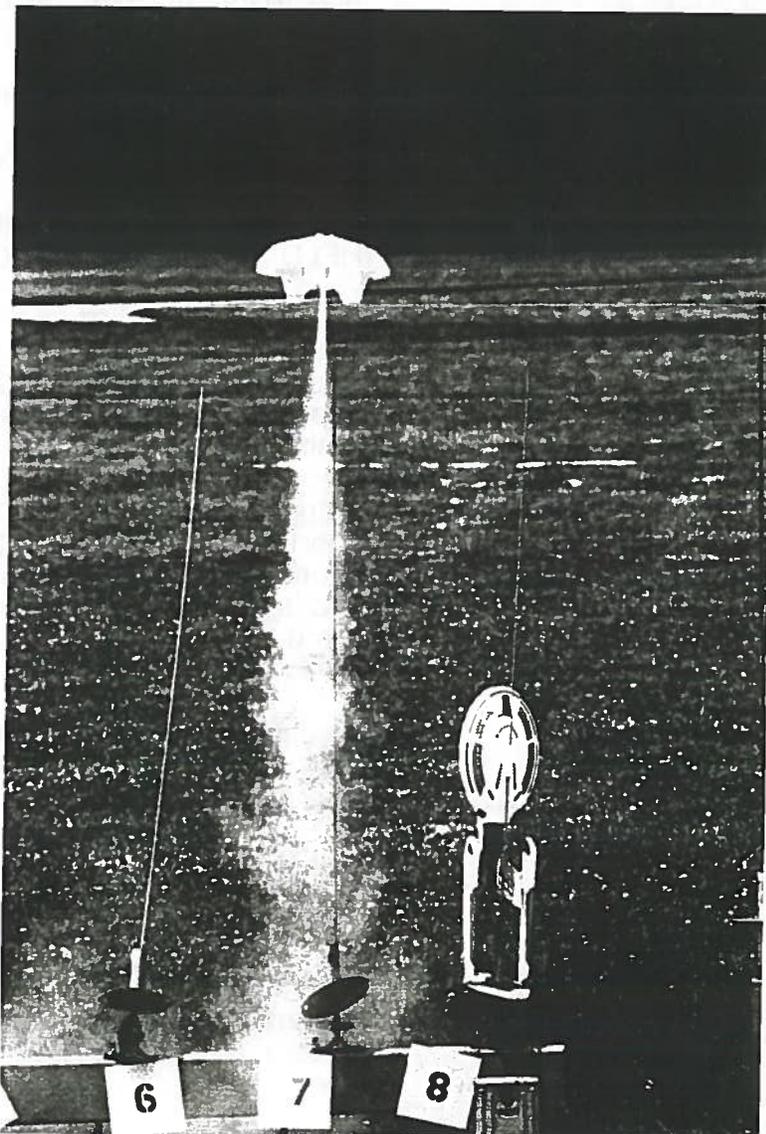


LAUNCH RACK

Journal Of New Jersey's Oldest NAR Section

ISSUE 133(66)



November is Flying Saucer/Odd-roc Month

The Launch Rack

The Official Publication of The
Garden State Spacemodeling Society

NOV/DEC 1999 **ISSUE 133(66)**

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 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, etc., the Editor welcomes and encourages constructive feedback on each and every issue. Please send material to:

**Jack Sarhage, NAR 31745
875 River Road
Piscataway, NJ 08854-5549
732 463-1484**

Visit our WEB site at: <http://www.agron.com/~rnee/gsss/>

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YOUR CLUB OFFICERS

President:Jack Sarhage
Vice-president:Ken Goddard
Vice-president:Kurt Kogel
Treasurer/Sec:Arnold Klein
Section Advisor:Bob Zabriskie

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: DEC. 15

ON OUR COVER:

A "flying saucer" lifts off Pad 7, I think this rocket belongs to Jennifer Grant, while an updated Enterprise stands by on Pad 8 the work of Steve Pantuck as is the photo.

I need articles, plans, kit reviews, building tips, cartoons, and/or drawings.

LAUNCH SCHEDULE

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 9:00am.

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 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 of privately owned, large, open fields.

UNLESS NOTED ALL LAUNCHES WILL BE HELD AT NORTH BRANCH PARK.

