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SPACEMODELING

# *the* **KOSMONAUT**

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## ***TRIPLE DIGITS DOMINATE FFFF***

*BY Duane Lanterman*

This year's Final Frontier Fun Fly can be described in one word, "hot". Possibly the hottest launch day in KOSMO history, the thermometer pegged out at 104 degrees. That did not deter members from driving many hours from Mayetta, Overland Park, and Andover. It did not deter a grandfather from bring out his three young grandson's or a 4H leader from bring some of his group. It did not deter my wife, who hates hot weather, from coming out and cooking up some hot dogs. (yes, she did need to use the grill, not simply lay them on a blast plate.) We are rocketeers and this weekend we simply had to set up our launch site on the sun !!

Our launch count was down understandably with the heat but 33 flights made their way skyward and included everything from a "1/2A" to 9"E", 3"F", 2"H", and 3"I" flights.

"Mr. Scale" John Palmer tied with Gordon Hainey for the most flights by an individual with 6 each. It was so nice to have Gordon flying with us again. He made a long drive to be with us. He had to have the most interesting fleet of models, most designed on the back of a napkin I would suppose. The father and son fliers, Linton and Peter Bayless, put up a combined 10 flights with Linton clearing out a bunch of his Estes "E" engines from his launch box. Duane Lanterman flew his recently finished drag rockets (catching one on high wires) and later proving that an "old man" can walk a mile in the heat and live. Keith Ravenstein had his high power 2- stager on hand (an "I" to an "H"). Although the second stage again failed to light, the boost on the "I" produced the most photogenic flight of the day. Steve Saner launched his Vega on an "I" motor, the flight included real time data and a GPS for recovery. 4H leader Dennis Elder and 4H'er Preston Ross put up a number of flights to complete the day.

We anticipated we'd conclude the day a little early due to the heat and that was the case. We took advantage of the recently open Annie May's in Ellinwood to feel the cool A/C and eat some very good food while discussing the day and all things rocketry. (strangely enough we men also discussed food and cooking. In the past, men just talked about food !)

# **It was a hot August Night**

**A thriller by John Palmer**

**It was hot August night in Hutchinson where the Kansas Cosmosphere put on the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Fly Around Dine Around fund raiser. This year by coincident Buzz Aldrin released a new book and the Cos was able to have him the same day as the fundraiser. This brought the total guest to 10. They are after Aldrin (Apollo 11), Fred Haise (Apollo 13), Walt Cunningham (Apollo 7), Dick Gordon (Apollo 12) Joe Engle, Jeff Ashby, Bruce McCandless, Steve Hawley (Shuttle astronauts) along with Paul Mardikian (F1 engine conservator) and Laura Shepard Churchley (Daughter of Alan Shepard).**

**A few weeks before the event I began talking with Dave Kovar and he told me he was interested in seeing the astronauts. We decided to attend and he drove to town from the St. Louis area and along the way he picked up his brother Mark, his niece and nephew in Manhattan Ks.**

**We arrived at the Cos and stood in line for an hour and half waiting to get our books signed by Buzz. While in line I got to know a couple of ladies standing in front of me. Turns out they used to train many of the Apollo astronauts. I listened to many of the stories they told about Neil Armstrong and others. They also worked with Scott Crossfield from the X-15 project. This help pass the time as I watch their ear rings of planes dangle as they talked. Many people dress up for the occasion including Dave who was wearing his Apollo 13 vest with many patches on it. There were many children dressed as astronauts and pilots. As we worked our way downstairs where the signing was taking place we talked about rockets and space. As we got close, a Cos volunteer opened my book to the appropriate page to get me ready. At the table another volunteer took my book and handed it to Buzz for signing and afterwards another volunteer closed the book and handed it back to me. After that I worked my way through the museum to where Steve Hawley and Jeff Ashby were signing their books and photos.**

**After that we headed upstairs where we decide to go to lunch at the only place in Hutch rocket people go, Kens Pizza. When lunch was over the kids were tired so we decided to go see my rocket**

rooms. The kids crashed in the chair and sofa. Dave, Mark and I went downstairs and talked rockets till almost 6pm which is when the dinning started.

At the Cos we met up with Dennis Elders from Bison, Ks. As we entered the lobby we saw all the food vendors ready to go. The vendors were from all over Hutch including Keith's favorite Pizza Ranch, as we snacked on this one then that one. I ran into several other Hutch residence I knew. Snacking on a little of this and a little of that was very satisfying. They even served beer and wine.

Now for the good part, at about 8:30 the guests of honors were introduced. As they walked down the "red carpet" I was able take some good pictures of them. Then the Apollo astronauts spoke of their adventures and their flights. Fred Haise told about the time when Swigert came in the lunar module for the first time. He had never trained for it so he had never been in one before. It is way different than the CM . When the astronauts were done talking only Bruce McCandless and Jeff Ashby came down and talked with the visitors. I was able to talk with each of them and hear more personal accounts of their adventures in space.

At the end of night we all headed home. I would like to thank Dave and Dennis for coming. I know it was a good drive for both. Since this is an annual event maybe next year we can plan on attending again.



**ABOVE: STEVE HAWLEY, WALT CUNNINGHAM, BUZZ ALDRIN  
MORE PHOTOS PAGE 5**



# PHOTOS FROM THE FINAL FRONTIER FUN FLY as taken by Duane Lanterman and Teresa Cass



**TOP LEFT: JOHN PALMER AND HIS V2. TOP RIGHT: GORDON HAINEY PREPS ONE OF HIS UNIQUE MODELS. BOTTOM LEFT: PETER BAYLESS AND HIS ASP MODEL. BOTTOM RIGHT: LINTON BAYLESS AND THE CLASSIC MAXI ALPHA. RIGHT COLUMN: KEITH RAVENSTEIN'S "I TO H" TWO STAGE MODEL.**





## MORE FINAL FRONTIER FUN FLY PHOTOS



**TOP PHOTO: THE FFFF CREW FOR 2013. BOTTOM LEFT: DENNIS ELDER AND SOME OF HIS 4H KIDS. BOTTOM RIGHT: GERARD HOLINDE'S GRANDKIDS WITH DUANE LANTERMAN'S MODELS.**

^^^^ MORE PHOTOS FROM "FLY AROUND DINE AROUND" BY JOHN PALMER ^^^^^



**UPPER LEFT: FRED HAISE UPPER RIGHT: LAURA SHEPARD CHURCHLEY (ALAN SHEPARD'S DAUGHTER) LOWER LEFT: JOE ENGLE**



**REMAINING  
KOSMO 2013  
LAUNCH  
CALENDAR**

**OCT. 19 -SAT.- NIGHTFLIGHT – Hutch Fair Grounds-Hutchinson, Ks. - 3pm-6pm Class 1 Rockets - “Jr. Drag Races” Special Event (see rules below) –Night Launch from 7pm-8pm(rocket must be lit during entire flight)-bring your own sack lunch. \$3 members, \$4 non-members**

*Jr. Drag Race Rules* – The model flown must have a minimum diameter of .75” and be powered by a “A” motor. Points are awarded for first off, highest flight, first safely down. Rocket with at least 2 points wins. Rockets are paired by drawing numbers from a hat. Bye runs must be flown unless agreed upon by the other contestants. Only one model may be used by each contestant.

**NOV. 2- SAT. - LOW AND SLOW Our annual small rocket launch and social. – 2pm-5pm- Hutch Fair Grounds-Hutchinson, Ks. No Launch fee- Pizza to follow, \$5 suggested donation. If we have inclement weather we will meet at the launch site and then proceed to John Palmer's residence.**

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