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FLYING SEASON FINALLY BEGINS WITH KRAMO 44

by Duane Lanterman and Jeremy Lepel

After the unpredictable Kansas weather canceled the first part of our launch calendar we were treated to an almost perfect day with winds of 3-9 mph and sunny skies June 1st. On tap was a day of sport launches at our low/mid power field and contest events which were part of our 44th edition of our contest called KRAMO (Kansas Rocket Aero Modelers Open). Also on hand were 5 of the 12 rockets sold in January that were part of our Kit-bash contest which officially takes place at our July 6th launch. We won't show you the Kit-bash models until next issue but there were definitely some very cool, innovative creations on hand all of which flew quite well.

Now on to the contest portion of the day. The number of contestants were fairly small this year, some of which could be attributed to the involvement of members in ARC and NSL shortly before the contest. That being said those that participated had a great time and numerous members helped time, etc to make the day go smoothly.

Here is a brief summary -

Open Sport Landing 1st - Steve Saner 2nd - Austin Streit 3rd - Duane Lanterman

"B" Payload Altitude 1st - Jeremy Lepel 2nd - Steve Saner

"B" Eggloft Duration 1st - Duane Lanterman

"B" Streamer Duration 1st - Steve Saner 2nd - Austin Streit 3rd - Duane Lanterman

"A" Rocket Glide 1st - Steve Saner - DQ - Duane Lanterman

"1/2A" Helicopter Duration - 1st Duane Lanterman 2nd - Doug Bailey

OVERALL POINTS 1st - Steve Saner 2nd - Duane Lanterman 3rd - Austin Streit 4th - Doug Bailey

A couple of thoughts on the flights. Steve Saner had two great flights with his rocket glider which was fun to watch. Duane Lanterman's Apogee helicopter performed well and even though he didn't plan to enter the competition, we encouraged Doug Bailey who brought a stock Estes Helicopter kit to participate and this model performed very well. In "B" Payload Altitude it was a tight battle between Jeremy Lepel and Steve Saner. Both had to put up two flights to get a success. We hadn't run an altitude event at KRAMO for years. In "B" Streamer, Steve Saner had two very nice flights and Austin Streit who was competing in his first contest did very well with a completely scratch built well thought out model.

There were some very nice prizes purchased by the club including engines, kits, gift certificates, ribbons and more. Some additional prizes were donated by member Dustin Wyant, those being two insulated mugs and a water bottle laser inscribed with equipment and software Dustin has at home with the KOSMO logo. Many thanks go to Jeremy Lepel for entering all the contest data in and submitting it to the NAR as well as contributing to the prize fund.

SPORT LAUNCHES - There were 15 sport flights throughout the day. Austin Streit was the most prolific sport flier followed by Doug Bailey. Austin's models included an Olympus, Hi Flyer XL, and one named Spare Parts. Among Doug's flights were a Cherokee E and an Estes Low Boom. Duane Lanterman's Sirius Rocketry's S.S. Cestric made it very first flight. Steve Saner's little nephew Michael and niece Elizabeth were on hand to watch and recover Steve's models. Michael bravely got up to the launch control and when asked if he was ready to push the button enthusiastically nodded his head and pushed the button much to his delight. As mentioned above some of the Kitbash rockets were on hand for maiden flights and these will be covered in the next issue when the rest of the Kitbash rockets join in. Needless to say there were some cool designs and Carol Bailey's even included some appropriate music! Sharon Lanterman built a model, the first in many decades and Zac Twigg came up with a somewhat iffy design that flew fine. There were more members present that didn't compete or sport fly including Fred Smith, Steve Hamous, Dustin and Aimee Wyant. It was just great to see everyone on the field having fun and visiting. For 44 years June in Kansas has meant our contest/sport fly KRAMO and it was good to see that tradition continue.



Austin Streit and his unique and effective streamer model



Doug Bailey's Low Boom SST



STEVE SANER WAS THE OVERALL WINNER OF KRAMO 44



Steve Saner's nephew Michael pushes the GO button!



Good looking crew of KRAMO 44



One of the mugs created by Dustin Wyant



Duane Lanterman's S S Cestri



The pads are ready for another round of rockets

KOSMOonauts ENJOY LAUNCH IN ALAMOSA

THANKS TO THE INDIVIDUALS WHO RECOUNTED THEIR TIME IN COLORADO

Again this year members of KOSMO headed west to Colorado and the NAR's National Sport Launch West. On Saturday morning the winds were upward to 30mph so most of the members headed into Alamosa to see the sights in the town and shop at Hobby Town. Zac Twigg and his son went on a sight seeing tour of the surrounding area.

