

TRAJECTORIES

Official Newsletter of the Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum

Quote of the Month:

"The lack of a sense of history is the damnation of the modern world."
Robert Penn Warren

Scala Library Donation



Keith Scala was one of the founding editorial members of *Quest*, which premiered in 1992. Today, *Quest: The History of Spaceflight Quarterly* is the only peer-reviewed journal exclusively focused on space history.

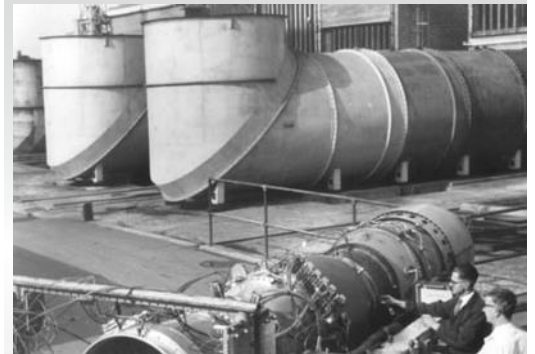
Over the years, Keith (with the help of colleague, Glen Swanson) amassed one of the largest privately held book collections dedicated to the history of rocketry and spaceflight. It was the foundation of much scholarship in *Quest*. Keith passed away in 2021 and his brother Ken took possession of the library.

Fast-forward to 2024, Glen contacted Jamie Draper to see if the Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum would be interested in giving the collection a home. Jamie said yes, Glen and Ken were thrilled.

Then came the challenge of transporting the entire collection of thousands of books from Connecticut to Florida. Museum curator Sabra Gossett took on the challenge. She coordinated the shipment through a local shipping company. The U.S. Space Force Historical Foundation utilized the Jared Isaacman Donation to fund the shipment and rehousing materials.

The books arrived a few weeks ago. Staff and volunteers have painstakingly reboxed the entire collection in archival cartons for temporary storage. The next phase will involve an item-level inventory. Eventually, the entire library will be made available for students and scholars for generations to come!

DID YOU KNOW?



Silencers were used for jet engines in the Industrial Zone of the Cape during the 1950s and into the 1960s. These "detuners" were large tubes that extended out from exterior walls. They discharged exhaust and dampened engine noise at missile assembly buildings. Think about all those jet engine-powered Matador, Mace, Bull Goose, Bomarc, and Snark missiles assembled and prepped before heading to the launch pads for test launches. Without the detuners, the Industrial Zone would have been a deafening environment for Cape workers. Versions are still employed by jet engine manufacturers today.



Message from the Director

James W. Draper



Can museums improve your health and well-being? Recent international studies have revealed some extraordinary findings!

What are museums? In short, they are institutions that collect, preserve, and interpret artifacts. Museum professionals take on these tasks to educate and inspire future generations. It's a lofty responsibility. In nearly every community throughout our great country, you will find at least one museum struggling against agents of decay and limited resources to fulfill these essential services.

Recent research out of the Netherlands attributed even more significance to the work of museums. Commissioned by the Mauritshuis Museum, a [neurological study](#) revealed that original art stimulates a person's brain 10 times more than looking at a reproduction. Brain scanners and eye-tracking equipment proved it. The director of the Mauritshuis explained that "you become [mentally] richer when you see things, whether you are conscious of it or not, because you make connections in your brain." A professor in clinical neuropsychology commented that "this (museums) is a rich environment that really makes a difference... particularly for children in the growth phase."

That's incredible! But, it's also no surprise to us museum professionals. We know the power of original artifacts and connections made with them. That's why we are so passionate about our work.


At the same time across the channel, British museum professionals are helping people [regain their lost attention](#). A "Mindful Museum Campaign" at the Manchester Art Gallery over the past 12 years has evolved to prove

the mental health benefits of slowing down and connecting personally with artifacts on display.

