EARLY MANNED SPACE EXPLORATION TIMELINE

MERCURY PROGRAM

- October 1, 1958 National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) created
- November 26, 1958 Mercury program announced
- December 4, 1959 Launch of Sam (a monkey) on Little Joe 2
- April 9, 1959 NASA names the seven Mercury astronauts
- January 21, 1960 Launch of Miss Sam (a monkey) on Little Joe IB
- January 31, 1961 Launch of Ham (a chimpanzee) on Mercury Redstone 2
- **May 5, 1961 Launch of Alan Shepard in Freedom 7 (suborbital)**
- July 21, 1961 Launch of Gus Grissom in Liberty 7 (suborbital)
- November 29, 1961 Launch of Enos (a chimpanzee) on Mercury Atlas 5 (orbital)
- January 3, 1962 Gemini program formally conceived
- **February 20, 1962 Launch of John Glenn in Friendship 7, first American human orbital flight**
- May 24, 1962 Launch of Scott Carpenter in Aurora 7
- October 3, 1962 Launch of Walter Schirra in Sigma 7
- May 15, 1963 Launch of Gordon Cooper in Faith 7, the final Mercury mission

GEMINI PROGRAM

- March 23, 1965. Gemini III. First manned Gemini flight completed three orbits
- June 03–07, 1965. Gemini IV. First American Extra Vehicular Activity (EVA)
- August 21–29, 1965. Gemini V. First use of fuel cells for electrical power
- **December 04, 1965.** Gemini VII**. First rendezvous in space, with Gemini VI-A**
- December 15, 1965. Gemini VI-A. First rendezvous in space, with Gemini VII
- **March 16, 1966.** Gemini VIII**. First docking with another (unmanned) spacecraft**
- June 03–06, 1966. Gemini IX-A. Three rendezvous and two hours of EVA
- July 18–21, 1966. Gemini X. Rendezvoused with target vehicle and EVA
- September 12, 1966. Gemini XI. Gemini record altitude of 1 189.3 km
- November 11, 1966. Gemini XII. Final Gemini flight: rendezvous, docking, EVA

APOLLO PROGRAM

- October, 1968 Apollo 7. Earth orbit
- **December,1968 Apollo 8. Ten lunar orbits**
- March, 1969 Apollo 9. First manned flight of lunar module
- May, 1969 Apollo 10. Dress rehearsal for Moon landing
- **July 20, 1969 Apollo 11. First lunar landing mission (on the Sea of Tranquility)**
- November, 1969 Apollo 12. Second lunar landing (on the Ocean of Storms)

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- April, 1970 Apollo 13. Mission aborted after an on-board explosion
- January, 1971 Apollo 14. Third lunar landing (at Fra Mauro)
- July, 1971 Apollo 15. Fourth lunar landing (in the Hadley Apennine region)
- April, 1972 Apollo 16. Fifth lunar landing (on the Descartes highlands)
- December, 1972 Apollo 17. Last lunar landing (on theTaurus Littrow highlands)

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NASA 40th Anniversary of the Mercury 7, by T. Gray, 2001. Retrieved March 5, 2008, from http://history.nasa.gov/40thmerc7/shepard.htm

Figure I-1 Alan B. Shepard

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