

TRAJECTORIES

Official Newsletter for the Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum

Quote of the Month:

"Grasp the subject, the words will follow."
Cato the Elder

Hurricane Milton Strikes



Hurricane Milton built intensity through the Caribbean, reaching Category 5 status. It struck Florida at Siesta Key as a Category 3. The massive tropical cyclone diminished in intensity as it traveled northeast across the state. It still ranked as a Category 1 when it struck Florida's Space Coast on 10 October.

Museum staff and volunteers prepped museum structures through a HURCON checklist for several days beforehand. With everything secured, museum facilities closed for three days beginning 9 October to weather the storm.

Bands of rain came through first, dumping more water on already saturated ground. Then came the intense wind. Milton's eye passed right over Cape Canaveral Space Force Station! Sustained winds reached 75 mph with gusts far exceeding that. Tornadoes touched down throughout the region. Many lost power for days. Some flooding occurred.

The Museum Director inspected museum buildings and outdoor static displays when the "all clear" command was issued. All museum facilities fared extremely well, with only

minimal issues. The status of the Navaho missile was of top concern. One of the iconic scenes post-storm was traffic lights, street signs, and trees down all around the Navaho. But there it sat, like a sentinel of the Cape, completely unscathed from Milton's ferocity.

DID YOU KNOW?



Mrs. Margaret "Maggie" McGrew worked as a pioneering female physicist on Cape Canaveral in the 1950s. An incurable cancer diagnosis cut her life short at age 46. She was a devoted wife, mother, a "missile buff," and passionate about her career. According to several sources, Maggie's coworkers snuck her ashes onto a Bomarc missile test launch from the Cape in 1956 to honor her memory and allow her to break the sound barrier.

Message from the Director

James W. Draper



This issue of Trajectories opens with a seemingly elementary yet very imperative quote from Cato the Elder—"Grasp the subject, the words will follow." Amy Wong from Futurama would retort, "Well, gah!" It seems so obvious but this simple concept goes ignored by so many every day.

Look at all the forms of media we consume daily. Television, podcasts, websites, eBooks, and an infinite variety of social media outlets. For some of you traditionalists, newspapers, magazines, and books. A 24-hour news cycle infuses them all with plenty of sensationalism and doom-and-gloom to secure your attention.

All these new digital avenues have truly democratized information sharing. In doing so, however, these channels of content are saturated with so-called "experts". How often do we accept their opinions as gospel? How often do we do our own fact-checking? Finally, how often do we parrot unsubstantiated information we consume?

One of our greatest challenges with this museum operation is our scope. It's voluminous! I mention this often. We preserve and present the history of America's space and missile programs. That story from the Cape alone involves 8,000+ launches (and growing) from 30 historic launch complexes along the 10,000-mile Eastern Range! How do we distill all that down to digestible bites for a general audience? It sounds incredibly daunting, doesn't it?

This is where I want to address our new team members—staff, volunteers, and mission partners. My biggest piece of advice is to study the subject. Your abilities to convey it to different audiences will develop in due course.

Studying the subject can involve shadowing some of our senior volunteer docents. Spend some time with our [website](#). It is a compendium of knowledge on space and missile history. Do a "deep dive" on one of our artifacts. Where do you think our social media hashtag series like #AmazingAgena, #JupiterJourney, and #NavahoNews come from? It's me chasing another rabbit down a research rabbit hole.

Time spent researching historical subjects within our scope will bring understanding, appreciation, comfort, and perspective. All these historical nuggets and stories will unveil broad patterns and themes. The most efficient form of communicating this newfound knowledge to our visitors is through storytelling. Tell them stories that educate and inspire.

