Today I’d like to tell you about the cosmonautics history because it’s April now and on the 12th of April Russian people celebrate the Cosmonautics Day. They have been celebrating it since 1962. Since 1968 people began to celebrate it as the World Aviation and Austronautics Day. In 2011 the Nation Organization declared to celebrate the International Day of Human Space Flight. Why? Because the first flight into space was on the 12th of April, 1961. All people know that 27-year-old Yuri Gagarin flew into space.

However, the history of cosmonautics began earlier. In the end of the 19th century Russian scientist Konstantin Eduardovich Tsiolkovsky proved that a man could fly into space. In 1924 Tsiolkovsky’s students established the First Society for Studies of Interplanetary Travel. On the 4th of October, 1957 the first artificial Earth satellite “Sputnil 1” was launched into space. A month later Soviet Union reported that the second artificial Earth satellite “Sputnik 2” with a dog Laika on board was launched into space. Laika spent on the board of a space ship several days. One day is 24 hours. Laika died during the flight but on the 19th of August, 1960 two dogs Belka and Strelka set off on a space journey.

After that flight animals came back on the Earth safe and sound. After that, on the 12th of April, 1961 the first man flew into space. Spaceship “Vostok 1” with the first man Yuri Gagarin on board was launched into space. That historical event the humankind will remember forever! The Gagarin’s flight lasted 108 minutes. “Vostok 1” landed near Saratov. Five months later Gherman Titov flew into space. The flight lasted about 24 hours. The Earth was filmed during that flight for the first time. The first group flight took place in 1962. In 1963 Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman to go to space and successfully return - alone. No other woman after Valentina Tereshkova has repeated her feat – after her, not one female cosmonaut would go to space solo. In 1965 cosmonaut Aleksey Leonov became the first man who went to open space and spent there 12 minutes.

That’s all about the history of cosmonautics and the first cosmonauts in space. All of them made a great contribution to space exploration.