

WHAT'S UP

A Publication of the Syracuse Rocket Club

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NAR Section 566

Syracuse and Central New York, USA

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Special Points of Interest:

- Meetings
- UPDATED Club Calendar
- NAR News



MEETINGS

Since our last edition of Whats UP, the club has held two meetings. The January meeting featured yours truly as the guest speaker on the topic of Cheap Rocketry. I used a powerpoint presentation that I created in 2007 and had last updated in 2009, so after a bit of a facelift, it was ready for prime time again. More on the items from that presentation is in this newsletter.

The meeting had sixteen members or guest show on Zoom and went over a variety of topics, many from previous meetings, like new low power pads and future meetings.

The February meeting featured David Grimes presenting on starter dipping. He went over types of starters, how he chose the type of starter dip he uses and wire (CAT5), and the process for dipping starters. Discussion around the less-effective Estes starters also took place. David also suggested a club event for dipping starters since it's hard to make tiny amounts of dip for a few starters at a time.

The Treasury stands at \$1020.73 as of the meeting.

In the show and tell portion, Tom Ha showed his recently-completed Downward Facing BullPuppy (DFBP),

made with the fiberglass through the wall fins facing the opposite direction from the intended direction. Tom Butler showed off his rocket room, and talk of the Extreme Fat Boy by James Shattell also came up again.

Discussion of high power certification levels also ensued.

This space is still waiting for YOU!

Please submit rocketry related stuff to your newsletter editor!

Tell me what you like or don't like. Ask for topics to be included that interest you.

rocketha@gmail

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Meet the Editor/Publisher Part 2

Hey, it's me again, Tom Ha. I started flying rockets when I was growing up outside Miami, Florida. When we moved to Pennsylvania, I recall looking for places to launch our rockets, and we located soccer fields and parks. The first place we flew was on the undeveloped portion of the apart-

ment complex that we lived in when we first moved north. The complex was only about one-third completed, but the dozers and excavators had done their work on the rest of the area, stripping all the vegetation off and leveling it all. This became a great place to fly rockets, even with a tree line

close by. It was easy to pick a day because you could look outside and know what the launch sites weather was! We moved away after a year into a suburban housing area and lost access to that land. Now it's covered in apartments, but I still drive by once in a while for the memories.

WHAT'S UP

What's a NARAM?

The National Association of Rocketry Annual Meet (NARAM) is the NAR's annual model rocketry championship. This is the big meet, NAR members from around the country gather for a week-long rocketeers' reunion. Most people pronounce it as one word "nahram" while others pronounce it as two "nar am", either way, it's all fun!

The first NARAM was held in 1959, just two years after the NAR was formed. It was, and still is, primarily a National

Championship, where the best compete for top National standing. Winners earn recognition for their achievement, and trophies are awarded for the top places in each event, for the NARAM Champions, and for the overall National Champions. There are numerous activities than run day and night. Anything from informal bull sessions back at the hotel, to more formal activities.

Sport Flying

A sport range is maintained starting the weekend before

the competition range opens on Monday. This is where I hang out nowadays, whether it's flying rockets, helping with range duty or talking to everyone that comes by. Most of the time now, Maria and I are running the Fly-It, Take-It program from a tent near the rangehead. A whole week to fly high power or anything under that is not to be missed!

Other events include:

Manufacturer's Forum

Hear from rocket businesses,

from kit makers to motor makers to software developers and more.

Research and Development Presentations

Part of most NARAM's is an R&D competition, and the presentations are an evening event during the week.

Scale Rocketry Display

If Scale Rockets are part of the NARAM competition, you can see some really impressive models of real rockets on one evening of the week.

Estes Tour

I'm not really a salesperson for Estes, but they do have the most history behind them. I attended the March Northern Virginia Area Association of Rocketry (NOVAAR) meeting, both to catch up with familiar faces and to watch the guest presentation. Ellis Langford was online live for the meeting and we watched the Estes Tour video while he narrated it real-time. This was because the audio portion didn't come through from Bill Stine who was waving his arms and speaking in the video. The tour was part of NARCON, the NAR's annual con-

vention, which I didn't have the time to attend. So this was my chance to get the tour and see what I've only seen from passing by on the street in the past.

The picture is from a drone, taken about six weeks ago while there was snow on the ground. This is Penrose, Colorado, a very small town southwest of Colorado Springs.



Random Launch Picture

About What's UP

What's Up is the official newsletter of the Syracuse Rocket Club.

What's Up is published six times a year and is distributed electronically on the SRC website; latest and back issues may be downloaded at syracuserocketclub.org/

[newsletters.html](#).

