



What's Up!

The official newsletter of the Syracuse Rocket Club.
National Association of Rocketry Section #566



Volume 2, Number 1

Jan/Feb 1998

Syracuse, New York



IN THIS ISSUE

- Building Session
- Meeting Minutes
- Kit Review - Impulse Aerospace Spit Fire
- What's Up With Who?!
- Upstate NY Calendar of Events

Ron Lioto, SRC Vice President, prepares his Sudden Rush for his level 1 high power certification attempt at Geneseo last spring. The rocket was launched on an H engine and the recovery system was deployed using an Adept altimeter.

Editor's Ramblings

You may have noticed that this month's edition of *What's Up!* is a little smaller than usual. This is due to a few factors. One is the lack of launches now that winter has set in. With no launches we have no launch articles or photos. Another reason is due to the lack of member submissions. Now that we are in the building phase of our hobby (what else do we do in the winter?) it would be a great time to take some time out and write a little bit about that Estes kit you got for Christmas. Or write about yourself so we can feature you in our *What's Up With Who?!* column (formerly *Meet the Members*). In a future edition we will include an outline that you can use to base your *What's Up With Who?!* article on.

Dues are due! If you have not renewed your membership you will see a yellow renewal slip enclosed.

If you decide not to renew, this will be your last issue of *What's Up!*, but we'd like to thank you for helping us out in our critical first year.

The Syracuse Rocket Club recently had it's first birthday and our club is thriving and growing. Our total membership is up to 24 members. We have scheduled a building session for Feb. 22nd at Walt's Hobby. We have scheduled a launch at the Clay park for March 7th. May 23-24 we are hosting NYSPACE, the New York regional contest meet that will attract many people out of town. We are planning monthly launches at Mr. Weigands hay farm from May-October. Our club has come a long way in it's first year, and we are certainly looking forward to our second year of activities †

We're having a Building Session!

The Syracuse Rocket Club is pleased to announce it's very first building session to be held at Walt's Hobby shop from 12:00 to 5:00 Sunday, February 22. In the absense of launches it was decided that a building session was a good way to bring the club members together during the winter months, as well as a good way to attract potential new members.

What is a building session? It's what the name implies. The members get together and build rockets. It can either be a way for a club to work on one project together, or everyone can bring their individual projects and work on them among friends. It's a good way for members to share information on building techniques and construction methods. You may learn that sometimes the

instructions that come with a kit are not the best way to build the model. It's also a great way for inexperienced members to see just what those unclear instructions are talking about.

For this particular building session we will be working on our own individual projects. Bring your rocket and supplies. Are you running low on supplies? No problem, Walt carries everything you'll need. Or just come and watch others work on their rockets to learn some tips.

If this building session is a success we are likely to have more, including a possible group project in the future that everyone can pitch in and help on.

See you on Sunday †

***What's Up!* Newsletter Staff**

Editor: Rich Pitzeruse
 Layout: John DeMar
 Photos: Rich Pitzeruse
 Contributors: Ron Lioto, Jennifer Pitzeruse

What's Up! is published by the Syracuse Rocket Club, c/o Rich Pitzeruse, 309 Driscoll Ave #15, Syracuse, NY 13204. Subscriptions to this newsletter are \$10 per year as part of the membership dues of the Syracuse Rocket Club. Please forward articles, reviews, and other submission to the above address or rmpitzer@sy.edu. Portions of this newsletter may be reprinted in other rocketry newsletters if the editor acknowledges the author and source of the article and sends a copy to the above address.

Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Jennifer Pitzeruse

SRC Secretary

November 5, 1997

At the beginning of November's meeting, Bill covered what we had accomplished this year starting the club. Everyone seemed pleased with the progress of the club so far. Bill mentioned that a few things that he would like to work on such as laying out a budget for next year and donating a gift certificate or cash amount to Mr. Weigand. We agreed to wait till after club renewals and NAR fees were paid to discuss an amount. Also discussed was laying out the areas at the field better and getting higher posts for roping off.

John DeMar brought up the possibility of having NYSPACE, a regional contest launch, hosted by SRC. John explained that a regional meet requirements and that it would include people from the midatlantic to the midwest. Finding a larger field was discussed for this launch and everyone was asked to keep their eyes open and knock on some doors. We set up programs for the December and January meetings. John DeMar volunteered to do a program in December on staging and clustering, and Rich offered to do a talk on classic kits for the January meeting.

