

Today's Program

Program: Landing on the Moon, the Voyage of Apollo XI

Speaker: Kurt Williams, Deputy Director, Chief Operating Officer and Co-Founder of Link

Observatory Space Science Institute

Introduced by: Marty Meisenheimer

Attendance: 134

Guests: Chip Kalleen

Scribe: Russell Judd

Editor: Bonnie Carter

Today's talk was "Landing on the Moon; The Voyage of *Apollo 11*" and was given by Kurt Williams. The Link Observatory has the Apollo 11 archive which contains one of the most complete collections of original NASA Apollo 11 documents and images available. With it you can create your own collection to commemorate this historic event. Contact <http://www.Linkobservatory.org>.

Kurt discussed the remarkable flight of Apollo 11. In 1959, when President John Kennedy proclaimed that the United States was going to send to and bring back from the moon an astronaut, it was far from certain that the U.S. would be able to succeed. The odds were greatly against it; the United States was far behind in rocket development but was involved in a space race with Russia, and everybody felt the pressure along with some fear. With much effort and money, a building program was put together by the government resulting in the development of a powerful three-stage rocket called Saturn. The command center *Columbia* and the landing section *Eagle* were developed last. Kurt described the rocket launch and flight to the moon; perhaps the most interesting part of the trip was the selection of the landing spot on the moon's Sea of Tranquility by Neil Armstrong. Matters could have gone badly many times because of the moon's terrain or the craft's lack of fuel.

There is still much interest in space exploration and discovery by NASA and private companies. Many Indiana companies make components for the space industry - both private and public.

Thanks to Kurt and the Link Observatory for a great talk and excellent videos and photos of this memorable event.

Do you remember where you were on landing day at 4:18 pm, July 20, 1969?

(Editor's note: There is a special presentation, "The Eagle has Landed," by Link Observatory staff about the lunar landing. The event is at Bridgewater Club in Carmel on July 20. Order tickets & read more at <https://www.linkobservatory.org/index.html>)



Kurt Williams

The following link added subsequent to publishing the newsletter:

https://www.linkobservatory.org/apollo11_docarchive_linkastro629.html