

# The Launch Rack

Newsletter of the Garden State Spacemodeling Society  
Section 439 of the National Association of Rocketry

Special Edition

Winter 2006

## Will This Be Your Last Issue?

No, it does not mean that we will no longer have a newsletter. We are required to have one according to the section's by-laws.

What it means is that we are still waiting for the information requested in the Fall 2006 issue of *The Launch Rack*. We want confirmation that those getting this newsletter are members (though there are some on a special list that are not members).

So, please forward your name, address, GSSS and NAR number to **GSSS-HQ, c/o Jack Sarhage, 24 Canterbury Court, Piscataway, NJ 08854** or you may e-mail the info to [gssshq@yahoo.com](mailto:gssshq@yahoo.com) if you want to save a stamp.

New membership cards will be sent to you with an expiration date of December 31, 2007 as part of the Silver Anniversary celebration.

Hope to hear from you so that you are not dropped from the membership roster. To those of you that have responded to the request, **THANKS!**

### January Space Memorial Launch

If you want to build and then keep one of the 17 rockets to honor one of our fallen astronauts at the January 27<sup>th</sup> Sport Launch let me know at the same address shown above. No, the club is not paying for them. I am unless you want to make a donation to the cause. **If you volunteer to build one I will give it to you at the December Launch or at the Open House after the launch.**

### Holiday Open House

I still need to have some idea of who is coming to the Holiday Open House after the Sport Launch on December 30. I was told that the beginning time of

5:00pm might be trouble for some folks so if you are at the launch and are attending you may come over right after.

Directions were on the insert included with the last issue of the newsletter. But....same address.



### Fun Test Launches

Due to the several cancelled sport launches these will be held during 2007. The first Fun Test will be at the February 2007 launch: Ping-Pong Duration. The basic rules were in the last newsletter.

In the photo above are pictured the trophies the winner will get. For Ping-Pong Duration is a miniature ping-pong table with paddles and ball on it. (upper left of photo). For Flying Saucer Spot Landing (upper right of photo) a UFO is flying over a target that has been hit by, what else a "saucer." For Olde Tyme Model Rockets or better Vintage Model Rockets (lower part of photo) a plaque of

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wine bottle labels in a nice frame. So come on out and have some fun.

## Silver Anniversary Open

It has been many years since GSSS has sponsored an official NAR event. As part of our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration we will hold, on March 31, 2007 (date subject to change) the “Silver Anniversary Open” (NAR sanction 1008-07L). See the enclosed insert for further information.

Those members that have asked when we are going to have another NAR contest...well here it is so come on out compete and help run it.

The entry fee is \$1.00 per event (maximum \$4.00). 50% of the entry fees collected will go to the contestant earning the most contest points. In addition event first place winners will get a plaque and ribbon. Those placing second, third, fourth will get ribbons.

Remember to entry this contest you must be a member of the National Association of Rocketry.

Planned events are Open Spot Landing, A Parachute Duration, A Streamer Duration (Multi) and 1/2A Boost-Glider. There are many kits and plans around (such as the “Tempest” that appeared last time) so start building.

## “Fly 50,000 for our 50<sup>th</sup>”

In a letter from NAR President Mark Bundick wrote, “we have an important anniversary to celebrate, our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, and you can help us do that by taking an afternoon to do something I know you enjoy. Fly some rockets!!! We’ve set out a challenge to fly 50,000 kids between now and 2008, when we will celebrate the NAR’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary”.

So, all though 2007 invite a kid under age 16 to come fly a model at one of the sport launches. At each launch there will be a launch reporting form. On it is entered the Flyers Name, Age and that a flight was completed. Each kid will receive a full color Rocket Flight Certificate showing they have successfully launched a model rocket as part of the NAR’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

That’s easy, right. So let see those kids out there.

## Section Meetings

It was suggested that we hold regular Section Meetings at the monthly sport launches. We have done this in the past with some success.

So, starting in February 2008 we will hold a section meeting.

