

June 2015

WHAT'S UP



Newsletter of the Syracuse Rocket Club / NAR section 566 / TRA Prefecture 53
Volume 10 Number 3

FLYING AGAIN

The Syracuse Rocket Club had its first launch of the 2015 season on May 16. I was there... barely. Unfortunately I had to leave at 11:30 so got only two flights in. My Tail Burner Habanero got lost in the grass on its first flight. Great start!

or send me some pictures. Anyone?) I did hear that my entry in the B streamer spot landing contest, at 47' 3", was edged out by those of Scott Sellers at 42' 4", and Roger Forell at... well... 3' 3.5".

Congratulations, Roger!
Way to make us look bad.

Under the circumstances I wasn't able to get much information or photos, unfortunately. (I'd be happy to publish some in the next issue if anyone wants to write something

There were 67 flights, which was 67 more than May 2014, so the season's off to a good start.



CNYRTC teams get ready to test at the May SRC launch



Gone, but not forgotten

APRIL MEETING

The April meeting was well attended with some new members, including a family, and our field's owner, Milt Weigand. Paul Gagnon told us about his visit to BALLS in the Black Rock Desert of Nevada. Four hundred or more people go there to do some very serious high power flying. Casual spectators aren't encouraged, but Paul was there to learn in preparation for flying there this fall. Paul also was planning to go to Red Glare in Price, MD.

There was discussion of NYPower, TARC, the CNY Rocket Team Challenge, and our own upcoming first club launch. The usual site for the

CNYRTC will not be available this year and club members were planning to look at alternatives. LDRS was another subject of conversation, and it's proposed SRC operate a hospitality tent there.

I have a note here that says "Tom 116 Styrofoam cups". I probably should have written down more.

A box of SRC logo shirts and hats ordered from Land's End had just come in. It included a few extras, which may still be available for purchase; contact Mark Riffle.

MAY MEETING

We had a pretty good turnout for the May meeting as well. We talked about our upcoming launch season. Tripoli members will be launch directors in June, July, and August, so we plan on operating those as Tripoli research launches. There was some discussion of possible rain date policy.

James reported we have funds sufficient for running our August picnic, and more memberships are coming in. Speaking of the picnic, Animal Motor Works (AMW) will be there again as on site vendor.

Scott told us about running a demo at a STEM scout camporee in Rome. Twenty rockets made about 100 flights. Five got lost, ten broke, there were five survivors. Upcoming school launches we'll be involved with include the Huntington Rocket Fest and Lincoln 8th graders, around June 22 or 23; Allen Road 5th grade, May 29; and Ray Middle School in Baldwinsville, June 11.

The upscale Saber parts are all in one place now and need to be put together. No date has been decided upon for that yet.

The SRC Facebook group has been inactive; we talked about reviving it.

Preparations for the CNYRTC continue. There were 108 teams signed up as of the meeting. Volunteers are needed. (See page 3).

Unfortunate puns dominated discussion of porta potties, specifically whether we should get a seasonal rental, or possibly buy a unit, rather than having one only at the picnic launch. James will check on prices.

At LDRS the big tent will be available for people showing up for just a day, and as a hospitality site. URRG is willing to supply motors for take-away rockets for kids.

For the show and tell portion of the evening Mark had a 3D printed shroud for a Mobius video camera. These are available to fit various standard tube sizes.

Dennis donated a rocket kit to the club, and was giving away books on weapons, tubes, speakers, a plastic model kit, and an audio generator.

THE BIG EVENTS

Saturday, June 6 is the CNY Rocket Team Challenge in Syracuse, organized by the Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science & Technology (MOST). Latest report is that there will be 111 teams of middle and high schoolers competing. The Syracuse Rocket Club, as usual, will be on hand to provide technical support. Volunteers needed! See below.

Instead of URRF, this summer the Potter, NY field will host Tripoli's LDRS34. Dates are June 25 through 29. Standing waiver is 15000' with call in windows TBD; O impulse limit. Preregistration is \$50 for 5 days. The web site is <http://ldrs34.org/>.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: CNY ROCKET TEAM CHALLENGE

The Museum of Science and Technology (MOST) in Syracuse and the Syracuse Rocket Club have been putting on a competitive rocket event, the Central New York Rocket Team Challenge, for the past several years that has now grown to involve over a hundred teams of rocket competitors from high schools and middle schools. Please refer to the web site: <http://most.org/rockets/index.cfm>.

