

THE KOSMONAUT

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FINAL FRONTIER

FUN FLY



And lots more inside !

Final Frontier Fun Fly

by Steve Saner

This year's edition of the Final Frontier Fun Fly (FFFF) launch was a mixed bag of twists and turns, that ultimately resulted in a great launch. FFFF was originally scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 9th at the Ellinwood Airport. As we typically do, we also scheduled an alternate date two weeks later, Sept. 23rd. About a week before the planned date, it was discovered that there would be an EAA Fly-in happening at the airport that day. There was a fair amount of email discussion about how we might integrate our launch into the fly-in. In the end, though, it was determined that the best course of action was to just postpone our launch to the alternate date. This had both positive and negative consequences.

During the two week interim between dates, our good friend, and long time member, Ron Shipley, was diagnosed with cancer and we learned that he would not be able to join us. More is written about this elsewhere in this newsletter. Also, shortly before the newly scheduled launch day, Sharon Lanterman's mother passed away, so she understandably would not be around to cook hot dogs as was originally planned. It also meant that Duane Lanterman would have limited involvement in the launch. So with these core members missing, we were not sure exactly what the day would be like.

As it turns out, the postponement of the launch presented an opportunity for a number of guests to come fly with us who would not have been able to do so two weeks prior. As a result, we had one of the largest FFFF launches in recent memory. KOSMO member Dennis Elder brought with him four members of the Rush County 4-H club. Some of their parents were there as well. He also had some of his grandchildren along. Dennis reports that kids and parents alike had a wonderful time. Ten launches were logged between Ethan Schneider, Xander Paomberg, Robert Ballow, and Kwinter Hartshorn. Dennis himself launched an Astrocam and his grandson, Garret McAllister, launched a Pop Flyer.

Another guest at the launch was Evan Beckman and some students of his. Evan is an A&P Instructor for the Aviation Maintenance Management program at K-State Salina. He has been working to form a rocketry club in the area and also works with the 4-H program there. Evan came prepared to make a Level 1 high power certification attempt. KOSMO president Keith Ravenstein conducted the certification procedure. The project was put in jeopardy when Evan realized that he had left his motor retainer at home. But, with a steal strap from Steve, an electric drill from John, and a bit of ingenuity and craftsmanship from Keith, a make-shift motor clip was fashioned and soon Evan's rocket was blasting off to a picture perfect certification flight. Congratulations! Evan is also now the newest KOSMO member and we are hoping to join forces with him in the Salina area in the future.

Long time member Rickey Calvert made an appearance this year along with his kids and some of their friends. In addition to launching a couple rockets, Rickey also stepped up and manned the BBQ grill in place of Sharon. Despite his warnings to the contrary, no one suffered any food poisoning or other ill effects from his cooking.

In all, we logged 48 rocket launches. Linton and Peter Bayles had 12 flights between them, several of which were some very nice high power launches. John Palmer checked in with 6 flights including some mid and high power rockets. Ron Snow was there with 5 of his rockets and Steve Saner also flew 5 rockets, including the ever popular spool rocket. Duane Lanterman was also able to join in the launching later in the day and attempted to fly his Eagle 7, which has an E9 center motor surrounded by 6 D12 motors, which totals an H impulse. Unfortunately, the E9 cato'd and cut the flight short. A small fire started, but Keith and Steve were ready with the water bottles and it was quickly brought under control. Duane already has plans to rebuild the rocket. Keith Ravenstein kept busy helping others with

their projects and making sure all operations went smoothly. As a result he did not fly any rockets. However, at the beginning of the day, the club presented Keith with a t-shirt in recognition of his successful Level 3 certification flight during Labor Day weekend. Congratulations to you Keith!

Many thanks to those members and guests that came out as fliers and as spectators. Your presence made the Final Frontier Fun Fly a great launch.



Well fellow rocketeers, it has been a while since I have written my page for the newsletter and here is just a quick one before it goes to the presses. It has been a great year so far and it is still looking up despite a few problems that are present.

I was sorry to hear about the passing of Sharon's mom a few weeks ago and I was really set back by the news of Ron Shipley. I am glad that he is at home and my thoughts and prayers go out to him daily for better health and more strength, that he will pull through this and get back to living a full life.

I was very pleased to meet Evan Beckman and his group on our last launch and happy to administer his L1 certification flight and sign his paperwork for that flight. Welcome to the club and that was a great flight Evan.

Last Tuesday (Oct. 2nd), Monica and I drove to Salina to check out a couple of sites that Evan is thinking on about obtaining for rocket use and explained some of the problems with them and then gave a recommendation that either site could be used for Class 1 rockets and or completion rocketry use. With this being said, don't be surprised that I might try to have KRAMO in Salina in the year 2013 as long as we get permission and insurance on the site by then. I know a very good place to eat up there if you have the taste for Italian food.

Also while we were there I took Monica to two of her favorite places to visit while in Salina and so we found ourselves in the Menard's store for a while and then off to a visit with Evan and his rocket club (KSU affiliated) and then for a great supper at Mareinelli's Little Italy restaurant (her second place). Evan is doing a great thing up in Salina and I am glad that he is part of the KOSMO club. Just a heads up that I think we can expect the club to grow and be more active with the addition with the Salina people. They are on fire for rockets up there.

After thinking about it for a while and pondering over the possibilities it is a good area to expand in. It is less than a 2 hours drive for most of us and is closer to those on the east side of Kansas. I have not looked in to the hotels there yet but I'll bet there are more than a few that would like our business for a weekend. Also Evan has an idea about trying to get some farm land and the possibility of a high power field. Time will tell.

Well thanks again for a great year up to now and lets have fun for the rest of it.

Praying for blue skies, no wind, and green grass for the rest of the year. Have a good day.

Keith Ravenstein

IT'S OFFICIAL - KEITH CERTIFIED "DELUSIONAL"

It's official, KOSMO president Keith Ravenstein is NAR Level 3 certified as of Sept. 1, 2012 flying his original design "Delusional" at Airfest in Argonia, Ks. The flight went straight up with no rotation and averaged 4101' on the altimeters. Here are the technical specs on his rocket. A number of KOSMONauts made the trip to Argonia to witness the flight. Way to go Keith !!

Length 125" (10'5")

Dia. OD. 8"

Weight 49 lbs.

Main chute- Slyangle 9.5' (cert 3 XL)

Drogue chute - homemade 4' rubberized nylon

Motor - 75/5120 M1297-W AeroTech

Dual Altimeters-Main HiAlt45k set at 1,000' Backup: Stratologger set at 900' both Perfectflite

Nose Cone (fiberglass), airframe, coupler, and motor tube all PML purchased at Science Ed Center

Motor Retainer-Aero Pack flanged quick change retainer

Centering Rings and bulkheads are plywood made from reel end plates

Fins ½" birch plywood from Home Depot

Metal hardware from True Value, Orschlens, Wal-Mart, and Home Depot

Kevlar shock cord 2500lb mule tape pulling line (eBay purchase)

Shock cord - Green River flat tubular nylon safety webbing

Swivels on chutes- 1500lb 12/0 size

Rail buttons - 1500 series

Epoxy to keep fins from rattling from Don's Hobbies in Salina, hobby grade no fillers

Surface protection- one layer 3M fiberglass and resin (Wal-Mart)

Chute protectors - 24" and 36" nomex blankets, additional protection from lettuce leaves and "dog barf"

The name of the rocket -Keith explains, "I told Monica (Keith's wife) what I was going to do and told her how much it was going to cost and she asked me if I was crazy. No, I replied, I'm Delusional". The name stuck.



