



National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center

Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia

Inside Wallops

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Presidential Message for National Engineers Week

“Warm greetings to all those observing February 20-26, 2000, as National Engineers Week.

As we begin a new century, it is an ideal time to recognize and give thanks for the many contributions America’s



engineers have made to the life of our nation. From putting men on the moon to developing our interstate highway system, from cleaning our air and water to prolonging our health, engineers have been involved in many of our century’s most extraordinary and

enduring accomplishments. With a passion for discovery, engineers have worked tirelessly to make our lives safer, easier, and more fulfilling.

For half a century, National Engineers Week has helped to promote awareness of the engineering profession and to encourage young people to consider a career in engineering. I am confident that, with interesting hands-on activities and exciting competitions sponsored at schools and community centers around the nation, this year’s observance will help to influence a new generation of young Americans to pursue their study of science and math – the foundation of a career in engineering.

I commend the organizers, volunteers, and supporters of National Engineers Week for your dedicated efforts to advance the field of engineering, and I am especially pleased that you have decided to focus on the environment and sustainable development during this year’s observance. You can take pride in the knowledge that your hard work is helping to ensure the prosperity of our nation and to build a brighter, healthier future for our children.

Best wishes for a successful week.”

Bill Clinton

NASA Wallops Employees Visiting Local Schools During Engineers Week

In 1951, the National Society of Professional Engineers established National Engineers Week to take place each year near George Washington’s birthday. The nation’s first president was an engineer and land surveyor and established the first call for an engineering school that led to the founding of West Point Military Academy.

The following employees from the NASA Wallops Flight Facility will be visiting local schools as part of National Engineers Week, Feb. 20-26, 2000.

Phil Eberspeaker
Sandy Bowden
A. J. Kellam
Chuck Grant
Rob Beyma
Gerry McIntire
Debbie Parks
Michael Cropper

Bill Hargrove
Carl Johnson
Al Beebe
Steve Smith
Jay Pittman
Chuck Brodell
Jerry Doyon
Bob Shendock

Karon Eichelberger
Doug Young
Tony Goodyear
Bill Bott
Tom Wilson
Sam West
Robert Nock
Dave Lang

Engineers, scientists and technicians will describe their careers and show students practical applications of their studies in science, math, computer skills, Earth science and physics. Personnel will be visiting 52 classrooms in 15 different schools in Virginia and Maryland. Presentations will focus on math applications, the environment, rocketry and Earth science.

Wallops Shorts -----

Sounding Rocket Launch

A NASA Terrier-Black Brant sounding rocket was successfully launched on Feb. 11 from the White Sands Missile Range, N.M. The payload, a galactic astronomy experiment for Johns Hopkins University, was recovered. Dr. Paul Feldman was the Principal Investigator.

Drones Successfully Launched

NASA Wallops supported the successful launch of five target drones, Feb. 13, from Wallops Island for the Naval Air Warfare Center, Aircraft Division, Patuxent River Naval Air Station. Three BQM-74s and two BQM-34s were launched.

Collision Lights Up Supernova Ring

NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope is giving astronomers a ringside seat to a celestial “main attraction” unfolding in a galaxy 169,000 light years away.

In new pictures, Hubble’s sharp view revealed four bright new knots of heated gas at places that had been fading slowly for a decade. Under an observing program called the supernova intensive survey, a team of astronomers has been monitoring Super Nova 1987A with Hubble since it was launched in 1990.

Following the discovery of Super Nova 1987A in February 1987, NASA Wallops Flight Facility launched six suborbital sounding rockets from Woomera, Australia and 22 scientific balloons from Alice Springs, Australia.

One of the first clues to the new celestial fireworks came in 1997 when Hubble saw a single knot in the ring shine like a bright diamond as it was first impacted by the shockwave.

“The real fireworks show is finally starting and over the next ten years things will get spectacular. It helps that Hubble is giving us an unparalleled view,” adds Peter Garnavich of the University of Notre Dame.

Super Nova 1987A has long puzzled astronomers. They believe the ring is made up of old gas that was ejected by the star 20,000 years ago, long before it exploded. The ring’s presence was given away when it was heated by the intense burst of light from the 1987 explosion. The ring has been slowly fading ever since then as the gas cools.

