This is "Rocket-man" Ed - W6RDZ's Rocket Report for: Tuesday 06/02/2026.

(05/26/2026 through 06/09/2026)

Last week we witnessed 5 orbital launches.

1. Friday, May 29th, at 06:57 MDT, SpaceX successfully launched Starlink Group 10-53 out of SLC-40, Cape Canaveral. 29 Starlink v2 Minis went to LEO, on booster B1085's 16th flight. It was the 640th successful Falcon-9 launch.

Watch: SpaceX Starlink Group 10-53

2. Also Friday, May 29th, United Launch Alliance (ULA) successfully launched the Amazon Leo (LA-07) mission from SLC-41 Cape Canaveral on the venerable Atlas V rocket in the 551. configuration. That's a 5-meter diameter payload fairing, 5 solid rocket boosters, and one engine in the Centaur upper stage. 29 Amazon Leo (aka Kuiper) internet satellites joined the constellation in LEO. It was the 108th successful Atlas V mission.

Watch: Rocket Launch: Amazon Leo 7

3. Saturday, May 30th, at 09:25 MDT, SpaceX launched Starlink Group 17-41 from SLC-4E Vandenberg Space Force Base, CA. 24 Starlinks went to LEO. It was booster B1082's 22nd flight.

Watch: SpaceX Starlink Group 17-41

4. Also Saturday, May 30th, at 12:07 MDT, China Aerospace and Science Corporation, successfully launched the 4 x SatNet Test mission a Long March 2D rocket from the XiChang Satellite launch Center, China. 4 Technology Demonstrator satellites joined the Chinese SatNet constellation. This was the 125th orbital launch attempt of 2026.

Watch: THE CHINESE SPACE AGENCY (CASC) SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED, THE (4-X-SATNET TEST SATELLITES) MISSION.

5. Yesterday, Monday June 1st, at 02:40 MDT, China Aerospace and Science Corporation, successfully launched a surprise Demo Flight (SpaceSail Polar Group #10) mission on the first test launch of the new Long March 12B rocket. The new rocket launched from the Dongfeng

Commercial Zone at Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in the Gobi Desert. The test flight successfully placed 2 operational SpaceSail / Qianfan communications satellites into polar low earth orbit. The Long March 12B is a Falcon-9 inspired rocket and is intended for booster landing and reuse. No attempt at landing the booster was attempted on this first test flight.

Watch: Long March-12B first launch

Space / Launch News:

1. Now to the week's big news: Last week we were looking forward to today, for the return to flight launch, and 4th flight of Blue Origin's New Glenn rocket. The FAA had just given return to flight approval to Blue Origin following root cause failure analysis and corrective action of the New Glen Flight 3 upper stage failure.

However, the New Glenn rocket was on the launch pad 36A, Cape Canaveral, Florida, partially fueled, starting the final static fire test before launch, when it exploded. On Thursday, May 28th, approximately 19:00 MDT, immediately after engine ignition, the rocket exploded. The water deluge started, the 7 BE4 engines ignited, flames spewed for the base of the rocket, the upper stage split and a fireball started, then the booster just detonated, and a huge shock wave launched and a giant fireball ascended in a flaming mushroom cloud that rose over the space coast. The NG rocket, and Blue Origin's only launch pad were destroyed. Of course, the pad was evacuated for the test, and there were no injuries. In a statement, Blue Origin acknowledged that their rocket had "experienced an anomaly" during a hotfire test.

This is one of the biggest man-made chemical explosions to date. It's believed to be the largest rocket explosion since the Soviet N-1 moon rocket explosion in 1969. The detonation registered at 2.0 on the Richter scale. New Glen is not a small rocket – It's about the size of a Saturn V.

The anomaly will result in millions of dollars in damage, and a major setback for NASA and Blue Origin. This will impact the Artemis program as it will delay BO's Blue Moon lunar lander's development and testing. It will delay BO's "Leo" broadband satellite constellation rollout. After surveying damage, BO now vows New Glen will fly "before the end of this year."

Watch: The New Glenn Anomaly at LC-36 | The NSF Views

Watch: Blue Origin's Rocket Explosion - How Bad Is It?

New update: Update from CEO on Blue Origin Pad After Explosive Rocket Disaster! - YouTube

Blue Origin Lost So Much To Rocket Explosion, What Now? - YouTube

Here's why the failure of Blue Origin's New Glenn rocket is so catastrophic - Ars Technica

Blue Origin has set a very aggressive return-to-flight timeline - Ars Technica

2. The Shenzhou 22 spacecraft departed the Chinese space station, and successfully landed by parachute in the Gobi Desert, Friday May 29th at 06:00 MDT. The Shenzhou 22 spacecraft returned the 3, Shenzhou 21, Chinese astronauts from a 6-month mission. The Shenzhou 20 astronauts retuned in the Shenzhou 21 rescue spacecraft, after their Shenzhou 20 spacecraft's windshield was cracked in orbit, by space debris. This is the reason for the one digit offset now between crew number and spacecraft number.

Watch: Shenzhou-22 landing with the Shenzhou-21 crew - YouTube

Upcoming launches on the docket for next week:

1-3 – Three SpaceX Falcon-9 Starlink launches are scheduled for next week:

On Wednesday, Group 10-43 launches from Cape Canaveral.

Later Wednesday, Group 17-49 should launch from Vandenberg.

On Sunday, Group 10-35 launches from Cape Canaveral.

4. Thursday June 4th, China Aerospace and Science Corporation plans to launch a Long March 6A, with an undisclosed payload from Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center, China.

5. CASC also plans to launch a Long March 8 with an undisclosed payload, on Friday, from Wenchang.

6. Pushed for last week, to Sunday June 7th, South Korea plans again to launch a Demo Flight of their New ADD Solid Fuel Small Launch Vehicle from Jeju Island South Korea.

7. On Tuesday, June 9th ChinaRocket plans a Jielong 3 launch from the offshore Haiyang Oriental Spaceport with an undisclosed payload.

8. Also, next Tuesday, around the start of the net, Japan is planning an H3-30S rocket launch from the Tanegashima Space Center, Japan. This is a test flight of the H3-30 variant of the H3 launch vehicle with 3 LE-9 engines in the first stage and no SRBs. One payload will be the STARS-X mission to demonstrate debris capture using a space tether. In additionally, the launch will carry a mass simulator, and 5 other small satellites.

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0 That's it for tonight's Colorado Astronomy Net's Rocket Report. This is W6RDZ "Rocketman" Ed, wishing you a good night, and nominal flight! Now, back to "Starman" Burness, KI0AR, net control, for the Colorado Astronomy Net!
