



# the **KOSMONAUT**

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE KANSAS ORGANIZATION FOR SPACEMODELING  
NAR SECTION #427

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024 VOL.43 NO.6



## **KOSMO 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW**



**2024 IN REVIEW – Whereas 2023 saw all 9 of our scheduled launches take place, 2024 weather in Kansas was not so kind. Only 4 of the scheduled 9 launches took place. Those were in June (KRAMO 44), July (SPORT LAUNCH), August (SPORT LAUNCH), and September (FINAL FRONTIER FUN FLY) and are captured on the front cover with group photos from each of those events. A group of KOSMONauts did make it to Colorado for NSL West, Steve Hamous conducted his yearly rocket camp in June and July and Bill Lindsay and Jeremy Lepel, with support by numerous KOSMO members, made the trip with Wichita area students to DC for TARC. Photos on this page highlight those three events. So there were certainly some highlights this year but also a fair amount of disappointment and stress as we navigated the uncertain Kansas weather. Here's to a better 2025 as look to celebrate KOSMO's 45<sup>th</sup> year of existence.**



## T-SHIRT IDEAS

An exciting milestone is happening next year, 2025. KOSMO will be celebrating 45 years of being an NAR sanctioned section. It's been several years since we have had a new club shirt and so this seems like a perfect time to roll out a new edition. It has been suggested, although certainly not a requirement, that the shirt reflect the 1980's and the 2020's. So if you're an artist, or so inclined, consider bringing your graphics to the annual meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup> for a club vote. Try to limit the number of colors as each color adds to the cost of the shirt.

## FUND RAISER AT ANNUAL MEETING

At the annual meeting members will have the opportunity to bid on two items recently donated to the club. The proceeds will go to the family of Matthew Atkinson. Matthew and his family were involved with KOSMO some years ago, were active in all aspects of 4H and he continued to introduce young kids to model rocketry. Matthew passed away from an accident in October, leaving his wife and three children. The kits being offered are the Estes #1825 Patriot starter kit and the Estes #1827 NSA Starship starter kit. The kits were available from 2004-2007. The plastic packaging is a bit rough, but are still sealed. I believe the models might have been from Arizona so the 2 engines in each kit may be iffy.



-----FLYING SEASON ENDS WITH "NIGHT FLIGHT" CANCELED-----

We had one more chance at a launch in 2024 but once again the weather caused the cancellation. There was an upside to this cancellation as Kansas has been dealing with a 3 year drought causing economic hardships and threatening the water supply of our largest city, Wichita. The month of November saw many areas in Kansas receive 5 or more inches of much appreciated rain and just as the wheat crops were desperate for moisture. The day or two before Night Launch our parking lot launch site had standing water. The cancellation went out but members were also invited to gather for shoptalk and some good food at *Boogies* located right next to our field. We had a nice little turnout and there is hope for a more successful launch calendar in 2025.



## 58 Years in Sport Rocketry Or How I Got Started

**Mark Johnson**  
**NAR # 14025**  
**KOSMO Founding Member**

This is a tale I really love to tell – especially to young ARC rocketeers! For me, it all started a few days after the first day of school in 5<sup>th</sup> Grade back in Mitchell, Indiana – otherwise famous for being the home of Original 7 astronaut (and my Mom’s high school classmate) Gus Grissom. I was being my usual nosy self at the beginning of science class, and discovered something interesting on the bookshelf in the back of the classroom. Here it is:



Much later, I found out that this colorful attention-grabber was Estes’ first full-color catalog. Within moments, I was hooked, and placed a mail order within days, ordering a WAC Corporal kit and some 1/2A and A motors.

Much to my parents’ surprise, the package arrived only 5 days after I mailed the order. The rocket was quickly (if not too skillfully for my 10-year-old self) constructed, and on Saturday, October 8, 1966, with the help of my science teacher’s nephew, one Leslie Sherwood (who lived nearby and was only a year older than me, but with a couple years of rocketry experience), the WAC took to the air on a 1/2A.8-2 in a cow pasture next to the AT&T Long Lines booster station on our farm. Now I was REALLY hooked...we quickly re-prepped the model on an A.8-3 for an even higher, near 600-foot flight. The shock cord broke, but we recovered all the parts and I continued to fly the WAC Corporal for several more years. Finally lost it in 1969 or 1970 on a B6-4.

Within weeks, I discovered that there were actually TWO rocket clubs around Mitchell, the Mitchell Aeronautics Association and the Virgil Grissom Rocket Society. I eventually joined both, but didn’t discover the NAR until 3 years later. In some ways I wish I had joined earlier, and gotten one of those coveted 4-digit NAR member numbers (yes, Duane, I am, and will always be, envious of your #6620).

