

# The Launch Rack

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

Volume 25, Number 6

December 2007

## Thanksgiving Launch

The temperature was not quite above freezing with folks began to gather at North Branch Park for the November 24 sport launch. The wind greeting those arriving did nothing to these hardy souls either. I guess it was the long drought since the last launch that prevented anything dampening their spirits. After the first launch the smell of burnt black powder drifted over the launch area and you just knew it was going to be a grand day in spite of cold, wind or a soggy field.



for many straight up flights as can be seen from the start of this one. As a bonus you can see from the shadows that the sun came out.

## December Launch

The follow report was e-mailed to me by one of our new members, **Tom Benson**. He reports,

The weather was quite breezy, with temps in the upper 30s, and fairly low cloud cover. The field was a patchwork of mud, ice sheets, and puddles. Only a crazy person (or *model rocketeer*. *Ed. Note*) would be out in that mess, especially on a busy weekend just before Christmas. So I came at 10:30 for an hour or two. Arnie and 5 other brave souls were also there during that time.

My original plan was to stop by for a quick visit and, if possible, get one launch off of a new scratch rocket. I brought it for a maiden test flight, but a large cluster seemed like a bad match for the conditions. (*That is why we tell you to always bring some smaller stuff to fly. Ed. Note.*) And with no paint yet on the fins, the balsa would have gotten soaked on landing. So I chickened out. It was the only rocket I'd brought, so I didn't fly anything that day. Once I saw the mud I was really wishing I had a Hefty Store-n-Serve saucer instead. Plastic and

*(Continued on page 2)*



As you can see from this photo it was a day to be bundled up. Here, **Arnie Klein** and **Steve Pantuck** (I think) begin setting up the launch rack.

One of the first launches of the day. Later in the day the wind stopped and made

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

Others interested in receiving this publication may do so for the annual subscription rate of \$10.00 sent to the editor.

The editor invites and encourages all to submit articles, photographs, plans, letters to the editor, etc. for publication. Send these to address above or e-mail [jacknmel@optonline.net](mailto:jacknmel@optonline.net) with Launch Rack in subject line.

## Mission Statement

The Garden State Spacemodeling Society is a non-profit organization of model rocketeers organized for the purpose of promotion, development, education, advancement and safeguard of model rocketry.

## Board of Trustees

President – Jack Sarhage  
First Vice President – Steve Pantuck  
Second Vice President – Open  
Secretary-Treasurer – Arnold Klein  
Section Advisor – Robert Zabriskie

## Membership Renewal is Due

**X** If a red “X” appears in the box to the left your membership fees are due. Check your membership card for exact date. Use renewal form included with this issue. Mail it to GSSS-HQ at the address shown. **You will receive no other notification.**

Even though I didn't fly anything it was still fun to chat and watch. I saw perhaps a dozen flights. Amazingly all of the rockets landed on the snow and ice, and missed the many puddles and mud bogs. A Guardian busted a fin twice by landing on ice, but the other rockets came away unscathed. These included a Mongoose, single stage flights only, a Converter, a Rotaroc-type, two Alphas, and a few others.

I had to leave early to go to work, and to get some feeling back into my frozen toes. Still, a bad day flying beats a good day at the office.

Thank you Tom for that report!



This photo is from the Sept launch. Pictured is CJ Montanye, nephew of Ken Montanye a/k/a Rocket Doctor, holding one of his uncles prototypes, Roswell....Alien Invasion rocket.

Speaking the Rocket Doctor, **Ken Montayne**, he sent this in; This photo on the cover of the Oct/Nov issue of *The Launch Rack* showed two Screamin MiMi's taking off. (These were designed by Ken. Ed. Note.) These rockets have four whistles that sound while ascending into the air.

He also mentioned that NARAM 50 will be held July 26<sup>th</sup> thru August 1<sup>st</sup> in Plains, VA. Information is on NAR's website. A list of members, for the Old Rocketeer Reunion (NAR Membership Numbers below 50,000) have been posted as well.

Recently the weather has been unpredictable, either too hot or too cold, with plenty of rain.

Inclement weather is a good opportunity to check out your rockets, make repairs and build new kits.

Speaking of new kits, Estes has released the 1250 Interceptor (reg motors) as well as a scaled kit, the 1350 Interceptor which can handle "D" and "E" motors. These two kits are in short supply, check you local hobby shop, or you can go online to find them. The 1350 Interceptor is very impressive when completed.

If you are not a member of YORF, Ye Old Rocket Forum, check it out, do a search and put in Ye Old Rocket Forum, it will bring you to their home page, many rocketry related topics are discussed there.

The Rocket Doctor has a thread on that site, so stop by and say, "Hello!"

Thank you, Ken, for your report and comments.

## Launch Schedule for 2008

Section Advisor, **Bob Zabriskie** confirmed launch dates at North Branch Park for the year 2008. They are as follows:

January 26, February 16, March 29, April 19, May 31, June 28, July 26, August 23, **No launch date available in September**, October 26 (Please note that this is a Sunday), November 29 and December 27.

