

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Sally K. Ride

ORAL HISTORY: 22 October 2002; 6 December 2002

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

B.A. in English, B.S. in Physics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, 1973

M.S. in Physics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, 1975

Ph.D. in Physics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, 1978

NASA EXPERIENCE:

NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX (1978-1986)

- Astronaut, Astronaut Office (1978-1986)

NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC (1986-1987)

- Special Assistant to the Administrator for Strategic Planning (1986-1987)
- Assistant Administrator, Office of Exploration (1987)

POST-NASA EXPERIENCE:

Stanford University, Stanford, CA (1987-1989)

- Science Fellow, Center for Internal Security and Arms Control (1987-1989)

University of California at San Diego, La Jolla, CA (1989-Present)

- Professor, Department of Physics (1989-Present)
- Director, California Space Institute (1989-1996)
- Head, EarthKam (1995-Present)

Space.com, New York, NY (1999-2000)

- Executive Vice President of Strategic Planning (1999)
- President, Space.com (1999-2000)

Imaginary Lines, San Diego, CA (Unknown Date-Present)

- President and CEO, Imaginary Lines

MISSIONS:

STS-7 (*Challenger*)

- Crew: Commander Robert L. Crippen, Pilot Frederick H. Hauck, Mission Specialist 1 John M. Fabian, Mission Specialist 2 Sally K. Ride, Mission Specialist 3 Norman E. Thagard
- Launched: 18 June 1983 at 07:33:00 A.M. EDT from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 6 days, 2 hours, 23 minutes, 59 seconds
- Landed: 24 June 1983 at 06:56:59 A.M. PDT, Edwards AFB, California
- Mission Highlights: This mission was historic for it was the first time an American woman flew in space. The crew deployed two communications satellites, the Anik C-2 for TELESAT Canada and Palapa-B1 for Indonesia. There were a number of

experiments onboard including seven Get-Away Special canisters, ten experiments on the Shuttle Pallet Satellite, and an experiment designed to investigate space sickness. Other payloads included: the Office of Space and Terrestrial Applications (OSTA-2), the Continuous Flow Electrophoresis System (CFES), the Monodisperse Latex Reactor (MLR), and one Shuttle Student Involvement (SSIP) experiment.

STS 41-G (*Challenger*)

- Crew: Commander Robert L. Crippen, Pilot Jon A. McBride, Mission Specialist 1 Kathryn D. Sullivan, Mission Specialist 2 Sally K. Ride, Mission Specialist 3 David C. Leestma, Payload Specialist 1 Marc Garneau, Payload Specialist 2 Paul D. Scully-Power
- Launched: 5 October 1984 at 07:03:00 A.M. EDT from Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Duration: 8 days, 5 hours, 23 minutes, 33 seconds
- Landed: 13 October 1984 at 12:26:33 P.M. EDT, Kennedy Space Center, FL
- Mission Highlights: This flight had a total of seven crew members--the largest crew ever to fly onboard a single spacecraft at the time; this was also the first flight which included two women, Ride and Sullivan. Sullivan was the first American woman to complete an extravehicular activity (EVA). The crew tested the Orbital Refueling System (ORS) and proved it was possible to refuel satellites in Earth orbit. The crew also deployed the Earth Radiation Budget Satellite. Other payloads included: the Large Format Camera (LFC), the IMAX Camera, a package of Canadian Experiments (CANEX), Auroral Photography Experiment (APE), Radiation Monitoring Equipment (RME), Thermoluminescent Dosimeter (TLD), and eight Get Away Specials.

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- Jefferson Award for Public Service
- J.C. Penney Juanita Dreps Award
- American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), Lawrence Sperry Award
- Five NASA Group Achievement Awards
- Five NASA Special Achievement Awards
- American Institute of Physics, Science Writing Award
- von Braun Award
- Outstanding Performance Rating, 1980
- Space Flight Medal, 1983
- Space Flight Medal, 1984
- Lindbergh Eagle Award, 1985
- National Women's Hall of Fame, 1988
- National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Silver Anniversary Award, 1997
- International Scholar-Athlete Hall of Fame, 2001

SELECT PUBLICATIONS & PATENTS:

S. K. Ride and W.B. Colson, "A free-electron laser in a uniform magnetic field," Applied Physics 20 (September 1979): 41-50.

Sally Ride and Susan Okie, To Space & Back (Orlando: Harcourt, Brace, 1986).

Sally Ride, Leadership and America's Future in Space: A Report to the Administrator (Washington, DC: NASA, 1987).

V. C. Shapiro and S. K. Ride, "Nonlinear effects involving whistler wave propagation in the magnetosphere," Journal of Geophysical Research 99 no. A9 (1 September 1994): 17,237-17,247.

J. L. Bada, et al., "MOD: An Instrument for the 2005 Mars Explorer Program HEDS Payload," (Pasadena: Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, 2000).

REFERENCES:

Carole Ann Camp, Sally Ride: First American Woman in Space (Springfield, NJ: Enslow Publishers, Inc., 1997), 77, 91, 96.

NASA Headquarters Telephone Directories (1986-1987), Johnson Space Center Oral History Project, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

"National Academy of Engineering Committee on Membership Nomination Form Twenty-Fifth Election – 1988," Sally K. Ride Key Personnel File, Awards Office, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

"NCAA Silver Anniversary Award Recipients Are Announced," NCAA Homepage, Online, <http://www.ncaa.org/releases/makepage.cgi/awards/1997120401aw.htm> (Last Updated n.d.; Accessed 11 March 2002).

"Sally Kristen Ride First American Woman in Space," Lucidcafé Homepage, Online, <http://www.lucidcafe.com/library/96may/ride.html> (Last Updated 5 February 2002; Accessed 11 March 2002).

"Sally Ride Named President of space.com," space.com Homepage, Online, http://www.space.com/news/sally_ride.html (Article Dates 21 September 1999; Accessed 11 March 2002).

"Sally K. Ride NASA Biographical Data Sheet," Astronaut Biographies Homepage, Online, <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/ride-sk.html> (Last Updated 18 February 2002; Accessed 11 March 2002).

"Sally K. Ride, Ph.D.," Stanford University Homepage, Online, http://www.stanford.edu/class/msande472/spring01/sally_ride.htm (Last Updated 11 March 2002; Accessed 11 March 2002).

“Sally Ride,” Imaginary Lines Homepage, Online, <http://www.imaginarylinesinc.com/bios/ride.html> (Last updated n.d.; Accessed 13 March 2002).

“STS-7,” Kennedy Space Center Historical Archive Homepage, Online, <http://science.ksc.nasa.gov/shuttle/missions/sts-7/mission-sts-7.html> (Last Updated 29 June 2001; Accessed 19 December 2001).

“STS 41-G,” Kennedy Space Center Historical Archive Homepage, Online, <http://science.ksc.nasa.gov/shuttle/missions/41-g/mission-41-g.html> (Last Updated 29 June 2001; Accessed 13 March 2002).

“UCSD’s Sally Ride, Amateur Tennis Player, Professor Elected to International Scholar-Athlete Hall of Fame,” University of California, San Diego Homepage, Online <http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/newsrel/awards/jride.htm> (Last Updated 8 June 2001; Accessed 11 March 2002).

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