

THE KOSMONAUT

KANSAS ORGANIZATION FOR SPACE MODELING NAR # 427 MAY/JUNE VOL.31 NO. 3

KOSMO/KCAR HOST NARCON 2012

What started as a last minute substitute in Aug. of 2011 for a club that changed its mind turned into a successful NARCON held at the Hutchinson, Ks. Ramada Inn and Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center. Approximately 60 NAR members gathered to hear speakers, tour facilities, and meet the Estes's at the annual national convention.

Plans first formed at a Braumn's Restaurant in Nov. under the direction of Blake Goddard of KCAR and eventually turned into weekly chats on the internet with members of the Kansas Organization for Space Modeling (KOMSO) and KCAR (Kansas City Association of Rocketry). As the week before the convention loomed we had doubts about how we were going to pull this off. Some members were in place the day before the convention and as Friday the 13th of April dawned we were ready to see what would happen. Other than changing around the presentation/banquet rooms and making a few speaker adjustments, things went pretty much as planned.

Friday we had two tours of SpaceWorks (not normally open to the public) and everyone had a great time gazing at the projects, mock ups, workshops and space "junk" stored in this facility in residential Hutchinson. Several of the restorers gave us the tour explaining that besides building for the Cosmosphere many of their projects end up in other space museums around the world and on movie sets. Digital cameras were kept busy taking photos in the facility.

Saturday evening hosting club members had supper with our honored guest Vern and Glenda Estes. It was nice to visit on a one on one basis with this very engaging couple. Saturday night Blake Goddard of KCAR welcomed the attendees and the vendor tables were open for those anxious to make purchases or find out the latest scoop. Duane Lanterman and Keith Ravenstein made a quick 120 mile round trip that evening for a very special case accidentally left behind. (more on this later)

Saturday started the succession of presentations and these will be covered in more detail in an issue of Sport Rocketry later this year. I will leave all the details on these and other talks so you may read them then. These articles are being submitted as I write this by members of both hosting clubs. The topics covered included *Low Cost Rocketry* by Tom Ha, *Foam Cutting Techniques* by John Boren, *Designing Kits for Sale* by Matt Steele, *High Power Construction* by Kent Burnett, *Rocketry in the Classroom* by Tim Van Milligan, *The Life and Times of a Club Treasurer* by Mark Logan, *NAR Range Safety* by Ted Cochran, *Paper Rockets* by Dave Lucas, *High Performance Pistons* by Ryan Coleman, *The Kansas Cosmosphere* by Meredith Miller, *NAR Teacher Certification* by Vince Huegele and Johnathan Sivier, *TRAC* by Trip Barber and Vince Huegele, *Contest Region Organization* by O Lee James, *FSI* by Tim Burton, *Growing up Wallops* by Mark Bundick, and *NAR HQ* by Jennifer Ash-Poole. All in all, a very interesting lineup. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)





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OPPOSITE PAGE: Top left: Vern and Glenda Estes pose with shuttle astronaut "Sam" Gemar. Top right: Tom Ha (NAR treasurer) gives a presentation on "Cheap Rocketry". Middle Left: What a BRUNCH! Middle right: John Boren of Estes shows Dave Lucas the new Nike fins. Insert: Kent Burnett of Giant Leap shows how to "size" a nose cone. Bottom left: Ted Cochran (NAR VP) and Trip Barber (NAR President) share notes.

THIS PAGE: Top left insert: Blake Goddard of KCAR was the chairperson of NARCON. Below left: O Lee James of the SW region gives a talk on Contest Organization. Middle top: Former NAR president Mark Bundick relaxes in the lobby. Bottom middle: Giant Leap models on display. Top right: Vernon Estes's Scout (shuttle flown) rests in its new case made by KOSMO president Keith Ravenstein. Bottom left: KOSMO and KCAR members share supper with Vern and Glenda Estes at Chili's.

