

SPACE-X “STARLINK” LAUNCHES[©]

by Dan Pemble, Kissimmee, Florida – February 26, 2024

Who amongst us Central Florida residents does not have a keen interest in the activities at Kennedy Space Center (KSC)? Many of us have seen multiple space shuttle and rocket launches from the front yards of our homes here in the Kissimmee Bay Country Club (KBCC) subdivision, just a short 60 miles away from KSC, or up close in the immediate area of KSC. I believe that each launch that we witness brings about feelings of exhilaration and awe in all of us.

On the afternoon of February 25, 2024, while standing in our KBCC front yard and staring into the northeaster sky, my wife and I witnessed the 141st successful launch of a Space-X Falcon 9 rocket carrying a batch of “Starlink” satellites into orbit. This has aroused my curiosity to learn more about the Starlink project; so, some facts and figures that I have obtained from various web sites, and as stated in my own words, are here for sharing with YOU!

The ultimate Starlink project goal is to have 42,000 satellites in orbit that will afford internet service from all places on earth! The noted 141 launches transpired from February 22, 2018 through February 25, 2024 and resulted in carrying 5896 satellites into low-earth orbits of about 350 miles high.

Adding to the incredibility of 141st successful launches of Space-X’s Falcon 9 rocket on February 25, 2024, its 1st stage booster was used and recovered for the 13th time. Oh yes, on this occasion the booster made a flawless landing on an off-shore ship. Interesting, on several occasions while dining in one of the restaurants near Port Canaveral, I have seen a couple of the recovered Falcon 9 1st stage boosters in temporary storage across the water in the port. As of February 25, 2024, a total of 262 Falcon 9 1st stage boosters have been recovered! Individual boosters have flown as many as 19 times. Wow!

We have all heard the cliché “The Sky is The Limit”; should the word really be LIMITLESS?



Falcon 9 Launch



Booster Recovery