

## ***FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- MARCH 2011***

### **230 Years Ago - 1781**

March 13: Uranus discovered by Sir William Herschel, British Royal Astronomer (1738-1822).

### **85 Years Ago - 1926**

March 16: Dr. Robert H. Goddard launched the first liquid-propelled rocket at 2:30 p.m. on a farm in Auburn, MA outside Worcester, MA.

### **80 Years Ago - 1931**

March 14: Johannes Winkler made first liquid-fueled rocket test in Europe. Bessau, Germany.

### **65 Years Ago - 1946**

March 22: First American rocket to escape earth's atmosphere, the JPL-Ordnance Wac, reached 50-mile height after launch from WSPG.

### **55 Years Ago - 1956**

March 14: ABMA launched first Jupiter rocket, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

### **50 Years Ago - 1961**

March 9: Sputnik 9 or Korabl Sputnik 4 launched by Modified SS-6 (Sapwood) or Molniya at 06:28:00 UTC from Baikonur (Carried Dog Named Chernushka)

March 25: Explorer 10 launched by Thor Delta, 10:17 a.m. EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

March 16: Goddard Space Flight Center, dedicated, Greenbelt, MD.

March 18: Little Joe 5A, suborbital Mercury capsule test, premature escape rocket firing, Wallops Flight Facility (WFF), VA.

March 25: Sputnik 10 or Korabl Sputnik 5 launched by Modified SS-6 (Sapwood) or Molniya at 06:00:00 UTC rocket from Baikonur. (Carried dog Named Zvezdochka).

### **45 Years Ago: 1966**

March 1: Venera 3, impacted on Venus making it the first spacecraft to impact on the surface of another planet.. Launched on Nov.16, 1965.

March 16: Gemini Titan 8. First manned docking of two spacecraft, (Gemini 8 with Agena target rocket). Astronauts Dave R. Scott and Neil A. Armstrong launched. 10:41 a.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla. Made emergency landing in Pacific less than 11 hours later.

March 31: Luna 10 or Lunik 10 launched by Molniya or Modified SS-6 (Sapwood) with 2nd Generation Upper Stage + Escape Stage, 1048 UTC, Baikonur, USSR. First artificial moon satellite.

### **40 Years Ago - 1971**

March 9: NASA research pilot Thomas McMurtry completed the first flight in a F-8A, modified with Langley researcher Richard Whitcomb's supercritical wing.

March 13: Explorer 43 (IMP-I) launched by Delta, 11:15 a.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

March 31: ISIS 2 launched by Delta, 6:57 p.m., PST, Vandenberg AFB.

### **35 Years Ago - 1976**

March 26: RCA-B or RCA-SATCOM-B launched by Delta at 5:42 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

### **25 Years Ago – 1986**

March 6: Vega 1, USSR Comet Halley Flyby.

March 9: Vega 2, USSR Comet Halley Flyby.

March 10: Sakigake, Japan, Comet Halley Flyby.

March 13: Giotto, ESA Comet Halley Flyby.

March 28: ICE, Comet Halley Distant Flyby.

### **20 Years Ago - 1991**

March 8: Titan IV launched. 4:03 a.m., PST carrying DoD payload. First launch of Titan IV from Vandenberg AFB.

March 31: ALMAZ-1 (“Diamond”) launched by the U.S.S.R. on 15:12 UTC using a Proton-K rocket booster. The flight program provided for filming of the territory of the Soviet Union and other countries in the interest of geology, cartography, oceanography, ecology, and agriculture.

### **15 Years Ago - 1996**

March 22: STS-76 (Space Shuttle *Atlantis*) launched from KSC at 3:13 a.m. EST for 3<sup>rd</sup> docking with the Russian Mir station. Left Shannon Lucid onboard. Crew: Kevin P. Chilton, Richard A. Searfoss, Linda M. Godwin, Michael R. Clifford, Ronald M. Sega, and Shannon W. Lucid. Landed at Edwards AFB March 31, 1996 at 8:28 a.m. EST. Mission Duration: 9 days, 5 hours, 16 minutes.

### **10 Years Ago – 2001**

March 18: XM 2 (better known as XM Rock) is an American geosynchronous radio broadcast satellite that was launched by a Zenit 3SL rocket from the Sea Launch Odyssey platform on the equatorial Pacific Ocean at 5:33 pm EST. The satellite carries two transmitters (3 kW each) in the S-band to relay 100 channels of digital quality music uplinked in the X-band from one or more ground stations.

March 21: STS-102 (Space Shuttle *Discovery*) launched from KSC at 2:31 a.m. EST. Crew: James D. Wetherbee, James M. Kelly, Andy S. W. Thomas, and Paul W. Richards. International Space Station (ISS) Flight 5A.1 Delivered a multi-rack Italian container (Leonardo MultiPurpose Logistics Module, LMPLM) to the Destiny Module of the ISS and exchanged Expedition 2 crew for Expedition One crew: James S. Voss (up); Susan J. Helms (up); Yury V. Usachev (up); Sergei Krikalev (down); William M. Shepherd (down); Yuri P. Gidzenko (down). Landed March 21 at 2:31 a.m. EST, KSC. Mission Duration: 12 days, 19 hours, 51 minutes.

March 23: The Soviet/Russian orbital laboratory Mir, returned to Earth, scattering fragments in the South Pacific Ocean.

### **5 Years Ago – 2006**

March 22: ST5-A, ST5-B, and ST5-C were the first three microsattellites in the Space Technology 5 mission of NASA's New Millennium Program. They were launched at 9:04 am EST by a Pegasus XL rocket that was released from the belly of a Lockheed L-1011 plane flying out of Vandenberg AFB.

March 30: Soyuz-TMA 8 launched by a Soyuz FG rocket from Baikonur at 9:30 pm EST. It carried three astronauts (a Russian, Pavel Vinogradov, an American, Jeffrey Williams, and a Brazilian, Marcos Pontes) to the International Space Station (ISS). Pontes returned on Soyuz TMA 7.