



*STS-134/AMS*

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00:00:01,216 --> 00:00:07,166

Did both of you always, as, as you grew up  
and matured and started looking at, you know,

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00:00:07,266 --> 00:00:12,316

post high school, college, a career,  
did you always have similar career paths

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00:00:12,316 --> 00:00:16,036

or was there enough of a difference  
in your interests to lead you

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00:00:16,036 --> 00:00:17,746

in different directions at some point?

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00:00:18,026 --> 00:00:19,316

Mark - Well, initially there was.

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00:00:19,406 --> 00:00:24,716

I went to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and  
Scott actually took a totally different path

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00:00:24,806 --> 00:00:27,516

for a while, going to the University...

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00:00:27,516 --> 00:00:33,166

Scott - Yah, I went to the University of  
Maryland for a year and, was considering maybe,

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00:00:33,166 --> 00:00:37,066

you know, being a medical  
doctor but decided, you know,

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00:00:37,066 --> 00:00:42,636

my other interest was maybe flying airplanes  
in the Navy and just kind of changed my mind

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00:00:42,636 --> 00:00:47,846

and changed schools and changed

majors and decided, you know,

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00:00:47,846 --> 00:00:49,356

to focus a hundred percent on that.

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00:00:49,356 --> 00:00:52,046

Scott - So he's actually a  
year senior to me in the Navy.

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00:00:52,416 --> 00:00:55,896

Mark - I actually remember going to visit  
him at, at the University of Maryland,

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00:00:56,846 --> 00:01:01,116

probably towards the end of his first year and  
showing him all these pictures of Navy airplanes

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00:01:01,116 --> 00:01:02,926

and tellin' him I was going  
and, go ahead and do this...

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00:01:02,926 --> 00:01:03,906

Scott - That's not how I remember it.

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00:01:03,906 --> 00:01:05,346

Mark - ...and then he said something like...

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00:01:05,346 --> 00:01:05,746

Scott - Yah, right.

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00:01:05,746 --> 00:01:07,516

Mark - ..."That sounds a lot  
better than being a doctor.'

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00:01:07,836 --> 00:01:09,926

(chuckle) Scott - That's not how I remember it.

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00:01:09,926 --> 00:01:11,196

No fistfights on the set.

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00:01:11,616 --> 00:01:15,496

Okay, so, for you, Scott, ultimately you wound up with an interest

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00:01:15,496 --> 00:01:18,136

in electrical engineering and ultimately aviation.

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00:01:18,806 --> 00:01:23,946

Mark, what peaked your interest in maritime engineering and transportation?

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00:01:24,636 --> 00:01:27,856

Mark - Well, the, we spent a lot of time on the New Jersey shore.

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00:01:27,946 --> 00:01:31,316

My parents always had a boat from the time we were very little.

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00:01:31,736 --> 00:01:35,466

We'd go out fishing, well, we'd go down there for, usually for the summer...

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00:01:35,636 --> 00:01:37,096

Scott - Not like the TV Jersey Shore.

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00:01:37,096 --> 00:01:37,516

Mark - Yah.

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00:01:38,066 --> 00:01:42,296

So we'd go down there for the summer and spent a lot of time on the water.

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00:01:42,726 --> 00:01:47,226

Later, when we were teenagers, we were able to stay down there in the summer by ourselves

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00:01:47,756 --> 00:01:52,746

on our parents boat, you know, not a big boat, like in the thirty-five foot range

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00:01:52,746 --> 00:01:57,856

but big enough for the two of us to live on so I was very interested in, you know,

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00:01:57,856 --> 00:02:01,196

seamanship and maritime related stuff.

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00:02:01,196 --> 00:02:06,686

So probably when I was thirteen or fourteen I started looking at either going

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00:02:06,686 --> 00:02:09,796

to the Merchant Marine Academy or the Naval Academy, the Coast Guard Academy.

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00:02:10,396 --> 00:02:13,306

But the Merchant Marine Academy really got my interest.

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00:02:14,336 --> 00:02:14,946

And for you, Scott?

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00:02:14,946 --> 00:02:17,226

Scott - Well, plus our, you know, our grandfather was a,

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00:02:17,286 --> 00:02:21,686

an officer in the U.S. Merchant Marine and a fire boat captain in New York City

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00:02:21,686 --> 00:02:27,456

so that was a, I think, also a, you know, a, played a small part in the interest and,

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00:02:28,566 --> 00:02:32,096

you know, having a Third Mate's

license which I actually still have.

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00:02:32,336 --> 00:02:39,836

I kind of kept it current all these years  
and, never actually thinking I would sail

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00:02:39,836 --> 00:02:44,126

on the license but the reason I went to the,  
the school that I did was because it was a,

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00:02:44,126 --> 00:02:50,136

you know, they had Navy ROTC there and they  
also, it was a regimental type of environment.

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00:02:50,136 --> 00:02:54,556

I thought it'd be better for me, give  
me more time to focus on schoolwork

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00:02:54,556 --> 00:02:57,156

and I was, I was obviously right.

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00:02:58,516 --> 00:03:00,756

Which one of you decided  
to become a pilot first?

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00:03:01,526 --> 00:03:07,046

Scott - My recollection, it was me, but  
because he was a year ahead of me in college,

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00:03:07,046 --> 00:03:12,296

he actually was in the Navy first and flew  
first but that's just my recollection.

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00:03:12,356 --> 00:03:13,086

Mark - Yah, I'm not sure.

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00:03:13,566 --> 00:03:18,566

And did that influence you to  
follow in his footsteps basically?

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00:03:19,036 --> 00:03:23,226

Scott - You know, I was pretty committed to the Navy before he was because I was

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00:03:23,226 --> 00:03:25,116

on a Navy scholarship in college.

