



# What's Up ↓

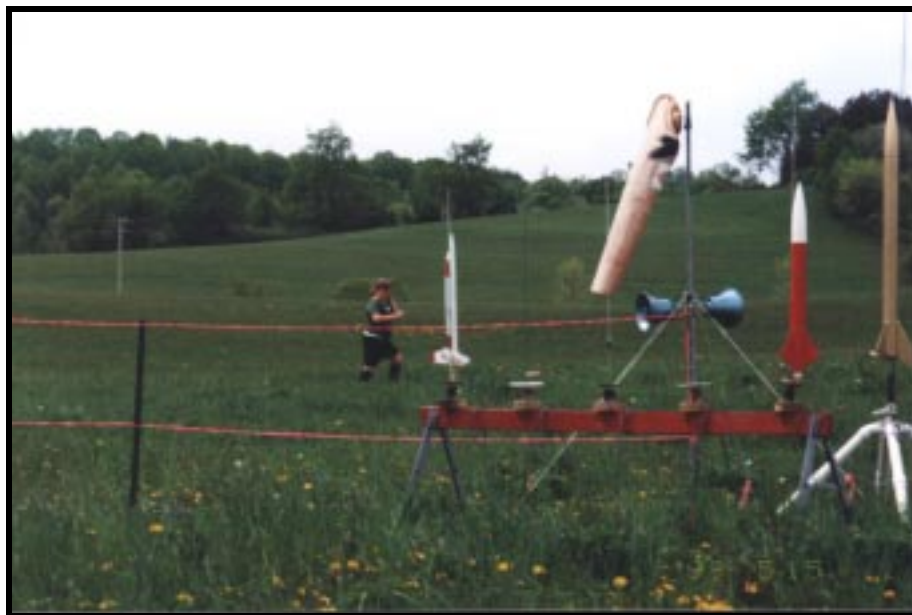


The Official Newsletter of the  
Syracuse Rocket Club

Volume 3, Number 2

Millennium Issue

Syracuse, New York



## In This Issue:

- ◆ Meeting Minutes
- ◆ What's Up With Who-  
Winnie Pitzeruse
- ◆ Launch Reports
- ◆ Special Note- Y2K

## Next Meeting

January 5, 1999

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

At Walt's Hobby

### Business

Elections- volunteer for a  
position with the club.

Brainstorming session on  
design of new low power pads.

### Program

Winnie Pitzeruse will  
give a presentation on  
making parachutes.

**Meeting Minutes**

*By Jennifer Lioto, NAR #71050*

**August 4, 1999 meeting**

Treasury Report

July meeting was an informal rocket chat session. Since June's meeting we have spent \$45 on adding the H power leads, and \$78 on the scale and batteries. We took in \$30 in memberships. We currently have \$162.

Old Business

The newsletter is done!! Those attending tonight's meeting receive their copy early. Do we still want semi-permanent sign posts if we will be switching fields?

-Yes, Mr. Weigand would still like a semi-permanent sign at the main field

-Mr. Weigand has 4x4's and Ron has plywood to reinforce sign

-Estimated \$15-20 for 2 post holders for sign- Vote held and passed to buy post holders.

Will we be launching at Turner field again?

-Sometimes we will be flying here, not sure yet for next launch.

Are new signs for launch field needed?

-Yes, 3 new signs would be good for when launching at Turner. One for at the barn with main sign that says turn left, one for corner of Turner, and one for pull in on Turner. Jenn will make up paper/cardboard signs like old sign.

New Business

One of the 1/4 inch rods was bent at the last launch. Does anyone know an estimate on price to replace it with a new stainless 1/4 inch?

-Ron and Dennis said new rods are only

\$5-6 each.

Has anyone had any problems with the other 1/4 inch rod fitting too tight?

-No one present has had any problems with the other rod, but it would be a good idea to have an extra, especially if we add another pad.

Should we replace both rods?

-Vote was held to purchase 2 new 1/4 inch rods at \$5-6 each. Passed unanimous.

Dennis has 2 speaker holders he wished to sell for \$20 each. One would be good as a new base for the PA system, and the other could be made into a mid power pad.

-Vote held and passed to purchase stands from Dennis for \$40.

It has been suggested to post the events of the meeting on the web page. This would take minimal time and would fill gaps between newsletters.

Program next month- Jenn will show and discuss her upscale R2D2 project.

**September 1, 1999 meeting**

Treasury Report

Since August's meeting we took in \$30 in memberships and renewals, and paid Dennis Friend \$40 for the 2 stands- leaving \$152 in the treasury.

Old Business

Sign- Ron and Jenn saw steel posts for the sign and Ron feels would be much stronger and durable. Should we spend \$19.99 each (we need 2) for the stronger posts?