December 3, 1997

Bill started the meeting reading the treasury report, we had \$194 with the 3 renewals from that day. Jennifer reviewed the minutes from November's meeting. Bill had received our NAR renewal packet and read some information and changes for the year. Rich Pitzeruse brought up the idea of having a building session during the winter rocket lull, possibly on a Saturday. Everyone seemed interested in the idea and we would check with Walt about the room availability before that next meeting.

Following this, nominations for elections were held. Rich Pitzeruse nominated Bill Barzee for President, Jennifer Pitzeruse seconded. Jennifer nominated Ron Lioto for Vice-president, John DeMar seconded. Ron nominated Jennifer for Secretary, Jerry King seconded. Ron Lioto nominated Jennifer for Treasurer, Rich seconded. Combining Secretary and Treasurer was voted on and passed. Volunteers for committee members were

taken. Rich Pitzeruse, John DeMar, Dennis Friend, John Nelson, Marty Joyce, and Jerry King volunteered.

John DeMar asked for anyone to bring in there clustered and staged models to help with his clustering and staging program and brought some of his own. He discussed with the different models different techniques of staging blackpowder and composite motors. John then explained clustering and the problems that can arise if done improperly. A flash bulb was ignited to show how reliable they are at lighting motors for both staging and clustering.

January 7, 1998

At the start of the January meeting Bill handed over the treasury book to Jennifer. Jennifer reviewed the minutes of the December meeting and read the treasury report, \$194 last month, received 4 renewals and had paid outs for newsletter postage and NAR fees and insurance leaving \$169. Bill asked John DeMar if NYSPACE was set for May 23-24 hosted by SRC, John said yes it is set, we are hosting it and that was the most convenient weekend if that was OK for our field.

The building session was discussed again, but unfortunately Walt was not there at the start of the meeting to discuss the room. We decided to try for Saturday the 21 or the 28, Ron volunteered to call and get a hold of him. We discussed sending out a newsletter and if we should before or after the building session, the building session would be a good article for a newsletter, but it might be a good idea to send one out before to let people know about it. It was decided to send one out before. Deadline for articles would be the February meeting.

John DeMar told about him and John Nelson launching at the Clay Park. John Nelson lost his Astrobee but John DeMar made a creative rescue out of a tree. A question brought up about weight of rockets and motor needed led to the February program on computer rocketry programs.

Continued on next page

Kit Review

Impulse Aerospace's Spit-Fire

By Ron Lioto NAR#69601

While gazing at the pages of Sport Rocketry early last year, I saw an ad for a new line of rockets from Impulse Aerospace called Rugged Rockets. The ad claimed the rockets were nearly indestructible, and that they could survive a lawn dart. I was interested, and looking up on the computer I discovered Countdown Hobbies carried Rugged-Rockets and had some of the new Spit-Fire kits in stock. The Spit-Fire kit sells for approximately \$25, a little expensive for a small rocket but when you see the quality of the materials it is worth it. The airframe is constructed of seamless phenolic tubing, along with the payload section. The nosecone is molded from clear ABS plastic, and the fins are G-10. The rocket is minimum diameter 24mm, 20" in length, it comes with a 9" nylon 'chute, kevlar shock cord and shroud lines and even a nomex 'chute protector. I found out that a little wadding was a good idea to prevent minor burns on the 'chute even with the protector. The kit came with water transfer decals of the Spit-Fire name and a few stripes and accent points.

The directions were very detailed and easy to follow, even a phone number and website are included if you need help. Assembly went together easily using 5 minute epoxy, but the smooth body tube needs to be roughed up with

fine sandpaper along with the fins to get the epoxy to stick. I had a problem with the plastic launch lug fitting extremely tight on an 1/8" rod, but a drill bit helped the fit. Not only didn't the lug fit well it didn't stick to the metal clip.

The rocket can fly on a D12-7, E28-8, F72-10, and a G55-10 with a predicted altitude between 1000-5000 feet. It was impressive on a D, and quickly headed for the clouds with its great aerodynamic shape.

I did have one problem during the rocket's last flight at our field, the kevlar shock cord broke on ejection and I lost the payload section and nosecone. Upon closer examination I found out that the 'chute, payload section, and 'chute protector were all connected to the shock cord with small split rings and that the sharp edge of the ring had cut through the cord, so it was not breakage as I first thought. I would buy another Rugged-Rocket and hope maybe you will too!

