



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Wallops Flight Facility Featured in Statewide Magazine

Glen Allen, Va. — At the end of World War II, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NASA’s predecessor) chose Wallops Island on the Eastern Shore as a remote test range for flight research.

Nearly 70 years later, *Cooperative Living* magazine’s June cover story, “Wallops Flight Facility Becoming a Major Player in America’s Space Program,” details how this facility, once known mainly for suborbital research, is now enjoying life on a bigger stage.

Produced for the consumer-owned electric cooperatives served by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC), *Cooperative Living* is the largest-circulated periodical published in Virginia, delivered to more than 499,000 homes, farms and businesses, and with an estimated 1.2 million readers.

Wallops Island, which has hosted more than 16,000 rocket launches since 1945, has taken on a higher profile in recent years, sending un-manned vehicles to study the atmosphere of the moon and launching supply missions to the International Space Station.

Writer Curtis Badger explains how the Eastern Shore, already a popular destination for birdwatchers, is becoming a haven for watchers of “birds of a different feather.” He describes last September’s launch of an Antares rocket carrying a Cygnus spacecraft, conveying the excitement of hearing local radio station WESR-FM broadcast a live countdown.

“Reading newspaper articles and watching television coverage can in no way relate the excitement, awe, and, indeed, pride in witnessing the launch of something that is at once powerful and precise, propelling tons of ship and cargo into space, and then, days later, docking with an orbiting space station many miles away,” he writes. “It would have been perfectly fitting if WESR-FM had ended its broadcast with our national anthem.”

(More)

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Virginia's entire Eastern Shore, including Wallops Island, is served by A & N Electric Cooperative (ANEC), one of the state's 13 consumer-owned electric cooperatives. Dodd Obenshain, ANEC president and CEO, notes that the region offers a perfect setting to enjoy Virginia's natural beauty as well as the occasional excitement of a rocket launch.

"The Wallops Flight Facility is yet another of many great reasons to visit the Shore," says Obenshain. "The launches have become an attraction like our seafood, scenery, beaches, fishing and bird-watching opportunities."

Richard Johnstone, VMDAEC executive vice president notes, "By featuring our state's own version of Cape Canaveral, we are helping readers learn more about Virginia's heritage — as well as a nearby opportunity to experience the excitement of space flight."

To learn about upcoming Wallops Flight Facility launches, call the Wallops information line at (757) 824-2050 or visit http://www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/events/viewing_launches.html, which also includes a link for watching launches live via the web. Located on Route 175 directly across from the main base, NASA's Wallops Visitor Center offers free admission and a rooftop viewing area that is a popular spot during rocket launches.

Headquartered in Tasley, ANEC is a not-for-profit energy provider that serves nearly 36,000 members in Accomack and Northampton Counties in Virginia and Somerset County, Md. For more information, visit www.anec.com.

Cooperative Living magazine is published for Virginia's consumer-owned electric cooperatives and is mailed to more than 499,000 addresses across the state, 10 times a year. For more information or to view issues online, visit www.co-opliving.com.

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