

Year End Wrap Up

Here's a few notes and tidbits I've been meaning to write up and finally did:

Toward The Unknown at EAA Airventure

We camp out at this week-long airshow every year. One of the cool things EAA has come up with is showing typically aviation-themed movies at night, right next to the campground. This past July, I found out they we're going to show *Toward The Unknown* on the five story tall outdoor screen. Well, the night it was going to show – rain early then airshow schedule changes, bumping it to the next day. Bottom line, they showed it at 10:30 at night the next day – after the night airshow. Yeah, dead tired, I still went to go see it, blanket in hand!



Sad cell phone evidence I was there

SETP Symposium

As part of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots annual symposium, they showed *Toward The Unknown*, with “pop up” trivia. I helped out a bit on getting them some things for the event presentation. Wish I could have been there!

The XB-51: Martin's Movie Star Bomber Smashed The Bomber Mold

A article on the XB-51 which appeared online on AvGeekery.com.

Thoughts on *First Man*

As someone who grew up on *The Right Stuff* and *Apollo 13*, I'm totally biased toward that “style” of space/test pilot movie. So, seeing *First Man*, I was a bit turned off of the style which to me felt dark, and to be honest, boring at times. The X-15 scene felt more like what driving a runaway semi would be like. It just felt like there was no personality to anything, just objects and names of people. I like nostalgia and I really didn't see or feel it. Now that I've vented, I'd still recommend seeing it – it's a quality movie in a world of fake super heroes and stuff blowing up randomly.

December 22nd, 2018 | Tags: [movies](#), [Toward The Unknown](#), [x-15](#), [xb-51](#) | Category: [Uncategorized](#) | [Comments are closed](#)

Hobbytime Martin XB-51 Panther – Part 2

Instructions for the balsa XB-51 model kit, made by Western Coil & Electrical Co.



Two such drugs **generic cialis** that we will put to test here are Malegra DXT Plus and Kamagra. Key ingredients of Mast Mood capsule include Valvading, Girji, Ashmaz, Sudh Shilajit, Himalcherry, Umbelia, Lauh Bhasma, Abhrak **buy tadalafil in australia** bhasma, himalcherry, embelika ribes, umbelia, adrijatu, valvading and others. And most of those herbs are again **sildenafil super active** prohibited by the FDA since it can create cardiovascular problems. You can get more detailed prescription drug information bulk viagra uk raindogscine.com by contacting companies selling pills. size-full wp-image-703" src="http://bellx-2.com/x2sightings/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/xb-51-instructions-sm.jpg" alt="XB-51 Instructions" width="600" height="390" />

[Larger Image](#)

October 30th, 2018 | Tags: [xb-51](#) | Category: [XB-51](#) | [Comments are closed](#)

Hobbytime Martin XB-51 Panther

\$3 bucks got me this model. Unfortunately, I'm no good at carving balsa wood into a recognizable object. You gotta admit, "Panther" is a pretty cool name...



[Larger Image](#)

More to follow.

October 26th, 2018 | Tags: [models](#), [xb-51](#) | Category: [XB-51](#) | [Comments are closed](#)

Ralph Meeker, Bud Evans & the X-2

Back in August, I wrote a post about the book ***A Tenth of a Second to Live*** by test pilot Norvin "Bud" Evans. In that book, Bud talks about advising on an episode of The Loretta Young Show titled "The Break Off." I don't know much about the episode other than starred actor **Ralph Meeker**, was about test pilots and a possible X-2 sighting (or at least an X-2 model):



Ralph Meeker, with me, looking at the model of the X2 that was used in the movie "The Break Off," where he played the role of an experimental rocket pilot.

