

# *the* **KOSMONAUT**

MAY/JUNE 2013 VOL. 32 NO 3

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## ***FAIR GROUNDS HOST 33RD KRAMO***

The summer of 1980 saw a small group of rocketeers, who just formed a NAR section, host a weekend Open Contest in the front yard of Mark and Bonnie Johnson in Wichita. Few flying that day could envision that 33 years later that club would still be thriving and that that contest called KRAMO would still be held. The contest eventually moved to Lake Afton in Goddard, Ks. and has recently been held at the State Fair Grounds in Hutchinson, Ks.

Saturday dawned with a brisk wind and it soon became apparent that flying would not be taking place until Sunday. Never a group to pass up eating, those in attendance headed for Ken's Pizza around noon and later at Sirloin Stockade for supper.

Sunday's conditions were much better and we began an hour early. We had 8 competitors, 3 from KCAR, the Kansas City NAR section. It's great to have them as regulars to our contest. Long time KCAR member and KRAMO contestant Bob Wingate had last minute plan changes as his sister and brother-in laws house suffered significant damage from a tornado outside St. Louis. Bob made the right decision to head there and help out as he could. KOSMO members Mark and Bonnie Johnson (yes, the ones from KRAMO 1) made the longest drive from Columbia, Mo. having moved there in 2011.

There were 5 events in this Open Meet and the first was Open Spot Landing. Steve Saner won handedly with a little over 4 meters. This was followed by Lee Walker in second, and the Team of Boris & Natasha (Mark and Bonnie Johnson) in third.

Random Duration was determined by the roll of a dice and 40 seconds became the target. Both Team Boris & Natasha and Duane Lanterman dialed in close with 38 seconds and tied for first. Not to be outdone, second place ended up in a three way tie !! John Palmer, Steve Saner, and Lee Walker had 22 second timings. A surprised Dave Lucas took third with all the ties for first and second.

It has been many many years since KOSMO has held an altitude event. Now that altimeters are legal, "A" altitude was added to the events this year. The club had purchased two Altimeter One's the first of the year and have them available for

loan on a you loose it you buy it arrangement. First place went to Blake Goddard at 150 meters, second to Duane Lanterman at 140, and third to Dave Lucas at 136. Everyone seemed to like the event and it is sure to be a regular at our contest.

The past two years we have had rocket glider and this year we went to the more traditional boost glider. The event was a "B" powered event. Blake Goddard took first place with two nice flights including one of 60 seconds. John Palmer had two solid flights for second, and Lee Walker had a 53 second flight followed by a short flight to grab third place.

Eggloft has always been a KRAMO tradition and this years was "B" Eggloft Duration. Team Boris and Natasha grabbed first with a nice 61 second flight, followed by John Palmer in second and close behind was Steve Saner in third.

There weren't any record setting flights for sure, but the events went off very smoothly and everyone seemed to be having fun. About 3:30 pm we handed out ribbons in each event to first, second, and third and each first place contestant got a \$5 Subway gift card. The overall winner's, Mark and Bonnie Johnson (Team Boris and Natasha) will be taking home the traveling KRAMO trophy for the year and also received a very nice Star Trek Christmas ornament.

KOSMO president and winner of a number of KRAMO's was not present because of a change in his work schedule. Long time competitor Ron Shipley was also missed, still battling cancer back at home.

### **FINAL STANDINGS KRAMO 33**

- 1- TEAM BORIS & NATASHA (the Johnson's)**
- 2- BLAKE GODDARD**
- 3- STEVE SANER**

KRAMO is not just competition flights but we welcome sport flights as well. Besides the 49 competition flights there were 15 sport flights. Evan Beckman, Fred Smith, and Faith Zongker joined the competitors. Evan Beckman lead the sport flight log with 5 flights, three of them with his nicely finished Interceptor. John Palmer had sport scale models of the US Honest John, ESA Araine, and the Chinese Shenzou. Fred Smith continues to build his own sport models with such cool names as the X-5013T. Faith Zongker flew her Estes Hi-Flyer as part of her 4H project. The final flight of the day was Blake Goddard's "Money to Burn" a Super Big Bertha covered in shredded money. It flew arrow straight on a cluster of 4 E9's. All in all it was a full day of rocket fun under a bright Kansas sun. Looking forward to KRAMO 34 as the tradition continues !