"The act of learning, which we find in museums, increases our confidence, our self-worth, our self-esteem, and it's a really big boost for mental health," says Louise Thompson of the Manchester Art Gallery. She elaborates that the very act of noticing and connecting with an artifact on display is the cornerstone of mindfulness meditation. That simple act of slowing down and taking time to notice the details of an object builds meaning. These skills are transferrable to other aspects of your life.

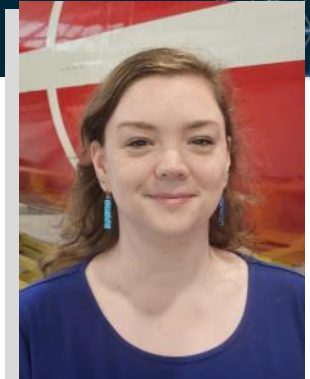
Once again, nothing really new for us. Our team of staff and volunteers see this all the time as visitors new to our sites marvel over the original artifacts on display. The power of originality and authenticity is evident in their eyes, especially among those who view the rocket and missile restorations in Hangar C!

With all this in mind, make 2025 a museum year! Visit some museums new to you. Don't rush through them. Spend some extra time in front of an artifact that really speaks to you. Connect with it. Take in its shape, form, colors, composition, textures, and its unique connection to a moment in time. Your body and mind will benefit from it.


James W. Draper, Museum Director

The Curator's Corner

with Sabra Gossett



Welcome to March! It's the month known for the arrival of Spring and St. Patrick's Day. This year, March also holds the sixtieth anniversary of Gemini III.

On March 23, 1965, Virgil "Gus" Grissom and John Young launched from Cape Kennedy LC-19 in the *Molly Brown*. Their primary aim: test the new two-man system and Gemini spacecraft. About two hours into the almost five-

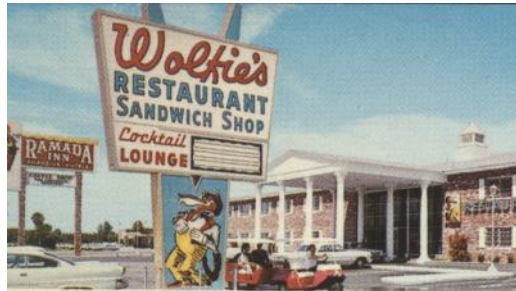


hour mission, Young surprised Grissom with a contraband corned beef sandwich. Fellow astronaut Wally Schirra had bought it two days earlier at a local Cocoa Beach deli called Wolfie's and given it to Young, who smuggled it aboard in his pants pocket.

Here the official transcript for that moment:

Grissom: What is it?
Young: Corn beef sandwich.
Grissom: Where did that come from?
Young: I brought it with me. Let's see how it tastes. Smells, doesn't it?
Grissom: Yes, it's breaking up. I'm going to stick it in my pocket.
Young: Is it?
Young: It was a thought, anyways.
Grissom: Yep.
Young: Not a very good one.
Grissom: Pretty good, though, if it would just

Part of Gemini III's mission was to evaluate NASA-approved astronaut food. Corned beef on rye was not on the list. Its crumbs could have been dangerous, floating behind an instrument panel, or in an astronaut's eyes. After the flight, Young was reprimanded, but his career did not take a hit. Young was the longest-serving astronaut, becoming the first person to fly six space missions. Young's association with corned beef, did not end at Gemini III, however. Corned beef was on the menu of the first space shuttle mission in April 1981, which Young happened to command.



I don't know what recipe Wolfie's used, but being an eighth Irish, I couldn't help but share a [recipe for corned beef](#) (ironically, I'm a vegetarian). We don't have a family recipe, but we've used the one at [wellplated.com](#) with great success.