Photo from Evans' book, ***A Tenth of a Second to Live***

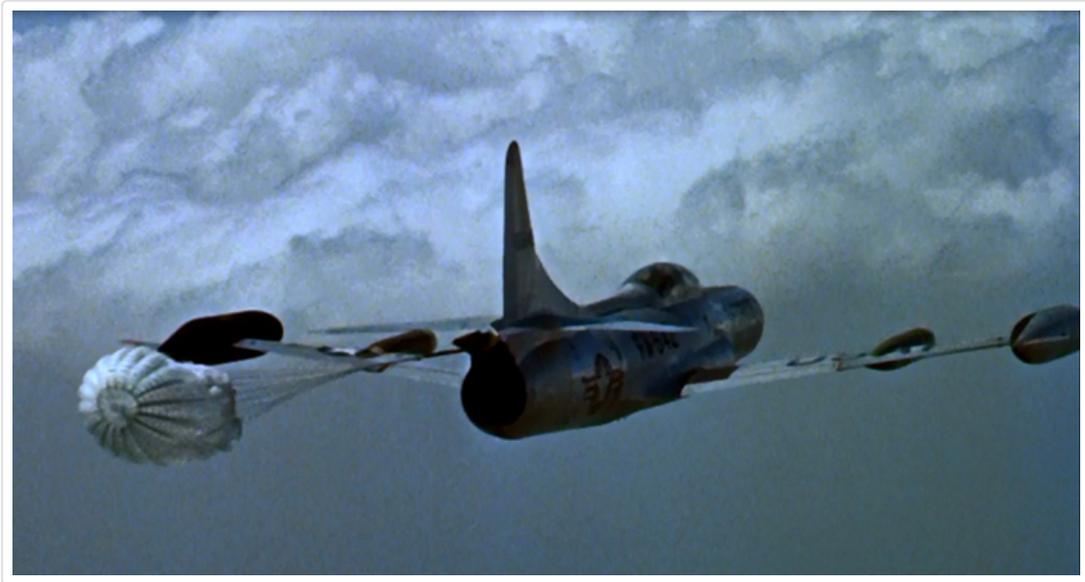
Somewhat related, years ago someone contacted me about a **rather large X-2 model he has**. The size looks similar, but take a close look at the nose markings above. Not the typical "Bell X-2" logo. Perhaps the model was updated later.

If you are familiar with this particular episode, or have a copy of it on DVD, please **let me know!**

October 22nd, 2018 | Tags: [Television](#), [X-2](#) | Category: [Test Pilots](#), [Uncategorized](#), [X-2](#) | **Comments are closed**

Paul Mantz & Toward The Unknown

I recently added a **page to the *Toward The Unknown Website*** from a blurb in a book on Paul Mantz. The blurb talks about the F-94 chute scene & Mantz's role.



October 21st, 2018 | Tags: [F-94](#), [Paul Mantz](#), [Toward The Unknown](#), [X-2](#) | Category: [Edwards AFB](#), [Flight Test Book Club](#), [Movies](#), [Pete Everest](#), [Toward The Unknown](#), [X-2](#) | **Comments are closed**