KCAR/KOSMO HOST NARCON 2012

Saturday around 11 am we had a wonderful brunch and we were able to sit and visit. It was at this time that our clubs presented a plaque to the Estes's in appreciation for all their contributions to the hobby we love. Vern had brought his Scout that was flown aboard the shuttle to display and KOSMO president Keith Ravenstein presented him with a display case he made especially for it. (remember the Friday night drive to Great Bend?). After the Saturday presentations we began to gather for the banquet. Outside the weather was a concern as severe weather was literally all around us. The next day the reports were in on a record evening for tornados in Kansas thankfully no deaths occurring. Hutchinson, site of the NARCON, experienced just a few drops of rain. We were truly grateful for being spared any severe weather.

Guest speaker for the banquet was three times shuttle astronaut Lt. Colonel Charles "Sam" Gemar. KOSMO member Ron Shipley is a friend of Gemar and we were certainly fortunate to have him speak. The presentation was very educational and informative and at the same time very humorous. Many times throughout the speech the entire room burst into laughter. Once again, a detailed article on his speech will appear later this year in Sport Rocketry. It was interesting to watch Vern and Glenda Estes ask to have their picture taken with Lt. Col. Gemar as the past few days they had been the ones everyone wanted to have their picture taken with. Following the keynote speaker, an auction lead by David Lucas of KCAR was held with some very neat stuff from old rocket motors, books, kits, framed pictures, and some low number Mercury Redstone kits from Fliskits. (made as special presentations at NARCON for the first time!)

Sunday morning saw activity at the vendor booths, and then the NAR Town Hall Meeting was held with NAR President Trip Barber. After a very interesting presentation the floor was open for a lively discussion. Several times during the weekend, including the Town Hall, flying fields were a topic of discussion. Good relations with land owners who allow launches are a very important link to the continued success of our hobby. At noon the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center was open to the attendees. If they hadn't gotten their monies or memories worth up to this point the Cosmosphere did not disappoint. It is truly one of the outstanding space museums in the world. In little Hutchinson, Kansas! As the community says, "Come share our space" We heard more than once that the Cosmosphere tour was worth the whole trip.

And so ended our first NARCON. We all went away thinking that it had turned out all right. Was it perfect? No, but it was a wonderful experience, new friends were made and folks from Portland to Washington DC got to see what central Kansas has to offer. Thanks to all the people who attended, those who volunteered their time and resources, the vendors, speakers, the Estes's, the Kansas Cosmosphere and SpaceCenter, Space Works, and the Ramada Inn who were so helpful in making accommodations for us, great food and a friendly staff. So many on the KOSMO AND KCAR sections made significant time and financial sacrifices. So as not to slight anyone I will not list names but want to say a big thank you to all the members who made this event happen.

*This article is meant to be a very quick review of NARCON. Please enjoy later this year reading and seeing many more photos of this event in Sport Rocketry.

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KRAMO 32

By Steve Saner

Those that have participated in KRAMO in past years will tell you that it is a lot of fun. As this year's contest director, I would like to encourage the newer members and anyone who has not been to a KRAMO, or hasn't been for a while, to consider participating in some way.

KRAMO is sanctioned by the NAR as an official open meet competition. We have five events planned this year and you may bring an entry in any or all (or none) of the events. The following events and the official rules are described in detail on the NAR website (see address below).

- Open Spot Landing
- Random Duration
- "C" Eggloft Duration
- "1/8A" Streamer Duration
- "1/2A" Rocket Glider Duration

KRAMO weekend this year is June 2-3 and it will be held in Hutchinson at our normal launch site on the fair grounds parking lot. We start at 10:00am both days and go until 4:00-5:00 or until everyone is done. On Sunday we then usually go someplace for some refreshment and our awards ceremony. If the weather does not cooperate, one of the days could get canceled, in which case we will try to squeeze everything into the remaining day. Watch the web site and email lists for any last minute changes.