Saturday: November 20, 1999

Sport launch 10:00am to 3:00pm
Event: **Odd-rock and Flying Saucer Launch**
Club Meeting 11:30am to 12:30pm

Saturday, December 18, 1999

Sport launch 10:00am to 3:00pm
Event: **Holiday Launch and Picnic**
That's right, PICNIC. Bring something hot to share, cider, cocoa and eats. Anyone can picnic in the summer.

Wednesday, January 5, 2000

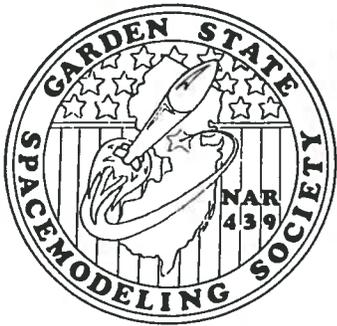
Club Meeting 7:30pm to 9:30pm
Jack Sarhage's house

Saturday, January 29, 2000

Sport launch 10:00am to 3:00pm
Event: **Annual Shuttle "Challenger" Launch**

IN THIS ISSUE:

September Launch results, Ballot to elect club officers, a challenge from the President, and more.



News From Section 439

PUZZLE (?) SOLVED.....

Several readers of our newsletter have asked me the meaning of the second set of numbers in the issue number.

Simple. Take for example this issue. It is shown as Issue 133(66). There have been 133 issues of the newsletter published since it began and 66 of them have been by the present editor.

Personally, I am rather proud of that fact. I am proud of the fact that this publication delivers on its promise of being "for the enlightenment and entertainment of (the GSSS) membership". I am proud of the fact that it has been produced and delivered on a timely basis, unlike many of the other section newsletters.

Now I have a question for you. When, was the last time you saw GSSS written up in the "NAR Section Highlights" in *Sport Rocketry*? We send each issue to the editor of that column, as requested, yet it has been over a year since we got a mention. Why???

"FLOYD'S" FLOOD AND VOLLEY BALLS.....

"Tropical Storm 'Floyd'" dropped more than 11-inches of water in less than 24 hours causing more flooding and damage than seen in 150 years. Rivers and streams, usually no more than several feet wide, suddenly were miles wide. And, even after personally seeing the affects of the storm it was hard to imagine that the "launch pad" used in North Branch Park was under at least 8 feet of water a week earlier.

However, on the day of the September launch we were not greeted by water but, by volleyball nets. Volley ball nets were set up all over our launch area and scores of cars parking in our usual parking area. It seems that this group had been flooded out of their

regular site and had been sent over to North Branch Park, we feel, without the park administration's knowledge. After checking with the ranger and some persuasion they moved further down range and out of our way.

Maybe it was caused by the thought our launch area would be under water, but the turnout was down for this launch. The "flight log" shows only 50 flights by 14 "pilots".

What we lacked in quantity we made up in quality. Quality in the form of Arnie Klein's NEW fleet of original designs using the Mini-Max engines. They are truly amazing. You should have seen the "super-roc" probably no more than a foot high. There was also a helicopter rocket that failed only because the recovery charge was not strong enough to burn through the rotor hold-downs. Each "body-tube" no more than the diameter of the engines, were hand-made and rolled using graph paper. There was even a two-stage rocket. The log shows Arnie had six flights all with his fleet of six Mini-Max rockets..... quality, simply quality. (ARNIE, PLEASE, HOW ABOUT DRAWING UP THE PLANS TO BE USED IN THE NEWSLETTER.)

Quality because members like Kevin Creamer were in attendance. Kevin is a pilot for Continental Airlines and his schedule prevents him from being with us at times. So, it was great to see him again. He flew his somewhat "shortened" Blue Bird Zero, though I remember it when it was full size.

Quality in the "Fun-Test 2000 Part I" Contest. Acutally two contests were going on; one a NAR sanctioned Section Meet and one a competition among GSSS members for "fun". The flights in the Section Meet also qualified for the member's event. Only two C divisioners competed in the NAR meet resulting in a tie between Jack Sarhage and Bob Zabriskie as both ended with a summed total of 26-seconds. This changed in the GSSS contest with Bob winning with a flight on 26.47-seconds that beat out Jack's flight of 25.83-seconds.

