



# The Launch Rack

The Journal of the Garden State Spacemodeling Society  
National Association of Rocketry Section No. 439  
New Jersey's Oldest Model Rocket Club

Fall Issue 2011

## Fun-Tests Are Coming *Details Inside*

### We Are Go For Launch

#### July 23 Sport Launch News

With the temperature hovering around 100 degrees the only things not moving slowly were the model rockets being launched.

A couple of firsts at each sport launch at North Branch Park begins with the arrival of **Arnie Klein** and the setting up of the launch pad. On this day arriving at about the same time was one of our newest members, **Mickey Spain** along with your s truly, Ye Ole Editor.

Another first that you can be sure of is the first rocket launched will be one of Arnie's *Flying Saucers*. Another early successful launch was by yours truly (**Jack Sarhage**) launching a "trash-roc" built by **Manuel Mejia, Jr.** that he sent from Florida.

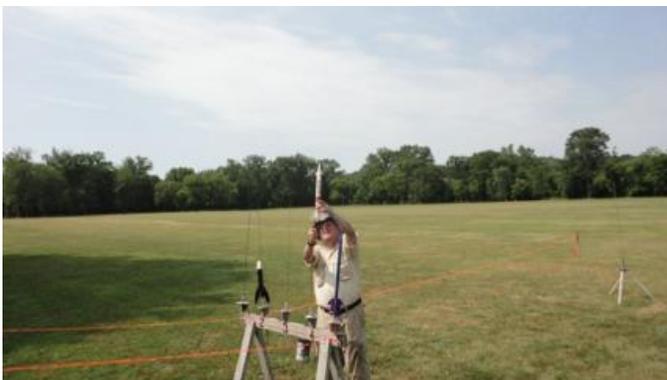


Photo by Mickey Spain

Mickey's *Astron Elliptical* rocket is one of the latest from Estes. **Jim Zindle** had a couple of spectacular flights from the 1/4-inch rod including his *LOC Onyx*.

If we had a "Model of Launch" vote (maybe we should) I think most would agree that **Glenn Weiss'** *Mercury Redstone* would have been the winner. His youngest son **Zachery Weiss** did okay in his own right.



Photo by Mickey Spain

North Branch Park did not let us down and was breezy long before its usual arrival at around 1100. But no one complained because it did cool the temperature a little.

Although we did not have the normal turn out for a sport launch those that did show had some very nice flights to add to their logs.

#### August 20 Sport Launch Happenings

(Note: The following report and photographs have been provided by Maurice "Mickey" Spain. You may remember we introduced him in our last issue. Thank you, Mickey for stepping up to the plate when needed.)

The sky was clear and the winds were calm on this beautiful Saturday in late August. This was one of those rare days with perfect visibility and very little breeze at the launch site. Arnold was there early and the set up was completed by

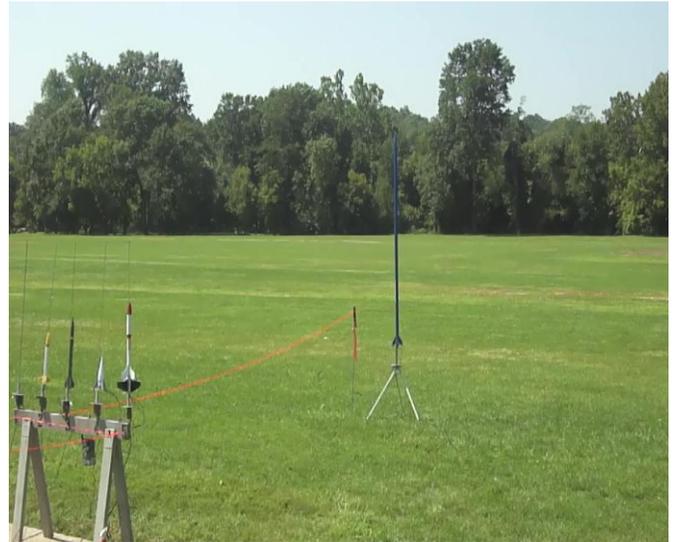
members all pitching in to get the days launch underway. Fred whom I had met at a rained out launch and up at the METRA club joined us this day and launched some great models including a clustered Saturn I rocket. The sound of shredded air was due to a few folks assembling their Aerotech re-loadable motors as their rockets flew high and far.

