

FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- JANUARY 2011

50 Years Ago -- 1961

January 31: Samos 2 orbited by Atlas-Agena, 3:23 p.m., EST, Vandenberg AFB, CA.

January 31: Mercury Redstone 2 (MR-2), launched 11:54 a.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla. with chimpanzee Ham aboard.

45 Years Ago -- 1966

January 14: Sergei P. Korolev died, USSR.

January 20: Little Joe II launched, 8:17 a.m., MST, WSMR, NM. Apollo launch escape system development test.

January 31: Luna 9 Launch (USSR Moon Lander) by Modified SS-6 (Sapwood) or Molniya. First successful soft landing on the Moon.

40 Years Ago --1971

January 20: Meteor 1-7 lifted off by Modified SS-6 (Sapwood) or Molniya, 1131 UTC, Baikonur, USSR.

January 31: Apollo 14 launched at 4:03 p.m., EST, Launch Complex 39, Pad A, KSC. Astronauts Alan B. Shepard Jr., Stuart A. Roosa, and Edgar D. Mitchell land in Frau Mauro region of the moon. This was the last lunar crew to be quarantined.

35 Years Ago -- 1976

January 15: Helios-B or Helios 2 orbited, 12:34 a.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla. Launched aboard Titan 3E-Centaur. One of a pair of deep-space probes developed by the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) in a cooperative program with NASA.

January 17: Hermes or CAS-C or CTS launched by a Delta at 6:27 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

January 29: Intelsat IVA F-2 orbited 6:56 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

25 Years Ago -- 1986

January 12: STS-61C (Space Shuttle *Columbia*) launched at 6:55 a.m., EST, KSC. Crew: Robert L. "Hoot" Gibson, Charles F. Bolden, Franklin R. Chang-Diaz, George D. "Pinky" Nelson, Steve A. Hawley, Robert J. Cenker, and Congressman William C. Nelson. Deployment of SATCOM Ku-1. Landed at Edwards AFB, CA, January 18, 8:58 a.m., EST. Mission Duration: 6 days, 2 hours, and 3 minutes. Franklin Chang-Diaz became first U.S. Hispanic male in space. First member of U.S. House of representatives in space, Bill Nelson.

January 12: RCA Satcom KU-1 launched from STS 61C.

January 24: Voyager 2, Uranus Flyby.

January 28: *Challenger* Accident – STS-51L (Space Shuttle *Challenger*) launched at 11:38 a.m., EST, KSC. Astronauts: Francis R. "Dick" Scobee, Michael J. Smith, Ellison S. Onizuka, Judith A. Resnik, Ronald E. McNair, Sharon Christa McAuliffe, and Gregory Jarvis. The explosion 73 seconds after liftoff claimed crew and vehicle. The cause of explosion was determined to be an O-ring failure in the right solid rocket booster. Cold weather was determined to be a contributing factor.

15 Years Ago – 1996

January 11: STS-72 (Space Shuttle *Endeavour*) launched at 4:41 a.m. EST, KSC. Crew: Brian Duffy; Brent W. Jett, Jr.; Leroy Chiao, Daniel T. Barry, Winston E. Scott, and Koichi Wakata (Japan). Mission objectives included the capture and return to Earth of a Japanese microgravity research spacecraft known as Space Flyer Unit (SFU) and also the deployment and retrieval of the Office of Aeronautics and Space Technology Flyer (OAST-Flyer) spacecraft. Landed at KSC, January 20 at 2:41 a.m. Mission Duration: 8 days, 22 hours, 1 minute.

10 Years Ago -- 2001

January 9: Shenzhou 2 (translated as "Divine Ship", or "Magic Vessel", or "God Vessel") is an unmanned Chinese (PRC) spacecraft that was launched by a Long March 2F rocket from Jiuquan launch center (in the north-western province of Gansu) at "01:00 a.m."

January 16: The descent module (also carrying the name, Shenzhou 2) landed smoothly in Inner Mongolia on 16 January at 11:22 UTC after separating from the orbiter.

5 Years Ago – 2006

January 15: Stardust capsule landed in Utah desert returning samples of interstellar dust that could offer vital clues about the origins of our solar system. It's reentry speed - at 28,860 miles per hour- is the fastest ever of any human-made object, topping the record set in May 1969 by the returning Apollo 10 command module.

January 19: New Horizons probe launched by an Atlas 5 rocket from Cape Canaveral at 2 p.m. EST to reach Pluto (and its satellite Charon) by about 2015 and then other bodies in the Kuiper Belt.