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CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

KRAMO 40 TAKES PLACE DURING DIFFICULT TIMES

Duane Lanterman reporting

In a year when so much of life has been put on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our club's 40th edition of our yearly contest KRAMO (Kansas Rocket and AeroModelers Open) seemed in doubt. Throw in what seemed like weekend after weekend of windy weather and the fact that I am reporting the results of the event are somewhat remarkable. It seemed like more and more of the country was opening up the first part of June as cases of covid were coming down. Several members who had to travel distances elected to stay home and one member had work restrictions that didn't allow him to leave his state. Last minute fine tuning of our event reduced it to one day as opposed to two and despite a questionable forecast for that single day, the winds held off for the better part of the day. Between sport and competition flight we had a little over 50 launches. Steve Saner prepped and launched several of Ron Snow's models in remembrance of his passing in January of this year. We had some spectators on hand and despite the 99 degree temps the 18% humidity (almost unheard of) helped make the day bearable. Being outside the social distancing came naturally. I think we all missed our traditional gathering at a restaurant at the conclusion of the event. After the isolation the past few months it was great to get out and renew friendships and enjoy what we love to do. Results of the contest on page two.



KRAMO 40 Competition Results

Open Spot Landing – 1st Steve Saner
2nd John Palmer
3rd Keith Ravenstein

1/2A Parachute Dur. - 1st Duane Lanterman
2nd Bill Lindsay
3rd John Palmer

1/2A Streamer Duration- 1st Kiera Wyant
2nd DJ Wyant
3rd Duane Lanterman

“B” Eggloft Dur.- 1st Kiera Wyant
2nd John Palmer
3rd DJ Wyant

1/2A Boost Glide – 1st Duane Lanterman

1/2A Helicopter – 1st Duane Lanterman

Overall Points 1st Duane Lanterman 2nd John Palmer 3rd Kiera Wyant



Duane Lanterman's Bertha makes its 24th appearance at a KRAMO. It first appeared at KRAMO 2.



The Wyant family made a very good showing at their first KRAMO. They pose a very real threat next year at the overall championship.



Steve Hamous watches as grandson Silas hooks up his Red Max.



Steve Saner takes over mission control, manned most of the day by Keith Ravenstein.



Social distancing, having fun



Bill Lindsay helps visitor Oslo Gegg prep a Fly It, Take it rocket.

Front cover: Jayla Wyant's Nike X, Steve Hamous's Port-a-Pot-Shot, Bill Lindsay's Saturn V RTF, and the whole KRAMO gang pose for the traditional groups photo.

KOSMO naut's KEPT BUSY DURING “STAY AT HOME” ORDERS



Another rocket has emerged from Dustin Wyant's shop, a beautifully finished Madcow Torrent.



Some of the 25 Fly It Take It rockets build by Bill Lindsay. Thanks to LOC and Pitsco Education for parts and engines and to Bill for many hours of construction.



Evan Beckman getting closer to putting the finishing touches on his Sprint XL and Interceptor.



John Palmer's Saturn V with Skylab capsule from Boyce AeroSpace.



John Palmer's Falcon 9 with Dragon capsule and Bob and Doug



Duane Lanterman dusted off an old Revell model sitting on the shelf and used the down time to finish this Shuttle Era astronaut with MMU.

JAYLA WYANT ACES JR. LEVEL ONE HIGH POWER CERTIFICATION

Congratulations to KOSMONaut Jayla Wyant of Great Bend, Ks. on her Jr. Level 1 launch. Using social distancing and a small team we were able to administer her written test and put up a very successful flight on an H 135 at our Ellinwood high power field. Great job of building your rocket Jayla. Special thanks to KOSMO president Keith Ravenstein for his guidance and input on this project .



Jayla is assisted by her dad and KOSMO president Keith Ravenstein at the pad.



Traditional pose with your rocket photo prior to certification launch.



The KOSMO Club Rocket ver. 2 on its way to 3000' and a perfect landing.



The smile says it all. Success !!

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Reflections on 40 Years of Kansas Rocketry Part 3

Mark Johnson, NAR 14025 L1 - KOSMO Charter Member- Current Historian

More about the early newsletters:

The original KOSMONAUT which you saw in the last issue was produced on a 1200-line-per-minute line printer in the computer lab where I worked. My company provided (unknowing) support in the early years of the club. I put together the newsletter in a very basic text editor that ran on an NCR 8270 minicomputer (I bet you never heard of one of those!). I did the block-letter logo by hand, and the layout was done the hard way, by hand, with spacing and columns done by eye. I could print all the needed copies in a few minutes on that high-speed printer. It wasn't until a couple of years later that I got a computer with decent word processing tools and could produce a newsletter with a much better appearance.

Therefore, I would like to retroactively thank the NCR Corporation for their unknowing support of our club during its early years. At the time, we were printing about 12-15 copies of the newsletter, which usually ran 6 pages long. I justified it at the time (and still would today) as live use testing of an in-house word processing tool we used to write test plans and other documents. We printed enough stuff that went straight into the trash can that I don't think anyone ever noticed the paper usage.

The early days of KRAMO:

The real old-timers will remember an incident at either KRAMO-2 or 3, when we had an unusual range hold: While prepping one of my own flights, I happened to spot a rather large (5 or 6 foot long) snake, of a species I couldn't identify but that seemed to resemble a venomous type. So, without telling the younger folks what was going on, we herded everyone into the house to cool off, while I dashed back out to the launch area (the back half of our property) armed with a 12-gauge shotgun and a long-handled shovel. With the use of those two tools, I dispatched Mr. Snake – or maybe it was Mrs. Snake, I didn't ask – and buried it in an old fencerow under some bushes.

