

FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- SEPTEMBER 2013

55 Years Ago - 1958

September 17: NASA-ARPA Manned Satellite Panel established. The NASA/Advanced Research Projects Agency Manned Satellite Panel was formed to draft plans for future manned spaceflight. The panel collaborated with the military as well as the NASA Langley Research Center and NASA Glenn (then Lewis) Research Center.

September 30: Last day of NACA, Washington, D.C.

50 Years Ago - 1963

September 18: Asset 1 flight (shuttle precursor), to altitude of 35 miles, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

September 28: Transit V-B launched by Thor Ablestar, first all-nuclear spacecraft, USN, Vandenberg AFB.

45 Years Ago - 1968

September 5: Zond 5 (Soviet Circumlunar Flight) launched from Baikonur by Proton K, USSR, 2136 UTC.

40 Years Ago - 1973

September 25: Skylab with astronauts Bean, Garriott, and Lousma, splashdown in Pacific Ocean, recovery ship USS New Orleans, 6:20 p.m., EDT.

September 26: Concorde 02 flew from Dulles International Airport, Washington, D.C. to Orly Field, Paris France, in 3 hours and 33 minutes.

September 27: USSR launches Soyuz 12 aboard a Soyuz rocket from Baikonur at 12:18 UTC. Crew: Vasiliy G.Lazarev and Oleg G.Makarov. To check out the improvements made to the Soyuz craft.

35 Years Ago - 1978

September 9: Venera 11 (Venus flyby and lander) launched by Proton K from Baikonur at 03:25:39 UTC.

September 14: Venera 12 (Venus flyby and lander) launched by Proton K from Baikonur at 02:25:13 UTC.

30 Years Ago - 1983

September 8: RCA-Satcom 7 launched by Delta, 6:52 p.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

September 22: Galaxy 2 launched by Delta, 6:16 p.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

September 26: Soyuz T-10-1(or T-10a) attempted launch aboard a Soyuz rocket from Baikonur at 19:43 UTC. Rocket exploded on launch pad. Launch escape system saved the crew of Vladimir G. Titov and Gennady M. Strekalov.

25 Years Ago - 1988

September 19: Ofeq 1 (Horizon 1) launched by Israel aboard a Shavit rocket from Palmahim, Israel at 09:32 UTC. First Israel launch.

September 24: NOAA 11 launched, on Atlas E, 3:02 a.m., PDT, Vandenberg AFB.

September 29: STS-26 (Space Shuttle *Discovery*) launched, 11:37 a.m., EDT, KSC. Crew: Frederick D.Hauck, Richard O.Covey, George D.Nelson, David C.Hilmers, and John M.Lounge. Return to flight after Challenger loss. TDRS 3 deployed successfully from cargo bay of orbiter Discovery. Landing October 3, 1988, 9:37 a.m. PDT, Runway 17, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. Mission Duration: Four days, one hour, zero minutes.

20 Years Ago – 1993

September 12: STS-51 (Space Shuttle *Discovery*) launched, 7:45 a.m., EDT, KSC. Crew: Frank L. Culbertson, Jr., William F. Readdy, James H. Newman, Daniel W. Bursch, and Carl E. Walz. Deployment of two payloads: Advanced Communications Technology Satellite (ACTS) and Orbiting and Retrievable Far and Extreme Ultraviolet Spectrograph-Shuttle Pallet Satellite (OERFEUS- SPAS), first in series of ASTRO-SPAS astronomical missions. Landing September 22 at 3:56 a.m., EDT., KSC. Mission Duration: nine days, 20 hours, 11 minutes.

15 Years Ago - 1998

September 16: Intelsat 7 (Panamsat 7) launched aboard an Ariane 44LP rocket from Kourou, French Guiana at 06:31 UTC.

10 Years Ago – 2003

September 21: Galileo spacecraft ends its' 14-year mission when it plunged into Jupiter's cloud deck at about 108,000 mph.

September 27: SMART 1 (Small Missions for Advanced Research in Technology 1), an ESA lunar mission to test solar electric propulsion technology and to ascertain the surface minerals on the Moon was launched by an Ariane 5 rocket from Kourou, French Guiana at 23:14 UTC. ESA intentionally crashed the spacecraft into the moon at the end of the mission.

5 Years Ago – 2008

September 6: GeoEye 1, an American (privately owned) remote sensing satellite, launched by a Delta 2 rocket from Vandenberg AFB in California at 11:51a.m., PDT. It will provide 0.4 m resolution panchromatic and 1.6 m multicolor images to be marketed to the US Department of Defense and state and city planners.

September 25: Shenzhou 7, a Chinese (PRC) manned spacecraft launched by a Long March 2F rocket from Jiquan (in Gansu Province) at 13:10 UTC. Crew: Jing Haipen, Zhai Zhigang, and Liu Boming. One of the astronauts made a brief spacewalk mainly to test the space suit. (That space suit was named *Feitian*, after the goddess who could fly.) The mission and the spacewalk are reported as an imminent precursor to building a space station in 2010. The capsule (2008-047H) returned, with all three astronauts, safely on the central part of Inner Mongolia on September 29.

September 28: Demosat , an American (private) satellite, launched by a Falcon 1 rocket from the Omelek island in the Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific Ocean at 23:15 UT. It was the first successful launch of the rocket after several earlier failures. Demosat is a 165 kg aluminum dummy, also named Ratsat. (It failed to separate from the second stage; hence USSTRATCOM's name Demosat/Falcon 1.) The development of Falcon rockets as a carrier of cargo to the International Space Station (ISS) has been funded by NASA. It is expected to be the primary American vehicle for transportation to the ISS, between 2010 when the shuttles will be retired and the Orion spacecraft program will succeed by 2015.