

Thursday, March 9, 2000

OPF full as orbiters are prepped for coming launches



NASA-KSC host high school teams in robot contests



▲ **Shuttle Update:** All three orbiters – Atlantis, Discovery and Endeavour – are in the OPF undergoing pre-launch or post-launch preparations. KSC workers are preparing to transfer orbiter Atlantis to the Vehicle Assembly Building as early as March 16. Atlantis is scheduled to fly on both STS-101 and STS-106 missions. Discovery will fly on STS-92; Endeavour will fly on STS-97.

▲ **Robots at KSC:** Students from all over the country are at the KSC Visitor Complex for the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Southeast Regional competition March 9-11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Rocket Garden. Of the 30 high school teams competing, 16 are Florida teams co-sponsored by NASA and KSC contractors. Brevard County high schools participating are Astronaut, Bayside, Cocoa Beach, Eau Gallie, Melbourne, Melbourne Central Catholic, Palm Bay, Rockledge, Satellite, and Titusville.

◆ **NASA In School:** NASA Quest is teaming up with Classroom Connect, an educators' resource for Internet use, for a very special week, March 13-17, for "Classroom Today's Focus of the Week: The Men and Women of the Space Team Online." The exciting week of interactive chats and Web casts will feature 12 men and women of NASA! From KSC, Tracy Gill (Space Station and Shuttle Payloads Directorate) and Frank Merceret (Applied Meteorology Unit) will be featured. To find out the complete details, visit <http://quest.arc.nasa.gov/space/events/cc/> ! Events scheduled for March 13-17 include:

Women of NASA/Women's History Month – Quest-Chat-Forum with Sandy Meske and QuestChat with Gwen Young

Aerospace Team Online QuestChat with Roxana Greenman

Space Scientists Online QuestChat with Therese Kucera Learning Technologies Channel and the Space Team Online WebCast and Chat

Learning Technologies Channel "The NASA CONNECT Series – Proportionality: Modeling the Future."

See <http://quest.arc.nasa.gov/common/events/> for the full schedule of events.

◆ **National Space Club Meeting:** The "NRO Today" will be the subject of the March 21 luncheon for the National Space Club, Florida Committee, when Major General Robert S. Dickman serves as the guest speaker for the event. Maj. Gen. Dickman is the director of the Office of Architectures, Assessments, and Acquisition, and senior military officer for the NRO in Washington, D.C. The luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn, Cocoa Beach. Reservations can be placed with Judy Casper at 459-1067. Individual tickets are \$15, with corporate tables of 8 available for \$125 each.

◆ **Did You Know?** The Tornado Alert Warning System (TAWS) at KSC uses a siren to alert individuals working **outside** where they cannot hear the Public Address system. Personnel located inside facilities are alerted by the Public Address system or the Paging and Area Warning System. The siren may be heard inside certain buildings, but it is primarily an outdoor device.

KSC Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday.

Deadlines: 10 a.m. the day before. Send information, comments or questions to:

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Countdown on the Internet -- <http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscpao/ksccount/2000/2000.htm>