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credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. You may not use the material for commercial purposes.

Adhesives, Anyone?

Cyanoacrylate Glue, Round One



My first attempt at using an UltraViolet (UV) hardened glue was from a chance encounter in the clearance area at Fry's Electronics in Walnut Grove, California. I had flown in from Pennsylvania just an hour before and was there to hang out with my Aunt. But she knew my predilections and offered to stop by Fry's on our way back to her house from the airport. I

found an interesting package of a UV flashlight and what looked like a standard-sized CyA bottle.

The idea that you would need a flashlight to apply glue was intriguing since I had never had that concern before in my well-lighted workspace. It was only on a closer look that I realized that it was actually CyA and that it was UV-hardened. The bottle was made from black plastic, which indicated that at least

they had thought that far ahead. It would be a hard sell to have outside light gradually harden the glue inside the bottle and try to sell it!

I liked the quantity of CyA, but I never found more online, so it appears the clearance section was appropriate for the item. I used it some then set it aside as a novelty item.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Have you ever wondered at some of the unique names used in rocketry? Here are a few of them, with some explanation:

TTW—Through The Wall—The most secure fin mounting style you can use where the fins go through the wall of the body tube via slits and typically attach to or are glued against the motor mount tube.

CyA—also known as “CA” -

Short for cyanoacrylate glue, a mouthful for sure! Known mostly by its original brand name of Super Glue, there are many versions of this, from generics from China sold at Harbor Freight Tools, to made-in-the-USA brands like US Gold, sold by Balsa USA. (When writing I try to use “CyA” as it differentiates it from CAifornia). Some rocketeers care less about source, others care a lot!

How about some rocket parts:

BT—Body Tube

NC—Nose Cone

MM—Motor Mount

MMT—Motor Mount Tube

CR—Centering Ring

BH—Bulkhead

You will see these at many parts suppliers websites, especially one of my favorites, balsamachining.com



Ping Pong and Rockets

Our August launch will feature ping pong balls as the theme. We have fun contests planned and I just travelled to Walt's Hobbytown and purchased gift cards as awards. I find there's nothing like money to create some excitement!

I found it quite amusing to receive this email after the last meeting:

Another topic that came up at Monday night's meeting was the age-old existential question “What is a ping pong ball?”

Tom Butler asked the question as he had discovered there are a variety of ping pong balls out there.

An official 3-star table tennis ball is 40 mm diameter and weighs 2.7 grams. The official diameter was changed in 2000 from 38 to

40 mm.

Turns out there are a lot of cheap ping pong balls out there, often sold as beer pong balls.

Some of those are 40 mm, some are 38mm. I bought a bag of 50 from Amazon for \$7.92. They are about 40 mm diameter, but their weight varies from 1.8 to 2.7 grams per ball. I weighed 14 of them and they averaged 2.24 grams per ball.

So the question for the August contests is, what will count as a ping pong ball?

Is there a minimum weight and diameter that will be acceptable?

Will we accept anything that is sold as a ping pong or beer pong ball?

Who knew defining a ping pong ball could get so complicated?

April	Mon. 5th	Zoom Meeting	Club Meeting, 7:00 PM
	Sun. 25th TENTATIVE		Discussion Topics: 2021 Rocket Contests. Altimeters
May	Mon. 3rd	Zoom Meeting	Beginning Rocket Building Class, 1:30-3:30 PM
	Sat. 15th		Club Meeting, 7:00 PM Discussion Topic: Planning for NYPOWER, URRF, NARAM Aerotech and CTI reload demos.
June	Sat. 5th TENTATIVE	Skytop?	SRC Sport Launch and Test Launch for MOST Rocket Team Challenge Teams, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
	Mon. 7th	Walt's Hobby	Theme: Saucers, Spinners & Spools
	Sat. 12th		Contests:C+ Saucer Spot Landing 1/2A Helicopter Duration
	Fri. 25th - Sun. 27th TENTATIVE	Potter, NY	MOST CNY Rocket Team Challenge? TENTATIVE
July	Mon. 12th	Walt's Hobby	Club Meeting, 7:00 PM
	Sat. 17th		Discussion Topic: Computer modeling and flight simulation
	Sat. 24th - Fri. 30th	Weigand's Field	SRC Sport Launch, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Theme: Winged Wanderers and Whirlybirds (Glider & Helicopter Recovery) Contests: A Boost Glider Duration A Rocket Glider Duration 1/2A Helicopter Duration
	Geneseo, NY		NARAM 62
August	Mon. 2nd	Walt's Hobby	Club Meeting, 7:00 PM
	Sat. 28th		Discussion Topics: Planning for annual picnic and night launch
		Weigand's Field	SRC Sport Launch, Family Picnic, and Night Launch, 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM Themes: Ping Pong Projectiles Fat-Boy-Inspired Rockets Contests: Largest number of ping pong balls successfully launched in a single rocket. Most flights by a single flyer that includes a ping pong ball as a payload. Ping Pong ball spot landing, closest to the spot wins. 1/2A Helicopter Duration Fattest Fat Boy



