

TRAJECTORIES

Official Newsletter for the Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum

Quote of the Month:

"Another flaw in the human character is that everybody wants to build and nobody wants to do maintenance." Kurt Vonnegut

Mercury Reunion



Danny Parker, author of an upcoming book on Scott Carpenter, coordinated a Mercury Reunion for the Cape. On 26 October, Museum staff and volunteers provided an exclusive tour of Mercury-related sites on the Cape and held a panel discussion at the History Center as part of the CAPE Series of programming. CAPE stands for Creative Activities Promoting Education.

Reunion participants included Dr. Robert B. Voas (Mercury Astronaut Trainer), Nancy Lowe (Mercury Program Secretary), Millie Guice McElya (Mercury Program Secretary at Hangar S), Kris Stoeber (Astronaut Scott Carpenter's daughter), Lyn Glenn (Astronaut John Glenn's daughter), and David Glenn (Astronaut John Glenn's son). Jeff Shesol, author of *Mercury Rising*, also joined the group for the tour and the event. Jim Keatley, local 92-year-old resident who worked Atlas boosters for Project Mercury, was in the audience during the panel discussion.

The CAPE Series event drew a sizable audience and some local media. Participants in the panel shared many great stories and

recollections from their involvement in Project Mercury 60 years ago! A Q&A session following the remarks brought more engaging discussions. Huge appreciations to Danny Parker and Museum Volunteers who helped make all this possible.

DID YOU KNOW?



The Cape Canaveral Air Force Station changed to Cape Kennedy Air Force Station in 1963 by President Johnson to honor our martyred president. Canaveral is one of the oldest European place names in North America. Local residents fought for nearly a decade to restore the name. Victory came on 9 October 1973 (50 years ago) when the Florida legislature reinstated "Canaveral" into the installation's name. It remains today as Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.



Message from the Director

James W. Draper



One of the most exciting aspects of the museum field is the opportunity to work with artifacts and people connected to significant events in the past. I am blessed to experience it almost daily on the Cape. However, once in a while there is that one incredible event that leaves a lasting impact. You can probably think of several in your life and career. I experienced one recently.

I was honored to spend a few days with key individuals from Project Mercury. It was America's first human spaceflight program (1958-1963). Mercury laid the foundation and set the standard! All six manned launches occurred on Cape Canaveral.

Danny Parker (an author who has plumbed our Museum Archives) coordinated the reunion—perhaps the last of its kind. Most had not met for decades. Museum Volunteers helped me tour them through several Mercury-related sites around the Cape and offer a panel discussion to the public afterwards at the History Center.

Dr. Voas emphasized his role in the program and how he was just one of thousands behind the scenes who made it all possible. Millie and Nancy knew that all too well. They tackled the grueling day-to-day work in the astronaut office. Millie acknowledged that she was proud to have been a part of history. Nancy said that they and the astronauts survived and grew together. They had never worked for astronauts and the astronauts never had secretaries before.

Kris pointed out that gratitude and humility defined her father's (Scott Carpenter) attitude toward the Mercury program. People often

note how brave and strong the astronauts were. She pointed out that there were lots of strong women involved behind the scenes, too.

Lyn and David offered many fond memories from their teenage years of Dad (John Glenn) setting space milestones. In reassuring his family, his modus operandi was "we don't fear as much what we understand". Glenn would sit down with his kids and show them on charts and a globe his flight plan, the communication stations, and recovery teams.

We spend a lot of time at the Museum trying to gain understanding of America's earliest space programs. To experience it with those who were apart of it offers a priceless level of perspective. Danny concluded one of the discussions by placing the Mercury Program in context with the Cold War. He said it was perhaps the best in human activity during the worst in human activity. I will forever treasure the time spent with these Cold Warrior space pioneers and their families.

A handwritten signature of James W. Draper in black ink. The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "Draper" clearly visible.

James W. Draper, Museum Director



The Curator's Corner

On 28 September 2023, we celebrated the career and achievements of the Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum's inaugural Museum Curator, Bill Paul. He completed over 40 years of distinguished service in both Air Force and Space Force museums! Over the past four years, Mr. Paul has been instrumental in the transformation of our museum operation.

The evening's festivities included refreshments, fellowship, goodbyes, and presentations. Awards conferred included the Outstanding Civilian Career Service Award from Space Launch Delta 45; the Lifetime Achievement Award from the U.S. Space Force Historical Foundation; a U.S. flag flown from the Museum (2022-2023) from the Museum Volunteer Association; and the prestigious Golden Armadillo Award for "Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Excellence" from the Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum. Here are some photo highlights from the event. Goodbye, Bill! Have a wonderful retirement!



