



Need to roll back shuttle delays launch to April

Camp KSC opens for spring, summer sessions

◆ **Shuttle Update:** Despite the launch delay of STS-117 with the rollback of Space Shuttle Atlantis to repair hail damage, Commander Rick Sturckow, Pilot Lee Archambault and mission specialists Jim Reilly, Patrick Forrester, Steven Swanson and John "Danny" Olivas will continue training at NASA's Johnson Space Center as they await a new target launch date.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Space Shuttle Program managers continued to meet in the traditional Flight Readiness Review for the mission. During the two-day meeting, NASA managers and engineers assess any risks associated with the mission and determine whether the shuttle's equipment, support systems and procedures are ready for flight.

A new target launch date has not been determined, but teams will focus on preparing Atlantis for liftoff in late April.

◆ **Register Children For Camp KSC** — Camp KSC offers children entering second through ninth grade an out-of-this-world experience to explore space as never before. The spring session is scheduled for March 26-30. Summer camp sessions are available June 4 through August 17. Regular tuition is \$295 per child per session. There is a 10 percent discount for badged employees and contractors of Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Patrick Air Force Base and retired KSC personnel.

Camp KSC is based at the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame. Spring camp hours are from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with extended early drop-off and late pick-up hours available free for badged employees. Campers receive a complimentary KSC Visitor Complex annual pass, lunches and afternoon snacks, an official Camp KSC T-shirt, four complimentary admission tickets to the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame, the Camp KSC graduation ceremony and a certificate of completion.

For more information and registration details, call 321-449-4444 or visit the Web site www.KennedySpaceCenter.com.

■ **NASA Science News** — The ESA-NASA Ulysses spacecraft has discovered that there is no place in the inner solar system completely safe from solar radiation storms. You can read the full story at http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2007/22feb_nosafeplace.htm?list29875.

■ **NASA Announces Undersea Mission To Include First Flight Surgeon** — NASA will send a flight surgeon, two astronauts and a Cincinnati doctor into the ocean depths off the Florida coast May 7-18 to test space medicine concepts and moon-walking techniques. It is the first undersea mission to include a NASA flight surgeon.

Veteran space flyer Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper will lead the 12-

day undersea mission aboard the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Aquarius Underwater Laboratory. NASA Flight Surgeon Josef Schmid, NASA astronaut Jose Hernandez and Dr. Tim Broderick of the University of Cincinnati complete the crew.

During the NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations 12, the crew will conduct a variety of advanced medical technology experiments, including robotic telesurgery on simulated patients.

Hands-on telesurgery demonstrations and robotic telesurgery technology developed and refined within this mission will help surgeons overcome interplanetary communication lag time. Technologies such as surgeon-guided automatic robot function could improve the care of astronauts on future missions to the moon and Mars.

The crew will conduct simulated undersea "moon walks" to test concepts for future lunar exploration. During these simulated moon walks, they will construct an undersea structure with the help of a remotely operated vehicle, similar to what the next travelers to the moon may do. The crew also will practice collecting geological samples to help develop tools and techniques for collecting lunar samples as well as train future lunar explorers to be geologists.

■ **Did You Know?** There are three weeks until the start of Spring.