



National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center

Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia

Inside Wallops

Volume XX-02

Number: 06

February 19, 2002

Columbia to Begin Third Decade In Space

America's first Space Shuttle, Columbia, will return to orbit fresh from two years of work that have left it safer and more capable than ever before.



NASA Photo
Space Shuttle Columbia as it was rolled out to the launch pad, January 28, on the 16th anniversary of the Challenger disaster.

Columbia is set for launch no earlier than February 28 at 6:48 a.m. EST on mission STS-109, pending review of data on the Space Shuttle's hydraulic pump attach bolts. The mission is dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the Hubble Space Telescope, the fourth such flight since its launch in 1990.

"This year will be as challenging, complex and exciting as any we have ever had," said Space Shuttle Program Manager Ron Dittmore. "We have more spacewalks planned in the next 12 months than we have ever done in a single year. We are going to fly diverse missions, dedicated to satellite maintenance, research and Space Station assembly, showcasing capabilities unique in the world. The shuttle team has done a great job in preparing for this mission. Returning Columbia to orbit to improve the Hubble Space Telescope is a fitting start to what will be a busy and vital year in space."

A maintenance and upgrade period completed last year installed a new "glass cockpit" in Columbia, increased its cargo capacity, strengthened its crew cabin and enhanced the protection of its cooling system from orbital debris. Columbia's new cockpit replaced mechanical instruments with 11 full-color, flat-panel displays. The new cockpit is lighter, uses less electricity and sets the stage for the next generation of improvements — a "smart cockpit" under development that will make the cabin even more user-friendly.

Columbia is the second of NASA's four Space Shuttles to be fitted with the new "glass cockpit." Technicians also performed comprehensive inspections of Columbia's more than 200 miles of electrical wiring, installing protection to prevent future damage in high-traffic areas. Intensive structural inspection of Columbia also was performed as well as 133 modifications and upgrades.

Columbia will fly under the command of Scott Altman (Cmdr., USN). Duane Carey (Lt. Col., USAF) will serve as pilot. Mission specialists will be John Grunsfeld, Nancy Currie (Lt. Col., USA), Richard Linnehan, James Newman and Michael Massimino. Grunsfeld, Linnehan, Newman and Massimino will work in alternating teams of two to perform the five planned spacewalks.

Columbia's flight is scheduled to end with landing back at the Kennedy Space Center on March 11. STS-109 marks the 27th mission for Columbia and the 108th in Shuttle program history.

Wallops Shorts.....

Student Visits NASA Pilot

Salisbury Christian School 4th graders were given an assignment to visit and interview someone in a career field that interests them and then write a paper on it. Andrew Wackett has dreams of being a NASA pilot. On February 15, Andrew and his dad, Kevin Wackett, visited NASA pilot Rich Rogers, in the Aircraft Office.

Center Director's All Hands Meeting

A Center Director's All Hands Meeting with Al Diaz is scheduled for 10 a.m. on March 7.

Diaz will speak on the Center's accomplishments, changes in the work environment, the direction of the Agency with the new Administrator and give a safety and security status.

Wallops employees can view the presentation on Wallops TV Channel 6.

Note from the editor

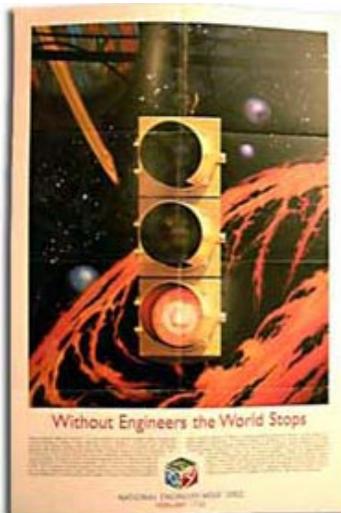
I'll be on travel next week.



The next edition of Inside Wallops will be on March 4.

Presidential Message for National Engineers Week

February 17-23, 2002



"I am pleased to send warm greetings as you recognize National Engineers Week.

Americans have always been innovators, pioneers, and explorers. Through their work, engineers play an important role in carrying on this tradition. They provide the design and structure that enable new ideas to become tangible benefits to our society. Engineers help expand our horizons, from planning essential infrastructure for the growth of our cities to finding better ways to preserve America's beautiful wilderness for future generations.

I commend the professionals, teachers, and students participating in National Engineers Week. This week's activities will showcase the interests and talents of America's engineers and provide inspiration for our young people to set high goals and work hard to achieve them.

Best wishes for a successful week.