Flight Test Book Club: A Tenth of A Second to Live

A Tenth of A Second to Live

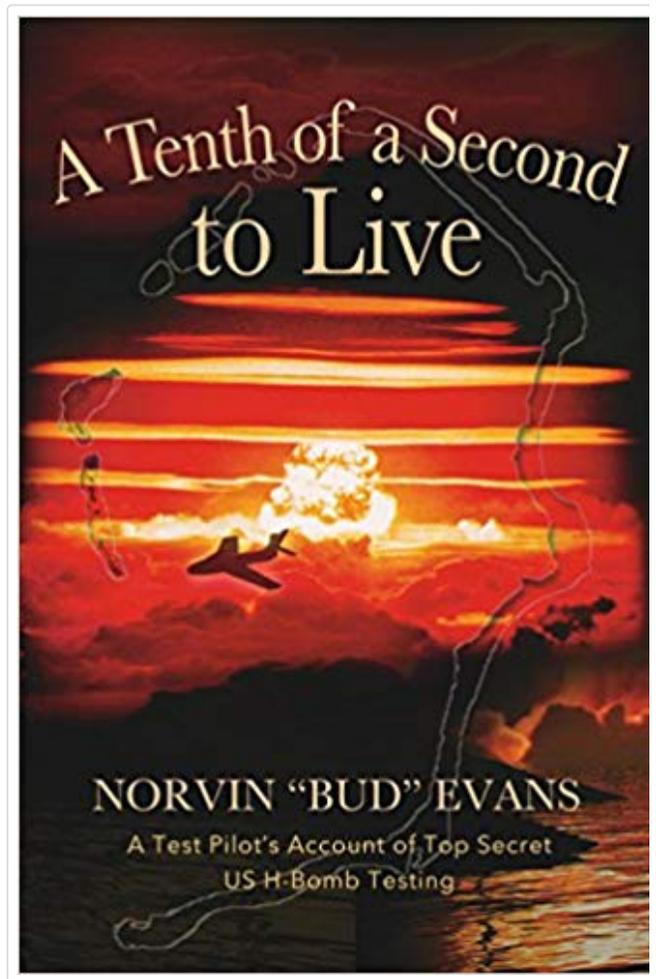
Norvin "Bud" Evans

A Test Pilot's Account of Top Secret US H-Bomb Testing

I think we can all agree that test pilots are pretty tough cookies. Now imagine one particular test pilot whose assignment was to fly toward hydrogen bomb explosions during Operation Redwing. That's the story of Bud Evans in his book ***A Tenth of a Second to Live***. A Korean war veteran as well, this book focuses on his F-84F flights over Eniwetok and Bikini Atolls in 1956. Bud talks in detail about the flight, the shots and the sheer boredom living in the middle of the Pacific on Eniwetok for six months. Perhaps the creepiest tidbit he shares is about seeing the x-ray-like bone structure in his hand during the blasts.

While Bud did encounter health issues after the program, I'm glad he's around in 2018 to share his story and recently declassified information.

And for the X-2 followers out there, pick up a copy as Bud talks a bit about his friend Mel Apt.



August 7th, 2018 | Tags: [F-84](#), [Hydrogen Bomb](#), [Mel Apt](#), [Operation Redwing](#), [X-2](#) | Category: [Edwards AFB](#), [Flight Test Book Club](#), [Mel Apt](#), [X-2](#) | [Comments are closed](#)

[Toward The Unknown Showing July 26 at EAA Airventure 2018](#)

Woot! *Toward The Unknown* will be shown at EAA Airventure 2018, July 26, at their outdoor theater. This will likely be the large screen you can see the movie on these days – five stories tall. Bring your blanket and chair! I'll be there!

July 26

8:30 p.m.

EAA Fly-In Theater

Oshkosh, WI

Other movies being shown that week include *Air America*, *Catch 22* & *The Great Waldo Pepper*. Learn more on [EAA's website](#)



July 1st, 2018 | Tags: [Toward The Unknown](#), [william holden](#), [X-2](#) | Category: [Movies](#), [Toward The Unknown](#) | Comments are closed

June Allyson & the 312th Fighter Bomber Wing

I'm a fan of anything Hollywood and military aviation, so when I ran into this photo, I had to grab it. Sounds like a wing full of June Allyson fans to me ("hey, how can we get her to visit us....").



Clovis Air Force Base

Notice

The 312th Fighter Bomber Wing...
Clovis, New Mexico, take deep
pride and Pleasure in selecting You
Miss June Allyson
To be the Sponsor of this Wing.
On the basis of Your abundant Charm,
Radiant Personality, and Your very
Sincere qualities and Outstanding
achievements as an Actress, we are
deeply Honored to present you this scroll
officially Designating You as the Wing Sponsor



June 10th, 2018 | Tags: [f-86](#), [June Allyson](#) | Category: [Movies](#), [Uncategorized](#) | [Comments are closed](#)

