



What's Up!



The Official Newsletter of the
Syracuse Rocket Club

Volume 4, Number 2

Winter 2000

Syracuse, New York

Club Begins Two Stage Group Project

The Syracuse Rocket Club is having a club project of building a 2-stage high power rocket. The project is being funded by donations from members and is not being taken out of club funds. Due to FAA restrictions, the 2-stage rocket will have to be flown at a Geneseo MARS launch, but we hope the top stage will weigh under 3.3 lbs. when completed so that we may fly the top alone at our club launches.

Our intent of this project is to involve all members of the club, no matter what level of rocket building you are at. Basics such as filling body tube grooves and fin fillets will be demonstrated, along with more complex topics such as electronics for lighting the top stage and recovery. Work on the

rocket will be done at monthly meetings and possibly at building sessions throughout the winter.

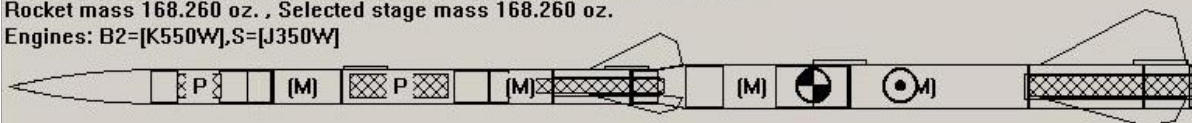
Currently we are in the planning and development stage of the project. We have collected some part donations from members and are deciding on general shape, length, and how to wire up the electronics. The diameters of the tubes will be a 4" booster to a 3" sustainer. These diameters were chosen because it happened to be what club members had available to donate. Walt's Hobby has donated a transition unit that will be used between the stages. Once we decide on where the electronics will be located, we will have a complete list of parts still needed for the project.

SRC 2 Stage Scale: 1/14

Rocket length: 111.375 in. , diameter: 4.024 in. , span diameter: 14.281 in.

Rocket mass 168.260 oz. , Selected stage mass 168.260 oz.

Engines: B2=[K550W],S=[J350W]



Stability data for Sustainer and Booster

Barrowman: CG: 75.491 in., CP: 83.732 in., CNa: 27.762 , Static margin: 2.66, The rocket is over stable.

Also in this issue

- ◆ June, July, August, September and October Meeting Minutes.
- ◆ June, July, August, September and October Launch Reports.
- ◆ Pictures from launches this summer.
- ◆ What's Up! with Ned Nassif.

Meeting Minutes

June, July, August, September, and October Meetings

Submitted by Jennifer Lioto

June 7, 2000 Meeting

Treasury Report– No Change- \$86 currently.

Old Business– June 10 we are holding a contest launch. David handed out the newsletter to members that were present.

New Business– Due to the races and PA system, we could not hear each other. We discussed if a new meeting place was needed. A few members have gotten the idea that we may be over-staying our welcome. Jennifer will look into libraries and wherever we might be able to hold meetings. All business was cut short due to not being able to hear.

Program– Dennis Friend demonstrated how to cover a rocket in wrapping paper. The paper is measured and cut. And spray adhesive is used to attach it to the rocket body. Dennis had some great pointers on how to avoid getting adhesive on the outside of the rocket.

July 5, 2000 Meeting

Treasury Report– Started with \$86 in treasury took in \$40 in memberships, leaving \$126.

Old Business– Meeting place- Jennifer called a few places about meetings and it is possible to meet elsewhere. This meeting there was no racing, but what if there was at the next? The pro's and con's of moving the meetings was discussed, and we decided to speak to Walt and find out if there is a problem with us holding our meetings there.

New Business– LDRS was held in South Carolina the past weekend. Rich Pitzeruse and John and Steven DeMar drove down. Rich launched his big up-scale Patriot rocket and all went well. We don't know any details yet, but it sounds like not all of

John's flights went well.

Jennifer brought up that when the club was originally formed, Bill Barzee wanted to do a large high power club project. At the time there were not many members interested in high power, but now we have quite a few. Members present at the meeting seemed interested in the idea. Financing the project was discussed. This would not come out of club funds, but maybe members could donate to the project.