Also flying in the GSSS contest in A Division were Jennifer and Grant Smith. Jennifer won this event using a **Scrambler**. Fortunately it did not live up to its name. Grant used an **Eggspress** but, was DQ'd because the egg was broken.

A new face at this launch was Frank Nee,

Continued on next page.....

News From Section 439 continued.....

father of Bob. Bob as you may know designed and maintains the GSSS web site. If you have not seen it I suggest you give it a look by "hitting" on <http://www.agron.com/~rnee/gsss/> and then be sure to thank Bob for his fine work.

Back to father Frank. He was introduced to the hobby by son, Bob and had some very nice looking rockets with him; two that I remember are a National Aerospace Plane and a V2.

George Tiger, up from Maryland, flew his Black Lightning on a D24-4.

A "home-made" design launched by Chuck Appel took home a soil sample of the launch area, something you do not usually see a rocket of his do.

While the September launch may have been short on quantity, as I said above, it was strong on quality.

September Launch Recap

Total number of Logged Flights.....	49
Total number of Pilots Logged in.....	14
Total number of Engines Used.....	51

Those Making 5 or More Flights

Ray Chabot.....	11
Arnie Klein.....	6

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.....

We have had some new members join us since our last report; **Tom Martin** of Princeton, **Mike Rossbach**, of Egg Harbor and **William Schimer**, from Whitestone, NY.

Thank you for joining us and please introduce yourself at a launch so we can **WELCOME** you in person.

ELECTION OF CLUB OFFICERS.....

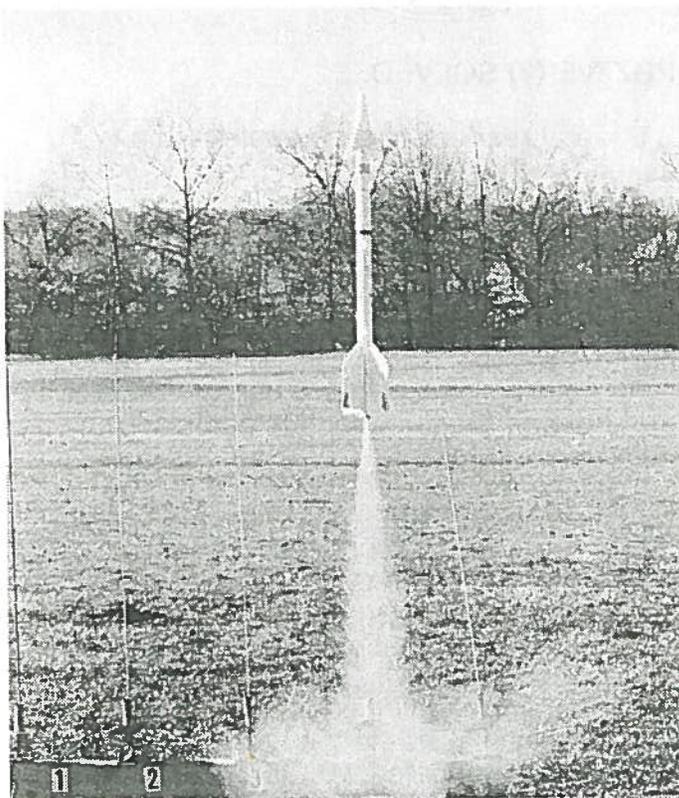
One the last page of this issue you will find the Ballot and bios of nominees. **PLEASE VOTE AND RETURN YOU COMPLETED BALLOT BY DECEMBER 15, 1999.**

Each GSSS member is requested to vote no matter what age group you are in. We are one of the few clubs that allow Junior and Leader Members vote. Also, each member of a family membership is allowed to vote, just make copies of the ballot for those members

and send in together.

Once again, vote and then send in your ballots to Arnold Klein, 2 Onieda Avenue, Rockaway, NJ 07866.

NOTE: In order for use to recharter as a National Association of Rocketry Section next year we must have this officers and it is your responsibility as GSSS members to elect them.



What appears to be an MRC "Sidewinder" rides on a straight boost from Pad 4 of our North Branch Park "Space Port".
Photograph by Steve Pantuck

President's Message:

A GAUNLET PUT DOWN

Included in the August 1999 issue of *The Model Rocketeer* were the "Model Rocket Competition Points Standings".