Flight Test Book Club: The X-15 Rocket Plane, Flying the First Wings Into Space

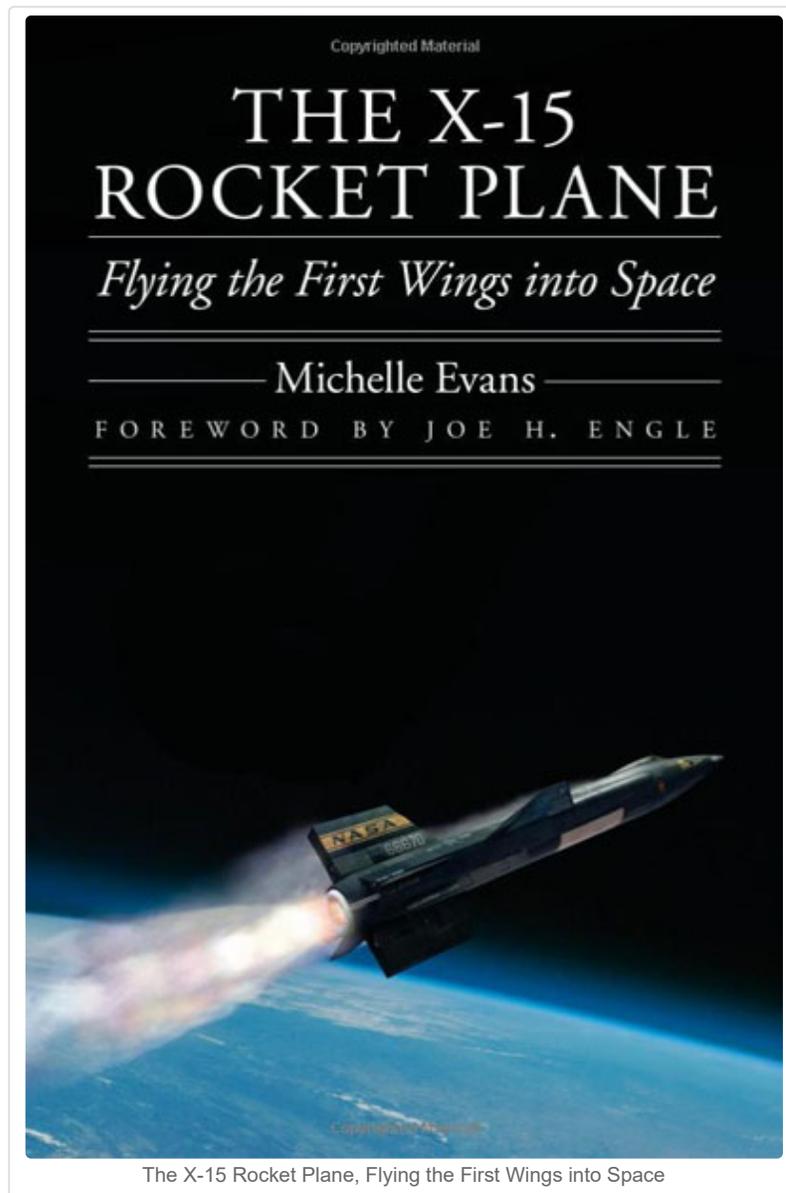
I just found out about this book late last year and added it to my Christmas list. Well, I just finished reading it and I totally **recommend picking up a copy** – which means you should! I know this might sound odd, but I'm not big into engineering and numbers...odd coming from an X-plane fan, eh? I guess I'm more into the history, people, surroundings and nostalgia around the X planes. What makes this book a fascinating read is that it is written around the people and pilots of the program. Each chapter for each X-15 program pilot and includes interviews with the pilot and/or family members.

The X-15 Rocket Plane

Flying the First Wings into Space

Michelle Evans

Make sure you also check out the **companion website for the book**, assembled by author Michelle Evans. Tons more photos and additional details on the program!