Some members cannot afford to contribute, and that is fine. It would be a project where no matter what level of building you are at, we could all benefit from the knowledge. We discussed and decided that the best way to go about this is write up a few estimates on building expenses, do a mailing to members explaining our plans and ask if members would donate towards it. Then we could see if it would be possible to cover the expense of it. A 2-stage model would be nice to do. This would have to be flown as a club project at a MARS launch in Geneseo.

August 2, 2000 Meeting

Treasury Report– Started with \$126, took in \$30 in a renewal and donation, leaving \$156 in treasury. Jennifer asked David about reimbursement for postage for the newsletter. David wished to have his membership upgraded to a family and said that would be even.

Old Business– Meeting place- Jennifer spoke with Walt and there seems to be no problem with us holding our meetings there. He says they do not plan races the nights of our meetings.

Large rocket project– Any discussion will be saved for program part of meeting.

SRC Officers

President: Ron Lioto

Vice President: Rich Pitzeruse

Secretary/Treasurer: Jennifer Lioto

Editor: David Harbaugh

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New Business— Launch Control box- At the June launch there was a problem with one of that set of leads. Ron examined the electronics and discovered a short in the computer cable off the box. Ron purchased a new cable so we were able to use the pad at the July launch. A vote was held and passed to reimburse Ron for \$21 for the cable.

Contest Launch— John DeMar contacted Ron and Jenn about holding a regional contest launch in August. John wished to hold this at the Clay Airline field where NYSpace was held a few years ago. Jenn mailed in to the NAR \$15 to add on the Clay field to the club insurance. A vote was held and passed to reimburse Jenn \$15 for the insurance. (Leaving \$120 in treasury.)

Program— Large Rocket— Jennifer got a catalog from Zeppelin Hobbies so we could work out estimates. Ned offered some spare tubes that he had at home. Jenn also has some spare parts including G-10 fins and a 4" payload that she would donate. Winnie can make parachutes if needed. Different size diameters were discussed, and with the tubes Ned has, we could do a 4" booster to a 3" sustainer. We made up a parts list, and we would have to purchase a few centering rings, make or buy a 4" to 3" transition, and a 3" payload section. Seeing the parts we need to buy would be about \$30, we decided that there was no need to write up estimates before we decide to do this. Of course later on motors would be needed, and we can ask for donations then. We voted to go ahead with the project without doing the official estimates. At the next meeting, we would all work on designs on what we would like it to look like and bring in whatever parts we have to donate. We can get a better list of what we need when we have all the pieces we have in front of us.

September 6, 2000 Meeting

Treasury Report— Started with \$156, we spent \$15 on additional site insurance, and \$21 on a new cable for the launch equipment, leaving \$120 in the treasury.

Old Business— Contest Launch- Besides a few set backs, John DeMars contest launch went well. The Clay field was muddy due to rain, and the launch was held at Weigand's Hayfarm. There was not as large of a turnout as he expected, and the club will not get total reimbursement for the additional site insurance.

New Business— Next launches are September 16 and October 21. Dennis Friend found little stakes with

holes at the field. We also need new fluorescent tape for the stakes along the wires. A vote was held and passed to give Dennis \$10 for tape and stakes.

Program— Large Rocket Project- Jennifer and Ron brought in their ideas for the design of the rocket. After everyone took a look at it, sizes and lengths of the sections was discussed. Walt's Hobby donated the 4" to 3" transition. Different ways of wiring the electronics was discussed. Next month we would bring Ron's Sudden Rush as an example of how the electronics are wired.

October 4, 2000 Meeting

Treasury Report— Started with \$120, took in \$30 in memberships, paid \$10 to Dennis for flags stakes and tape, leaving \$140 in the treasury.

Old Business— Dennis got the flags and tape for the launch. Newsletter- Jenn gave David the July and August flight cards. Jenn will do the June and September reports and will send them to David.

New Business— Next launch is October 21 and this is the last launch of the year. Elections will be coming up in December. Nominations are taken in November and then there has to be a newsletter before the December meeting.

Program— Large Rocket Project- Ron brought in his Sudden Rush so everyone could see the way the electronics are arranged in it. The lengths of the tubes was discussed and argued about, so a vote was held on whether the sustainer should be longer than the booster, or the same length as the booster. The vote was close, but it was decided that the sustainer would be the same length as the booster. Next month hopefully we could get the 3" tubing so we can get an idea of what other parts we will need.