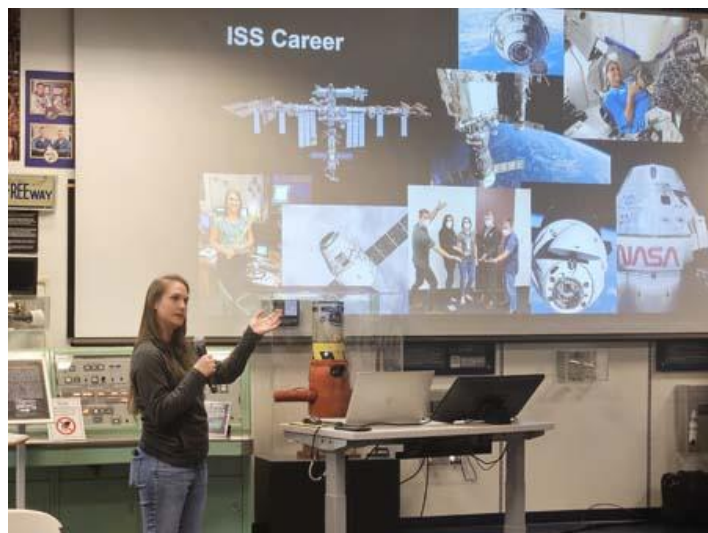
Corned beef is called such due to the dry curing process used to preserve the meat, rather than the use of corn the vegetable. My dad always says the secret to a great corned beef is the brine. Serve on rye with mustard, or with cabbage to celebrate your St. Patrick's Day and Gemini III anniversary!

- Sabra

Museum Updates and News

Volunteer Inspiration

The first official Museum Volunteer Association meeting of the year was held on 6 January at the Sands Space History Center. Becky Sewell was guest speaker for the night. She gave a fascinating presentation on her career as an aerospace engineer, ISS Flight Controller and Instructor, ISS Astronaut Trainer, and SpaceX Launch Site Mission Manager. She's emblematic of the caliber of speakers George Bartuska and our Special Events Committee bring to our volunteer meetings. *(To the right is a view of Becky Sewell sharing her experiences working different parts of NASA's ISS programs.)*



Supporting Our Warfighters

Museum facilities like the Sands Space History Center and Hangar C are popular venues for an array of military ceremonies. The facilities are provided to our service members free of charge. Most are Space Force or Air Force ceremonies, with the occasional Navy or Coast Guard. On 11 January, we hosted a U.S. Army promotion ceremony at Hangar C. The troops serve in the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) out of Port Canaveral. They loved Hangar C! *(To the left shows the troops lining up in formation outside after the ceremony.)*

Model Rocketry Outreach

Model rocketry was the subject of our first CAPE Series event for the year, held on 25 January at the Sands Space History Center. It also served as the first outreach event attached to the 75th anniversary of launches beginning on the Cape. George Bartuska and Gary Dahlke explained the basics of model rocketry to a full house. They demonstrated how some of the equipment worked. Younger kids enjoyed the coloring station. Space Force Association (SFA) Florida Chapter helped organize the special event. *(To the right museum volunteers George Bartuska and Gary Dahlke interact with visitors after the program.)*



Museum Updates and News



New Glenn Blow Out

Hangar C survived the inaugural Blue Origin New Glenn (NG-1) launch off LC-36 on 13 January. The 322' rocket launched from a pad located less than a mile away from Hangar C. A camera inside captured some of the sound and vibration of the launch. Several old windows on the north side of the facility did shatter from the launch. Museum staff and volunteers will install more instruments for subsequent launches to determine any preservation issues that may require some attention. *(To the left shows plastic sheeting covering a damaged window before Cape Support replaced them.)*

Honoring the Fallen

Every year on 27 January, a memorial ceremony is held at historic LC-34 to honor the lives of astronauts Gus Grissom, Ed White, and Roger Chaffee. Their lives were tragically cut short with the Apollo 1 disaster on 27 January 1967. The Astronaut Memorial Foundation coordinated the event for the second year in a row. Family, friends, and well-wishers attended the event. Our very own Scott Zamorski made some special mementos for the three families and presented them during the ceremony. *(To the right shows Scott presenting items to the Grissom family.)*



