PHOTO ALBUM: NEW HORIZONS TEAM AND MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

Exploration is a human endeavor, and New Horizons is no exception. The technical and science achievements documented reflect the dedication of a talented group of people and the family members who supported their dream to accomplish what many thought was impossible. The images that follow highlight the effort that culminated in New Horizons delivering a new understanding of our solar system’s most distant worlds.

Photos are courtesy of NASA, APL, SwRI, Michael Soluri, Henry Throop, and other New Horizons team or family members.
Left: A group that includes New Horizons team members Leslie Young, Dale Cruikshank, Andy Cheng, Alan Stern, Bill McKinnon, Fran Bagenal, and Marc Buie at the first Pluto science conference in 1993. The meeting, held at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona—where Pluto was discovered—helped to shape the case for a Pluto mission.

Time-elapsed photo of the spacecraft spin balance test at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in June 2005.

New Horizons spacecraft and instrument team members discuss development of the electrical harness in 2003.

New Horizons’ original project manager, Tom Coughlin, presents at the NASA site visit at APL in 2001.
The New Horizons spacecraft arrives at Kennedy Space Center (KSC), Florida, in September 2005.

Above left: Team members perform a fit check of the spacecraft’s power source, the radioisotope thermoelectric generator, at KSC in November 2005. Above right: Steve Vernon and the mechanical support team complete the spacecraft/third-stage spin balance test at KSC in December 2005.

New Horizons, the first mission to Pluto and the Kuiper Belt, is launched on January 19, 2006.


Above, middle: The hazard search team after confirming New Horizons’ primary trajectory path to Pluto was (likely) clear of moons, dust, and other space debris.

Bottom: Sen. Barbara Mikulski holds a bumper sticker given to her by the New Horizons team at APL on July 13, 2015, as APL director Ralph Semmel, New Horizons principal investigator Alan Stern, NASA associate administrator John Grunsfeld, and NASA deputy administrator Dava Newman look on.
The band Styx poses with members of the New Horizons mission team at APL before the Pluto flyby; the musicians wanted to meet the scientists who discovered Pluto’s moon Styx.

A crowd packed APL’s Kossiakoff Center to celebrate New Horizons’ closest approach to Pluto on July 14, 2015.

NASA administrator Charles Bolden congratulates Tom Krimigis, Chris Hersman, Michael Vincent, Jim Green, Alice Bowman, and other members of the NASA and mission teams after New Horizons “phoned home” on July 14, 2015.

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Science team members get right to work after seeing Pluto, up close, for the first time on July 14, 2015.

Left: The Pluto flyby appeared on the front pages of 450 newspapers worldwide.

Below: APL director Ralph Semmel congratulates the mission operations team after the successful Pluto flyby.

“Plutopalooza” events, like this one at APL on July 18, 2015, gave the New Horizons team a chance to engage and inspire the next generation of explorers.
Science team members analyze the first close-up views of Arrokoth in January 2019.

The mission team completes its analysis of hazards around Arrokoth in December 2018, concluding there were (likely) no moons or dust rings that would damage the spacecraft during the flyby.

John Spencer and Marc Buie celebrate the success of the Arrokoth flyby, and the incredible detail revealed in New Horizons’ images of the Kuiper Belt object.
Top: The team that built New Horizons. Bottom: Members of the New Horizons team at the time of the Arrokoth encounter.

Below: From left, Jim Kinnison, Alan Stern, and Glen Fountain pose with New Horizons just before the spacecraft was closed up in the Atlas V launch vehicle’s protective fairing.

Helene Winters and Alan Stern outline the flyby activities for the Kossiakoff Center audience in December 2018.

Above: NASA, APL, and SwRI leadership count down to the Arrokoth flyby in December 2018.

Left: Science operations team members Ann Harch and Anne Verbiscer celebrate a successful encounter at Arrokoth.
The New Horizons mission operations team gathers after hearing the spacecraft was healthy and had successfully collected data at Arrokoth.

Children of team members joined the crowd on New Year’s 2019 and participated in the Arrokoth flyby activities at APL.

Below: At various points during the New Horizons mission, from left, Peter Bedini, Carl Engelbrecht, and Tim Herder each served as deputy project manager.

From left, Mike Buckley, Alan Stern, Helene Winters, Frederic Pelletier, and John Spencer participate in a pre-flyby press conference at APL in December 2018.

A full-scale APL-built New Horizons model shown hanging in the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum (NASM) Udvar-Hazy Center, shortly after installation in 2008. The model was eventually moved to the main NASM location in Washington, DC, to mark the Pluto flyby.

Karl Whittenburg and Alice Bowman await a signal from New Horizons on the spacecraft’s status following the Arrokoth flyby in January 2019.