

October Skies: On This Day in Aerospace History...

- 1** 1945: Project Paperclip begins
1949: Cape Canaveral activated
1958: NASA officially begins operations
- 2** 1906: Willy Ley born—popularized idea of space flight
1921: Albert Scott Crossfield born—1st man to reach Mach 2; 1st Hispanic test pilot
1935: Astronaut Robert Henry Lawrence, Jr. born—African-American pilot astronaut
- 3** 1935: Astronaut Charlie Duke born—*Apollo 16*; 10th man to walk on Moon
1951: Astronaut Kathy Sullivan born—1st US woman to walk in space
- 4** 1957: 1st satellite in space—*Sputnik 1*
1999: 1st World Space Week launched
2004: *SpaceShip One* flight launch—winner of X-Prize
- 5** 1882: Robert Goddard, Father of Rocketry, born
1984: STS-41G (*Challenger*) launch
- 6** 1990: STS 41 (*Discovery*) launch; payload includes *Ulysses* — 1st spacecraft to fly over poles of the sun
- 7** 1906: Birth of James Webb—developed NASA mission to land humans on the Moon
1958: Project Mercury organized
- 8** 1913: Robert Gilruth born—Director, Houston, 1962-1972. Under his leadership Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo were designed and flown, America won Moon race, and the Shuttle was designed
1956: Astronaut and engineer Janice Voss born
1959: Astronaut Carlos Noriega born—Hispanic-American computer scientist; mission specialist astronaut
- 9** 2000: 1st space tourist cosmonaut group selected
2006: *Cassini*—Titan flyby
- 10** 1846: William Lassell discovers Triton, moon of Neptune
1946: Italian Astronaut Franco Egidio Malerba born
1959: Soviet *Luna 3* returns 1st pictures of Moon's far side
2007: Expedition 16 begins; Peggy Whitson, 1st female ISS Commander
- 11** 1958: *Pioneer 1*—1st NASA launch
1968: *Apollo 7*—1st crewed Apollo mission
1984: Kathy Sullivan—1st spacewalk by American woman
2014: 1st Challenger Center in Nevada officially opens
- 12** 1964: *Voskhod 1*—1st flight with multiple crew members
- 13** 1931: Goddard rocket test flight (1700+ feet)
1960: Successful *Atlas* rocket launch with 3 mice
- 14** 1947: 1st supersonic manned flight by Chuck Yeager
1954: 1st American 4-stage rocket
1957: National space flight program proposed
- 15** 1929: *Frau im Mond (The Girl in the Moon)* premieres
1997: *Cassini/Huygens* mission launched
- 16** 2002: *SpaceShipOne* test flight
- 17** 1956: Astronaut and physician Mae Jemison born—1st African-American woman to fly in space
- 18** 1954: Nuclear rocket engine proposed—at suggestion of Theodore von Kármán
1989: STS-34 (*Atlantis*) launch with *Galileo* (Jupiter) probe on board and an IMAX camera
- 19** 1899: Goddard's Dream—17-year-old Robert Goddard climbs a cherry tree to cut off dead limbs. Transfixed by the sky, his imagination soars. He later writes:
"On this day I climbed a tall cherry tree at the back of the barn. . . and as I looked toward the fields in the east, I imagined how wonderful it would be to make some device which had even the possibility of ascending to Mars.... I was a different boy when I descended the tree from when I ascended. Existence at last seemed very purposive."
For the rest of his life he observed this day as "Anniversary Day," a private commemoration of the day of his greatest inspiration.
1967: *Mariner 5* Venus flyby
- 20** 1963: Astronaut Julie Payette born—Canadian engineer
1995: *MIR* EVA—1st German spacewalk
- 21** 1950: Astronaut Ron McNair born; African-American physicist mission specialist on *Challenger 51-L*
- 22** 1968: *Apollo 7* returns (Cunningham; Eisele; Schirra)
1975: Soviet *Venera 9*—1st landing / images on Venus
- 23** 1930: Goddard begins rocket tests at Roswell, NM
1946: 20,000 Germans transported to USSR to transfer technology on aerospace and other technical fields
- 24** 1851: Lassell discovers moons Umbriel and Ariel
1944: Construction of prototype winged V-2's completed
1958: 1st Redstone static firing at White Sands, NM
1961: Astronaut Susan Leigh Still-Kilrain born—Jewish-American test pilot astronaut
2007: *Chang'e 1*—China's 1st lunar / planetary probe
- 25** 1671: Giovanni Cassini discovers Iapetus, moon of Saturn
2006: *Cassini* spacecraft makes flyby of Titan
- 26** 1964: Russ Schweickart spends 8 days in a Gemini space suit to evaluate biomedical recording instruments
1977: Last free-flight test of Space Shuttle *Enterprise*
2007: *Harmony* module installed on ISS
- 27** 1931: Goddard rocket flight test—liquid fuel rocket with new gasoline shutoff valve; in air 8.6 seconds
1961: *Saturn C-1* launch—largest rocket ever launched
- 28** 1959: Prototype *Echo* balloon / com satellite launched
1968: Star City named
1969: Boeing awarded Apollo lunar roving vehicle contract
- 29** 1991: *Galileo* makes 1st flyby of an asteroid (Gaspra)
1998: 1st Spanish astronaut, Pedro Duque (on STS-95)
- 30** 1946: Astronaut 'Hoot' Gibson born
1961: Astronaut Ron Garan born
1964: 1st flight of Lunar Landing Research Vehicle (LLRV)
1964: Astronaut Sandra Hall Magnus born
1968: NASA begins the design, bidding, and source selection process leading to the Space Shuttle
- 31** 2000: Expedition 1 begins — 1st ISS crew