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FINAL FRONTIER FUN FLY ROCKS ELLINWOOD !



The 19th edition of KOSMO's high power launch, the Final Frontier Fun Fly, took place under mostly clear skies and comfortable temperatures at the Ellinwood Airport. Fourteen fliers put up 45 flights including two successful Level One flights.

John Palmer continued his tradition of getting up the first launch of the day and backed that up with 9 more flights. As usual most of his models were sport scale rockets including a very straight boost of his V2 powered by an E20.

Kevin Allen and Mark Weiss were joining us for the first time and brought along their Level One models. Kevin had a nice Phoenix Missile that flew straight and true on an H 182 and Mark has a nicely finished LOC IV that punched its ticket on an H 135. Welcome to high power guys. Special thanks go to KOSMO members Keith Ravenstein and Steve Saner who assisted with the launches.

Kevin's two sons Jake and Jared each launched several models after dad had gotten his flight in.

Perennial FFFF fliers Linton and Peter Bayless launched 12 rockets including a nice mix of Estes and Aerotech models. Their 10 year old ASP lifted off the pad on an I285 and then became one of two models that landed in the tall Milo. Recovery looked bleak. With eyes of a hawk (and the good fortune of the parachute draping over a Milo stalk) Peter returned the model to fly yet another day.

KOSMO president Keith Ravenstein kept busy throughout the day but found time to launch his recently finished Wildman Sport and grabbed the altitude record for the day with a stretched Callisto in an I140.

Duane Lanterman had 6 nice flights including his refurbished Eagle 7X on a G77 and an Estes Eliminator that ripped off the pad with one of the new Aerotech F44 24mm motors.

Steve Saner had planned to reach the one mile mark with his rocket powered by a J motor. Using motor ejection he planned to track the rocket's decent via his Telemetry altimeter wireless link. He was unable to get a consistent signal at the launch pad and scrubbed the launch. He later put up an awesome flight of a spool rocket on a H123.

Fred Smith arrived later in the afternoon and after catching some sun, launched his scratch build "2014". This ended up being the only other model to seek the Milo and was lost to the rapidly growing crop. Better luck next time Fred.

Dennis Elder had a great time with his grandkids Lilly, Garrett, and Addie. They launched a total of 6 rockets the Pencil, Pop Fly, Shuttle Express and the two stage Magnum among others.

At the conclusion of the day's activities a number of us made the short trip into Ellinwood where we enjoyed some good food at Annie Mae's.



Illustration 1: Dennis Elder and the grandkids



Illustration 2: Peter and Linton smile at the boat load of motors

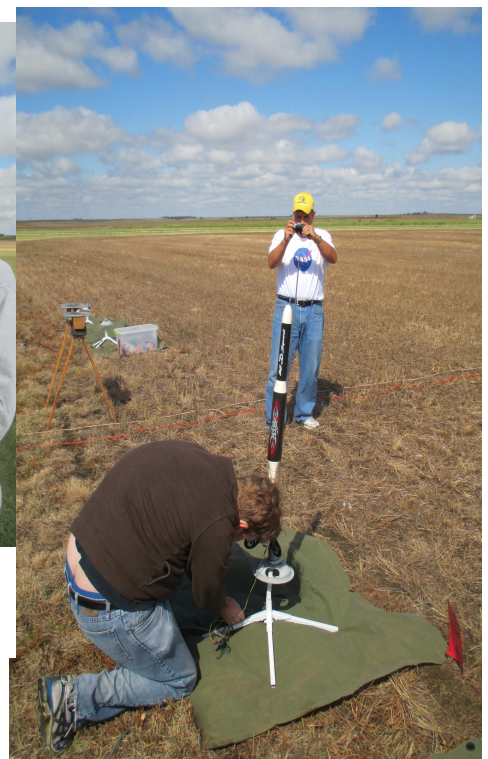


Illustration 3: John Palmer snaps a photo as Peter prepares his 36 D Squared



Illustration 4: Sharon Lanterman did a great job on the grill.



