

FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- AUGUST 2012

50 Years Ago - 1962

August 11-12: Vostok 3 and Vostok 4 (Andrian G. Nikolayev and Pavel R. Popovich) launched, 0824 UTC and 0755 UTC, both aboard Vostok rockets from Baikonur. First simultaneous flight of two spacecraft.

August 27: Mariner 2 launched by Atlas Agena, Cape Canaveral, Fla., 2:53 a.m., EDT. First successful planetary flyby - Passed Venus December 14, 1962. Spacecraft subsequently entered solar orbit.

August 31: Communications Satellite Act signed by President Kennedy, Washington, DC

45 Years Ago - 1967

August 1: Lunar Orbiter 5 launched by Atlas Agena, Cape Canaveral, Fla., 6:33 p.m., EDT.

40 Years Ago - 1972

August 13: Meteorological Technology Satellite (Explorer 46) launched by Scout from Wallops Island at 11:10 a.m. EDT.

August 21: Orbiting Astronomical Observatory (OAO) - 3 named Copernicus, launched by Atlas centaur from Cape Canaveral, Fla., 6:28 a.m., EDT.

35 Years Ago - 1977

August 12: HEAO I launched by Atlas Centaur, Cape Canaveral, Fla., 2:39 a.m., EDT.

August 20: Voyager 2 launched by Titan 3E, Cape Canaveral, Fla., 10:29 a.m., EDT.

August 27: Sirio A launched aboard Delta rocket from Cape Canaveral at 7:50 p.m. EDT.

30 Years Ago - 1982

August 19: USSR launches Soyuz T-7 aboard a Soyuz rocket from Baikonur at 17:12 UTC. Ferry flight to Salyut-7 space station. Cosmonauts: Leonid I. Popov, Alexander A. Serebrov, and Svetlana Y. Savitskaya.

25 Years Ago - 1987

August 17: "Leadership and America's Future in Space" known as the Ride Report was released. Former shuttle astronaut and first U.S. woman in space, Sally K. Ride headed a group at NASA Headquarters that finished an assessment of NASA's options beyond the space station. The report recommended major programs to study earth sciences with powerful orbiting sensors and exploration of the solar system with new generations of robot probes. Ride also urged the space agency to establish a permanently manned lunar base before sending astronauts to Mars.

20 Years Ago - 1992

August 2: European Retrieval Carrier (Eureca) launched from Shuttle Atlantis for long duration space stay and ultimate retrieval by another shuttle flight.

August 10: Topex/Poseidon launched from Kourou, French Guiana aboard Ariane 42P launch vehicle, 8:08 p.m., local time. Satellite to measure ocean dynamics.

15 Years Ago – 1997

August 5: Russia launched Soyuz TM-26 aboard a Soyuz rocket from Baikonur at 15:35 UTC. Ferry flight to space station Mir. Cosmonauts: Anatoly Y. Solovyev and Pavel V. Vinogradov.

August 7: STS-85 (Space Shuttle *Discovery*) launched 10:41 a.m. EDT, KSC. Crew: Curtis L. Brown, Jr., Kent V. Rominger, N. Jan Davis, Robert L. Curbeam, Jr., Stephen K. Robinson, and Bjarni Y. Tryggvason of the Canadian Space Agency (CSA). Deployment of the Cryogenic Infrared Spectrometers and Telescopes for the Atmosphere-Shuttle Pallet Satellite-2 (CRISTA-SPAS-2). Landed at KSC on August 19, 1997, 7:07 a.m., EDT. Mission Duration: 11 days, 20 hours, 28 minutes.

August 22: Lewis spacecraft was launched successfully at 11:51 p.m. PDT from Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA, aboard a Lockheed Martin Launch Vehicle (LMLV-1). It entered a flat spin in orbit that resulted in a loss of solar power and a fatal battery discharge. Contact with the spacecraft was lost on August 26, and it then re-entered the atmosphere and was destroyed on Sept. 28.

August 25: Advanced Composition Explorer (ACE) (Explorer 71) launched by Delta 2 carrying six high resolution spectrometers to measure the composition of energetic particles from the Sun, the heliosphere, and the Galaxy.

August 28: Intelsat 5 / Panamsat 5 launched aboard Proton K rocket from Baikonur at 00:33 UTC.

10 Years Ago - 2002

August 12: Frederick D. Gregory was sworn in as the first African-American Deputy Administrator of NASA that evening in a small private ceremony on the 9th floor of NASA Headquarters.

5 Years Ago - 2007

August 4: Phoenix Mars Lander was launched by a Delta 2 rocket from Cape Canaveral at 5:36 EDT carrying science instruments to analyze soil samples of the Martian northern polar region. It will dig into an icy layer just below the surface to determine if the subsurface environment in the far northern plains of Mars has ever been favorable for sustaining microbial life. It will also monitor the polar weather. Phoenix landed successfully on Mars at 7:53 p.m. EDT on Sunday, May 25, 2008.

August 8: STS-118 (Space Shuttle *Endeavour*) launched 6:36 p.m. EDT, KSC. Crew: Scott J. Kelly, Charles O. Hobaugh, Richard A. Mastracchio, Dafydd (Dave) Williams (Canada), Barbara R. Morgan, Tracy E. Caldwell, and Benjamin Alvin Drew. It continued ISS construction by delivering a third starboard truss segment. Also, replaced a defective gyroscope, and installed an external equipment storage platform. Landed at KSC on August 21, 12:33 p.m., EDT. Mission Duration: 12 days, 17 hours, 55 minutes.