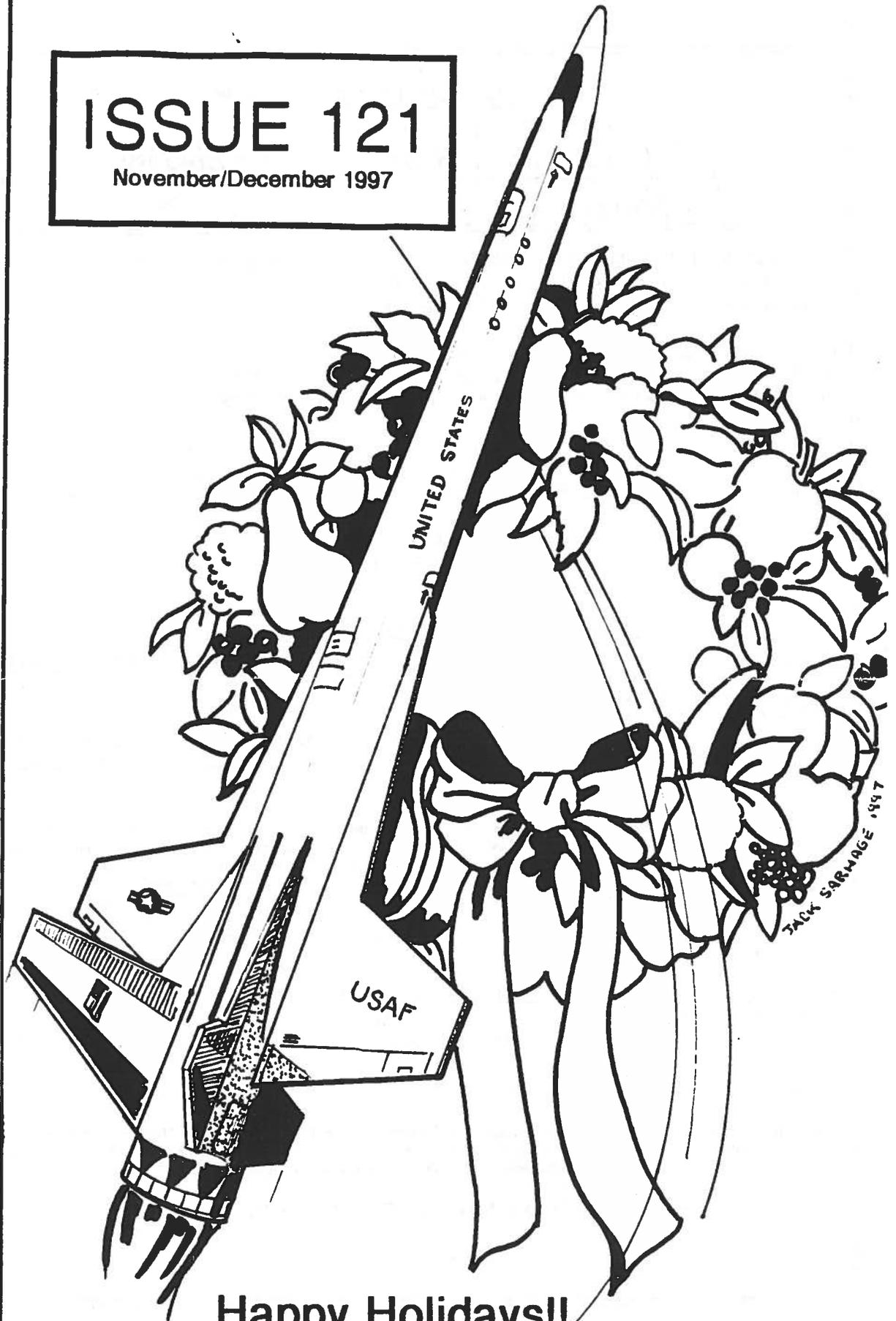


# ISSUE 121

November/December 1997



Happy Holidays!!

