

A Celebration of 50 Years of Space Exploration

On April 12, 1961, Yuri Gagarin became the first person to orbit the Earth. Less than a month later, Alan Shepard became the first American into space on the suborbital flight of Freedom 7. To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of these milestones in space exploration, the Phoenix aerospace community is hosting a public event on the morning of Saturday, April 9, 2011.

This fun and educational event will feature speakers on the past and future of space exploration and an opportunity for audience interaction. You'll meet astronauts, rocket scientists, educators, and space enthusiasts of all varieties. The two-hour event will start at 10:00 am at Orbital Sciences Corp. at 1405 N. Fiesta Blvd., Gilbert, Arizona. The program will include:

- A look back fifty years at Gagarin's historic flight and the space race between the United States and the Soviet Union. The presenter will be Michael Mackowski, an aerospace engineer, an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and a long-time advocate of space exploration and development.
- A first-hand account of a Space Shuttle mission by astronaut Bill Gregory, who will reflect on the upcoming retirement of this amazing spaceship after a run of thirty years. Mr. Gregory is currently the vice president of business development at Qwaltec in Tempe, Arizona.
- A look at the past and future of the exploration of Mars, including past robotic missions and the prospects for sending a crew to Mars. The speaker will be Jim Bell, an astronomer and planetary scientist from ASU who is currently president of the board of directors of The Planetary Society.
- A description of the educational programs available at the Challenger Space Center in Peoria, Arizona, by Kari Sliva, Executive Director.

These talks will be followed by a panel discussion featuring the presenters and other representatives from local aerospace companies and academia. There will be opportunities for questions from the audience. Light refreshments will be served.

What: A Celebration of Space Exploration
When: Saturday, April 9, 2011
Where: Orbital Sciences Corp.
1405 N. Fiesta Blvd., Gilbert, Arizona
Time: 10 am until Noon
Info: info@yuriphx.net
Contact: Michael Mackowski

Website: www.yuriphx.net
Registration: To register, call 480-282-1343 or send an email to yuri@yuriphx.net
Educators: Educators will receive a certificate for two hours of professional development credit.
Other: Non-U.S. citizens must contact us to provide additional registration information.