Syracuse Rocket Club Elections December 6

Elections for SRC Officers will be held at the December 6th meeting. The officers terms will be from January through December of 2001.

Offices up for election are President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor.

Ron Lioto has been nominated for President, Rich Pitzeruse for Vice President, Jennifer Lioto for Secretary/Treasurer, and David Harbaugh for Editor.

June Launch Report
By Jennifer Lioto

June 10 the Syracuse Rocket Club held their first launch of the season. Due to the weather not cooperating, the April and May launches were cancelled. This launch was also a NAR local meet contest launch. We held three events- Open Spot Landing, 4A Cluster Altitude, and Sport Scale. John DeMar had new altitude tracking equipment designed by Syracuse University engineering students that was used for the 4A Cluster Altitude event.

<u>Motor</u>	<u># Used</u>
½ A	10
A	27
B	11
C	20
D	4
F	3
G	1
Total	76

There were 60 rockets flown in all that day, with a total of 76 motors used. There were 5 entries in the 4A Cluster event and 1 staged model flown. We had a bit of a late start, and some entertainment, as Ron Lioto assisted Mr. Weigand in mowing the launch area.

Dennis Friend flew 6 flights including an Open Spot Landing entry and a 4A Altitude entry. He flew his Vesuvius SLBM first on four ½ A3-2T motors, then as the contest entry on four A3-4T motors. Dennis also launched his Mini Marz Lander on a 1/2A3-2T as the Open Spot Landing entry, and then again on an A3-4T. He also flew his Sounding Rocket A-1 and his Cloud Puncher 5, which is a 2-stage model.

Jason Mattina had 7 flights, the most flights for the day. Jason launched his Estes 18, a no-name rocket, and his Copper Head on A8-3's and B6-4's. Kevin Feola flew 5 flights on 2 models. He flew his Fire-Flash a few times, first on an A8-3, then worked his way up to a C6-5. Kevin also flew his Serno on a B6-4.

H. John flew his new Omloid model 4 times on C5-3 motors. The first flight landed right in front of Ron Lioto mowing the field, and Ron stopped just in time. Jason Cramer flew his Flash a few times on B6-5 and C6-5 motors, and flew his Omloid on a C6-5. The flights were great!

David Harbaugh had 5 flights for the day including the first flight of the day with his Estes Snitch on a C6-0. David also flew his Estes US Army and his

Estes Flash. He launched his Estes Sidewinder with helicopter recovery as his Open Spot Landing entry.

Scott Sellers scratch built a model called the Quadra as his 4A Cluster entry and flew the model on A2-3 motors. He flew his Comanche single stage on an A8-3, and his Mirage on a F52-5. Scott brought his beautifully finished Mercury Atlas for the Sport Scale competition.

I launched a new scratch built model called the Silver Thing on four A10-3 motors as my 4A Cluster entry, but unfortunately I could not find the rocket. My littlest R2D2 took a short trip on an A10-3 as my Spot Landing entry, and the LOC Aura that a purchased from Dennis took off on one of the new Aerotech Black Max Econojet F23-4 motors. I lost that model too, it wasn't a good day for me!

Marty Joyce entered his Bull Pup in the Sport Scale category, and flew it on a C motor. Marty also launched his Sentiel on a C6-3 and his Mercury Atlas on a D12-3. He launched his scratch built Blue Dart model, but the parachute and nose cone separated.

Ned Nassif flew 3 flights on 2 models. First he flew his new Estes Sizzler on a D12-5. Then he flew his Big Daddy, which is an upscale modified kit on a F52-5, then he flew it again on G64-7. That was a great flight!

Doug Sellers launched his Patriot a few times on 1/2A3-2 motors. One of the flights he had some igniter problems and finally flew on the third try. Jordan Sellers flew his IQSY a couple times on ½ A3-2T motors, and also flew his R2D2 model on a C5-3. Nancy Sellers flew a Snitch on a C6-0. George Reavis, III launched his new scratch built kit called the Reavis 2000A on a C6-5 and a B4-4. His son Ryan launched his Red Storm on a C6-3. Paul Belton launched his Trans Carrier on an A8-3, then again on a B6-2. Ron Lioto flew his first scratch built model for the 4A Cluster event on four A10-3. And John DeMar launched his Narcon Saucer as his Open Spot Landing entry.

