

## MAE 2: Introduction to Aerospace Engineering

# *Class Design Project – Balloon-Sat*

### *Purpose / Goals:*

*First-year aerospace engineering students work in teams to design, build, and fly multi-disciplinary payload experiments on balloon satellites to near-space. Students gain real-world engineering experience developing and assembling sub-systems on space flight critical systems.*

**Instructors: John B. Kosmatka & Keiko Nomura**

**Fall, 2008**

# The Mission Plan



## 4 On-Board Payloads:

- (1) **Atmospheric Sensors:** measure pressure, temperature, humidity, wind velocity, time, radiation, magnetic field, UVA, and UVB with altitude.
- (2) **Solar-Cell Efficiency with Altitude.**
- (3) **UCSD Astronauts:** Environmental chambers containing cockroaches, water-bears, and planeria.
- (4) **Horizontal and Vertical Cameras:** continuous shots every 30 seconds

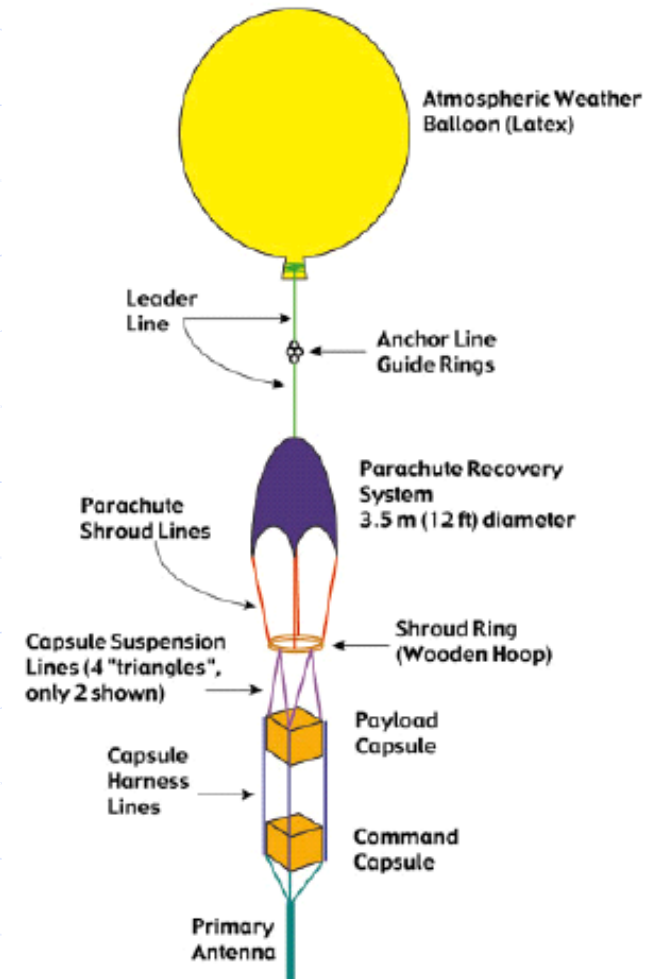


Figure 1. Typical BalloonSat configuration.

# Twenty-Two Students in Six Sub-Teams



**Project Advisor:** John Kosmatka  
**TA's:** Andrew Cavender and Zach Lovering  
**Launch Integrators:** Strato-Star  
**Flight-Day Field Assistant:** Joel Kosmatka  
**Sponsor:** California Space Grant (Tehseen Lazzouni)

Team	Student
<b>Atmospheric Sensors</b>	Farah Ahmed
	David Hernandez-Ibarra
	Peter Reed
	Drew Tobias

<b>Solar Cell Evaluation</b>	David Gross
	Pranay Sangani
	Josiah White

<b>UCSD Astronauts</b>	Ty Lee
	Ryotaro Shimizu
	Kimberly Tomasino

<b>Onboard Camera</b>	Joseph Dillon
	Sarah Lohman
	Ronald Jeter

<b>Structure and Test</b>	Benjamin Bancroft
	Casey Barrett
	Denise Choi
	Randall Hughes
	Hyung Jin O

<b>Mission Control</b>	Owen Eigenbrot
	Mitchell Nihonyanagi
	Christopher Schmidt
	Kwok Yuen



# Project Construction





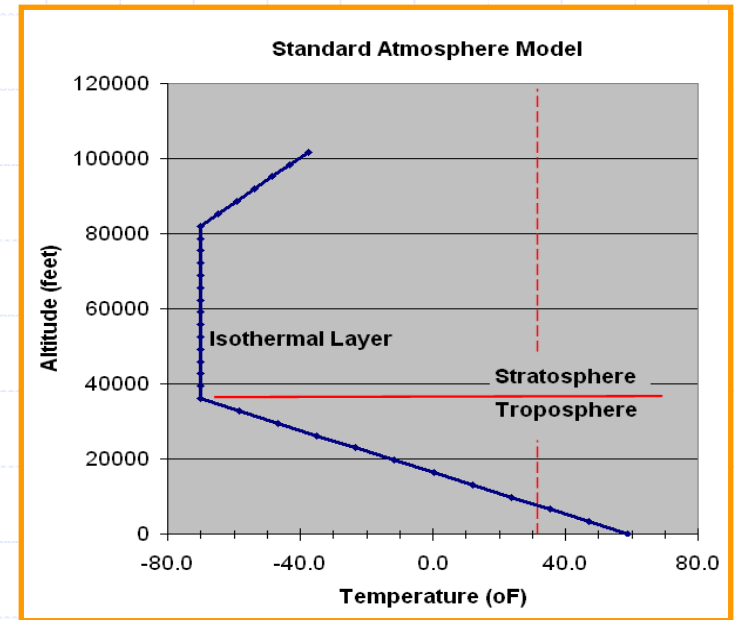
# Project Construction

## Payload Bay Heaters

Standard atmosphere models show linear cooling to (-70 oF) at stratosphere edge, then constant temperature (-70 oF) isothermal layer, followed by linear heating above 82,000 feet.

