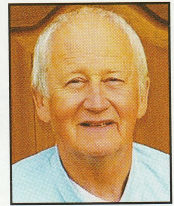




Rocket club's Golden Jubilee

ROCKETRY ■ STUART LODGE



History is all about the people, the few who have a vision and create change for the greater good. Based in Ljubljana, Slovenia, Jože Čuden and Vojko Kogej, who catalysed the genesis of the Astronavsko Raketarski Klub Vladimir M Komarov (ARK Komarov), are just two stunning examples. Stuart Lodge reports.

FIFTEENTH LJUBLJANA CUP – SEPTEMBER 25-26, 1993:

Your scribe's first trip to Slovenia and the (already) famous Space Models' international competition. I was introduced to the Club's flying facilities at the Ljubljana Barje (muddy marsh) in heavy rain and wind and also to



Cool collection of scale models at the Technical Museum of Slovenia, in 2009. But note the paintings by Soviet kosmonaut, Alexei Leonov and artist Andreja Sokolova, some real talent on show.

prominent club members.

Accommodated at the Gostilna Jelen (Deer/Stag Guesthouse), sharing a room with Oliver Missbach (GER), Mikulas Szabo (SVK), Alexei Koriapin and friend Juri Draichuk (RUS), under the care of Jelen's friendly and convivial host. Plenty about to happen through the weekend.

Also, was given a brief tour of the 'clubhouse' in an apartment block nearby, Rimska ceska 13, in the old part of Ljubljana, where I helped teenager Tomzi Kogej with his English homework! But



Super artwork by Alexei Leonov and Andreja Sokolova in the Technical Museum of Slovenia, back in 2009. Creative imagination plays a big part in Space travels.

how did all this begin?

5-4-3-2-1-KICKSTART

November 19, 1969: Young teenagers, Jože Čuden and Vojko Kogej gathered together 13-14-year-old school friends and set up a Model Rocket club, actually incorporating full-size astronomical studies, called Astronavstko Raketarski Klub Vladimir Komarov. The school in question was the Toneta Tomšič Elementary school (today's OŠ Poljane).

The club was named after

“ The design and production of model rocket kits... led to public demonstration launches of 'show rockets' and rocket competitions. ”

the Soviet Union kosmonaut, Vladimir M. Komarov, who rode Soyuz 1; the space capsule's recovery system failing following re-entry to Earth's atmosphere, crashing fatally in Orenberg Oblast, during 1967. Komarov had already flown one space mission on Voshkhod 1 and in a tragic quirk of fate, had taken Juri Gagarin's intended second space boost slot.

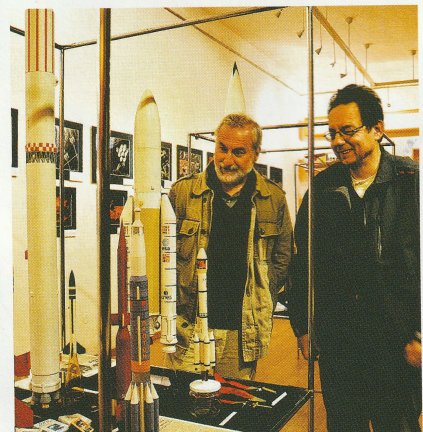
Gagarin was himself to die, in 1968, following a return to his 'day job', as a military test pilot. Sergei Korolev – Soviet Space Programme's Chief Designer –



Meeting around the table during the early days of ARK Komarov. Joze cuden and Vojko Kogej present and contributing.



Fly for fun has always been an element of ARK Komarov's membership. Here we see some night launches on the Ljubljane barje, in the company of Joze Cuden.



Technical Museum of Slovenia, at Bistri, featuring rocket models by ARK Komarov members. Co-founders of the Club, Joze Cuden and Vojko Kogej check out the exhibits, in 2009.

had died of natural causes in 1966. USSR had lost their three major players – Korolev, Gagarin and Vladimir Komarov, in two years.