Besides a bit of wind and a few models lost, over all it was a great launch. Our first launch of the season, a beautiful day, and a NAR contest event really made the whole day go well. Hopefully next flying season the spring weather here in Syracuse will cooperate a little more and we can have launches early in the season.



Another Dennis Friend Scratch Built Rocket

July Launch Report
By David Harbaugh

The July Syracuse Rocketry Launch was held on the 8th, a sunny Saturday. There was some wind, but that didn't stop us from launching rockets! Thirty-six flights ranging from 1/4 A power to G power, with 2 two-stage rockets and one cluster.

Ken McIntosh had five flights. The first was his Estes Big Bertha on a C6-5, and the second was the two-stage Russian SAM-X on a B6-0 staging to a B6-6. His Micro V-2 flew twice, once on a 1/4A 2-2, and the other flight on a A2-7. Then Ken brought out the big stuff, flying his ARCAS on a F20-4W.

Ron, Jen, and Jeff Lioto flew a total of 6 rockets. Jeff flew his Estes ExoSkull on a C6-3, while Jennifer flew her Mini Praying Mantis on a D12-7, an Estes Big Daddy on a D12-3, and her SRX on a D12-5. Ron's Fat Boy went up on a D12-5, and his Acme 54 leapt off the pad under a G38-7.

David Harbaugh and his wife Denni made nine flights. Denni launched her Estes Mars Lander under A10-3T power. However the first flight didn't make it off the pad because one of the legs got caught under the clothespin on the launch rod. She launched it again using another A10-3T motor for a good flight. Her Estes Sizzler went up on a 1/4 A3-3T. David's Estes Flash twice took to the sky using a B6-4 both times. His Estes Army missile command rocket went up on a C6-3. David also launched his Estes Skywinder on a B6-4, and his Estes Snitch on a C6-0. David's 5' 9" tall scratch built *Dragon Fly Slayer* also went up on 4 C6-7 motors, softly landing in the tall grass for its 4th successful flight.

Ned Nassif tested out an unnamed scratch built rocket by flying it three times: one on a B6-4, once on a C6-5, and finally on a D21-7. His other three flights sent his modified Estes Big Daddy up on a F52-5, a G40-7, and finally a G64-4.

Winnie Pitzeruse flew her AMRAM twice, under a B6-2 and a C6-3. Her Wicked Winnie flew under a B4-4.

Dennis Friend was the launch leader, flying 6 different rockets for a total of 7 flights. His Mars Lander flew twice, but

<u>Motor</u>	<u># Used</u>
1/4 A	2
A	4
B	10
C	14
D	6
F	2
G	3
Total	36

times using a C5-3 motor. His AGM-78 took to the sky using a D2-5, while his Estes Hornet used a B6-4. Dennis Scratch Built *Sounding Rocket A-1* launched under B6-4 power, while his downscale Mini-Sidewinder went up on an A3-4T. Finally, it would hardly qualify as a Syracuse Rocketry Club launch if Dennis didn't send up one of his famous two-stage Cloud Puncher rockets. Dennis' veteran *Cloud Puncher 4* took to the sky under a C booster staging to a C6-7.

A total of 961.25 newtons were fired, equivalent of just over a 75% J! Nine flyers sent 27 different rockets into the sunny Saturday sky. If you missed this launch, we hope you can make it to another launch!

August Launch Report

By David Harbaugh

The August Syracuse Rocketry Club Launch was held on the 5th, a perfect Saturday for flying rockets. Thirty-four flights took to the sky, ranging from 1/2A power to G power, with 1 two-stage rocket and three cluster flights.

Marty Joyce launched his Estes Bull Pup on a C6-3, and his Li'l Nuke on an E30-4T. His Estes Python also flew on a D12-3, while his SRX went up on a C6-3.

Winnie "Mom" Pitzeruse flew her Maverick on a D12-3, and her AMRAAM went up on a C6-5.