This is Meredith Ha, age 3, with her first rocket flight at the SRC October 2020 launch. Meredith is the latest rocketeer in a long family tradition of rocketry that includes her Dad, Zach, and your newsletter editor, Meredith's' proud Grandpa. Zach started at about the same age and worked his way up to national competition, reaching his pinnacle by entering an Research and Development (R&D) report in B division at the NAR national competition known as NARAM, where he won first place and a cash prize of \$1000.

Meredith is one four young ladies that attended our launch, along with mom Heather and my wife Maria. Heather and the granddaughters were visiting for a week from their home in Central Pennsylvania. We like to start them young in our family, get them hooked and have them learn and have fun as a family.

Rocketry is a family friendly hobby. We always look forward to launches across the country to catch back up with our friends and share good times and food and drink with them.

At the same time as it is family friendly, I consider my “alone -time” while building, repairing and designing rockets to be equally valuable as a mental break from work, and a way to just do my thing.

Topics for the newsletter:



You can help! Here's only a few of the topics you will see on a recurring basis, listed in no particular order. I hope you won't be shy about letting me know what you like or don't like about the topic du jour and what I write about them.

1. Rocket build difficulty
2. Rocket build/simulation software
3. Containers to hold your rocket stuff
4. Electronics for beginners
5. High Power, certification stories
6. NAR competition and other topics from the NAR
7. Adhesives (yes, the dreaded glue thread!)
8. How you can help your club
9. Safety equipment
10. Building tips and tricks
11. Launch reports



Pin Pong Ball Contest

Our August launch will feature three ping pong ball related contests.

A ping pong ball is a ball that looks like you could play ping pong with it. It must be able to bounce and be sold as a ping pong ball. This is not a pink book NAR competition. All decisions are final, made by Tom Ha or his designee.

The first contest is to launch the largest number of ping pong balls successfully in a single rocket. Success is defined as the balls must emerge from the rocket completely. Keep in mind that you must police your balls, you may not leave them on the field!

The second contest is for the most flights by a single flyer (not a family) that includes at least one ping pong ball as a payload. You must demonstrate that each flight you want to record towards your total has a ping pong ball in it. The ball(s) do not have to emerge from the rocket at any point in flight.

The third contest is Ping Pong ball spot landing, closest to the spot wins. Someone will be asked by Tom to pick a spot and tag it out in the field area. Each flight can be measured by the flyer with a witness.

All flights will be tracked on the flight cards we already use.

Syracuse Rocket Club

Officers:

President—Scott Sellers

Vice President—Tom Butler

Treasurer— James Shattell

Secretary—Tom Ha

Email:

SyracuseRocketClub@outlook.com

Meetings:

Virtual meetings starting at 7:00PM Eastern Time on the first Monday of the month. Email the above to be included.

Membership: (calendar year)

Single Member—\$10/year

Family—\$15/yr (includes spouse, children under 18)

How To Join:

Join at a launch, or go to our website at syracuserocketclub.org and download/print the membership application. Mail it to the address on the application with your member dues.

Membership Benefits:

Membership Card

Zero Flight Fees at Launches

New to model rocketry? Bring your questions to a meeting, or email us at the address above! We all started this hobby at some point and had many of the same questions you likely have right now!



Welcome to The Syracuse Rocket Club

Visit us on the web!

The Syracuse Rocket Club promotes and encourages safe hobby rocketry in the Central New York area. We are an official section of the National Association of Rocketry (NAR #566).

We appreciate the support from Walt's HobbyTown in Syracuse and from other vendors, local and online. We also appreciate our generous hosts at our rocket launch site, the Weigand family.

We support many local educational institutions, from elementary schools to Syracuse University and in between. Rocketry is an educational, hands-on hobby that builds skills and educates while providing the thrill of sending something you built into the sky! Join us, we are eager to share our knowledge!

Reach the What's UP editor at:

6427 Lamphear Rd.

Rome, NY 13440

or

rocketha at gmail dot com