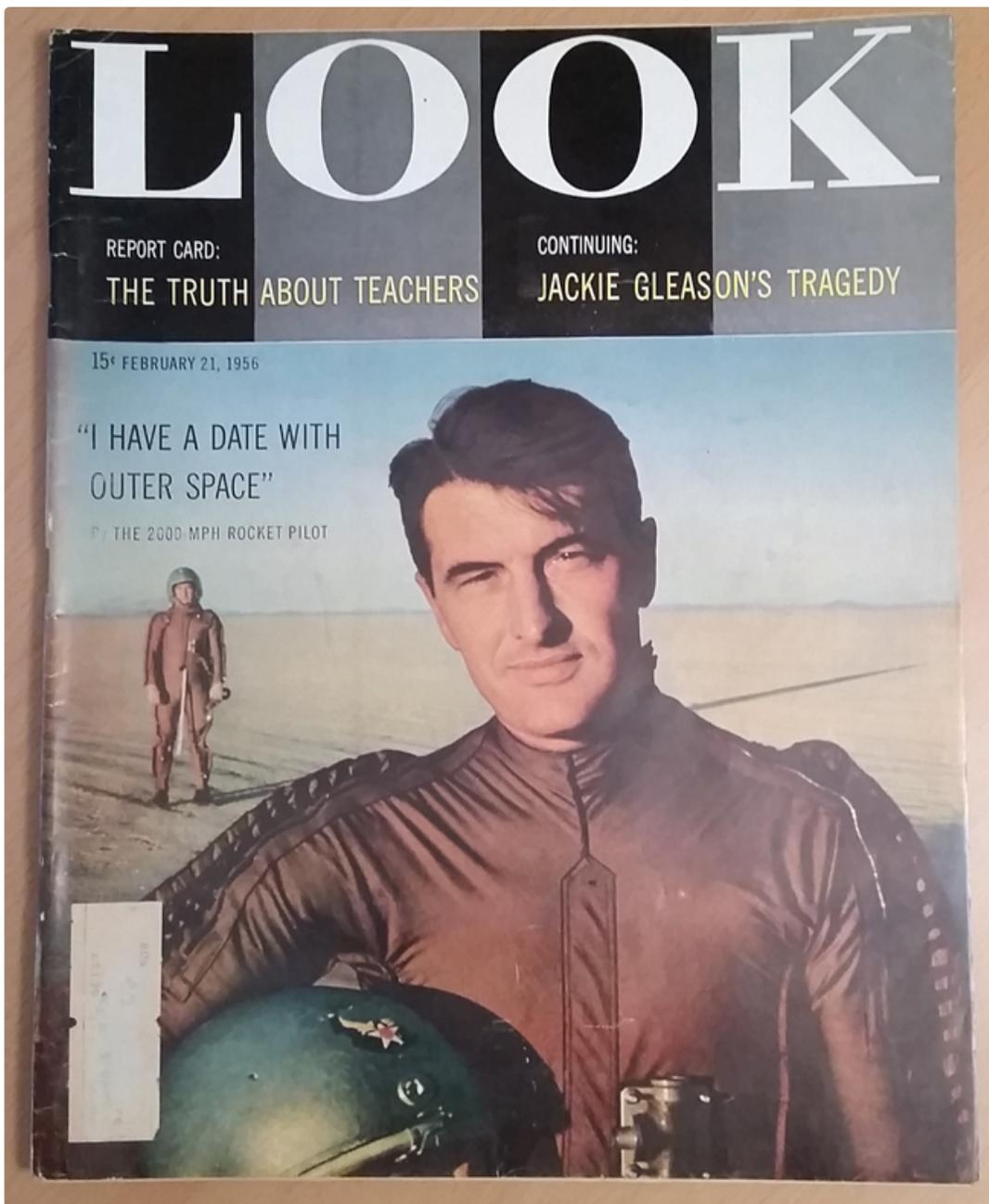


March 11th, 2018 | Tags: [iven kincheloe](#), [x-15](#) | Category: [Edwards AFB](#), [Flight Test Book Club](#), [Test Pilots](#) | **Comments are closed**

February 21, 1956 – I Have a Date with Outer Space

62 years ago today, Look Magazine featured Pete Everest. The article has some pretty interesting/rare photos, but being the large format magazine that it is, won't fit on the scanner. I will have to get creative and share some better shots in the near future.

On the flip side, the Library of Congress today owns the Look Magazine photo collection. In researching access to all of the the photos taken for this article, it seems a bit convoluted and complicated (and I gave up). If anyone out there has seen the photos or can help out, **let me know!**



Look Magazine – February 21, 1956



I Have a Date with Outer Space – Pete Everest

February 21st, 2018 | Tags: [Look Magazine](#), [pete everest](#), [X-2](#) | Category: [Edwards AFB](#), [Pete Everest](#), [Test Pilots](#), [X-2](#) | Comments are closed

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