Minutes of the Aqua Science Working Group Meeting, May 28-29, 2003

— Claire L. Parkinson, claire.l.parkinson@nasa.gov, Goddard Space Flight Center
— Moustafa T. Chahine, moustafa.t.chahine@jpl.nasa.gov, Jet Propulsion Laboratory
— Steven Platnick, steven.platnick@nasa.gov, Goddard Space Flight Center

Opening Plenary Session

The May 28-29, 2003, Aqua Science Working Group meeting was opened by Aqua Project Scientist and session chair **Claire Parkinson**, who commented on the striking contrast between the state the Aqua team was in 13 months ago, anxiously awaiting the launch of the Aqua spacecraft, and the state we are in today, with the spacecraft in orbit and a year's worth of data collected. In honor of the one-year anniversary since launch, Parkinson presented the five Aqua science team leaders with plaques thanking them for their leadership and for their many contributions to the Aqua program over the past decade. These plaques went to Moustafa Chahine, Leader of the Science Team for the Atmospheric Infrared Sounder (AIRS), the Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit (AMSU), and the Humidity Sounder for Brazil (HSB), commonly referred to collectively as the AIRS Science Team; Akira Shibata, Leader of the Japanese Science Team for the Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer for the Earth Observing System (AMSR-E), an instrument provided by Japan's National Space Development Agency (NASDA); Roy Spencer, Leader of the U.S. AMSR-E Science Team; Vince Salomonson, Leader of the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) Science Team; and Bruce Wielicki, Leader of the Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System (CERES) Science Team. (The CERES plaque was presented to Norman Loeb for Wielicki, who was unable to attend because of other commitments.) Parkinson also presented a plaque to Bill Guit, the Aqua Mission Director, in recognition of the superb job that Guit and the Mission Operations Team have done in getting the data down from the spacecraft and to the data centers throughout the first year of Aqua data collection.

Parkinson then thanked Al Chang for his many years of service as the Aqua Deputy Project Scientist, lasting through launch, and introduced Steve Platnick as the new Deputy Project Scientist, as of January 1, 2003.

Parkinson showed the first page of a 4-page list of internet links where Aqua data and/or images are available and asked for anyone having additions to the list to contact her, Steve Graham, or Steve Platnick. Next she showed a copy of the recently published Aqua Special Issue of the *IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing* and pointed to the pile of copies in the back of the room, intended for each of the attendees. This special issue, edited by Parkinson, Chahine, Salomonson, and Chris Kummerow, has 330 pages and 29 articles devoted to the Aqua mission. Copies are available from the EOS Project Science Office (send requests to *graham@pop900.gsfc.nasa.gov*).

Aqua Spacecraft Status

Parkinson introduced Aqua Mission Director **Bill Guit**, who spoke on the Aqua spacecraft and instrument status, data capture, and Level 0 data processing. As explained by Guit, the spacecraft and all subsystems are working well. The ninth and tenth routine drag make-up maneuvers for Aqua, to maintain the desired ground track, were performed on March 19 and April 24. These maneuvers have successfully kept the Aqua ground track well within the original ± 20-km specifications and, in fact, generally within the more stringent ± 10-km specifications desired once the other satellites of the EOS Afternoon Constellation (often referred to as the "A-Train") are launched in 2004.

Guit mentioned a command anomaly that occurred on May 2, 2003, when ground system development team testers accidentally sent 100 commands to the spacecraft. Fortunately, these were commands that did not involve operations (called "no-op commands") and therefore had no impact on spacecraft operations. Nevertheless, Mission Operations personnel have implemented a number of corrective actions to prevent a repeat of this event. Also, on May 12 there was an operator error (unusual in the Aqua experience), resulting in a 12-minute data loss.