



countdown

April 3, 2008

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Focus at Kennedy shifts to STS-124 mission in May



◆ Shuttle Update:

The next mission, STS-124, is the second of three flights that will launch components to complete the Japan

Aerospace Exploration Agency's Kibo laboratory. Space shuttle Discovery will carry the Japanese Pressurized Module, the station's largest science laboratory, measuring 37 feet long and 14 feet in diameter, about the size of a large tour bus. Discovery also will deliver the lab's robotic arm system, which will support operations outside of Kibo. The lab's logistics module, installed in a temporary location during STS-123 in March, will be attached to the new lab. The mission will include two spacewalks to install the lab and its remote manipulator system.

Mark Kelly will command the seven-member crew, which includes Pilot Ken Ham, Mission Specialists Karen Nyberg, Ron Garan, Mike Fossum, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Akihiko Hoshide and Greg Chamitoff, who will replace Expedition 16/17 Flight Engineer Garrett Reisman on the Expedition 17 crew. Reisman will return to Earth with the STS-124 crew.



Launch of Discovery is targeted for 5:01 p.m. May 31.

◆ **ISS Update:** Expedition 17 Commander Sergei Volkov and Flight Engineer Oleg Kononenko, along with South Korean Spaceflight Participant Soyeon Yi, will launch April 8 on a Soyuz spacecraft from Kazakhstan. Expedition 16 Commander Peggy Whitson and Flight Engineer Yuri Malenchenko will return to Earth April 19 in a Soyuz.

■ **Volunteer Drawing** — Thanks to the more than 700 volunteers for making this year's KSC All-American Picnic a wonderful success.

The volunteer drawing will be posted Friday on the KSC All-American Picnic Web site at <http://kscpicnic.ksc.nasa.gov/index.html> so be sure to check to see if you are a winner! The Volunteer Committee will give away over 100 prizes, including \$10 gift certificates, NASA mugs and T-shirts.

■ **Brig. Gen. Helms To Be Honored With Debus Award** — Recognized for her role as astronaut and senior Air Force leader, Brig. Gen. Susan J. Helms, Commander of the 45th Space Wing and Director of the Eastern Range at Patrick Air Force Base, will be named the 2008 award recipient at the annual Debus Award dinner.

The April 19 event hosted by the National Space Club will be held at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex Debus Center and will begin at 6:30 p.m. Reservations are required for this black-tie optional evening. For reservations for the award dinner, contact LaDonna Neterer at 321-383-6135 or e-mail

Space station crews to change this month

LaDonna.J.Neterer@boeing.com. For more information, visit the Web site <http://www.nscfl.com>.

■ **Join the KSC TEAM for the Corporate 5K Run/Walk** — The Corporate 5K is a 3.1-mile fun run/walk event held for Florida's corporate community. This year, 400 teams and 8,000 runners and walkers are expected to participate starting at 6:45 p.m. April 24. The site is the Florida Citrus Bowl Stadium at 1610 W. Church St. in Orlando. Participation is not limited to KSC employees, so recruit family, friends and other associates to join the team.

Online early registration ends

April 10. For registration details or if you have other questions, please contact Marie Quiaoit-Bell at 861-7761, e-mail *Marie.Quiaoit-Bell@jbossc.ksc.nasa.gov*, or go to the race Web site at <http://www.Corporate5k.com>.

■ **Massage Therapy Can Benefit Your Health** — A 30-minute relaxation/therapeutic massage is only \$30. Discounted packages and gift certificates are available. Massages by Valerie are available 9-5 p.m. Monday through Friday in the O&C Bldg./Room 1023. On-site chair massages can be arranged as well. Please contact Valerie for an appointment at 867-4762 or e-mail *valerie.s.jaramillo@nasa.gov*.

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