

## **“Low and Slow” at the Johnson’s**

**Duane Lanterman reporting**

The night launch in Ellinwood had been cancelled due to a wet field, so the next and last gathering of the Kosmonauts was the Low and Slow Launch at Mark and Bonnie Johnson’s home (aka Johnson Space Center).

Many times this November gathering has fallen victim to high winds, but this year’s weather was picture perfect. Five male members gathered at a launch that is limited to app. A 400’ altitude. Three wives also gathered in the house and proclaimed they had “solved all the world’s problems” while were out having fun.

In approximately two hours we flew a variety of models like the old days, powered by micro max motors all the way up to a “C”. We all had money left to drive home and buy pizza.

The most prolific of flyers was John Palmer with 6 flights, Duane Lanterman with 5, Mark Johnson, Ron Shipley, and Keith Ravenstein with 4 flights each and Steve Saner with 2, totaling 26 flights.

Mark Johnson started out the flying with his Fliskit Frick and Frack with a perfect C to B flight. He probably should have stopped there. His next flight was his peanut scale Nike that was at best unstable but not really a problem, then he reloaded his Frick and Frack resulting in a fireball of a cato on the pad which then ignited the upper stage (ouch), followed by a flight of a nicely detailed Mercury Redstone to demonstrate the new long burn Quest C6-3. Unfortunately it didn’t have quite enough oomph and it nosed dived into the ground burying its launch escape tower. Mark took the carnage in stride, it all can and will be repaired.

Ron Shipley flew his “A” Dragster from Ellinwood, his Nike Smoke, and his micro Quest glider. We all saw the glider land, but those micro rockets are darn hard to find, and we all almost gave up locating it, before it was finally found.

Keith Ravenstein brought along some ancient models, his Wolverine flew three times and his Estes Club rocket once. He kept cutting back on the recovery systems until his last flight finally landed on the right side of the horse fence !

Duane Lanterman flew his Semrock Point, “A” class dragster, and a model called The Cup. The Cup was based around one of those pointy paper cups who get out the glass water dispensers. It flew amazingly well.

Steve Saner flew a scratch built model and the iconic Big Bertha. That model will live forever. He also brought along his Nike Smoke model for us to see. Steve had been working on this model off and on this year and had hoped to launch it at Ellinwood in Oct. on an E or F motor. The nose cone was amazing, turned from balsa, but looking for all the world like a plastic version.

John “scale” Palmer flew a Tomahawk, Shuttle, Saturn V, as well as a Quark, Ninja, and a Bandito. (CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

Once in the house we talked rockets and watched video footage from Keith's camera rocket at FFFF. We all sat down to eat pizza, along with some good side dishes, and ended with cupcakes to celebrate James Johnson's and Duane Lanterman's November birthday. There was one slice of pizza and one cupcake left. Awe, it was good!

## **BUTTON, BUTTON, WHO'S GOT THE BUTTON**

I may be the only one old enough to remember the game referred to in the headline above, but really what we are looking for is who has the winning button for KOMSO's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The buttons will be approximately 2.5" in diameter and can be worn on your favorite cap, shirt, jacket, or just to poke someone with. We are asking you to come up with a design and bring it with you to the annual meeting in Hutchinson, send it to John Palmer by US mail (1312 E 27<sup>th</sup>, Hutchinson, Ks.) or email it to Duane Lanterman at [rocketsandracing@cox.net](mailto:rocketsandracing@cox.net). Deadline is Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>. I don't think there will be a prize for the winner except for the pride of seeing your design on millions (possibly fewer) buttons at launches during our big 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Enter today !!



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### *Kansas Organization for SpaceModeling*

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All

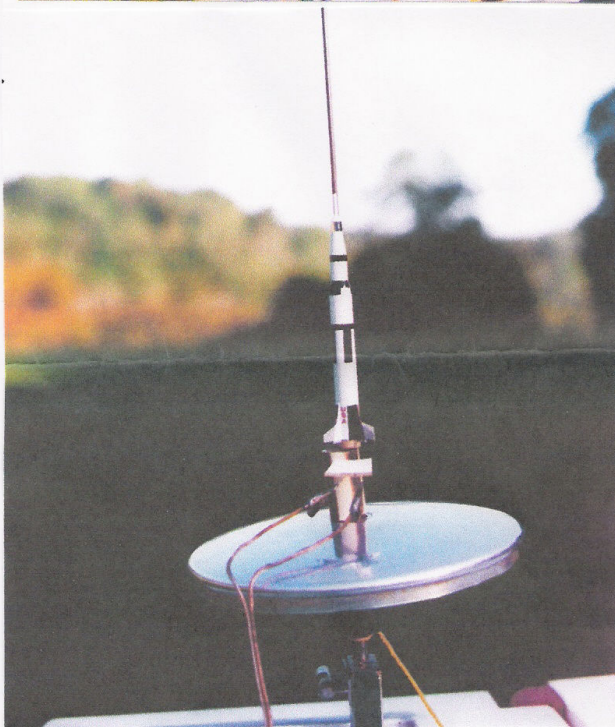
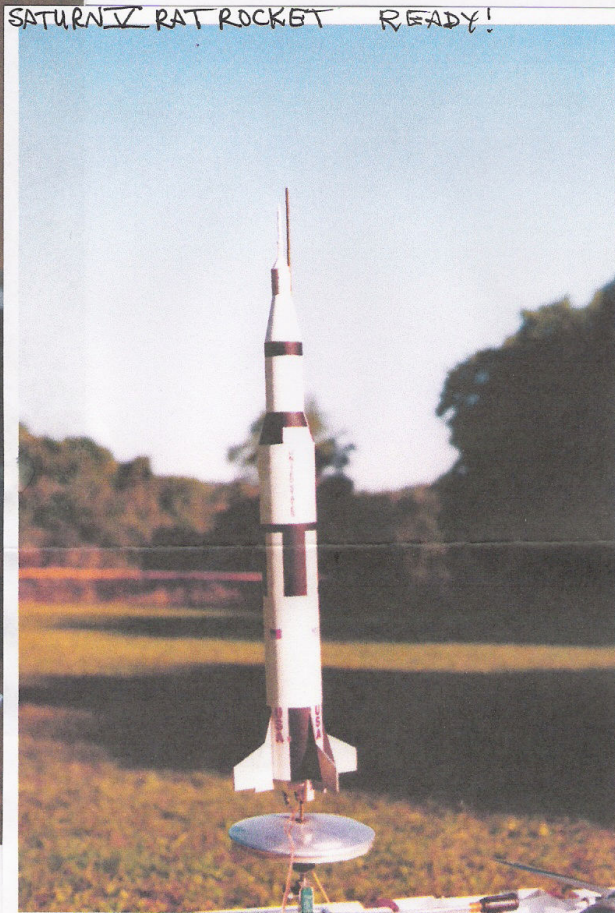
# A PHOTO COLLAGE FROM LOW AND SLOW



