

Historical Events – May

May 3, 1986 – In NASA's first post-*Challenger* launch, an unmanned Delta rocket lost power in its main engine shortly after liftoff, forcing safety officers to destroy it by remote control

May 5, 1961 – Astronaut Alan Shepard, Jr. became the first American in space with a 15-minute suborbital flight

May 7, 1963 – The United States launched the *Telstar 2* communications satellite

May 10, 1930 – The first planetarium in the United States opened in Chicago – the domed building that housed the model of the heavens was a \$1 million gift from Max Adler

May 14, 1973 – U.S. launched *Skylab 1*, its first orbiting laboratory

May 15, 1963 – Astronaut L. Gordon Cooper blasted off aboard *Faith 7* on the final mission of NASA's Project Mercury space Program

May 22, 1969 – The lunar module of *Apollo 10* flew to within nine miles of the moon's surface in a dress rehearsal for the first lunar Landing

May 24, 1543 – The founder of modern astronomy, Nicolaus Copernicus, died just after the printing of his book describing the revolution of the celestial orbs. He had delayed the publishing of the book for some time for fear of official reaction. He was the first person to determine we live in a heliocentric solar system with planets, including Earth, orbiting the sun

1962 – Astronaut Scott Carpenter became the second American to orbit the earth aboard the Mercury capsule *Aurora 7*

May 25, 1961 – President John F. Kennedy declared a national goal of landing a man on the moon within 10 years

May 29, 1999 – *Discovery* became the first shuttle to dock with the International Space Station