



What's Up!

The Official Newsletter of the
Syracuse Rocket Club



Volume 7, Number 1

January 2008

Syracuse, New York

Time to build rockets!

2008 SRC Officers

President: David Harbaugh

Vice President: George Reavis III

Treasurer: Dennis Friend

Tripoli Prefect: David Harbaugh

NAR Section Advisor: Ron Lioto

Secretary: Elaine Reavis

The above Officers were elected during the
January 2nd Club Meeting.

New Members

The Syracuse Rocket Club proudly wel-
comes the following “new” members:

Tim Catterson
John Perperian
Brenda Perperian
Johnny Perperian
Brendan Perperian
Ed Thomas
Steven Schenk

Table of Contents:

Page 1: SRC Officers and New Members
Pages 2-4: What's Up with Who?
Page 5-6: Walt's Secret Santa Sale
Page 7: Items For Sale and Wanted

What is Going On at Walts? (see inside)



Have you attended a Syracuse Rocket Club meeting lately?

We'd love to see you at our meetings.
The SRC meetings are held the 1st
Wednesday of the month at 7 PM . Club
meetings are an excellent opportunity to
exchange ideas and information, plus we
meet at Walt's Hobby Shop. **Remem-
ber, SRC members get 10% off their
purchases at Walts.**

What's Up with Who?

By Cheryl Costa

Born Again Rocketeer

I first got started with rockets back in 1967 when I was a freshman in high school. In those days my first rockets were built using ancient Chinese standards.

This involved wrapping newspaper around pencils for the airframe and closed one end with Elmer's glue. This ancient Chinese method of small rocket building required that a tail be inserted into the rocket that was 5-7 times the length of the actual rocket tube. This tail was in the form of a small stick. Very long "sis kabob" sticks worked great for small rocket tubes less than 2" long. When the glue was dry, we would pack the tubes with black powder then install mud end caps at the business end. When the mud was dry and flaky a few days later, the rocket was ready for launch...sort of!

Our early efforts with homemade black powder were dismal. The early powder was slow burning and reeked of sulfur. The rockets simply sat there on their tails and burned like a dull and stinky road flare and most certainly didn't fly.

Black powder was easily made from materials bought at the drug store and supermarket; any encyclopedia had the formula and proportions. The real art for my best friend (Gerry) and me, a couple of high school geeks, was to learn the art of accurate measurement and more importantly something called incorporation. The "art of incorporation" was a 14th century discovery that involved the fine grinding of all the separate gun powder chemical components prior to mixing. Incorporation greatly increased the yield of the black powder and eventually lead to flying sky rockets. Though even with high quality black powder our early rockets were little more than primitive fire works.

Our big break with modern model rocketry came when our local hobby store started carrying the early Estes rockets. Of course the engines sizes in the late sixties were limited to "A" & "B" engines with "C's" on the drawing boards at Estes. So we both started with model rockets and learned the arts of construction, flying them and of course range safety the hard way.

Gerry graduated from high school in 1969 and went to engineering school and became a PhD eventually going to work for General Dynamic Space systems. He eventually became a software project scientist and project manager of various rocket contracts where he works today.

When I graduated from high school in 1970, I joined the Air Force and later the Navy as an advanced computer and electronics technician. After the Navy, I began my 28 year career in the Information technology and IT security applications. I pretty much left my rocket hobby behind. I kept swearing I would get back to it one day, it just never happened.

Then in Jan 2007, I moved from Washington, DC to Syracuse for a change of life. About the same time I watched a Science Channel program about modern rocketeers out in the south west desert with some awesome solid and liquid fueled equipment. I started Google searching the topic and saw that the hobby was alive and had grown significantly.

That's when I Googled the Syracuse Rocket Club and send a letter and my first membership dues. I spent the rest of the 2007 winter and spring months, building a Loc Graduator kit for starters. In addition I built nearly a half dozen homebrew designs from scratch materials, most painted bright girly colors. I figured over thirty years worth of engineering expertise had to count for something. During the 2007 launch season I flew a whole bunch of rockets; Most worked, some really well. In fact I got to re-fly a number of successful airframes and lost a half dozen to rocket eating trees. **(Continued Next Page)**



Photo: July 21, 2007 Syracuse Launch day, Cheryl Costa with her scratch built cluster rocket XP-3. (Airframe 3" commercial mailing tube)

Of course in the interest of full disclosure, some of my scratch rockets didn't work so well and some were flat out dismal failures. In the face of these failures I chalk it up to Research; for as Werner Von Braun said,
"Research is what I'm doing when I don't know what I'm doing."