The Curator's Corner



Museum Updates and News



Volunteer Meeting

The first Museum Volunteer Association meeting for the season was held on 11 September. We enjoyed a sizable audience. Museum Director Jamie Draper provided plenty of updates from the summer season. Two Airmen from the 45th Weather Squadron provided an outstanding presentation. The 45th WS is instrumental in all launch operations from Florida's Space Coast and along the Eastern Range. *(To the left volunteers in the audience take in the informative presentation by Airmen from the 45th WS at the Sands Space History Center.)*

Wooden Atlas Models

This spring Museum Volunteers Ed Lovins and Gary Dahlke uncovered some old wooden display models of missiles and rockets at Patrick SFB. Fellow Museum Volunteer Scott Zamorski recently went to great efforts to restore the two Atlas models – one in Mercury-Atlas configuration and the other as an Atlas ICBM. They are displayed today in the LC-14 Blockhouse for visitors to enjoy. *(To the right is a view of both wooden Atlas models on prominent display at the LC-14 Blockhouse.)*



Student Visit & Tours

On 22 September, 150 high school students converged on the Museum at LC-26 for touring. Lt Col Killings from Space Systems Command coordinated the educational outreach opportunity. The students visited from the State College of Florida collegiate School. They also received tours of Cape Canaveral Space Force Station and Kennedy Space Center. This is one of many youth outreach activities the Museum engages in. *(To the left students pack the Schriever Gallery inside the Exhibit Hall at LC-26.)*

Museum Updates and News

Psyche Exhibit

The Psyche Mission team from Arizona State University created a program called Psyche Inspired. Select undergraduate students since 2016 have created artwork inspired by the Psyche Mission. An assortment of that artwork was displayed for a few weeks as a special exhibit at the Sands Space History Center. The exhibit included scores of fun creations, along with educational hand-outs and takeaways for visitors. *(To the right young members of the Psyche Team help strike the exhibit a few days after the successful launch.)*



CAPE Series Event

The Sands Space History Center hosted a “Journey to a Metal World” event as part of the CAPE Series on 30 September. Members from the Psyche Mission team were on hand to greet visitors and offer fun activities. Dr. Lindy Elkins-Tanton, the lead scientist, provided a presentation on this fascinating mission. This mission may offer a unique window into the creation of Earth billions of years ago. *(To the left a large audience at the Sands Space History Center enjoys Dr. Elkins-Tanton’s informative presentation on the Psyche Mission.)*



Psyche Mission Launch

Over 150 people gathered at Hangar C and the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse on 13 October to witness the beginning of an epic journey. The Psyche Mission launched from Kennedy Space Center aboard a Falcon Heavy. The side boosters landed on the Cape, with roaring applause from the gathered crowd. It will take nearly six years for the spacecraft to reach the metal-rich asteroid 16 Psyche. It will then spend 21 months analyzing the asteroid to explore the building blocks of planet formation. *(To the right Jamie Draper and Rupert the Space Armadillo were among the spectators. The mighty rocket is but a dot in the sky from this perspective.)*

Museum Updates and News



Randy Coppola Awarded

Museum Volunteer Randy Coppola was awarded the prestigious Hall of Fame Award for “for demonstrating sustained performance in making significant contributions to enhancing U.S. access to space in the category of Space Flight Advocacy and Education”. The National Space Club Florida Committee presented it to him during a special ceremony on 8 October. He earned it through his tireless efforts in preserving and presenting the rich history of the Cape from our museum operation and beyond. Randy continues to impress and inspire! More info here - <https://www.nscfl.org/awards/>. (To the left our very own Randy Coppola smiles for the camera among all the honorees.)

Launch Viewing Closed

Beginning 1 November the launch viewing location outside the South Gate of the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station (near the Sands Space History Center) will be closed indefinitely. Space Launch Delta 45 has offered it as a free public launch viewing site for years, enjoyed by both tourists and locals. However, recent reckless behavior resulting in traffic accidents and injuries has forced them to close this location. (To the right spectators take in a Space Force launch from Kennedy Space Center on 1 November 2022 from the South Gate viewing location.)



Bronze Plaque Cleaning

A big part of our mission at the Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum is stabilizing, maintaining, and the preventive conservation of historical assets on the Cape. That includes historic markers scattered around the military installation. We performed some delicate surface cleaning of bronze markers at historical LC-26 and LC-14 with positive results. We will explore a more periodic routine of maintenance for the future. (To the left is a before and after view of the National Historic Landmark plaque on display outside the LC-26 Blockhouse.)