Payload heaters are required to warm sensors, cameras, and some astronaut capsules. Options:

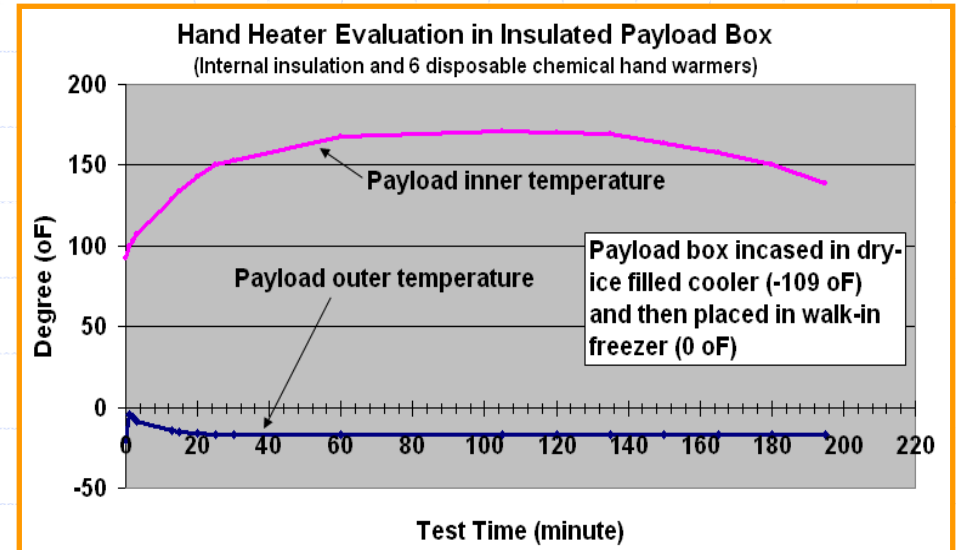
- Chemical (disposable vs reusable)
- Electronic (long-lead development)




Air-activated seven hours of heating at 135 - 156 oF. (REI). Unknown Performance in space (no air, vaccuum).



Reusable 130-degree heating in 15 seconds. One hour. Reuse by boiling in water for six minutes (REI). UCSD tests show no leakage in space vaccuum.



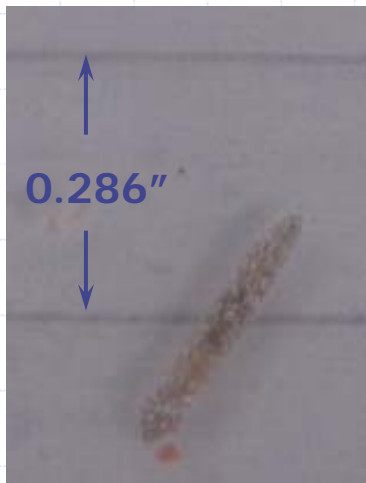




- Temperature
- Pressure and Humidity
- Wind Velocity
- Time
- Radiation (Geiger Counter)
- Solar Cell Evaluation



## Cockroaches & Planaria & Water-Bears



<i>environment</i>	<i>earth</i>	<i>near-space</i>
Altitude (feet)	0	85,000
Temperature (oF)	90	-40
Pressure (psi)	14.7	0.334
Radiation	low	high





# On-Board Cameras



## Top and Side Cameras

- Continuous Photo Shoot at 30-second intervals
- Installed reusable chemical hand-warmers to heat camera bodies





# Launch Day (12/06/2008)



Plaster City, California



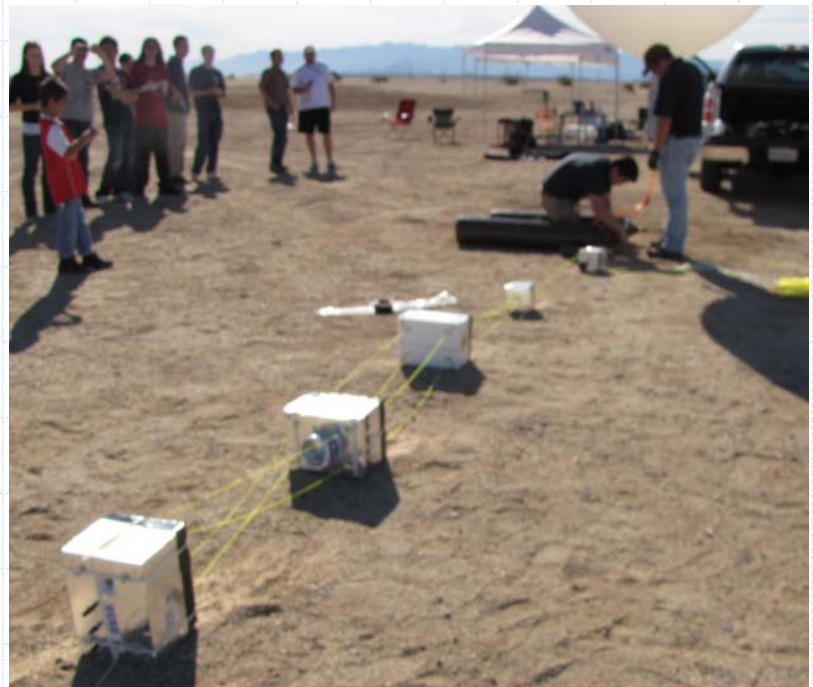
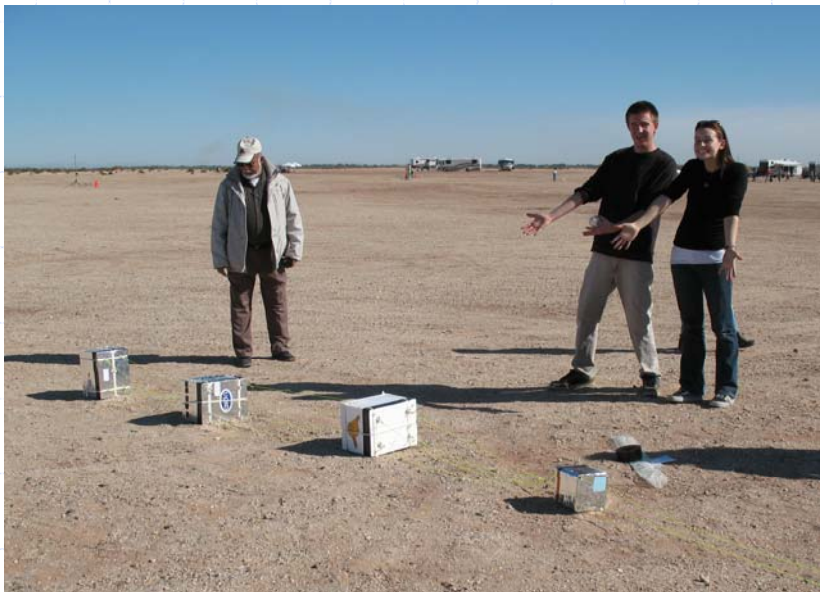
# Pre-Launch (Set-Up)







