

OSU/NASA Education Projects: Aerospace Education Services Program (AESP) Archive

Oklahoma State University-Stillwater, Oklahoma

Spacemobiler Fame by Edd Romans. Written 2001.

Spacemobiler Fame
by Edd Romans

My name is Edd Romans and my territory included Florida, Georgia, Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, although I never got to see the Virgin Islands or Puerto Rico. I had promised my wife that we would get there some day but it had to occur after my time with the space program. I worked with Steve Duchek out of Kennedy Space Center

My first year with the program was in the fall of 1982. The shuttle was becoming operational. I was using slides in my classroom presentations. In the spring of 1983 that changed. The change came in the form of the Lazer Disc Player which later that year was coupled with an Apple 2e Computer. Enter the digital and computer age, gone is the fear of dumping an entire tray of slides!

The Space Mobile program and NASA education have given the educational community the ability to experience some of the discoveries of space exploration almost instantaneously. This was made possible with school visitations by Space Mobilers.

Another boon to education was the inclusion of summer workshops. Now any teacher could enhance his/her knowledge of space education by signing up for information-packed 2-week sessions. These sessions included tours of NASA's centers and meeting scientists working on upcoming projects. I have been an educator for 30 years and have not seen a workshop that competes with the excitement and quality of the summer workshops provided by the education program

During my 2 year tenure with the program, I would usually find time in the day to run several miles (an activity I find more challenging over the years). On one particular outing in South Miami, I ran past a newspaper box. As I glanced at the front page of the Miami Herald I thought to myself "that person on the front page resembles me a bit". Ignoring it I continued to run until I reached the next newspaper box. At this point my curiosity got the best of me so I stopped to look a bit closer. There, in full color, was yours truly holding the space shuttle tile explaining its importance to a group of elementary teachers at an inservice I had done the previous day.

Since my territory required me to stay in a specific location for a period of time, at times, I was seen as somewhat of a celebrity by some of the teachers in the districts where I did several ongoing inservices. One of the districts actually had an incentive program attached to a fitness class stating: "LOOSE 10 POUNDS, AND WIN A DINNER WITH THIS MAN"! There again was my picture. Just some of the perks associated with being a Space Mobiler!

Another amusing experience had to do with model accuracy, specifically the Space Station. I can remember that in the spring of 1983 hardly any of the Space Mobilers had an accurate model due to the fact that in the Space Station's evolution, change was a constant. Little did I know that there would be at least 15 more years of change. Poor John Ulrich trying to stay ahead of the curve and still be accurate with model building.

Although my tenure was brief, I was left with experiences worth a lifetime of memories that I carry with me personally and professionally.