

FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- MARCH 2012

100 Years Ago -- 1912

March 23: Dr. Wernher von Braun born, Wirsitz, Germany (now Part of Poland).

75 Years Ago -- 1937

March 6: Valentina Nikolayevna Tereshkova born, Maslennikovo, Yaroslavl Region, USSR. First woman in space aboard Vostok 6, June 16, 1963.

65 Years Ago -- 1947

March 7: First photograph taken from space from a V2 rocket 100 miles above White Sands, New Mexico.

60 Years Ago -- 1952

March 22: Colliers magazine published its first space symposium under title: "Man Will Conquer Space Soon."

March 23: Science fiction writer Kim Stanley Robinson born. Known for his "Red Mars", Blue Mars", and Green Mars" trilogy.

50 Years Ago -- 1962

March 7: OSO 1 launched Thor Delta, 11:06 a.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

March 16: Cosmos 1 launched by Cosmos rocket, 1200 UTC, Kapustin Yar, USSR.

45 Years Ago -- 1967

March 8: OSO 3 launched by Delta, 11:12 a.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

March 22: Cosmos 150 launched by Voskhod, 1243 UTC, Plesetsk, USSR.

March 23: Intelsat II F-3 launched by Delta, 8:30 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

40 Years Ago -- 1972

March 2: Pioneer 10 launched by Atlas Centaur, 8:49 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

March 11: TD-1A launched by Delta for ESRO, 8:55 p.m., EST, Vandenberg AFB.

March 27: Venus 8 (Venera 8) launched by Modified SS-6 (Sapwood) or Molniya, 0415 UTC, Baikonur, USSR.

35 Years Ago -- 1977

March 10: Uranus rings discovered.

March 10: Palapa 2 launched by Delta, 6:16 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

30 Years Ago -- 1982

March 4: Intelsat V F-4 launched by Atlas Centaur, 7:24 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

March 22: STS-3 (Space Shuttle *Columbia*) launched, 11:00 a.m., EST, KSC. Crew: Jack R. Lousma and C. Gordon Fullerton. Continued testing of Space Shuttle systems for qualification for operational flights. Landed March 30, 11:05 a.m., EST, White Sands, N.M. Mission Duration: 8 days, 4 minutes.

25 Years Ago – 1987

March 20: Palapa B 2P Comsat launched by Delta, 5:22 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla. Owned by Republic of Indonesia.

March 31: USSR launches space station module Kvant-1 (Quantum) aboard a Proton K rocket from Baikonur. Docked with space station Mir on April 9.

20 Years Ago – 1992

March 14: Galaxy 5, a commercial communications spacecraft, was launched from Cape Canaveral by an Atlas 1 rocket.

March 17: Russia launches Soyuz TM-14 to space station Mir from Baikonur. Cosmonauts: Aleksandr S. Viktorenko; Aleksandr Y. Kaleri and Klaus-Dietrich Flade (Germany).

March 24: STS-45 (Space Shuttle *Atlantis*) launched March 24 at 8:13 a.m. EST, KSC. Crew: Charles F. Bolden, Brian Duffy, Kathryn D. Sullivan, David C. Leestma, C. Michael Foale, Byron K. Lichtenberg, and Dirk D. Frimout (Belgium). Carried first Atmospheric Laboratory for Applications and Science (ATLAS-1) on Spacelab pallets mounted in orbiter's cargo bay. Landed April 2, 6:23 a.m., EST, KSC. Mission Duration: 8 days, 22 hours, 9 minutes.

10 Years Ago – 2002

March 1: STS-109 (Space Shuttle Columbia) launched at 6:22 a.m. EST, KSC. Crew: Scott D. Altman, Duane G. Carey, John M. Grunsfeld, Nancy J. Currie, James H. Newman, Richard M. Linnehan, and Michael J. Massimino. This is the fourth servicing mission to the Hubble Space Telescope. Landed March 12, 2002, 4:32 a.m., EST at KSC. Mission Duration: 10 days, 22 hours, 11 minutes.

March 1: ENVISAT 1, a European Space Agency (ESA) environmental remote-sensing spacecraft was launched by an Ariane 5 rocket from Kourou, French Guiana at 01:07 UTC. Reported to be the most massive and expensive of the European satellites, it carried ten sensors to monitor global warming, the ozone hole and desertification.

March 17: GRACE 1 and GRACE 2 (Gravity Recovery And Climate Experiment nick-named Tom and Jerry) are a pair of American-German, identical, satellites that were launched by a Rockot booster from Plesetsk at 09:21 UTC. They aim to map the local gravitational mini-variations caused by sea-level changes, glacial motions, and seasonal melting/freezing of ice sheets.

March 25: Shenzhou 3 (Divine Vessel 3), a Chinese (PRC) "unmanned spaceship, launched by a Long March 2F rocket from Jiquan Space Launch Center in the northwestern Gobi desert at 14:00 UTC. It consisted of three modules: a propulsion section, a conical re-entry capsule, and an orbiter. The capsule was equipped with all that would be needed for a manned flight.

5 Years Ago – 2007

March 9: FalconSat 3, an American military (DARPA) picosatellite, was one of six DARPA military satellites launched by an Atlas 5 rocket from Cape Canaveral at 03:10 UTC. Built by USAF Academy cadets, it monitored the ambient plasma, and tested a micropropulsion attitude control system.