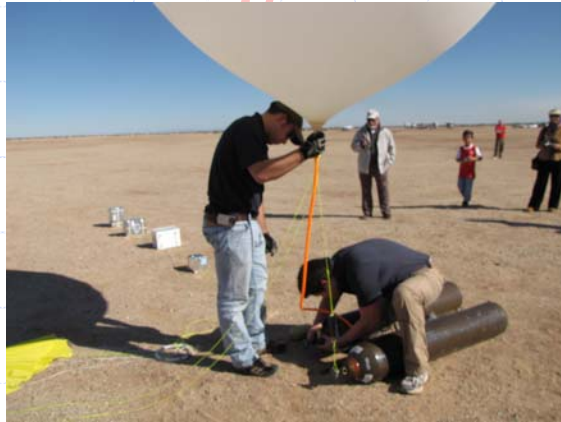
# Pre-Launch (Final Assembly)







# Pre-Launch (Balloon Fill)



Plaster City, California





# Pre-Launch (Tracking Station Set-Up)



Plaster City, California

# Launch (11:50 AM)



Side View



Bottom View



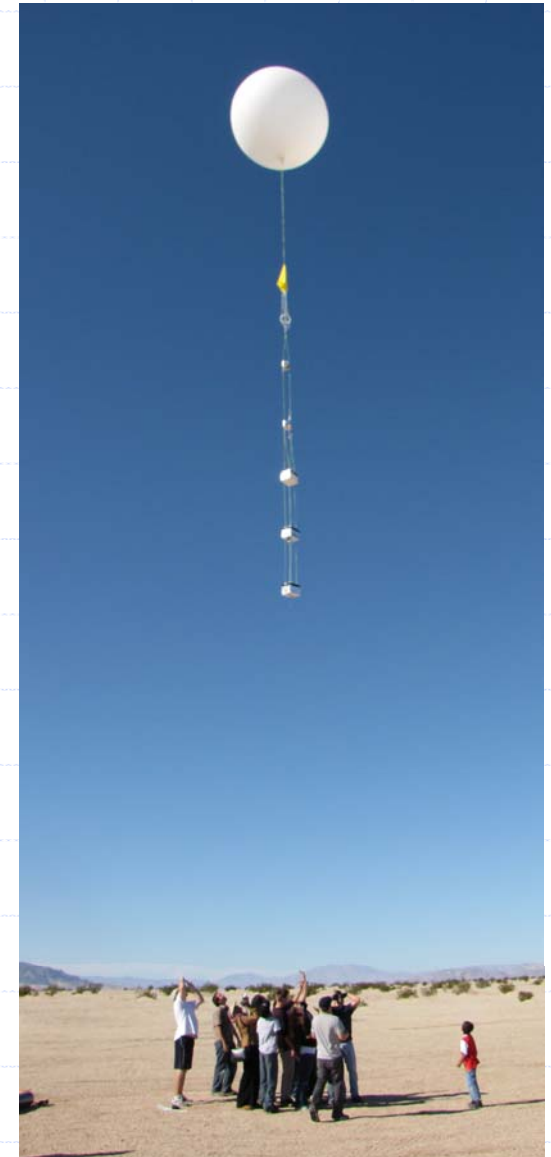
Plaster City, California



# Flight (11:50:30 AM)



Side View



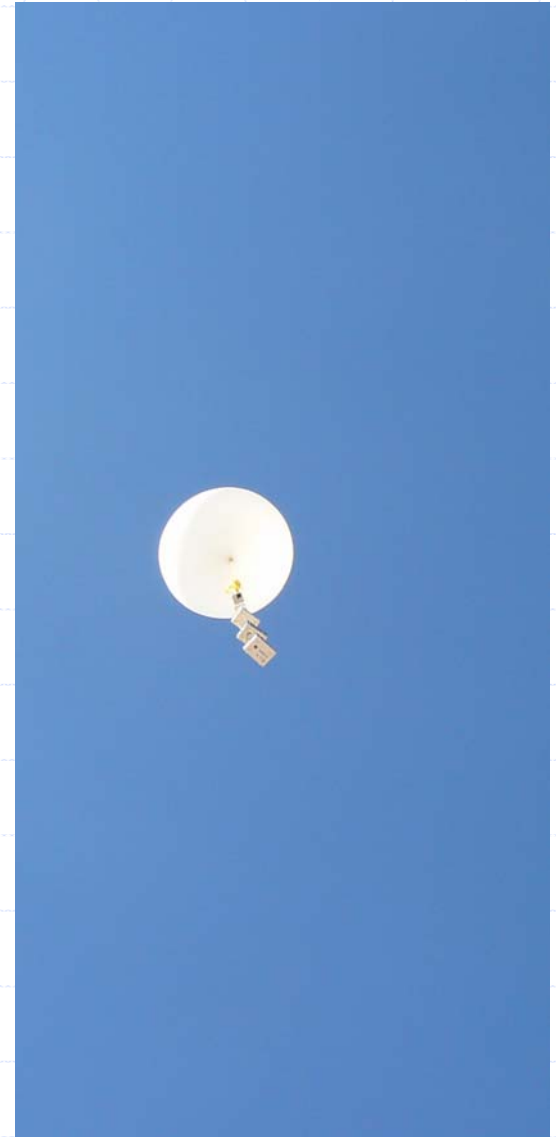
Bottom View

Plaster City, California

# Flight (11:51:00 AM)



Side View



Bottom View

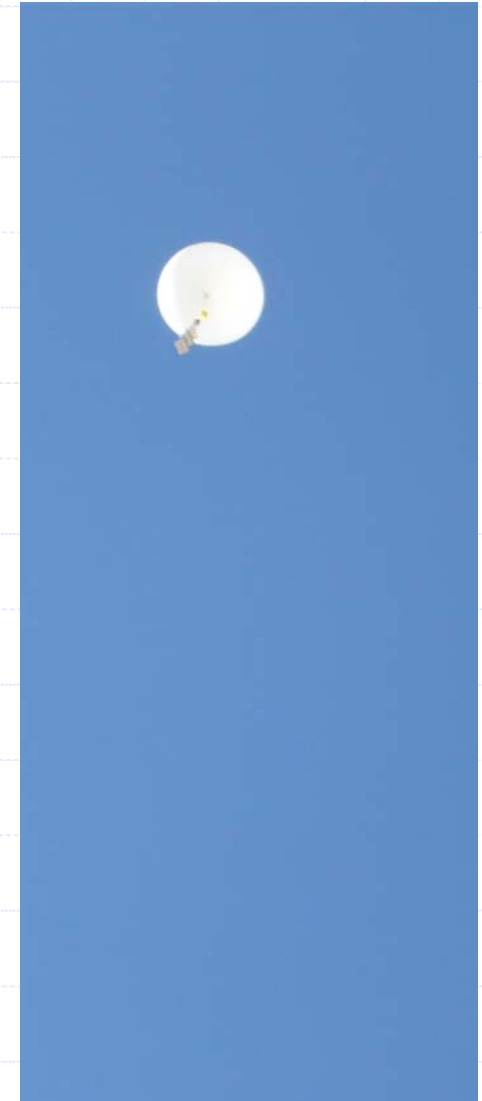
Plaster City, California



# Flight (11:51:30 AM)



Side View



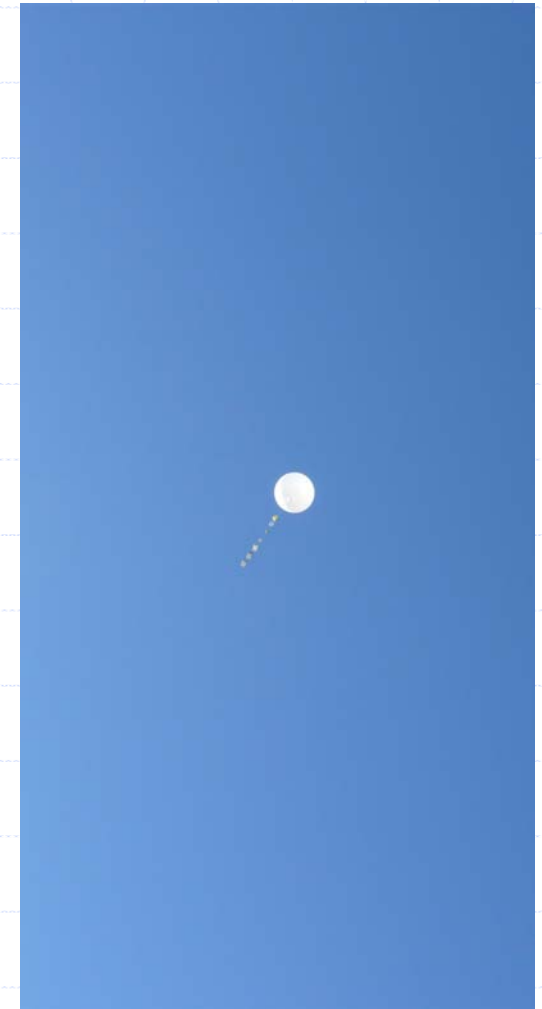
Bottom View

