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STS-123 crew to test heat shield repair technique

Picnic tickets cost less if bought before March 26

◆ **Mission Update:** Mission Specialist Leopold Eyharts and Pilot Greg Johnson used the station's robotic arm, Canadarm2, to move Dextre, the station's new robotic attachment, to its newest position on the U.S. Destiny laboratory, where it was attached to one of the lab's power and data grapple fixtures. This position clears the way for Canadarm2 to be used for future robotic missions.

Johnson and Flight Engineer Garrett Reisman then used Canadarm2 to move the Spacelab Logistics Pallet, where Dextre was assembled during the first spacewalk of the mission, from the station's truss to Endeavour's cargo bay. The pallet will return to earth aboard the shuttle. Canadarm2 will be moved to the station's mobile base system, where it will be transported to another worksite in preparation for the fourth spacewalk.

Mission Specialists Robert L. Behnken and Mike Foreman will conduct that spacewalk, focusing on testing a heat shield repair technique. They will use a caulk-gun-like tool named the Tile Repair Ablator Dispenser (T-RAD) to dispense a material called Shuttle Tile Ablator-54 (STA-54) into purposely damaged heat shield tiles. Those test samples will be returned to Earth to undergo extensive testing on the ground.



◆ **KSC Picnic Tickets On Sale Now** — The KSC 2008 All-American Picnic is March 29. Advance tickets

are on sale through March 25 at \$6 for adults and \$3 for children ages 3-12. Ticket sales from March 26 through March 29 will be \$8 and \$5, respectively. Children ages 2 and under are free but

still must have a ticket to enter the park. The admission fee includes children's activities, family games, children's fishing tournament, entertainment, wildlife exhibits, car show, lunch/drinks, and more!

Tickets are available for purchase at the following locations:

- ◆ HQ, O&C, OSB, OSB II and SSPF Sundry Stores
- ◆ Hangar I Annex/Room 210 – Anjanette Wicks, 476-4000
- ◆ NSLD2/Cube 649 – Debbie Doyle, 799-7002
- ◆ USA /Titusville Office – Karen Cross, 264-8102
- ◆ KARS Country Store

If employees' family and/or friends plan on camping during the picnic, tickets are required and can be purchased at the KARS Country Store.

■ **NASA Update** — NASA's Constellation Program has selected five space-related companies to receive contract awards for a 210-day study to independently evaluate NASA's in-house design concept for a lunar lander that will deliver four astronauts to the surface of the moon by 2020.

The awards total approximately \$1.5 million, with a maximum individual award of \$350,000. The study recommendations will be used to increase the technical maturity of the existing design in preparation for the development of vehicle requirements.

■ **KSC Fitness Center Presents W.O.W** -- Are you in need of a fitness change? Then take the "WOW Team Challenge"! This will be a 6-month program beginning in mid-April and ending

in mid-October encompassing all aspects of wellness from cardiovascular health to nutritional information and even stress management.

Each week, you and your teammates will be committing to completing weekly challenges in order to accrue points. These will include participating in exercise sessions at the fitness center, attending nutritional meetings, participating in other motivational and incentive programs offered at the fitness center and throughout the center, and participating in physical activity at home.

Everyone ready to commit to a lifestyle change is encouraged to apply for this program. It will involve working in teams of four, so if you have team members in mind, please turn in your applications together. If you do not have team members in mind, they will be assigned to you if accepted into the program.

Application packets **must be picked up in person** and will be available at the O&C and OSB KSC Fitness Centers between March 24 and April 3. They will be due by the end of the business day on April 4. Chosen applicants will be informed by the end of the business day on April 9. The fitness centers are open 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information, please send an e-mail to alycen.m.labarca@nasa.gov.

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