



LUNAR'clips 2009

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USS Hornet - Splashdown 2009

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If you were a little kid in the 1960's, I am sure you all remember being glued to the TV as we watched the Saturn V Apollo 11 blast-off from Kennedy Space Center.

Onboard were Michael Collins, Neil Armstrong and Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin. Days later we watched in awe as the Lunar Module gently landed on the Moon and the words came back: "Houston, Tranquility Base, The Eagle has landed." Neil Armstrong stepped out on the edge of the LEM and proceeded down the ladder, and we all waited breathlessly for him to take his first steps on the Moon. I was 5 years old and it changed my life forever.

Fast-forward: Saturday and Sunday, this July 25th and 26th, LUNAR Rocket Club had the honor of attending the Splashdown Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Astronauts landing on the moon. Saturday, the day started out a bit cloudy but the soon gave way to clear skies and a warm and a beautiful day.



My brother George Thym and myself were among the very first folks on the boat, and we got right to work setting up the LUNAR exhibit of all the Saturn Vs and manned flight rockets we had brought for display.

Jamie Clay and His wife Jeannie brought the Mercury Joe rockets, and rockets for the kids to touch and handle. Jamie set up his digital picture frames and mini DVD player for the folks to see the rockets in action. I really enjoyed seeing those pictures flash through. It gave people a real idea of what we model rocketeers do. Eric Ebert brought his Polecat 10" Saturn V, Alan Marcum brought the Apogee Saturn V that he launched at Moonfest 2009, and LUNAR President Dave Ramondi brought Gary Walker's fine ARES 1 to show off.



Jack Hagerty brought ARA Press rocket books for display & purchase. The books are very interesting and folks asked many questions.



The crowds grew in size, and by noon we were soon out-numbered by the thousands of visitors. Families with their children came up to the booth and asked all manner of questions: Are those real rockets, How much do they cost, where can we buy them, how high do they go, etc. In time many kids had asked nicely to touch and look at the small rockets we had for them to handle and you could see their imaginations take off.

Around noon we all began to look for things to eat and see. There was a chance to tour the USS Hornet, I think each of us took a little time to do that.