-Vote held and passed to buy better posts.

-Ron purchased a plywood saw blade (personal, not from club funds) so the wood can now be cut.

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**SRC Officers**

President: Ron Lioto

Vice President: William Barzee

Secretary/Treasurer: Jennifer Lioto

Newsletter: Jennifer Lioto

Photos: Marty Joyce and George Reavis, III

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-Ron spoke with Mr. Weigand and will mount the sign on the 4x4's at the field. We have 2 new 1/4 inch rods- have not been paid for yet.

New web page will be up this weekend, now has minutes, photos, and rocket links. Matt Wilson is helping out with the club database.

#### New Business

Ron did a talk for the Civil Air Patrol on model rockets.

Jenn expressed an interest in finding a new editor- Anyone interested please contact Jenn.

Should we move the time of the launch?

The past few launches have been getting a late start, it was suggested that we start the launches a bit later, and fly later. Ron and Jenn explained the difficulties with loading the new truck, the lack of black box that we kept the equipment in, and no way of locking the truck. Ron's cap is ordered, and once this is on the club can use the black box again, and the truck can be loaded the night before and locked. It was decided that a later launch would be problems for some, and that Ron and Jenn need to get their butts there earlier.

#### Program

Jenn showed and talked about her upscale R2D2

Program next month- Rich will do a presentation on fiber glassing

#### **October 6, 1999 meeting**

Ron and Jenn were unable to attend the October meeting due to a conflict with the Alice Cooper concert. Rich Pitzeruse did a program on fiber glassing for the meeting. No business was discussed.

#### **November 3, 1999 meeting**

Treasury Report

Since September's meeting we took in \$40 in memberships and \$2 from sale of a cop-head (can you believe that!), and paid \$30 for the post anchors and \$7 for the September mailing- leaving \$157 in the treasury.

#### Old Business

Sign- All parts for the sign are at Mr. Weigand's. It was decided to wait till spring to install the sign because there was only one more launch this season. The Plywood was donated by Ron Lioto and was painted with an opaque gray porch and deck stain that matches the sign.

#### New Business

Coming soon to the web page- newsletters in PDF format.

SRC will be holding a contest launch in spring with help from John DeMar.

Elections are coming up- asking for nominations and volunteers to fill any positions. Ron Lioto was nominated for President, Rich Pitzeruse was nominated for Vice President, Jennifer Lioto was nominated for Secretary/Treasurer, and David Harbaugh offered to be Editor. Anyone still interested in holding a position can contact Ron or Jenn Lioto.

New pads- Rich Pitzeruse offered to contact Jim Sekol about building a mid-power pad for us similar to MARS pads.

Ideas for new low power pads were discussed- we decided to go with 2- 4' sections, each with 3 rods to allow for an addition 3/16" rod. Different ideas on how to attach the rods to the pads was discussed.

#### **December 1, 1999 meeting**

#### Treasury Report

No transactions have occurred- leaving \$157 in the treasury.

#### Old Business

Due to the low turn out in attendance, lack of newsletter, and checking club bylaws-

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*(Continued from page 3)*

elections will be held in January.  
 Mid-power pad- Rich Pitzeruse heard back from Jim Sekol- Lloyd Wood of MARS has a pad that he will sell back to Jim, if Jim will make him a larger one. Jim will sell us that pad for \$70- but MARS must have use of it at the National launch.  
 Vote was held to purchase pad from Jim Sekol for \$70- All in favor, no apposed.  
 Rich suggested that seeing Jim does all this work, and only charges what the cost of material is, that we give him a 1 year membership.  
 Vote held to give Jim Sekol a 1 year Membership- All in favor, no apposed.  
 Low-power pads- Dennis and Ron came up with ideas on how to hold the rods. Ideas were drawn and worked on. There will be 2- 4' pads, each with 3 rods, 2-

1/8" rods and 1- 3/16" rod. This way we can load one side, launch the other, and if we have a small launch only one set needs to be used.

Everyone will take a trip to Home Depot and hardware stores and see what ideas they can come up with for January brainstorm design session.

New Business

Jennifer brought up whether we should attempt to do another building session, turn out has not been great in past years. We decided to put this off to January meeting when there is more in attendance.

Programs

January- Winnie Pitzeruse will do a presentation on making your own parachutes.  
 February- Group build the low-power pads, carried in to March meeting if needed.



