THE ULTIMATE AIR SUPERIORITY SYSTEM.

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WORKBENCH by PHIL BERNHARDT

WORLD RECORD PAPER AIRPLANES

NASA’s new official visitors center is the Virginia Air and Space Center, which opened its doors only a couple of months ago—April 5, to be exact. One of several aviation-oriented events held to celebrate the occasion was an attempt by students of four Hampton, Virginia area high schools, with help from advisors from the AIAA and tipped the scales at something under eight pounds! This biggie, by the way, set the mark to beat with a glide of 114 feet, 9 inches. The two smaller gliders also made flights of over 100 feet. All were hand launched from a platform 10 feet above the hangar floor.

Congratulations are in order to the students of Bethel, Hampton, Kecoughtan and Phoebus High Schools for their unqualified success—a job well done! Our thanks also

Paper airplanes? You gotta be kidding! It’s no joke, these monsters are built entirely of paper, adhesives and tape. Students from four Hampton, Virginia high schools and their advisors are shown here with two of their three huge paper gliders. One in the foreground spans 24 feet, 3/12 inches, the other is a whopping 30 feet, 6 inches. NASA photo.

the NASA Langley Research Center, to break the existing record for the world’s largest paper airplane, listed in the Guinness Book of Records as having a wingspan of 16.4 feet and having made a glide of 85 feet, 6 inches.

Now a model that size and built totally of paper sounds like—and is—a pretty impressive accomplishment. But it pales practically to the point of insignificance when compared to the giants the Hampton students brought to the Langley Research Center’s hangar on March 25. Actually they had three gliders with them, all of the same basic design—a high aspect ratio, tapered cantilever wing with kicked-up tips for stability, and twin booms supporting the tail surfaces. The booms and leading and trailing edge spars were rolled paper tubes laminated with glue. Now get this: the smallest of the three spanned a huge 24 feet, 3/12 inches, while the granddaddy of the fleet came in at 30 feet, 6 inches, and

to NASA for providing the details and photos of this most interesting project.

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Hampton High School student Kevin Kelley launches one of the giant gliders from a 10-foot high platform inside the big hangar at Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia. This one has a span of 28 feet, 3 inches and recorded a flight of 106 feet, 2 inches. NASA photo.
NORTHEAST SAILPLANES' 'ALCYONE'