I was able to test out a few of my new kits this day. I flew my CC Express two stage rocket on a D12-0 and a D12-7. One spectator commented as the first stage piece fluttered right back to the launch pad and the rocket after a 1400 ft ascent landed maybe 30 feet away, "that doesn't happen at this park". This just showed how good the day was. I also was able to fly my 6ft Estes Mean Machine Kit. Painted blue for the NY Giants and because my son insisted



it be blue, I put it up twice on an E9-4 motor. The second flight using the Altimeter 2 device showed a flight of 647 feet peaking at 187mph. My third flight was also successful trying my Aerotech Reload for the first time. I used an E18-7. The Rocksim file for this flight told me to expect around 1300 feet. I did not put electronic in the rockets but it flew very high and came right back to us. Arnold talked me into Chad Staging the next flight with a D12-0 and a D12-7. It turns out on a D motor the 7 second delay was too great. The rate of descent when the nose popped took the shock cord out and we had ourselves a 6 foot lawn dart from 800 feet. It took about a 3 inch core sample. The good news is that the upper half of the kit sustained all the damage. Two new BT60 tubes and I am back in business. The fins and motor mount are fine. Steve Zindel also flew his Onyx Kit, Executioner and some others to very high heights. Jim did lose

one a tree by the river bank. The estimated altitude on his scratch built rocket was 1300 feet. The great part about the launch was that we had several families there as well. Since I joined in April, this was the most active launch. We saw a Space Shuttle Glider kit go up as well as a Blackbird Micro-Maxx. Arnold of course flew his UFO models but seemed very content launching everyone else's rockets.



When I think back to getting back into the hobby in the spring and how my models flew, the way my models fly high and straight now is because of the great members of this club and the hobby in general. No question has been too dumb and no problem has gone unsolved. The passion for building and flying with the GSSS is strong but it is the willingness to take new members in and teach that has been this club's greatest attributes.

## News From the United States Team Flyoffs

*(The following report is by Dr. Bob Kreutz. This event is held the weekend that NARAM starts. All photos provided by Dr. Bob)*

On the weekend that NARAM-53 began in Cincinnati, OH this year those wanting to represent our country at the World Championships meet to compete for that privilege and honor.

**Dr. Bob Kreutz** was one that flew and he did make the S1 (Altitude) with an altitude of 299 meters (approximately 980 feet) on an A10-1/2A3 motor.

He would have won S5 (Scale Altitude) but lost 2 sustainers. One was found before the NARAM

Banquet and returned. The altimeter was still working and had recorded an altitude of 389 meters (1275 feet). The model was of the bumper WAC. That would have been good enough to win the S5 event if the model had been found before it was necessary for him to leave for New Jersey.

Dr. Bob will be attending the Team Practice/Capitol Cup during September and we hope to have a report on that when available.

Following are a few of the photos of Dr. Bob's entries and a couple others of interest.



## Correction

And while on the subject of Team Selection and Dr. Bob we should have under a heading of “Can’t Believe Everything You Read,” the listing of **Dr. Bob Kreutz** as the Chairman of the FAI Team Selection Committee for Spacemodeling listed in the June 2011 issue of *Model Aviation* (Official Publication of the Academy of Model Aeronautics) is from an old list. Dr. Bob does go and try out for the team and he has been selected for several. Sorry for any confusion caused.

## Apology

And also adding to confusion it has been pointed out that it was not made clear as to where the completed survey should be sent. I apologize for that. And ask that if you still have not sent yours to forward it to:

GSSS-HQ  
c/o Jack Sarhage  
24 Canterbury Court  
Piscataway, NJ 08854

## Nominations for Club Officers

There was an omission in the last issue; due probably that we are on a quarterly schedule and did not allow for the time involved. Anyway.....

One of your membership privileges and responsibilities, etc. is to elect individuals that can best serve GSSS and you as it leaders. The first step is to make a nomination. As a member of this section you can make a nomination no matter what age group you are in.

The nomination does not have to be anything fancy. It can be a post-card or note (preferably) sent to the address of the editor (GHQ). We will accept an e-mail sent to the e-mail address shown for the editor. **To be received no later than October 31, 2011**

List a name for each of the following positions:

President  
Vice-president  
Secretary/Treasurer

Before making a nomination, be sure the person wants to hold office. It is a term of two years.

Also include your name and your GSSS number. Only members in good standing can nominate or be nominated.

The official ballot on a card will be sent to each member around the middle of November. You are then asked to return it to the GHQ address no later than December 15, 2011.

## Return of the Fun Tests

To re-introduce the Fun Tests, add some interest, and get away from the 5-4-3-2-1...swoosh...pop launches we do love, we are offering some challenge launches. The first one will be at the October 22 launch.