Plaster City, California

# Flight (11:52:00 AM)



Side View



Bottom View

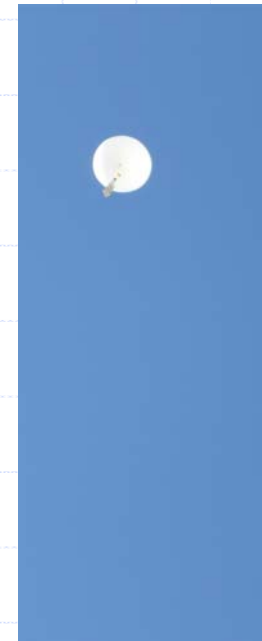
Plaster City, California



# Flight (11:52:30 AM)



Side View



Bottom View

Plaster City, California



# Flight (12:00:00 Noon)



Side View



Bottom View





# Flight (12:15:00 PM)



Side View



Bottom View





# Flight (12:30:00 PM)



Side View



Bottom View





# Flight (12:35:00 PM)



Side View



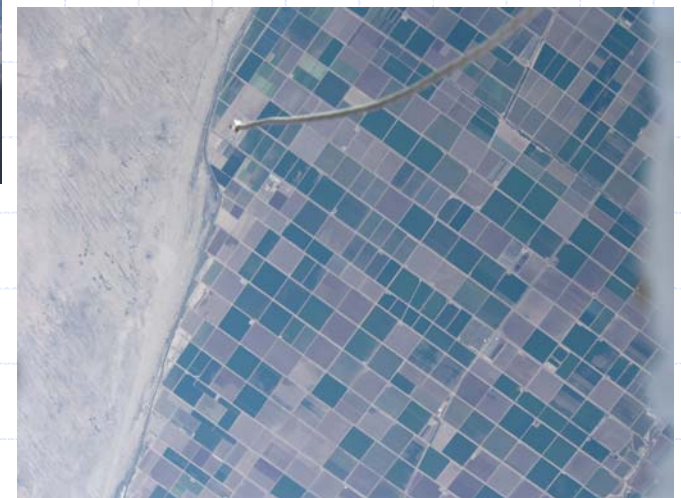
Bottom View



# Flight (12:45:00 PM)



Side View



Bottom View





# Flight (1:00:00 PM)



Side View



Bottom View



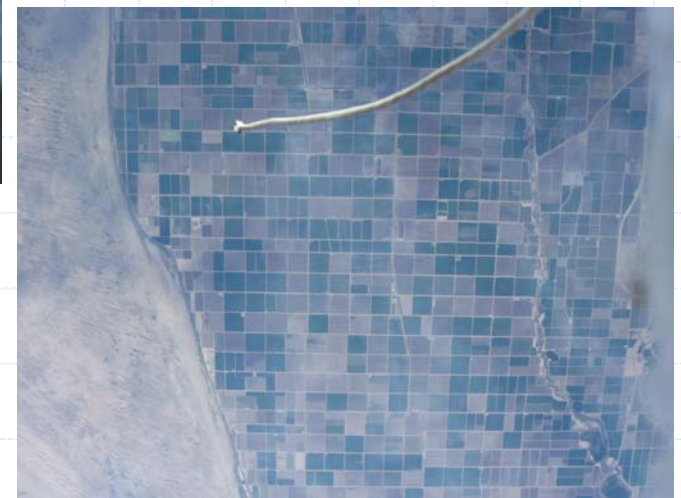
# Flight (1:08:00 PM)



