

NewsRelease



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NASA LANGLEY FORECAST

LANGLEY MARKS 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST APOLLO LANDING

The 40th Anniversary of the first manned landing on the moon will occur July 20. Langley was essential to the success of Apollo and, today, plays an important role in preparing to return to the moon for extended stays and as a waypoint for future exploration. Local Apollo anniversary events include a prescreening of "The Wonder of it All," the award-winning feature-length film that chronicles the personal story of seven Apollo astronauts, at the Virginia Air & Space Center, July 21, with introduction by the film's producer. Other events include a NASA Langley Astronomy Club "Moon Viewing" at Newport News' New Quarter Park the evening of Aug. 1. For more information, contact Keith Henry at 757-864-6120 or h.k.henry@nasa.gov.

NASA PROJECT WILL LOOK FOR CLOUDS AROUND THE AMERICAS

A NASA cloud observation project is on a 13-month adventure to help promote ocean health. S'COOL, Students' Cloud Observations On-Line, was invited by the Around the Americas project to circumnavigate North and South America aboard the Ocean Watch, a steel-hulled sailboat. The crew set sail May 31 and will visit 31 ports in 11 countries during the coming year to promote public education and awareness about ocean science and marine conservation. The crew will collect daily cloud observations – the first consistent, open ocean observations collected for the S'COOL project. S'COOL is a collaboration of NASA scientists who use students' observations in cutting-edge climate research. For more information, contact Chris Rink at 757-864-6786 or christopher.p.rink@nasa.gov.

NASA TECHNOLOGY HELPS ATHLETES

The next episode of the Emmy award-winning video program, "NASA 360," produced in partnership between NASA Langley and the National Institute of Aerospace, will show viewers how athletes are benefiting from innovations developed by or for NASA. The half-hour "NASA 360" appears on TV outlets around the world and is a popular vodcast available at nasa.gov/nasa360. For more information, contact Kathy Barnstorff at 757-864-9886 or kathy.barnstorff@nasa.gov.

VIRGINIA STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

The Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology Scholars (VASTS) program will kick off in July with two weeklong intensive workshops scheduled July 11-17 and July 25-31. More than 80 high school students from Virginia will be participating. Students selected for the program are immersed in NASA-related research through interaction with scientists and engineers. Students will be tasked with designing a feasible manned mission to Mars. The program is a partnership between NASA Langley Research Center and the Virginia Space Grant Consortium with the assistance of the Virginia Department of Education. For more information, contact Amy Johnson at 864-7022 or visit <http://www.vasts.spacegrant.org>.

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NASA LANGLEY JOINS THE TWITTER/FACEBOOK GENERATION

NASA Langley has joined the growing legions of people and businesses that are using new media to reach out to the public. The country's oldest civilian aerospace laboratory has set up a "NASA Langley" account on the popular social networking website Facebook, at www.facebook.com/NASA.Langley. NASA Langley has also established a micro-blogging site on twitter.com, at NASA_Langley, so people can follow Langley news 140 characters at a time. For more information, contact Kathy Barnstorff at 757-864-9886 or kathy.barnstorff@nasa.gov.

FUTURE MEETS THE PAST IN WIND TUNNEL TESTS

This summer engineers will test a small-scale blended wing body prototype in an historic wind tunnel that once hosted some of America's greatest aviation pioneers, including Orville Wright, Howard Hughes and Charles Lindbergh. The 21-foot wingspan X-48, a NASA, Boeing and U.S. Air Force project, will be installed in the Langley Full-Scale Tunnel for more than a month. Engineers will assess aerodynamic effects of acoustic modifications to the vehicle. For more information, contact Kathy Barnstorff at 757-864-9886 or kathy.barnstorff@nasa.gov.

NASA CLIMATE INSTRUMENT TO STUDY GREENHOUSE EFFECT

Studies of a previously unmeasured range of infrared radiation will be performed in Chile's Atacama Desert by a new instrument out of NASA's Langley Research Center. The study hopes to provide new information about Earth's climate in which radiation plays an important role. The first official mission of the Far-Infrared Spectroscopy of the Troposphere (FIRST) instrument, operated by NASA scientists at an altitude of 17,500 feet, is scheduled for early August and will last through October. For more information, contact Chris Rink at 757-864-6786 or christopher.p.rink@nasa.gov.

NASA SPEAKER DISCUSSES LUNAR EXPLORATION AND APOLLO ON JULY 7

Natural satellite, ocean mover, and timepiece -- the moon continues to fascinate humans 40 years after astronaut Neil Armstrong took one small step for a man. On July 7, NASA's Langley Research Center will host Roger Launius, who will discuss "How We Remember Apollo." Launius is senior curator in the Division of Space History at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum in Washington and former NASA chief historian. That evening, Launius will present the same talk for the public at the Virginia Air & Space Center (VASC) in downtown Hampton. The evening presentation is free with no reservations required. For more information, contact Chris Rink at 757-864-6786 or christopher.p.rink@nasa.gov.

SPEAKER SERIES

Daytime presentations to employees at NASA Langley are held on the first Tuesday of each month. The public is invited to similar evening presentations at 7:30 at Virginia Air and Space Center, Hampton. Media are invited to interview speakers at a news conference at 1:30 p.m. at a news conference. Contact Chris Rink at 757-864-6786 or christopher.p.rink@nasa.gov.

July 7 – 2 and 7:30 p.m. – "How We Remember Apollo." By Dr. Roger D. Launius. See item above.

August 4 – 2 and 7:30 p.m. – "Back to the Future – CSI Three Centuries Later" by Dr. Michael J. Kelley. Dr. Kelley discusses investigation of Colonial-era Virginia artifacts.

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