I recently purchased a house here in Syracuse with a dry full basement. Needless to say, all my shop tools are now out of storage and in place in the new cellar. After I get settled, I look forward to working on my NAR cert "1" and "2" airframes and a few new scratch designs I've sketched in my notebook.

My spouse, who sometimes attends launch events, has enjoyed watching the thrill of the successful launches both of mine and those of others. She supports my getting involved in the Rocketry hobby again after so many years and has encouraged me to stretch myself and my designs concepts.

I have enjoyed the fine folks of the rocket communities of both Syracuse and in PennYan, I have felt most welcome. I've learned a lot just chatting, while walking around looking for someone else's rocket or over a soda and a hot dog. To sum it all up to a sound bite, "Rockets are FUN!"



Here is a rocket eating tree with one of Cheryl's rockets inside the black circle.

So, What's Up with You? Want to be our next guest submission? Please submit your biography via email to: greavisi@rochester.rr.com (subject line: What's Up with You?)

Walt's 2007 Secret Santa Sale

By George Reavis III

For those of you who may not know, Walt's Hobby Shop has a yearly sale that is held the Saturday before Thanksgiving. At this event you will see vendors, demonstrations by very talented and skilled helicopter and airplane flying hobbyists, kit building, assorted hobby clubs (helicopter, boat, airplane, car, plastic modelers), raffles and reduced pricing storewide. The doors open at 9 AM for customers and close at 5 PM. During this time you have hundreds of people coming and going.

This was my first opportunity to actually attend this event. Walt placed our table right next to the center racetrack, which was also next to his door prizes. I believe that Walt gave away over \$6,000 in assorted items. He even provided gift bags to each club that manned the event. Thanks Walt!! (continued next page)...

Rockets brought by Dennis Friend



David Harbaugh, Dennis Friend, Ed Thomas, Tim Catterson, Elaine Reavis and I manned this event throughout the day. Earlier in the year, we had planned to have a live rocket motor firing on a stationary mount. In fact, Walt was a bit disappointed that we didn't. During our December club meeting, it was discussed that we should plan to fire a stationary motor at Walt's 2008 sale. Noticeably missing from this event was the Nike Smoke. That would have been a great rocket to show.

We had numerous individuals stop by our table to inquire about our club and to admire our rockets. I believe that we gave away several membership applications and several pull off tabs with our website address.

The day went by relatively fast, but would have gone by faster had we been making rockets or repairing the Nike Smoke. I look forward to Walt's 2008 event. Hope to see you there.

Rockets brought by George Reavis III



Rocket Items For Sale

Contact Dennis Friend at: 315-637-3549
for the following items:

- ◆ **The Launch Pad Hellfire Rocket** - finished but not flight worthy. Price: \$30 -

Discreet Componets (prices negotiable):

- ◆ Diodes
- ◆ Resistors
- ◆ Capacitors
- ◆ Transistors
- ◆ IC's, small and large
- ◆ Switches, plugs and sockets
- ◆ LED's, individual and displays
- ◆ Fuse holders
- ◆ Battery holders
- ◆ Potentiometers
- ◆ Solder and flux
- ◆ Panel lights
- ◆ Small fans & small speakers
- ◆ PC boards with components on them
- ◆ Perfboard
- ◆ Electroplate Kits
- ◆ Blank PC board
- ◆ Pen for drawing customer circuit boards
- ◆ Ferric chloride etching solution

This section will be updated quarterly, which means, every quarter you will have to "resubmit" any unsold items from the previous issue. This section will be available to club members. To sell an item, please forward the following: Item(s) for sale, description, new or used, cost, picture(s) if available, contact name and telephone number. Please list items separately, unless they are a bundle sale.

Please send your For Sale or Wanted Ads to:

greavisi@rochester.rr.com

Subject Line: SRC Rocket Items For Sale or Wanted

Just a reminder

Keep your NAR and Tripoli memberships current. Each chapter requires a minimum number of active memberships. Don't forget to include your NAR/Tripoli membership numbers when you renew your yearly SRC memberships. This allows Dennis to monitor our National Memberships.

I encourage all of you to help fill these pages with pictures, helpful hints or general information that would benefit the club.

**Send electronic submissions to:
greavisi@rochester.rr.com
Subject Line: SRC Newsletter**

2008 SRC Launches

2008 launches are posted. All launches are from 10 am to 3 pm at Weigand's Hayfarm.

Dates are subject to change due to the weather and field cuttings. Please check the SRC website <http://www.syracuserocketclub.org> the morning of the launch to confirm that the launch will be held.

We look forward to seeing you there!