Winnie and Rich Pitzeruse went head-to-head twice, drag racing their Mini Marz Landers. The first race used 1/2A3-2Ts, and Rich won. The second race used A10-3Ts, and Winnie won as Rich's Lander acted unstable. Rich also sent up his SR-71 with glider recovery. The boost under an E15 motor went well, as did the glide recovery up until landing, when the nose when crumpled a bit. The SR-71 will fly again! He also launched his Estes Space Shuttle on a D13-5, an Estes Saturn 1B on four C6-5s, and his upscale Mosquito twice. The first flight of the Mosquito on a F12-5 went fine, however the second launch on a G25 was last seen near the park. Rich never found it.

<u>Motor</u>	<u># Used</u>
1/2 A	2
A	5
B	4
C	16
D	6
E	3
F	1
G	4
Total	41



Rich prepping his SR-71 on an E15

Rich and David Harbaugh drag raced their Estes Snitches. David used a C6-0, while Rich used an Aerotech D13. David's left the pad first, nearly reaching apogee when Rich's finally leapt off the pad, seemingly deciding it need to catch up, and in a hurry! Rich's Snitch quickly shot passed David's, winning on height, but not on time to height.

David also flew his Estes Snitch again on a C6-0, his Estes Flash on a C6-5, and his Big Daddy named "Yankee Doodle" on a D12-3. Denni Harbaugh launched her Estes Mach 12 on a C6-5.

Ned Nassif put his scratch built Camera rocket up three times, on a G64-4, a G64-7, and a G80-7. The camera takes a whole roll of picture each flight.

Dennis Friend had 10 total flights on six different scratch built rockets. His *Sounding Rocket A-1* went up on a B4-4, while his *Quick Shot* on an E15-7 suffered a broken shock cord, and his *Fireball 500* on a D12-3 suffered a broken pod. Dennis' *Merry Christmas Rocket* flew three times, on two A8-3s, on two B4-4s, and on two C6-5s. His *Happy Birthday Rocket* also flew three times, on an A8-3, a B4-4, and a C6-5. The cruel rocket eating trees stole *Happy Birthday Rocket* from Dennis.

It would hardly be a Syracuse Rocketry Club Launch without a Dennis Cloud Puncher Rocket! Dennis launched his veteran *Cloud Puncher 4* on a C booster to a C6-7. He recovered the booster, but the sustainer was lost to the Rocket Gods.

A total of 1155 newtons were fired, equivalent of just over a 90% J! Seven flyers sent 24 different rockets into the sunny Saturday sky

September Launch Report

By Jennifer Lioto

September's weather was not cooperating with us again and the launch ended up postponed till September 30. It ended up a rather chilly windy day, but it appeared it was the best we were going to get. We had a very small turn out with only a few flyers.

Dennis Friend helped set-up the launch and flew 6 models. Dennis had a few new models that we got to help make up names for. He flew his new Impaler, which was a beautiful model covered in wrapping paper. This flew on a B4-4 and was a great flight. He also flew his new NSR (Nice Standard Rocket) on a C6-5. This was a nice, standard looking rocket, hence the name. His NASA Geosat Launch Vehicle flew on a C5-3 for it's first flight also.

What launch would be complete without one of Dennis' Cloud Punchers? This month Dennis

launched one of his Cloud Puncher 4 on a C booster to a C6-7. The booster was recovered, but the sustainer was lost. His Sounding Rocket A-1 had another successful flight on a B4-4. Dennis also brought along his beautiful original Estes Mars Lander and flew it on a C5-3. Unfortunately, the parachute got stuck and the Mars Lander hit hard, crumpling the top part of the model. Hopefully Dennis will be able to repair it back to its original condition.

Tom and Chris Rasback showed up later in the day and Tom flew his Big Bertha on a B6-4. Chris launched his Fire Flash twice on C6-5 motors and also flew his Moon Dog on an A8-5. I launched my new Ready To Fly Cruise Missile on an A10-3.

The small informal launch ended early and the launch site closed down at about 2. Hopefully the weather and timing will be better for the last launch of the season in October..

October Launch Report

By David Harbaugh

The October Syracuse Rocketry Club Launch was held on the 21st, a cool, breezy Saturday. Twenty-five flights took to the sky, ranging from A power to G power, with 2 cluster flights.

