

August 2015

WHAT'S UP



Newsletter of the Syracuse Rocket Club / NAR section 566 / TRA Prefecture 53
Volume 10 Number 4



Above: June launch line. Below: Dan Fritz's Level 1 Patriot heads toward clouds



DODGING DROPS

We've been flying!

After a rainy Friday, the Saturday morning weather at the start of the June launch was about as good as it gets: temperature in the 70s, a few scattered clouds, very light wind out of the southeast. By afternoon the temperature was up to 80, clouds were rolling in, and the wind had shifted to the south and picked up a bit. Still pretty good flying weather. About 15 minutes after we finished tearing down and packing up it started raining. Dang, we're good.

We set up this time at the Taylor Road entrance to the field. Mark Riffle was our launch director. Mark's a Tripoli member so this was at least in principle a research launch. No EX motors flew, though.

Flying got under way with Kaydince's Gold Crayon. This was the first of an estimated twelve dozen flights by Kaydince. He was far from the only young rocketeer present (though he may have been the youngest). Several Rocket Team Challenge veterans turned out to

Abby, Scott R., Mark, Kaydince, and Roger. Having some fun? Definitely.

Continued on p. 7



CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

The 2015 Central New York Rocket Team Challenge is now history. There were 110 teams registered, of which almost all came and launched their rockets. As usual the Syracuse Rocket Club played a major role in running the event: Inspecting rockets, helping fix structurally challenged models,* loading the rockets on the pads, and pushing the launch button, among other things.

The usual launch site at Syracuse University's Skytop was unavailable (probably permanently, I'd say) due to construction of an athletic facility of some kind. We moved basically across the road. We weren't really launching from the middle of a construction site even though it might look that way in the pictures. One worrisome aspect of the move was that it put us closer to the power lines. It's not unusual for rockets to get hung up on them, and National Grid sends a crew for the occasion to retrieve them for us right away. It wasn't too bad this

year, as it turned out; I think three rockets out of the 100-ish got snagged.

One team was probably thankful for the power lines. Their rocket got caught on them... after its chute didn't deploy. Sometimes two wrongs do make a right.

The winning team in the Middle School Division was the Space Rainbow Milky Way Explorers from Donlin Drive Elementary School, and in the High School Division NASA: Not A Space Association from Paul V. Moore High School. Complete standings are on the MOST web site: <http://www.most.org/rockets>. Congratulations to all the participants!

* and, during a slow moment, a pair of shoes.



Top left: Contestants queue up. Bottom left: NASA. Right: Why we had to move.



LARGE DAILY RAIN STORMS

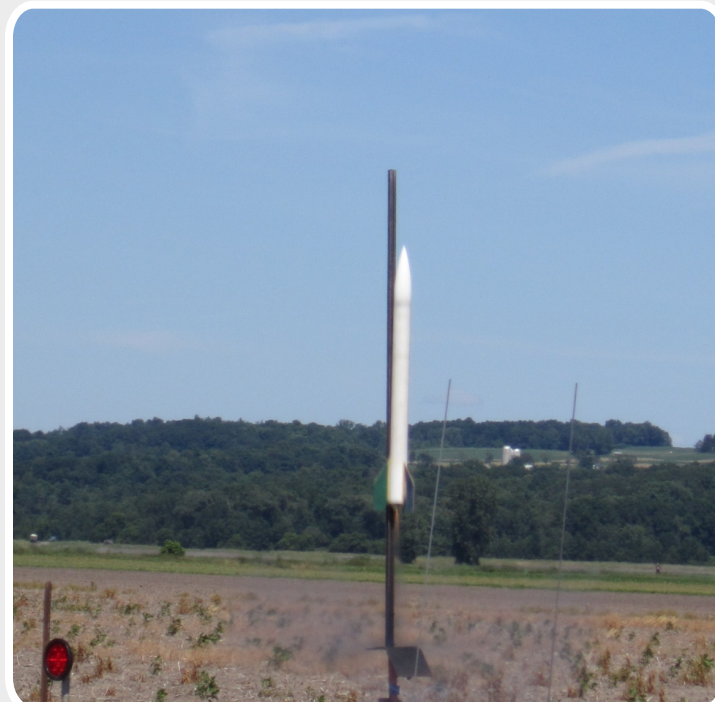
Instead of URRF, this summer the Potter, NY field hosted Tripoli's LDRS34 from June 25 through 29. LDRS is a national event that draws hundreds of participants from across North America and is highly anticipated every year. This year, unfortunately, and through circumstances beyond mortal control, much of what was anticipated didn't happen.

