

WHAT'S UP!

The Official Newsletter of The Syracuse Rocket Club



WHAT YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2012

- Monthly Flying contests!
- Certification Flights! (level I and level2?)
- What's Up! Taking to the skies again!
- Renovated Launch Equipment!
- National Sport Launch (NSL) at Geneseo
- Large Dangerous Rocket Ships (LDRS) at Potter
- Monthly Launch Themes

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CLUB IS READY TO FLY HIGH IN 2012

2012 holds great promise for the SRC as we set our "lofty" (ugh) goals for a year of fun and success. The December and January club meeting were full of lively discussion, plotting how we would use the opportunities of a new year to return the club to the vibrancy of years past.

The initiatives we are undertaking this year are geared toward igniting motivation in semi-active members to come out and join us more often, and as an outreach for new members. It will be our mission to make the launch day experience an event people coming to "check us out" and current members are so impressed with, they keep returning.

Changes for this year will include: Renovation and upgrade of club launch equipment;

Monthly launch themes (think non-rocket rockets); Contests at every launch (with PRIZES!); Certification flights; Club rep-



No launch day is complete without a saucer race!

resentation and participation at NSL and LDRS (The Return of WHAT'S UP!); Family friendly activities at every launch (giveaways for the kids).

We have an ambitious year ahead of us as we lay the groundwork for the future of the SRC. We hope to see many

of you join us to share in the satisfaction of helping club members, as well as future club members, enjoy this wonderful hobby.



President Ron prepares Tom's Saturn V for its first flight

The Return of WHAT'S UP!

Hanging from the ceiling of Walt's Hobby by two thin wires, the powerful two stage rocket WHAT'S UP stands silent guard over the section of wall reserved for model rocket kits and launch supplies. Long past are the days when it would roar from the launch pad, traveling near the speed of sound, quickly reaching altitudes exceeding a thousand feet, before beginning a slow

descent on a cushion of air. WHAT'S UP! is as much the SRC's signature rocket as it is a symbol of the SRC itself. Barely hanging by its own thin wires, the SRC was no longer reaching for the skies, content to merely gather dust. Recognizing that change was necessary the club has determined to blow the dust off WHAT'S UP! (and itself, metaphorically) and get back onto the launch pad

with a goal of displaying our club pride at LDRS this July. Just as the rocket WHAT'S UP returns, so does the SRC's renowned quarterly publication **What's Up!**. Your #1 source for news and information about your SRC and the world of rocketry. Be sure to reserve your copy today. As always subscriptions are free, and you'll be sure to get what you pay for.

Contests, Themes and Prizes



Win Rocket Kits with your wicked mad skills

For many a rocket hobbyist, successful launches and recovery provide sufficient satisfaction to send one home from launch day with a smile. However there is an added element that has potential to turn that smile into an ear to ear grin. Contests! Not just competing in contests, but WINNING contests!

Winning contests not only means owning the right to claim momentary superiority, it also means winning PRIZES!

This flying season the SRC will sponsor a contest (or contests) at each monthly launch. All contests and rules will be posted on the club website well in advance of each launch. Monthly contest events are projected to include: Spot Landing; Drag Race; Parachute Duration; Streamer Duration; Egg Lofting (Altitude and Duration) and Boost Glider Duration. Contest rules will be derived from the NAR "Pink Book" and modified as necessary to support club capabilities. Prizes will be awarded to all contest winners. Prizes will include Rocket Kits, Motors, Building Supplies, Launch Supplies, NAR Gear and Spent Motor Casings.

In addition to the monthly contests there will be season long contests. The first contest will be cumulative from the Monthly contests. Points will be awarded from each monthly contest on a sliding scale [1st Place = 10pts, 2nd Place = 5pts, 3rd Place

= 3pts and Participation = 1pt]. At season end each individual's points will be tabulated and the 2012 SRC King (or Queen) will be crowned. The SRC Royalty will be exempt from paying dues for 2013 and shall have the privilege of first launch at all club launches throughout the year.

