



What's Up ↓

The Official Newsletter of the
Syracuse Rocket Club



Volume 4, Number 1

May, 2000

Syracuse, New York

In This Issue:

- ◆ January, February, March, April, and May Meeting Minutes
- ◆ What's Up With Who—David Harbaugh
- ◆ What's Up! has a new Editor—David Harbaugh
- ◆ August, September, and October Launch Reports
- ◆ SALT-2000 Contest Announcement



Photo of Weigand's Hayfarm taken by George Reavis, III's Estes AstroCam

Next Launch!

Saturday & Sunday June 10th & 11th.
SALT-2000 Saturday (details page 6)

Meeting Minutes

By Jennifer Lioto, NAR #71050

January 5, 2000 Meeting

Treasury Report

Started with \$157, paid \$10 in postage for Dec. newsletter, paid \$70 to Rich Pitzeruse for mid-power pad from Jim Sekol, Leaving \$77 currently.

Old Business

Mid-power pad- Rich Pitzeruse started to head to MARS meeting in December to get the pad, but due to bad weather had to turn back. He will attend a later meeting.

Jim Sekol was added to the database for a 1 year membership and a newsletter was sent to him.

Low-power pads- Ron and Jenn Lioto presented a drawing of the idea they came up with for the low power pads. Dennis Friend brought a prototype of a design he made. A vote was held to use the design.

February 2, 2000 Meeting

Treasury Report

Started with \$77, took in \$95 in renewals, Ron spent \$35 in pad parts, \$10 was paid to Dennis for pad parts, \$46 was paid for gift to the Weigand's, leaving \$81 in the treasury. (Note- \$35 additional membership renewals are received and waiting for check clearance.)

Old Business

Renewals- 15 renewals were sent out, 11 have been received.

Mid-power pad- Rich went to the January MARS meeting and purchased the Mid-power pad from Jim Sekol. Rich brought the pad to the meeting and Ron now has it with the rest of the launch equipment.

Low-power pads- Ron and Jenn brought the lower part of the pads, and Dennis brought the rod holders. A vote was held and passed to pay \$10 to Dennis for the parts he purchased.

New Business

Mr. Weigand's mother passed away. Ron asked

for reimbursement of \$46 for flowers sent on behalf of the club, vote was held and passed unanimous.

Jenn completed the new membership cards for renewals and the were passed out to members present at the meeting.

This years launch dates were discussed and are now posted on the launch calendar page. Dates are tentative till approval of land owner.

Programs

Ideas for future meeting programs was discussed. Rich suggested having an April program on high power, and that this should be a well advertised meeting with signs at Walt's. The March meeting will be a Show and Tell.

March 1, 2000 Meeting

Treasury Report

Started with \$81, paid \$55 in section renewal and insurance, and took in \$50 in renewals, leaving \$76 in the treasury.

Old Business

Pads- we have all pads completed and are all paid in full and property of the club.

New Business

NAR Insurance- The NAR insurance has lost their insurance and there is a cancellation date of April 4, 2000. The NAR is working hard to have new insurance ASAP and hopes there will not be a lapse in coverage. This may jeopardize our April launch if there is a lapse.

Program

Show and Tell- Jennifer Lioto showed her Rugged Rocket that she is working on. These are small 24mm minimum diameter kits that have G10 fins, phenolic tubes, and Kevlar shock cord and shroud lines. Winnie Pitzeruse is working on a North Coast Rocketry X-



Winnie Pitzeruse's
X-Wing Fighters

SRC Officers

President: Ron Lioto

Vice President: Rich Pitzeruse

Secretary/Treasurer: Jennifer Lioto

Editor: David Harbaugh

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Wing fighter. She discussed some changes she is making on the kit and brought along her assorted sizes of X-Wing fighter rockets. Dennis Friend brought a couple new scratch built rockets he is



Rich Pitzeruse's Gyroc

working on. One of these are built with pieces from an old Gemini Titan III kit. And he brought along some rockets he has for sale. Rich Pitzeruse brought his upscale Gyroc that he has been working on. Everyone offered some assistance to Rich on how to hinge the fins on the model.