The event draws many young people, parents and educators. We have no problem finding many people willing to volunteer to help out with the event. Where we are having trouble is in finding enough volunteers with technical knowledge of mid-power rocketry. Though the event does expect that each team will prepare their own rockets for launch, we provide technical assistance at a station at the field. In the past we had only a couple of knowledgeable people at this station and a few others that were not knowledgeable. The result was some bad advice and non deployment of recovery systems. We need to staff this station with about five to six knowledgeable individuals.

We also need knowledgeable assistance for inspection of rockets at registration and preflight safety checks. Each of three launch pads need to be individually manned with available backups since the event is three hours straight of launching. We also assign one person as flight safety officer whose sole job is to hold the horn in case of a dangerous recovery. There is a crowd of up to 1000 at the event, many who have never been to a rocket launch and might not be watching for rockets coming in hot.

The flow of the launches is very important because there are so many rockets to be launched within a relatively



short period of time. An extra person directing teams to the pad coordinating with the the pad manager would help this flow.

If anyone with rocketry experience can come to Syracuse University on June 6, 2015, please send James an email. We start launching at 9:00 AM and finish by 1:00 PM. Volunteers show up as early as 7:00 AM the day of the launch, but a volunteer will be appreciated for anytime that they are willing to spend at the event. It is great fun and will be worth the trip. Please email me if you or anyone you know would be willing to help us out.

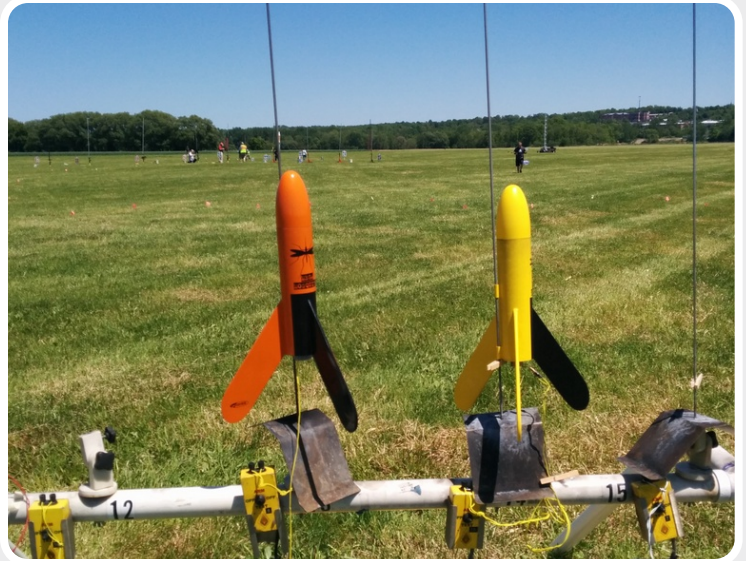
James Shattell
Shattell.especial@verizon.net

NYPOWER 19

The Monroe Astronautical Rocket Society (MARS) held its annual NYPower event Memorial Day weekend, May 23–25, at the Geneseo Airport. The SRC contingent was smaller than usual this year: Me, your editor. Technically also Bill and MaryBeth Clune, who also are MARS and URRG; and James Shattell was there on Saturday as a spectator. In fact attendance generally was lower than in past years, for whatever reasons: maybe the date conflict with the National Sport Launch, maybe people saving up time and money for LDRS in nearby Potter next month? Hopefully last year's poor field conditions weren't keeping people from returning, because this year's field was completely different: Mowed short and dry. A little too dry, in fact; after an incipient grass fire was put out on Saturday, a prohibition on J and higher sparky motors went into effect.

It being early in the season, the soybean field to the east was nice and low. The wheat field to the north, not so much.

As for the weather, it hardly gets better: Sunny but not hot on Saturday and Sunday, cloudier and warmer but still comfortable Monday. Winds below or around 10 MPH all weekend, more toward the soybeans than the wheat much of the time.



So, a great time and place to do some flying.

I probably would have been prepping/flying/recovering like crazy all three days had I gotten my winter rockets painted by then, but it's been one of those springs. As it was I didn't have a ton of things I wanted to fly, so I relaxed, conversed, spectated, shopped, and ate with occasional breaks to fly something. My Photon Disruptor made its first flight, and I used my 1-grain 24 mm and my 2-grain 29 mm hardware for the first time. Eight flights, seven of them good. (The parachute on my Ventriss decided it wanted to go off and see the world, evidently, leaving the Ventriss to return to ground on its own resources. It'll fly again.)

A few other random notes:

The Estes holiday sales seem to have made their mark: my Mega Mosquito launched immediately before another one did (above), and there were three Mega Mosquitos on the next low power rack. Among others all weekend. Someone launched one on an F44; overheard comment: "That's how a Mosquito is supposed to fly!"

