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FROM THE BRIDGE:

Greetings and welcome to the wet month of May. It's warmer so at least that's a plus. Still pretty rainy, though.

We had a great time washing the F11 Blue Angel up at Grissom AFB last month. This month is an away mission down to Janet Dailey's abode on Saturday, May 21st. if you want to carpool, we'll be leaving our house at about 10 am to arrive around noon. If all goes as usual, Janet will have burgers and hot dogs to cook so bring a picnic-type side dish or dessert, not to mention your beverage of choice.

Hope to see you there!

Mary

VADM Mary

Ed note: If you need directions to 8003 Maple Grove Drive, Georgetown, IN call 812-989-9075. I'll have meat, buns, marshmallows, ice, and whatever suits my fancy at the time. ☺ jld

NASA Science News for May 4, 2010

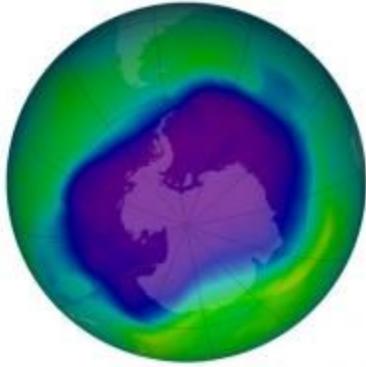
Ozone hole on the mend

Researchers claim to see atmospheric healing, more than a decade sooner than they expected

By [Alexandra Witze](#)

Web edition : 2:50 pm

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IN RECOVERY Scientists may have already spotted the annual Antarctic ozone hole, shown here in September 2006, getting better thanks to an international environmental treaty. NASA Scientists may have spotted Antarctica's ozone hole on the road to recovery, at least a decade sooner than they thought healing would be noticeable.

In 1989, an international agreement called the Montreal Protocol began phasing out chemicals that have gnawed away at Earth's protective ozone layer. Most researchers thought it would take until at least 2023 to detect the hole's slow recovery, but researchers in Australia now claim to have seen ozone ticking upward since the late 1990s.

“The key is to account for large year-to-year fluctuations that have obscured a gradual increase in the long-term evolution of ozone,” says atmospheric scientist Murry Salby of Macquarie University in Sydney. His team published its findings online May 6 in *Geophysical Research Letters*.

First spotted in 1985, the Antarctic ozone hole was quickly linked to chemicals called chlorofluorocarbons, emitted mainly in the Northern Hemisphere but concentrated over the South Pole by atmospheric circulation patterns. Chlorine atoms from these CFCs react with ozone molecules, seasonally destroying the layer that shields Earth from cancer-causing and crop-damaging ultraviolet radiation.

Scientists had predicted that ozone loss would bottom out and start recovering by now. They just didn't think they would be able to detect that change yet, since ozone levels vary dramatically from year to year because of complex atmospheric processes, sometimes by almost as much as the magnitude of the ozone hole itself.

To better understand these year-to-year ozone fluctuations, Salby's team looked at “dynamical” influences such as waves that ripple through the planet's atmosphere much like the ocean's swells. The researchers found that winter dynamical factors closely tracked how much ozone was depleted the following spring. In essence, these processes control how much chlorine breaks away from CFCs each winter, which determines how much ozone will later disappear.

Knowing what caused these year-to-year changes, the scientists could then subtract them out, unmasking the long-term signal of ozone. After plummeting since the analysis began in 1979, that signal leveled off and began creeping up after 1996, Salby says.

Using different analytical techniques, other scientists have reported seeing a slowdown in the rate of ozone decline, but not an actual recovery.

Not all experts are convinced by the new work. The link between year-to-year dynamics and ozone levels seems strong now but could change on further analysis, says Darryn Waugh, an atmospheric scientist at Johns Hopkins University. “I expect Antarctic ozone to be slowly recovering,” he says, “but would have thought that we need several more years of data to statistically show this.”

Atmospheric chemist Paul Young of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Earth System Research Laboratory in Boulder, Colo., agrees. “My response is slightly cautious,” he says. “It’s a bold claim.”

Salby says he’s confident the ozone uptick represents a real trend; it has gone on almost as long as the decline observed during the 1980s and 1990s. He now wants to develop a way to better predict future ozone levels.

