

These men are just amazing. BTW anyone know why Neil has like disappeared from the press and stuff? It's always Buzz talking about everything, neil is just... well nowhere.

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wildwildmars wrote: posted 20 July 2009, 12:03 pm ET

Neil has kept a low profile ever since returning to Earth. He isn't too into the media coverage and celebrity status that the world has given him. He's just very humble and keeps to himself.

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GouldyLox wrote: posted 20 July 2009, 12:07 pm ET

Ortix,

Neil has always been a reluctant hero. He is actually very shy and does not like to be in the limelime. Buzz, whom I have met (and shook his hand) is a very gregarious and outgoing man.

Armstrong rarely gives interviews and talks because I truly believe he is uncomfortable with the notariety that he rightfully gets. If you watch any of the rare video of him talking about the moon landing you can see that he is visibly uncomfortable on camera.

I also think he just wants to be left alone to live the remainder of his life.

You have to understand the fact that he is a living legend and historical figure. He is on the same level as Columbus, Magellen, Lief Ericson (for that matter).

Get it?!?

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HanShotFirst wrote: posted 20 July 2009, 1:14 pm ET

GouldyLox, excellent point! I think it cannot be overstated that we are alive at the same time as these living legends. Think about it - just as we today think how wonderful it would have been to meet Columbus, Magellan, Polo, or lived in their time, 500, 1000, or 5000 years from now people will wonder the same thing about Neil, Buzz and Michael. And we are here and now. Not many people, especially the younger generation, appreciates that. I would have given anything just to shake their hands, and I hope one day I get to do so.

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SpaceJeff wrote: posted 20 July 2009, 4:13 pm ET

I have to mention that the first men who went to the Moon were named Borman, Lovell and Anders. Armstrong, Aldrin & Collins are the men who executed the first landing on the Moon. Heroes all - I'm certainly not trying to take anything away from Neil, Buzz and/or Mike. Especially with what we now know happened in connection with the landing of Armstrong and Aldrin, they definitely all earned their places in history.



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Robert Roy Britt wrote: posted 20 July 2009, 5:32 pm ET

They say all great discoveries are built on the backs of giants, or something like that. A little of that is at work here, for sure, with all the hard work (and sacrifice) by astronauts (and engineers, planners, etc.) before Apollo 11 and the decision for Neil to step on the moon first and Buzz second. While some great expeditions were led largely by a single person, in the Apollo landing it was a true team effort.

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Randy_W wrote: posted 20 July 2009, 5:52 pm ET

Considering the astronauts' status as American heroes, shouldn't the headline be reworded as "Obama Meets Apollo 11 Crew."

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srmarti wrote: posted 20 July 2009, 6:07 pm ET

I'd be much more impressed with Obama if he were explaining what support he going to give the space program now instead just inviting the former Apollo crew to a photo opportunity.

Least it's giving the astronauts an opportunity to express their opinions.

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AirSpaceMan wrote: posted 20 July 2009, 7:14 pm ET

I'm reading Buzz Aldrin's newest book - Magnificent Desolation. I was at a book signing in Los Angeles, and got Buzz to sign the book for me - what a thrill to stand next to one of the first men on the moon. I also got to deliver newspapers to Pete Conrad when I was a kid. Buzz notes in his book that the public attention given to them is unrelenting and the media is very difficult on all three of them. Neil is very reserved and doesn't want to talk about going to the moon much. Buzz had his own problems with depression and alcoholism. You might ask yourself what do you do to follow on the greatest achievement in modern times? Everything else seems a distant second. In this age of discovery - we have no idea of how to prepare the astronauts (or anyone else for that matter) on what to do after that. Its almost like retiring ball players - they are lost for quite some time because of all the investment of time and energy into a task, and now the task is over. I suggest that if you can read Aldrin's book it will put things into

a different perspective.

At the book signing, Buzz made the case for going to Mars as something that would capture the public's imagination in the similar way going to the moon did 40-years ago. He said let China and India go to the moon with our help, but the US go to Mars. We need something big to aim for. Why not Mars and why not in 10-years?

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