



KSC Countdown

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Analysis of Discovery's engines continues in main engine facility



◆ Shuttle Update:

Thermal protection system blanket installation continues on

Discovery's orbiter boom sensor system. The sensor package was installed Feb. 7 on the boom. Engineers are analyzing information and hardware following failed leak checks of shuttle main engines number 2 and number 3. The two are in the main engine processing facility for evaluations. The engines will be reinstalled in the vehicle when analysis is completed.

Atlantis is in a power-down period. More than 400 gap fillers have been removed and replaced on the shuttle underside. When gap filler work is completed on Discovery, the entire team will move to Atlantis to continue the work at approximately 350 fillers weekly.

◆ KSC All American Picnic

2006: Mark your calendars for the annual KSC All American Picnic scheduled for April 22 at KARS Park I.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The focus this year is the KSC Family. Activities include a chili cook-off, family sports, children's games, a car



show, community demos/exhibits, live bands, rock wall climbing and much more. Bring your family for a day full of activities, entertainment and fun! More information regarding the KSC All American Picnic will be coming soon.

■ **NASA's Exploration Systems Progress Report** — Testing is under way by engineers at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., to lay the foundation for developing the Crew Launch Vehicle, the agency's future launch vehicle system.

Sixty-six wind tunnel tests were conducted on a 16.5-inch scale model of the vehicle. The tunnel is 48 inches long with a 14-inch by 14-inch cross section. Wind tunnel "flights" are used to assess new geometric configurations before designs are incorporated into space vehicles.

The first two-week entry in the test series began in December and was performed at Marshall's Aerodynamic Research Facility. The facility is used for concept validation of space launch vehicles. Additional testing continues this month.

■ **Scientists Surf the Seas of Space to Catch an Atmospheric Wave** — A study by NASA and university scientists is shedding new light on a mysterious, cyclical wave in Earth's atmosphere that at times profoundly affects our planet's weather and climate. Read more

April brings All American Picnic at KSC

about this on the Jet Propulsion Laboratory Web site

<http://www.nasa.gov/centers/jpl/news/airs-20060202.html>.

■ **Scholarship Applications** — The NASA College Scholarship Fund, Inc. is a non-profit organization that awards undergraduate scholarships to qualified NASA dependents pursuing a course of study in science or engineering fields. Up to six scholarships will be awarded this year. Applications are now being accepted and must be received by the corporation scholarship committee at Johnson Space Center no later than **March 20**.

Information on the guidelines for applying for the scholarship can be found at the following URL:

<http://nasapeople.nasa.gov/nasascholarship/index.htm>.

■ **Did You Know?** You can register online for NASA's Third Project Management Challenge Conference being held at Galveston, Texas, March 21-22. To register, go to the Web site

<http://pmchallenge.gsfc.nasa.gov/registration2006.htm>. The theme for this year's conference is "**Putting Ideas into Action!**"

The speaker biographies and presentation topic abstracts for NASA's Project Management Challenge 2006 are now posted on the conference Web site at

<http://pmchallenge.gsfc.nasa.gov/program.htm#Programsummary>.

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