Thursday was reportedly a good flying day, about which however I've heard no details. There was some rain that night which caused a bit of trouble with the launch equipment Friday but didn't otherwise affect flying. That day James Shattell, Rich and Tony Pitzeruse, and Roger Forrell were all flying; Cleveland from Danforth Middle School came with James, and Rich Holmes was there as a spectator. Nice weather that day, in the 70s, partly cloudy with wind under 10 MPH in the morning — a little stiffer in the afternoon. The day's flying was extended after a bad weather forecast for Saturday and Sunday resulted in the FAA granting an extension to Friday's waiver until dusk. Cleveland flew his Make It Take It and the Firefox TARC rocket. Rich P.'s upscale Fat Boy had a nice up but failed to pop its nose cone. James flew his EZI-65 on a K695 Redline to 5759' AGL.

Then the rain came, lots of it. The range was closed Saturday. Sunday a very few rockets reportedly flew. By late Monday morning the rain had stopped and flying resumed, but it was a mudfest! Mark Riffle reports he stayed home Friday for Abby's graduation: "I came to the field Saturday to pick up my stuff but couldn't even get on the field. Sunday I went down after 1:00 because of the email Bill Clune sent. Thanks to AWD I made it to get my stuff, and bought some more stuff from Robert and Gloria."

And from James: "I thought the field would probably be closed on Saturday yet the four students that I was going to bring insisted that we go anyhow. Of course we got there and the field was closed. We took a walk down to check out the setup and I re-staked the big tent. I don't know how much it mattered that I did this because when I got back to the field on Monday apparently some of the stakes had broken loose and a tent started to come down. The guys on the field laid it down the rest of the way to stop it from blowing away or causing any additional damage. I stayed around on Monday and help tear down the field to about 6:30 p.m. and then went home."

Of course the LDRS banquet happened, and Bob Krech on the Rocketry Forum estimated about 800 to 900 flights took place. Not a bad record under the circumstances! Next year, LDRS35 will be hosted by the Rocketry Organization of California at Lucerne Dry Lake.



FLY JULY

There was some worry about possible rain-out on July 18 but that didn't happen. It was cloudy when we started but the clouds diminished as the day went on. Winds were not bad.

We set up near Taylor Road. Mr Weigand's had trouble getting the hay in, between wet weather and equipment problems, so we didn't have a lot of mowed area to work with, but we made it work.

What with one thing and another we got off to a later than usual start, with Dennis Friend's Red Star Liner flying first on a B6-4. The launch theme and contest both were gliders — A glider duration for the contest. Rich Holmes's Deltie was the first glider of the day, except it didn't glide, it Red Baroned with the glider coming down entangled in the booster's shock cord. The same rocket's second flight was more successful, aside from the fact that the only parts Rich was able to find afterward were most of the streamer and two pieces of wadding. Rich switched to his Condor for his third glider flight: Another Red Baron. Out of the running for the contest, he flew the Condor again hoping to salvage a NARTREK Silver requirement. The glider glided, both parts were recovered, and the duration was long enough. One out of four's not... that bad?



Roger's glider

Other gliders were flown by Dennis, Roger Forrell, Tim Catterson, and Scott Sellers, the latter having just returned from a 400+ mile kayak trip down the Susquehanna. The unofficial result: Dennis's EeCee the winner at just under 45 seconds, with Roger's glider at a little under 40 in second place.

Gabriel and Bella came with Paul Gagnon and flew a number of times, including a Big Red and the family favorite Scraps on an F35; other young rocketeers from the Danforth TARC team came with James. Brian Morse flew his Leviathan on an F motor. Bill Brazee's first club flight in a decade or so was a Super Big Bertha which went up slowly and majestically and came down, unfortunately, rather fast for a core sample. Bill says it'll buff out and it really only needs the one fin. Dennis's Red Star Liner flew a second time, and his Dominator was among his other flights. Mark Riffle's Scarab-54 went up on a G80 Skidmark. Another G80 was used by Zygjuan in the Danforth rocket. Rich flew his new Sea Sting and the revived Lunar Eclipse Jr., finally repaired after a motor cato at last year's URRF.