John Palmer had driven up from the Dallas area, being a KOSMO members and DAR member as well. We affectionately call him Mr. Scale and his display at NSL became a favorite spot for folks to stop by and check out his nice variety of models. John "stuck" his landing of his Gemini rocket (if this was gymnastics we have given him a score of 9.8) and his Mercury put in a nice flight on an E30

DJ Wyant flew his club sponsored KOSMO Gen 3 rocket on an H135 to 2100 feet for a perfect flight and recovery and gained his Jr. Level One status. His dad Dustin brought his Black Hole rocket to its third NSL in pursuit of 7000'. It came up just a little short at 6984 feet on an I205 and reached 750mph in doing so.

Keith Ravenstein flew his Black Hole on an G and H motor and also put up several smaller rockets during the weekend.

Zac Twigg had his first successful launch that captured onboard video. The rocket reached 6900' but unfortunately the main opened at apogee and drifted about 3 miles to the edge of the field. The feather weight tracker took him right to the rocket in great shape.

Finally, Steve Saner's goal for the weekend was to fly his El Diablo kit purchased with a gift card won at last year's NSL. Flight one on Sunday on a K550 was good to 8700' and landed a quarter mile away. Monday Steve moved one letter up on the alphabet with an L1000 for motivation. This time the attitude registered 13,500', a personal record. It did land almost 2 miles away but with help from others it was found intact.

The guys headed back to Kansas and Texas loaded with items won at the raffle again this year, motors, kits, and gift cards. I know there is talk of returning as the group in Alamosa have graciously agreed to one more year of NSL there in Colorado. All in all a successful NSL.



Steve Saner, Dustin and DJ Wyant, Keith Ravenstein, Zac and Taylen Twigg, and John Palmer



John Palmer's impressive rack of sport scale models.



DJ's successful Jr. Level 1 rocket



John Palmer's clustered Saturn V

WICHITA AREA ARC TEAM – FROM BASEMENT WORKSHOP IN WICHITA TO DC

BY BILL LINDSAY

The Wichita Area ARC Team/Air Capital STEM Club had a challenging year. There were 922 teams nationwide. To qualify this year, we had to reach 825' with a duration of 43-46 seconds. The rocket also had to recover in one piece under a single parachute. The flyoff rounds were 850' 43-46 seconds and 800' 43-46 seconds.

We managed to overcome several challenges with fundraising, team members, travel logistics, data flights/qualifying flights, and the trip to DC.

We departed Wichita Saturday 11 May around 5:00 am arriving at Dayton, OH. around 9:00 pm. Our first stop was *Erockets* to pick up our motors and any other supplies from Randy. After visiting with Randy for just over an hour and asking for about a place to eat it was off to the hotel for a short night. Sunday was about a 9-hour drive to Manassas, VA. After getting checked into the hotel we went down to *Jersey Mikes* for dinner and then we were off to *The National Mall* to check out the *Capital*, *Korea*, *Vietnam Wall*, and *Lincoln Memorial*. Monday, we visited the *Holocaust Museum* and the *Smithsonian Museum of American History and Technology*. Tuesday the morning was spent on *Capital Hill* and then to the *Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum* and then back to Manassas to head out to our practice field. Wednesday, we spent the day at the *Steven F. Udvar-Hazy hangars* at Dulles Airport. Thursday we visited *Arlington National Cemetery*, and the *Iwo Jima*, *Air Force*, and *Pentagon 911 Memorials*. Friday was homework day with it being rainy all day. Friday evening, we ate at *Uno's Pizza* and then to the Middle School to get checked in and for the Safety Briefing. Saturday was homework day, getting things ready for the return trip home, since it had rained all day Friday and Saturday forcing nationals to be flow on Sunday for the first time in 22 years of the program.

The weather was great Sunday just some real heavy air with the temp at 64 deg., dewpoint at 58 deg., Humidity 88%, winds variable at 2-3, and the pressure at 29.92. Our target altitude was 850' for the first round. The kids flew around 10:30 reaching 852' and a duration of 37 seconds due to the parachute not fully canopying. Our score placed us in 26th place, our best finish ever.

We departed The Plains, VA. around 1:45 pm EST to head to Dayton, OH. Monday, we spent the day at *The Air Force Museum*, visited *Erockets*, had dinner and prepared for a travel day on Tuesday to Columbia, MO. Tuesday we left Dayton, OH. around 8:00 am EST and arrived at The Johnsons (founding members fo KOSMO) around 4:30. Mark, Bonnie, and James Johnson had dinner for us. We spent the evening visiting and talking with the captain for the TARC team that Mark is working with. Wednesday, we departed Columbia, MO, around 9:00 am arriving in KC shortly after 11:00 and grabbing lunch at *Arthur Bryant's BBQ*, before starting the final leg back to Wichita arriving at ARC Headquarters (my house) around 3:30 pm.

