



NEWS

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50 Years of Apollo: A Golden Celebration of Man's Conquest of the Moon USS Hornet Sea, Air and Space Museum Launches Ten Month Celebration

ALAMEDA, CA – Fifty years ago next month, the United States space program, much like the mythical Phoenix, experienced a rebirth from the ashes that few, at that time, thought was possible. After a 20-month stand-down following the January 27, 1967 Apollo 1 fire that took the lives of astronauts Gus Grissom, Roger Chafee and Ed White, Apollo 7 launched America back into space on October 11, 1968. The eleven-day mission was the United States' first manned mission since Gemini XII was launched and recovered in November 1966.

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo program and the USS *Hornet*'s unique role as the recovery ship for both Apollo 11 and Apollo 12 – the first two manned missions to the moon – the USS Hornet Sea, Air and Space Museum will be celebrating all of the Apollo missions leading up to the 50th Anniversary of Apollo 11 and the recovery of the crew and capsule by the *Hornet* on July 24, 1969.

“The USS *Hornet* and her crew will forever be tied to man's conquest of the moon,” said CAPT Michael C. McCarron, USN (ret.), Executive Director of the USS Hornet Sea, Air and Space Museum. “As the recovery ship for both Apollo 11 and Apollo 12, the *Hornet* played a critical role in NASA's mission to the moon. The footprints of Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins are forever memorialized on the *Hornet*'s hangar deck.”

To mark the launch on Apollo 7, on October 13, 2018, the USS Hornet Sea, Air and Space Museum will be hosting a special STEM Night Ops Overnight titled *Crash(less) Landings*. Join us on this special evening in honor of the first mission in the United States' Apollo program to carry a crew into space. This special overnight program will feature hands-on STEM activities related to the Apollo engineers.

On December 21, 2018, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Apollo 8 and man's first orbit around the moon, the Museum will be hosting an Open House evening with special themed tours: *The History of Space Aviation and Exploration*. There will also be opportunities to view the winter night sky in the company of guest astronomers and astronomy clubs from around the Bay Area.



In March 2019, the Museum will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Apollo 9 with a special Model Showcase. Hobbyists ranging from expert to amateur to school age youth are encouraged and welcome to showcase their space themed models.

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Apollo 10 in May 2019, the Hornet will be hosting a daytime event titled *Apollo 10 and Pop Culture*. In partnership with the Charles Schulz Museum and Research Center, the Museum will host a panel and guest speakers to discuss space travel in popular culture.

All of these events are in preparation of the Museum's nine-day celebration, called "Splashdown 50," in July 2019 commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Apollo 11 and the *Hornet's* recovery of Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins. During the week prior to Splashdown, the Museum will hold an 8-day long event in honor of Apollo 11's 8-day mission, building up July 24th, Splashdown Day where USS *Hornet* recovered the Apollo 11 astronauts.

Schedule of July 2019 Celebration

Tuesday, July 16: Educator's Day – the *Hornet's* Education Department will discuss STEM program opportunities on board and their practical classroom application.

Wednesday, July 17: A special look at the enhanced Apollo exhibition on board, with opportunities to speak to the curator/exhibitions manager.

Thursday, July 18: A Membership Evening with special talk from Apollo historian Bob Fish with the opportunity for a book signing.

Friday, July 19: A special Public Program Overnight with lunar and star gazing from the Museum's Flight Deck.

Saturday, July 20: USS *Hornet* Space Program open house featuring local partners and museums who will share family activities and information, with additional programs throughout the day.

Sunday, July 21: Educational viewing of several space related films throughout the day in various locations throughout the Museum.

Monday, July 22: A special welcome to the various *Hornet* crew members who served on board during her years of service.

Tuesday, July 23: A unique STEM day for families to come and experience STEM activities.

Wednesday, July 24: A recreation of the Apollo capsule being brought onto the Hangar Deck of the USS *Hornet* with the Museum's restored B&A crane.

For more information on these and other events as well as volunteering opportunities, admission prices, and our museum's Splashdown Exhibit, please visit us at: <https://www.uss-hornet.org/splashdown50/>

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Aircraft Carrier *Hornet* Foundation preserves and honors the legacy of the USS *Hornet* and its role in naval aviation, the defense of our country, the Apollo Program and the exploration of space. The USS *Hornet* Museum connects the greatest generation of Americans with future generations, educating and inspiring them to meet their challenges. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the USS *Hornet* Museum relies on the generosity of individuals to fund our educational programs, restoration projects, create and enhance exhibits and much more. The Museum is not supported in any way by regular grants from city, county, state or federal sources. Through field trips and live-aboard experiences, the USS *Hornet* offers educational programs focusing on naval history, science and space technology. A registered state and national historic landmark, the ship is open to the public daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is permanently berthed at 707 W. Hornet Ave., Pier 3 in Alameda, CA. Ample free parking is available across from the pier. The USS *Hornet* is also a unique, unforgettable venue available for corporate events; trade shows and expos; private parties and big band dances; and TV and film productions. For more information, ticket prices and event planning, visit: www.uss-hornet.org or call (510) 521-8448.