

TRAJECTORIES

Official Newsletter for the Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum

Quote of the Month:

"The dinosaurs became extinct because they didn't have a space program. And if we become extinct because we don't have a space program, it'll serve us right." Larry Niven, Science Fiction Author

National USSF Events



The Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum hosted two national U.S. Space Force events in December. That four day period drew thousands of new visitors and the attention of many more around the world.

Activities began with the second annual U.S. Space Force T-Minus 10-Miler (8-9 Dec). This year's featured rocket was the Navaho missile. The Museum displays the last intact Navaho. Over 1,500 runners picked up their packets at the Sands Space History Center on Day #1. Then around 2,500 people visited Hangar C and the Lighthouse near the finish line on Day #2.

The second major event immediately followed the run. The inaugural Space Force Guardian Arena centered on Museum facilities. Day #1 included registration, refreshments, photos, and remarks at the History Center. Space Force Guardians then embarked upon an extensive historical tour of the Cape on four buses.

Day #2 involved a full day of team challenges on the Museum grounds for around 150 Guardians. Most involved physical and problem solving challenges. Winners were announced the following day at the inaugural

SFA SpacePower Conference in Orlando. The Space Force CSO, General Saltzman, along with other General Officers visited the Museum throughout the day to observe the new event. The following pages display some photo highlights from the events.

DID YOU KNOW?



General Mason Patrick took over the Air Service toward the end of World War I. Patrick advocated tirelessly for an independent air service afterwards, recognizing the significance of air power in future conflicts. How appropriate that Patrick Space Force Base bears his name. One hundred years ago he prepared us for new spheres of combat. Today the Space Force prepares to combat our adversaries in a new warfighting domain.



Message from the Director

James W. Draper



We made another revolution around the sun and now embark upon another exciting year at the Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum! We can be proud of all the accomplishments of 2023. I look forward to all the potential ahead in the new year!

I hope everyone enjoyed a festive and fun holiday season. I spent most of mine tackling a massive digitization project. It helped put many things into perspective regarding the fragility of history and the daunting responsibilities we face in preservation.

My Draper grandparents passed away not that long ago. My parents saved boxes of materials (mostly photos) for me to sort through for my genealogical research. In a November trip, I was able to consolidate all the important material into two large plastic bins. I knew that digitizing everything was essential to preservation and organization of the content. I prepared a work station with an improvised copy stand in our living room and embarked upon that journey.

It was an epic trek indeed! I took photos of the front and back of thousands of historic images. They contained views of ancestors and relatives stretching back to the mid-nineteenth century. After endless hours of digitizing over the span of two weeks, I ended up with a grand total of 8,888 digital images! I guess eight is my lucky number.

That was phase one. Phase two involved reorganizing and rehousing all of it into one bin. Done. Phase three will take place later this year. I plan on researching and selecting an online photo sharing site to help group, organize, and share with extended family this

massive treasure trove of family history. It will take time and a lot of detective work to identify everyone in the images, because very few were labeled.

If it weren't for my parents, these materials would have been discarded. It really shows how precarious history is. We work diligently at the Museum to preserve, protect, and share America's rich aerospace history. In that process, we combat the climate, pests, lack of resources, and general indifference daily. It's essential work. The history we preserve offers us perspective on the present and prepares us to create a brighter future. Without it, we are lost.

As an added bonus, preserving, researching, and presenting history is so much fun! I've learned so much about my family, my heritage, and myself on this genealogical journey. Our Museum does all that to a much greater degree, to an ever increasing audience, with a historical collection that's interplanetary in significance! I look forward to another year of adventure and discovery with all of you. Semper Supra!



James W. Draper, Museum Director

T-Minus 10-Miler – Day #1



T-Minus 10-Miler – Day #2



Guardian Arena – Day #1

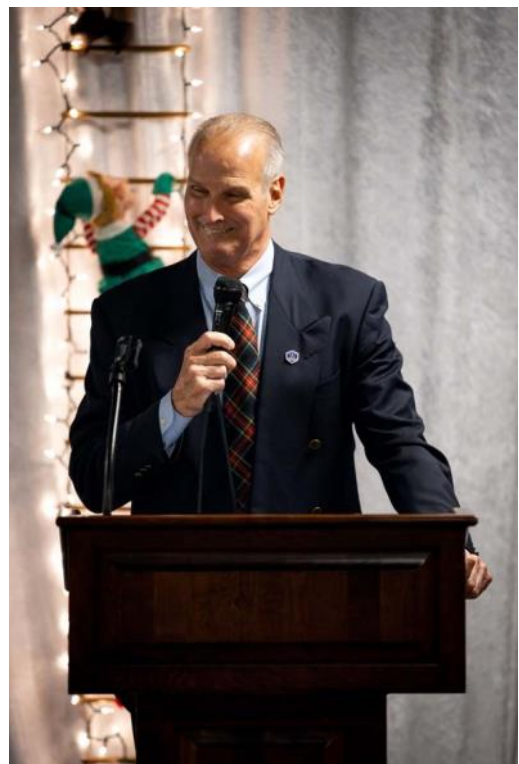


Guardian Arena – Day # 2



2023 Holiday Party

This year's Volunteer Appreciation Holiday Dinner took place on 14 December at the Tides Club. For 25 years, the U.S. Space Force Historical Foundation (formerly USAF Space and Missile Museum Foundation) has sponsored this annual event for fellowship, awards, and thanks. This year's events included the presentation of longevity and outstanding achievement awards. Brigadier General Kristin Panzenhagen, current Commander of Space Launch Delta 45, participated and provided remarks. There were also special appreciations extended to Liz Draper who created the Museum's CAPE Series of educational programming. She was recently featured in Merritt Island Now magazine for the achievement. Photos courtesy of Curt Mason, Museum Volunteer and accomplished photographer.



2023 Holiday Party continued



Our Museum Family



CAPE CANAVERAL
SPACE FORCE
MUSEUM

Museum Staff:

James Draper, Museum Director

Museum Volunteer Association:

Randy Wehrung, Chairperson

Lee Kjesbo, Vice Chair

Bill Jelen, Secretary



UNITED STATES
SPACE FORCE
HISTORICAL 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

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Deborah Allison, Foundation Services Manager

Sharon Rodriguez, Executive Assistant



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