## KOSMONAUTS ATTEND NSL IN COLORADO

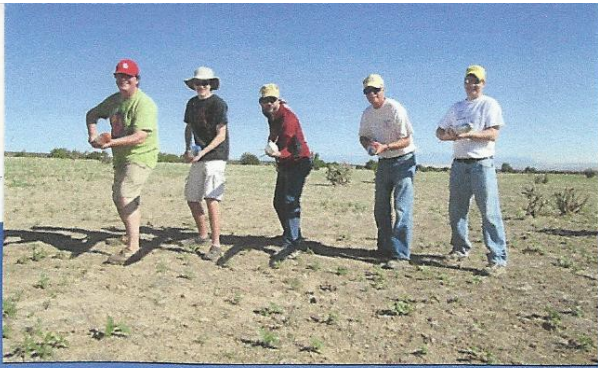
A week before KRAMO in Kansas, six Kosmonauts attended the National Sport Launch in Pueblo, Colorado. Most drove out on Friday and were out at the launch facility, the Hudson Ranch Launch Site, early Saturday morning. Those in attendance included Steve Saner and wife Peri, Wilder Parks, Keith Ravenstein, Duane Lanterman, Fred Smith, and Steve Hamous.

The NSL was well run and the field offered plenty of room for recovery. Saturday the day was interrupted several times by wind gust or dust devils that stirred the fine soil. We were all glad to get back to the Motel to remove dust from just about every place on our bodies. It was evident that this part of Colorado had suffered from the ongoing drought. (Western Kansas was not any better in this department) The pads were nicely placed offering everything needed for standard Estes rockets to Level three projects. There was a nice variety of vendors offering kits, motors, and parts of all kinds. Late Saturday afternoon we were treated to the cattle on the ranch heading for the stock tank located near the launch area. After they had their fill of water, they seemed disinterested in the rockets and headed back into the pasture. There were many highlights on the pads but two stand out, Gerald Meux's Spam rocket heading up to 9300' with cameras on board and a number on the pad and our own Wilder Parks getting his Jr. Level 1 ticket.

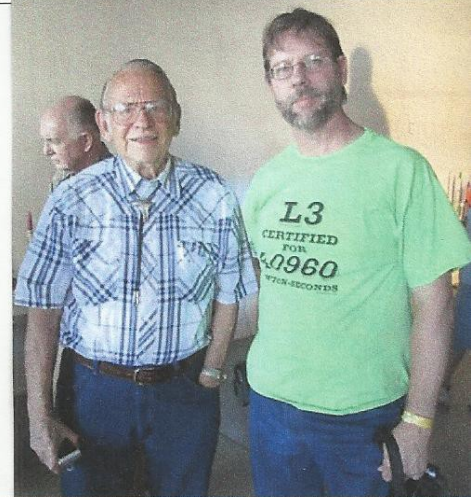
Saturday night saw about 100 of us gather in town for the banquet. Prior to the banquet Estes had about 450 of their "catalog models" and "trade show models" on display. There was a lot of "I remember that model, etc" heard by the attendees. Bill Stine of Quest had several of his dad's early models from 1958 on display. After a good meal, we were treated to a talk with photos by Vern Estes on Mabel, the machine that produced those first model rocket motors and helped take rocketry from basement bombers to established hobby. Bill Stine also talked about how his dad G. Harry Stine had formed the first model rocket company, Model Missiles. Both talks were very informative and we were blessed to have these two "hero's" of the hobby among us. Both proved to be very approachable.

Sunday morning presented the nicest weather of the two days we were there. The highlight that day was NAR President Ted Cochran getting his Level Three license. KOSMO president Keith Ravenstein launched his first high power two stage rocket. (article and pictures in the next issue of the KOSMONaut.) Duane Lanterman placed second among five rockets entered in the Classic Rocket contest with his 3 stage Farside X. Steve Saner launched his first rocket to contain both an altimeter and a GPS with real time data feed to his laptop. Sunday evening we took in the night launch, it was fairly windy and I'm sure a lot of the rockets did not find their owners (at least that evening.) It was quite nice watching the sun set behind the mountains and the city lights begin to shine around the area.

Most of us left early Monday morning heading back to a very windy Kansas. The winds had gusted there in the 35-40 mph range all weekend, so we were thankful for the opportunity to launch in Colorado. Some of us began to realize that the coming Saturday would be our club's Open Contest KRAMO. It would be a busy time for our club, but also an enjoyable one.

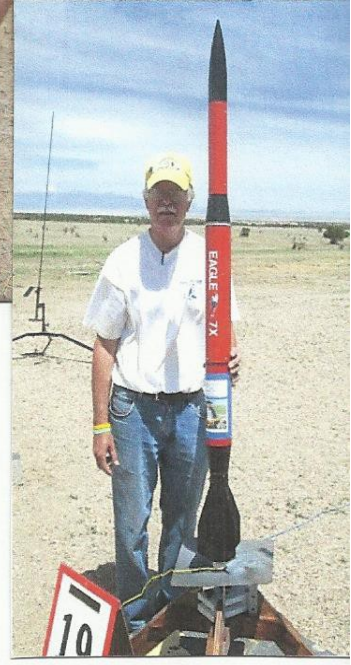
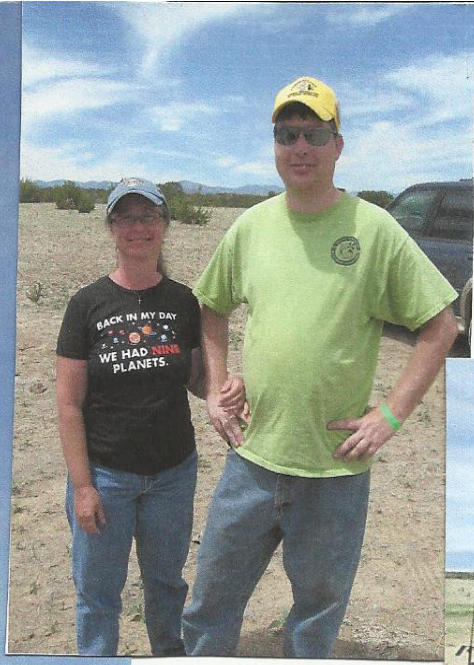