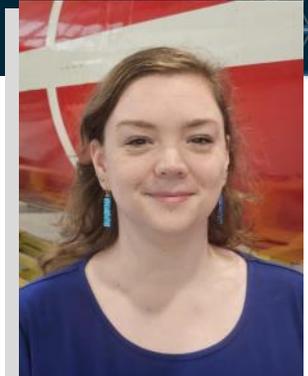
As your base of knowledge grows and storytelling techniques evolve, keep accuracy in mind. One of our greatest assets with this museum is authenticity. We enjoy plenty of it with original artifacts, structures, and reference materials. We function as an authentic source for space and missile history. Let's not cloud that with Cape lore, speculation, or specious reasoning. Just like the media you consume daily, check your sources. Mark Twain said, "It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so."

We preserve and interpret some amazing history! Let's continue to use it to inform, elevate, and inspire.

James W. Draper, Museum Director

The Curator's Corner

with Sabra Gosset



Introductions

Hi all! My name is Sabra Gossett, and I am the new Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum Curator! I recently relocated from Northeast Alabama, where I was the Collections Manager at Berman Museum – Anniston Museums and Gardens. Before that, I worked as an Associate Curator at a local history museum and the Curatorial Understudy at the Air Force Enlisted Heritage Hall. I received my Master of Arts in Museum Studies from Southern University at New Orleans and interned at the National World War II Museum.

My relationship with space has deep roots. During my childhood, my father had a non-profit, Educational Space Simulations, that brought space shuttle launch simulations and space education to classrooms. I was often his assistant in his presentations, including at conferences such as the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. I was among the few kids who could name all the shuttle parts and knew the latest launches.

I am very excited to be working with the Space Force! Military museums are my passion - I am the child of two veterans (Go Air Force!) and spent much of my childhood in military museums. I love telling the stories of veterans, especially those who can no longer do it themselves.

I am most looking forward to working on our museum exhibits! I want to update some of our existing exhibits and add some new things! I also want to assist in bringing in new groups and demographics to our wonderful offerings. First, I must learn the history of the Cape - I will be leaning on Jamie and all the wonderful volunteers for help!

When I'm not at work, I spend time with my husband, Mike, our two-year-old daughter, Charlie, and our two dogs. My husband is a Floridian by birth, so we are happy to be home!

I look forward to meeting everyone. My office is always open!

- Sabra

Museum Updates and News

Gary Powers Presentation

We were honored to host Gary Powers, Jr., as guest speaker for the 9 September Museum Volunteer Association meeting. He regaled the audience on his father's life and Cold War experience. Powers shares his knowledge of Cold War history through speaking events, publications, and exhibits. He is the founder of The Cold War Museum at Vint Hill, Virginia. Powers' visit included an exclusive tour of historic sites on Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. *(To the right is Gary Powers, Jr., giving his presentation to a large audience at the Sands Space History Center.)*



ULA Exclusive Tour

Staff at United Launch Alliance (ULA) provided an exclusive tour of their facilities to over 30 Museum Volunteers. The excursion took the group through facilities at historic Launch Complexes 37 and 41, along with other integration buildings. Volunteers viewed several Vulcan rockets, ULA's latest and greatest launch vehicle, in different stages of readiness for launch. Thank you, ULA, for supporting our museum operation! *(To the left the group of Museum Volunteers pose outside a ULA facility at LC-41. Note the Vulcan inside the structure.)*



Lighthouse Grant

Our friends and mission partners at the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation earned a \$775,000 grant from Brevard County! The county commission voted in favor of it on 17 Sept after support from the Tourism Development Council and Capital Facilities Committee. The funds will go toward building additional educational facilities around the lighthouse. Commissioner Tom Goodson said "We have a certain duty to preserve our history and that means preserving this lighthouse." *(To the right is a recent view of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse.)*

Museum Updates and News



Even More History Center!

Beginning 1 October, we extended the open hours for the Sands Space History Center. The facility will remain open until 4:00 pm now on Tuesday through Friday. The Scheduling Committee for the Museum Volunteer Association put a ton of effort into changing those days from one shift to two shifts for volunteers. This move will make the rich history of the Cape more accessible to the public. We appreciate all the effort of the committee and our many volunteers to make this possible. Increased visitor numbers already reflect this positive change.