Museum Updates and News

New Outdoor Panels

Museum staff and volunteers recently installed two new outdoor panels on the museum grounds – one for Launch Pad 26B and the other for the Gemini White Room. More are ready to install for the Navaho restoration and the Delta IV booster. Year end funds allowed us to purchase five more. Our team compiled content for them and they are currently in production. We hope to install them over the winter season. *(To the right is an image of the new panel installed for Launch Pad 26B at the Museum.)*



Monument Move

The Cape's extremely talented crane shop helped move the Mercury Monument from the LC-14 launch pad ramp into temporary storage due to upcoming construction projects. The 1,000 lb marble monument was unveiled in 1980 by Senator John Glenn. It memorializes the Project Mercury orbit launches that took place at LC-14. We hope to place it back out on display outside the LC-14 Blockhouse in the future. *(To the left is a view of the team lifting and moving the monument to a pallet for easy transportation.)*



Rupert Around the World

Rupert the Space Armadillo's advocacy for the museum and promotion of space exploration continues to reach new audiences worldwide. You can follow his adventures on Facebook, X, LinkedIn, and Instagram by searching #FollowRupert. Sometimes you can find him in even the most remote areas. For instance, the daughter of one of our dedicated Museum Volunteers spread the word of Rupert at Kwajalein in the South Pacific – along the outer reaches of the Western Range! *(To the right is Rupert the Space Armadillo spotted on the other side of the World!)*

Museum Updates and News



Radiology Testing

The Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum contends with a number of unique artifact preservation and public safety challenges due to location and the types of artifacts in the collection. The annual radiology survey of select artifacts was recently completed, with no issues found. Several historic missile systems were manufactured with radioactive materials. The annual survey ensures public safety and helps determine preservation strategies. *(To the left specialists use advanced sensors to ensure any radiation emitting from specific artifacts are at safe levels.)*

AIAA Dinner Event

About 150 people squeezed into the Sands Space History Center for an educational and inspiration dining event on 28 October. The Cape Canaveral Section of AIAA sponsored the event as part of the SmallSat Education Conference. Dr. Jonathan Arenberg, Chief Mission Architect of Science and Robotic Exploration for Northrup Grumman, gave an outstanding presentation. Many STEM educators and students were in attendance. *(To the right Robert S. Katz makes opening remarks for the event.)*



Archival Supplies Arrived

The Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum received this latest shipment of acid-free, archival storage enclosures. They will be used to replace scores of old storm-damaged boxes in the Museum Archives. The new boxes are courtesy of year end funds from Space Launch Delta 45. Proper preservation of artifacts and archives requires constant vigilance and frequent upgrades in preventive conservation. These new supplies will help a great deal. *(To the left Museum Volunteer Roger McCormick helps unwrap and stow all the new supplies.)*



Museum Updates and News

New Signage

The Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum continues to enhance and update signage at multiple facilities. Volunteers and visitors will notice a number of new indoor and outdoor signs promoting the Museum and its mission. Many of these signs feature more uniform color schemes, designs, and a consistent use of the Museum's new logo and name. All these efforts enhance the look and feel of our museum operation.

(To the right is a before and after look of signage greeting visitors at the LC-26 Blockhouse. The panel on the right was replaced with the new one on the left.)



Radio Equipment Donation

We were thrilled to accept several racks of historic radio equipment into the Museum's artifact collections. The transfer came from the 45th Logistics and Readiness Squadron. This equipment was used for decades to help clear the Eastern Range of boat and aircraft traffic during launch periods. This material helps fill a gap in the Museum's collection and will help educate visitors for generations to come. *(To the left Rupert the Space Armadillo poses with some of the recently acquired radio equipment.)*



First Lady Rug

The Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum supports Space Launch Delta 45 and the U.S. Space Force in many unique ways all the time. First Lady Jill Biden and Veteran Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough visited the Cape and Patrick Space Force Base on 16 October. One of our SLD-45 entryway rugs was needed for a roundtable discussion with military spouses. The Museum stepped up. We may refer to it as the "First Lady Rug" from now on. *(To the right is a view of the SLD-45 rug from the Exhibit Hall being used for the roundtable discussion at Starbase Patrick, just south of Patrick SFB.)*

Our Museum Family



CAPE CANAVERAL
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MUSEUM

Museum Staff:

James Draper, Museum Director

Museum Volunteer Association:

Randy Wehrung, Chairperson

Lee Kjesbo, Vice Chair

Bill Jelen, Secretary



UNITED STATES
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Executive Committee Members:

Raymond Sands, Chairman

Steven Lepper, Major General, USAF (ret.)
Vice Chairman

Rob Quigg, Treasurer

Roger McCormick, Secretary

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