

Milestones in NASA's space shuttle program

Since the beginning of the space shuttle program, first proposed by President Nixon over 30 years ago, there have been 113 shuttle flights.

△ Endeavour ▲ Challenger
 △ Atlantis ▲ Columbia
 ▲ Discovery

1/5
 President Nixon proposes first reusable space transportation system, the space shuttle.

8/12
 First free flight Approach and Landing Test (ALT) of orbiter Enterprise from shuttle carrier aircraft. Flight duration is 5 minutes, 21 seconds.

4/12
 Shuttle Columbia becomes first winged spacecraft to orbit Earth and return to airport landing.

4/12
 Sen. Jake Garn of Utah becomes first member of Congress in space.

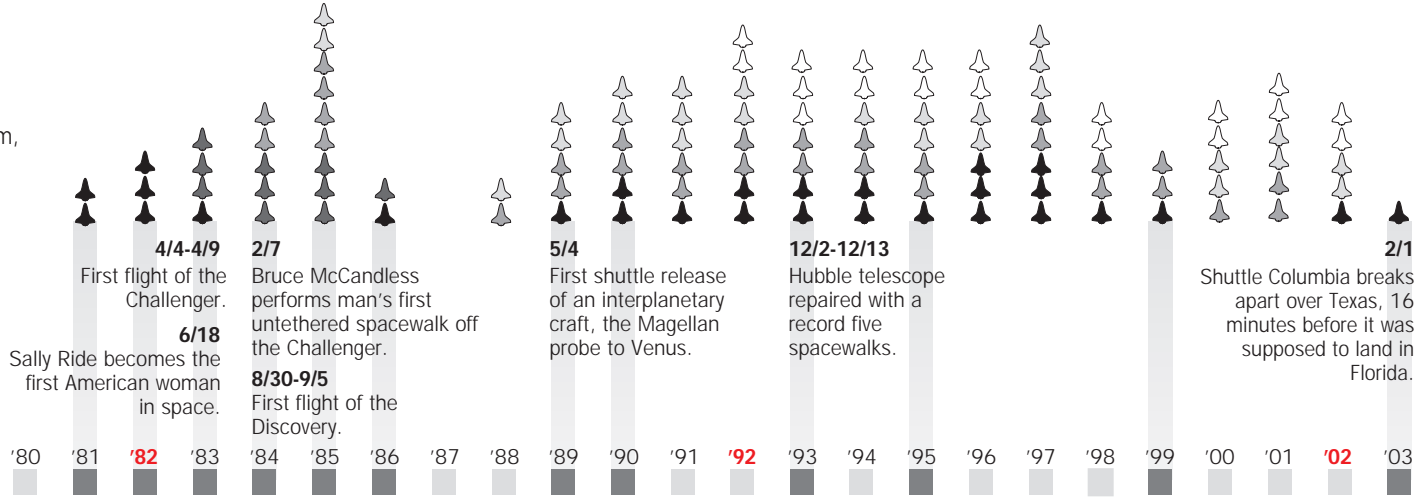
10/3-10/7
 First flight of the Atlantis.

1/28
 Challenger shuttle explodes 73 seconds after launch, killing its crew of 7, including teacher Christa McAuliffe.

4/24-4/29
 Shuttle astronauts deploy the Hubble Space Telescope, revolutionizing astronomy.

6/29
 Atlantis docks with Russia's Mir in first shuttle hookup with space station.

5/29
 Discovery becomes the first shuttle to dock with the international space station.



SOURCE: NASA, AP, staff research

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