Illustration 5: Fred Smith checks in at launch control



Illustration 1: KEVIN ALLEN AND STEVE SANER AT THE PAD



Illustration 2: KEVIN'S SUCCESSFUL LEVEL 1 ON A H 182



Illustration 3: DUANE LANTERMAN AND HIS DRAG RACE ROCKETS



Illustration 4: KEITH RAVENSTEIN CHECKS OUT KEVIN'S RETURNED ROCKET

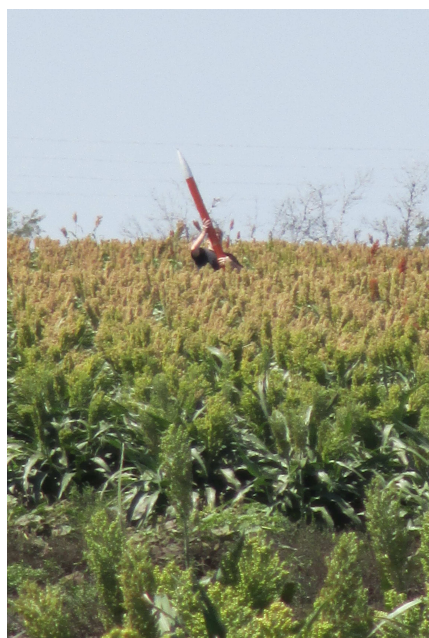


Illustration 7: PETER BAYLESS IS YOUR MAN IF YOU ARE LOOKIN FOR YOUR ROCKET

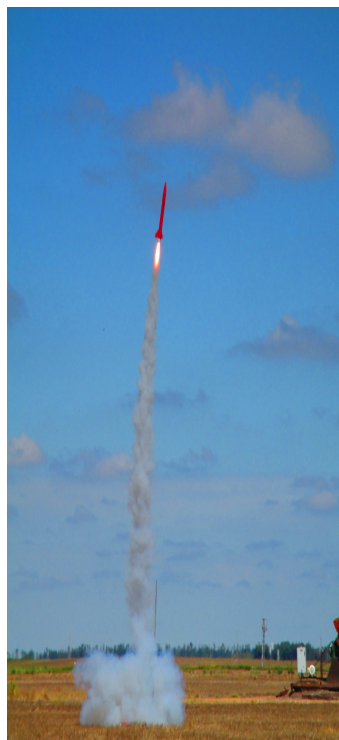


Illustration 6: MARK'S SUCCESSFUL LEVEL 1 ON AN H 135.



Illustration 5: MARK WEISS CROSSES HIS FINGERS PRIOR TO HIS LEVEL 1 FLIGHT

Apollo 11 45 Anniversary Launch

by John Palmer, KOSMONaut

Earlier this year I was invited by Dave Kovar to participate in the St. Louis Area Rocketry's presentation of the Apollo 11 45th anniversary with the St Louis Science Center. I headed out on Thursday for the long drive, arriving in St. Louis in the late afternoon with rush hour traffic. I will have to rethink my timing next time. That night Dave, his brother Frank and I prepped many of the rockets to be launched Friday and loaded up the cars.

We arrived at the science center along with SLAR members and set up the rack of rockets. After set up, we waited for Gene Kranz and 300 middle schoolers to arrive. After everyone arrived the star spangle banner was played with the color guard present. Then we started launching the history of space flight rockets Mr. Kranz spoke about each rockets roll in history. It was great to hear him talk about how each rocket was built on the technology of the previous rockets. I had the privilege of launching several of my rockets for the kids and Gene. One of the best launches was the Saturn V demo. Because of the small field and trees, Dave activated some engines in the base of his large Saturn V complex which billowed smoke as my smaller Saturn V took to the air. After the launch we all went into the Science Center and listened to Gene Kranz speak about his role in the space program, very fascinating.

On Saturday it was time for the cub scout launch. We had 35 cub scouts trying for a precision duration event of 30 seconds. Everyone had the same rocket, a BMS school kit. The kids launched their rockets a couple of weeks before to get an idea of what they needed to do to increase the time to 30 seconds. Saturday each kid launched their rockets twice looking for the right time. The winner came in with 29.55 seconds with the longest being over 40 seconds. The winner received a plaque from the Bonne Terre Space Museum which included a piece of Apollo 11 ! Gene Kranz showed up about half way through and spoke with all the kids and their parents. It was fun to watch the parents once they finally figured out who Gene was !

Dave was even able to launch his Saturn V for the kids but up it barely got off the pad when the skywriting began. Can you say oops. After the cub scouts where done launching several of us were able to launch our rockets for the kids. We launched everything in size from 1/2A to F52. They were awed by the bigger rockets. When we were done several SLAR members and I had a nice dinner at a local restaurant. Sunday Dave and I went out for a quick breakfast and I headed back home to Hutchinson, Ks. What a great time.



Illustration 1: The Historic Launch Rack

APOLLO 11 45TH ANNIVERSARY



Illustration 4: Dave Kovar's Saturn V on the pad, John Palmer's heading to the moon



Illustration 2: Gene Kranz, SLAR members and Kosmonaut John Palmer (center)



Illustration 3: John Palmer shares a handshake with Gene Kranz

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