Contact information:

IMPULSE AEROSPACE, INC.
22833 Bothell Way SE Suite 1148
Bothell, WA 98021
(800) 568-2785
info@impulseaero.com

Minutes

Continued from previous page

Rich Pitzeruse led the program on Classic Kits. He brought along his original Century Saturn V, his Mars Lander, and his Saturn 1B. He also brought along his scratch built upscale Mars Lander and his Trident. Rich explained ways of getting plans off the Internet for these older out of production kits and about companies like Balsa Machine Service that sell parts for these models. He gave a hand out of tube sizes and nose cones along with addresses

for some useful companies. John DeMar brought a stack of old Estes catalogs that for the rest of the meeting everyone looked through. The program seemed to interest everyone, brought back memories of rockets once had, and sparked an interest in many to build some of the older kits!

What's Up with Who?!

Formerly Meet the Members

Jennifer Pitzeruse

NAR# 71050 SR

I guess you could say that I was born into rocketry. My brother, Richard Pitzeruse, got his first Patriot starter set in the summer of 1976, after we moved to a house with a huge field. At the time I was 2! So for as long as I can remember, I watched my brothers, Rich and Mark, build and launch rockets. Being the typical little sister, I had to do everything that my big brothers did. So as soon as I was capable of holding a tube of glue, I was building my own rockets. OK, I'll admit they didn't always look that great, but I built them all by myself (with some help on the hard parts from my brothers and parents). I don't think at that time Rich always enjoyed my interest in sharing his hobby. Again being the typical little sister, I was a nuisance at times. Both me and Mark (especially me) often needed help from Rich in both building and prepping rockets.

The years after that as Rich pulled out his rockets and flew them once in awhile, I would get on the kick and build a few. A couple that I remember building were The Bat and The Marauder which had a tag along glider on it. My favorite one was The Starship Nova. This was a weird looking jet type rocket that at the time for me was really hard to build. We still have the remnants of this that I would like to rebuild someday. A friend of Rich's had a Mean Machine which I always loved but never had one. This was the tallest rocket made then and to me it was huge. I did have a Mini Mean Machine, but I wasn't lucky enough to get a full size one then.

The summer of 1995 Rich started getting back into rockets again. I was making several trips to hobby stores with Ron Lioto who was into

slot cars. While he was looking at the slot car stuff, I would be taking a peek at the rocket kits that were available. I noticed that Estes still made the Mean Machine. That year for my 22nd birthday Rich got me the Mean Machine. I flew it a few times at the park that next summer and went to my first official launch at Geneseo in October 1996. I went with my Mean Machine still under the impression that this thing was huge. Boy was I in for a shock when I saw the size of the rockets people had. When I went to fly it, a member of the MARS club Ray Helm told me about splitting it in the middle rather than at the nose cone. My reaction was "that's not what the instructions said." After thinking that I knew something about rockets, I realized that I was clueless.

I had only been to one official launch but it was so much more enjoyable flying with a group of people than just a few at a park. The part I like best is seeing everybody else's rockets and them seeing mine. When I heard that Bill Barzee was trying to start a Syracuse club I thought it was a great idea. I was unable to go to the first meeting in January due to my work schedule, but I have been to everyone since. I even left the job I was at because working weekends interfered with launches. Since then I have become Secretary and treasurer and look forward to every meeting and launch. I know there are many people out there who pull out their rockets on a nice day and fly a few at a park, I want to let these people know about our club and how much more is involved in rocketry nowadays. I have enjoyed meeting many new people and hope to meet many more!

*Calendar of Rocketry Events in
Upstate NY*

- Feb. 22 **SRC Building Session**
Noon-5:00, Walt's Hobby
- Mar. 4 **SRC Club Meeting**
Topic- Finishing Techniques
7 PM, Walt's Hobby
- Mar. 7 **Fun Launch**
Noon-4 PM, Clay Park
Raindate - Mar. 8
- Apr. 1 **SRC Club Meeting**
Topic- High Power Rocketry
7 PM, Walt's Hobby
- Apr. 4 **MARS High Power Launch**
8000' waiver - K engine limit
11 AM - 6 PM Geneseo, NY

Syracuse Rocket Club Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at Walt's Hobby, off of I-690, west of Syracuse. Dues are \$10/yr, under 16 free with parent.

For more information, contact:
William Barzee, 105 Benoit Drive,
Syracuse, NY 13209 (315) 487-7435,
wbarzee@dreamscape.com

Website: www.dreamscape.com/wbarzee/srcmain.htm

March Launch: Clay park is at the corner of Wetzel and Henry Clay Blvd in the northeast corner. Enter from Henry Clay going north the park is on the right hand side just after the Wetzel intersection.

Syracuse Rocket Club

c/o Richard Pitzeruse
309 Driscoll Ave. #15
Syracuse, NY 13204

