

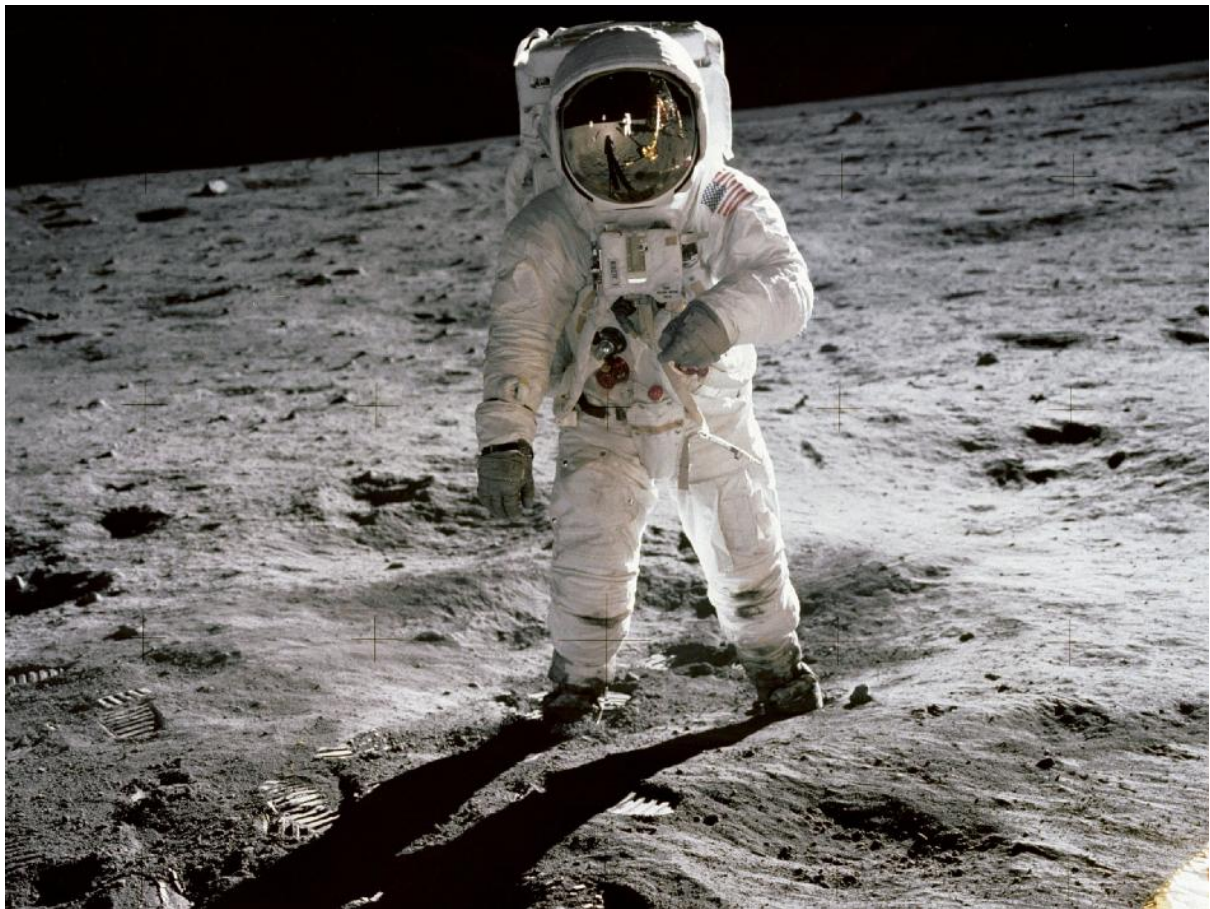
APOLLO 11 TO BE HONORED

The Stuart News (FL) - Monday, July 12, 1999

By Dan McCue
of the News staff

"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

-- Neil Armstrong, July 20, 1969



Kennedy Space Center will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the first moon landing this week.

STUART - Thirty years after a Saturn V rocket sent them hurtling toward the moon and a date with destiny, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin plan to return to Kennedy Space Center later this week for a commemoration of the event.

The voyage of Apollo11, which culminated in the two men stepping out of the Grumman-built lunar module and onto the moon's surface at the Sea of Tranquillity, was one of the great adventures of the millennium.

The Kennedy Space Center will celebrate the triumph of national will and human determination this week with two days of public and private events.

Although much of the excitement will be related to the anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission, which began when the 6-million-pound spacecraft lifted off at the center at 9:32 a.m., July 16, 1969, it will continue into next week when the space shuttle Columbia makes its own bit of history.

"It's an exciting time, we're in for a wild four or five days here," said Dan LeBlanc, director of marketing for the space center's visitor center.

Scheduled for liftoff July 20, the anniversary of Armstrong's and Aldrin's moon landing, the five-day Columbia mission will be the first to be commanded by a woman, Air Force Col. Eileen Collins.



"They are both major league events," LeBlanc said. "Making sure those who come to be a part of them enjoy themselves is going to take a lot of hard work."