Apollo Scholars

In September, Jamie Draper and Rupert the Space Armadillo provided a historical tour to some special guests—space history scholars Matthew Beddingfield and George Leopold. They were in the area conducting research for an upcoming work on Apollo 1. They were able to draw inspiration from the many historic sites of the Cape deeply connected to America's space program origins and milestones. *(To the right the group posed for a selfie on historic Launch Pad 5, where astronaut Alan Shepard launched into space on 5 May 1961.)*



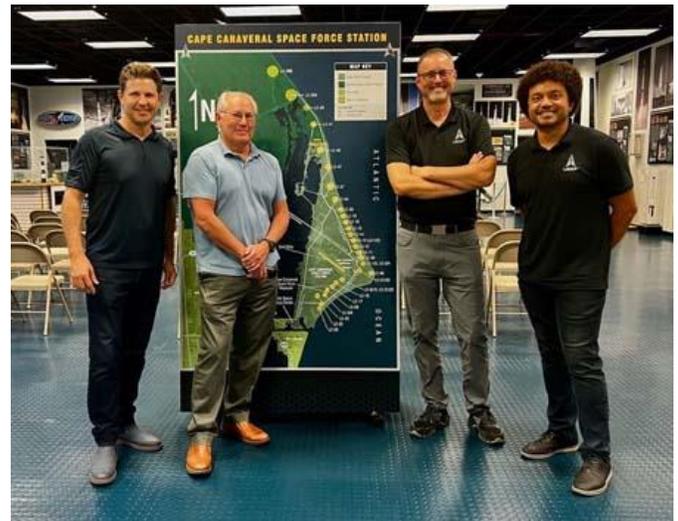
The Wright Stuff

Tom Wright of the Florida State Senate paid the Museum a visit. He received a tour of several museum facilities. Jamie Draper expounded on the essential mission and scope of the museum. U.S. Space Force Historical Foundation leadership and mission partners, the Karman Line, elaborated on the Museum's expansion plans for the future. Senator Wright looks forward to supporting our vision for the future. *(To the left is another great group shot from Pad 5. From left to right is Jamie Draper, Jim Thomas, Sean Graham, Ray Sands, Senator Wright, and Bob Ward.)*

Museum Updates and News

Paging Dr. Aldrin

Andy Aldrin was among several distinguished visitors to the Museum in recent months. He met with Jamie Draper and our mission partners at the Karman Line to discuss STEAM educational outreach opportunities for the future. His Aldrin Family Foundation, a charitable 501(c)3, harnesses the inspiration of space to ignite a passion for STEAM education for all students. Dr. Aldrin has an extensive dossier of space program leadership and philanthropy. *(To the right is Jim Thomas, Andy Aldrin, Jamie Draper, and Sean Graham at the Sands Space History Center.)*



LC-26 Blockhouse Windows Restoration



Refreshing Restorations

Contractors from Cape Paint Shop recently took on the arduous task of restoring the window surrounds for the LC-26 Blockhouse. Corrosion set in around several of the windows, rusting bolts and staining surfaces. They removed the active corrosion and repainted the trouble areas. This will help us preserve this national treasure for generations to come. *(To the left are before and after views of one of the treated window areas.)*

Neverending Navaho

A new hashtag series has been unleashed on the Museum's social media channels—#NavahoNews. This exciting new series will share never-before-scene information on the Navaho through recently declassified documents and revisit historical scholarship long overlooked. Four segments have been posted with more on the way. The Navaho program, which was quite unique to Cape Canaveral, offers a seemingly never-ending supply of fascinating historical revelations. *(To the right shows the graphic used for the #NavahoNews series on the Museum's social media channels.)*