The setting up of ARK Komarov illustrated an evolving Technical Culture, in the former Yugoslavia. A year following the start, ARK Komarov acquired use of workspaces in the Roška Towers, in Ljubljana, where wide

experimentation into all kinds of model rockets was encouraged. Eventually, this evolved into the sporting pursuit of competition Space Modelling – which had only begun some three years earlier, at the novel Dubnický Maj inaugural event, in the former Czechoslovakia.

The more 'academic' side of the new club was demonstrated when a newsletter focusing

on kosmonautics and rocket modelling, called Kozmoplov was produced and published for members. Unhappily, this facility at Roška was denied ARK Komarov a couple of years later and the club was – so to speak – 'on the road', as a result of national economic cuts and a reduction of the Technical Culture philosophy.

In 1974, the first Championships

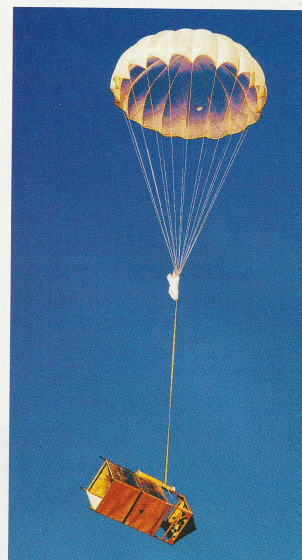
of the Republic of Slovenia took place under the guidance of the novel Commission for Rocket Modelling of Slovenia, which had been set up under the stimulus of ARK Komarov.



Raketno Modelarstvo, by Joze Cuden and Rasto Snoj, was the very first book published in an independent Slovenia in 1993. The TIM journal is put together by Editor, Joze Cuden, as his 'day job' and published around the southern Slavic states.



Super Ariane L-01 atop the souvenirs accumulated by ARK Komarov members over several decades.



ARK Komarov members are experts at launching and recovering.... PORTALOOS! This is always the very last flight at every Ljubljana World Cup.

SECURE ONLINE ORDERING
www.sarikhobbies.com

1000's OF MODEL AIRCRAFT PLAN DESIGNS

PLANS / MOULDINGS / WOODPACKS / TOOLS / ACCESSORIES / DVDs / BOOKS
The Worlds Biggest Selection of Radio Controlled Aircraft, Boat and Model Engineering Plans & Parts

sarik hobbies

The store for the model builder

MODEL AIRCRAFT BUILDER

Find us on Facebook

Our vast range of model aircraft plans has been accumulated from the UK's leading R/C model magazines for close on 50 years! Stocking brilliant plans from the likes of Brian Taylor, Duncan Hutson, and Sepp Uiberlacher plus many more.

- R/C MODEL AIRCRAFT
- R/C SCALE, ELECTRIC, IC SPORT
- GLIDER, X-LIST PLANS (AIRCRAFT)
- FREE FLIGHT AIRCRAFT DESIGNS
- CONTROL LINE & RTP AIRCRAFT
- PARTS & ACCESSORIES
- SHORT KITS & WOOD PACKS
- BOOKS & DVDs

1000'S OF MODEL AIRCRAFT, BOAT & ENGINEERING PLAN DESIGNS AND PARTS FOR YOUR NEXT - OR FIRST - SCRATCH BUILD!

NOW AVAILABLE

BALSA & HARDWOOD DOWEL, BALSA & SPRUCE STRIP, SHAPED BALSA LEADING EDGE, TRAILING EDGE, TRIANGULAR BALSA, BALSA SHEET & STRIP BIRCH PLY

ZAP

SCREWDRIVERS, HAND FILES, SANDING BLOCKS, TOOLS & CLAMPS, EPOXY, AEROSOL, & MORE

100S OF SCALE & SPORT SHORT KIT (SETS) ARE AVAILABLE TO CHOOSE FROM.

