



First Summer Launch Results!

NS-55 began with a BLT (Balloon Launch Tube) hybrid launch and took off around 8:20 AM from Clear Springs, Maryland.

Attached to the weather balloon were 4 payloads: Command Module communicating telemetry and tracking to the ground station, Bach's Box gathering atmospheric data, SCORCH, the experimental cut-down payload, and BADaSS (Balloon Attitude Determination and Stabilization System) with one active degree of freedom.

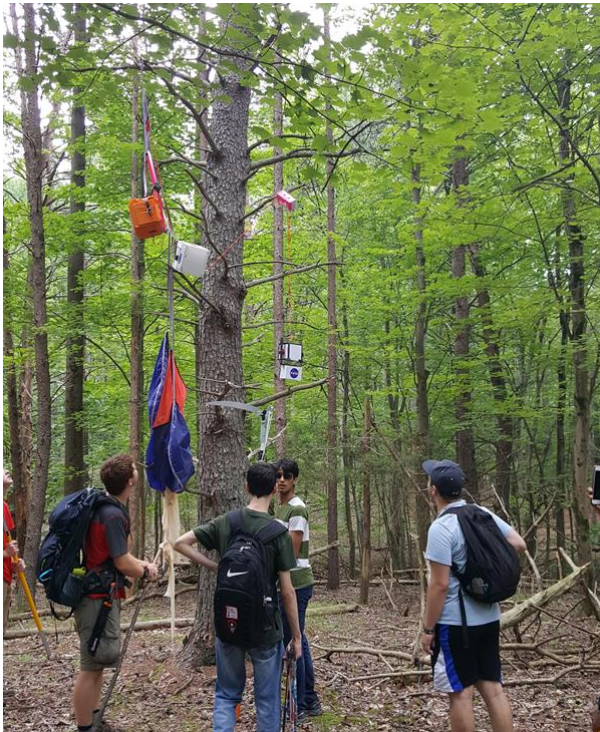
Launching the large (3000g) underfilled balloon, the team anticipated altitudes up to 115'000 feet. Soaring just above 100'000 feet, the balloon burst! It is likely that the balloon might have been slightly compromised due to its age.

The payload string then landed near Berryville, VA, near our predicted landing

zone.



#Balloontrek!



In order to retrieve the payloads, the ballooneers of the nearspace program went on a 2.3-mile hike. Landing near the Appalachian trail, there were no available roads to take our vans. Joined by Scout, the friendly German Shepard, the nearspace team enjoyed the pleasant weather and the beautiful scenery to find the payload string located on the lower branches of a very lush forest, making recovery from the branches fairly quick.

Overall, the launch was successful and we learned a lot. Bach's Box logged data on temperature, pressure, humidity, and dust in the atmosphere while taking great still pictures. The cut-down payload did not successfully perform its task at altitude, possibly because it did not receive the necessary radio commands, or because the onboard system malfunctioned. The

payloads are being disassembled and tested to determine what happened.

Pictures/Videos

Some photos from the launch and flight can be found below!



Photo courtesy of Bach's Box



Photo courtesy of Bach's Box

Questions?

Contact Dr. Mary Bowden

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Live Updates

You can follow our live tweetup of the launch day [here](#) .

You can also track us on the [APRS](#) website using UMD's callsign: [W3EAX-10](#).

*The NearSpace High Altitude Balloon Team thanks the **Maryland Space Grant** for its continued support and effort to make our program possible.*

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