



countdown

May 22, 2007

Vol. 12, No. 38

Hypergolic propellant loads on Atlantis this week



◆ Shuttle Update:

The S3/S4 payload has been installed in Atlantis' payload bay. Preparations have begun for hypergolic propellant loading, which is scheduled for this week.

The orbiter weather curtain walls have been extended, providing additional protection to the vehicle.

◆ **BEST BBQ:** "Come for the Food; Stay for the Fun." Tickets are on sale through June 15 for the annual BEST BBQ on June 22. You must have a ticket to enter. Cost is \$10 or \$14 based on selection; students pay only \$5. The site is KARS Park 1, Area 1, and the hours are 3 to 6 p.m. Food will be served from 3 to 5 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased from: *Maria Bland*, HQ 2641B; *Wanda Petty*, HQ 2114B; *Benita DeSuza*, HQ 3350D (students); *Maxine Daniels*, SSPF 3228X; *Valarie Franklin*, O&C Bldg. 1020A; *Charmel Jones*, O&C Bldg. 1073M2; *Maggie Forbes*, O&C Bldg. 5318Q; *Lynette Daniels*, Hangar N/CCAFS; *Patricia Johnson*, Hangar R Room 138; and *Debra Dukes*, RPSF Room 103.

■ **Dawn Mission to Asteroid Belt** — NASA's next venture into the solar system is the ambitious and exciting Dawn mission, planned for launch between June 30 and July 19. This week the spacecraft's solar array panels are being attached.

The alien landscapes Dawn will reveal should provide humankind with a new perspective on the solar system.

Remnants from the time that planets were formed, planetary bodies Ceres and Vesta hold clues that will help scientists understand the dawn of the solar system.

Dawn will be the first spacecraft ever to orbit an object in the asteroid belt and the first ever to orbit two targets. Such a mission would be impossible without the use of ion propulsion, a technology that has mostly been in the domain of science fiction.

You can learn more about this mission on Friday from Dr. Marc D. Rayman, project system engineer, at 11:30 a.m. in the O&C Mission Briefing Room.

■ **Diversity Event Slogan Contest** — The Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity is preparing for its fourth annual Diversity Event, to be held in September. The office is holding a slogan contest open to NASA and contractor personnel at KSC. Entries should represent KSC's commitment to diversity, respect and inclusion for all, and a discrimination-free workplace. The staff will select the slogan which best represents these values. Please e-mail your slogan to KSC-Diversity@nasa.gov by close of business May 31; include your name, mail code and phone number, and put the words SLOGAN CONTEST in the subject line. The selected slogan will be announced in June and will be used as this year's diversity event theme, reflected in all media advertising the event. Become a champion for diversity by submitting a winning slogan.

■ **Robotics Camp for Girls** — Seventh and eighth grade girls can still register for the Robotics Summer Camp for

BEST BBQ ticket sales open through mid-June

Girls being offered by the Society of Women Engineers in Cocoa Beach June 18-22. This fun and exciting camp is an opportunity for the girls to be creative while building and programming a robot to complete a mission and compete at the end of the week. This program will use the VEX robot -- construction is similar to an erector set and is programmed with a C language derivative, EasyC.

Fourth to sixth grade girls can also learn robotics at the LEGO Robotics Summer Camp for Girls in Cocoa Beach. There are two sessions of this one-week program scheduled for the week of June 4 and the week of June 11. This program will include building a robot using the LEGO Mindstorms NXT kits and programming it with a graphical language developed specifically for the robot. A competition will be held at the end of each week.

Registration information is on the Web at www.swe-sc.org/Robotics.

■ **Hurricane Preparedness Week** — The week of May 20 is designated "Hurricane Preparedness Week" throughout our state. A featured topic will be presented daily this week at the Web site: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/intro.shtml>. Please take the time to review these important preparation steps before the season starts on June 1.

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.barrett@jboss.ksc.nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 321-867-2815. You can also find *Countdown* on the Web at nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown-toc.html.