With both clubs, we were soon flying the RDC Enerjet motors that came out in 1967. Compared to a B6-4 or C6-5 they really got up and moved. The VGRS had a really nice launch field with wired-in field phones to the tracking stations, which were carefully located at the same elevation, through the construction of a 20-foot tower for the East station. That club also had the advantage of having the president of RDC, Irving Wait, as its technical advisor. I found out much later that he contacted the club when he found out they were contemplating getting into Zinc-Sulfur amateur rockets, which were – and are – still a good way to blow yourself up if you get sloppy. We had our share of crashes and CATOs but never an injury more serious than a sprained ankle from stepping in a groundhog hole!

I will always be grateful to the guys that I built and flew rockets with in those days. They are names you’ve never heard of – Leslie Sherwood, Mike Dorsett (now retired as a science teacher at Mitchell), Art Hirsch, and my cousins John and Jay Wilkins. There are more names that will always remind me of the good old days!

Your editor plans on running this new feature “How I got started in Rocketry” throughout next year as we celebrate the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of KOSMO.

## *From the President's Pen - Steve Saner*



Happy Holidays to all KOSMO members and your families.

I have sent a couple emails to the club list regarding the changes to the NAR web site, including the membership database. You should have by now received an email from the NAR with a temporary username and password. You should log into your account, select a permanent username and password and verify that all of the data about you is correct. Let me know if you have any questions.

The next order of business for the club is our annual meeting. This is the time that we set aside to take care of some club business, such as election of officers, planning the launch schedule, choosing events for KRAMO and other related items. Below is a tentative agenda for the meeting. If you have any other items that you think should be included in this agenda, please let me know.

Details regarding the time and place of the annual meeting are covered elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope to see as many members at the meeting as possible. If you have any ideas of things that the club should do in the next year, or if you want to become more involved in the club, this is definitely an event that you should participate in.

### **Tentative Agenda – KOSMO 2025 Annual Meeting – January 25, 2025**

- Call meeting to order
- Reading of last meeting's minutes
- Treasures report
- Committee Reports
- Discussion of any old business
- Discussion of new business
  - Election of 2025 officers and committee chairs
  - Planning of 2025 launch schedule
  - Planning of KRAMO and KRAMO events
  - 45 year anniversary celebration ideas.
  - Launch site insurance updates/changes
  - NAR member sponsorship
  - Jr L1 kit sponsorship
  - NAR Safety Grant ideas
  - Awarding of the traveling trophy
  - Other new business
- Adjourn meeting

### **Current Officers**

President/Sr Advisor: Steve Saner  
Vice President: Zac Twig  
Secretary: Duane Lanterman  
Treasurer: Sharon Lanterman

### **Current Committee Chairs**

Webmaster: Steve Saner  
RSO: Dustin Wyant  
Contest Director: Jeremy Lepel  
Historian: Mark Johnson  
FAA Waivers: Keith Ravenstein

**ANNOUNCING THE  
KOSMO ANNUAL MEETING  
SATURDAY JANUARY 25 2025**

**at the home of  
STEVE AND JANET HAMOUS  
2615 WILDERNESS COURT  
WICHITA KS**



**LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT NOON  
SUGGESTED DONATION OF \$10  
(THE HAMOUS'S WILL GRACIOUSLY GIVE DONATIONS TO CLUB'S GENERAL FUND)**

**MENU INCLUDES – SMOKED HAM,  
SCALLOPED POTATOES, SALAD, DINNER ROLL  
AND DESERT**

**MEETING AGENDA CAN BE FOUND OF PAGE 5 OF THIS NEWSLETTER  
“FROM THE PRESIDENTS PEN”**

**after the meeting concludes around 3 pm  
WE WILL HAVE AN AUCTION OF TWO ITEMS TO  
BENEFIT THE MATTHEW ATKINSON FAMILY  
FOLLOWED BY THE VIEWING OF YOUR WINTER PROJECTS!  
BRING YOUR LATEST CREATIONS FROM YOUR SHOP**



**CHECK OUR CLUBS WEB PAGE, FACEBOOK PAGE, OR EMAIL LIST FOR  
POTENTIAL UPDATES**

---

**THE ANNUAL MEETING IS A GREAT TIME TO RENEW YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP DUES !!**

-----  
“The KOSMONaut” is published bi-monthly by the Kansas Organization for SpaceModeling NAR Section #427. Hard copy subscriptions are \$8 for 6 issues. *Membership in KOSMO is \$15 a year and includes the “The KOSMONaut” (please specify hard copy or digital) and all club launch fees except for our annual contest KRAMO. Newsletter editor is secretary Duane Lanterman. Submissions are always welcome! Membership and subscription checks should be made out to KOSMO 642 N. Homestead Rd. Great Bend, Ks. 67530*