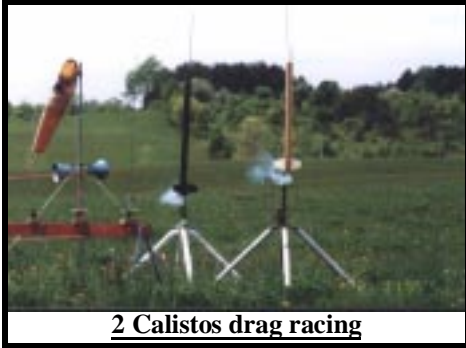
Somebody's Blue Rocket



Marty Joyce's J-0

**\*Special Note\***

**Ron Lioto, designer of the Syracuse Rocket Club launch control system, would like to assure everyone that all parts of the launch control system are Y2K compliant. The Syracuse Rocket Club will be holding many more launches throughout the next Millennium.**



**2 Calistos drag racing**

**What's up With Who?**  
**Mom and Model Rockets**

*By Winnie Pitzeruse*

It all started a few years ago when we bought a house on Onondaga Hill with a huge field in the back. One of my young son's decided this was a great place for flying model rockets and his dad (a much bigger kid) agreed. Off shopping they went and Rich started building and flying rockets. Of course finding them took the whole family - did I mention the power lines that ran through the field of goldenrod?

Before long Rich spied the Mars Lander and had to have it. He was 12, it was a skill level 5 and expensive. It was agreed that he could have it but Mom would do the building. Around the same time his Uncle gave him a Centuri - Saturn V, he had for several years and never built.

Guess who built that? Rich still has both rockets although a little worse for wear, those rubber bands weren't made to last.

I also have a little girl that grew up with rockets. All the dolls I bought were ignored while she tried to span the 10-year gap and keep up with her brother. She too was building and flying rockets.

The field grew houses so the rocket crew was forced into going to the park for their flying. By that time cars and girls had come along and rockets became a sideline. As Rich grew so did the size of his rockets and Mom was talked into making para-

chutes (don't ask how we tested the first ones). Bigger rockets, bigger fields, and off to Geneseo.

When Jennifer moved back home she got me interested in building again. I find it to be relaxing. This year I learned how to install the motors and hook them up. I never liked seeing something I've spent so much time on fly away or crash. This winter's project is the Estee's - Saturn V, and no it probably will never fly.

OK, so it may be more than a few years. The house is almost paid for, the kids have all moved out - again, and somehow gotten older than their mother.

**June Launch Report**

*By Jennifer Lioto, NAR #71050 SR*

<b><u>Motor</u></b>	<b><u>Number Of Flights</u></b>
1/2 A	2
A	13
B	16
C	22
D	16
E	2
F	5
G	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>

The Syracuse Rocket Club's June launch was held on June 19 at Weigand's Hay-farm. 61 single motor rockets were launched, and 8 two-stage rockets totaling 69 flights and 77 motors for the day. There were 23 fliers in attendance plus quite a few spectators.

Due to the number of launches at this launch, I will not be able to cover all flights. However there were many that deserve an honorable or dishonorable (those are the best!) mention. Dennis Friend flew

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8 rockets that day, the most for this launch. His well-finished Mars Lander flew on an Apogee D10-5 and was a beautiful flight. Dennis also flew one of his infamous Cloud Punchers with a B booster to a C6-7, both the booster and rocket were recovered.

David Harbaugh launched his LOC Onyx on a F40-4 White Lighting Aerotech motor. His Estes Phoenix flew twice on a D12-3, but on the second flight the 'chute got stuck in the body tube and some minor damage was done.

Scott Sellers flew his Jayhawk, Mercury Atlas, Astrocam, and an Ecee Glider; all of his flights were successful. Scott brought along some of the boys from his son's Cub Scout troop to fly some rockets. Doug Seller's The Shadow took off for a nice flight, but unfortunately the parachute tangle and it darted to the ground. I am not sure how much damage was done to the model, but it didn't look too promising. Jordan Sellers flew 2 rockets that day that were both successful flights, his Eggspress and R2-D2.

Jason Cramer flew 5 rockets including 2 two-stage models, the Comanche 3 (with one booster), and the Longshot. The Comanche 3 was a great flight and both the booster and rocket were recovered, however the second stage on the Longshot did not ignite and the rocket lawn darted. Jer-



**Jennifer's SR-71**

emy Long and Nicole and Jacob Edison flew a few group effort rockets including 3 successful flights of a two-stage Mon-goose. Jeff Sullivan launched an Estes Wild Fire 3 times and a Wizard for some nice flights.

Brian Sullivan prepped his Prowler and was ready for it to take off from the pad. But rather than the rocket zipping off the pad, the paper on the igniter caught fire and then the bottom of the rocket started to burn. Brian gets the proud honor of having the first rocket to catch fire on the pad at a SRC launch. Our President Ron Lioto was quick to respond, opted not to stomp out the flames and squish the young man's rocket, and decided it was a good opportunity to use the club's garden sprayer fire extinguisher for the first time. Brian prepped the Prowler again and it flew a great flight.