Armstrong, a native of Lebanon, Ohio, has kept a low profile since walking on the moon's surface 30 years ago, so it's something of a coup for the space center that he's agreed to attend a private gala at the Apollo /Saturn V Visitor's Center on Friday night.

"It's one of only two or three events he's agreed to attend," LeBlanc said.

At the dinner, Armstrong will be joined by about 1,000 guests eating dinner at tables arrayed around the booster stages of a real Saturn V rocket.

Setting the mood further will be the view from the center's large bay windows - they look out directly onto the launch pad where the shuttle Columbia sits.

Also Friday, groundbreaking for a new monument honoring the Apollo space program is scheduled in Titusville, and Sunday, former astronauts and NASA workers will gather at the Cape for a commemorative barbecue - something they've done every five years since the Apollo 11 mission.

Festivities open to the public will take place at the Apollo /Saturn V Center, as a special feature of the Kennedy Space Center bus tour, as well as throughout the main visitor complex.

Highlights of the Apollo 11 anniversary celebration include:

Public briefings by Aldrin, as well as Apollo 7 astronauts Wally Schirra and Walt Cunningham, Apollo 16 astronaut Charlie Duke, and the last man to walk on the moon, Apollo 10 and 17 astronaut Gene Cernan.

A 1960s pop concert at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Apollo /Saturn V Center featuring

current incarnations of bands of the launch era - the Supremes, known for such hits as Stop In The Name of Love, and the Byrds, with hits such as Turn, Turn, Turn, and Mr. Tambourine Man.

The national unveiling of the U.S. Postal Service's "Man Walks On The Moon" stamp, part of its collection to celebrate the century. The stamp unveiling will be at 11 a.m. at the visitor complex's new Universe Theater.

Book and autograph signings at the visitor complex by Cernan and Schirra, as well as Andrew Chaikin, author of A Man on the Moon. Chaikin's book is the basis for the award-winning HBO series From the Earth to the Moon.



A scale-model rocket launch of the Apollo /Saturn V moon rocket from the main visitor complex area by the Tampa/Hillsborough Organization of Rocketry.

The shuttle mission scheduled to begin July 20 will deploy the Chandra X-ray Observatory, the largest and most powerful X-ray telescope ever to be launched. Launch time will be 12:36 a.m.

LeBlanc estimates the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex draws more than 2.75 million visitors a year.

"We're one of the five most-visited attractions in the state, and that's been of great benefit to the entire region we know as the Space Coast," he said.

LeBlanc said the center would have crews working through the night Thursday and Friday to prepare for the private functions, then get the center ready for the public Saturday.

"It's going to be a gala celebration ... we're tremendously excited about it," he said.

Been there

The 12 who have walked on the moon:

*Neil Armstrong. Apollo 11 (1969). Now 68, he is a businessman in Lebanon, Ohio.

*Buzz Aldrin. Apollo 11 (1969). Age 69. President of three companies in Los Angeles and chairman of National Space Society board of directors.

*Charles "Pete" Conrad. Apollo 12 (1969). Died Thursday in a motorcycle accident in California at 69. Founded and led Universal Space Lines of Newport Beach, Calif.

*Alan Bean. Apollo 12 (1969). Age 67. Lives in Houston, paints space scenes.

*Alan Shepard. Apollo 14 (1971). First American in space. Died in 1998 at 74.

*Edgar Mitchell. Apollo 14 (1971). Age 68. Founder of an institute that researches the mind and consciousness. Lives in Boca Raton.

*David Scott. Apollo 15 (1971). Age 67. Aerospace consultant living in Manhattan Beach, Calif.

*James Irwin. Apollo 15 (1971). Died of a heart attack in 1991 at 61. Founded High Flight Foundation, evangelistic organization in Colorado Springs, Colo. Led six expeditions to Turkey's Mount Ararat in search of Noah's Ark.

*John Young. Apollo 16 (1972). Age 68. Associate director for technical matters at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

*Charles Duke. Apollo 16 (1972). Age 63. Businessman in New Braunfels, Texas, and "committed Christian" who gives motivational talks.

*Eugene Cernan. Apollo 17 (1972). Age 65. Chairman and chief executive of Johnson Engineering in Houston.

*Harrison "Jack" Schmitt. Apollo 17 (1972). Age 64. Former U.S. senator and geologist living in Albuquerque, N.M. Teaches part time at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

NASA MISSIONS

Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral Air Station, Florida

July 20, 12:36 a.m.

Vehicle OV-102

Pad 39-B

STS-93/Chandra X-Ray Observatory

Sept. 16, 8:47 a.m.

Vehicle OV-105

Pad 39-A

Shuttle Radar Topography Mission

Sept. 30, 8 -10 a.m.

Vehicle AtlasIIA

Pad 36-B

NASA/Lockheed Martin government civil launch

Oct. 14, 5:42 a.m.

Vehicle OV-103

Pad 39

Hubble Space Telescope

Dec. 2, 9:30 p.m.

Vehicle OV-104

Pad 39-B

International Space Station

Source: NASA. Times subject to change.

Caption: (color)AP PHOTO (color)AP PHOTO

Edition: *Martin County*

Section: *A Section*

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Record Number: *102A91F06AFD880A*

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