



countdown

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Atlantis foam repair done, shuttle prepped for launch



◆ Shuttle Update:

Teams of technicians spent last week and this week applying foam insulation to small sections of space shuttle

Atlantis' external fuel tank and making standard launch preparations. All the foam work was finished Wednesday. Space Shuttle Program managers are targeting Feb. 7 for Atlantis' launch on the STS-122 mission to install the European-built Columbus laboratory on the International Space Station. The crew is expected to arrive at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 4 to prepare for the targeted Feb. 7 launch at 2:45 p.m.

◆ **ISS Update:** NASA TV coverage of the next spacewalk by the International Space Station Expedition 16 crew will start at 4 a.m. Jan. 30. The spacewalk is scheduled to begin at 5:20 a.m. Following the repair work on the station's right-side solar power array, NASA managers will hold a news conference on NASA TV at 2 p.m. to recap the crew's work.

A new calendar that highlights 50 years of NASA milestones and a decade of station assembly can be downloaded at: <http://www.nasa.gov/station>. The colorful 2008 calendar is packed with historical tidbits and photographs that capture the work and wonder of a decade building the world's largest orbiting laboratory. Each month of the calendar has a specific theme with images, photographs, significant NASA historical events and Web sites for educators. NASA's International Space Station Program office created the calendar to mark its 10th year of

operations in orbit and to commemorate the agency's 50th anniversary.

■ **Earth Science Media Briefing** — NASA will hold a media briefing at 12:30 p.m. today to discuss the agency's Earth science program and preview major activities planned for 2008, including the launch of two new Earth-observing missions and a weather satellite. The live NASA TV briefing will take place at NASA Headquarters in Washington, with media participation at various NASA locations, including Kennedy.

■ **Diabetes Education Seminar** — The KSC Diabetes Education Series continues with a seminar on diabetic foot care at 11:30 a.m. on Jan. 30 in the Occupational Health Facility Training Room (room 920). Dr. Paul Durney, a podiatrist practicing in Melbourne, is the featured speaker.

To be placed on the Diabetes Interest Group e-mail distribution list, please e-mail Kris Calderon at

Kristine.Calderon@jbosc.ksc.nasa.gov.

List members will be sent information from the diabetes education series seminars along with other information, announcements and updates pertaining to diabetes.

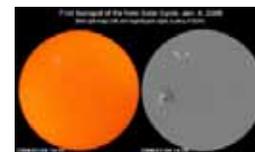
■ **Parsons To Speak at National Space Club** — Center Director Bill Parsons will be the guest speaker for the February lunch meeting of The National Space Club, scheduled for Feb. 12. The event will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the Oceanfront DoubleTree Hotel in Cocoa Beach. For reservations for the luncheon meeting, contact LaDonna Neterer at

Spacewalk by station crew to air live Jan. 30 on NASA TV

321-383-6135 or e-mail

LaDonna.J.Neterer@boeing.com. For further information on the club, visit www.nscfl.com.

The National Space Club, founded in 1957, stimulates the exchange of ideas and information about rocketry and astronautics, and promotes the recognition of America's achievements in aerospace. The club meets monthly in Cocoa Beach and is a non-profit corporation composed of representatives of industry, government, educational institutions and private individuals who share a commitment to increasing public awareness of America's aerospace programs.



■ **NASA Science** — Hang on to your cell phones, a new solar cycle is

under way. Solar Cycle 24 began the first week of January with the appearance of a magnetically "backward" high-latitude sunspot (seen in right photo, above). The previous solar cycle, Solar Cycle 23, peaked in 2000-2002 with many furious solar storms. You can read the full story at http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/10jan_solarcycle24.htm?list947891.

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. 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. You can also find *Countdown* on the Web at nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown-toc.html.