**NSL** – Above: Steve Hamous, Wilder Parks, Keith Ravenstein, Duane Lanterman, and Steve Saner pose with their rockets. (Inset: the guys have fun ready to charge with their rockets !)  
Top Right: The entrance to SCORE's launch site, home of NSL. Middle Right: Steve Hamous and Fred Smith talk shop. Bottom Right: Vern Estes and Keith Ravenstein at the banquet site.



**KRAMO 33** – PHOTOS BELOW, LEFT TO RIGHT:\*\* Most of the guys and gals from KRAMO \*\*John Palmer with this ESA Araine. \*\*The Winners- 1<sup>st</sup> Boris & Natasha Team( Mark and Bonnie Johnson) -2<sup>nd</sup> Blake Goddard -3<sup>rd</sup> John Palmer





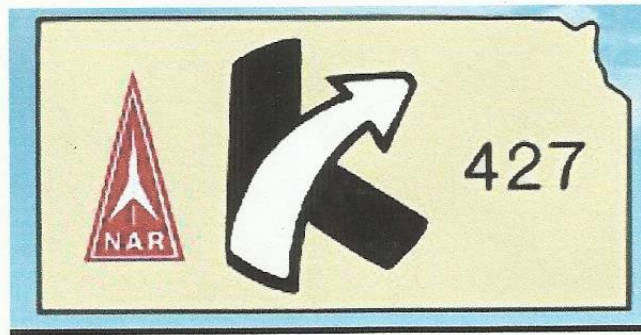
**NSL PHOTOS-** Top Left: Back in January, KOSMO President Keith Ravenstein presented Jr. NAR member Wilder Parks a "kit" that he had produced and a challenge: build a Level 1 Rocket. At NSL, under the guidance of Keith, Wilder achieved his Jr. Level 1 ticket. The launch photo shows the perfect flight. Additional thanks to Steve Saner and Duane Lanterman for the motor used. Middle Top: Peri and Steve Saner pose for a photo at the Hudson Ranch. Far Right: Duane Lanterman poses with his "H" powered model honoring his friend Ron Shipley who is battling cancer.

## GOONEY DRAGS AT AUGUST LAUNCH

It's been delayed several times so we are going to try it again. The Gooney Drags will be part of the Aug. launch at the Hutch Fair Grounds. Here's the spec's on the rocket class. The model must be at least 1.5" in diameter and no more than 1.75". The total length of the body tube and nose cone can not exceed 11". A single "A" motor must be used. Each contestant can use only one model for the event. Drags are held KOSMO style with points for first off, highest altitude, and first safely down. Most models in this class are based off a Baby Bertha. There is a trophy for first place and ribbon for second. Let have a great field of models for this fun event.

**CHECK OUT KOSMO'S WEBSITE AT [www.kosmo427.org](http://www.kosmo427.org)**

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 PLEASE NOTE THAT WITH YOUR CHECK AND INLCUDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS.  
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## **KOSMO 2013 LAUNCH CALENDAR**

**AUG. 10 SPORT LAUNCH – Hutch Fair Grounds - Hutchinson, Ks. - 5pm-9pm – Class 1 Rockets “Gooney Drag Races” special event -**

**SEPT. 7 FINAL FRONTIER FUN FLY – Ellinwood, Ks. -Ellinwood Airport – 10am-5pm- 10,000' FAA waiver- BBQ @ noon (small fee)**

**SEPT. 21** *Alternate date for FFFF due to bad weather*

**OCT. 19 NIGHTFLIGHT- Hutch Fair Grounds- Hutchinson, Ks. - 3pm-8pm “Junior Drag Races” special event- Lighted Class 1 rockets from 7pm -8pm Bring your own sack lunch.**

**NOV. 2 LOW AND SLOW- Location to be determined – 2pm-5pm Pizza to follow \$5- Our annual small rocket launch and social.**

All launches have a fee of \$4 (\$3 for members) except for Low and Slow which has a food fee. Weather is sometimes a factor so check the website for last minute updates.