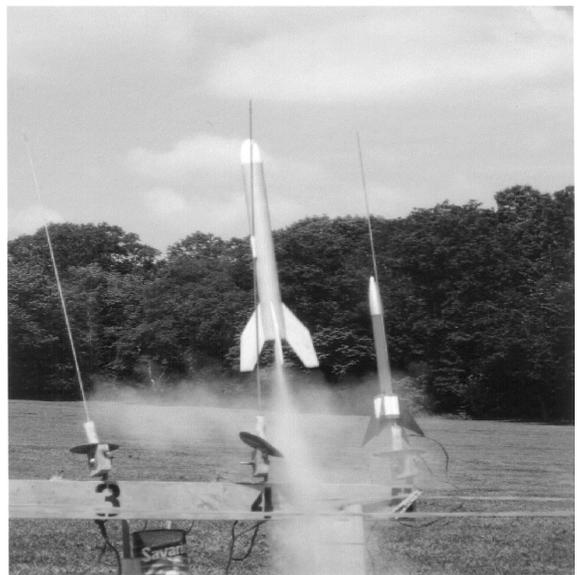
## January Space Memorial Launch

Each January since the 1986 loss of the Space Shuttle “*Challenger*” GSSS has held a memorial launch. Anyone is invited to bring their model of a space shuttle and launch it.

This year will be a little different. Seventeen (17) rockets, each named for one of our astronauts making the ultimate sacrifice for our space program will be launch in their memory. These rockets are to be built by club members and I need volunteers. The rocket will be yours to keep after the launch. You will be given a rocket and the name, date and mission identification to be placed upon the rocket.

This is just one of the events planed to celebrate the Silver Anniversary of the Garden State Spacemodeling Society in 2007. Hope you will all get on board for the ride.

Don’t forget to let me know if you want to build one of the kits for the special launch.



Another successful launch at an earlier sport launch

## How To Kill A Club

The following has appeared in many newsletters and needs to be repeated from time to time.

- Don't participate beyond paying dues. Let **them** handle things. Then complain that the members have NO VOICE in the club.
- Decline all offices and committee appointments. Then, offer vociferous advice on how they should do things.
- If appointed to a committee, don't work. It is a courtesy appointment. Then complain the club has stagnated.
- If you don't attend meetings or initiate new ideas, then you can play the "Devil's Advocate" to those submitted by others.
- Don't rush to pay your dues. They are too high anyway. Then complain how the finances are managed.
- Don't encourage others to become members. Then complain about the membership not growing.
- Don't read your newsletter. Then, complain that you are not informed.
- Don't volunteer your talents. Then complain you are never asked.
- If, by chance, the club grows, grasp every opportunity to tell the members how tough it was and how hard you worked to bring the club to the present level of success.

Another that should be listed is;

- Don't send photos, articles, plans, etc. to the newsletter editor. Then complain that it isn't interesting and does not have anything in it about your interests.

## The Foonman Award

How many of you remember this "coveted" award?

It was first awarded to GSSS members in 1991 after being introduced by then club president and newsletter editor, Tom Whymark.

As Tom wrote, "The FOONMAN AWARD is dedicated to the model racketeer who without trying gave us all something to smile about. Now it's not

just limited to contest flyers, or actual rocket flights. But, somehow it must be model rocketry related.

Perfect people can't win the FOONMAN AWARD. However, since humans are rarely perfect, almost all of us qualify. To win the FOONMAN, a person must have a sense of humor and be willing to laugh at themselves. The FOONMAN AWARD recognizes the events we'd all like to forget."

Example of how you could win included, "slam the trunk lid on your scale model, or sit on the superroc you just finished building at 3am, forgetting to put parachute wadding in your egglofter, trying to build and fly a 400cm "F" superroc, take 6 kids to a model rocket convention, spray paint a scale model in the hotel room.

One person, who will remain nameless, I remember getting the FOONMAN AWARD was for volunteering to hold another person's model so they could re-glue a fin and finding out their fingers had also been glued to the rocket.

Anyone interested in starting this again?

## Plugs, Plugs, Plugs

From time to time something crosses the editor's desk that is felt might be interesting to other members. I have two for you this time.

First, if you were at the October Sport Launch you may have seen copies of the premier issue of *Launch*. As the editor wrote it is to "celebrate the glory days of model rocketry, yet not be stuck in the past."

There is not room to give a page by page description, but take it from me it is worth the \$29.95 (for 6 issues). *MM Publishing Inc., ATTN: Launch Subscriptions, 350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 5410, New York, NY 10118*

The second item is to tell you about the Fellowship of Christian Modelers and their "desire to enjoy modeling while still maintaining their faith as their first priority."

There are NO dues and is "supported solely by the generous financial gifts of its members and friends." *FCModelers, C/o Allen Goff, 2100 N. Carrolton Drive, Muncie, IN 47304*

Yours truly is the Model Rocket Editor for their newsletter, *Crosswinds*.