# The Launch Rack

The Official Publication of The  
*Garden State Spacemodeling Society*

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1997

ISSUE 121

**The Launch Rack** is the official publication of the *Garden State Spacemodeling Society* (Section 439 of the National Association of Rocketry) and is published for the enlightenment and entertainment of its membership.

Others interested in receiving this publication may do so for the annual subscription rate of \$7.50 for 6 issues. Overseas subscriptions are \$17.50. Please send this money payable in USD to **Arnold Klein, 2 Oneida Avenue, Rockaway, NJ 07866.**

The Editor invites and encourages all to submit articles, photographs, plans, letters to the editor, etc., for future publication. In addition to articles, the Editor welcomes and encourages constructive feedback on each an every issue. Please send all material to:

Jack Sarhage  
875 River Road  
Piscataway, NJ 08854-5549

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## LAUNCH WINDOW:

Anyone wishing to attend any GSSS activity should call the GSSS hotline (908) 658-9417 the morning of, to verify the event is still on. If the event is cancelled, the recording will be updated at 9AM.

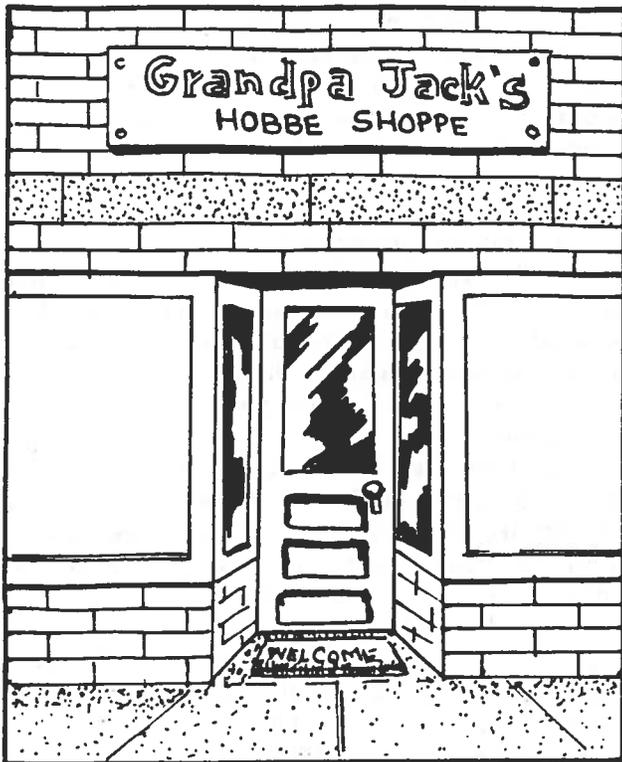
**A NOTE ON NORTH BRANCH PARK.** Please keep in mind that the park and weather conditions dictate what we allow to fly. Just because a rocket is under the one pound limit, do not assume it is an automatic launch. If the RSO does not feel the model can be safely flown or recovered within the park's boundaries, it will not be flown regardless of the weight or impulse. If some other activity shows up and starts using the adjoining fields, the RSO will reduce impulse for all flights. So, bring some small stuff just in case. **REMEMBER, WE SHARE THE PARK.** We do not pay a fee and most of us are not a resident of that county. Rocket flying fields in New Jersey are in short supply, and we are protective of the fields we have. If you're unhappy with this limitation, then we invite you to help us in gaining legal access to privately owned, large, open fields.

<u>Sat., November 22, 1997</u>	<u>Sat., December 20, 1997</u>	<u>Sat., January 24, 1998</u>
10:00 am - 3:00 pm	10:00am - 3:00 pm	10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Sport Launch	Sport Launch	Sport Launch

ALL OF THE ABOVE LAUNCHES WILL BE HELD AT NORTH BRANCH PARK

**ON OUR COVER:** To set the mood for the upcoming season Ye Ole Editor has Quest's "Intruder"™ flying through a holiday wreath. While this flying model rocket may not be on your "wish list", it is our hope that you find Peace and The Spirit of this holiday with you throughout 1998. (Pen and ink by Jack Sarhage © 1997)

NOTE: DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS DECEMBER 20!!!