I hope you took time to read it. If you did was your name on it? I hope you are one of the seven GSSS members listed. Members that accrued 2329 points making our section number 22 of 31 shown.

There are 62 in Division A. Our representatives were Danny Flynn (34) and Alex

Continued next page.....

GSSS - Home of "Grass Roots" Model Rocketry

President's Message continued.....

Brucoleri (39). In B Division we had one member, Stephen Flynn (21 out of 25). C Division always has the largest number of competitors; 240 are named. Those from GSSS are Tom Whymark (101), Robert Nee (159), Jack Sarhage (198), and Bob Zabriskie (214). One team, T-005 Hyperspace, competed on behalf of GSSS, is number 27 out of 33.

You can see the challenge can't you. There are three; first, I would like to see us (GSSS) become one of the top ten sections prior to NARAM 42. Second, I would like to see those that competed to try and move up on their respective lists by 50%. For me since I am 198 on the list moving up to around the 95th position. Third, to see us double, as a minimum, the number of competitors from our club in all Divisions: A=4, B=2, and C=6.

Will you pick up the gauntlet?

Jack Sarhage
President



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Before I print a couple letters received I just want to remind you that the editors does like to hear what you think about the newsletter, pro and con. Letters received are assumed to be for publication. Letters will be edited when required.

Yo! Jack!--

Got my latest issue of *The Launch Rack*..... thought the Ted Rebetje cover to the LR was a good one. So, I got to thinkin'....you know how Ted has some 'unique' home-grown models, his twin glider rocket for one, comes to mind, as well as his launch platform with the American flags. I thought, in honor of Ted, if I ever got the time, to build a copy and launch it at a Ted R meet. Just thought it would be fitting to a guy that gave me the double whammy jinx. So, do you know if he ever drew up plans? If not might there be a series of photos that show details of his model(s) and launcher? It might even be appropriate to draw them up and publish them

in LR and see how many turn up at the field, you know? It might also qualify as an unique "old-time" rocket...

Noticed 2 designs were to be published this monthj as "old-timers" but only saw the "Nova".

See you soon hopefully!
Dr. Bob! Kreutz

(I agree that Ted and his rockets were always "unique" and fun to watch fly. I did not see any plans drawn up, but he did tell me that he had sent them into Estes hoping they would use them as a new design. He was turned down. If we can get members to donate any of the photos taking of his rockets and launcher I am sure plans could be produced. Yes, if would be fun to see how many would turn up.

Yep, Ye Ole Editor blew it, there were supposed to be two plans for "old-time" rockets. Seems there was a communications gap between me and the 'plans editor'.

Hope to see you soon, too!.....JS)

Jack,

I took a quick look at CNN an noticed people in Bound Brook being pulled off front porches by boat. I have not seen flooding in NJ this bad since the floods of 1984. I hope you did no become one of Hurricane Floyd's victims.

I got the Ted R. issue of *The Launch Rack*. Thanks. I was not impressed by those X-Ray rockets that the scouts used. I would have either lengthened the shock chord or let the rockets return as two pieces.

Take care,
Manuel Mejia, Jr.

(Thank you for your concern. The Raritan River is across the road from me and usually stays there. This time it crossed the road and with the help of McEtnis Brook, that is along the side of the house, put about 7-inches of water in the basement. I feel blessed as it could have been worse. The town of Bound Brook will probably never come back, at least like it was before.

Your ideas for the X-Ray rockets are based

Continued next page.....

"Letters" continued....

upon your years of expereince, something I think the leaders of that group lacked.....JS)



sky watch

Contributing Editor: *Robert Zabriskie*

NOVEMBER

Mercury becomes visable very low in the predawn Eastern sky well below Venus.

Venus will be shining brilliantly in the Eastern predawn sky.

Mars is low in the Southwest sky after sunset.

Jupiter will be as bright as Venus in the pre-dawn sky. Jupiter rivals it in the East in early evening.

Saturn is to the lower left of the much brighter Jupiter.

Moon is a thin crescent above Venus on the 3rd and below it on the 4th. On the night of the 12th a waxing crescent will be to the right of Mars and to the upper left the following night. The not quite full moon will be under Jupiter on the 20th and to the lower right of

Saturn on the 21st.