Museum Updates and News

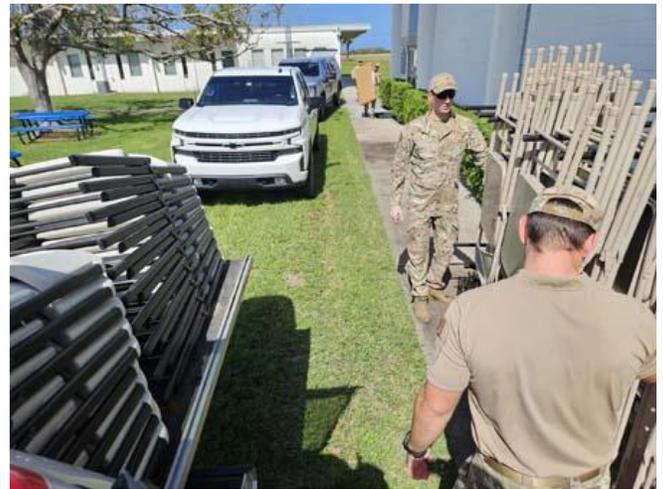


NASA Apps Challenge

The Sands Space History Center hosted a [NASA International Space Apps Challenge](#) on 5-6 October. It was touted as the largest all-domain all-skill hackathon-style innovation competition in the Universe. Teams in hundreds of locations around the globe worked on scores of [unique challenges](#). The History Center functioned as the venue for the entire Florida Space Coast region. *(To the left Robert Katz of the World Innovation Network [WIN] welcomes teams to the History Center on Day #1 of the event.)*

Plant Your Seat Here

The Museum generously received some year-end funds from SLD-45 to improve operations. Among the purchases were 224 new folding chairs for special events and outreach programming. Our friends at the Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Flight helped us move 600 chairs old and new among three different facilities. The new chairs will enhance the look of future events and provide more comfort for our visitors. *(To the right Airmen from the Cape's EOD Flight brought vehicles and strong backs to move hundreds of chairs around the Cape.)*



International Attention

On 12 September, Jamie Draper provided a historical tour through several Museum facilities for a German film crew. It was for a program on America's earliest space programs for a German national television network. The tour involved historic Launch Complexes 26 and 5/6. The SLD-45 Public Affairs office arranged and supervised the event. It's but one of many recent developments that illustrate the Museum's international reach. *(To the left Jamie Draper guides the crew through Firing Room B at the LC-26 Blockhouse.)*

Museum Updates and News

Emerging Leaders

The AFCEA Space Coast Chapter hosted another Emerging Leaders event at the Sands Space History Center on 2 October. This event included a discussion with Vaya Space CEO, Kevin Lowdermilk and BlackStar Orbital CEO/Co-founder, Christopher Jannette. Attendees came in from all over the central Florida region. Discussions involved leadership and insight into the current and future landscape of the space industry. *(To the right Julianna Stofflet of AFCEA moderating the discussion with the two special guests and coordinating the Q&A portion.)*



Milestone Moments

The Sands Space History Center hosted Col Nick Hague (USSF) for a special event and interviews earlier this summer. On 28 September, he and Cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov made history the Crew 9 mission launched from LC-40 on Cape Canaveral. The mission saw extensive changes and delays before finally launching. Col Hague became the first USSF Guardian to launch into space. Crew 9 was also the first crew mission to launch from LC-40. More history made and milestones set from the Cape! *(To the left is a view of the Crew 9 launch from LC-40.)*

Proving Grounds at 75

The first of October marked the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Joint Long Range Proving Ground. This was the beginning of what we now know today as the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Patrick Space Force Base, and the Eastern Range. Next summer will mark the 75th anniversary of the first launch from the area—Bumper 8. Over 8,000 launches later, we are still the World's Premier Gateway to Space! *(To the right is the inaugural issue of The Missileer, the official newspaper for the proving grounds, from 6 February 1950.)*



Our Museum Family



CAPE CANAVERAL
SPACE FORCE
MUSEUM

Museum Staff:

James Draper, Museum Director
Sabra Gossett, Museum Curator

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
Tim Oliver

Foundation Employees:

Deborah Allison, Foundation Services Manager
Sharon Rodriguez, Executive Assistant



Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum

191 Museum Circle

Cape Canaveral SFS, FL 32925

321.853.9171

ccspacemuseum.org



Sands Space History Center

100 Space Port Way, Bldg. 90328

Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

321.853.1919

ccspacemuseum.org