Side View



84,000 feet



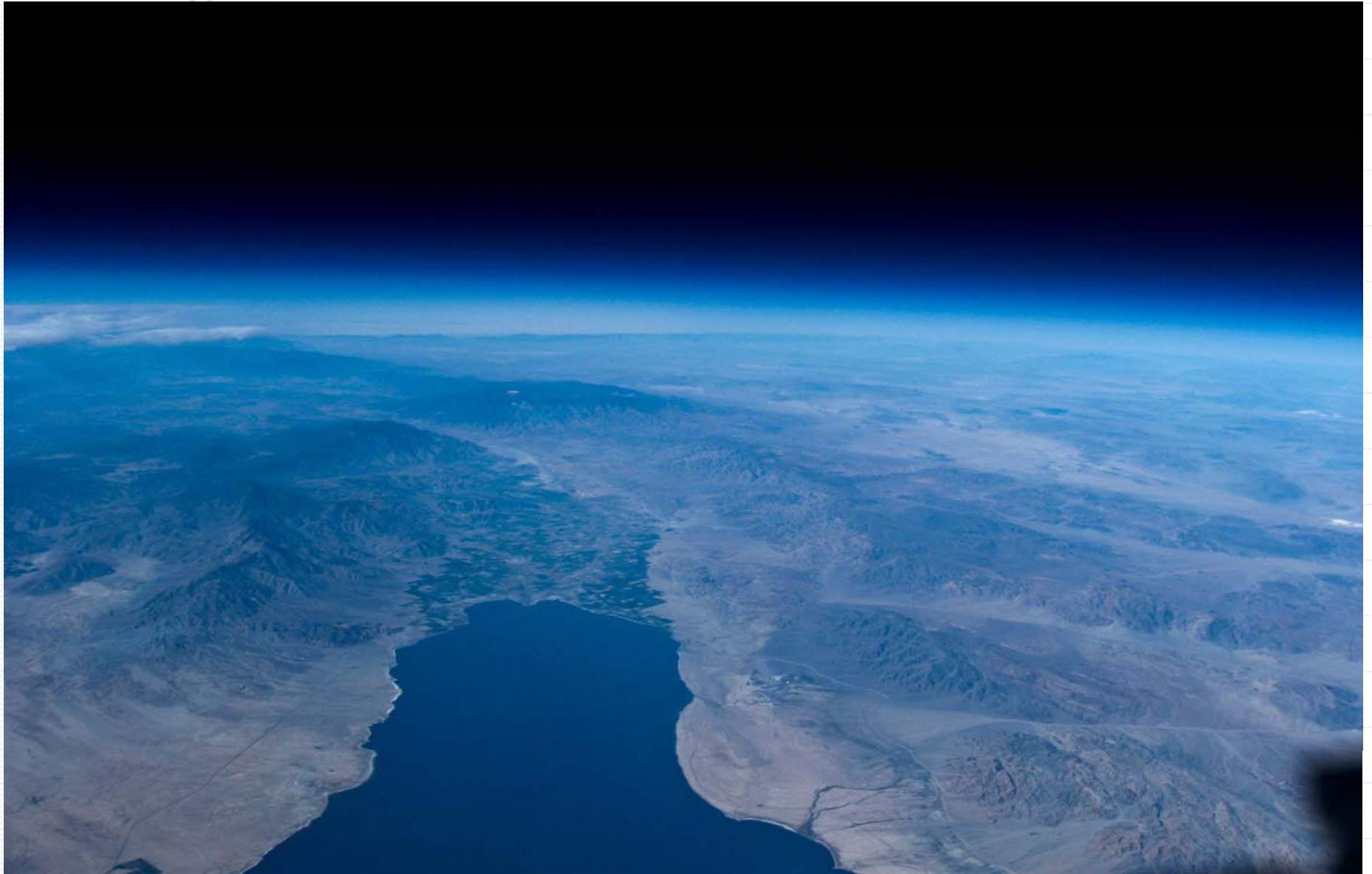
Bottom View





# Looking North Over Salton Sea at 84,000 feet

<http://aerospace.ucsd.edu/> Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department, University of California, San Diego



# Flight (1:09:00 PM)



Side View



Balloon Burst –  
Free-Fall Tumbling  
Begins

Bottom View







# Flight (1:38:00 PM)



Side View

30-minute  
Parachute Drop



Bottom View



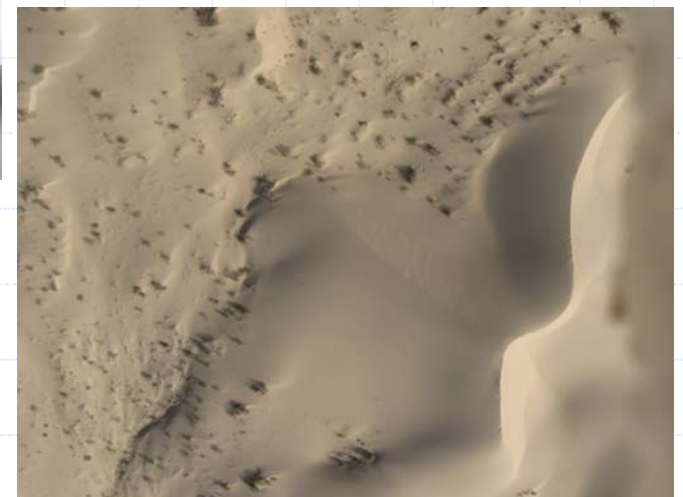
# Flight (1:39:00 PM)



Side View



Landing



Bottom View



# Flight Summary (12/06/2008)



Time: 1 Hour 51 Minutes

Distance: 65 miles

Altitude: 84,000 feet

Fall, 2008

Plaster City, California

Glamis, California





# Payload Recovery (1:46 PM)



Osborne Lookout (65 miles away)





