



NS-58 Launch from Hagerstown Community College

After reviewing the ground track and the weather for several days before the launch, the ballooneers of the Nearspace team launched NS-58 from Hagerstown Community College on Saturday, September 17, 2016.

Thank you to Professor Ed Sigler for helping us when HCC Campus Security came around!

The Nearspace team decided to change the location of the launch from the usual Clear Springs Elementary school because the flight path predicted a landing site too close to Camp David's airspace!

The launch process from Hagerstown Community College was very successful.

Using the Balloon Launch Tube (BLT) to initiate a hybrid launch, the balloon took off around 8:51 AM and had a beautiful ascent up and over the Camp David airspace. The

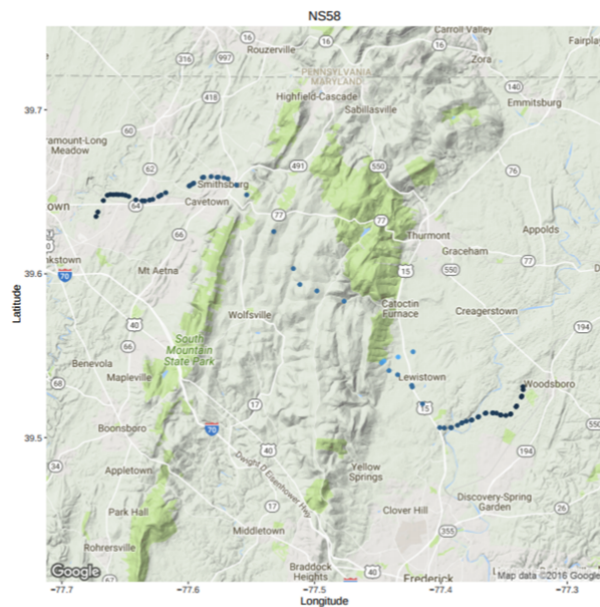
balloon burst at around 92'500 feet, landing near Westboro, MD, in a field laying fallow. After a 2 hour flight, the nearspace team recovered the payloads easily, 25 miles downrange.



The Payload String

This launch flew several veteran payloads. From top to bottom the payload lineup was:

- **Helios**: an experimental payload attempting to vent helium out of the balloon to reach higher altitudes. The fan in Helios deployed, but did not result in significant altitude changes.
- **Command Module**: the main tracking and telemetry payload.
- **Cloud360**: a CapTech University payload that gathers data on clouds using sensors and an aerogel.
- **Tyrion**: the weather payload that gathers atmospheric data and photos.
- **IRENE**: a payload that gathers radiation data in the atmosphere.
- **SCORCH**: an experimental cut-down based on 900 MHz radios.
- **MARS**: a mechanical cut-down.
- **Data Pigeon**: an experimental droppable data carrier.



NS-59 Announcement!

NS-59 is fast approaching! This launch from Clear Springs, MD will be on Saturday, October 29th, weather and ground track permitting.

This flight will be dedicated to Dr. Laurence's payload which will be sensing velocity disturbances in the lower stratosphere (above 80,000 feet). The payload will be suspended well below the balloon (approximately 50 ft) in order to minimize disturbances due to the wake of the balloon. This is a proof of concept flight rather than a data gathering mission, and post-flight, the team will test out launch and recovery operations particular to this configuration of an extra long payload string.

We will also be flying Command Module for tracking and flight path information, and the weather payload, Tyrion, for sensing actual atmospheric conditions in flight.

Join Us! Balloon Launch Details

When:

Saturday, October 29, 2016

Where:

12627 Broadfording Rd
Clear Spring, MD 21722

[Google Maps](#)

NS-58 Photos!



Post-launch lunch at Red Robins with the BPP team!



On the Launch Pad

Photo courtesy of Tyrion



Hagerstown Community
College



Area near the landing zone.

Questions?

Contact Dr. Mary Bowden

Email: bowden@umd.edu

Phone: (301) 275-7723

Live Updates

You can view our live tweetup of the launch day [here](#) and view highlights with [#ns58](#).

You can also track the balloon on the [APRS](#) website using UMD's callsign: [W3EAX-8](#).

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

[Edit your subscription](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

Space Systems Laboratory
University of Maryland
382 Technology Drive
College Park, MD 20742