What is a Fun Test? These can be the same type of event you would find at a contest and come directly for the NAR “Pink Book” or something not found there such as the one planned for October.

Then beginning in 2012 we will hold one every other month. That gives us an automatic “rain-date” should we have a cancelled launch. Points will be awarded for first thru fourth place finishers and an additional prize for the first place winner. The points (same as for winner at contest) will be accrued and the GSSS member with the most points at the end of the year will be selected as “Section Champion of the Year.” To make an event official we will need three (3) members competing. Oh, by the way, these Fun Tests are open to any age member.

Okay, back to October 22. The event for that date is:

### Flying Saucer Spot Landing

The idea is to land your Flying Saucer model rocket as close as possible to the “target” set up in the launch area. You may turn the launch rod in any direction BUT it must remain within 30-degrees of vertical per the Safety Code. Only one attempt is allowed and no practice launches.

Planned Fun Tests for 2012 are:

March – Predicted Duration\*\*  
May – A Streamer Duration \*\*  
July – 1/2A Parachute Duration\*\*

September – A Helicopter Duration\*\*

November – Open Spot Landing\*\*

If you want an advanced peek at the rules for the events marked \*\* you can go to the NAR website and look them up in the online copy of the Pink Book. We will print them in the newsletter as we move closer to the launch date. Also, if you want ideas for a model rocket to build and fly for these events you can find plans at the same site.

The aim is to have some low key competition and add a little fun to your model rocketry.

### The Launch Rack Fall Issue 2011

*The Launch Rack* is the only official publication of the Garden State Spacemodeling Society and is published for the enlightenment and entertainment of the membership. It is published quarterly.

You are invited to send your articles, photos, letters to the editor, etc. for publication. This publication is by and for the membership.

Articles appearing in the newsletter may be used by other publications provided proper credit is given to the author and this newsletter.

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Brick, NJ 08724



## Model Rocket Trivia

What was the name of the first kit that Estes put out and in what year?

Send your answer to the address show for the editor by regular mail or e-mail. The correct answers will be gathered and we will pick one at the

October sport launch. You do not have to be present to win. There will be a prize but at the moment we do not know what it is.



## 25 Years Ago in The Launch Rack

In Issue No. 28 (September 1986) the cover carried a photo of **Dan Domina** representing the National Association of Rocketry presenting the North American Rockwell Trophy to **Jack Sarhage** as the editor of our publication *The Launch Rack*. Each year the LAC Committee selects a section newsletter as the most outstanding publication of the year. It is usually presented during the NARAM banquet but I was not in attendance.

Tradition has the editor place something inside the chalice atop the trophy. I will not tell you what I put inside because only award winners are to open it.

Also in that issue it was reported that 7 GSSS members travel to Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland and won several of the events at that contest. It was written that **Arnie Klein** would have won the spot landing event but was so overcome by his model's flight he collected it before the measurements were taken.

Issue 29 (October 1986. We published 10 issues a year in those days) told that JOISEE-3 was cancelled due to weather.

Several members traveled to New Scotland, NY to compete in ASTRO-3 sponsored by the ASTRE section (No. 471 and still going strong).

SPOOK-3 events were announced for the October contest and a Wallops Island field trip was planned.

November 1986 and Issue 30 reported that SPOOK-3 was also cancelled due to weather.

Then President **Bob Zabriskie** challenged members to contact members that had not been seen at a launch or meeting for some time.

It was discussed at that monthly meeting how we should go about getting the New Jersey Model Rocket Permit cancelled. **Manuel Mejia, Jr.** presented his argument for why the permit never did what it was intended to do and should be abolished.

It took several years but due to efforts of many GSSS members the permit system was rescinded. That is why you no longer have to have a permit to buy model rocket motors today.

## Other Happenings

(**Note:** We are happy to provide information on future events sponsored by other NAR Sections if we know about them.)

The Radical Rocketeers NAR Section 712 (Stephen Flynn, Section Advisor) will be sponsoring Open Skies 2011. This competition will be flown at Sandshore School, 498 Sandshore Road, Budd Lake, New Jersey.

Date is October 8, 2011

Rain Date is October 15, 2011

Events to be flown are: C Eggloft Duration; B Boost-Glider Duration; B Rocket Glider Duration; Open Spot Landing.

Sport flying of low power rockets allowed between contest flights.

### Something to Think About

*"A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing." ---George Bernard Shaw*

As my Filipino friends would say, "Panatilihin itong lumilipad" or Keep them Flying.

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