Marty Joyce launched his SAM X1 on a C6-3, which got caught by the wind and drifted quite far. Marty searched, but couldn't find it. His scratch built *They Killed Kenny* went up on a C6-3, and this too drifted far. The Rocket Gods were kinder this time, allowing Marty to recover it.

Ron Lioto only flew one rocket, his Li'l Nuke on a F50-6. However the cruel rocket eating trees got his rocket.

Bob Piekil flew his scratch Built *Fat Cat* on a G35-4W. It was a good flight, and Bob did find it after a little help searching down near the road. He then had a late ejection charge when he flew his Starburst on a F20-4W. Finally, his Caliber flew on a G35-4W. It was a nice boost, but the ejection charge never fired, causing it to slam into the ground. If memory serves, the rocket sustained damage, but it repairable.

Hayley Burko flew her Estes Hyper-X three times, once on an A8-3, and twice on a B4-2. All three flights were great, with perfect recovery!

<u>Motor</u>	<u># Used</u>
A	5
B	3
C	9
D	3
E	1
F	3
G	4
Total	28

David Harbaugh launched his Estes Big Daddy named *Yankee Doodle* on a D12-3. He also flew an Estes Snitch on a C6-0, and a veteran Estes Skywinder on a C6-3. Don't tell his wife Denni, but her Estes Mach 12 on a B6-4 was David's last flight, and it ended up hitting Dennis Friend's car! Both car and rocket survived!

Ned Nassif had the most flights at 5. His Estes Big Daddy flew twice, once on a G25-7, and the second on a G80-7. His scratch built saucer was one of the two cluster flights, going up on three C6-0 motors to a perfect flight. His upscaled saucer flew on an E15 for another perfect flight. Lastly, his Sizzler lifted off under the power of a D12-5.

Chris Rasbeck flew his Estes Moon Dog on an A10, and his Estes Fire Flash on an A8-3. He then launched the Estes Star Wars Vader's Tie Fighter on

a C6-3. It took four igniters to get his Big Bertha off the pad under a C6-5 motor.

Eirené McIntosh's Estes Venus Probe took three igniters, but finally took to the sky on a D10-7 for a very nice flight. Ken McIntosh flew his Arcas on a F20-4, and flew a Dennis Friend creation named *Merry Christmas Rocket* on two A8-3s.

Finally, Dennis Friend did not launch any rockets! He spent his time talking while waiting for the wind to calm. The wind never calmed. Next year, Dennis!

A total of 1097.5 newtons were fired, equivalent of just under an 86% J! Nine flyers sent 22 different rockets into the sky. This is our last launch of the 2000 flying season. Building season is upon us. We hope to see you in 2001, with lots of new rockets to fly!

What's Up! With Who Ned Nassif

My love and fascination of rockets began in 1969, as a wide-eyed 6 year old watching the coverage of Apollo 11 on TV with my family. I remember how interested I was with it all, especially watching the repeats of the launch footage. There was just something about it that really impressed me.

Around that time or shortly after, my dad bought us an Estes Astron Streak. This was a small rocket with a clear body and an elliptical nosecone, which used tumble recovery. He made the pad from a piece of wood with a wooden dowel for the launch rod. He also made a launch controller from some alligator clips, speaker wire and a doorbell button. In looking back, I realize he was pretty handy. He did all of the building at that time, but it was fun to watch him. I'm sure at that age that I imagined the flights over and over in my head.

We flew the Streak at a local school and if I remember correctly, we never lost it. We also built an Astron Alpha, which is now the Alpha. This was our first rocket with a parachute. We flew this several times, and as many of us do, we put a C in it on a windy day and, you guessed itSayonara. It's always disappointing to lose a rocket, but I think it's worse for a child. Another one of my favorites was the Big Bertha. I think we even lost that one too. But that was ok, we were having fun building them

together.

Somewhere in the mix was the fact that my uncle had a secret closet in the back hallway of their home. In this closet was another rocket, an Estes V-2. He had painted it florescent orange and I used to go to that closet on every visit to look at that V-2. I used to think about it all the time. Boy was that a cool rocket. Well he eventually gave me that rocket. Being a Science teacher, he also taught me a lot about chemistry.