A couple things that you should know about KRAMO. First, you do not have to enter any of the competitive class to participate in the launch. Normal sport launching will be held both Saturday and Sunday. If you want to just come and watch and learn what it is all about, that is fine too. Second, you do not have to be a NAR member in order to enter the competitive events. If you are a NAR member then you will earn points that will be sent to the NAR and you will be listed in the national standings that are tallied throughout the year. But even if you are not a NAR member you are eligible to win KRAMO prizes. We will award ribbons for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each event. There will also be an over-all winner trophy. You never know, there could be other prizes as well.

If you would like to get your feet wet on the competition, there are two events that anyone with a flyable rocket can enter. No need for any special designs. The first is "Open Spot Landing". We will identify a spot on the field and the goal of this event is to launch a rocket and have it land as close to this spot as possible. You can use any rocket with any recovery mechanism as long as it conforms to

the basic NAR safety code (which is true of all sport flights as well). The second easy to participate in event is called "Random Duration". At the beginning of the launch we will randomly select a duration time that is between 30 and 50 seconds. All you have to do is fly any rocket with any recovery mechanism and try to get the time of the entire flight from takeoff to landing as close to this selected time as possible. Again, the rocket must conform to the NAR safety code. If you look in the official rules for random duration you will see that the duration time can be between 30 and 120 seconds. Due to the size of our field, we will limit the duration to no more than 50 seconds.

The other three events planned do require some special considerations, but they are not necessarily hard

to do either. Take a look at the KRAMO page on our web site (see address below). The full rules for each event can be found by clicking on the rules link next to each event. The launch fees for KRAMO are a little different than a normal sport launch. These fees are for the entire event regardless of how many events in which you participate.

Sport Flying: \$1.00

Competitive Adult: \$7.00

Competitive Youth: \$5.00

Family Pass: \$15.00

Spectators: Free

Hopefully this information will answer any questions that you may have about KRAMO and pique your interest. If you do have further questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Here are some additional

sources of information:

NAR Sporting Code: <http://www.nar.org/pinkbook/>

KOSMO KRAMO Page: <http://www.kosmo427.org/kramo.html>

Questions? Send Email to: info@kosmo427.org

KOSMO 2012 LAUNCH/ACTIVITY CALENDAR

SATURDAY/SUNDAY JUNE 2-3- KRAMO32 OPEN CONTEST- STATE FAIR PARKING LOT - 10am-5pm Sat., 10am-4pm Sun. OPEN SPOT LANDING, 1/8A STREAMER DURATION, C EGGLOFT DURATION, RANDOM DURATION, AND 1/2A ROCKET GLIDE. Adults \$7, Youth \$5, Family \$15, sport flyers \$1.

SATURDAY JULY 7 - EAA FLY IN -NEWTON AIRPORT
7am-4pm Newton, Ks. Club static display, no launches planned.

SATURDAY AUG. 11 - SPORT LAUNCH- STATE FAIR PARKING LOT - 5pm-9pm- Hutchinson, Ks. - Launch fee \$4 (members \$3) Class 1 rockets that can be reasonably recovered in field. *This launch is tentative. If KCAR has an event in Aug. we may cancel.*

SUNDAY SEPT. 9 - FINAL FRONTIER FUN FLY - ELLINWOOD, KS. -10am-5pm- Launch fee \$4 (members \$3) - 10,000' Waiver - BBQ at noon (small fee) Kansas Rocket Drags included (classes TBA) - Beautiful Bertha Event (details this issue) ALTERNATE DATE DUE TO BAD WEATHER IS SEPT. 23.

SATURDAY OCT. 20- NIGHTFLIGHT - STATE FAIR PARKING LOT - 3pm-8pm - Hutchinson, Ks. - Launch fee \$4 (\$3 members)
Class 1 rockets that can reasonably be recovered in the field. From 7pm-8pm launching of rockets that are illuminated throughout the entire flight (thus Nightflight)

SATURDAY NOV. 3 - LOW AND SLOW - HUTCHINSON, KS. - WILDER PARKS RESIDENCE - 2pm-5pm - Launch free, \$5 for supper.
Max altitude to be announced. Mostly high drag rockets or model rockets with low impulse motors. If weather is inclement we still gather and tell rocket stories (and eat!)