George Reavis, III launched an Astrocam with film twice at this launch. After, George sent me the photos that were taken at the launch. His son Ryan also flew his Darth Vader's Tie Fighter. Marty Joyce launched his J-1 scratch built two-stage model on a D12-0 to a D12-5 and had a beautiful flight. Marty seems to have the two-stage flights down to a pat now.

Jeremy, Eric, and Michael Pitzeruse launched a total of 12 rockets at the launch with some help from their Grandma, Uncle Richie, and Aunt Jennifer. Needless to say, Rich and Jennifer had no other flights that day. Winnie Pitzeruse managed to fit in 2 flights of her newly finished Estes Amraam and Estes Phoenix. Mike Sciccitano launched three F motors in his Python, Lil Nuke, and Onyx. Bill Barzee sent up his LOC IV up on a G64-4 for a successful flight.

The launch was over all a success. We had a nice day with a pretty mild wind, and only a few rockets were damaged, and all were recovered.



**July Launch Report**

*By Jennifer Lioto, NAR #71050 SR*

<u>Motor</u>	<u>Number Used</u>
1/2 A	2
A	2
B	6
C	12
D	10
E	3
F	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>

July 17 The Syracuse Rocket Club held another launch at Weigand's Hayfarm. It was a very windy day and the temperature was quite hot. 12 fliers launched 34 single motor rockets and 2 cluster models were flown, totaling 36 flights with 40 motors.

Dennis Friend once again had the most flights for the day. He launched 7 different models, all scratch built and had successful flights. Marty Joyce came with 2 new scratch built models he made, the Black #1 and The Blue Dart. Marty also flew his Lil Nuke on an E30-4 Blue Thunder. The rocket separated and the body landed in a tree. Ron Lioto climbed up the tree and recovered the body, but the nose cone was lost.

David Harbaugh launched had 4 flights including his new Holverson Design kit The Tangent. All his flights were successful. Steve King launched a Lil Nuke on a F25-6, and launched a couple cluster models. Unfortunately, neither of the cluster models were recovered.

George Reavis, III launched his Sky-winder twice successfully on C6-3's. Ryan Reavis launched his Ready to Fly Snitch UFO a few times.

Scott Sellers launched his Initiator on a F40-7 and had a great flight. He then launched his Mercury Atlas, but it flew

over the trees and landed in the cornfield. After much searching Scott could not find that Atlas, but returned the next day and found it. Doug and Jordan Sellers each launched 2 rockets and recovered them.

I launched the science fiction looking rocket that I purchased from Dennis Friend. The first time I launched this was at Gene-seo on a C5-3, but it was underpowered and flew in the ground. This time I launched it on an Aerotech 18mm D13-7 and it flew perfect. I also launched my Marauder on a C6-5, which arched over the tree line and also went in the cornfield. Surprisingly I found it without any trouble. Jeff Lioto launched his Exo-skell for the first time and it flew great, much better than it's predecessor The Venus Probe.

Peter Watson visited one of our club launches from Binghamton. He is interested in starting a NAR section in southern NY. Peter launched his rocket The Blue Shark on a F25-6. This arched over the road, ejected early, separated, and he was unable to find either part. Later in the day after Peter left, Scott Sellers found his rocket.

This was not a great launch for everyone. The wind was unpredictable and was causing rockets to wind cock in all sorts of directions. It was defiantly one of those days that makes everyone want to give up on rocketry, luckily everyone has stuck to it and returned to other launches.



**Some rockets ready to go**

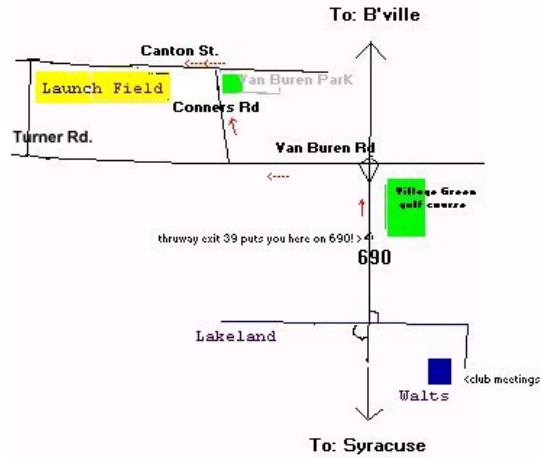
**Meetings**

**First Wednesday of every month 7 pm to 9 pm at Walt's Hobby.**

**Programs**

- January**– Winnie Pitzeruse will do a presentation on making your own parachutes.
- February**– Build the new low power pads building session.

**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.

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