April 5, 2000 Meeting

Treasury Report

No change, \$76 still in the Treasury.

Old Business

Sign- Ron spoke with Mr. Weigand and they plan on putting up the sign the weekend before the April launch.

Pads- Pads are all completed. Ron needs to add another set of leads to the launch control box when time permits.

Insurance- The NAR has new insurance coverage. Insurance is no longer optional and all NAR members will be insured. The new rates of membership are: Senior member (21 and over) \$47, Junior and Leader members (20 and under) \$25. \$12 discount for additional family members is still available.

New Business

Launches- 2000 launch dates have been decided on and checked with Mr. Weigand. June 10 will be a contest launch and the events will be chosen at the May meeting.

NYPower- NYPower is being held by MARS and BRS on May 27-29th at Geneseo.

Program

This month's program was a show and tell of High Power Rocketry. Rich Pitzeruse brought in his giant Patriot that he is working on. The insides of the rocket were examined and attachment of the fins. Ron Lioto brought in his Pterodactyl and explained how it will be repainted and a payload section will be added. John DeMar brought his new state of the art altimeter.

May 3, 2000 Meeting

Treasury Report

\$10 taken in on a renewal, leaving \$86 in the treasury.

Old Business

Sign- Sign is up at Weigand's Hayfarm.

April Launch- We apologize for the cancellation and confusion of the April launch. Due to other weekend conflicts, no rain date was held.

New Business

Launch- First launch will be May 20, June 10 launch will be contest launch.

NYPower- Everyone was reminded of the NY-Power launch at Geneseo May 27-29.

Newsletter- Jenn spoke with David before the meeting and the newsletter should be out before the May launch.

Program next month- Dennis Friend volunteered to demonstrate how he covers his rockets in wrapping paper.

Program

For this month's program we choose the category of contest we will hold and choose the categories. Thanks to a lot of help from John DeMar, the contest events chosen are Open Spot Landing, 4 A Cluster Altitude, and Sport Scale.

What's Up gets a New Editor

By David Harbaugh, NAR 74389

At the January meeting I was elected as the Editor of *What's Up*. Since I wasn't at the meeting, it would be funny to say I got volunteered, but that isn't true. I ask to be nominated as Editor, and I'm glad to have this opportunity to help the club.

However, I am going to need **your** help. I'll need you to submit an article (or two). It can be a photo taken at a meeting or launch, a review of a kit, a HOWTO article, or documentation of a scratch build project. I also need submissions for "What's Up With Who?" where you explain how you got involved in rocketry. This newsletter is for you, your dues pay for it, please help me let us make the most of it.

Please feel free to contact me either at a meeting, launch, or e-mail at dlh@rochester.rr.com.

August 1999 Launch Report

By Jennifer Lioto, NAR #71050 SR

| Number of Motors Flown | | | |
|------------------------|---|-------|----|
| ½ A | 3 | E | 5 |
| A | 8 | F | 2 |
| B | 9 | G | 3 |
| C | 7 | H | 2 |
| D | 8 | Total | 47 |

August 21, 1999 the Syracuse Rocket Club once again launched at Weigand's Hayfarm in Baldwinsville. This was a special launch for SRC; it was the first launch that low H power motors were flown. It was a perfect day for some great mid-power flights. There were 18 fliers in all that flew a total of 46 rockets. Only 1 staged rocket, and no cluster models at this launch.

Once again Dennis Friend had the most launches for the day. Dennis flew 10 models ranging from A motors to E. 6 of these models were first flights.



Dennis Friend's
Starship Nova

His classic Mars Lander flew on a C6-3 for another perfect flight. The Cloud Puncher 4 was launched and was the only staged flight of the day. Both the booster and sustainer were recovered. 3 new models that Dennis flew were the Dragster 1, 2, and 3. Each of these he flew on E30-7s. I was quite thrilled to see Dennis pull out an Estes Starship

Nova for a first flight. This was a kit released in the mid 80's that was one of my first rockets. As always, Dennis did a great job on the finish.