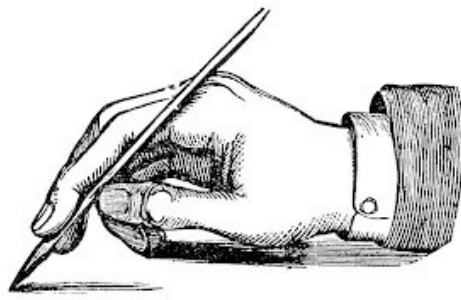
The team is currently working on recruiting new team members, preparing to attend a STEM fair, and working on fundraising. We are planning on starting the 24-25 season in early September.

The year was a challenge with my health, knee replacement and coordinating staff to teach since I couldn't tackle the basement stairs to the "Skunk Works" Shop.

I want to "THANK" Jeremy Lepel, Steve Saner, Luke Thompson, Steve Hamous, Mark Logan, Ed Bennett, Mark, Bonnie, James Johnson and my wife Tina for helping to keep things going while I was laid up. I would also like to "THANK" Duane Lanterman, John Palmer for their behind the scenes help.

WICHITA AREA ARC TEAM – FROM BASEMENT WORKSHOP IN WICHITA TO DC





From the President's Pen

by Steve Saner

**As we near the halfway point of 2024,
I will offer a few thoughts regarding
what has transpired so far this year.**

Weather

The weather has had way more than its fair share of say in our activities so far this year. It happens and there isn't much that you can do about it. I would just like to say thank-you to the membership for your patience and grace when it comes to scrubbing or not scrubbing a launch. It is often a hard decision and sometimes we guess wrong. I appreciate it when you offer your opinions and then don't complain about it either way once a decision is made. That said, if anyone has ideas regarding how we can better mitigate the effect of weather conditions, please let me know. I'm open to new ideas.

NSL

I once again had an enjoyable time at the National Sport Launch near Alamosa, CO. We didn't escape the weather there either as the first day was pretty much canceled due to wind. We had two really good days though. In case you didn't know, the San Luis Valley Rocketeers agreed to host the NAR's National Sport Launch West for three consecutive years. Next year is the 3rd year and they have said they will take a break after that. I don't know that any of us have decided for sure if we will return next year, but if you have any interest in going to a national event, this is a fairly easy one to get to from Kansas. Consider attending next year.

KRAMO

KRAMO was small this year but fun. I'd like to especially thank Jeremy Lepel for acting as Contest Director again. You do a fine job. I'd also like to thank those that participated, even if only supporting the activity as an occasional timer or launch control officer. We aren't a big contesting club, but I think it is good to try your hand at a contest once in a while. You learn something new that you don't maybe experience with sport flying. I, personally, appreciated the new format of a single day of competition with a slightly smaller slate of events. I think it worked well. Curious what others think.

Kit Bash

The weather definitely negated the original plans regarding the Kit Bash contest, but that's okay. It may even turn out to be for the better. At KRAMO we did get a preview of some of the projects. Hopefully we can finish that up in July. I've had quite a few positive comments about the event and it has been suggested that we do it again. I'm not saying one way or another at this time, but think about it.

High Power Contest

At KRAMO, Zach Twigg suggested that we should consider doing a contest of some kind at one of our high power launches. I believe his suggestion was a G or higher spot landing contest. That way you don't have to be high power certified to participate (and it's a little cheaper). There are lots of mid-power kits that could fly on a G motor. I like the idea, so I am going to announce that at our October Launch (Oct 5th, alternate Oct 19th) there will be an informal spot landing contest. Any rocket powered with a G motor or bigger. You can try as many times as you like and whoever lands closest to the spot in the course of the day, wins. Not sure if there will be a prize beyond bragging rights.

ROCKET DAY CONTINUES IT'S TRADITION

by Duane Lanterman with thanks to the Montgomery County Chronicle and photos by Andy Taylor

During the 30 plus years that Joe Warnock taught third grade at Lincoln Memorial Elementary School in Caney, Ks. one of the most anticipated days of the year for students was Rocket Day. Joe was a founding member of KOSMO along with this wife Peggy back in 1980. When Joe retired from teaching the event ended and many years passed. In 2022 Adam Wright, now a fourth grade teacher at Lincoln, recalled for his students the excitement of Rocket Day when he was in third grade. In 2023 Rocket Day resumed with Adam's guidance and Peggy Warnock in attendance. The event was a great success.

This past May 2024 Rocket Day returned again in its second year of revival with Peggy assassinating financially so each 4 grader could have their own model rocket and opportunity to assemble and fly it. The launch was held at the Caney Valley Stadium with Peggy present to help teacher Adam Wright with the launches. Joe passed in November of 2020 but his love of rocketry and the science that goes with it promoted him to "pay it forward" with this students. The skies of southeast Kansas are still filled with exhaust trails of models rockets and the excitement of children's voices counting down to zero echo in the football stadium.



PEG AND ADAM