Bob reported that the reason we could not get a date in September is due to the increased use of the park. When we first began to launch at North Branch very few people knew about it. The only people that used it on a regular basis were, GSSS, 4H Club and the Somerset Signal Seekers, the RC airplane folks.

If you know of another site we could use in September, make the arrangements and then let us know.



**July 26<sup>th</sup> – August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008**

This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Association of Rocketry. The big celebration will be at NARAM-50 to be held in The Plains (Manassas), Virginia on the above dates.

Pioneering leaders of the hobby will be attending; Vern and Gleda Estes, Lee and Betty Piester.

Since it is so close to us living in New Jersey it would be a great time to attend. Miss this one and it will be another 50 years until the 100<sup>th</sup>.

Think about attending this historic even and get a chance to meet some of the folks that first got our hobby off the ground.

## "Sky of Gold"

**Ken Montayne** sent in the following press release. (*It is condensed. –Ed.*)

In an attempt to break the current record of the number of model rockets flown at one time, 1,500 Golden Scouts will take to the air in the "Sky of Gold" during NARAM-5. The Golden Scout model is to honor Vern and Gleda Estes in celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their "little venture." The original "Scout" was designed by Vern in 1961 and is being reproduced and released at the Golden Scout.

Attendees and non-attendees will be able to participate. Just buy either the Golden Scout, Catalog No. KV-4 for \$7.50 or the Golden Scout Flight Pack, Catalog No. KV-4FP for \$8.50. The cost includes one engine on the day of the launch.

There will only be 1,500 kits produced and numbered 1 to 1,500. They will be issued on a first come first served basis as orders are received.

If not attending your completed rocket must be received by Semroc no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. You are being asked to finish the model in metallic Gold with the waterslide decal with your serial number applied to the Golden Scout rocket.

After the launch rockets will be sorted and returned to the owner per the serial number. Plans are to mail them from The Plains, VA post office the day after the launch.

For complete details go to <http://semroc.com/skyofgold/>

Again thank you Ken for your help.

## Newsletter Survey

Our parting shot this time is in the form of a survey.

It is felt by some GSSS members that a printed newsletter is archaic and a waste of the club's money. Since this is your club, your newsletter and your money we need to know how you feel about it.

Is it a tangible benefit of the membership dues you pay, or do you care whether you get it or not.

Would you rather go to the club website and download, print your own copy? How do you feel about an increase in dues (\$5.00 was a suggested amount) for those that like to receive a hard copy in the mail?

Instead of publishing or trying to publish 6 issues a year maybe we should do it 4 times a year.

Your thoughts and ideas will be printed in the next issue of the newsletter.

Meanwhile, as the editor I will publish the newsletter as often as I can with the material available. Again, that is up to you.

Send you thoughts to me, the editor at [gssshq@optonline.net](mailto:gssshq@optonline.net) or 24 Canterbury Court, Piscataway, NJ 08854 and a copy to Bob Zabriskie, Section Advisor, 3 Peach Tree Road, Basking Ridge, NJ -7920.

Thank you.

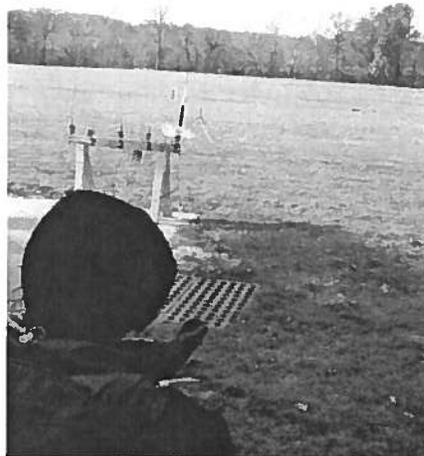
## Dues Dues

**Those that received this issue with a red "X" on page two have not renewed their membership. This will be your last issue of the newsletter.**

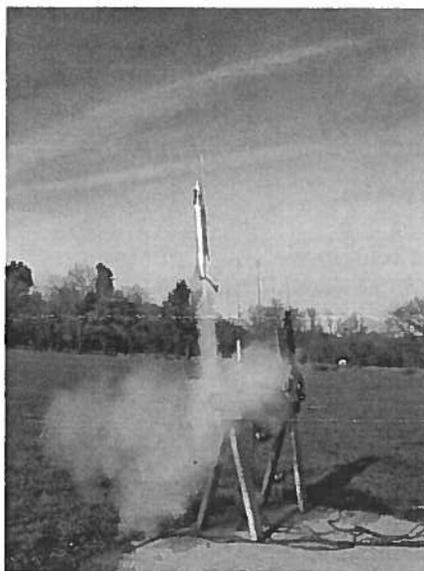
**Hope to hear from you soon.**

This shot is of our fearless LCO (Launch Control Officer) **Arnie Klein** braving the cold with another fine liftoff.

Arnie is also the club's Secretary-Treasurer. He has held both positions for many, many years.



Another nice lift off of an unidentified rocket. Can anyone furnish that information to us?



**Note:** The delay of this issue is totally the fault of yours truly. I could but, will not offer any excuses because that is all they would be.