Whether or not the ozone hole has been spotted recovering, its long-term prognosis calls for many more decades of sick leave; it is not expected to heal fully before 2070. The northern pole is also having its own ozone issues; this spring, ozone thinned over the Arctic more than scientists have ever seen.

http://hs.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/74280/title/Ozone_hole_on_the_mend

Important and/or Interesting Dates in May:

May 1st – AMTRAK first went into service, 1971.

May 2nd – King James Bible first published, 1611.

May 4th – Columbus discovered Jamaica, 1494.

May 6th – The HINDENBURG airship crashed and burned, 1937.

May 7th – Mark & Mary’s Anniversary

May 8th – V-E Day, 1945.

May 11th – Minnesota became 32nd state, 1858.

May 13th – Mexican War declared, 1846.

May 18th – Mount Saint Helens erupted, 1980. (All my M-in-L’s fault)

May 21st – American Red Cross founded, 1881.

May 27th – Golden Gate Bridge opened, 1937.

July 1-4 Inconjunction

July 15/17 Fleet Olympics – Lieber State Park

July 23 Annual Bombfire at the Milhouse's

August 27 Halsey Meeting – place tbd

Sept 24 Halsey Meeting – place tbd

Science Fiction News



CREDIT: NASA

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The countdown has begun anew for NASA's last launch of the space shuttle Endeavour on Monday (May 16).

Endeavour and its [six-astonaut crew](#) will try again to lift off after a power glitch forced NASA to call off an earlier launch attempt April 29. The space shuttle is scheduled to blast off at 8:56 a.m. EDT (1256 GMT) from Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

In the ensuing two weeks engineers checked out the issue and replaced a broken switchbox and wiring that had caused a problem with heaters used to protect the shuttle's hydraulic power system.

"All of those things have been changed out, all the retests of those systems are all complete," NASA test director Jeff Spaulding said during a press conference this morning. "That's all complete and is good and we're ready to go from that perspective." [[Most Memorable Shuttle Missions](#)]

NASA began the countdown toward launch today at 7 a.m. EDT (1100 GMT) at T minus 43 hours. The countdown includes a number of scheduled holds before liftoff.

Weather forecasts predict a 70 percent chance of good conditions for launch on Monday. While some storms are expected around the spaceport over the weekend, they are likely to move away by Monday.

"The weather should all be off to the east and southeast, so we expect the conditions to improve," shuttle weather officer Kathy Winters said. "Right now we are forecasting a 30 percent chance of KSC weather prohibiting launch."

The main concerns, she said, are a chance of too-strong winds that could pose a risk if the shuttle needed to make an emergency landing at Kennedy Space Center. Even though that event is unlikely, if the weather would prohibit it, the shuttle will not launch. [[Video: Endeavour's Final Mission Goals](#)]

On its 25th and final flight, Endeavour will launch an ambitious particle physics experiment to the International Space Station to study dark matter and antimatter. The shuttle is also loaded full of spare supplies to stock up the orbiting laboratory.

The crew plans four spacewalks during their busy 16-day mission.

Endeavour's crew, led by commander Mark Kelly, arrived in Florida on Thursday morning to prepare for launch. Their families, including Kelly's wife, [Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords](#), D-Ariz., are expected to arrive this weekend.

Giffords is still recovering from a bullet wound to the head after being shot while meeting with constituents in January.

NASA is expecting large crowds to come to Florida's space coast to see the launch, though not quite as many as showed up for the last launch attempt two weeks ago.

"We are expecting probably slightly less than before, just due to the timing," Spaulding said, explaining that an early Monday launch wasn't quite as popular as a Friday afternoon one. "It probably may be down closer to about 500,000 this time." After Endeavour's voyage, NASA will launch one more space shuttle, the July flight of Atlantis, before all the shuttles are retired and sent to museums.

You can follow SPACE.com senior writer Clara Moskowitz on Twitter @[ClaraMoskowitz](#). Visit [SPACE.com](#) for complete coverage of [Endeavour's final mission STS-134](#) or follow us @[Spacedotcom](#) and on [Facebook](#).

