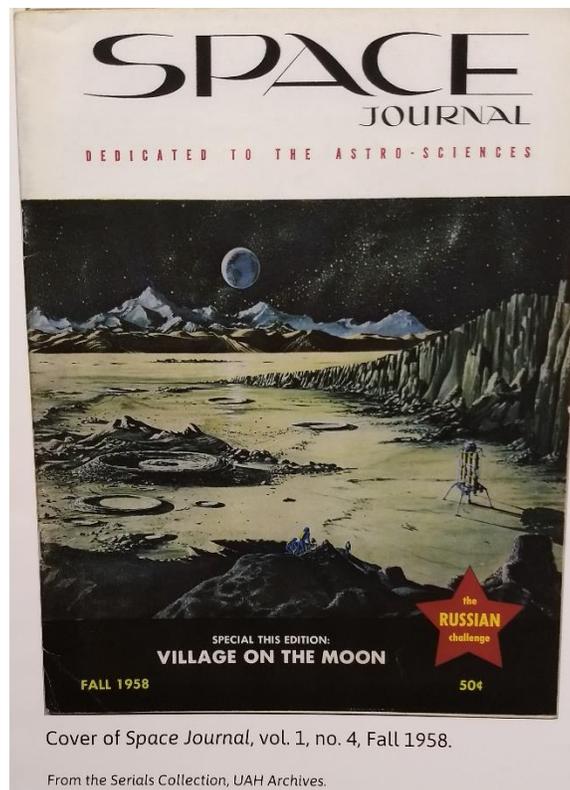


[Apollo 50th Anniversary](#)

50 years ago, Apollo 11 launched from Launch Complex 39 at the Kennedy Space Center on July 16, 13:32 UTC. It was the fifth crewed mission of the Apollo program. Four days later, on July 20 at 20:17 UTC, the Lunar Module *Eagle* landed in the Sea of Tranquility on the Moon. Thus, humanity's first steps on another celestial body had been accomplished. Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin spend two hours and 31 minutes exploring the Lunar surface, setting up instruments, and collecting samples for return to Earth. A number of events in the Section were held during and leading up to the week of July 16th.

UAH Salmon Library Special Collection and Archives Open House

The UAH M. Louis Salmon Library held an open house and reception Sunday, July 14th. The library displayed collections related to the space race, Apollo missions, NASA, and Huntsville during the 50's and 60's. Original photographs from that time of the town, people, and events were made available for view in the archives. Refreshments from the 1960's were served including pineapple upside down cake, pigs in a blanket, French onion dip, deviled eggs, Jezebel sauce, and Tang.



Guinness Record Rocket Launch

On the morning of July 16, the US Space and Rocket Center attempted to break the Guinness Book of World Records for the most rockets launched at one time. 5000 Estes rockets were set up in the field behind the Marriott hotel by a crew of volunteers starting bright and early at 5 am. A crowd of hundreds from Alabama and nearby states had gathered for the 8:32 am (UTC 13:32) launch. A pre-launch playlist included music from 1969 and audio recordings from the original Apollo 11 launch. The launch attempt went off a few minutes after 8:32 am and resulted in 4,923 rockets launched. Confirmation from the Guinness Book of World Records is expected in a few weeks. The previous record was 4,231 simultaneous model rockets launched at Teylingen College during a European Space Science Convention in 2018.

AIAA members volunteered in the construction of these rockets and the launch day setup as well. USSRSC sent a request for volunteers that was also circulated by the AIAA GHS leadership to its members. More than 10 AIAA members directly volunteered for the rocket launch on behalf of AIAA.

