

FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- APRIL 2012

145 Years Ago -- 1867

April 16: Wilbur Wright born, Millville, IN.

65 Years Ago -- 1947

April 25: Wallops Flight Research Facility, VA launched its first rocket-propelled model of a complete airplane for performance evaluation (XF-91).

50 Years Ago -- 1962

April 24: Cosmos 3 launched by a Cosmos rocket, 0405 UTC, Kapustin Yar, USSR.

April 24: First transmission of TV pictures in space, via Echo 1.

April 25: Saturn 2 (SA-2 - Project High Water) test launch for Saturn 1; suborbital; launched, 9:00 a.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

April 26: Cosmos 4 launched by Vostok rocket, 1005 UTC, Baikonur, USSR.

April 26: Launch by Thor Delta of Ariel 1, the first international satellite, a joint project of NASA and the United Kingdom.

45 Years Ago -- 1967

April 5: ATS 2 launched by Atlas Agena, 10:23 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

April 17: Surveyor 3 launched by Atlas Centaur, 2:39 a.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla, landed on Moon 7:04 a.m., EST, April 19.

April 20: ESSA 5 launched by Thor Delta, 6:21 a.m., EST, Vandenberg AFB.

April 25: Air Force Col. Joseph Cotton and NASA research pilot Fitzhugh Fulton made the first NASA flight in the XB-70A.

April 26: San Marco 2 launched by Scout, 5:06 a.m., EST, San Marco Range SMR, Kenya.

40 Years Ago -- 1972

April 4: Molniya 1-20 & SRET 1 (a French acronym for 'Satellite for Research on Environment and Technology') launched by Molniya or Modified SS-6 (Sapwood) rocket, 2039 UTC, Baikonur, USSR.

April 16: Apollo 16 launched, 12:54 p.m., EST, KSC with astronauts John W. Young, Jr.; Thomas K. Mattingly; and Charles M. Duke, Jr.

30 Years Ago -- 1982

April 10: Insat 1A (India) launched by Delta, 1:48 a.m., Cape Canaveral, Fla.

April 19: USSR launches Salyut-7 space station on top of Proton K rocket from Baikonur. Station operated until February 7, 1991.

25 Years Ago -- 1987

April 15: The U.S. and the Soviet Union signed a new bilateral government-level agreement on civil space cooperation. The agreement called for cooperation in 16 specific project areas to be carried out by joint working groups in space science.

20 Years Ago -- 1992

April 1: Daniel S. Goldin takes office as ninth NASA Administrator.

15 Years Ago – 1997

April 4: STS-83 (Space Shuttle *Columbia*) Launched 2:20 EST from KSC. Crew: James D. Halsell, Susan L. Still, Janice E. Voss, Donald A. Thomas, Michael L. Gernhardt, Roger K. Crouch, and Gregory T. Linteris. It carried the Spacelab module containing resources for many microgravity experiments and a combustion facility for the study of the rise, spread, and extinction of flames under microgravity conditions. Landing at KSC on April 8, 1997, 2:33 p.m., EDT. Mission Duration: 3 days, 23 hours, and 13 minutes.

10 Years Ago – 2002

April 8: STS 110 (Space Shuttle *Atlantis*) launched at 4:44 p.m. EDT, KSC. Crew: Michael J. Bloomfield, Stephen N. Frick, Jerry L. Ross, Steven L. Smith, Ellen Ochoa, Lee M.E. Morin, and Rex J. Walheim. International Space Station Flight 8A. Delivered an ISS truss assembly. Landing at KSC on April 19, 12:27 a.m. EDT. Mission Duration: 10 days, 19 hours, 43 minutes.

April 25: Soyuz TM-34 launched as the third “taxi” flight from Baikonur at 06:26 UTC to the International Space Station (ISS), bringing a “fresh” Soyuz return vehicle. The crew consisted of one Russian, Yuri P. Gidzenko, an Italian astronaut, Roberto Vittori, and the second commercial space tourist, South African Mark R. Shuttleworth. They returned 8 days later on older Soyuz TM-33.

5 Years Ago – 2007

April 7: Soyuz-TMA launched by a Soyuz rocket from Baikonur at 17:31 UTC. Crew: consisted of two cosmonauts, Oleg V. Kotov, Fyodor N. Yurchikhin, and a tourist, Charles Simonyi to the International Space Station (ISS). It docked with the Zarya module of the ISS.

April 25: AIM (Aeronomy of Ice in Mesosphere), an American (NASA) satellite designed to study noctilucent clouds (NLC) or night shining -- mainly ice crystal clouds that form about 85 km above Earth's poles, launched on a Pegasus XL rocket from an L-1011 aircraft flying out of Vandenberg AFB at 21:26 UTC.