Safety Message From the Administrator

Risk Management

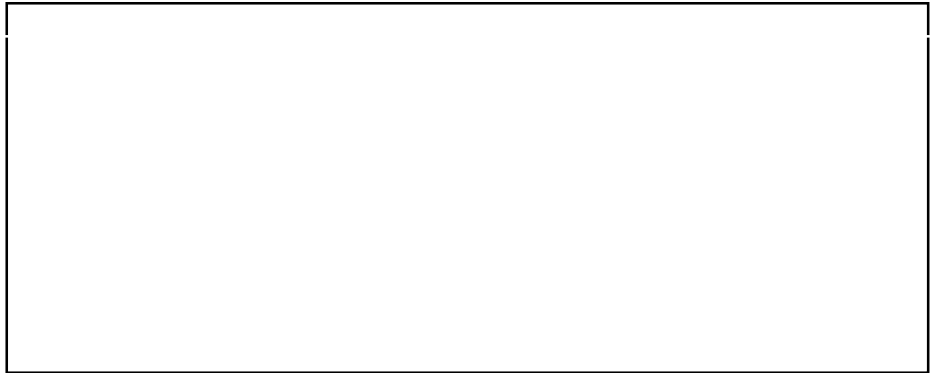
Risk — safety, technical, cost, schedule, and other types — can threaten mission success. To reduce risk, we need to manage our projects systematically, especially if we expect to be successful with faster, better, cheaper projects. Risk Management is not high tech and it is not complicated. The Risk Management process efficiently identifies, analyzes, plans, tracks, controls, communicates, and documents risk to increase the likelihood of achieving program/project goals.

Every project should have a prioritized list of its risks at any point in the life cycle, along with the programmatic impacts. The list should indicate which risks have the highest probability, which have the highest consequences and which need to be worked now. It means that all members of the project team should have access to the risk list so that everyone knows what the risks are. It means that the project team members are responsible for the risks. The team should work to reduce or eliminate the risks that exist and develop contingency plans, so that we are prepared should a risk become a real problem.

From the beginning of a project, the Project Manager and team should have an idea of what the “risk signature” of the project will be. The risk signature will identify expected risks over the course of the project and when the project risks are expected to increase and decrease. During the project, risks should be tracked to determine if mitigation efforts are working.

Risk Management means the entire team is continuously working together to reduce or eliminate risks as part of the normal course of business — not in separate “risk management meetings” that do not involve all team members. Risk Management is not an “add-on;” it must be part of the fabric of project management. As we move forward and continue to open the space frontier, Risk Management must be a part of our project management tool kit. Effective Risk Management depends on a thorough understanding of the concept of risk, the principles of Risk Management, and the establishment of a disciplined Risk Management process. While there is no special set of methods, tools, or communication mechanisms that will work for every project, every NASA manager and employee should have a core set of skills. Centers offer classroom training to bring the team “up to speed” on Risk Management; Web-based training is also available. Let us be serious about Risk Management in order to increase the probability of mission success.

Weekly Health & Safety Topics are available on the NASA web site <http://www.nasa.gov/bios/health_messages.html>.



Dorchester County students(left) participated in the Black History Month program conducted by Wallops Teacher-on-Loan, Tony Goodyear. Lisa Johnson, EEO Specialist, assisted with the presentation. The students learned the role astronomy and the Big Dipper played in guiding southern slaves to freedom in the North. The program provided information in science, social studies, geography and music as the students mapped the path of the Underground Railroad.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration Dinner & Dance Featuring Why Not Mike

***March 17
Bldg. F-3***

Dinner - \$12 - from 6 to 8 p.m.
Make reservations by March 10



Corned Beef
Chicken
Cabbage
Potatoes
Rolls
Dessert

Dinner and Dance - \$15
Dance Only - \$3

For tickets call Pam Milbourne, x2020 or Sandy Gunter, x1454. For further information call Bev Hall, x1714.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

March 9, 2000
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Bldg. F-3

Call the Health Unit, x1266 for an appointment.

Jan Neville's Mardi Gras Retirement Party

***Music by the
Zydecats***

***March 3
4:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Bldg. F-3***



Reservations must be made by Feb. 28. Call Bev Hall, x1714; Mark Cording, 1310 or Will Mast, 1468.

ISO 9001 Audit Scheduled for Late February

The first ISO 9001 Surveillance Audit of the GSFC Quality Management System (QMS) at Greenbelt and Wallops is scheduled for Feb. 28 to March 3.

A surveillance audit is a check on the continued compliance of GSFC's QMS with ISO 9001 requirements.

Surveillance audits happen every six months and are generally shorter and less intense than the initial compliance audit, although there is typically an increased rigor in interpretation of the Standard and an expectation of system improvements.

FEDWeek News

2001 Pay Raise, Other Budget Items

President Clinton's fiscal year 2001 budget proposal contains a mixture of new and previously seen ideas for federal employee benefits as well as seeking a 3.7 percent pay raise next January.

While the actual federal pay raise is determined in the congressional budget process and employee organizations will fight as always for a higher increase on grounds that federal salaries still lag private sector pay by some 30 percent, 3.7 percent likely will be all that is allowed. Several employee-friendly members of Congress already have said they'll try to jack up the raise to 4.2 percent. That higher figure likely will be elusive.

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Betty Flowers
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