Kelly Wilson had 5 flights for the day including 2 flights of her new Hyper-X ready to fly model. Erich Gauss and his father Karl flew 6 models together. Erich flew his Big Daddy for the first time on a D12-3. Karl flew his new LOC Aura first on a D12-3, then on G35-4. The father and son team also launched Daddy's Big Daddy on a F20-4 then a G35-4. This is a scratch built upscale of a Big Daddy that Karl had built.

Martin Reed from the Civil Air Patrol brought his son and daughter and launched a few models.

Patrick flew his Torque and Fury a few times, and Megan flew her Fury and Moon Dog. Robert Gilman flew an Alpha on a B6-4, and Matthew flew a first flight of his Mean Machine on a D12-5.

David Harbaugh started out small and launched an Estes Flash on a B6-4. Then he pulled out the bigger stuff and flew his LOC Onyx on an E16-4. Following that he launched his new North Coast Rocketry Eliminator on a F62-4. All of these were great flights.

Winnie Pitzeruse flew 2 flights on her Estes Amraam, and also flew her Estes Phoenix on an E15-4 reload. The ejection charge blew a little late, and a fin was cracked on the landing. After I got done cleaning my brother's casing from my mom's rocket (It's not my favorite job to say the least!), I drag raced my little R2D2 on an A10-3 against my Medium R2D2 on B6-2. The little R2 won the race. Ron Lioto had the honor of launching the first H motor for the club. Ron launched his Mini Mag on an H238-10. This was a great flight!

John DeMar has been working on a special project with some people from Syracuse University. He made a SU rocket from an Amraam kit and brought a film crew to tape the flight. First he launched the rocket on a G64-4, then on a H128-M. These were great flights and the video of it is great. Steven DeMar launched his DC-X on a C5-3, and Laura launched her Liberty on a B6-4. Lisa DeMar flew an old Estes Aston Ranger on a D12-7.

This was a great launch with much excitement with the H motor flights. We hope this opens up a new aspect of rocketry for some of our members.

September 1999 Launch Report

By Richard Pitzeruse NAR# 65261

As some of you know, I was pretty busy last flying season. Between working on a new house, and getting ready for my wedding, I had very little time for model rocketry. The wedding was in August, and after a most relaxing honeymoon, I was ready to resume my rocket activities once again. The Syracuse Rocket Club was holding a launch on September 18th, which just happened to be my birthday. What better way to spend the day!?

I packed my range box and a few rockets and headed to the field. I was greeted by the SRC president, Ron Lioto, singing happy birthday over the loud speaker. What a great welcome! After hearing a few "Where the heck have you been?" kind of questions, it was like I never was away, and was back into the swing of rocketry. I started out small,

with an Estes RTF *Mini MarZ Lander*, then launched a BT-60 size upscale *Mosquito* on an F14 (and got it back!) I knew the SRC field was now large enough to permit small H motors to be flown, so I decided to fly my scratch built 2x upscale *Mars Lander* on an Aerotech H128. It was a perfect flight, but when the rocket landed, it broke one of the landing legs.

Some people only made a single flight, such as Rhonda Michaels who launched her Estes *Big Dawg* on a B6-4. Someone by the name of "Blackfur" Michaels also launched a *Big Dawg*. Jeff Lioto launched his *Exo Skell* on a C6-3 and Cindy Piekiet launched her *Athena* on an A8-3. Jennifer Lioto launched her *3A-Rocket* on a cluster of three A10-3 motors for a fun flight. Theo McDonald launched a LOC *Forté* on a G33-5 Aerotech Blackjack motor, which produced a nice thick cloud of black smoke as it rose into the sky.

Matt Wilson spent a good part of the day preparing his PML *Bullpuppy* for a NAR level 1 high power certification attempt. This was the first certification flight at the Syracuse Rocket Club home field. He chose an Aerotech H128 reloadable motor for the flight, and once the motor was assembled and the recovery system packed, it was time to launch the rocket. Unfortunately, the rocket tipped off the rod at a pretty steep angle, and headed towards the tree row. Other than that, the flight was perfect, the parachute deployed right at apogee, but the rocket drifted into a cornfield. A good size group of people combed the cornfield, but the rocket was never found. In order to be a successful certification flight, the rocket must be recovered intact, and undamaged. Worse than Matt's unsuccessful cert attempt was the fact that he had a rather expensive model, with a rather expensive reload casing lost in the cornfield! If anyone ever happens to see the rocket and/or case, in whatever condition you find it, please let us know, and we will get it back to Matt.