Besides the 50/50 cash prize, other prizes in the raffle were a large number of kits and built rockets that had been donated to MARS. One lucky person came away with a sealed 1980s vintage Estes Saturn V kit.

There were a few catos, none particularly spectacular. A couple of high power lawn darts, with nothing damaged other than the rockets.

My favorite flight: Tom Cohen's new, low, slow, 145 lb tube fin rocket (left).



About the Syracuse Rocket Club

The Syracuse Rocket Club (SRC), serving hobby rocketry in central New York, is section 566 of the National Association of Rocketry (NAR) and Prefecture 53 of the Tripoli Rocketry Association (TRA) and was founded in 1997.

SRC holds a monthly sport launch in Van Buren once a month, May through October, typically on the third Saturday (weather permitting); see our calendar elsewhere in this newsletter for specifics. Launches are open to the public, with a \$5 launch fee for non SRC members who wish to fly rockets.

SRC welcomes all prospective new members to our monthly meetings. They are held on the first Monday of the month (second Monday if the first is a holiday) from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at Walt's Hobby Town on Dwight Park Drive, near the State Fair Boulevard exit of I-690.

For more information see our website:
<http://syracuserocketclub.org>

SRC officers are:

President/Prefect:	Mark Riffle
Vice President:	Scott Sellers
Secretary/Treasurer:	James Shattell
Editor:	Rich Holmes
Web Master:	Scott Sellers

About *What's Up*

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What's Up is the official newsletter of the Syracuse Rocket Club.

What's Up is published five times a year and is distributed electronically on the SRC website; latest and back issues may be downloaded at <http://syracuserocketclub.org/newsletters.html>. Except where otherwise indicated, material in *What's Up* is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial license. You are free to share and adapt material from *What's Up* providing you give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. You may not use the material for commercial purposes.

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Scott and James supervise a TARC team qualification launch

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon. June 1st at Walt's Hobby: **Club Meeting**. Presentation: Cluster ignition methods

Sat. June 6th at Skytop, Syracuse University: **CNY Rocket Team Challenge**.

Sat. June 20th Weigand's Field: **SRC Sport Launch**. Theme: Cluster rockets. Contest: 1/2A cluster duration (3-motor).
Launch Director: Mark Riffle.

Thu. June 25–Mon. June 29, Potter NY: **LDRS**. See <http://ldrs34.org/>.

Mon. July 6th at Walt's Hobby: **Club Meeting**. Discussion topics: Rocket gliders

Sat. July 18th Weigand's Field: **SRC Sport Launch**. Theme: Gliders. Contest: A glider duration. Launch Director: Paul Gagnon.

SRC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Location	Event
June	Mon. 1st	Walt's HobbyTown Club Meeting
	Sat. 6th	Skytop MOST Rocket Team Challenge
	Sat. 20th	Weigand's Field SRC Sport Launch
	Thu. 25th – Mon. 29th	Potter, NY LDRS national event
July	Mon. 6th	Walt's HobbyTown Club Meeting
	Sat. 18th	Weigand's Field SRC Sport Launch
August	Mon. 3rd	Walt's HobbyTown Club Meeting
	Sat. 22nd	Weigand's Field SRC Sport Launch, Family Picnic and Night Launch
September	Mon. 14th	Walt's HobbyTown Club Meeting
	Sat. 19th	Weigand's Field SRC Sport Launch
October	Mon. 5th	Walt's HobbyTown Club Meeting
	Sat. 17th	Weigand's Field SRC Sport Launch
November	Mon. 2nd	Walt's HobbyTown Club Meeting
	Sat. 21st	Walt's HobbyTown Walt's Annual Secret Santa Sale
December	Mon. 7th	Walt's HobbyTown Club Meeting

Please check web site (<http://syracuserocketclub.org>) for changes, cancellations, and last minute events!
Go/no go status of each launch will be posted on the web the evening before.

Directions to Walt's HobbyTown: From I-690, take Exit 5 (State Fair Blvd./Lakeland). Turn right onto Van Vleck Rd. Take the first right onto Dwight Park Dr. Walt's is immediately on your right.

Directions to Weigand's Field: From I-690, take Exit 2 (Jones Rd.). Turn left onto Jones Rd. Take the first right onto Van Buren Rd. After 1.6 miles turn left onto Connors Rd. After 1.0 miles turn left onto Canton Street Rd. Launch site is about 0.4 miles on your left; look for sign. Park in designated area. Please do not drive onto field without launch director's permission.