FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- JUNE 2018

90 Years Ago - 1928
June 11: Friederich Stamer made the first manned flight of a rocket-powered aircraft from the Rhôn Mountains in Germany. Stamer's rocket-mounted, tailless glider was designed by Alexander Lippisch, and it flew approximately one mile.

55 Years Ago - 1963
June 14: Vostok 5, with cosmonaut Valery F. Bykovsky, launched by Vostok rocket at 12:00 UTC from Baikonur.

June 16: Vostok 6, with cosmonaut Valentina V. Tereshkova, launched by Vostok rocket at 9:36 UTC from Baikonur. Tereshkova became the first woman in space.

June 19: TIROS 7 launched by Thor Delta at 5:50 a.m., EDT from Cape Canaveral, Fla. TIROS 7 was the first weather satellite to return infrared imagery in addition to cloud photographs.

50 Years Ago - 1968
June 16: Astronauts Joseph P. Kerwin, Vance D. Brand, and Joe H. Engle begin a full-mission-length simulation of an Apollo Command Module (CM) flight inside a vacuum chamber. Test recreated conditions CM would encounter in space. Test verifies CM environmental systems and pressure hull can function for the duration of a lunar landing mission when fully manned.

45 Years Ago - 1973
June 10: Explorer 49 launched by Delta at 10:13 a.m., EDT from Cape Canaveral, Fla. The satellite was a radio telescope placed in lunar orbit.

40 Years Ago – 1978
June 15: Soyuz 29 launched aboard a Soyuz rocket from Baikonur at 20:16 UTC. Ferry flight to Salyut-6 space station. Crew: Vladimir V. Kovalyonok and Aleksandr S. Ivanchenkov.

June 16: GOES-3 launched by Delta at 6:49 a.m., EDT from Cape Canaveral, Fla. Part of the Global Atmospheric Research Program (GARP).

June 22: Jim Christy discovers Pluto’s moon, Charon.

June 26: SeaSat-1 launched by Atlas F at 6:13 p.m., PDT from Vandenberg AFB. First satellite launched to provide global observations of the Earth’s oceans.


35 Years Ago - 1983
June 2: Venera 15 launched by Proton K from Baikonur at 2:38 UTC. Soviet Venus orbiter designed to map Venus surface by radar.


June 13: Pioneer 10 satellite became the first man-made object to leave the solar system. It was also the first spacecraft to visit an outer planet and the first to capture close-range images of Jupiter. Its final signal was sent to Earth in January 2003.
June 18: STS-7 (Space Shuttle *Challenger*) launched at 7:33 a.m., EDT from KSC. Crew: Robert L. Crippen, Frederick B. Hauck, John M. Fabian, Sally K. Ride, and Norman E. Thagard. Shuttle launched Anik C-2, Palapa B-1, and SPAS-01, subsequently retrieved by STS-7. Sally Ride becomes the first US woman in space. Landed on June 24, 6:56 a.m. PDT at Edwards AFB. Mission Duration: 6 days, 2 hours and 23 minutes.

June 27: Soyuz T-9 launched aboard a Soyuz rocket from Baikonur at 9:12 UTC. Ferry flight to Salyut-7 space station. Crew: Vladimir A. Lyakhov and Aleksandr P. Aleksandrov.

June 28: Galaxy 1 launched by Delta, 7:08 p.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla. Hughes Aircraft’s first venture into the field of commercial satellites.

30 Years Ago – 1988
June 7: Soyuz TM-5 launched aboard a Soyuz rocket from Baikonur at 14:03 UTC. Ferry flight to Mir space station. Crew: Anatoly Y. Solovyov and Viktor P. Savinykh; Aleksandr A. Aleksandrov (Bulgaria).

June 15: Nova-II launched by Scout at 11:51 p.m., PDT from Vandenberg AFB. An improved version of the US Navy Transit navigation satellites.

June 22: Russia launched a scale model of the Buran orbiter to complete a series of five test flights. These flights led to the first and only unmanned Buran mission in November 1988.

25 Years Ago – 1993
June 21: STS-57 (Space Shuttle *Endeavour*) launched at 9:07 a.m. EDT from KSC. Crew: Ronald J. Grabe, Brian Duffy, G. David Low, Nancy J. Sherlock, Peter J. Wisoff, and Janice E. Voss. First flight of the Spacehab module ([SPACEHAB-1]). Retrieved EURECA payload. Landed July 1, 1993, 8:52 a.m. EDT at KSC. Mission Duration 9 days, 23 hours, 44 minutes.

20 Years Ago – 1998
June 2: STS-91 (Space Shuttle *Discovery*) launched at 6:06 p.m. EDT from KSC. Crew: Charles J. Precourt, Dominic L. Pudwill Gorie, Wendy B. Lawrence, Franklin R. Chang-Diaz, Janet L. Kavandi, and cosmonaut Valery Victorovitch Ryumin (Russia). Flight marked the final Shuttle/Mir Docking Mission and first use of the super lightweight external tank (SLWT). Returned Mir crew member Andrew Thomas to Earth. Landed June 12, 1998, 2:00:17 p.m. EDT at KSC. Mission duration 9 days, 19 hours, 55 minutes.

15 Years Ago – 2003
June 2: Mars Express, a European (ESA)-Russian (IKI) planetary mission launched by a Soyuz-Fregat rocket from Baikonur at 17:45 UTC. It consisted of a Mars Orbiter and a lander named Beagle 2 that was released from the orbiter when it reached Mars’ vicinity in December 2003. Beagle 2 was declared lost after no communications were received following the scheduled landing on Mars.

June 10: MER-A (Mars Exploration Rover A) launched by a Delta 2 rocket from Cape Canaveral, Fla at 12:59 EDT. It carried a robotic rover named Spirit (launched a month before its twin, Opportunity) to do geology observations near Gusev Crater on Mars. Both arrived on Mars in January 2004.

10 Years Ago – 2008
June 9: Zhongxing 9, also known as Chinasat 9, a Chinese (PRC) communication satellite, was launched by a Long March 3B rocket from Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan province at 16:15 UTC. It was the primary vehicle for transmitting voice and video from the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

June 11: The Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope, formerly the Gamma-ray Large Area Space Telescope (GLAST), launched aboard a Delta 2 from Cape Canaveral at 12:05 p.m. EDT. Fermi’s mission is to survey gamma rays from astronomical sources in the energy range from 10 keV to over 300 GeV.
June 20: Jason 2 launched by a Delta 2 from Vandenberg AFB at 12:46 a.m. PDT. Jason 2 is a cooperative mission involving the French CNES, the European EUMETSAT, and the American NOAA and NASA. It is an ocean monitoring satellite that measured sea surface levels with an accuracy of 2.5 cm.

5 Years Ago – 2013

June 30: NASA Evolutionary Xenon Thruster (NEXT) ion engine test terminated after five and a half years of continuous operation, the world’s longest spacecraft propulsion test ever.