This is our popular DH98 Mosquito PR.XVI by Brian Taylor / SET3340
Price: £292.50

Vertigo II (55")
Starts at £19.50 + P&P

The Ohmen (47.5")
Starts at £16.50 + P&P

Maricardo (56")
Starts at £15.50 + P&P

Visit our website to sign up to our newsletter and enjoy regular offers!

RADIO CARBON ART
MODEL CRAFT
Perma-Grit Tools
Tungsten Carbide Abrasives
SKS
Video Productions
Dave Platt Models

VISA
MasterCard
PayPal
Find us on Facebook

www.sarikhobbies.com

Email: info@sarikhobbies.com Tel: 01684 311682

sarik hobbies

Units 8 - 12, Willow End Park, Blackmore Park Road, Welland, Malvern, WR13 6NN

Model Rocket propellants became available from local Chemical Industries, based in nearby Kamnik, based largely on 'Stateside Estes' products.

The design and production of model rocket kits soon followed, which led to public demonstration launches of 'show rockets' and rocket competitions, based on flight duration. This catalysed the setting up of more rocket clubs around the nation and things got bigger. Naturally too, in the mid-1960s, Federation Aeronautique Internationale's (FAI) Aeromodelling Commission (CIAM) had introduced contest rocketry – Space Modelling.

The climax of these developments – local and global

– resulted in the setting up of the inaugural Ljubljana Cup for space models, in 1978. In the popular cliché, the rest is history!

Some years later, in 1981, in common with the rest of the world and the other republics of Yugoslavia, Rocket Modelling became recognised as a sport by the national aeroclub – Federation of the Air Organisations of Slovenia (now called LZS). This very year a club member – the first Slovenian – visited Moscow, to the place where kosmonauts and international space travellers are trained.

Shortly after, on February 8, 1984 – Prešeren Day, Soyuz T-10 flew into space, mimicking the

“
**Jože Čuden and
 Vojko Kogej – two
 young teenagers,
 who in their
 wildest dreams
 could not have
 imagined what
 their passion was
 going to achieve.**
 ”

emblem of the ARK Komarov club. Much was happening in the 'Real World', especially in the land of the southern Slavs.

Independent Slovenia – 1991 saw the 'Ten Day War', when Slovenia declared independence from a failing Yugoslavia – basically Serbia. More positively, 1992 saw the assembly of an official Slovenian Space Modelling Team – based on ARK Komarov members – which participated successfully at the FAI World Space Modelling Championships (WSMC), in Florida, USA. Space Shuttle Endeavour – STS 47 – was launched from Cape Canaveral, one member of Endeavour's crew was NAR rocketeer, Jay Apt.

FIRST BOOK PUBLISHED

The 1990s Club members contributed features to many journals, domestic and international. In addition, Slovenian involvement in symposiums and conferences was very strong. Co-founder of ARK Komarov, Vojko Kogej, penned two widely published features focusing on the deadly risks of sending humans out of their planet's orbit and into the Universe.

1993 saw the publication of the very first book in an independent Slovenia, Raketno Modelarstvo, by Jože Čuden & Rasto Snoj... a stellar publication. Slovenian NASA astronaut, Dr Ronald Sega, revisited his homeland and called on ARK Komarov, presenting the members with a NASA memorial plaque. Now, a lifetime Club member.

World Champs Hosts Slovenia was awarded 1996's 11th World Space Modelling Championships – amazing for so young a country. The Champs attracted some 24 nations, 400 participants, judges and officials – just fantastic. This event was hosted on Kamniško-mengeškem polju, a flood plain between the Julijana Alps, near Kamnik and Mengeš.

It's a super site that has hosted the Ljubljana Cup ever since,



Ljubljana is all about the DRAGON...they're everywhere!



ARK Komarov members go boosting in the 1970s. Some real superstars in that group shot, Joze Cuden on the left of frame.