Unfortunately the higher vegetation nearby swallowed up a few rockets besides the Deltie. That nearly included Brian's LOC IV, flying on an Aerotech H135 for his Level 1 certification attempt. It came down behind the trees in the adjacent field of 8' high corn. Luckily the chute caught the top of a corn stalk and after a good bit of hiking Brian was able to see it from nearby high ground. Then it was just a matter of getting to it. The rocket was undamaged. Congratulations to Brian on a hard-fought but successful certification!



Brian's LOC IV certifies

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*

Volume 10 Number 4
July 2015

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.

Comments, correspondence, and articles or proposals for articles may be addressed to:

What's Up
c/o Richard Holmes
310 MacKay Ave.
Syracuse, NY 13219
or e-mail richholmes@richholmes.net.



Left: Scraps comes home. Right:
Rich's Lunar Eclipse Jr. makes smoke.

MEETINGS

The June meeting was largely concerned with final preparations for the CNY Rocketry Team Challenge. Peter and Diane Plumley joined us by phone. We went over the list of volunteer assignments and discussed scheduling. A new feature this year will be a STEM activity tent, to give the teams something to do after their rocket's flown.

Scott Sellers went over a lengthy list of schools for which SRC members are assisting with rocket launches.

I found out what that "119 cups" referred to. Tom Kopp is building a supersized version of the FlisKits Decaffeinator rocket, using 119 Styrofoam cups. He's trying to work out what motor to launch it on.

We had a brief discussion of cluster ignition techniques. Dennis Friend uses standard Estes ignitors, generally soldered to a wire ring. He checks the motor nozzles for excess clay before putting the ignitors in, and then tests for continuity before soldering because the thin ignitor wire can break on insertion. James Shattell uses a clip whip. Rich Holmes asked about Q2G2 ignitors, which are often recommended for clustering, but some launch controllers can ignite a Q2G2 on continuity check current. The club's equipment is said to be Q2G2 safe.

Dan Fritz and Rich said they were both planning level 1 certification flights at the June launch.

Scott demonstrated a handheld, foam air rocket he uses in the classroom. He has a couple others he modified: one with fins moved to the front of the rocket, one with weight added to the tail. Guess which ones are unstable?

At the July meeting James presented a mid year financial report. Dues and donations have been coming in and all we've spent money on so far is the web site, so our balance is good. We discussed the upcoming launch and August's Family Picnic launch. Members talked about current projects and plans; Brian Morse said he hoped to do his Level 1 certification at the July launch. A "newcomer" who was asked to introduce himself turned out to be none other than Bill Barzee, who founded the Syracuse Rocket Club with Ron Lioto and Rich Pitzeruse back in 1997! Bill's been away from rocketry for about a decade but new work and family circumstances have brought him back.

Post-meeting news: We've received our grant from NAR, \$250, to be used toward upgrading our high power capability.



Continued from p. 1

fly Alphas and an RTC rocket, the Danforth Devil.

The theme for the launch was clusters, and the contest was 3x1/2A cluster duration. Rich Holmes's Estes Ranger clone on 3xA8-3 was his first cluster flight and his Squirrel Works Callisto modified for 3x13 mm on 1/2A3-4Ts was his second; these were his NARTREK Silver cluster flight and launch contest entry, respectively. Scott Sellers' Cluster Buster did well for the contest, drifting on its chute across Taylor Road and away, never to be seen again... except it was; Scott found it and flew it again. Roger Forrell also had an entry, whose first flight was a little interesting, but some added nose weight took care of that.

Dennis Friend flew some clusters, too, but when doesn't he? His Skylab Saturn V went up on 5xC6-5. As usual he had some other unusual and well-crafted rockets including a Quest MLAS, flying nicely on a C6; a Nova 33 with lots of faux nozzles and one real one; a Guardian Missile; and an Apollo 27 plastic model conversion.