**BLAME "DR. BOB"** - Shortly after "Dr. Bob" got his copy of Issue 120 of *The Launch Rack* he sat down and fired off a copy of his farewell address ala Marcus Antonius when I moved to Illinois. For whatever reason, I never got that copy of the newsletter and read it for the first time a few days ago. In it he wrote, "Jack's 'conscience' will never be able to move too far away." Boy! is he right there.

Not being active with GSSS has been on my conscience leading me to believe my only course was to step aside. Dr. Bob made it clear that this is something I couldn't/shouldn't do. He reminded me that since founding GSSS I have been tending it as you would a child and that as I stated long ago when Section Advisor I described that position as being the "conscience of the club."

And so, my conscience just won't let me abandon something that has brought so much pleasure, and at times it has been a "real pain in the a--"!

I wrote our Section Advisor, Bob Zabriskie that I am going to stay on as Editor of the newsletter AND, that he can throw my name in the pot as a candidate for President. Which brings me to.....

**ELECTIONS:** Included in this issue you will find a ballot. Every two years we elect a

President, two (2) Vice-presidents, and a Secretary/Treasurer **REMEMBER**, when you joined GSSS you promised to abide by the GSSS Constitution and By-laws, part of which is to elect those that run the club. To you Junior and Leader members I want to issue a special invitation to VOTE because unlike many clubs we do not exclude you from the election process. In fact, you can even run for office.

So, before you forget, mark that ballot and fire it off to the address shown. **TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR CLUB BY VOTING!!!!**  
**COMMEMORATIVE T-SHIRTS:** Hopefully you have seen the fantastic design by Dr. Bob! for our commemorative T-shirts celebrating the 15 years of Section 439. Hopefully, you have purchased one for yourself and how about one for a friend, wife, daughter, son, mother, father, grandpa, grandmother.....did I leave anyone out? No? Good. Members of other Sections are also invited to share in our milestone and purchase one, or more. Thank you, Dr Bob! for your hard work and beautiful design.

**ORDER OF THE GOLDEN IGNITER:** Do you have any idea of the number of rockets you launch during the year? Is it 25, 30, 40, 50 or more? In an effort to help you keep track and challenge you to higher achievements in the hobby/sport of model rocketry the "Order of the Golden Igniter" has been established. This special award will be presented to GSSS members completing 50 flights. There is no time limit. You are not competing against anyone other than yourself. Yes, there are rules otherwise it isn't a challenge. They are.....

- 1) Come to the monthly GSSS launches.
- 2) **BEFORE** each flight complete an "Official NAR Sport Flight Card".
- 3) Present the completed flight card and your model rocket to launch crew for safety check and pad assignment.
- 4) Hook up model and enjoy the flight.

All the flight cards will be turned in to me, Jack Sarhage for recording. When you reach 50 you will be awarded the special "Order of the Golden Igniter" ribbon and the rank of Lieutenant. Then keep on flying and for each additional 30 flight you will receive another rank which you can display on your club shirt.

Before you ask, Yes, competition flights can be counted upon proof of flight, flights cards, result sheets, etc.

Until next time.....

Jack

FROM THE PAGES OF.....

# FLYING ACES Club News

*(Several issues ago I introduced you to the Flying Aces Club via a article written by "Rottensox" that shared thoughts applicable to model rockets as well as model aircraft. Here is another discussing "The Horizontal Thermal" that we have all experienced flying gliders at one time or another.)*

## HIGH GUMBANDERY The Horizontal Thermal

Chester Cheetwell (*What? You have never heard of him?*) once said to his wife, "The other thing that makes a good day is hot syrup on my pancakes." This statement taken directly in context would seem to have little connection with the active sport of aeromodeling. However, let me continue, noting that syrup is the stuff to which Chester sticks, (and don't we all).