Slovenia declares independence in 1991, triggering the 10 Day War with Serbia. Bogo Stempihar's Renault tells it like it was.



Anton Sijanec has been the Contest Director at the end of season Ljubljana World Cups for longer than anyone can remember. Passionate ARK Komarov member and (very...) assertive when laying down the law!

“
World Champs Hosts Slovenia was awarded 1996's 11th World Space Modelling Championships – amazing for so young a country.
 ”

with accommodation shifted to dom v Kamniska Bistrica, in the mountains nearby.

Club members have liaised individually, or collectively, with full-size Space experts from Russia, USA, Poland, Germany et al. 1997 saw the first Slovenian visit the RKK Energy Museum, at Koroljov near Moscow – named after the great man, where original spacecraft of the early kosmonauts are exhibited.

November 1999 saw ARK Komarov members participate in the International Students' Conference; called Promise Baikonur, at the Baikonur Kosmodrom. 2006 saw the World Championships for Space Models hosted there, with Slovenia and ARK Komarov featuring strongly.

MOVING ON

The achievements of ARK Komarov members at World

& European Championships, over many years have been fantastic – 11 medals total, plus innumerable World Cup awards. But the Club has never been just about contest FAI Space Modelling. Fly-for-fun rockets and High Power Rocketry (HPR) have featured throughout, not least at the end of season Ljubljana Cups.

The Club has always encouraged the genesis and development of similar organisations, in other regions of Slovenia, which explains why the interest is so strong in this nation of two million inhabitants. In 2008, members came up with a high flying rocket, with a home designed motor, which boosted to 4,500 metres, with an electronic payload.

2009 TO NOW

Club members put together a display for the Technical Museum of Slovenia, in Bistri. A comprehensive array of scale models, space artefacts complemented the amazing artistic works of Soviet kosmonaut, Alexei Leonov and artist, Andreja Sokolova. Your scribe attended and contributed to this exposition, in the company of a large number of visitors.

The Club was moved out from the flat at Tržaška ulica a few years ago and was once more temporarily without a base. These days, ARK Komarov runs model courses for youngsters at a location in Mencingerjeva ulica, hired

weekly during the school year.

Flashback – 2019's 41st Ljubljana Cup will be your scribe's Silver Jubilee 25th visit! Things have just continued to get bigger and better – especially the World Cup Finale, every October. Novel accommodation at the Terme Snovik health spa has been introduced, in a different league to the 1990's Gostilna Jelen.

Oh yes, Gostilna Jelen's friendly and convivial host has recently undergone a long prison sentence for the brutal murder of an associate! Awards continue to come in, including the Ljubljana Centre Award – 1990; Soviet Diploma of Juri Gagarin – 1996; plaque of the Space Agency NASA; FAI Honorary Diploma – 2008; Diploma for the development and dissemination of Rocket Modelling Sport in

Russia – 2008.

Congratulations are to be offered to Jože Čuden and Vojko Kogej – two young teenagers, who in their wildest dreams could not have imagined what their passion was going to achieve. All the other ARK Komarov members too, including Tomislav Kogej, Miha Čuden, Anton Sijanec, Ivan Turk, Drago Perc, Ales Musec, Aljosa Znidarsic, Bogo Stempihar, plus many others. Viva Vladimir Mikhailovich Komarov.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ČUDEN Jože : 40 let astronavta Rocket kluba Vladimir M. Komarov iz Ljubljane, 2008
- RADU Ioan N : Half a Century of World Space Modelling, 2012
- ČUDEN Jože & SNOJ Rasto : Raketno Modelarstvo, 1993



Slovenia's National Space Chmapionships in the 1970s. Plenty of nice scale models on show, with Joze Cuden the 'guy in the blue.



What ARK Komarov is best known for...the Ljubljana Cup end of season bash and those Gold, Silver & Bronze Ljubljana Dragons.



Interkosmos...the world famous motif of the ARK Komarov rocket club.