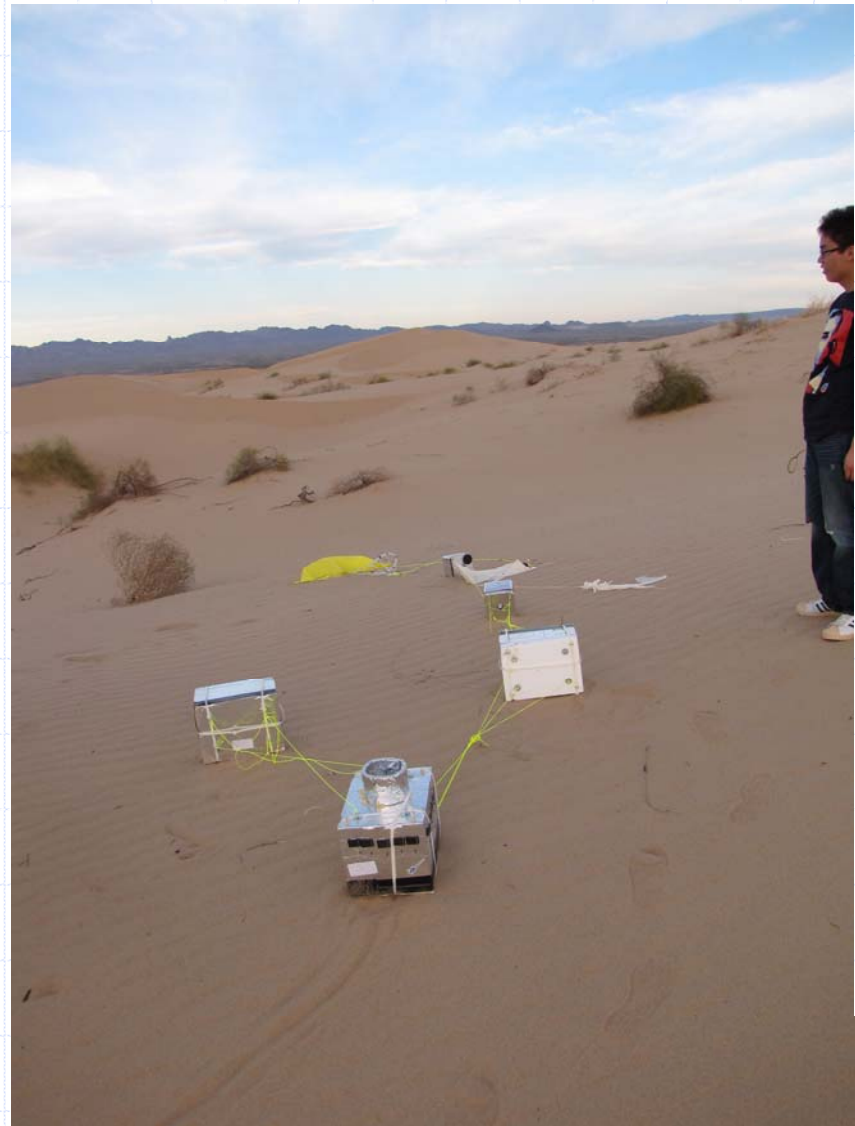
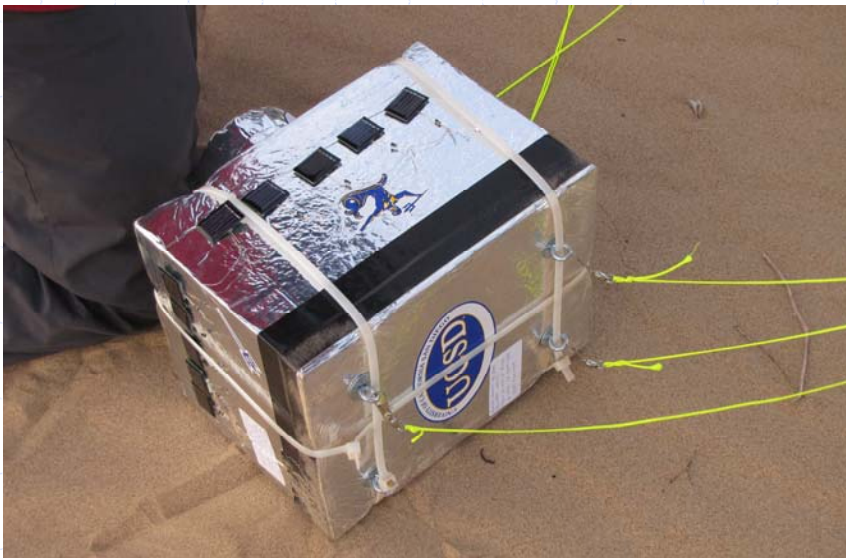
# Hike with GPS Tracking (3:11 PM)