Analogous to Chester's statement are the fervent words of the contest hopeful, Jack Moses, poised at the edge of the flying field saying, "The other thing that makes a good day is a hot thermal on my launches."

The condition hanging on the opposite side of the word "other" in both of the above statements has un-numbered possibilities. For our contest flying let these range from the very personal fact of being there (or anywhere), to the day-glo orange and green portable convenience facilities a thoughtful CD has provided on the field.

So we akin Chester's hot syrup on buckwheat to a puff of hot air on crabgrass to make our good day! Is this really what happens? Don't bet on it. When the thermals arrive, and you can feel them, the mylar ribbon signing the wind gets confused, a calm moment, short little warm and cool breaths on your cheek(s). (Note: the (s) is for those wearing shorts.) The signs say, "LAUNCH NOW!".....You do, and the model tears itself free from your grasp and gets smaller

and smaller as it hurries away in flight. You realize that it's also getting harder to see it against the trees at the far end of the field. The model isn't going up, it's just going away. In the observing words of the astute Pres Bruning, "Your airplane is trapped in a horizontal thermal."

Driven by the energy of this vertically impaired column (row?) of air, a lateral vortices with a sidereal component exceeding the ambient drift, your model is going downwind faster that the *wind* is going downwind! I refrain from calling this sidewinder a "phenomenon" because they are a very regular occurrence, just recently put to good words.

I feel compelled to reveal certain information that can only be verified by those who are much better informed in the ways of Hung, especially one of his cohorts, the one know as Aeolus, the God of Wind. These devotees suspect that horizontal thermals don't quite make it out of the cave of the winds before first being bounced off a wall. There was considerable inbreeding in Aeolus' family. With it all he acquired an infrequent nervous twitch, and he's not always facing the mouth of the cave when he gets his wind up. They suspect his place is a mess. Thankfully we get the very least of it, a laid back thermal now and then.

## ...a wild Saturday night...

I feel the facts must be presented totally even though it would be best to play it safe and not include this nasty bit of mostly unconfirmed gossip in the column. We know that Aeolus, Bacchus, and Hung, do a wild Saturday night in the summers over Olympus. Hung has a direct line on all this FAC (*Flying Aces Club*) stuff and he may use it to needle Aeolus at the first opportunity. So, we must be prepared to continue to expect HT,s in the future, or at least until Aeolus is diverted again during the hurricane season.

If the above is all conjecture and has no basis in fact, it may be time to do a study on the physiognomy of thermals. There may be much we have yet to learn about the genus "thermi". A Horizontal Thermal could be a regular thermal that had stumbled, or an adolescent thermal "laying waste" to reality, or an old thermal no

*Continued next page.....*

HIGH GUMBANDERY continued from page 4

longer able to climb. Perhaps we should be less critical until we understand more about these cousins of Mother Nature who play on the same fields where we fly our model airplanes.

We are not awarded flight points for distance, so a ride on an HT must just be taken as a low altitude recon flight across the field. On the walk back, think of the words of the great Walt Mooney who said, "Stop for a moment and take a look at the field of beautiful wild flowers around you, this is yet another benefit of flying model airplanes".

"Rottensox"

(Editor's Note: FAC News editor Lin Reichel informed me that "Rottensox" is really Ralph Kuenz. If you are not familiar with this club drop Lin a note at FAC-GHQ, 3301 Cindy Lane, Erie, PA 16506. Better yet, send him \$15.00 for a year of fun. FAC News is published bi-monthly. The 6 to 8 pages of plans included in each issue is worth the price alone. Thanks again to Line and the Flying Aces Club.)

not win any of the events he flew in but his consistent flights got him 380 points. To prove winning isn't everything Robert Gill by contrast won every event he entered but it was only enough for second place. Third is the ever improving Kurt "I'm not a contest flyer" Koegel with 280. Kurt's score includes two first places in the streamer and ping-pong ball events. Also rans were Arnie Klein with 100, Robert Nee with 95 and Nancy Mastrola earning 85 points total.

