during their Visitor Center experience by completing an activity sheet.

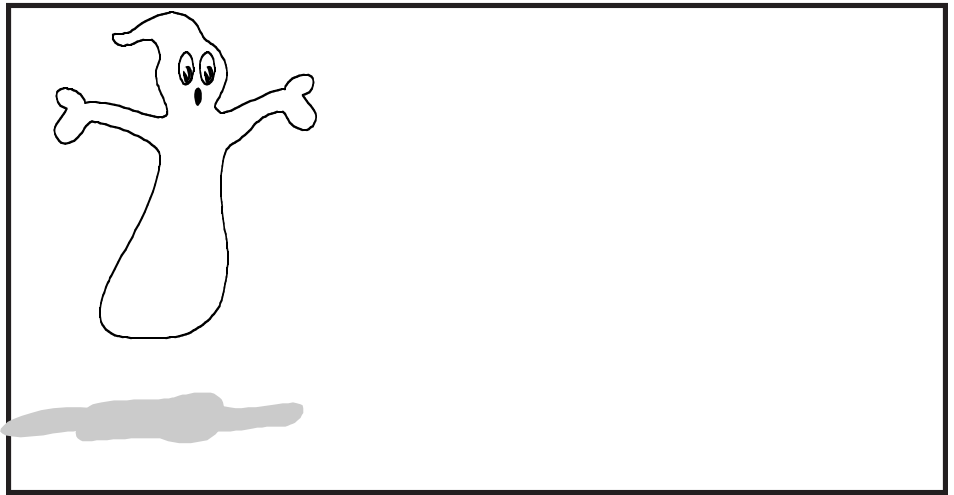
Sundays — “Humans in Space”

“Humans in Space is the subject of a 1 p.m. program for children of all ages. The 30-minute program looks at living in space, including a review of the astronauts’ culinary delights and their wardrobe. The program is followed by a hands-on children’s activity during which children have the opportunity to create their own “space helmet”.

The Visitor Center is open Thursday through Monday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Center will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 27, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Admission to Visitor Center programs is free. For further information, call (757) 824-2298.

NOTICE.....

Effective Oct. 27 new window hours for the Wallops Island Post Office are Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The post office is closed Saturdays and Sundays.



Oystering on Wallops Island

In order to comply with Virginia state law, the Wallops oyster policy was developed in cooperation with the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC). Wallops employees will be allowed to harvest oysters on Wallops Island for household purposes, while promoting the conservation of oysters on the Island. To help with the preservation, employees are asked to bring the used shells to the boat dock on the north end of the Island.

Oysters may be harvested from Wallops Island by NASA civil service and contract employees and NASA tenant employees from Nov. 1, 1997 and Jan. 31, 1998. To access the Island for the purpose of oystering, employees must have their government badge and an oyster permit. Oystering will be permitted on Saturdays, Sundays and Federal holidays during the oyster season.

The minimum legal size for oysters is a shell three inches in length. Employees are reminded that oysters taken on Wallops Island are subject to inspection by any VMRC Law Enforcement Officer.

Those wanting to harvest oysters on Wallops Island must first obtain a permit from Lucille Fox, Building F-6, Rm. 103, ext. 1275. A copy of the Wallops oyster policy and Virginia regulations will be provided. Employees will be required to sign a form acknowledging that they understand and will abide by the oyster policy and the Virginia regulations.

The permit fee is \$1, payable to the Wallops Employee Morale Association (WEMA). Collected fees will be used to purchase oyster shells to help replenish the Wallops oyster habitat.

Weather the Winter

Cold temperatures shouldn’t mean the end of outdoor exercise until spring. There are ways to avoid cold weather safety and health problems and still enjoy outdoor activities.

Wear several layers of loose-fitting clothing to insulate the body and trap the heat your body generates. Be careful not to over dress. Exercise raises body temperature significantly. Clothing layers can be removed as needed to prevent perspiration and subsequent chills. Drink liquids before, during and after a work out. Wear sunglasses and a sunscreen. Snow covered ground can reflect the sun and burn your face. Don’t exercise on snow or ice.

Mittens are warmer than gloves, and split-finger mittens are available that offer more flexibility. Remember that your head will continue to lose vast amounts of heat even if your body is warm. So cover it up — wear a hat!

Tie a bandanna around your mouth, this allows you to breathe warmer, more moist air that’s less harsh on your lungs and airways. Run into the wind on your way out to reduce sweating and with the wind coming home. You’ll probably be sweating, but with the wind at your back.



Trick or Treat

Dress up, dress down, or come dressed as someone else. Prizes will be awarded to the winners who out dress everyone else at the Halloween Party on Friday, Oct. 31 in the Rocket Club, beginning at 5 p.m. “Neville says” he still has some tricks in store. It’s sure to be a treat.....

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