

Thursday, Dec. 20, 2001

**Expedition 3 crew happy to be back on Earth after successful mission on ISS**



**Visitor Complex invites KSC employees to New Year's Eve Gala**



**▲ A statement by Expedition 3 Commander Frank Culbertson expresses the sentiment of the 2001 holiday season:**

“After a successful and very busy mission, Vladimir, Mikhail and I are extremely glad to be home and with our families again. In light of the significant events that have occurred since our departure in August, we feel even more fortunate to be able to spend the holidays with those we care about most. We know that these past few months have been difficult for many people around the world, including our family and friends. We are happy that the time has arrived for us to be with them while the world faces such difficult challenges.

“We believe that the example of international cooperation that we and all others who participated in the International Space Station program have set, will encourage all nations to communicate and work better together for peaceful solutions for the problems that face us here on Earth. Education, technology, and knowledge are far more powerful tools for influencing people to make change than the alternatives we have witnessed recently. It was a privilege for us to serve on the Station and an honor to be a part of such a significant international endeavor.”

**▲ All NASA and contractor employees are invited** to “Americans United in 2002” at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex 9 p.m., Monday, Dec. 31. Join the Countdown to 2002 overlooking the historic Rocket Garden at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. Enjoy dancing, great food, a midnight champagne toast, party favors and special gifts. And at the same time you'll help promote youth educational excellence in math, science and technology as we celebrate the coming of the New Year. As entertainment and music for the upcoming New Year's Gala, the National Space Club has scheduled and booked “Swingerhead,” a high-energy, tight, 7-9 piece band led by singer and entertainer, Michael Andrew. Cost is \$200 per couple and dress is Black Tie Optional. Also, children are welcome for \$50. Seating is limited, so make your reservation by Dec. 20 – **today** – by calling 321-449-4244. Or fill out the Web form at <http://nationalspaceclubflorida.org/form.html> and e-mail it today. Corporations interested in helping sponsor this event can contact Bill Collins at [wjcnbsb@worldnet.att.net](mailto:wjcnbsb@worldnet.att.net).

**◆ Did You Know?** *KSC Countdown* will be on hiatus until Jan. 3, 2002. Information for that issue should be sent via e-mail by 10 a.m. Jan. 2. The e-mail address is shown below in the masthead.★

**KSC Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday.**  
**Deadlines: 10 a.m. the day before. Send information, comments or questions to:**  
◆ E-mail – [Anita.Barrett-1@ksc.nasa.gov](mailto:Anita.Barrett-1@ksc.nasa.gov) ◆ Telephone – 867-2815  
Internet -- <http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscpao/ksccount/2001/2001.htm>