Tom Kopp turned up with a sweet large Saturn V which unfortunately didn't fly that day. He did have a Baby and Big Bertha which were supposed to drag race, but the Big courteously let the Baby win by staying on the pad. It went up on the second attempt. An SR-71 Blackbird unfortunately curved south off the rod and landed hard across the road. But things went well with the world's most colorful Goddard Nell, which had a nice flight.

Scott Renshaw's Space Junk was the largest rocket to go on a pad that day, but on the pad was where it stayed due to engine troubles. He also flew an upscale Estes Hornet on a G80 among other rockets. Sue was there and

flying as well, including an Astron Sprint XL that got caught by a rocket-eating... bush?

Tom Gagliardo's flights included an Apogee Aspire on an E40, I think he said. Way up and back down behind the trees, but he recovered it. His Blue Streak had an odd flight, with seemingly no delay before the ejection charge, but it came back all right.

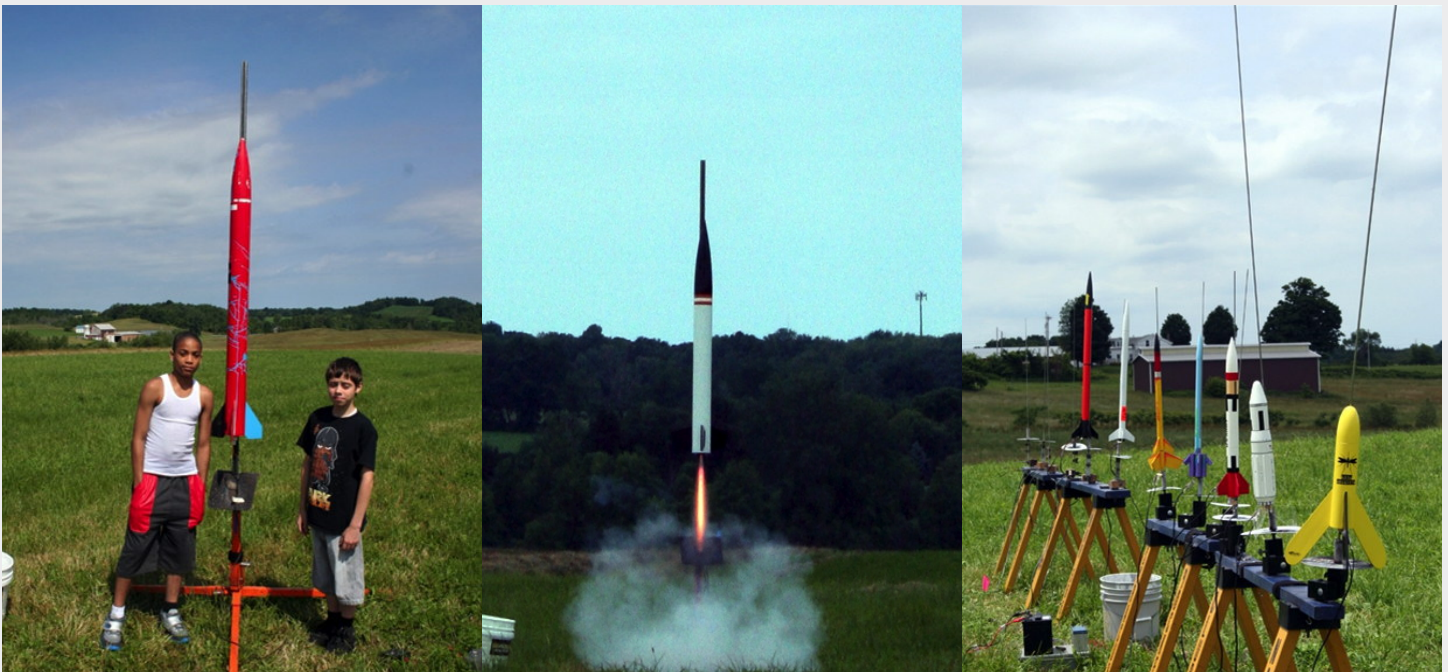
Besides the Cluster Buster, Scott Sellers flew a Bullpup on a black powder E which catoed just past the launch rod.

James Shattell brought his Jart fed with a G80. It beeped a lot.