<http://www.space.com/11659-nasa-shuttle-launch-countdown-endeavour-sts134.html>

Summer Movies

Summer of gluttony: A guide to the season's movies
A quick look at some of summer's most anticipated films.

May 13th, 2011 @ 2:50pm

By Travis Poppleton, ksl.com contributor

SALT LAKE CITY -- Connoisseurs from all walks of life enjoy a guilty pleasure from time to time.

For example, world-renowned chef and 12-Michelin-star awardee Gordon Ramsay told Scotland's [The Daily Record](#), "In-N-Out burgers [are] extraordinary. I was so bad, I sat in the restaurant, had my double cheeseburger, then minutes later I drove back round and got the same thing again to take away."

For the film lover, that guilty pleasure comes every summer. Film fans wait all year for the three-month celebration of vapid eye candy and uninspired sequels. Sure, they prefer to dine on samplings from the Cannes and Sundance film festivals, but when it comes time for the fast food of film, movie enthusiasts want their 3D glasses, studio tent-poles and the photorealistic wonderment of computer animation.

So to those who celebrate this season of Hollywood gluttony, here's what you have to look forward to this summer.

May: Riddled with sequels, May opens the summer season with follow up films to three wildly successful franchises -- "[Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides](#)," "[The Hangover Part II](#)" and "[Kung Fu Panda 2](#)."

The jury is still out on "Panda" and "Hangover," but "Pirates" seems to be falling flat with critics. Tim Robey of [The Daily Telegraph](#) calls it "a script with scurvy" while the nicest thing Andrew Barker of [Variety](#) had to say was, "Production design and visual effects all look very expensive".

June: The month dons a CG (computer graphics) cape, as it unleashes the goofy-looking "[Green Lantern](#)" and retro-indulgent "[X-Men: First Class](#)." Loyal fans are hopeful for the two comic book adaptations, but the 2006 film "X3" was the last straw for many X-Men fans, and the CG costume Ryan Reynolds pretends to wear in "Lantern" is turning out to be a hard sell for most self-respecting gluttons.

But June isn't all about superheros. J.J. Abrams' "[Super 8](#)" writes a love letter to classic '80s pics like "ET" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."



The media campaign for the film enjoys the same ambiguity as Abrams' 2008 "Cloverfield," but Spielberg fans can't help but notice the director's seal of approval on the film's [latest trailer](#).

At the end of the month, Pixar gambles with a wildly unnecessary sequel to one of its weakest offerings: "[Cars](#)." Pixar loyalists keep whispering to themselves, "Pixar has never let us down before," but it's possible the family-aimed spectacle has more to do with pushing toys than it does living up to the studio's reputation.

July: The entire value menu of summer samplings is promised in July. Superheros, family films, books-to-film, nostalgic flashbacks — July has them all.

Unfortunately, July also opens with "[Transformers: Dark of the Moon](#)." Even guilty-pleasure-seekers have to admit the Transformers series is beyond apology. Yet, here we are — three deep in possibly the worst franchise in summer history.

"[Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part II](#)" follows the Transformers. Potter is going head-to-head with the traditionally animated "[Winnie the Pooh](#)." While Pooh is destined to get crushed in the face-off, those hoping to see 2D animation make a comeback will do their best to give that "silly ol' bear" a respectable box-office return.

For the men of July, "[Captain America: The First Avenger](#)" leads the charge. Captain America marks the second film from Marvel and Disney and the third Marvel property to soak up summer funds this year. "Thor" and "Captain America" are being released the same year to make way for next year's "The Avengers."

The good Captain will then try to battle off "[Cowboys & Aliens](#)" a week later. And if he somehow manages to succeed, there's also an entire village of little blue people in "[The Smurfs](#)" that want to take him down that same week as well.

So happy summer, movie fan. Enjoy the greasy, deep-fired goodness of a momentary indulgence and then get back on your diet of meaningful art sometime in late August. Try not to overlook some of the smaller treasures like "[The Tree of Life](#)," "[Troll Hunter](#)" and "[Iron Clad](#)," but if you find researching such films is getting in the way of your mindless enjoyment, you may just have Redbox those at a later time.