

## Discovery's external tank receives new valve

◆ **Shuttle Update:** Technicians have installed a new gaseous oxygen vent valve under the nose cap of Discovery's external tank. The cap was removed Monday to expose the hardware underneath (see below).



◆ **NASA Update:** NASA and Zero Gravity Corp. of Fort Lauderdale, have announced the company -- known as ZERO-G -- will begin to regularly use the space shuttle's runway and landing facility. This agreement is the result of a successful pilot program to expand runway access for non-NASA activities.

Beginning with its first flight for the public on June 24, ZERO-G will conduct up to 280 weightless flights annually using a modified Boeing 727-200 aircraft, called G-Force One. NASA has agreed to permit as many as seven ZERO-G flights a week under a Space Act Agreement that provides for reimbursement of the agency's runway and support costs.

In addition to exposing passengers to the weightlessness astronauts

experience while orbiting Earth, the roller coaster-like parabolic flights also allow flyers to experience the same gravity conditions one would feel on the moon and on Mars, providing a glimpse of what future NASA crews will encounter.

The scheduling of ZERO-G flights from Kennedy will not interfere with NASA missions or other activities. For more information about ZERO-G, call (800) ZERO-G-800 (800-937-6480), or visit <http://www.GoZeroG.com>.

■ **Reminder** — All KSC employees are invited to attend a special presentation by the crew of STS-1, Commander John Young and Pilot Bob Crippen, at 3 p.m. today in the Training Auditorium. This year is the 25th anniversary of the historic first launch of Space Shuttle Columbia on April 12, 1981. This presentation will be shown on NASA Television (channel 7) and the NASA channel of your local TV cable company. The presentation will also be available on the internal KSC home page at <http://www.ksc.nasa.gov/nasa-only/internal.html>.

■ **NASA Science** — Researchers have noticed something odd about fine-powdered moon dust – it's magnetic. This raises the possibility that magnets could be used for dust abatement when astronauts return to

## Agreement enables public to take weightless flights from KSC

the moon. Read all about it at [http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2006/04apr\\_magneticmoondust.html?list29875](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2006/04apr_magneticmoondust.html?list29875).

■ **April Health Education Topic: Men's Health** — Prostate, testicular and colorectal cancers affect many men each year. The best defense against cancer is early detection. The monthly health education table will be set up from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. **today** outside the O&C Cafeteria with men's health information, including facts from the American Cancer Society. Hard copies of the packet are available at all medical and fitness facilities.

■ **Education Opportunity** — Webster University offers master's degrees in business administration, management and leadership, business and organizational security, procurement and acquisitions, information technology management, and human resources via convenient evening and weekend classes and accelerated nine-week terms. For further information about Webster University, go to the Web site at [www.webster.edu/spacecoast](http://www.webster.edu/spacecoast) or call 321-449-4500.

■ **Did You Know?** The Export Control Web site has been updated and it has a new Web site address: <http://exportcontrol.ksc.nasa.gov/>. The new site is available inside and outside the KSC firewall and a training video and a newsletter have been added.