

## Splashdown 2009 report: Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin at the USS Hornet

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The goal of [Splashdown 2009](#) at the USS Hornet Museum in Alameda was “Honoring the Past....Inspiring the Future”. And inspiring it was. Splashdown 2009 commemorated the 40th anniversary of the historic recovery of Apollo 11 by the USS Hornet after the successful landing of the first men on the moon.

The star of the event was former Apollo 11 astronaut, Buzz Aldrin who piloted the lunar module and was the second man to set foot on the moon. The hangar bay of the carrier was standing room only for Col. Aldrin’s presentation. Many people carried multiple copies of his new memoir [“Magnificent Desolation: The Long Journey Home From the Moon”](#) to be autographed.

The celebration highlighted the museum’s Apollo exhibits as shown in the [slide show](#) below including the NASA mobile quarantine facility from Apollo 14 (identical to the unit used for Apollo 11), and the Apollo capsule used to test the heat shield design. Members of the former USS Hornet crew that participated in the Apollo 11 recovery were present and mingled with the crowd for a truly interactive history lesson.



Buzz Aldrin in a Mobile Quarantine Facility on the USS Hornet. (AP Photo/Ben Margot)

**Hornet information:** If you missed [Splashdown 2009](#), or the [4th of July](#) events, the USS Hornet (including the Apollo exhibits) is open daily from 10 am to 5 pm. Admission fees are Adults \$14, Seniors & Military \$12, Youth (ages 5-17) \$6, and children 4 or younger are free. Discounted admission is available to members of the USS Hornet museum. Visit the [museum website](#) for more information on museum membership.

**Upcoming events:** The museum is extending free admission to “Patriots & Heroes” during the week of September 5-11, 2009. All firefighters, law enforcement and other first responders will receive complimentary admission. The Hornet will host a big band style dance featuring the Glenn Miller Orchestra on September 12. Other special events include family live aboards and after hours mystery tours. Check the [museum calendar](#) for more information.

**How to get there (USS Hornet):** Take I-80 west, then I-580 east, to I-980 west. Exit on 12th Street and keep left merging onto Brush Street. Turn left on 7th Street, right on Webster, right on Pacific, left on Central, right on Oriskany, and finally left on Skyhawk which takes a right turn becoming Hornet Avenue.

**Additional Reading Suggestions:** If you are interested in learning more about space exploration or the history of astronomy check out these titles: [“Hornet Plus Three: The Story of the Apollo 11 Recovery”](#) by Bob Fish, Apollo curator for the USS Hornet museum; [“Splashdown: NASA and the Navy”](#) by Don Blair; and [“Women Astronomers: Reaching for the Stars”](#) by Mabel Anderson.

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