

## Times are Tough!

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In this year 2013, for the 50th Paris-Le Bourget Air Show, NASA probably will not be in attendance, because of the sequester. “Times are tough!” everyone says. But what about this woman? Will she be in attendance? This is Valentina Tereshkova, the first woman in space.

She celebrated her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 6, 2012. She is that pioneer who showed the path to the stars to women who came to this profession since her historic flight of June 16-19, 1963. She holds the record as the youngest cosmonaut, and she is the only woman who flew alone in the cosmos!

Her journey in space was not

routine, even though she was ordered not to speak of the in-flight anomalies. At the time, Soviet propaganda dominated such communication.

On the way back from Earth orbit, her Vostok-6 spacecraft exhibited anomalous operation from its automatic vehicle orientation program. Initially her spacecraft was going farther away from Earth instead of getting closer to Earth. Finally, the atmospheric re-entry took place without problems. Soviet engineers and technicians eventually found solutions for this incident. It has not happened again, but Valentina Tereshkova found it necessary to keep quiet about those prob-

lems, at the request of Sergei Korolev.

### References:

- An [article](#) on the Futura Sciences web [site](#)
- Sergei Pavlovich Korolev, also transliterated as Sergey Pavlovich Korolyov (12 January 1907 [30 December 1906 when using old style calendars] – 14 January 1966) was the lead Soviet rocket engineer and spacecraft designer in the space race between the United States of America and the Soviet Union during the 1950s and 1960s. He is considered by many as the father of practical astronautics. ([Wikipedia](#))

*Our French sister section is 3AF MP, l'Association Aéronautique et Astronautique de France, Midi-Pyrénées chapter, [www.3af-mp.fr](http://www.3af-mp.fr). See the Section News pages for the 3AF MP organization [chart](#). More information is soon to be placed on our web site at [www.aiaahouston.org](http://www.aiaahouston.org), but that has not yet been transferred from our former web site, [www.aiaa-houston.org](http://www.aiaa-houston.org).*

*The relevant committee is in the technical branch of AIAA Houston Section, the International Space Activities Committee (ISAC), as shown on our organization [chart](#). The ISAC is chaired by [Ludmila Dmitriev-Odier](#).*



Above: Valentina Tereshkova and NASA astronaut Catherine Coleman at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center (GTC) in December 2010. [Image source](#): Wikipedia. [Image credit](#): NASA / Mike Fossum.



Above: A 1969 Soviet Union Sergei Korolev stamp. The face value of the stamp is ten kopeks. [Image source](#): Wikipedia. [Image credit](#): Eugene Zelenko.