



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**COOL OFF AND ENJOY SOME "HOT" EXHIBITS:
SPACE WEATHER, SPACE TOYS, AND KALUSA MINIATURE AIRCRAFT ADD
"LIFT" TO THE END OF SUMMER!**

SPACE WEATHER EXHIBIT

On display through August 31. To introduce the public to space weather, the Challenger Space Center is currently hosting a traveling science exhibition called the Space Weather Center. The exhibit uses interesting graphics, video displays, and interactive components for hands-on learning to explore the Sun-Earth connection. The Space Weather Center also demonstrates how scientists use a variety of tools, including satellites, to forecast storms in our near-space environment. The Space Weather Center, developed by the Space Science Institute of Boulder, Colorado, will be on display at the Challenger Space Center through August 31, 2003. Access to the exhibit is free with general admission to the Center.

KALUSA MINIATURE AIRCRAFT EXHIBIT

On special loan through September 13 from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott, AZ.

The world's largest collection of miniature airplane models is housed in the library at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. A portion of the collection, about 250 pieces, is on special loan to the Challenger Space Center to help celebrate the Centennial of Flight year 2003.

The Kalusa Collection is comprised of over 5,000 pre-flight, private, commercial, military, experimental and rocket aircraft models from all over the world. This collection, the world's largest to-scale collection of airplane models, was inducted into The Guinness Book of World Records at a special ceremony in July at Embry-Riddle.

On display are miniature models representing aircraft from the early 1900s through 2001. Each model is built to 1/18 inch-to-a-foot scale. Consistent use of this scale provides all aircraft in the collection with accurate size relationships to one another. Each model is also hand-painted with the detailed markings characteristic of the aircraft.

Mr. John W. Kalusa was a man who painstakingly handcrafted this collection over much of his life. In 1987, Embry-Riddle became a permanent home for his entire collection, where it is on public display in the University's library. Mr. Kalusa continued to carve and paint an average of two models a week at his home in Mesa until his death last year at the age of 80.

SPACE TOYS EXHIBIT

On long-term display. An exhibit featuring nearly fifty "Space Toys" from the collection of Scottsdale resident Mr. Armando Bras is currently on long-term display in the Center's second floor



gallery. Over the last five decades, society's enthusiasm for exploring the unknown led to the mass production of a number of consumer items that capitalize on the wonder and danger associated with space and space travel. Mr. Bras owns literally hundreds of items pertaining to space, including toys that commemorate particular NASA projects, books, autographed pictures of astronauts, rocket-shaped banks, robots, and even a lunch box that features the famed Apollo moon landing of 1969. The Challenger Center is honored to be temporary home to a portion of his outstanding collection. (Note to Media: Mr. Bras is available for interviews. Contact Paula Cohen, 623.412.9799, to make arrangements.)

Access to all of these exhibits is free with general admission to the Center, which is \$6 for adults; \$4 for seniors and children; free for under age 6. Challenger members are also free. The Challenger Center is open to the public Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; closed on Sundays. The Center is located at 21170 North 83rd Avenue, just off Loop 101 and the Union Hills exit. Information: 623.322.2001, or visit www.azchallenger.org. General admission is \$6 for adults; \$4 for children and seniors; free for members.

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