



Cape Connections

Official Newsletter for the Air Force Space & Missile Museum

January 2023

**Special
Holiday
Issue**

QUOTATION OF THE MONTH:

"Curiosity is the essence of our existence." Gene Cernan

INAUGURAL T-MINUS 10-MILER

Cape Canaveral Space Force Station hosted the inaugural T-Minus 10-Miler on 10 December 2022. The run included over 2,200 runners and 600 virtual participants. Runners took in views from the ITL to the Lighthouse. The annual event will continue to celebrate the past, present, and future of America's Premier Gateway to Space and the U.S. Space Force.

The Museum played a key role in this year's event. Packet pickup occurred the day before at the Sands Space History Center. Single day attendance records and gift shop sales were broken! The finish line was setup just outside Hangar C, allowing runners, supporters, and others to view the displays. The Museum is already involved in preparations for next year's run. Rupert's looking forward to it!



DID YOU KNOW?



The Jupiter IRBM program enjoyed an impressive career in Cape history, from the earliest missile testing to Apollo 7. America's first successful full-size reentry vehicle in space launched on a Jupiter. The earliest bioflights, satellites, and space probes launched on Jupiter variants. Even Saturn I included a Jupiter tank core on its first stage, connecting the Apollo Program to Jupiter's impressive resume.



MUSEUM UPDATES & NEWS

POLARIS SCRAPBOOK DONATION

The Museum's artifact and archival collections continue to grow with plenty of unique donations. Museum staff recently accepted an oversized scrapbook containing original photos, documents, news clippings, and more pertaining to the entire Polaris SLBM program. It will provide useful original source material for many generations of researchers to come. *(To the right, a view from within the scrapbook illustrates the irreplaceable history within.)*



ARTEMIS I LAUNCH VIEWING

Artemis I launched from LC-39B on Kennedy Space Center on 16 November 2022 after several previous attempts. Museum staff, volunteers, and others viewed the launch at 0147 EST from Hangar C. A screening of the movie *Mars Attacks* on the exterior of the facility preceded the historic launch. *(To the left, a view of the entertainment provided at Hangar C before the launch.)*

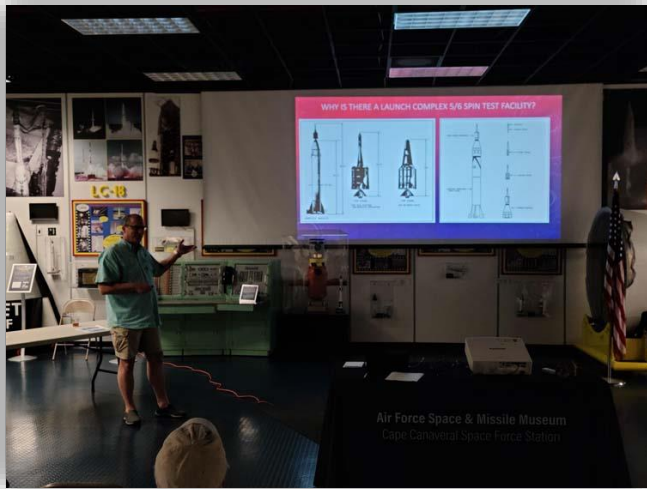
COSMOS FILM SCREENING

The suspense-filled, sci-fi movie *Cosmos* entered the cinematic scene amidst a global pandemic in 2019. The Museum featured an exclusive screening of the movie as a CAPE Series event along with its creators Elliot Weaver and Zander Weaver in November 2022. Attendees traveled from as far as Kansas and Michigan for the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! An enthralling Q&A session followed the movie. *(To the right, Elliot Weaver and Zander Weaver pose with Rupert the Space Armadillo before the movie screening.)*





MUSEUM UPDATES & NEWS



JIM BEHLING PRESENTATION

The November meeting for the Museum Volunteer Association culminated with a fantastic presentation by Jim Behling. His research on the spin test buildings located just off LC-5/6 uncovered decades of remarkable connections to America's earliest satellites, space probes, and other space programs. Mr. Behling's research and writings have been recently featured in Quest Magazine. *(To the left, Jim Behling presents the findings of his extensive historical research.)*

SPACE COAST EDC GATHERING

The Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast hosted a special dinner event at the Sands Space History Center on 16 November. Museum Director Jamie Draper presented the vision of future museum expansion to the group of regional and state leaders. The presentation included early "blue sky" conceptual designs for the future expansion. *(To the right, an enthralled audience at the Sands Space History Center.)*



