



Center Director to brief employees about New Horizons mission

▲ Pluto Mission Briefing for Spaceport Employees: The Pluto New Horizons mission is soon to launch from the Cape Canaveral Spaceport. This mission is the “first mission to the last planet,” a truly historic event in NASA’s exploration of the Universe. Public meetings, scheduled on March 29 and 30, will provide an overview of the Pluto New Horizons mission including the science, spacecraft, mission and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Prior to those meetings, Center Director Jim Kennedy is holding an “All Hands Meeting” about the mission from 1:30 to 3 p.m. March 28 in the KSC Training Auditorium. Orlando Figueroa, deputy associate administrator for the Science Mission Directorate (Program), will speak about the New Horizons mission. Employees are encouraged to attend this meeting with permission from their supervisor.

▲ Shuttle Update: Installation of resupply stowage racks into the Multi-Purpose Logistics Module Raffaello in preparation for **Discovery’s** flight on mission STS-114 began on March 4 and is scheduled to be completed this week. The Human Research Facility-2 (HRF-2) science rack was installed March 8 and post-installation

closeouts were completed the next day. The HRF-2 will provide additional biomedical instrumentation and research capabilities for the Station and will be installed in the U.S. Laboratory, Destiny.

On **Atlantis**, the right-hand Orbital Maneuvering System (OMS) pod was removed Wednesday and returned to the Hypergol Maintenance Facility. The pod was removed due to time and cycle requirements for the pod’s thruster. Another OMS pod will be delivered next month for installation. Checkout and installation of the four Manipulator Positioning Mechanisms that will hold an Orbiter Boom Sensor System on the starboard side of Atlantis’ payload bay is under way.

■ Chili Cook-Off at KSC All American Picnic — The registration deadline for the Chili Cook-Off is March 23 but don’t wait until the last minute to get your perfect site! Storefront displays and demonstrations will be judged on creativity, overall appearance, ambiance, aesthetics, spirit, contestant participation and audience enjoyment. There will be both a “people’s choice” and an “official” judging of chili. The most exotic chili will be judged on creative ingredients and variations from traditional chili. Rules are posted at

Discovery’s cargo, MPLM Raffaello, receives science rack for research

<http://kscpicnic.ksc.nasa.gov/chili.html>. For additional chili information, e-mail *Johnny.G.Shamrock@nasa.gov* or call 861-9185.

■ March Blood Drive — The American Red Cross will have its blood drive in the HQ courtyard from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 16. **Please call 1-800 277-0275, ext. 112, to make an appointment.** Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. Giving blood is easy and safe and takes less than an hour. Your donation can make the difference between life and death. FAQ’s on donating blood can be found on <http://www.givelife2.org/donor/faq.asp>.

■ Sign Language Course — The Disability Awareness and Action Working Group is hosting a three-week introductory course in sign language being held from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the O&C building, room 2004, March 22 and 29, and April 5. To enroll, please contact Lisa Arnold at 861-3774 or *Lisa.R.Arnold@nasa.gov*.

■ Did You Know? As of 7 a.m. March 9, the International Space Station had circled Earth **36,000 times** since the launch of FGB/Zarya, covering a distance of 953 million miles or six times the distance to Mars and back.