The only Jr. Division flyer was Alex Frank who won the Spot Landing event he flew in and that one win got him the first place spot in his division.

I am sure that Bob Zabriskie will have some interesting things for the FunFly'98 contest. Hey! How about more of you coming out to fly in them and make it a little harder for these guys/gal to win.

-----X cut here-----

## OFFICIAL BALLOT

Use this ballot to elect your Board of Directors for the next two years. Family Memberships should make additional copies of this. Vote as shown and send ballot to Arnie Klein, GSSS-Secretary/Treasurer, 2 Oneida Ave., Rockaway, NJ 07866. **Deadline is December 20, 1997!!**

**OFFICIAL NAR SPORT LAUNCH FLIGHT CARD**  
*Before each flight, fill out one card and bring it with your model to Safety Check.*

Owner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Kit  Plan  Original

Model's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NAR #: \_\_\_\_\_

Parachute  Streamer  Tumble  Helicopter  Glider  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Single-Stage  Multi-Stage  Clustered  Scale  Payload: \_\_\_\_\_

Engine(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Rod Needed:  1/8"  3/16"  1/4"  5/16"

Other \_\_\_\_\_

<b>LAUNCH CREW USE ONLY</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> SAFETY OK (INITIALS): _____ PAD # _____

Above is a sample copy of the "Official NAR Sport Launch Flight Card to be used to keep track of flights leading to the Order of the Golden Igniter.

### FUNFLY '97 RESULTS

I am sure that everyone that flew in these fun events had enjoyed it and learned a little bit more about how to get that rocket to do what you want it to do...besides going up and coming down. If there is a word to describe the strategy behind winning is has to be consistency and, the guy that was best at it was Ted Rebetje. He did

#### PRESIDENT (Vote for one)

- Jack Sarhage
- \_\_\_\_\_

#### VICE PRESIDENT (Vote for Two)

- Ken Goddard
- Kurt Koegel
- \_\_\_\_\_

#### SECRETARY/TREASURER (Vote for one)

- Arnold Klein
- \_\_\_\_\_

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**DIRECTIONS TO NORTH BRANCH  
PARK LAUNCH SITE**

North Branch Park is very near the traffic circle  
junction of NJ Routes 22, 28, 202, and 206, near  
Somerville. Follow 202 South from the circle for  
2 miles, past Ortho Pharmaceutical and Harris Corp.  
under railroad trestle marked "4H is Tops", to right  
turn onto Milltown Road. Make first left after  
firehouse and 4th Center on right; follow  
path to open field. Monthly launches from 10-4

**FROM NORTH**  
NJ Turnpike South to Exit 10, 287 North to Exit 13,  
202/206 South to Circle

**FROM SOUTH**  
202 North to Milltown Rd.; or 206 North to Circle

**FROM EAST**  
287 North to Exit 13, 202/206 South to Circle

**FROM WEST**  
Rt. 78 or Rt. 80 East to 287 South to Exit 13,  
202/206 South to Circle

**GSSS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

NAR number \_\_\_\_\_ GSSS number \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category (Check One)

( ) Junior (Under 16) ..... \$5.00

( ) Leader (16 through 20) ..... \$7.00

( ) Senior (21 or over) ..... \$10.00

( ) Family Plan (Deduct \$2.00 for each additional

family member, only one Launch Rack will be

sent.)

I pledge to abide by the NAR/HIA Safety Code and

GSSS Constitution and Bylaws in all my

non-professional rocketry activities.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Send this application along with check for dues payable  
to: Arnold Klein,  
2 Oneida ave Rockaway N.J. 07866

**GARDEN STATE SPACEMODELING  
SOCIETY -- NAR SECTION #439**

Robert Zabriskle  
3 Peachtree Road  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

**OUR  
15th  
YEAR!**

TO:

Robert Nee

222 Willow Avenue - 2A  
Hoboken NJ 07030

**THE LAUNCH RACK**  
NEWSLETTER OF NEW JERSEY'S SPACEMODELING SOCIETY