

## **FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- JULY 2012**

### **105 Years Ago – 1907**

July 7: Science fiction writer Robert Heinlein born.

### **55 Years Ago - 1957**

July 1: The beginning of the International Geophysical Year.

### **50 Years Ago – 1962**

July 1: NASA officially opened the Launch Operations Center at Cape Canaveral, later to be named the Kennedy Space Center.

July 10: Telstar 1 launched by Delta, Cape Canaveral, Fla., 4:35 a.m., EDT. Sends first live TV broadcast between the U.S. and Europe. First privately built satellite for communications.

July 22: Mariner 1 launched by Atlas Agena, Cape Canaveral, Fla., 5:21 a.m., EDT. Planned Venus flyby mission, spacecraft and final rocket stage blew up when accelerated to escape velocity.

### **45 Years Ago - 1967**

July 14: Surveyor 4 launched by Atlas Centaur toward Moon, Cape Canaveral, Fla., 753 a.m., EDT. July 17 radio contact was lost 2-1/2 minutes before lunar touchdown when the signal was abruptly lost. Impacted in Sinus Medii.

July 19: Explorer 35 launched by Delta, Cape Canaveral, Fla., 10:19 a.m., EDT.

### **40 Years Ago - 1972**

July 22: Venera 8 Venus Landing.

July 23: Landsat 1, formerly ERTS 1, launched by Delta, Cape Canaveral, Fla., 2:06 p.m., EDT. First demonstration of global remote-sensing of Earth's surface.

### **30 Years Ago - 1982**

July 4: STS-4 landed at EAFB, CA., 12:09 pm., EDT. Crew: Thomas K. "Ken" Mattingly and Henry W. "Hank" Hartsfield. President Reagan attended the landing along with a half-million other tourists. In a speech he stated: "... beginning with the next flight Columbia and her sister ships will be fully operational ..."

July 16: Landsat 4 launched by Delta, Vandenberg AFB, 1:59 a.m., EDT.

### **25 Years Ago – 1987**

July 22: USSR launched Soyuz TM-3 aboard a Soyuz rocket from Baikonur at 1:59:00 UTC. Ferry flight to Mir space station and partial crew exchange. Cosmonauts: Aleksandr S. Viktorenko, Aleksandr P. Aleksandrov, Muhammed A. Faris (Syria).

### **20 Years Ago - 1992**

July 3: Solar, Anomalous and Magnetospheric Particle Explorer (SAMPEX) launched by Scout, 10: 19 a.m., EDT, Vandenberg AFB.

July 10: Giotto Flyby of Comet Grigg-Skjellerup.

July 24: Geotail satellite launched by Delta 2 rocket, 10:26 a.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

July 27: Russia launches Soyuz TM-15 aboard a Soyuz rocket from Baikonur. Ferry flight to space station Mir. Cosmonauts: Anatoli Y. Solovyev, Sergei V. Avdeyev, and Michel Tognini (France).

July 31: STS-46 (Space Shuttle *Atlantis*) launched 9:56 a.m., EDT, KSC. Crew: Loren J. Shriver, Andrew M. Allen, Claude Nicollier (ESA-Switzerland), Marsha S. Ivins, Jeffrey A. Hoffman and Franklin R. Chang-Diaz and Franco Malerba (Italy). Deployment of ESA's European Retrievable Carrier (EURECA) and the joint NASA/Italian Space Agency Tethered Satellite System (TSS). Landed 9:12 a.m., EDT, Aug. 8, KSC. Mission Duration: 7 days, 23 hours, 15 minutes.

### **15 Years Ago - 1997**

July 1: STS-94 (Space Shuttle *Columbia*) launched 2:02 p.m. EDT, KSC. Crew: James D. Halsell, Susan L. Still, Janice E. Voss, Donald A. Thomas, Michael L. Gernhardt, Roger K. Crouch, and Gregory T. Linteris. A reflight of the STS-83 Microgravity Science Laboratory (MSL) mission. MSL was originally launched on April 4, 1997. The mission was cut short due to a problem with Fuel Cell #2. Landed July 17, 1997, 6:47 a.m. EDT, KSC. Mission duration: 15 days, 16 hours, 45 minutes.

July 4: Mars Pathfinder landed on Mars following its launch in December 1996. A small, 23-pound robotic rover, named Sojourner, departed the main lander and began to record weather patterns, atmospheric opacity, and the chemical composition of rocks washed down into the Ares Vallis flood plain, an ancient outflow channel in Mars' northern hemisphere.

### **10 Years Ago - 2002**

July 3: CONTOUR (Comet Nucleus Tour) launched by a Delta 2 rocket from Cape Canaveral at 2:47 a.m. EDT. Six weeks later, on August 15, contact with the spacecraft was lost after a planned maneuver that was intended to propel it out of Earth orbit and into its comet-chasing solar orbit.

### **5 Years Ago - 2007**

July 20: Johnson Space Center hosted the grand opening of a restored Saturn V rocket, 38 years to the day after humans first walked on the moon. The 30 story tall rocket, which rests at the JSC front gate, is part of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum collection and one of only three such rockets in existence.