

# THE KOSMONAUT

KANSAS ORGANIZATION FOR SPACE MODELING NAR # 427 NOV/DEC 2012 VOL.31 NO. 6



MERRY CHRISTMAS  
HAPPY NEW YEAR



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# NIGHTFLIGHT 2012

DUANE LANTERMAN REPORTING

It was another beautiful Kansas day for flying rockets as the Kosmonauts gathered at the State Fair Grounds in Hutchinson on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>. The event was NightFlight which beings mid-afternoon and ends in the dark around 8pm.

Twelve rocketeers participated in the event with 34 sport flights in the afternoon, 14 flights making up the Jr. Dragster competition, and 8 lighted rockets in the dark.

John Palmer, Ron Shipley, and Steve Saner displayed their Estes Big Bertha's with Ron taking first place in this craftsmanship event.

Memorable flights included John Palmer's Mercury Agena and Venus Probe, Duane Lanterman's sport scale Shenzhou, Wilder Parks Nantucket Lighthouse, Steve Saner's Antares, Fred Smith's FX rockets, the numerous flights of John Palmer's two grandson's Brayton and Kyler, and Ron Shipley's high drag Escape Pod 1. It was great to see Ron, accompanied by his wife Caroline. Ron is putting up a good flight with his recently diagnosed cancer.

Eight people signed up for the KOSMO style drag racing. The class, Jr. Dragster, features "A" powered rockets with a minimum diameter of .75". When the smoke settled Keith Ravenstein was the winner edging out Brayton Palmer.

As the sunset, Grace Zongker arrived with dad. She along with Duane Lanterman, John Palmer, Steve Saner, and Lessa North flew lighted rockets into the star filled sky. It was still warm enough that only a very light jacket was needed. Once again it was a fun time at our Hutch field.

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Beautiful Bertha contestants Ron Shipley, Steve Saner,  
and John Palmer. Right: Wilder Parks and his cool  
Lighthouse model.  
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## “LOW AND SLOW”

REPORTED BY DUANE LANTERMAN

The KOSMO flying season traditionally ends with a low power event. The past number of years it picked up the name “Low and Slow” and has become a fun, low cost, black powder event. It is reminiscent of the early days of model rocketry without the waivers, composite motors, trailer size models, and pocket busting costs.

This year’s edition was held at the home of Steve and Peri Saner outside of Andover. Last year’s event was held here too, but the Kansas winds prevented any launches. This year the wind was very light, much lighter than even forecast. It proved to be a beautiful afternoon. The turnout was light, but the four KOSMO members, Steve Saner, Duane Lanterman, Keith Ravenstein, and John Palmer had a great time launching 27 models. Spectators included Monica Ravenstein and Peri Saner and her horse who seemed to enjoy all the excitement. Steve had never used the field adjacent to his house, but it worked out very well. There were a number of micro motor flights and even a couple of C powered flights.

At the conclusion of the launching we retreated to the basement for some great conversation on a wide variety of topics and enjoyed some great sandwiches and other goodies prepared by the Saner’s. And so the sunsets on another flying season for KOSMO. All in all, the 2012 flying season was a huge success in addition to co-hosting to NARCON back in April.

It was decided to have the annual business meeting of KOSMO at the home of John Palmer in Hutchinson on Sunday Jan. 13, 2013. Check the notice in this issue.



**Two of John Palmer's models at LOW AND SLOW. Peri Saner brought her horse out to view the excitement.**





## MY APOLLO 17 EXPERIENCE

AS TOLD BY JOHN PALMER

Since our Apollo 13 production with Dave Kovar, Dave has tried to get me to come down to New Mexico for one of their other anniversary events. Since 17 was the last, I decided this will be the one for me to attend. My wife and I planned on going down when opportunity struck and both of my daughters were able to go. This gave my wife some company while I was at the launch. We travelled down to Alamogordo and on Thursday we were able to go to White Sands Missile Range Museum. There we saw many rockets and missiles on display and a 1/3 replica of the first atomic bomb. On Friday my daughter dropped me off with Dave and his group at the New Mexico Museum of Space History where we set up for the opening launches. Dave's brother Steve was there also and we worked together to get things ready. Shortly after 9am Jan Evans and Harrison Schmitt arrived and about 400 middle school kids showed up and the history lesson of space exploration began. We launched rockets starting with a V2 then a Vostok on to a Mercury Redstone then they launched my Mercury Atlas. It flew straight up and separated but the lower sections parachute did not deploy until 10 feet off the ground almost landing on Harrison Schmitt! Next was my twin engine Gemini Titan which flew very well. Steve Kovar had a 40 year old Saturn 1B that flew on an E 18 motor. Then Dave's Saturn V launched with an audio of the Apollo 17 actual sound track. After that Dave launched a space shuttle which flew very well. After the launches were over Evans and Harrison went to the local college for a talk on their adventures. Many kids were fascinated with their experiences. Then back to the launch pads for the egg lofting contest of 17 middle school teams. Only 2 eggs were cracked. White Sands sent their lunar lander accent module over for everyone to look at, the local air force group was there also. Lots of events kept everyone busy. Later that night we had dinner at the museum with Harrison and Jan. One of the exciting aspects for me was the center pieces on the table were our rockets and 7 of the 13 tables were mine. I was very proud to participate in this event. At the end of the night we were able to have a Saturn V night launch. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOdUOF4oo38>. The next day we headed home stopping in Roswell and visiting a few aliens. This was a very exiting trip for me. Now looking forward to next years national sport launch.