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00:03:25,116 --> 00:03:25,956

Mark - Yah, that's true.

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00:03:25,956 --> 00:03:30,786

I mean, I actually looked at even going, hate to say this but for a while I looked at going

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00:03:30,786 --> 00:03:37,376

into the Air Force and actually considered it, took the test and they offered me, you know,

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00:03:37,376 --> 00:03:42,176

an option of going to Air Force Flight School and, you know, but certainly I,

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00:03:42,696 --> 00:03:46,436

I'm pretty convinced I took the, you know, the right path there.

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00:03:47,676 --> 00:03:49,716

Nothing against the Air Force people out there, but...

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00:03:51,026 --> 00:03:53,616

You were both five years old when Neil Armstrong

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00:03:53,616 --> 00:03:56,246

and Buzz Aldrin set foot on the moon on Apollo 11.

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00:03:56,556 --> 00:04:04,376

What recollection might you have of

that, at that age, and ultimately was

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00:04:04,376 --> 00:04:09,526

that a big influence on your  
developing an interest ultimately

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00:04:09,526 --> 00:04:12,296

in aerospace or space, space flight itself?

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00:04:12,636 --> 00:04:15,876

Mark - I don't think I have any  
recollection of Apollo 11 at all.

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00:04:16,106 --> 00:04:19,446

I think at, at that age, I don't  
know what the situation was there

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00:04:20,026 --> 00:04:25,586

but I don't remember the significance and I  
don't remember, you know, man first walking,

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00:04:25,886 --> 00:04:27,016

taking the first steps on the moon.

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00:04:27,246 --> 00:04:32,396

I do remember what I'm pretty sure was  
either Apollo 16 or 17, one of the,

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00:04:32,766 --> 00:04:38,496

one of the later flights a couple  
years later and I was interested in it.

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00:04:38,676 --> 00:04:41,776

You, you know, it's one of those things  
when you're that age you can be interested

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00:04:41,776 --> 00:04:48,556

in something but it just seems like it's su-,  
you know, so far off and so difficult to do

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00:04:48,556 --> 00:04:51,726

that you, you know, you don't really  
take a lot of time to consider it.

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00:04:52,576 --> 00:04:55,046

Scott - And I, I do have a  
rec-, recollection of it.

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00:04:55,046 --> 00:05:00,136

I can remember being in my, you know, our  
living room and our parents, you know,

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00:05:00,756 --> 00:05:06,136

sitting us in front of the  
television and having us watch it and,

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00:05:07,096 --> 00:05:09,226

but as far as did that influence me?

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00:05:10,206 --> 00:05:16,126

You know, certainly, being an astronaut  
was something that, like many kids,

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00:05:16,126 --> 00:05:21,366

I was interested in but, you know, I really  
never thought it would be a possibility.

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00:05:23,306 --> 00:05:28,926

So with that in mind, give us a little  
background on how you were both selected

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00:05:28,926 --> 00:05:33,256

to join the Astronaut Corps at the same  
time which is unique in and of itself

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00:05:33,556 --> 00:05:36,076

which parallels many other  
events in your lives together.

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00:05:36,666 --> 00:05:39,906

Mark - Well, we both wound up in the same Test Pilot School class.

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00:05:40,056 --> 00:05:41,416

We didn't apply at the same time.

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00:05:41,716 --> 00:05:48,896

I was in graduate school in Monterey on this combined program and, which includes going

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00:05:48,896 --> 00:05:51,516

to the Naval Test Pilot School, and then Scott applied to Test Pilot School.

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00:05:51,516 --> 00:05:53,076

We actually wound up in the same class.

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00:05:53,606 --> 00:05:59,126

The school didn't even realize it until a week before we showed up and Dick Clark,

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00:05:59,126 --> 00:06:01,706

who now works here at NASA, was looking through the roster.

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00:06:01,706 --> 00:06:05,986

He was the Chief Flight Instructor at the, at the time and he noticed two guys

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00:06:05,986 --> 00:06:09,306

with the same last name which, you know, that's, that's kind of common, right?

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00:06:09,756 --> 00:06:11,656

But then he noticed the social security numbers

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00:06:11,916 --> 00:06:16,026

and our social security numbers are three digits apart and he, he was like, "Okay, well,

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00:06:16,026 --> 00:06:18,066

these guys must be related or..."

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00:06:18,066 --> 00:06:20,316

actually he realized we must be twin brothers.

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00:06:20,906 --> 00:06:27,736

So after Test Pilot School, say most test pilots apply at some point to, to the astronaut program

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00:06:27,736 --> 00:06:33,506

and we both did and were fortunate enough to be selected to the same class in 1996.

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00:06:35,556 --> 00:06:39,826

So, Scott, it took you only three years after your selection before you flew in space

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00:06:39,826 --> 00:06:45,536

for the first time as the pilot on STS-103, Hubble Space Telescope Servicing Mission, and,

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00:06:45,536 --> 00:06:49,436

Mark, you didn't fly until a couple years later on your first flight which went

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00:06:49,436 --> 00:06:50,826

to the International Space Station.

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00:06:51,716 --> 00:06:55,166

Was, was it frustrating for you, Mark, to see your brother fly first?

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00:06:55,166 --> 00:06:57,686

Were those competitive juices flowing at the time?

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00:06:57,686 --> 00:07:01,906

Mark - Not at all, you know, he was the first American in our class to fly of thirty-five

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00:07:02,086 --> 00:07:06,226

so it was great that, you know, if it wasn't going to be me it was great

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00:07:06,226 --> 00:07:11,616

that it was Scott flying for the first time and then, I think it was probably two