

FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- AUGUST 2013

80 Years Ago - 1933

August 17: First Russian liquid fueled rocket successfully fired by The Group for the Investigation of Reactive Engines and Reactive Flight (GIRD), weight: 44 pounds, Russia. The "09" rocket flew for 13 seconds and reached an altitude of about 1,200 feet.

70 Years Ago - 1943

August 17-18: Royal Air Force attacked Peenemünde Rocket Research Center.

60 Years Ago - 1953

August 3: Dr. S. Fred Singer unveiled his proposal for Project MOUSE (Minimum Orbital Unmanned Satellite Experiment) at the Fourth International Congress on Astronautics, Zurich, Switzerland.

August 20: First launch of Army's Redstone missile, Redstone Number 1, launched from Cape Canaveral, 9:35 a.m., EST.

55 Years Ago - 1958

August 2: First full-powered flight of Atlas ICBM using sustainer and booster engine, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

August 7: First launch of Bomarc interceptor missile, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

August 17: Able 1 (Pioneer 0) launched atop a Thor-Able rocket from Cape Canaveral at 12:18 UTC. This spacecraft was the first U.S. attempt at a lunar mission and the first attempted launch beyond Earth orbit by any country. Failure after 77 seconds of flight.

August 19: T. Keith Glennan was sworn in at the White House as NASA's first Administrator. Dr. Hugh Dryden, head of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, was appointed his Deputy Administrator.

August 24: Explorer 5 launched by Jupiter C, 2:17 a.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla. Orbit not achieved because of collision of parts of booster and satellite.

50 Years Ago - 1963

August 1: Mariner 2 completed first orbit of the Sun.

August 16: First air tow of a lifting body, M2-F1, Milton O. Thompson, Dryden Flight Research Facility, CA.

August 22: Highest X-15 flight (unofficial), 354,200 feet (67 + miles), Joseph A. Walker, pilot, DFRF.

45 Years Ago - 1968

August 8: Explorer 39/40 launched by Scout, 4:12 p.m., EDT, Vandenberg AFB.

August 10: ATS 4 launched by Atlas Centaur, 6:33:02 p.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

August 16: ESSA 7 launched by Thor Delta, 7:24 a.m., EDT, Vandenberg AFB.

40 Years Ago - 1973

August 1: First X-24B glide flight, John A. Manke pilot, DFRF.

August 5: Mars 6 orbiter and lander launched by Proton K, 1746 UTC, Baikonur, USSR. It arrived at Mars on March 12, 1974, but only transmitted data for a few minutes before slamming into the surface.

August 9: Mars 7 launched by Proton K, 1701 UTC, Baikonur, USSR.

August 23: Intelsat IV F-7 launched by Atlas Centaur, 6:57 p.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

35 Years Ago - 1978

August 8: Pioneer Venus 1978 launched aboard an Atlas Centaur rocket from Cape Canaveral at 07:33 UTC.

August 12: ISEE 3 developed through a NASA European Space Agency (ESA) partnership to study Earth's magnetosphere launched by Delta, 11:12 a.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla. After completing its original mission, ISEE-3 was renamed the International Cometary Explorer (ICE) and sent to intercept comet Giacobini-Zinner.

August 14: William Dana flew the first of 27 flights in an F-15 with a 10 degree cone to improve wind tunnel data predictions.

August 26: USSR launches Soyuz 31 aboard a Soyuz rocket from Baikonur at 14:57 UTC. Ferry flight to Salyut-6 space station. Crew: Valery F. Bykosky (USSR) and Sigmund W.P. Jähn (DDR/East Germany).

30 Years Ago - 1983

August 30: STS-8 (Space Shuttle *Challenger*) launched, 2:30 a.m., EDT, KSC. Crew: Richard H. Truly, Daniel C. Brandenstein, Dale A. Gardner, William D. Thornton, and Guion S. Bluford. Insat 1B launched. Landed Sept. 5 at 12:40 a.m., PDT, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. (EAFB). Mission Duration: 6 days, 1 hour, 8 minutes. First African-American astronaut in space: Guion Bluford, First shuttle launch in the dark and first shuttle landing in the dark.

25 Years Ago - 1988

August 25: Transit-O 25 and Transit-O 31, dual Navy navigation satellites (NNS) launched by NASA Scout, 3:05 a.m., EDT, Vandenberg AFB.

August 29: USSR launches Soyuz TM-6 aboard a Soyuz rocket from Baikonur at 04:23 UTC. Ferry flight to Mir space station. Crew: Vladimir A. Lyakhov, Valeriy V. Polyakov, and Abdul Ahad Mohmand (Afghanistan).

20 Years Ago - 1993

August 31: Meteor 2-21, the last of the Meteor 2 spacecraft, launched by a Tsiklon-3 from Plesetsk, Russia at 04:40:00 UTC. The satellite helped gather data on weather and radiation. Meteor 2-21's payload included the German/Italian Temisat small space facility, which was designed to collect environmental data using terrestrial sensors.

15 Years Ago – 1998

August 6: NASA's remotely piloted Pathfinder-Plus solar-powered aircraft flew to a record altitude of 80,285 feet above Kaua'i in the Hawaiian Islands.

August 13: Soyuz TM-28 with crew of three: Gennadi I. Padalka, Sergei V. Avdeyev, and Yuri M. Baturin docked with *Mir* space station using manual backup because of prior failure of one of two automatic systems. Launched aboard a Soyuz U rocket from Baikonur at 09:43 UTC.

August 13: SCISAT 1 launched at 02:10 UTC by a Pegasus XL rocket released from an L-1011 cargo plane flying out of Vandenberg AFB.

10 Years Ago – 2003

August: Columbia Accident Investigation Board (CAIB) report released. It explored the impact of NASA's organizational history and practices on Shuttle safety, as well as the roles of public expectations and national policy-making. This report concluded with recommendations to be implemented "before return to flight."

August 25: SIRTf (Space InfraRed Telescope Facility), renamed the Spitzer Space Telescope, was launched by a Delta 2 rocket from Cape Canaveral at 05:35 UT. It is the fourth member of NASA's Great Observatories, the others being the Hubble Telescope, the Compton Gamma Ray Observatory (decommissioned in June 2000), and the Chandra X-Ray Observatory. It is also the largest infrared telescope ever launched into space.

5 Years Ago – 2008

August 29: Five identical mini-satellites of the German RapidEye AG corporation launched by a Dnepr rocket from Baikonur at 07:16 UTC. The 6.5 m resolution images will be sold to agricultural, forestry and town-planning enterprises.