Once in high school, my priorities changed, as seems to be the case with many BAR's. However I still built a kit here and there. Around 1981, I found an ad for FSI (Flight Systems, Inc.) and ordered their catalog. Wow, they had bigger motors than I had ever seen before (F's and G's!) Well, I never did get any of those motors, but I kept that catalog and got another one in 1983.

In March of 1994, I found my old '83 FSI catalog and decided to call them for an updated catalog. This is where it all started again. One of the sons of the owner answered the phone and told me that they no longer made consumer motors. He suggested I call Ross Dunton of Magnum, because he carried this sort of stuff. Needless to say my conversation with Ross blew my mind. He was very friendly and answered all of my questions. In our conversation he

told me about high power rocketry and went on to say he sold up to "L" motors. Woohoo! I was on a mission to learn all I could about this thing called high power. He gave me the name of Mike Platt, who lived in my area at the time. I called Mike and he gave me the names and numbers of a couple of others in the area. One of Mike's friends was John Sicker. John had been around the hobby for a few years and was very knowledgeable. He taught me a lot of good construction techniques and thoroughly explained composites and the certification process to me. He said if you want to fly high power (which I did) I should join Tripoli and become certified.

In May of 1994, Mike, who at the time was president of the Manufacturers and Dealers Assn., mentioned he was going to Culpepper, Va. for their semi-annual launch. I ended up going with him and certified level 1 at the launch with a Thoy Falcon on a Rocketflite H220. All I can say is the people were very friendly, the rockets were very large and I learned a lot from Mike about the regulation issues facing the hobby at the time. I was hooked!

That same year I moved out to Cazenovia with my family. Within a short period of time I met Al Jensen who was also interested in rocketry. We had several waived launches at his dad's farm in Waterloo, NY, where I met fellow club member John DeMar. John is always helpful and full of great knowledge. Al has since moved his family to Ohio. Since moving out this way I would go to one or two launches a year, usually favoring the field in Geneseo at the National Warplane Museum. This is a really nice launch site for this part of the country.

In May of 2000, I decided to build a rocket for my level 2 certification. Having let my Tripoli membership lapse for more than a year, I was required to start the certification from square one, so I would also have to certify level 1 first. So I designed a 4" booster section that would go with another payload section, I had from the Falcon. I used a nosecone that I had made from a mold out of fiberglass and chose a 38mm motor mount. I recertified level 1 and certified level 2 at NYPOWER at the end of May.

I also read and occasionally post messages to RMR (rec.models.rockets) a usenet newsgroup for rocketry discussion. One day, having noticed my having a local ISP, Rich Pitzeruse sent me an email telling me about the Syracuse Rocket Club and invited me to come to a meeting and/or a launch.



Ned Loading up his Camera Rocket

Well. I took him up on his offer and have tried to get to every launch since joining. It's great to be able to spend time with those that share the same interest in rocketry. I'm glad I became a member.

Some of my most recent projects include a camera rocket, which has flown at Mr. Weigand's farm and at Geneseo. It's a pretty simple design and works pretty well. Design instructions and some pictures can be found on the internet here <http://home.twny.rr.com/territory/camera.html>. I have also started to work more with my nosecone making.

I've done a few more in the last few weeks and have several more planned. We'll see how it goes with a small web based business. I'm primarily interested in funding my hobby expenditures and hopefully attempt my level 3 certification in the next year or two if it works out.

This is a very rewarding hobby for me. My goal for the near future is to help my oldest son David, who will soon be 7, become more interested and catch the bug like I did when I was young. Then he can enjoy the same dreams his dad had and

we can grow in this hobby together. Next it's the 4 and 2 year olds..... :-)



Photo taken at Syracuse Launch

Picture Page!

Want your picture included next time?
Submit it (photo or electronic) to David Harbaugh



Ned Nassif's Camera Rocket



Rack of rockets ready to fly



David Harbaugh's *Yankee Doodle*
taking to the sky.



4 C6-5s push Rich Pitzeruse's
Estes Saturn 1B.

2001 SRC Launches

Launch Dates not yet decided.

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.

Syracuse Rocket Club
 c/o Jennifer Lioto
 509 Kirkpatrick St.
 Syracuse, NY 13208

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