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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 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 & 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 Hornet on July 24, 1969.

“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 & Space Museum. “As the recovery ship for both Apollo 11 and Apollo 12, USS 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 Hornet’s Hangar Deck.”

The Hornet Museum has been holding numerous events to commemorate the anniversary, starting back in October 2018 to mark the 50th Anniversary of Apollo 7, the first mission to launch after the tragedy of the Apollo 1 disaster.

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

All these events have been in preparation of the Museum’s nine-day celebration, called “Splashdown 50,” in July 2019 commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Apollo 11 and 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 Splashdown 50 Celebration

**Tuesday, July 16:** Hornet Day at the Oakland A’s Stadium! Visit us at the game! Bring your ticket to the Oakland A’s July 16th game aboard the Museum during the month of July for discounted admissions!

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

**Thursday, July 18:** Model Rocket Day aboard USS Hornet! Come aboard to build and test your own rocket as we explore the science, technology, and engineering of getting astronauts into outer space!

**Friday, July 19:** A special Live-Aboard Overnight with lunar and star gazing from the Museum’s Flight Deck after an evening tour around the ship.

**Saturday, July 20:** Splashdown 50 Open House! This community day will feature organizations and museums who will share family activities and information, with additional programming and speakers throughout the day. See more about this event down below!

**Sunday, July 21:** USS Hornet Association Meet-and-Greet. Come aboard for a special welcome to the various Hornet crew members who served on board during her years of service, including the Apollo 11 and 12 recoveries.

**Monday, July 22:** An aerospace film day! The Museum will be screening Smithsonian space documentaries throughout the day in our Hangar Deck.

**Tuesday, July 23:** A unique STEM day for families and educators to come and experience STEM activities that introduce science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in a hands-on way with real life examples of it in use all around them!

**Wednesday, July 24:** Apollo Retrospective. Come aboard as we look back at the history and legacy of Apollo 11 and relive the recovery of the astronauts and capsule with some of the men who actually participated in the event! We will then follow with another presentation as we explore the past, present, and future of space exploration and space travel with experts from NASA and the private aerospace industry!

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/](https://www.uss-hornet.org/splashdown50/)

**CVS-12**

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](http://www.uss-hornet.org) or call [(510) 521-8448](tel:+15105218448).