



Science Alive Report

February 5th, 2011

What Started It...

This past September I received a call from Becky Bahu from the Saint Joseph County Public Library at work. She told me about an event that has been running for almost 20 years at the main branch of their library. It is an event held once a year where exhibitors come from different hobbies and organizations come to show the kids different aspects of real-world science.

Becky went on to describe the sheer number of people that would come through the library typically for this event. Somewhere in the range of 4000 or more students and parents.



Preparations...

Several weeks prior to the event preparations started like asking around for rockets to be put on display. We were assigned to an area with near the cafe where the ceiling is over 20' high. This meant we had a lot of room to work with.

A week prior to the 1/29 launch Michael Adams agreed to let us use Groovy Baby as a display piece. Many thanks go to Michael for this because Groovy Baby was the hit of our display. People stood in amazement that we actually flew something that big - and bigger. With the help of Dave McVeigh we got Groovy Baby back to Stevensville where I picked it up the day before Science Alive.

The Wednesday prior to Science Alive was the infamous snowstorm which kept myself and my daughter Morgan home. We spent the day working on the informational display. We posted pictures along with a lot of information about our hobby.

The day before coming to Science Alive, I went to the club trailer to pickup all of the stuff needed for display. This included the large away pad, 4 of the mid powered pads, club sign, model pads, etc. What I learned for next year is just get someone to bring the entire trailer down - it would just be easier.

The day before the show I got a call from Bob Jablonski of Starlight rockets. He wanted to know how many kits I wanted to hand out to the show. I had no idea what to say and Bob threw out a number - 500. HOLY COW! Of course we'll take them! Bob Bycraft got the kits to the show in time for us to pass them out. Thanks Bob!

Not only that but we also bought 2 starter kits to be given away from Red Arrow Hobbies. Dave was gracious enough to sell them at a reduced price. Thanks Dave!

Day of the show...

All of us arrived at the Library at 7 o'clock to begin setting up. Larry Koskie and Jim Fields met me there and we had our display set up in short order. We spent the remaining time prior to opening the show milling around and checking out other displays. There was some amazing stuff there - even a few moon rocks from Apollo 16.





Just before the doors opened Bob Bycraft showed up with the rocket kits from Starlight. We handed those out all day long to kids of all ages. If we would have had 515 kits it would have been perfect.



Morgan and Jim Fields daughter, Italia took it upon themselves to spend much of the day showing kids how to pack parachutes in the "Rokit Bukit" rockets.

Words cannot express my gratitude for all the help to make this event a reality. Many thanks go out to Red Arrow, Starlight, Bob, Larry and Jim. Without all of you this would not have been possible. Thanks also go out to the Saint Joseph Public Library for hosting this event.

By Dave Brunsting, Prefect
L2 - NAR 85879 | TRA 12369



We were slammed with kids, parents, grandparents, etc. all day long asking all sorts of questions from all walks of life - even aerospace engineers. Kids flooded the area around the rocket displays. To many of the parents surprise and the kids delight, they were allowed to touch many of the rockets. Jim Fields' "Spongebob Arcas Pants" was a huge hit with the little ones.



Larry Koskie brought a wealth of information from a flight he recently had at Three Oaks. Graphs from data downloaded from one of his altimeters made for an interesting talking points for people wanting to know more about our rockets.

