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Engineers Test Wright Glider Replica In Wind Tunnel

Before they learned to fly, the Wright brothers learned to glide. A life-size reproduction of one of the aviation pioneers' early gliders has undergone wind tunnel tests at NASA's Langley Research Center's Full Scale Tunnel.

During the experiment, which is being underwritten by Langley, engineers took a number of different measurements to determine how the Wright 1901 glider performed. The 22-foot wingspan aircraft was the second glider designed by Orville and Wilbur Wright as they worked to create the first human-powered flying machine.



Wright Glider

"It's fitting that we invest in wind tunnel tests to document the Wrights' discoveries. Orville Wright was on the advisory committee that established Langley Research Center in 1917, just fourteen years after that first historic flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C. Wright also visited Langley a number of times," said Mike Finneran, head of Langley's Office of External Affairs. "Our first engineers built on the Wright brothers' early successes and helped advance aeronautics into a modern science."

The wind tunnel tests are part of ongoing research being done by Old Dominion University (ODU) of Norfolk, Va., and The Wright Experience of Warrenton, Va. The Discovery of Flight Foundation, a non-profit organization also in Warrenton, has contracted with The Wright Experience to uncover and document how the Wright brothers, neither of whom finished high school, managed to conquer the principles of flight in five short years.

None of the Wrights' first prototype aircraft were saved, nor were their early construction documents and drawings. To try to retrace the brothers' ground-breaking steps to flight, Wright Experience founder Ken Hyde and his

team are researching, reconstructing, testing, analyzing and documenting authentic full-scale reproductions of many of the Wright brothers' aircraft and engines.

"Rediscovering the secrets of the Wright brothers to inspire a new generation is what motivates The Wright Experience," said Hyde. "Our journey will continue through December 17, 2003, with the flight of a reproduction of the 1903 Wright Flyer at Kitty Hawk. Our ultimate goal is to build and test all the Wrights' aircraft. It is The Wright Experience's mission to keep the Wright brothers' dream alive."

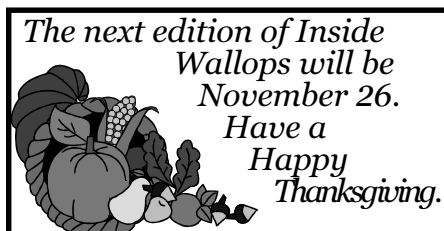
The 1901 glider was an important step in the Wrights' development of the Flyer, not because it was successful, but because it wasn't.

"The 1901 glider was extremely difficult to control and it didn't demonstrate flight-handling characteristics consistent with theories used by the Wright brothers," said Professor Robert Ash, Wright tunnel-test program manager for ODU. "So Wilbur and Orville decided they needed a different approach. They built a small-scale wind tunnel to evaluate nearly 200 airfoil and wing models. They started the world's first successful wind tunnel-based aircraft design program, a precursor to the systems engineering approach used by the aviation industry today."

The Wright Experience and ODU have already built and tested a number of reproductions of Wright propellers in their quest to "reverse engineer" the 1903 Wright Flyer and other early Wright aircraft. The reproduction of the Flyer is under construction at The Wright Experience workshop.

More information on the Wright Experience is available at: <http://www.wrightexperience.com>

More information on the centennial, the history and future of powered flight, and events planned to celebrate the upcoming anniversary is available at: <http://www.centennialofflight.gov>



NASA Wallops Posting Boundaries

NASA Wallops Flight Facility would like to inform local area residents and visitors of heightened security conditions for Wallops Island and the Mainland areas that impact public activities such as boating, hunting, fishing and any other recreational activities in those areas. This action is being taken in response to national security issues resulting from the September 11 attack on our country and the public safety concerns of uncontrolled access into these restricted areas.

In order to protect the public from unknowingly trespassing on government property, NASA is posting Wallops Island and the Mainland property boundaries along the inland waterway and connecting bays in the very near future. To make sure the NASA perimeter boundary is clearly marked, US Government Property signs will be posted and maintained every quarter-mile along the property boundary and/or at locations along the waterway and connecting bays.

Federal and state law enforcement agencies also will provide increased patrolling of these areas, especially the gut and narrow waterways within the government's boundary perimeter during hunting season, and strictly enforcing appropriate state and federal laws. Additionally, electronic surveillance of these areas will be increased to monitor and report uncontrolled access into these restricted areas. Should anyone have questions or concerns regarding these issues, contact the NASA Public Affairs Office at (757) 824-1579.

Leonids May Provide Spectacular Show

Delmarva residents should be able to view a spectacular night light show in mid-November as the annual Leonid meteor shower occurs.

The Leonids are expected to appear Nov. 14 - 21 with the peak expected on the morning of Nov. 18. You can start looking shortly after midnight, but the peak is expected to occur between 4 and 5:30 a.m., with 5 a.m. being the optimum time for viewing on Nov. 18.

Where to look: Look to the east for the constellation Leo in the area called the sickle or backwards question mark. For the non-astronomers, look to the east at 50 to 70 degrees above the horizon between 4 and 5:30 a.m.

CFC Fun Day 2001



Caroline Massey



Pat Pruitt



Deanna and Chris Shreves



Craig Purdy



Sandra Banks, Claudia Fulk, Linda Layton, Joan Murden



Chris Shreves with the winning entry, Rain Maker



Kim Ferry



Sue Semancik, Dwayne Turley and Donna Smith with second place entry, Soaring Eagle.



Tasting samples at the chili cook-off.



Theo Bugtong and Phil Eberspecker



Keith Koehler gets Soaring Eagle ready for launch.



Todd Thornes, Bobby Flowers, Dave Krause



Volleyball play-offs.



Delores Jester



Julie Bloxom readies the Navy entry, Noble Eagle.



Dorine Trent



Lisa Bass, Sherry Kleckner, Tina Wessells

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