



## President's Newsletter - Spring 2002

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Admittedly and sadly, it had been along while since I last attended one of our monthly launches. Admittedly and sadly, events on the homefront caused a need in me to be with friends, with people I could be with and not have to hide the fact that I was a little down with life. And, so, I told the family I am going to the rocket launch.

There are many members of GSSS that through the years are considered "old" friends. Some, like Bob Zabriskie, Arnie Klein, Dr. Bob Kreutz go way back. And, Steve Pantuck joined during the first two years the club existed. We have been through much together, fighting to have the Rocket Engine Permit become a thing of the past...and after about three years this came about. We have searched, and continue to search, for a launch field of our own, with club house. Hey, we GSSS members have always dreamed BIG!

It is these friends that make GSSS (and other clubs) what it is. It is what the loner misses by not joining a club made up of other "folks" that have an interest just like yours. People you can talk to without getting those "interesting" looks that say, "You do what?" Friends that will welcome you no matter how long you may have been away.

Where is all this rambling leading to? No where really. It is just to say I really appreciate GSSS and the people, especially the "old friends" that make it GREAT!!

### **But I Have Been Thinking...**

Spring will be here in a few days and if you haven't done so this may be a good time to look at the workbench and the unfinished rockets there.

This is also a good time to look at what type of flying you are planning, sport, competition and build those rockets needed in the coming months.

If it is sport flying, then why not connect it with one of the NARTREK Levels. You can meet most of the requirements, especially in Bronze, with many of the sports models. Add a little challenge to your flying.

To request a packet for the Bronze Level write, NARTREK Base, c/o George Schell, 7311 Ditzler, Raytown, MO 64133 or email [nartrek@nar.org](mailto:nartrek@nar.org) and have some fun.

If it is competition flying, now is the time to decide on which contest and what

events you want to fly in. One of the best, low key, and friendliest contests is RAMTEC (version 10 this year). Held over the Father's Day weekend on the lovely campus of LaSalle University in Center Valley, PA it is a great way to get your feet wet if you've never competed before. If you have been there before you know how much fun it is to get together with many folks that have become friends (Hmm, there's that word again).

The events for 2002 are; ½A PD, A RCG, B HD, Sport Scale, and STA (Set Altitude-175 meters). Give Glenn Feveryear a call at 717 456-5570, or email him at, [gfeveryear@earthlink.net](mailto:gfeveryear@earthlink.net) for more info and a registration packet.

If you would like to further the hobby and GSSS why not mark June 1 on your calendar and join us at the Hillcrest School Science Fair in Somerset, NJ. They would like us to help the students launch the rockets they will build and to

give a demonstration of model rocketry during the 1200 to 1530 launch window.

Bob Zabriskie and I used to do this each year and can assure you it is lots of fun. Many of these kids have never seen a model rocket before. To borrow a motto from the National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts, "Only through sharing can we really enjoy our treasures (or rockets)".

And as Section 439 of the National Association of Rocketry (NAR) we have an obligation to support its efforts to promote the hobby through education. NAR President Mark "Bunny" Bundick wrote recently (*The Model Rocketeer*, February 2002), urging sections to get involved in the organization's two educational initiatives. He quoted President Bush as saying, "If we do not turn the hearts of children toward knowledge and character, we will lose their gifts and undermine their idealism."

If, like me, you are interested in taking our kids back from the world of materialism and instant gratification, to a world where integrity and character rule, let's join the NAR in its new program; Team America Rocketry Challenge (See the March/April 2002 *Sport Rocketry*) and go "Back To School".

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Steve and Theresa Flynn for their efforts in keeping *The Launch Rack* issued. This has been, and will continue to be, the primary source of information for GSSS.

Thank you also, Steve, for your work as the Contest Director. I too would like to see the FunTests return to the monthly launches, and I urge all GSSS members to help Steve make these happen.

I continue to believe that you will learn more about model rocketry by competing in one contest, than years of swoosh-pop launches. I feel about swoosh-pop launches as many do about regular mail. Add some challenges to your flights by adding some contest models to your fleet of rockets.

While we are tossing accolades: Bob Z should be included for his continuing to

set up the launch area so we can fly when we decide to show up. Thank you to Arnie for being responsible for getting the launch equipment taken down and returned to Bob ready for the next date.

I plan to publish this "soapbox" quarterly. Naturally, what is contained is the opinion of yours truly and not necessarily that of other members, or the GSSS Board of Trustees.

As I sign off let me leave you with this bit of information, "If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle; if the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle; if the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes." Just though you would want to know that.

Keep 'em flying,



Jack Sarhage  
GSSS President

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