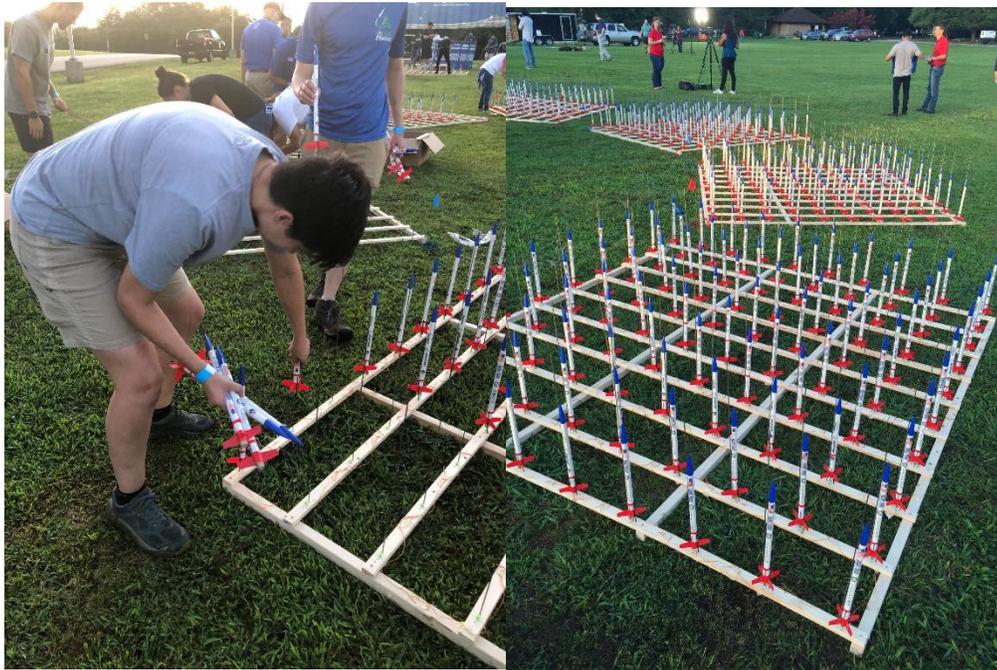


Figure 1. AIAA GHS member, Alix Villanueva, helping with launch setup in the left image. On the right, the completely assembled frame with 1000 rockets are shown. (Pic Courtesy – Alix Villanueva)

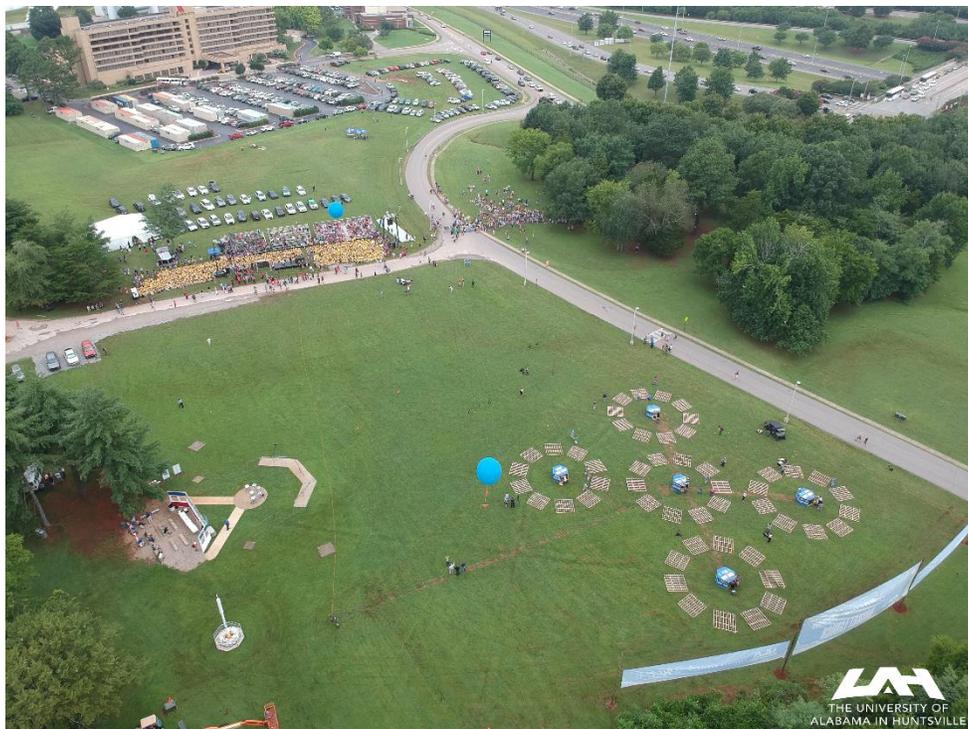


Figure 2. An Aerial Image of the Rocket Launch Setup (Pic Courtesy: UAH RSESC)