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**One of the dinner tables with  
models as the centerpieces.**  
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## MY APOLLO 17 EXPERIENCE



**Dave Kovar shows Harrison Schmitt the Apollo 17 setup. Man rated rockets ready to launch. The 400 Middle school students.**



## PRESIDENT'S PARADOX

Well it is almost time for another year to end and a new one to begin. We had some good weather for our launches this year and had some good times to go along with them. The club lost a few members and gained some as well. It was sad to see the ones going and it was joyful to have the new ones join. As I type this I reflect back on what has all happened this last year and the time has flown by too fast. NARCON seems like it happened last year instead of just last April, the Hays and Newton fly ins, well they are just a dim memory. As I think of them I drift off and wonder what the New Year will bring as far as weather and events to attend and how they will turn out.

Popping back to the present time I am currently designing and putting together a kit for Wilder Parks so he can build it for a Jr L1 flight next year. All in all it is just a simple 3 Fin, Nose cone rocket that will be able to fly on "G" through "J" motors with the capability of Dual deployment when he is ready for it. It will also introduce him to new ideas or techniques about rocket construction which if we all sit down and talked with him I think he could give us some new ideas as well.

Thinking about future events I contacted Hays Airport about the event up there for next year and the reply I got was they was going to have it with the completion and opening of their new main runway and therefore I do not have a date for that and so will just have to figure out what will happen when the time arrives for that event.

In closing and my last letter to you for this year I want to wish you all good times, better health for the New Year, a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I am looking forward to seeing every one next year either at our January meeting or at a Launch.

Keep smiling and have a God blessed day. Over and out for now.

Keith Ravenstien





# KOSMO ANNUAL MEETING - JAN. 13, '13

JOHN PALMER RESIDENCE - HUTCHINSON, KS.

1312 EAST 27<sup>TH</sup> ST.

LUNCH (\$5) BEGINS AT NOON FOLLOWED BY MEETING  
CONCLUDING AT 3 PM

ALL CLUB MEMBERS AND THOSE WISHING TO JOIN ARE WELCOMED  
BRING YOUR WINTER PROJECTS TO SHARE !

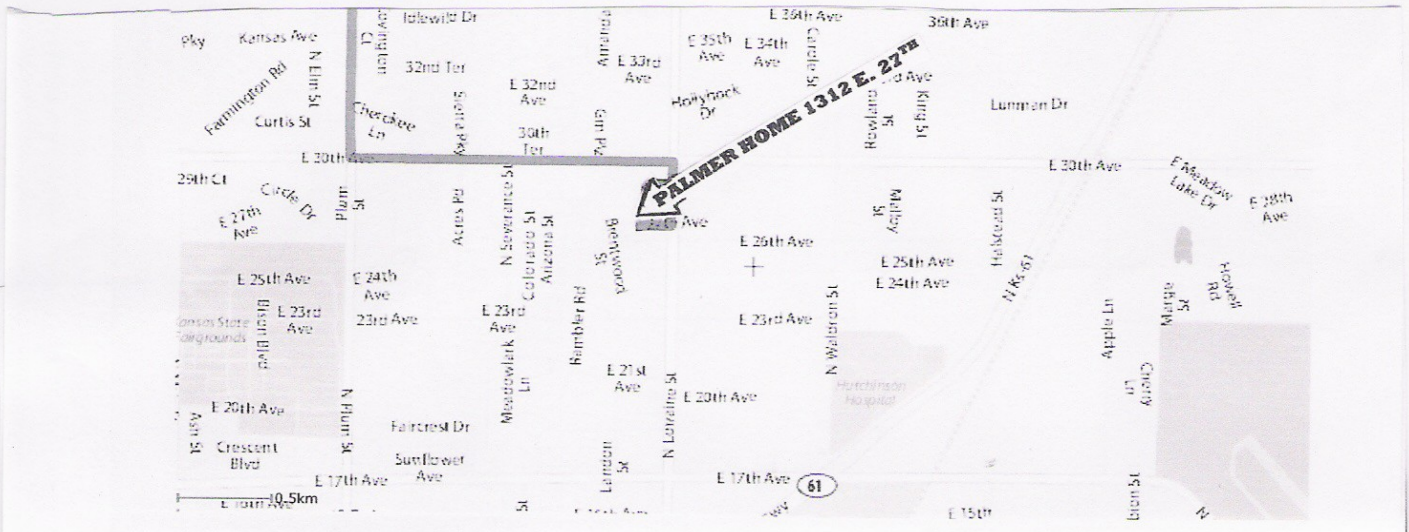
ELECTION OF OFFICERS

TRAVELING TROPHY AWARD

LAUNCH CALENDAR FOR 2013 WILL BE SET

KRAMO 33 EVENTS WILL BE CHOSEN

DISCUSSION ON HOW TO SPENT NAR GRANT \$



FRONT COVER PHOTOS: TOP: PART OF THE CREW AT NIGHTFLIGHT BOTTOM: HARDY CREW OF LOW AND SLOW.

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