The second and third season long contests will not require special skills, or any skills for that matter. These contest will reward the individual with the most successful flights for the year and the individual with the highest total impulse use for the year [(calculated from maximum impulse in Newton-Seconds per motor class, (e.g. B = 5, G = 160)].

The final season long contest will be called "No Guts, No Glory". This prize will be awarded to the individual who dares to use the highest impulse motor at a club launch (Level 2 certification flights anyone?). The goal should always be successful recovery, however failure in this aspect will not be cause for disqualification.

If this lineup of contests doesn't have you excited about the upcoming season you may want to check for a pulse. However if contests just aren't your thing there is something else being added to each Monthly launch. A THEME! Not a theme song. A Rocket Theme! Each month there will be a focus on a certain type of rocket. We will have a cluster theme, a multi-stage theme, a scale model theme, a certification flight theme, a glider theme and a non-rocket rocket theme (what can you put a motor in and fly safely?).

It should be great fun as we fly and compete together this year. Start planning now and you'll be ready to show what you (and your rockets) are really made of.

"The SRC Royalty will be exempt from paying dues for 2013 and shall have the privilege of first launch at all club launches throughout the year"



My LOC Nuke Pro Maxx

How It Begins

It started with a random thought. A thought like many others, that seemingly spring up from nowhere and vanish as quickly as they arrive. "I wonder if Estes still makes the Big Bertha?". However, this thought did not pass from my consciousness. It took root, and started to grow, larger and larger until it could no longer be disregarded. DID Estes still make the Big Bertha? Like a seer of old I gazed into my Liquid CRYSTAL Diode Square Flat BALL to seek my answer. Within a minute I had resolved the question, but with the answer came many more questions. Hours passed as I absorbed as much information about rocketry as my senses would allow. I found some online vendors and rapidly filled my online shopping cart with the rockets from my youth as fast as I could remember their names. A Big Bertha was first in the cart. Right behind were a Hornet, Goblin, Interceptor, SkyHook, Alpha, Quark, Swift and a Baby Bertha.

(Continued on page 3)

How It Begins (continued)



Striking the Rocketeer Pose

After the adrenalin rush that accompanies massive online purchasing had subsided, I turned my thoughts to solving the small technical detail of where I would be able to launch. With a few well thought out search terms (Rocket, Club, Syracuse, NY) I discovered the Syracuse Rocket Club web site. Little could I imagine the path I would soon find myself upon.

My foremost thought when I first viewed the SRC website was a quizzical “is this club still active?”. The website was a bit outdated and there was only one officer position listed as being filled. The last meeting minutes were over a year old, and in them there was a discussion about folding the club if member participation did not increase. I did however note a countdown to the next launch, scheduled for

June 18th. That seemed to be current, so I decided it wouldn’t hurt to drive down from Fulton to check things out for myself.

I arrived at Mr. Weigand’s field shortly after 1030 on the day of the launch. My college age daughter serving as my trusty companion. With little difficulty we spotted a small group of people in the field just off Turner road, quickly parked, grabbed our chairs and headed over. Before we even reached the group we were pleasantly greeted by Scott Sellers. After a quick introduction and brief explanation of our purpose for the day, Scott kindly invited us to park our chairs under his canopy (that was a lifesaver) and explained the launch rules. Soon a few rockets were taking to the skies. It was similar to launches I had conducted at home with my Estes Porta-Pad. The weather was perfect, the flights were all perfect, and my daughter and I were thoroughly enjoying the day, already discussing plans to return the next month. Then IT happened!

In the arms of a late arriving club member was the biggest model rocket I had ever seen. It had to be almost 5 feet in length and the body tube was the widest I had ever seen. At least

twice the size of the biggest Estes rocket. Soon the massive rocket was on the launch pad and ready for launch. When the countdown reached zero I witnessed my first composite motor in action. It was quite unlike anything I had ever experienced watching countless Estes black powder launches. The noise and roar, the speed with which the rocket leapt into the sky...my jaw dropped and an un-erasable grin formed. Not just from ear to ear, but clear around my head. I was bitten by the rocket bug and life could never be the same. There were more mid-power launches that day and without fail, each one elicited the same response.

