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### Bay Area marks 40th anniversary of moon landing

David Perlman, Chronicle Science Editor  
Saturday, July 18, 2009

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The historic landing of America's Apollo astronauts on the moon 40 years ago - hailed as history's greatest achievement in human technology - is being celebrated in the Bay Area this weekend.

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The largest is Sunday at the NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, where scientists helped pave the way for the Apollo missions and later analyzed moon rocks that the astronauts carried back to Earth.

Another is at the Chabot Space & Science Center in Oakland, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. today.

The Ames "Moonfest," featuring lunar exhibits, space science lectures, jazz bands, rocket launches and food, will begin at noon Sunday. Free to the public, the event is expected to draw thousands of visitors.

Members of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Lunar Science Institute at Ames will answer questions about the moon, followed by talks by prominent scientists who will discuss varied aspects of space science.

Among them will be astronaut Donald Pettit, 54, who lived for six months aboard the International Space Station, experimented with water in the low-gravity environment and helped install scientific equipment outside the station during two risky spacewalks in May.

Anthony Colaprete, chief scientist of NASA's unique unmanned spacecraft named LCROSS will describe the purpose of LCROSS, which is currently orbiting the moon and in October will send a huge rocket into a shadowed lunar crater to blast up dust in search of frozen water.

Diane Wooden, an astrophysicist on the LCROSS mission team, will describe future robotic moon missions that will seek answers about Earth's satellite and discuss NASA's long-term goal to plant lunar bases for human habitation.

Another speaker will be Susan Hackwood, executive director of the California Council on Science and Technology, an electrical engineer at UC Riverside and an expert on the robotics that are crucial to those moon missions and space travel in general.

Lawrence Krauss, best-selling author of "The Physics of Star Trek" and a physics professor at Arizona State University, will give a talk entitled "From the Moon to the Universe, Exploring Space with Rockets and in our Minds."

For children, there will be games, puzzles, quizzes and other outdoor activities focused on moon missions and space. From noon to 2 p.m. the Livermore Unit of the National Association of Rocketry will launch scale models of the rockets that sent spacecraft in

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the Apollo era into space, including the enormous Saturn 7 launch vehicle that sent the Apollo astronauts on the moon missions.

## Moon rock

The Chabot center in Oakland will feature hands-on space activities, display a genuine moon rock returned in 1972 by the Apollo 17 astronauts, and show other artifacts that have been flown in space. Simulated moon flights will also be available.

Among national events commemorating the path-breaking flights to the moon is a re-creation of the entire mission of Apollo 11, sponsored by the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library and Museum in Boston.

Derived from restored recordings of every voice communication between the astronauts and Mission Control in Houston, from their launch aboard Apollo 11 on July 16, 1969, to their landing on the moon four days later, the event also includes photos and videos taken at the time and commentaries by lunar experts. The voices of astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins are heard in the minute-by-minute restoration of the event.

The entire mission, with its four full days re-created in real time by AOL engineers, can be found at [www.wechoosethemoon.org](http://www.wechoosethemoon.org).

Highlights of audio communications among the Apollo 11 astronauts, and between them and Mission Control in Houston, as well as an "audio time capsule" of their voices as Armstrong and Aldrin first stepped on the moon's surface have been released by NASA. They are available at [www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/apollo/40th/apollo11\\_audio.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/apollo/40th/apollo11_audio.html).

## Where to go

**Where:** Ames Research Center, Moffett Field in Mountain View

**When:** Sunday, from noon to 6 p.m.

**Cost:** Free to the public

**Where:** The Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland

**When:** Today from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Cost:** Prices vary

*E-mail David Perlman at [dperlman@sfgchronicle.com](mailto:dperlman@sfgchronicle.com).*

*This article appeared on page C - 1 of the San Francisco Chronicle*

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I'm surprised nothing is listed as happening on the USS Hornet in Alameda. They're the ones that recovered the crew, after all!

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schaffner 7/18/2009 8:59:20 AM

It was the Saturn V launch vehicle that was used on the Apollo missions that went to the moon. There never was a "Saturn 7".

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USS Hornet Splashdown 2009 with Buzz Aldrin

http://actionamedia.org/actionamedianewsblog/2009/07/17/uss-hornet-splashdown-2009-july-23-to-26/

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