JOINT HOLIDAY SOCIAL

The Missile, Space and Range Pioneers teamed up with the Canaveral Council of Technical Societies to throw a Holiday Social at the Sands Space History Center on 16 December. Attendees explored, networked, and shared their passion for the offerings of Florida's Space Coast. The Museum plans on supporting similar events in the future. *(To the left, visitors during the Holiday Social enjoyed refreshments and lively conversations.)*



MUSEUM UPDATES & NEWS

BSA TROOP 224 CAMP-OUT

Boy Scout Troop 224 out of Melbourne, Florida enjoyed a camp out on the Museum grounds. They spent a weekend touring the Museum at LC-26, Hangar C, LC-14, and the Lighthouse. They completed a beach clean-up as a service project. They also performed a flag retirement ceremony on the second evening of the camp-out. *(To the right, scout leaders and youth enjoy a campfire outside the Museum.)*



LC-14 BLOCKHOUSE RENOVATIONS

Contractors completed an extensive renovation of the exterior stairway and observation deck on the historic Blockhouse for Launch Complex 14. The much-needed renovations will increase safety and provide visitors with a great view of historic ICBM Row. This complex supported the original Mercury Program orbital launches and recently joined the ranks of Museum facilities. *(To the left, scouts from Troop 224 traverse the newly renovated stairway to the observation deck of the LC-14 Blockhouse.)*

RUPERT WEBPAGE GOES LIVE

For those interested in the biography and background of Cape Canaveral's favorite armadillo, Rupert the Space Armadillo, a new webpage devoted to him recently went live. You can check it out [here](#). Now everyone can discover Rupert's origin story. Be sure to continue following his adventures on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and Instagram through #FollowRupert! Rupert helps us share the rich history of the Cape with new audiences. *(To the right, Rupert the Space Armadillo's official logo.)*