John DeMar launched a couple of rockets, his *Primero* on a G33-7, and rocket called *SU Rocket* which is a project John and some of his Syracuse University students are working on. The rocket is a modified PML *AMRAAM 3*, and was launched on a G64-4 reload. Steven DeMar launched his *Calypso* on a B6-6 and his *Ranger* on a D12-7. Winnie Pitzeruse launched her Estes *AMRAAM* on a C6-5 and her Holverson Design *Wicked Winnie* on a B4-4. If you are getting tired of the Estes Ready To Fly stuff, you may want to check out the Holverson kits as they have some very nice designs. Walt's Hobby is now carrying the Holverson kits.

Steve King had a few interesting flights. He listed no rocket names on any of his flight cards, but

one was launched on an Aerotech F50, one was launched on a cluster to three D12-5s and the third was an odd 2 stage configuration where a cluster of two D12-0's staged to two D12-7's. Instead of a bottom stage dropping off, the motors were glued together, so the D12-7 fired into the empty D12-0 cases. The results were somewhat disappointing, as the rocket reached apogee while the D12-7s were still burning. It is my feeling that the D12-7's could not provide the proper thrust, with it's expelling gases being forced into the tight confined area of the empty D12-0 cases.

Marty Joyce had a total of 5 flights. He launched his *SR-71 Blackbird* and his *Bullpup*, both on C6-5s, then he launched his scratch built *Blue Dart* on a D12-7. Twice he launched a scratch built rocket called the *Express*, which is a 2-stage design. He used a C6-0 staged to a C6-3.

Bob Piekiet was busy, he had a total of 11 flights! Some of his flights were with Estes kits, and some were scratch built models of old Estes kits, such as his *Trident* on a C6-5 and his *Scissor Wing Transport* on a B4-2. Bob also launched some larger models, such as his LOC *Onyx* on a E15-4 and a *Starburst* on an F20-4. Twice he launched a familiar rocket to the SRC range, his scratch built *Fat Cat*, both times on G35 motors.

Dennis Friend used a total of 23 motors for his 12 flights of the day. All but 2 flights were on scratch built rockets of his own design. He had two *Cloud Puncher* rockets, the *Cloud Puncher 4* had a D to D two stage flight, and the *Cloud Puncher 5* flew in a B to C two stage arrangement. Dennis's most impressive flight of the day was with his rocket called *The Ring of Fire*, which flew on a cluster on nine A10-3T motors!

So, all in all it was a great rocket launching day. Nice and sunny, light winds, and lots of rockets. Unfortunately, Matt lost his rocket, but he is hard at work on a replacement, and we look forward to seeing his successful level 1 certification flight in the spring.

October 1999 Launch Report By Jennifer Lioto, NAR #71050 SR

| Number of Motors Flown | | | |
|------------------------|----|---|---|
| A | 19 | D | 6 |
| B | 4 | E | 1 |
| C | 12 | F | 1 |
| Total 43 | | | |

October 16, 1999 was the last launch of the sea-

son for the Syracuse Rocket Club. Although we only had 27 rockets flown by 6 people, we had some of the most unique flights ever. It was a small group of people using all their motors they had left. Some tears were shed at this launch, especially by me!

I believe Dennis really wanted to use up some motors fast. He flew 7 models, but used 22 motors! That's pretty impressive! The first flight of the day was Dennis' Estes Scorpius on a B6-4 and was a great flight. His scratch built Fireball 500 took off on a E15-4. The 'chute got stuck a bit, but the model was OK. He launched his Cloud Puncher 5 on a C booster to a C6-7. I am not sure both parts were recovered. Dennis made a new scratch built kit that was a cluster and staged model. It flew on 6 A10's to an A3. This was a major heads up flight but all went well and all parts were recovered. The Ring of Fire lite up the sky flying once again on 9 A3-4Ts. The back end of this rocket is amazing looking all wired up.