**2.2 mile hike into desert nature preserve**



# Payload Found (4:00 PM)





# Payload Recovered





# March Out of the Desert







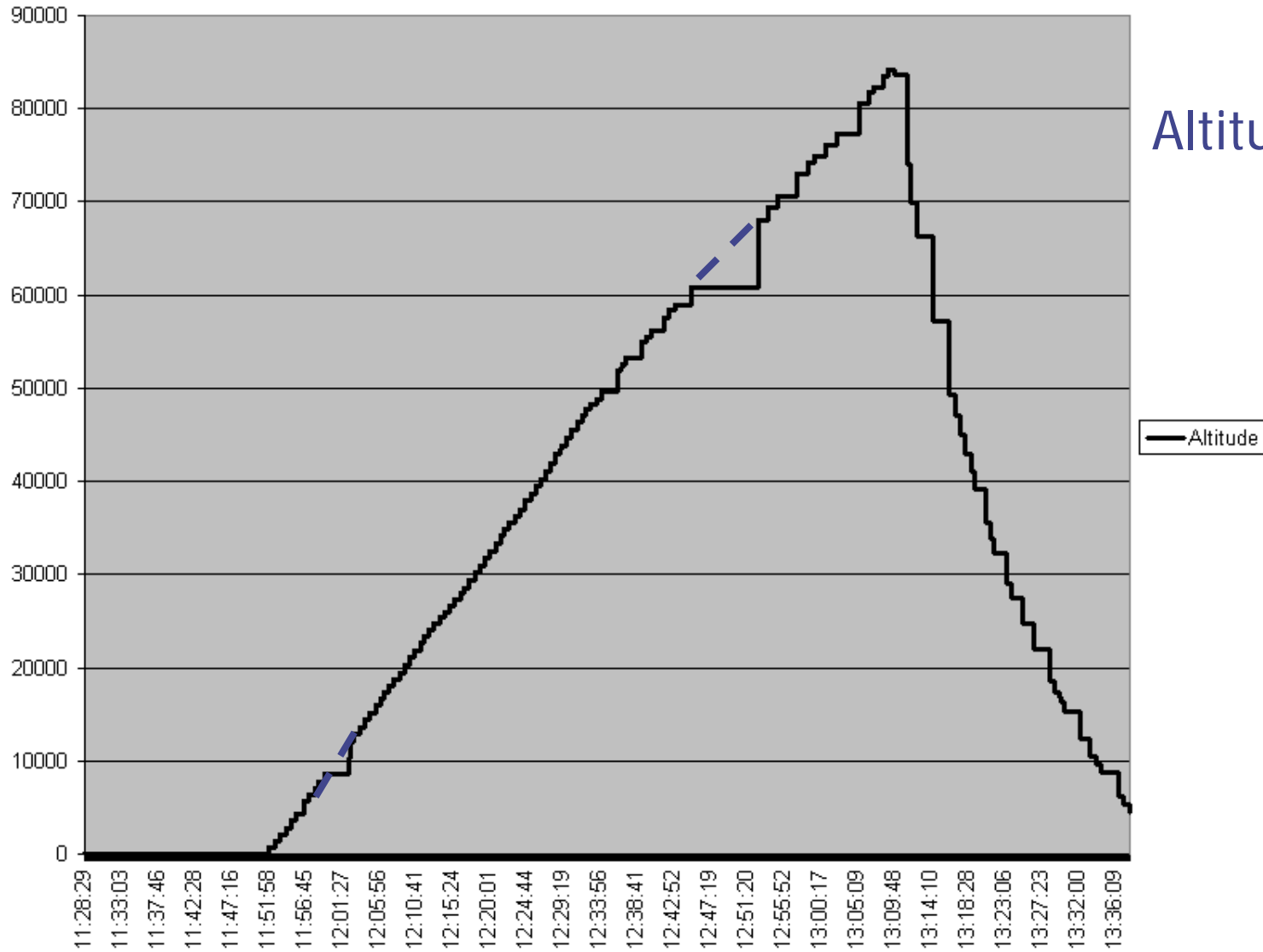
# On-Board Cameras Were Still Recording



<http://aerospace.ucsd.edu/> Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department, University of California, San Diego



# Post-Flight Studies



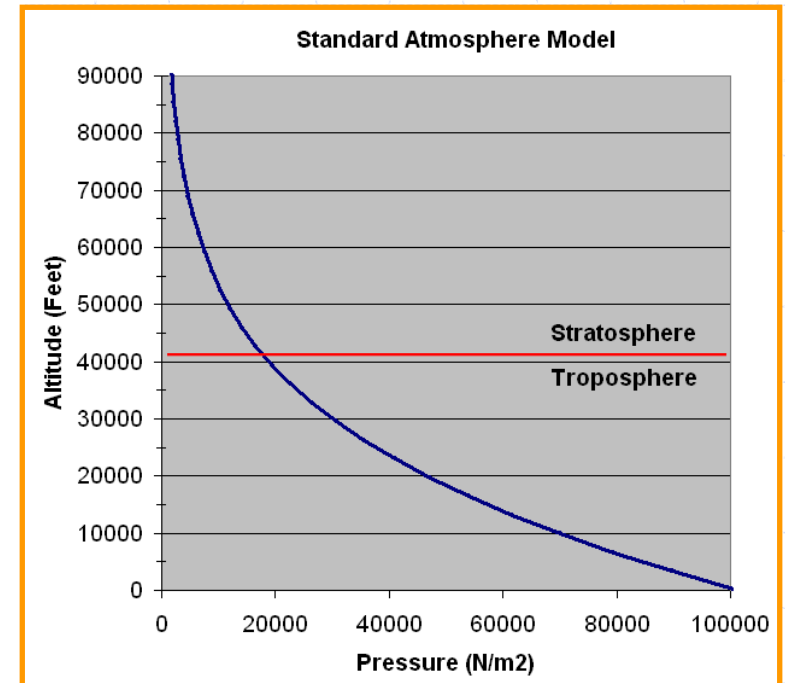
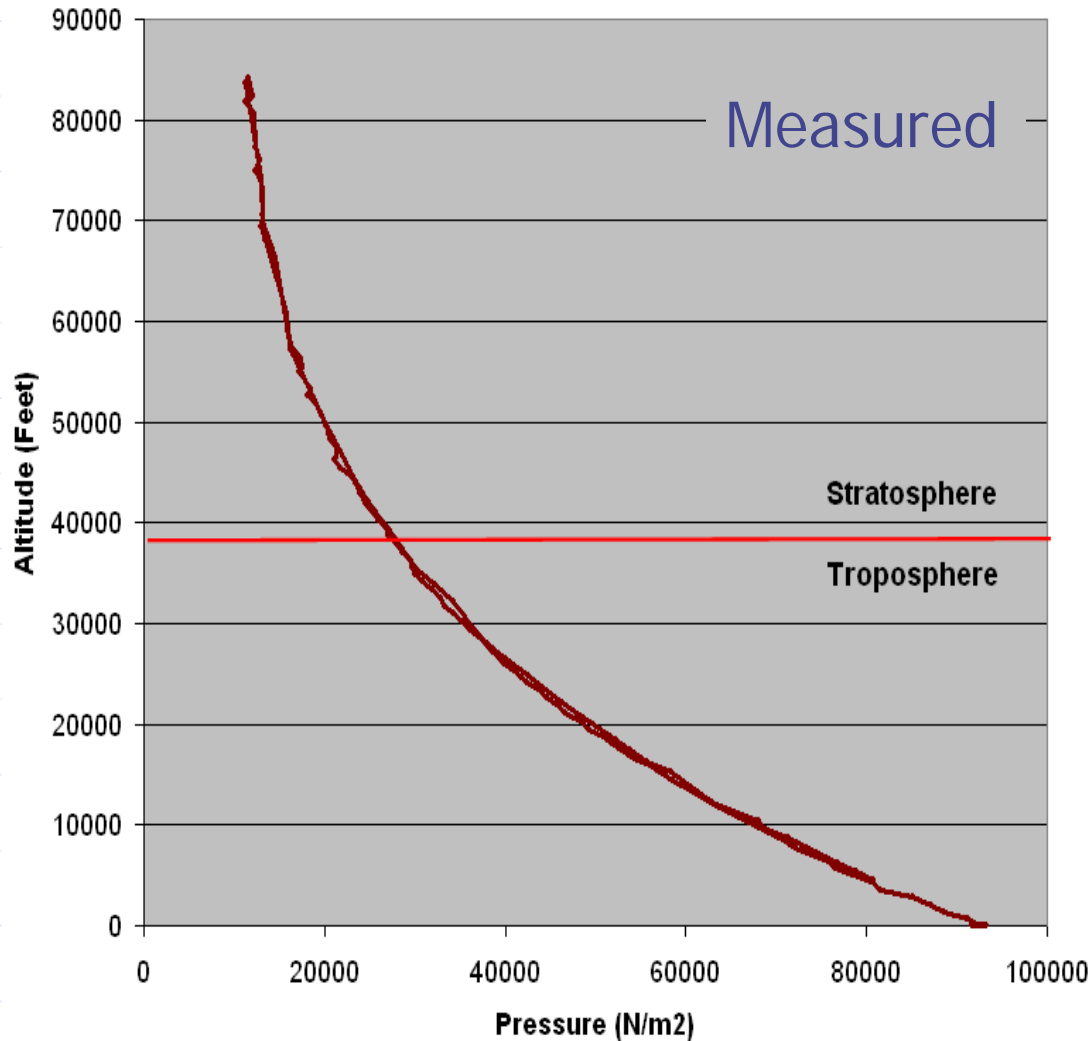
Altitude vs Time



