

Two Night Event: 13 and 14 May 2015

“The X-15 Rocket Plane Flying the First Wings into Space”



Wednesday 13 May, 7:00 pm
Special Showing of the 1961 movie
“X-15”

with Charles Bronson and Mary Tyler Moore
Historic USO Bldg., 230 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.

Thursday 14 May, 7:30 pm
Presentation and Book Signing
“The X-15 Rocket Plane”

by Michelle Evans
Maturango Museum, 100 E. Las Flores Ave.

13 May, THE MOVIE: Before Top Gun, Apollo 13, or The Right Stuff, this breathtaking, jet-fueled journey of high-altitude filmmaking blasted audiences from zero-G to 4,000 miles per hour with its thrilling tale of America’s victory in the space race. X-15 sets the sky as the limit for excitement! The courageous pilots of the Air Force’s X-15 program are determined to take an experimental rocket plane high above the Earth and into space at six times the speed of sound!

There will be a Q&A and discussion following the movie.

14 May, THE PRESENTATION: With the Soviet Union’s launch of the first Sputnik satellite in 1957, the Cold War soared to new heights as Americans feared losing the race into space. “**The X-15 Rocket Plane**” tells the enthralling yet little-known story of the hypersonic X-15, the winged rocket ship that met this challenge and opened the way into human-controlled spaceflight.

Ms. Evans’ presentation will focus on this remarkable research aircraft that held the world’s altitude record for 41 years, and still has no equal to match or better its speed of more than 4,500 mph. Beyond the X-15 are the stories of the 12 men who guided it into space, and all the people who kept the rocket plane flying for nearly a decade. This is the story that has never been told of the vehicle that was the true precursor to the Space Shuttle by being the first piloted and winged vehicle to exit Earth’s atmosphere, and make a controlled reentry to a landing on hard-packed dry desert lakebeds.

In her research, Ms. Evans interviewed nearly 70 people, including 9 of the 12 pilots, such as Neil Armstrong, Scott Crossfield, and Robert White, with family representatives for the remaining pilots. Others she spoke with include managers, flight planners, and the guys in the trenches who made the X-15 ready to fly its next research mission at high altitude and high Mach. Out of that has come the definitive book on the X-15.

Following the talk there will be time for Q&A and book signing.