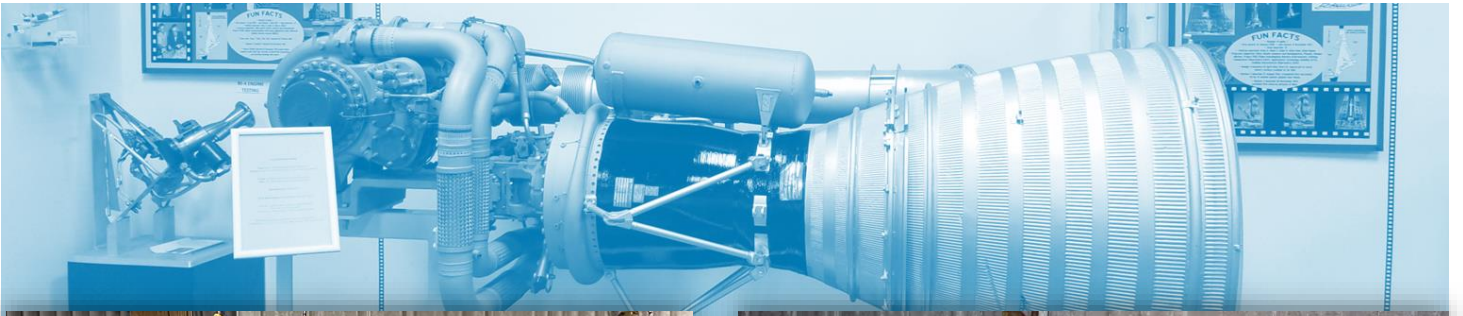
2022 HOLIDAY DINNER

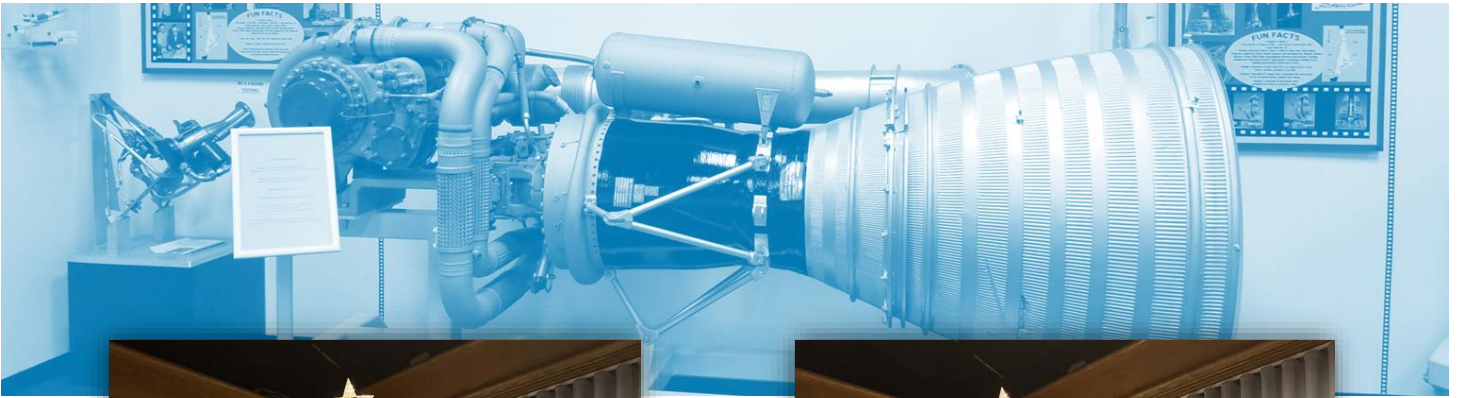
We closed 2022 with the annual Holiday Dinner on 14 December. The U.S. Space Force Historical Foundation extended their appreciation for the dedicated volunteers in our Museum Volunteer Association by throwing this annual gala event. Major General Stephen Purdy served as guest speaker. Jamie Draper (Museum Director), Ray Sands (Chairman of the Foundation Board), and Bob Ward unveiled plans for future museum expansion.

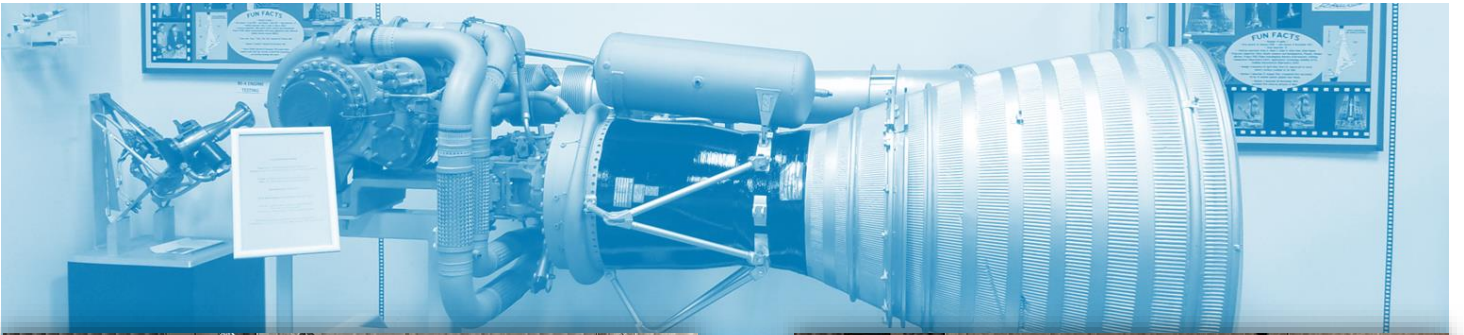
The evening focused on our amazing volunteers. Longevity awards from five years of service to 30 were handed out, with Gary Dahlke receiving his 30-year pin! Lee Starrick and Bob Graveline earned the Outstanding Achievement Award – both having volunteered for 38 years! Martin McAlwee, former Foundation Board member, received the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. As a special surprise, Maj Gen Purdy and Gregg Kraver, Executive Director of SLD-45, presented Museum Curator Bill Paul with his citation and pin for 40 years of federal service!

Many appreciations extended to the museum volunteers, supporting museum foundation, and all our mission partners for making 2022 phenomenal! Enjoy these highlights from the festivities.











Our Museum Family

Museum Staff:

James Draper, Museum Director
Bill Paul, Museum Curator

Museum Volunteer Association:

Randy Wehrung, Chairperson
Lee Kjesbo, Vice Chair
Bill Jelen, Secretary

Museum Foundation

Executive Committee Members:

Raymond Sands, Chairman
Steven Lepper, Major General, USAF
(ret.) Vice Chairman
Rob Quigg, Treasurer
Roger McCormick, Secretary

Board Members:

Robert VanVonderen
Stephen Houser
Therrin Protze
Victor Latavish
Tim Oliver

Foundation Employees:

Deborah Allison, Foundation Services
Manager
Sharon Rodriguez, Executive Assistant



Air Force Space & Missile Museum

*191 Museum Circle
Cape Canaveral AFS, FL 32925
321.853.9171
afspacemuseum.org*



Sands Space History Center

*100 Space Port Way, Bldg. 90328
Cape Canaveral, FL 32920
321.853.1919
afspacemuseum.org*