George W. Bush

Groundhog Job Shadow Day

NASA Wallops Flight Facility employees joined with the Navy Surface Combat Systems Section (ACSC) for Groundhog Job Shadow Day on February 13. Almost 45 fifth grade students from Kegotank Elementary School spent the day at NASA and ACSC.

The goal of Groundhog Job Shadow Day is to provide local students with a meaningful introduction to the world of work, to give students a context for decisions about their education, to foster positive relations between students and employees.

Job shadowing also shows the students that even the basic subjects being taught in school, such as reading, writing and arithmetic, will be used in their everyday life on the job.

Wallops employees participating were Lisa Johnson, NASA; Joe Conaty, Wallops Fire Department; Marianne Simko, EG&G; Cheryl Outten, NSI; Al Beebe, SESI; and Jeff Reddish, ASRC.

Groundhog Job Shadow Day was first conducted by the Boston Private



PAO Digital Photo
James Rogers (left) and Brandi Brittingham spent Groundhog Job Shadow Day with Chief Joe Conaty, Wallops Fire Department.

Industry council in 1996 as part of its School-to-Work effort. This successful initiative was repeated throughout the Southeast in 1997, when BellSouth sponsored Job Shadow Day as a component of its School-to-Work effort.

In 1998, a national coalition was formed to encourage participation throughout the United States. The coalition has expanded and now includes America's Promise, the National School-to-Work Opportunities Office, junior Achievement, the Society for Human Resource Management, and some U.S. Department of Defense agencies.



Wallops Fire Department personnel (left to right), Scott Taylor, Brad Byrd, Joe Conaty and David Allen show Groundhog Day students, James Rogers (left) and Brandi Brittingham the Wallops Crash Truck.

PAO Digital Photo

Dry Cleaning and Alteration Services

Tuesday and Friday are pickup and delivery days

It is not necessary to spend your time hauling your clothes up and down the highway to the dry cleaners! Drop them at the WEMA Exchange Store in Building E-2 on Tuesday and pick them up on Friday or drop them off on Friday and pick them up on Tuesday.



WEMA offers dry cleaning and alteration service through Shore Cleaners, Nelsonia, Va., to all Wallops

employees including NASA civil service and contractors, Navy, Coast Guard, NOAA, Park Service, and the Marine Science Consortium.

Call extension 2020 for dry cleaning and alteration estimates.

Web-Based Training

To learn more about the newest Office of Human Resource (OHR) initiative for civil servants, visit <http://ohr.gsfc.nasa.gov/techbased>.

Register at this site to use Goddard Space Flight Center's Web-Based Training. The registering and approval process is on-line and can be done quickly and easily.

OHR staff will notify you by e-mail when the registration process is complete. You may begin accessing the training from any location where an Internet connection is available, at work, at home, or on the road.

For information about Technology Based Learning initiatives, contact Sherry Tharpe on x66-6533 or by e-mail: sltharpe@pop100.gsfc.nasa.gov or Pamela Barrett on x66-7285 or by e-mail pbarrett@pop100.gsfc.nasa.gov

Wallops Aerobics Club

A new six-week aerobic session and Tai Chi classes are beginning.

Aerobic classes will be in the Wallops Gym, Building D10. Tai Chi classes will be in Building F-3. The following classes are scheduled:

Monday

Noon - 12:30 p.m. Toning
5 - 6 p.m. Step Aerobics/Toning

Tuesday

Noon - 12:30 p.m. Aerobics

Wednesday

Noon - 12:30 p.m. Toning
5 - 6 p.m. Step Aerobics/Toning

Thursday

11:30 a.m. - noon Tai Chi

Friday 4:40 p.m. - 5:40 p.m. Step Aerobics/Toning

For more information on the Tai Chi classes call John Brinton, x1099. For information on the Aerobics Club visit <http://www.wff.nasa.gov/WAC/> or call Annette Conger on x2596 or Jeanette Smolinski on x1512.



Financial Planning Workshop

**February 26
11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
Building E-2**

Learn about investment fundamentals in uncertain times from Burrell Taylor and Ed Rock of Taylor, Rock & Assoc., Inc.

Mark your calendar

**Career Development Forum 2002
March 28**

For additional information visit: <http://ohr.gsfc.nasa.gov/Hot/CareerForum.htm>

Wanted

Car pool member wanted, Salisbury to Wallops, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. schedule, call Chuck Brodell, x1827.

House For Rent

The house is located in the historic town of Accomac at 23410 Front Street. It may be rented as a residence and/or office. It has a high efficiency heating and air conditioning system. It rents for \$575 per month. For details call (757) 623-8855 or e-mail: hahaha@pinn.net

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees.

Editor
Printing

Betty Flowers
Printing Management Office

<http://www.wff.nasa.gov>