Space Mobility Conference

Jamie Draper and Sabra Gossett attended the third annual Space Mobility Conference & Expo on 28 January. They learned all about current issues around space access, rapid delivery, and orbital resiliency. While there, they connected with current and future mission partners in preserving and presenting the rich history of Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. They also spread the word about the Museum and introduced new audiences to Rupert the Space Armadillo. *(To the left is a photo of Jamie Draper, Sabra Gossett, and Rupert posing in a lunar rover mockup at the NASA section.)*

Museum Updates and News

Community Outreach

Connection to local communities is essential toward the Museum fulfilling its outreach mission. Museum staff and volunteers continually offer presentations to local groups. On 29 January, Jamie Draper gave a presentation on the Museum to the Cocoa Beach Rotary Club. His slide deck offered insight into the past, present, and future of the Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum, followed by a lengthy questions-and-answers session from the engaged audience. *(To the right Jamie and Rupert the Space Armadillo pose with the group during the luncheon.)*



Employee Engagement

Someone once wrote “All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.” Museum staff and volunteers contend with a never-ending list of preservation, organization, facility, outreach, and exhibit projects. National Have Fun at Work Day on 31 January offered a break. Jamie Draper, Sabra Gossett, and Roger McCormick took some time to enjoy the fine weather at the beach. They completed a successful beach cleanup on the Cape and found some interesting treasures along the way. *(To the left the trio pose with their trash before depositing it all in the dumpster.)*



The Mercury 13 Exhibit

A full understanding of Project Mercury, the United States’ first astronaut program, requires an appreciation for Mercury 13. A special exhibit curated by Sabra Gossett is now available for viewing and exploring at the Sands Space History Center. It tells the story of Mercury 13 through engaging text, images, video, and original documents on loan. It’s up for a limited time, so don’t miss out! Remember, the History Center is open six days a week and is FREE admission! *(To the right is a view of the special exhibit now on display at the Sands Space History Center.)*

Museum Updates and News



Enhanced Security

The terrorist attacks in New Orleans and Las Vegas over the New Year holiday resulted in heightened security for Department of Defense facilities and military installations worldwide. Most saw a suspension of the Trusted Traveler program for a week. The Cape, however, experienced a suspension of vehicle placards, launch-viewing, and historical tours for several weeks, out of “an abundance of caution”. It’s one of many challenges the Museum faces operating on an active military spaceport considered the World’s Premier Gateway to Space. Please be patient as we all contend with the new security measures in place.

More Community Outreach

Museum volunteer Randy Coppola gave another enthralling presentation at the Cape Canaveral Public Library on 10 February. He presented historic videos and photos showing the unique history of Cape Canaveral Space Force Station and its surroundings. Most of the material shown was digitized by Mr. Coppola in the Museum’s reference collections and never before been publicly viewed. His presentations are a huge contribution to the Museum’s outreach mission. *(To the right Randy Coppola shares Cape history with a “full house” at the Cape Canaveral Public Library.)*



75th Anniversary Merch

Seventy-five years of launch have ushered in exciting developments this year. The Sands Space History Center continues to provide monthly outreach programming leading up to July. The U.S. Space Force Historical Foundation now offers exciting, highly collectable 75th anniversary merchandise at the Gift Shop. These include 75th anniversary patches, lapel pins, and ornaments. Be sure to purchase now before supplies run out! *(To the left Rupert the Space Armadillo poses with the goodies now for sale. Visit the Gift Shop page [here](#) for details.)*

Museum Updates and News

Another Slice of PIE

On 18 February, the Sands Space History Center hosted another exciting Partners In Education (PIE) event. PIE involves scores of dedicated education professionals from throughout Brevard County Schools. The event included a meeting with informational discussions followed by a special tour of Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum sites led by Jamie Draper. Special thanks to the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse for handling much of the logistics and the U.S. Space Force History Foundation for covering refreshments. *(To the right Jamie and Rupert pose with some of the group in Hangar C.)*



