

Group of Astronauts Celebrate Weatherford! Apollo 10 40th Anniversary Event

(provided by WDN)



Astronaut Neil Armstrong

The largest gathering of space pioneers since the days of the Apollo program four decades ago occurred in Weatherford Tuesday May 19 2009, as astronauts from nearly every Apollo mission gathered to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Apollo 10.

Even the first man on the moon, Neil Armstrong, came to honor General Thomas P. Stafford and the crew of Apollo 10 at the historical event.

The SWOSU ballroom was filled with space enthusiasts from all over the country, as people traveled as far as from Los Angeles and Boston to mingle with some of NASA's greatest heroes. Even former president Bush Sr. sent his greetings and words of gratitude (via a video recording) to the man who virtually defined space exploration:

"Your character, courage and communication blazed a path for all those who followed," Bush said. "project Apollo continues to fire the imagination."

Distinguished astronauts, pilots, military and NASA personnel at the event included Walt Cunningham (Apollo 7), Major General Bill Anders (Apollo 8), Rusty Schweickart (Apollo 9), Neil Armstrong (Apollo 11), Dick Gordon and Allen Bean (Apollo 12), Fred Haise (Apollo 13), David Scott (Apollo 15), Joe Engle (Part of Apollo 17 mission and space shuttle pilot), John Herrington (shuttle pilot and mission specialist), Vance Brand (Apollo-Soyuz), Jack Lousma (Skylab 3, shuttle pilot), General Charles Metcalf (Director of the National Museum of the United States Air Force), George Abbey (NASA Director), and Glyn Lunney (NASA

Manager and flight director).

Radio host Dan Stroud introduced each celebrated guest with a brief description of their place in the Space Race, and guests were continuously awed by the collective accomplishments performed by each and every member of the Apollo program.

Humor mixed with wonder as Astronaut Neil Armstrong took the podium to deliver words about the Apollo program, and to congratulate General Stafford and the crew of Apollo 10.

Armstrong gave special recognition to General Stafford and the Apollo 10 crew for their effort in paving the way for the subsequent lunar landings.

"Apollo 10 was the final dress rehearsal," Armstrong added. "It was a remarkable effort. Forty years later, I am delighted to be here in Weatherford with all of you to congratulate Tom."

(A picture of the Apollo astronauts visiting the museum is on page 4.)

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Lifetime Member

Kelly Gale Amen
Noble Amen
Mr. & Mrs. George Bryan
Dr. & Mrs. Jim Friesen
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Lacy
Stephen Luczo
Brian Poission & Kristen Kelly
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rollins
Mr. & Mrs. David Tautfest
Mr. & Mrs. David Tenenbaum

Benefactor

Dr. & Mrs. Blake Sonobe
Don Waite

Supporter

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Fagan

Corporate

Axiom, LLC.
Express Employment Professionals
Love Investments
Omega
Pro-Fab Inc.
George & Shirley Robertson
Seagate
SWOSU Foundation

Volunteer Training



Andrew Chaikin, author of "A Man on the Moon" conducts a tour of the museum

The Stafford Air & Space Museum is looking for docents! Volunteers who would like to help lead tours at the Stafford Air & Space Museum will be given a personal tour by the directors to help better get acquainted with the

museum's exhibits. Videotaped tours given by Gen. Stafford will also be available to docents.

The museum provides tours for students grades 3rd through college level as well as

adult tours. Volunteers are not obligated to give tours to any group they feel uncomfortable with. Qualified docents will be placed on a contact list by the museum. Also, a calendar will be handed out (or emailed)

with prescheduled tours so volunteers can pre-signup to help out!

We love our volunteers and would love to have more! The museum always works to find a project that suits each volunteer's special interests and talents. Our volunteers work on exciting projects inside the museum, work with children or even research or restore rare artifacts. Thanks to our fantastic volunteer workforce, the museum has become a nationally recognized air and space museum!

The docent training date has not yet been established. If you would like to be contacted when a date has been set please call Katie Yeager (580) 772-5871 to be on the waiting list.

Coming Soon!

Family Fun Astronomy Party Planned for Meteor Shower in October

On October 21, 2009 the Stafford Air & Space Museum will host a star party. This family friendly event will start at 6:30 with food, fun, and fantastic views of our solar system!

There will be activities for all ages including dinner, hayrides to the observatory, a moon

jump, movies in the planetarium, multiple telescopes and other fun play stations and demonstrations.

Guests will also be able to have a night viewing of the museum's exhibits. The museum normally closes at 5 PM but will be open late for this special event!



For more information on events and tickets please contact the Stafford Air & Space Museum. 580-772-5871

Cost:

Children:
\$7.50-member
\$15-non member

Adults:
\$10-member
\$20-non member

Family:
\$40-member
\$60-non member

School Reimbursement Program



The Stafford Air & Space Museum now offers a school bus fuel reimbursement program sponsored by Inasmuch Foundation. This program allows schools to receive \$0.585 per mile to visit the Stafford Air & Space Museum in buses or school owned and identified vans. These

funds are limited, and are to be used on a first-come, first-served basis.

The steps to utilize this program are simple and quick. First, book a tour with the museum staff by calling 580-772-5871. Next, fill out the reimbursement request form that can be found on the museum's

website and send it to the museum by mail, fax or email. Lastly, after your tour, send an official school invoice to the museum for reimbursement. The program is proving to be a success, and calendar dates are quickly filling.

The museum currently is scheduling dates for the fall school year and welcomes any school able to visit. Guided tours are structured for 3rd grade and above; with a maximum of 40 students. The museum is open on all school days, 9 AM- 5 PM. Admission fees for school tours start at \$2 per student, \$5 for adults, and bus drivers are free.

Activities at the museum include a short video highlighting the career of Gen. Thomas Stafford, followed by an exciting participation game. The museum staff will then lead an informative tour through the museum. Also available to groups are the Flight Simulation Computer Lab, the SpacePlane Theatre, and the new Sarkeys Digital Planetarium.

Groups may also use the Apollo Room, if available, to eat sack lunches (Museum does not provide meals).

Tours should be scheduled preferably with at least a week's notice.

New Exhibits Open

Three new exhibits and a new room are now open to the public daily; the Bleriot XI, Rocket and Satellites of the World Cases, and Apollo 10 mission cases in the brand new Rose & Tom Luczo Educational Center.

The Bleriot XI gained popularity after successfully crossing the English Channel. The Bleriot XI was the first plane used in combat! The new exhibit can be seen in the early flight aircraft collection.

The Rocket and Satellites of the World Cases begin with a full size model of the Goddard Rocket. The scale models continue all the way through the most recent to future designs. The Rockets of the Space Race continue the story of the cold war and the race to the Moon.

The Apollo X cases give a glimpse back to the lunar landing dress rehearsal. The cases show the lighter side of the space race with Snoopy and other



cultural icons and memorabilia from this important mission. The Apollo X cases can be found in the Rose & Tom Luczo Educational Center.

The Educational Center not only houses the Apollo X cases but also the SpacePlane Theatre, Sarkeys Digital Planetarium, and a second flight lab.

What's Happening...

Stafford Air & Space Museum

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www.staffordmuseum.com

Discover the Wonder!



Chuck Dougherty
Lynne Thurman
Executive Directors

Katie Yeager
Museum Coordinator

Kay Tautfest
President
Board of Directors



Apollo astronauts on the VIP tour General Stafford led following the Grand Opening of the Rose & Tom Luczo Educational Center



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