Ryan Reavis had the second most flights for the day. Ryan flew his Fat Boy 3 times, once on a B4-4, and twice on a C6-5. One of the C6-5 flights the rocket got hung up on the rod. He also flew his Snitch and his Darth Vader's Tie Fighter.

I launched my Marauder on a B6-2 and the flight was great. Things went down hill from there. I launched my recently made Big Daddy on a D12-3, but the nose cone did not eject all the way and it lawn darter. The nose cone was pushed into the tube and the tube crumpled. I don't think duct tape can



Jennifer Lioto looking at motors with Ken McIntosh, Ron Lioto, and Dennis Friend.

help this one! I then launched my small and medium R2D2, which both flew fine. However I loaded up a F24-4 reloadable motor for my regular R2D2. On the pad the aft closure blew right off the casing, and the motor mount blew up through poor little R2. This also happened to Ron at the previous Genesee launch. After much help from everyone at the launch, we found all pieces of the motor and casing. This was my favorite kit, and I wasn't very happy with the damage.

Ken McIntosh came to the launch all the way from Vestal and launched 4 models. First he launched a Star Wars Naboo Spaceship on an A10-3. He followed this with a Nova, Big Bertha, and a Silver Comet that flew great on a D12-5.

Marty Joyce flew his new Hellfire kit on a D12-7 and had a great flight. Marty also flew his new scratch built Express #1 staged model on a C6-0 to a C6-3. This was a successful flight and both pieces were recovered.

Needless to say this was not one of my favorite launches, but most rockets had no problems and

SALT 2000 Contest Launch Syracuse Area Launch Tournament

June 10, 2000

10 am till 3 pm

At Weigand's Hayfarm
NAR Local Contest Meet
Prizes will be awarded!

Events

Open Spot Landing
4A Cluster Altitude
Sport Scale

Description of Events

Please check the NAR Pink Book for full rules

Open Spot Landing- Any single stage rocket, any type of safe recovery. Land the entry so that the tip of the nose cone is closest to a predetermined spot on the ground. Rocket must not separate into 2 or more unattached pieces. Only 1 attempt can be made, and it must be the first flight of the model that day.

4A Cluster Altitude- Achieve the highest altitude with a single stage model powered by 4 A motors. All motors must be retained in the model, rocket must be recovered, all motors do not have to ignite.

Sport Scale- Open to models that closely resemble an existing or historical guided missile, rocket vehicle, or space vehicle. Dimensions of the rocket are not measured, just has to look like the correct dimensions. Any size model may be entered as long as it follows club rules. Contestant must supply data to substantiate the models adherence to scale in shape, color, and paint pattern. Model is judged by accuracy, difficulty, craftsmanship, and must make a stable flight.

What's Up With Who?

By David Harbaugh, NAR #74389

I got started in rocketry on Thanksgiving week-end 1997 when my brother-in-law Mark gave my nephews Estes starter sets. I may have heard of model rockets growing up, but didn't pay any attention. Mark encouraged me to go out with them in the field behind my parents and watch, so I did.

I had a water rocket as a kid, and I guess I was expecting that level of performance. When the first rocket went up (on a B engine, if memory serves me right), I bet my jaw dropped. Mark explained how quick the rockets were to build, prep, fly, and I was hooked. The fact I could get rockets and motors at Wal-Mart only sweetened the deal.

Our family draws names for gifts at Christmas, and I had my gift idea: an Estes starter set. Sure enough, at Christmas there was a big box under the tree with my name on it (from Mark, who happened to draw my name). Inside was an Estes starter set. We even went out and launched in the mild Pennsylvania weather.

After getting home, I read (and re-read, and re-read which drove my wife Denni crazy) the Estes catalog that came with my starter set. Lots of neat looking rockets and larger motors (D, E, F, and even G!) that I couldn't find at Wal-Mart. "I could order from Estes," I thought, "But there's got to be a better way. Where can I find out more?"

The Internet turned out to be the answer, and what a wealth of information I found! National organizations with clubs all over the US launching rockets using K, L, M, and beyond; Businesses selling rockets and motors galore; and Rocketry Online, where you can ask questions, read news and reviews, and find out how to do all those things you want to do. I started spending my lunch hour looking at rocketry related web sites, and even now visit Rocketry Online every workday.

