

Scott Carpenter Bio / Press

Scott Carpenter is a true American hero. The first human being to pioneer the frontiers of both inner and outer space, he bears the dual title of Astronaut/Aquanaut. Chosen from a field of 508 military test pilots, Scott Carpenter is one of the original seven NASA Project Mercury astronauts. Commander Carpenter is the second American to orbit the Earth. His 3-orbit, 5-hour mission concluded with a spectacular manual landing after a retrofire malfunction forced a 250-mile overshoot of the planned landing zone. The result: the Aurora 7 spacecraft was outside NASA's line-of-sight radio range, rendering communication with Cape Canaveral impossible for almost an hour. Anyone who remembers the excitement of the space race of the 1960s will recall the May 24, 1962 television and radio news reports speculating that the astronaut was lost in the Atlantic and his fate unknown. After a long and dramatic 55 minutes, the good news was heralded that Carpenter was discovered alive and well, having emerged from the nose of his spacecraft and settled into a life raft. He was recovered and safely brought aboard the USS Intrepid—two hours after splashdown. Congratulatory calls followed from President John F. Kennedy and Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson and the country breathed a mutual sigh of relief.

Scott Carpenter was born in Boulder, Colorado on May 1, 1925. He received a bachelor of science degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the University of Colorado, and was commissioned in the U.S. Navy in 1949. This was followed by flight training and service in the Korean War. For his very first tour of duty and first deployment, Carpenter flew Lockheed P2V Neptunes for Patrol Squadron Six on reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare missions. Following an impressive performance as a Navy test pilot, Scott Carpenter was assigned as Air Intelligence Officer to the Aircraft Carrier, USS Hornet. On April 9, 1959, he was selected as one of the original seven Mercury Astronauts, serving as back-up pilot for John Glenn for America's first manned orbital space flight in February, 1962. Carpenter was the second man to orbit the Earth, and the fourth American to travel to outer space. On leave from NASA, Commander Carpenter participated in the Navy's Man-in-the-Sea Project, living and working for 30 days on the ocean floor in SEALAB II, and leading teams of deep-sea divers on exercises to a depth of 205 feet.

In 1967, Carpenter served as director for aquanaut operations for SEALAB III, and retired two years later from the Navy in 1969, when he founded and served as chief executive officer of Sea Sciences, Inc., developing programs to enhance utilization of ocean resources and improve the health of the oceans.

Scott Carpenter was inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame on May 11, 1990. He has written two novels about the Navy SEALs titled *The Steel Albatross* and *Deep Flight*. In 1993, he published his memoirs, *For Spacious Skies*, co-authored with his daughter, Kristen Stoeber. Carpenter serves as an engineering consultant to industry and the private sector, and makes numerous public lecture appearances. He is a Founder of the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation, which supports promising students in science and engineering who have shown initiative, creativity and excellence in their chosen field. Carpenter's numerous prestigious awards include the Navy's Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the NASA Distinguished Service Medal.