KRAMO-9 was the last regional meet we held at our home – that year, we had 25 registered competitors and it was becoming obvious that some of us were becoming competent enough as contest flyers that the 15 acres of open space on our lot and the two empty lots to the north were not going to be sufficient for the future. I do remember that Perry Oliver flew a near-minimum-diameter model on a G25, and that it landed within 300 yards of the pads, but it was becoming obvious we'd need more room. So, early the next year I started negotiating with Sedgwick County for the use of Lake Afton Park. The field there was 250-400 yards wide from east to west, and over a half mile from north to south, and the grass was normally cut to ankle height. I'll have more on the adventures there in the future.

Perils of rural flying:

Another great memory of flying at the Johnson home: More than once, we flew B Boost-Glide on the field, especially before the neighbors to the north put in the board fences. I had built a 'Flanagan Flyer' BG from the old MIT Competition Notebook, and had been struggling a bit with getting it trimmed for a decent glide. I don't recall now if it was at a KRAMO or at a regular launch, but on one really still day, my glider ended up landing in the septic lagoon, which was immediately to the west of where we set up the launch pads. For those of you who don't know, a lagoon is essentially an open-air septic tank, where the output of our bathrooms and washing machine ended up. Breakdown of the solids is accomplished by the action of sunlight on open water. [And if you take care of it properly, it doesn't smell bad...]

In any event, my carefully-built B/G was lightly floating on the top of three feet of you-know-what mixed with water. Fortunately, I had a scrap 2x4 in the garage that was long enough to reach it, and I was able to push it to the edge of the water and pull it out.

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2020 LAUNCH CALENDAR

Events are subject to revision depending
on Covid-19 status



LATEST UPDATES ON OUR CLUB'S EMAIL LIST,
WEBSITE www.kosmo427.org AND FACEBOOK PAGE
(Kansas Organization for SpaceModeling)

AUGUST 15- KOSMO SPORT LAUNCH – Hutchinson, Ks. State Fair Grounds Parking
Lot 9am-4pm

SEPTEMBER 12 – FINAL FRONTIER FUN FLY – Ellinwood, Ks. - Lanterman Family
Farm – 10am-5pm - BBQ @ noon. 10,000' FAA Waiver – *Alternate weather date September 19*

OCTOBER 3 – ROCKET-TOBER – Ellinwood, Ks. - Lanterman Family Farm – 10am-5pm
10,000' FAA Waiver – Bring your own lunch – *Alternate weather date October 10*

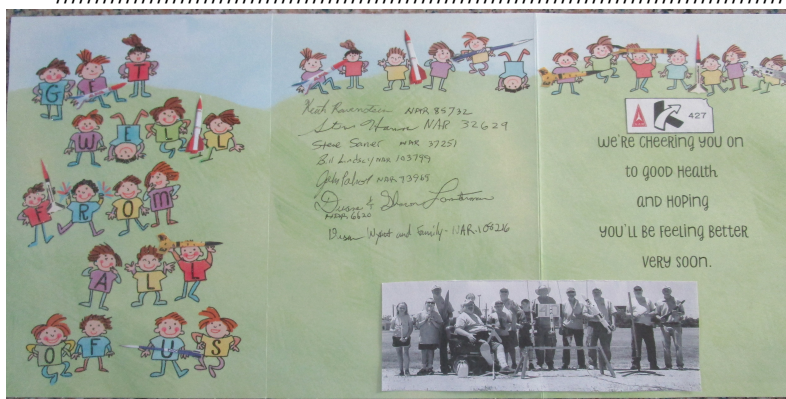
NOVEMBER 14 – KOSMO SPORT LAUNCH – Hutchinson, Ks. State Fair Grounds
Parking Lot – At present this is planned to be a club launch beginning at noon. This is also the
new rescheduled date for celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Apollo 13 at the Kansas
Cosmosphere so there may be some modifications to what happens on that date. Stay tuned for
further information and updates.

REFLECTIONS – CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

The really fun part of the story is that once I got it dried out, I managed to solve all my trim problems...up until I finally lost it at a NARAM (in a soybean field) a couple of years later. It never recorded a time of less than 2 minutes on a B4-2 or B6-2. It would fly in a circle about 60 feet in diameter, perfectly steady without a trace of stall, and I never did anything to it before flights except to toss it across the yard to make sure nothing had gotten out of alignment. At that point, I was seriously thinking about dunking all my gliders in the lagoon before their first flight. Maybe it would be enough to just leave them out in the rain for a few minutes, especially since I no longer have a sewage lagoon available. I have built several more gliders of that design, and all of them performed "OK" but they were never as good as the one that went through the sewage. It seems that the best I can do is to average about 80-90 seconds in calm air.

A final note on boost-glider construction: It turns out that Japanese tissue over balsa wings, when properly doped in place, is quite resistant to all that 'stuff' that goes down the drains. I didn't even have to re-bond the tissue around the edges.

Next time: Still more memories of the old days. If any readers have heard rumors of old stories and would like more details, drop me a note at markjohnson100@centurylink.net - if I remember the story, I'll tell it in all its glory.



Pictured to the left is a card signed by participants at KRAMO 40 and sent to charter member Joe Warnock. Joe is recovering slowly at home now in Kansas after falling ill in NY during the lock down. (not covid related) His wife Peg had her dad pass away during this time also. They said "thank you for the fantastic card" You two are in our thoughts and prayers.