A coworker of mine noticed this interest. He mentioned that he has a rocket he launched at his daughter's birthday a few years ago that was collecting dust, and offered to give it to me. Thinking he was talking about a model rocket, I accepted.

He brought in an Aerotech *Arreaux*! At 43 inches tall and 1.9 inches in diameter, it dwarfed all

my other rockets in my small fleet put together. I had to learn about this size rocket, and then had to figure out how I was going to launch it.

Remembering that I saw clubs on the NAR web page, I checked to see if there was a club in Syracuse. Sure enough, Syracuse Rocketry Club was listed, with a link to SRC's web page and the President's email address. The web page mentioned Walt's Hobby, which I used to go to when I was 9 or 10 years old (back when Walt's was in Fairmount). I never remember seeing rocket stuff, probably because I was so focused on Lionel train stuff.

One breezy Saturday Denni and I packed up my rockets, visited Walt's and bought a two pack of G EconJets, then headed to the SRC launch site. Introduced myself to Bill Barzee (then president of SRC), signed up as a member with Jenn, watched a few rockets go up, then decided to launch the *Arreaux*.

I needed help prepping the motor, having never used a composite motor or a Copperhead igniter. Of course, the Copperhead failed, and I needed to borrow a home made igniter from someone (Bill, perhaps?). The new igniter did the trick, sending the *Arreaux* high into the sky. I was looking forward to getting it back and possibly launching it again.

The wind had a different idea, pushing the rocket well off the launch field. I said my goodbyes to Bill, Ron and Jenn, then Denni and I looked in the next field over for a while trying to find the rocket. I never did find it, and I'm sure Bill, Ron, and Jenn thought "We'll never see him again!"

I got over the loss of the *Arreaux*, and dove in head first into rocketry. My rocket fleet has grown, both in number and size, including a AeroTech *Barracuda*, LOC *Onyx*, and a NCR *Eliminator*. We've even bought a house that has a perfect area in the basement where I can work on rocketry.

I'm currently building a LOC *Mini Mag* that I'll use for a Level 1 certification attempt this year. The next project is a PML *Endeavor* I bought at Walt's for 1/2 price (Thanks Walt!). All this building is made much easier with a dedicated rocketry area in our new house.

I hope that I'll get my Level 2 certification in a few years, and if I ever win the Lotto, I'll even go for a Level 3 certification! I've got my dollar, I've got my dream, where's my money!



My ill fated
AeroTech *Arreaux*

2000 SRC Launches

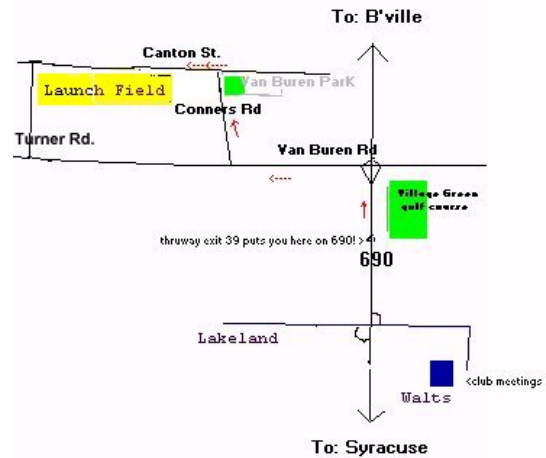
All launches are from 10 am
to 3 pm at Weigand's Hayfarm

May 20
June 10 & 11
July 8
August 5
September 16
October 21

**Dates subject to change due to
weather and field cutting.**
Please call Ron or Jenn at 466-6507
**The morning of the launch to
Confirm the launch will be held.**

Syracuse Rocket Club
c/o David Harbaugh
101 Ontario Street
Phelps, NY 14532

Weigand's Hayfarm



From 690- take Van Buren Rd. Exit, turn left on Van Buren Rd. About 1/4 mile turn right on Conners Rd. Continue up Conners, Van Buren Park will be on your right, turn left on Canton St. Look for sign showing where to park. We launch either right across from the white farm house on Canton Street, or around the Corner on Turner. Follow signs.