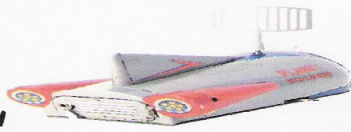


### **40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SATURN V LAUNCH**

Frequent contributor Joe Peklicz of Martins Ferry Ohio sent these photos of two of his scratch built Saturn V's. Joe does an outstanding job of making great looking rockets out of stuff around the house. What he now refers to as "rat rockets". Top photos show a model from Pringle cans, toilet paper roll, etc. Photo on the left is on a mini model powered by a 1/4A.



BY DUANE LANTERMAN



## EDITORS RAMBLINGS

Our 2009 flying season was successful, particularly compared to the dismal year we had in 2008. We got to use our new field in Hutchinson and hope to make greater use of it in 2010. Speaking of 2010, that marks our club's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A mark certainly worthy of a celebration. Plans for this will begin at our annual meeting, this time held in HUTCHINSON, KS. for the first time. Make sure to make note of the details on the back page of this issue.

I want to thank everyone who contributed pictures or articles this past year. I think we had more contributors than in many a year. My intention is to make that an even greater part of the Kosmonaut next year.

To make our club a little "greener" and to help our treasury, we give you the OPTION of a digital version of the newsletter instead of a mailed hardcopy. If you are on our club's email list when a new issue is mailed out, you will receive an email with a link directly to a pdf file of the newsletter. By being on this list you will also be able to discuss issues with other club members. Those of us currently on the list have been enjoying this feature. To subscribe go to <http://lists.kosmo427.org/mailman/listinfo/kosmo/> If you don't want to be on the list, but would still like to be informed of a new digital copy send an email request to [info@kosmo427.org](mailto:info@kosmo427.org) Of course, you can still continue to receive your hardcopy in the mail if you'd prefer. I print out the digital copy so I have a copy in "living color"

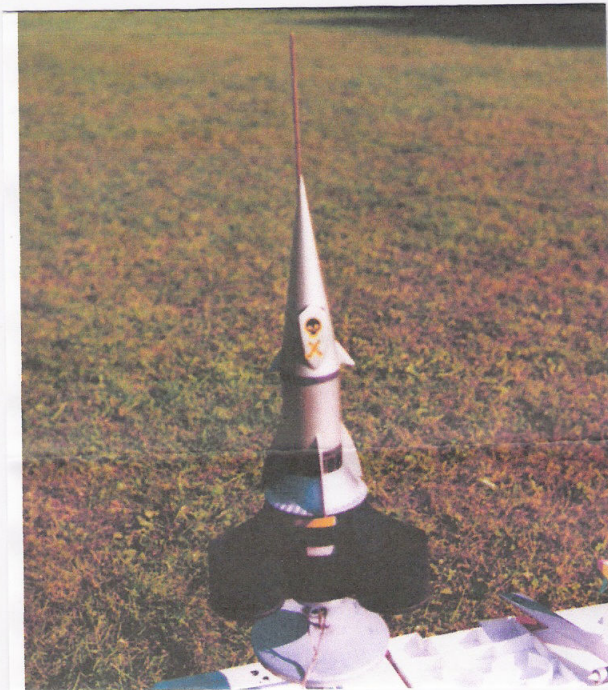
Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. DL

### PLAN TEASER - the Point of Death

In the issue are several shots of Joe Peklicz's scale Saturn V's. Below you will see a shot of his 2 stage Point of Death (POD). This has to be the best looking off the wall design I have seen from him. He sent some flight photos also and it looks like this baby flies. The booster chute can be seen gently returning the booster stage as the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage roars on in one photo. Somehow I've misplaced the plans, but I'll have them ready for you in the next issue. A project to help you though those long winter nights.

#### Thanks for Renewing

Thanks to those who recently renewed their memberships including Joe and Peg Warnock, Gordan Hainey, Ed and Wonda Cass, Steve Saner, and Phillip Schererman. If your membership is due please send in your \$10 today. Thanks !



# KOSMO ANNUAL MEETING

## NEW LOCATION !

1312 E 27TH  
HUTCHINSON, KS.

*Home of John Palmer & family*

Sunday Jan. 17th 2010

Lunch @ noon  
Meeting begins 12:45

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**30TH ANNIVERSARY IDEAS**

**LAUNCH CALENDAR FOR 2010**

**SHARING WINTER PROJECTS**

**\$5 SUGGESTED DONATION FOR LUNCH**

**CALL 620-663-9369 FOR LAST MINUTE UPDATES**