# Post-Flight Studies



## Pressure vs Altitude

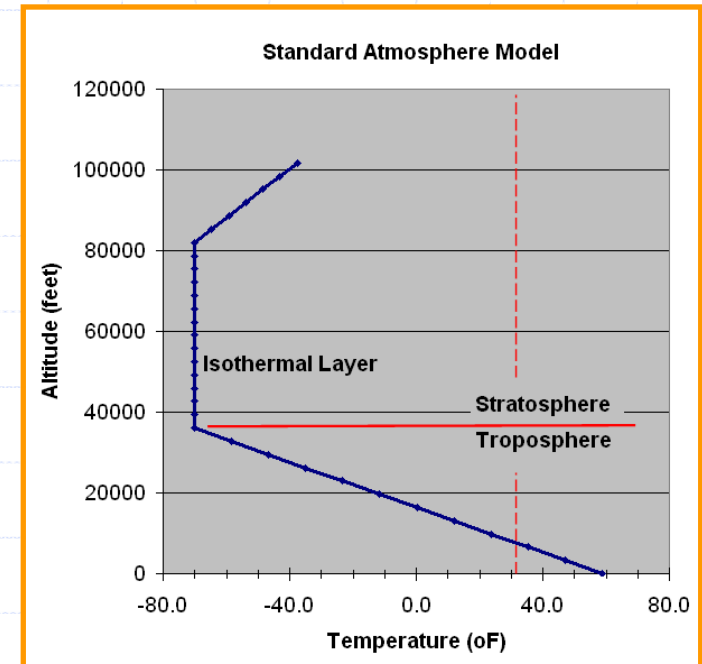
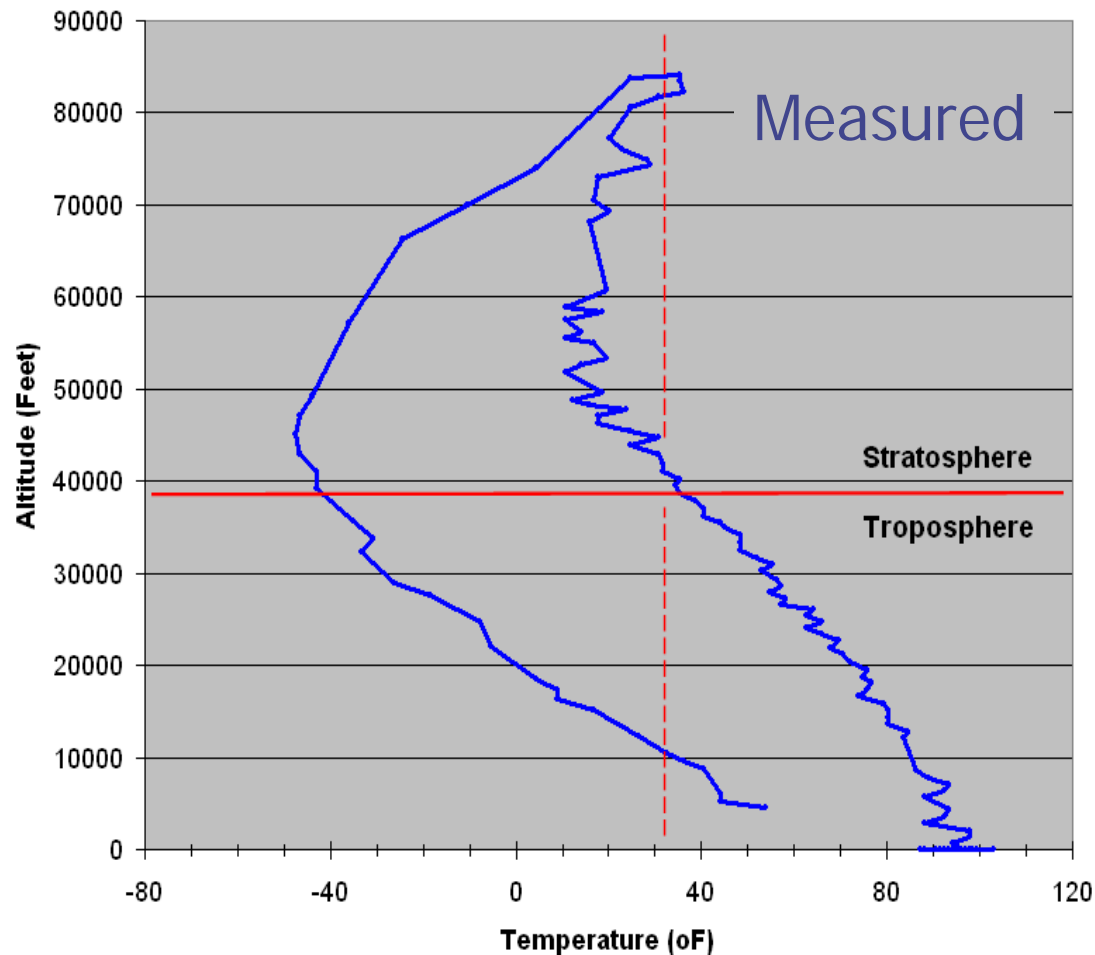


Standard atmosphere models show exponential reduction in pressure with increasing altitude

# Post-Flight Studies



## Temperature (oF) vs Altitude



Standard atmosphere models show linear cooling to stratosphere edge, then constant temperature isothermal layer, followed by linear heating above 82,000 feet



# Post-Flight Studies



## Cockroaches survived

- -40 oF,
- space (0.333 psi) pressure,
- space radiation

## Planaria Worms survived

- space radiation

