



# countdown

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## KSC to celebrate families and fun March 7

## Connecting section arrives at KSC for Ares I-X

◆ **Join the Celebration:** KSC's 30th annual All-American Picnic will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 7 at KARS Park I. The day's events include games and activities for all ages, a fishing tournament, a car show and music. Barbecue – pulled pork, chicken, and side dishes – will be provided by Sonny's.

Tickets are \$7/adults, \$4/children 12 and younger (ages 3 and younger are free). Prices rise to \$10 and \$6 if purchased at the event.

**Picnic volunteers are needed** for several two-hour slots. All volunteers will receive the official "2009 KSC All American Picnic Baseball Hat," a discounted ticket and an opportunity to win a prize. Students 16 and older are welcome to volunteer for community service hours! To sign up as a volunteer, go to <http://kscpicnic.ksc.nasa.gov/>. Contact Patty Hepburn at 867-2527 or Teressa Nguyen at 867-9224 for more details.

◆ **Constellation Update:** The last newly manufactured section (below) of the Ares I-X test rocket arrived at KSC's Assembly and Refurbishment Facility. Called the frustum, the section resembles a giant funnel. Its function is to transition



the primary flight loads from the rocket's upper stage to the first stage. The frustum is located between the forward skirt extension and upper stage of the Ares I-X.

Ares I-X is targeted to launch in the summer of 2009. The flight will provide NASA with an early opportunity to test and prove hardware, facilities and ground operations associated with the Ares I launch vehicle. The flight test also will bring NASA a step closer to its exploration goals of sending humans to the moon and destinations beyond.

■ **Help NASA Name The Next Space Station Module** — NASA is asking the public to help name the International Space Station's next module -- a control tower for robotics in space and the world's ultimate observation deck.

Individuals can vote for the module's name online, choosing one of four NASA suggestions -- Earthrise, Legacy, Serenity or Venture -- or writing in a name. Submissions will be accepted now through March 20. The name should reflect the spirit of exploration and cooperation embodied by the space station and follow in the tradition set by Node 1, named "Unity," and Node 2, named "Harmony."

The winning name will be announced at the Node 3 unveiling April 28 at KSC. The node is targeted for launch in late 2009.

■ **KEA-36 Antenna Technology** — On March 3, Dr. Philip W. Tang, with Shuttle Telecon Systems, will present a detailed examination of aerospace antenna designs at the KSC Training Auditorium 9 – 10 a.m. Antenna design principles will be illustrated by using

both analytical and simulation techniques. Examples of the latest antenna design trends also will be introduced. Civil servant and contractor personnel are welcome to attend. Questions and comments should be sent to **KSC-Engineering-Academy@mail.nasa.gov**. To view future listings, or video/PDF versions of past KEA events, please visit: <http://kea.ksc.nasa.gov/>.

■ **NASA Science** — NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope has detected a record-setting gamma-ray burst with the greatest total energy and fastest motions ever seen. Read the full story at [http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/20feb\\_extremegr.htm](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/20feb_extremegr.htm).

■ **Toastmasters at KSC** — Toastmasters meets every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in HQ/Room 2254. If you are interested in becoming a competent speaker, looking for a fun and supportive environment to develop your speaking skills, or are interested in becoming an effective leader, KSC Toastmasters club is something you should consider.

For more information, contact Joe Davie at 867-8652 or [Joseph.Davie-1@nasa.gov](mailto:Joseph.Davie-1@nasa.gov).

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 9 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to [anita.l.barrett@nasa.gov](mailto:anita.l.barrett@nasa.gov). For questions or information, e-mail or call 867-2815. You can also find PDF editions of *Countdown* on the Web at: [http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/newscountdown/countdown\\_toc.html](http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/newscountdown/countdown_toc.html).