



KSC Countdown

March 16, 2006

www.nasa.gov

Vol. 11, No. 20

Space station crew to take free flight moving Soyuz

◆ **ISS Update:** International Space Station Commander Bill McArthur and Flight Engineer Valery Tokarev will briefly vacate their orbiting home March 20 to move a Soyuz spacecraft.

NASA TV airs live coverage of the move starting at 1 a.m. EST. Tokarev will undock the Soyuz at 1:45 a.m. EST. The crew will make an approximately 35-minute flight free of the station, moving the Soyuz from the Zarya module docking port to the aft docking port of the Zvezda living quarters module.

The maneuver frees the Zarya port for the March 31 arrival of the Soyuz carrying the next station crew, Expedition 13 Commander Pavel Vinogradov and Flight Engineer Jeff Williams. The new crew launches from Russia March 29 with Brazilian Space Agency astronaut Marcos Pontes. He will spend about a week on the station and return with McArthur and Tokarev.

◆ **KSC All American Picnic Volunteers Needed** — The picnic takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 22. With all of the exciting games and activities, many volunteers are necessary. If you are interested, please visit the Web page at <http://ksepicnic.ksc.nasa.gov/index.html>. Select the volunteers page to see which activity would be most interesting for you. Register as soon

as possible because time slots are limited! You are strongly encouraged to review the volunteer job descriptions before submitting your volunteer registration form.

■ **NASA's Stardust Findings May Alter View of Comet Formation**

— Samples from comet Wild 2 have surprised scientists, indicating the formation of at least some comets may have included materials ejected by the early sun to the far reaches of the solar system. Scientists have found minerals formed near the sun or other stars in the samples returned to Earth by NASA's Stardust spacecraft in January. The findings suggest materials from the center of the solar system could have traveled to the outer reaches where comets formed. This may alter the way scientists view the formation and composition of comets. For more information about Stardust on the Web, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/stardust>.

■ **A Call for Nominations for the 13th Annual NASA Software of the Year Award** — This prestigious award is designed to give recognition to developers of exceptional software created for, or by, and owned by NASA that is creative, usable and transferable, and possesses inherent quality. The award includes the NASA Software Medal, a certificate signed by the administrator and a

Volunteers needed for All American Picnic

cash award of as much as \$100,000. Please call Carol Dunn, NASA Technology Transfer Office, at 867-6381 for information on how to apply for this prestigious award.

Prospective nominees must have paperwork completed by April 7.

■ **NASA College Scholarship Fund, Inc.** — 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. Up to six scholarships will be awarded this year. Information on the guidelines for applying for the scholarship can be found at <http://nasapeople.nasa.gov/nasascholarship/index.htm>. Applications are now being accepted and must be received by the corporation scholarship committee at Johnson Space Center no later than March 20. For additional details, please contact Debbie Bitner at 867-0510 or Deborah.L.Bitner@nasa.gov.

■ **Did You Know?** The fire alarm reporting system for KSC is temporarily out of service. In case of an emergency, the local alarm system in your facility will give an audible alarm; however, the alarm will not be transmitted to the 911 Center. Until the system is restored, please dial 911 to initiate emergency response.

KSC Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays.

E-mail news to Anita.Barrett@jbosc.ksc.nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 321-867-2815.

Find KSC Countdown on the Internet at <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown-toc.html>