DECEMBER

Jupiter and Saturn, the two gas giants, dominate the evening sky and will do so for the next couple months.

Mars is low in the southwest at dusk.

Venus "burning" bright in the southeast at dawn on the 2nd through the 4th. It will be close to the crescent moon and the star "Spica" (a star of the first magnitude in the constellation Virgo).

Mercury in the predawn sky at the beginning of the month will be about as high as it can get. By the 20th it will be lost in the glow of the Sun.

The Sun on the 22nd will be at its most southern point at 2:44am. This starts winter for us.

A Special Event: Early on the evening of the 12th look for the crescent moon and Mars. Use binoculars and look to the upper left of Mars and the planet **Uranus** is the tiny speck 1.2 degrees from Mars.

(Once again, THANK YOU, BOB.)

SAYINGS THAT SHOULD BE ON BUTTONS

There are many bumper stickers and buttons out there that cover about every situation, however, it is felt that some are missing and we wish to cover those. So.....

**I Started Out
With Nothing
&
Still Have Most
Of it Left!**

Official Ballot Page

You are holding the "official" ballot for the election of club officers. It is your job to elect a president, two vice-presidents and the secretary/treasurer, overseers of GSSS for the next two years.

Most of you are familiar with the folks nominated. However, to help you that are not usually at the monthly launches or may be new to the club the following is offered.

For President

Jack Sarhage. He is one of the founding members and the only one of the original five left. He has served in every office over the 17 year history of the section. He is the incumbent having been president the last two years and is also editor of this newsletter.

Vice-president

Bob Gill. Bob is a fairly new member of GSSS. He has the organizational skills it takes to run a club and would be a real asset to the Board. Bob like a lot of us was a model rocketeer early and then was away for the hobby as we went to school, started a family and career. And, like a lot of us came back because you can't get "black powder" out of the system once there.

Steve Pantuck. Steve says, "I became interested in model rocketry through Englewood's Saturday School program in the third grade, then lost interest for a while. My interest reignited during high school and devoted a lot of time to it. I started a model rocketry program at the Maine summer camp I attended and then worked as a counselor for 11 years. I also taught rocketry in several after school and Saturday school enrichment programs. I joined GSSS in 1985-86 being very active until a Saturday work schedule forced me to miss launches.regaining my weekend freedom, I now work for a Fair Lawn based software development company. As regular attendees know, I spend more time these days taking photos than flying at the launches; this is due to a chronic lack of enough leisure time to organize the chaos in the basement enough to render my work area

useable for repairs to the few models I have flown recently (relatively speaking), let alone begin construction of any of the models I keep buying. Over the years, as best as I've kept track, I have built about 215 models; my current collection of models stands, or leans, or likes down, at about 85. One of these weekends....."

Secretary-Treasurer

Arnold Klein. He says. "I got interest in this hobby when it first started with an article in *Mechanix Illustrated* 41 years ago. I have been in this club 13 years; 10 as treasurer. Model rocketry is going to larger and larger rockets, but I have been interested in going the opposite way to smaller and smaller rockets. The "micro-maxx" is just the thing I have been waiting for. Some time ago I perfected the art of making match rockets, and have been teaching Boy Scouts how to make them, and we also have contests to see who can get the most range out of them. I would like to see the club hold "micro-maxx" contest and at Christmas parties hold match rocket contests."

Official Ballot Form

Note to family memberships: You may make additional copies in order to have one for each member to vote. SEND COMPLETED FORMS ARNOLD KLEIN, 2 ONEIDA AVENUE, ROCKAWAY, NJ 07866 BY DECEMBER 15.

For President (Vote for one)

- Jack Sarhage
- Other: _____

For Vice-president (Vote for two)

- Bob Gill
- Steve Pantuck
- Other: _____
- Other: _____

For Secretary-Treasurer (Vote for one)

- Arnold Klein
- Other: _____

**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 4H 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 Onida ave Rockaway N.J. 07866

GARDEN STATE SPACEMODELING SOCIETY -- NAR SECTION #439

Robert Zabriskie
3 Peachtree Road
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920



TO:

Robert Nee
222 Willow Avenue - #2A
Hoboken NJ 07030

THE LAUNCH RACK

NEWSLETTER OF NEW JERSEY'S SPACEMODELING SOCIETY