



countdown

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Atlantis en route home to Kennedy



◆ **Shuttle Update:** Space shuttle Atlantis left California Monday midday on its piggy-back, town-hopping return trip. Weather permitting, Atlantis could be back at its Florida home today.

NASA managers will hold a news conference Wednesday to discuss the status of space shuttle Endeavour's launch on the STS-127 mission. NASA Television and the agency's Web site will broadcast the news briefing live.

The briefing will begin after the end of the Flight Readiness Review, which will assess preparations for Endeavour's mission to the International Space Station. The review, expected to conclude by 5 p.m. EDT, also is expected to include the selection of an official launch date. Endeavour currently is targeted to launch at 7:17 a.m. June 13.

The briefing participants are Bill Gerstenmaier, associate administrator for Space Operations; LeRoy Cain, deputy manager, Space Shuttle Program at JSC; and Pete Nickolenko, STS-127 shuttle launch director at KSC.

◆ **ELV Update:** The Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter/Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite launch is scheduled for June 17. The mission objectives of the LCROSS include confirming the presence or absence of water ice in a permanently shadowed crater at the moon's South Pole. The identification of water is very important to the future of human activities on the moon. LCROSS will excavate the permanently dark floor

of one of the moon's polar craters with two heavy impactors to test the theory that ancient ice lies buried there. The impact will eject material from the crater's surface to create a plume that specialized instruments will be able to analyze for the presence of water (ice and vapor), hydrocarbons and hydrated materials.

■ **KEA-42 Date Rescheduled** — KEA-42: Monte Carlo Simulation 101 has been rescheduled for 10 a.m. June 17 in the Training Auditorium. Lisa Huddleston will demonstrate real-world utilization of an analytical, problem-solving technique used when it is too difficult, time-consuming, costly or dangerous to perform actual experiments or use real-world data. NASA and contractor personnel are invited 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/>. Please check the Web site for updates because events are subject to change.

■ **Blood Drive** — The O&C blood drive will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 10. Donors will receive a Florida Blood Centers "hero" T-shirt and various coupons (while supplies last). Schedule your appointment at: www.floridabloodcenters.org using Sponsor Code 36986 (not a zip code).

■ **Employee Assistance Program Lunch & Learn Topic** — The EAP Lunch & Learn topic for June is "Bullying in the Workplace." Whether dealing

LCROSS to search for evidence of water at moon's south pole

with an existing problem or looking to be proactive, you can learn strategies for addressing this workplace issue. The presentation is being held **today** from noon to 12:30 p.m. at the OHF library (room 1086). Feel free to bring lunch or refreshments. No RSVP is required.

■ **Indian River Bridge (NASA Causeway) Lane Closure** —



Scheduled bridge maintenance at Indian River Bridge on S.R. 405/ NASA Causeway will require single-lane traffic flow each way on the westbound lanes from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. now through June 5.

■ **BEST Barbecue Dessert Contest** — The "BEST" Dessert Contest winner will be announced and prizes will be awarded at the BEST barbecue to be held June 12 from 3 to 6 p.m. at KARS Park I (Area 2). Food will be served 3:15 – 5 p.m. The "BEST" Dessert Contest winner will be announced at the barbecue and prizes will be awarded.

For dessert contest rules, information, judging criteria and dessert drop-off times and locations, visit <http://best.ksc.nasa.gov/BBQ.cfm>. Multiple entries are permitted and dessert donations also are welcome!

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 9 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.l.barret@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/news/countdown/countdown_toc.html.