As we left for home I realized a basic tenet. The pure joys of childhood could still be captured if one would just take time to look. I had found something more than a rocket club that sunny Saturday. It wasn’t a fountain of youth, but when I step into the world of rocketry the problems and pressures of adulthood, like the exhaust trail of a soaring rocket, dissipate, revealing the joy of a grinning heart. I now know from where that “random” thought originated.

“I had found something more than a rocket club that sunny Saturday”

A Rocket Building Frenzy

My family thinks I have become obsessed with rocketry. I believe that I have merely found a hobby that provides a welcome distraction from the doldrums of everyday life. Though as I sit here typing, a quick look around the room tells me that the family may be right.

It appears that I must have spent every waking (and some sleeping) minute of time off building rockets. Starting with the first Big Bertha I have since built over 50 rockets. That’s just in one summer! I have four Big Berthas now, each with a differing paint scheme and motor configuration. I have a Super

Big Bertha, a Mini Bertha and 5 variations of Baby Bertha.

I plan to cut back on quantity this year as I prepare for my NAR level 1 (and possibly level 2) certifications. I’m going to focus on mid and high power rocketry but that doesn’t mean I’m done with low power rocketry (LPR). There’s always room for a Bertha



Bertha Mania

Rocketry And The Internet



Club members are one of the best resources when questions about rocketry arise. Chances are good that one club member may have encountered and successfully resolved the same problem you are having. However, for those difficulties that

SEEK AND YE SHALL FIND

are not easily solved the internet is the place to go. There are many forums and web sites devoted to rocketry. The chances are very, very good that someone on one of these forums has had the same questions you do and with some very careful reading you will be sure to find your answers. You will also very likely learn a couple of other things you weren't even looking for. Some very good sites to start out on are The Rocketry Forum

(www.rocketryforum.com), Ye Olde Rocketry Forum [known as YORF] (forums.rocketshoppe.com) and Rocketry Online (www.rocketryonline.com). These are not the only forums online but they will give you a feel for the depth and quantity of rocket knowledge that can be gathered from the internet. If you haven't already, be sure to give them a try. If you know of other great forums or sites share them with the club. Look for something new about Rocketry On The Internet with each edition of WHATS UP!

Righting The Wrongs

Many of us participating in the rocketry hobby are identified by the common acronym BAR (Born Again Rocketeer). We have rediscovered a hobby long abandoned from the days of our youths. I have many fond memories of those rocket days of yore, though unhappily those memories were tarnished by recollections of some inglorious failures. Believing those failures to be attributed to the limited skills and patience of early life I set out this summer to "right those wrongs".

Opening my list of wrongs requiring erasure was the tragic first flight of my Estes Trident. The Trident was my first attempt building a higher skill level rated rocket kit. Introduced in 1968, it was uniquely designed to route the ejection gases from the aft motor section

through three smaller body tubes to the forward section where the parachute was located. It was really cool and I spent hours on the build, carefully cutting and aligning the numerous ports between tubes. A sloppy, heavily applied coat of baby blue (only color available) spray paint completed the project. It was ready for launch.

In our neighborhood we usually pooled our rocketry resources. One person would have a launch pad, another a battery and yet another a motor and igniter. This launch was no different, though the only motor available was a C-6-7 that earlier had been discovered to be losing powdery material from the ejection end, a problem which had been corrected with an ample application of Elmer's glue.

With a familiar "whoosh" the rocket left the pad, quickly reached apogee and turned toward ground. Seconds passed as the rocket rapidly gained speed, embracing the force of gravity on what appeared to be a suicidal mission to kiss mother earth. Finally, the saving puff of the ejection charge was observed, YES!....OH NO! Nose cone still in place the rocket seemed to



Things don't always go as planned!

"Fast forward 35+ years and I am nervously preparing my Semroc Retro-Repro Trident for launch."

Righting The Wrongs

(continued from page 4)



**Semroc
Retro-Repro
Trident
ready to
launch**

gain an additional burst of speed as it plowed into the field. I was heartbroken. Paper tubes were not designed to withstand such force and when I arrived at the scene of the crime there were no sur-

prises. The mess of crumpled baby blue had given me a case of the rocket blues.

