



**Virginia Aviation Board Tour  
Goddard Space Flight Center  
Wallops Flight Facility  
Wallops Island, Virginia  
Minutes**

**Virginia Aviation Board Members**

**Roger Oberndorf  
Marianne Radcliff  
Robert Dix  
Richard Franklin  
William Kehoe  
Alan Wagner**

**Virginia Aviation Board Members Absent**

**Larry Omps  
Bittle Porterfield**

**Tour Participants**

**Randall Burdette  
John Beall  
Lisa Wallmeyer  
Cherry Evans  
Cliff Burnette  
Keith McCrea  
Ann Dix  
Seth Dye  
David Hope  
Michael Lauranzon  
Phil Loftis  
William Purcell**

**Wallops Flight Facility Staff**

**John Campbell  
Keith Koehler  
Jay Pittman  
Dave Pierce  
Mike Hitch  
Tom Wilson**

**Virginia Commercial Spaceport Authority**

**Rick Baldwin**

**The Virginia Aviation Board arrived at the Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallop's Flight Facility on Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at approximately 10:00 am. The group was met by tour coordinator Keith Koehler of Wallops Public Affairs Office. Following brief introductions and the distribution of temporary security badges, the Board and tour participants traveled to the Range Control. Control Center Commander, Jay Pittman presented the overview of NASA Wallops which included the history of over 60 years of rocket launches along with the fully-integrated range and spaceport.**

**The Board was briefed on the annual operations and capability of NASA's Wallops airport which has FAA certified runways and controlled airspace. The Range Safety**

Office, mobile assets, services provided to NASA and the Department of Defense along with low cost access to space make up the extraordinary facility the Board was to tour. Upon leaving the Control center, the Board was presented the background and foundation of Scientific Balloons. The information presented by Dave Pierce primarily focused on the material used to develop such balloons and specific ally those launched in Antarctica.

The Sounding Rocket Facility presentation was led by Phil Eberspeaker who addressed the ongoing development and implementation of the suborbital research systems at the facility. The Board was able to see the manufacturing aspects as well as areas where vertical and horizontal tests were conducted. On display was a simple yet, significant sounding rocket. NASA has previously conducted sounding rocket campaigns in the past to investigate nighttime plasma structures, measure electrical layers of the ionosphere and study specific occurrences around the Earth.

Dr. John H. Campbell, Director of Wallops/Suborbital & Special Orbital Projects greeted the Board during lunch in the Williamsburg room and shared that Wallops is NASA's premier site for suborbital and small orbit flight projects, Earth Science research, technology development, and home to NASA's only owned and operated launch range. Rick Baldwin, Manager for the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority also addressed the Board about the needs, requirements and support that could be obtained from the Commonwealth that help maintain aerospace activity in Virginia. He mentioned that the competition was launching out of Russia and England.

Immediately following lunch, the Virginia Aviation Board had the privilege to enter the newly constructed Payload Assembly building and was briefed on its design by both Mike Hitch and Tom Wilson. The facility is one of the newest constructions on site and expected to be in full service within the next six months. One section of the building is currently operational. At approximately \$5 million, this facility should prove to be a valuable asset to flight testing, research, etc.

The final leg of the Board tour was to visit the island and Wallops Launch Range with Rick Baldwin conducting the tour and providing the update of launch activities. The next anticipated launch is the fall of 2007. The facility was located just north of the unmanned aerial vehicle runway and the full perspective of the island launch area could be obtained from the site. As the Board returned to the airport, there was an update of the aircraft programs and abbreviated tour of the unmanned vehicle area. At approximately 3:00 pm, the tour concluded, the Board and participants departed.