LC-47 Receives Recognition

Another round of outdoor historical panels is starting to pop up around Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. Museum staff, volunteers, and Rupert the Space Armadillo are spreading education and inspiration by installing these essential markers at key historic sites. The latest edition is a new panel at Launch Complex 47 explaining the significance of the site to passersby. A QR code on the panel guides inquisitive individuals to a deeper dive on the Museum's website. *(To the left is a view of the panel after installation.)*

School Tours Continue

Educational outreach is a part of the core mission of the Museum. Heightened security measures closed access to most of our facilities in January. However, school group tours fired back up in February with a vengeance. The Lighthouse team coordinated most of the logistics for the bus and caravan tours, which brought hundreds of students through Museum facilities. Who knows... these tours could inspire many of these kids to one day join the ranks of the U.S. Space Force! *(To the right is a view of museum volunteer Carl Claunch taking a home-school group through Firing Room B.)*



Museum Updates and News



Semper Supra on Display

A special exhibit marking the 5th Birthday of the U.S. Space Force graced the Sands Space History Center recently. Roger McCormick curated the display. An iteration of the display has now moved to the Space Force Gallery within the Exhibit Hall at LC-26. It offers much-needed historical content on the background of the U.S. Space Force within that space and has been well received ever since installation. Check it out during your next visit to the Exhibit Hall. *(To the left is a view of the display in place at the Exhibit Hall. Note the 1/10th scale GPS satellite exhibited above it.)*

CAP Partners

On 22 January, the Ti-Co Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol held an evening event at the Sands Space History Center. The event included guest speaker, Christ Cottrill, Launch Site Coordinator for NASA and Guest Engagement Manager for Holiday Inn Club Vacations. He shared examples of his space launch photography. Attendees enjoyed a taco bar and took in the fantastic exhibits of the History Center. *(To the right is a photo of museum volunteer and CAP leader, Al Therriault, addressing the crowd at the Sands Space History Center.)*



Astronaut Friends

Museum Curator Sabra Gossett attended a private screening of *Spacewoman*, a film by Haviland Digital Productions about the life of retired NASA astronaut and USAF colonel, Eileen Collins. The special event was hosted by the Astronaut Memorial Foundation at Kennedy Space Center. In all, Col Collins enjoyed a lengthy and accomplished career in the USAF as a pilot. She then flew on four NASA Space Shuttle missions—STS-63, STS-84, STS-93, and STS-114—piloting the first two and commanding the second two. *(To the left is a view of Sabra Gossett introducing Rupert the Space Armadillo to Col Eileen Collins at the film screening.)*

Our Museum Family



CAPE CANAVERAL
SPACE FORCE
MUSEUM

Museum Staff:

James Draper, Museum Director
Sabra Gossett, Museum Curator
Rupert the Space Armadillo, Mascot

Museum Volunteer Association:

Randy Wehrung, Chairperson
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



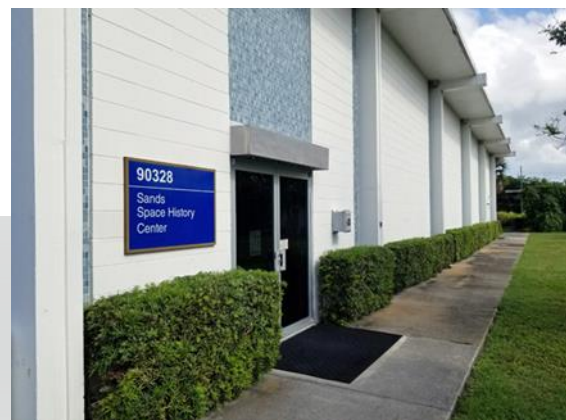
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