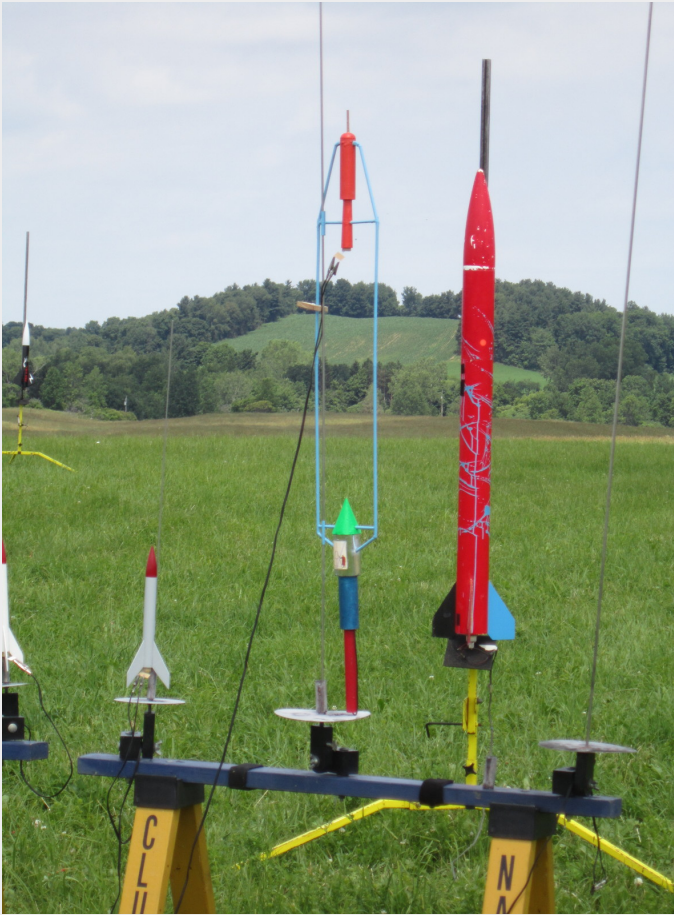
This reporter may be biased, but it seems fair to say the highlight of the day was two back to back Level 1 high power certification flights. Dan Fritz selected a Madcow Patriot for his attempt while Rich Holmes flew a Binder Design Excel. Coincidentally, Dan and Rich both chose CTI H120 Redline motors. Both rockets flew well and came back undamaged for successful certifications. Congratulations, Dan! Someone else can congratulate Rich.

Other members present included Abby and John, but my notes are incomplete. Around 3 pm, after an estimated total of 90 or so flights, another Kaydince rocket, which he dubbed John John John John Motorcycle, went up and down again, and another great SRC launch came to an end.

Launch photos by Scott Sellers.



Left: Rocket Team Challenge practice run. Center: Rich's Level 1 Excel. Right: A rack of LPR.



Our big event!

Don't miss this one! The August SRC sport launch is our annual Family Picnic Launch — the biggest event of the SRC calendar. Besides the usual modroc and high power flying fun there will be free picnic food, prize drawings, free rockets for kids, some of the oddest rockets ever, and at dusk our third annual Night Launch!

When: Saturday, August 22 10:00 am – 10:00 pm

Where: Weigand's Field, Van Buren (see back cover for directions)

Cost: Free to watch, nonmembers \$5 to fly

See you there!

More June launch photos, by Rich Holmes. Facing page, clockwise from top left: Tom Kopp's Nell and the Danforth Devil; Rich's Excel nose cone; Tim and Scott S. consult; Kaydince surprises Mark; launching Dennis's MLAS; Dennis's Skylab Saturn V. Right: Unidentified rocket.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon. August 3rd at Walt's Hobby: **Club Meeting**. Presentation: Rocket preparation for night launches

Sat. August 22nd Weigand's Field: **SRC Family Picnic Sport Launch**. Theme: Odd-Rocs. Contest: A helicopter duration. Launch Director: James Shattell.

Mon. September 14th at Walt's Hobby: **Club Meeting**. Discussion topics: Scale models

Sat. September 19th Weigand's Field: **SRC Sport Launch**. Theme: Scale models. Contest: Sport Scale. Launch Director: Scott Sellers.

SRC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Location	Event	
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.