Fast forward 35+ years and I am nervously preparing my Semroc Retro-Repro Trident for launch. This rocket looks much better than my long dead, yet not forgotten baby blue monstrosity. Complete with a glossy white finish and well placed decals, all that is needed now from this rocket to redeem a youthful rocketeer is a successful flight and recovery.

As I watched the Trident gracefully float toward a gentle landing on a bed of soft grass I was filled with well deserved satisfaction. I had turned back the clock and won this time. There were other reversals of failure that season, successful flights of a SkyDart and an Orbital Transport, yet none matched the experience of the triumph of the Flight of The Trident. The largest failures allow us to achieve the greatest successes.



National Sport Launch 2012

This year, May 26th through 28th, the skies of Geneseo NY will be filled with rockets, both big and small as National Sport Launch 2012 comes to town.

Hosted by MARS (#136), the event promises to be as friendly and well run as their annual NYPOWER launches. The SRC plans on attending the event as a

club, possibly even attempting a test flight of WHAT'S UP prior to LDRS in July.

For additional information check out the website at www.marsclub.org/nsl2012/. There you can pre-register if you plan on flying, pre-order T-Shirts commemorating the event, obtain directions, learn about area hotels, read the

launch rules and see which vendors will be in attendance.

With a 9000' AGL waiver and M Impulse limit you are sure to experience many awe inspiring flights. Set the dates aside on your calendar and come join us.

“the event promises to be as friendly and well run as their annual NYPOWER launches”

LDRS XXXI Coming To New York

The Tripoli Rocketry Association's 31st annual national launch [CODE NAME LDRS] is scheduled for July 12th-16th this year at Torry Farms located in Potter, NY. We are very fortunate to have to major national rocketry events taking place so close to home this year. Many of you have seen the Science Channel LDRS shows and others may

have viewed the numerous LDRS clips on You-Tube. There will be flyers from all over the country as well as some international attendees, guaranteeing that this will be a must attend event. With a 22,500' FAA waiver and a virtually limitless recovery area you can be sure to see many one of a kind and extreme rockets take to the

skies. The SRC has established a goal to fly the club's large two stage rocket WHAT'S UP at this event. Come join us and bring along your friends. This could very well be the highlight of your summer.

The LDRS website is located at <http://ldrs31.org>



**SRC Rocket
WHAT'S UP**



The Syracuse Rocket Club

NAR Section #566



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SRC 2012 CALENDAR

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
01/09/12	Walt's Hobby	Club Meeting
02/06/12	Walt's Hobby	Club Meeting
03/05/12	Walt's Hobby	Club Meeting
04/02/12	Walt's Hobby	Club Meeting
05/07/12	Walt's Hobby	Club Meeting
05/12/12	Weigand's Field	SRC Sport Launch
05/26-28	Geneseo	NAR Natl. Sport Launch
06/02/12	Skytop	MOST Team Rocketry Chall.
06/04/12	Walt's Hobby	Club Meeting
06/09/12	Weigand's Field	SRC Sport Launch
07/09/12	Walt's Hobby	Club Meeting
07/12-16	Potter, NY	LDRS
07/21/12	Weigand's Field	SRC Sport Launch
08/06/12	Walt's Hobby	Club Meeting
08/18/12	Weigand's Field	SRC Sport Launch
09/10/12	Walt's Hobby	Club Meeting
09/15/12	Weigand's Field	SRC Sport Launch
10/01/12	Walt's Hobby	Club Meeting
10/13/12	Weigand's Field	SRC Sport Launch
11/05/12	Walt's Hobby	Club Meeting
11/17/12	Walt's Hobby	Annual Secret Santa
12/03/12	Walt's Hobby	Club Meeting

HELP US MAKE THIS A YEAR TO REMEMBER

May 10th will begin the SRC's 15th Launch Season. Plans have been put in place to make this special anniversary season one of the club's best ever. We can't do it though, without you. All it takes on your part to ensure success, is participation. Come to meetings when possible. Set time aside for the monthly launches and special events. Tell your friend's, family and co-workers about your hobby and encourage them to check it out with you.



Boldly Going Into The Future

