

April 2015

WHAT'S UP



Newsletter of the Syracuse Rocket Club / NAR section 566 / TRA Prefecture 53
Volume 10 Number 2



So
what's in
the box?

TRIPOLI AGAIN

A box arrived for the club on 3 March. It contained packing paper, several fluorescent color safety vests, and a three ring binder. Inside the binder were documents and information relating to our newly resumed status as Prefecture 53 of the Tripoli Rocketry Association.

The SRC has long (since its founding, I believe) been Section 566 of the National Association of Rocketry. That's not changing. The club was in addition a TRA Prefecture for a few years; we let that lapse at a time when we didn't have enough Tripoli members to continue. Now there's enough resurgent interest, and we've signed on as Prefecture 53 again. Mark Riffle is officially

Prefect, and the \$100 prefecture fee payment will be divided between the club's Tripoli members.

Being a Tripoli prefecture means the club will be able to hold research launches at which Tripoli members can use research motors. NAR members who are not also Tripoli members will be unaffected: They can still fly commercial motors up to their certification level, in compliance with the NAR Safety Codes, at these same launches.

Having dual affiliation, then, gives us some more flexibility, and allows us to offer more opportunities to our members. It's a good sign of growth for the SRC.



February's
SRC meeting
was canceled for
some reason.

A work in progress



JANUARY MEETING

Dennis Friend, Paul Gagnon, Dave Grimes, Rich Holmes, Brian Morse, Abby Riffle, Mark Riffle, Scott Sellers, and James Shattell were present at the year's first meeting.

James reported on our finances: We have about \$10 more than a year ago. Donations (mostly in kind) and grants are up. Dues are down — just a small decrease in membership over last year (4 members) but it was the first year we extended August and later signups through the end of the following year, so some memberships that would have been renewable last year instead do not renew until this year. Cost of family picnic was down due to shopping skillz of the Renshaws. Postage/printing/mailling costs up due to more aggressive membership renewal campaign which however had little effect on renewal rates. More spent on equipment (using the grant money) and giveaway kits. Club build mostly covered by donations.

Our membership goal for 2015: 20 families, 80 members.

The 2015 calendar was amended and approved. We have launch directors for all but July and October launches.

Dues collected were collected, including from new member Dave Grimes (welcome, Dave!)

Discussion items included:

- Should we run Pink Book contests at our launches? Instead of, or in addition to, our informal contests? It could attract Thruway club members who are into competition.

- The club newsletter was about to resume publication; material solicited.

- Should we resume being a Tripoli prefect? We need to look into what it would cost. Some discussion of cost advantages of EX motors ensued.

- Rocket Show & Tell:

- Mark's Polecat Aerospace Wocket, with Snitch decals from StickerShock. Look for some long-burn sparky J motors this summer!

- Brian's scratch built WAC Corporal (4" LOC tube based, dual deploy, 38 mm motor mount).



THE BIG EVENTS

NYPOWER is coming up Memorial Day Weekend — May 23 through 25 — at the Geneseo Airport. It's run by the Monroe Astronautical Rocket Society (MARS, NAR section 136). They have a 9000' AGL waiver and M impulse limit. Preregistration for all 3 days is \$25, \$35 on the field or you can pay for single days on the field. There's more information at <http://nypower.org>.

Two weeks later — Saturday, June 6 — is the CNY Rocket Team Challenge in Syracuse, organized by the Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science & Technology (MOST). There will be, probably, about 100 teams of middle and high schoolers competing. The Syracuse Rocket Club, as usual, will be on hand to provide technical support.

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/>.

COMING UP ON T+20

Rich Pitzeruse writes:

I mentioned the clubs 20th anniversary last night, so I did a little digging to see when we actually created the club. The first 'launch' at the field was September 1996, it was just a demo for Mr Wiegand. Bill Barzee (first president) and I were the only people there, we each launched a rocket (I flew my 3x upscale Mars Lander) and Mr Wiegand was impressed enough to grant us permission to use his field for club launches.

The first club meeting was January 1997, the first official launch was in the spring of 97, but I can't seem to find exactly which month. So we have just under 2 years before the club turns 20.

We should do something cool for 2017!

JANUARY BUILD SESSION

Rich Holmes, Mark Riffle, Scott Sellers, and James Shattell got together on 17 January to do some building.

We got most of the tubes for the Upscale Saber reunited and weighed, and discussed next steps. We won't be pursuing any of the earlier ideas about through the wall fins for attachment of the tubes. We may just epoxy them on, or might put some blocks on the motor mount to allow some screws. It should be okay if we choose the right motor — slow flight, no supersonics!

We glued fins onto about a dozen Alphas (launch lugs on some too), and cut about a dozen more fins. These will be ready to give away at our launches.



SEMROC RETURNS

Arguably the biggest news in the world of rocketry so far this year came in this message from Semroc owner Sheryl McLawhorn:

I am happy to announce that Semroc now has a new owner. I am sure most of you know Randy Boadway of erockets. We have known him since the beginning of Semroc. He wants to keep the quality of service and parts Semroc is known for so Bruce and I will be helping him get it up and running again. Please give Randy the kindness, patience, and understanding you have given us through the years. We will truly miss each and every one of you.

(<http://www.oldrocketforum.com/showpost.php?p=189758&postcount=14>)

Carl McLawhorn began Semroc as a kit manufacturer from 1967 to the early 70s. It was revived in 2002, with a line of original kits and reproductions of classic kits and a large stock of parts without which many scratch builds never would have seen the light of day.

Unfortunately Carl McLawhorn died in 2013, and after his son Bruce suffered a serious illness a few months later, Carl's widow Sheryl decided to sell the company. Semroc's assets have now been moved to Dayton, Ohio and at this writing a partial selection of Semroc parts and kits is available through erockets.biz.

Best of luck to Semroc in its third incarnation.

Newsletter Schedule

I'm going to be flexible with regard to the frequency of newsletters until I figure out what works, but I do have a schedule in mind to try for now. There will tend to be more to write about in the warmer months than in the winter, so I'm thinking five issues a year: three months apart for half the year, two months the other half — beginning of January, April, June, August, and October. I'm hoping that will strike a good balance of being neither too ambitious nor too dilatory.

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 2

April 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.

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What's Up

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MARCH MEETING

Dennis Friend, Dave Grimes, Rich Holmes, Rich Pitzeruse, Mark Riffle, and James Shattell made it to the March meeting. Mark brought along his in-progress Wildman Darkstar Jr. 2-stage: basic black for now, but it'll look different after painting and StickerShock decals. He's outfitted it with 3-D printed electronics sleds and plans to add a 3-D printed camera mount.

Mark also brought a box. See "Tripoli again" (p. 1).

There was a brief treasurer's report. Renewals are coming in.

We discussed what to request for our NAR grant this year. More high power pads were one possibility; a Nomex blanket was another. We also could use something better to mark

the parking area and discourage attempts to drive up the hill.

James brought us up to date on his and Scott's TARC activities; their teams have been out in the record cold month of February, on snowshoes, launching their rockets. This year at the MOST Rocket Team Challenge he's proposed adding an event for any TARC teams that want to attend, competing with each other under TARC rules.

Paul Gagnon reportedly went out to BALLS this year.

The quest for a second flying field is continuing at a low level. When and if the snow melts we'll be able to do more looking. One or two possibilities are out there. We can always use more suggestions.

On the calendar this meeting was supposed to feature a parts swap, but that seemed to have escaped the notice of most of us. James had a small suitcase full of odd parts, including a teakettle whistle he'd held on to with thoughts of trying to make a whistling rocket. The suitcase attracted more attention than the parts, though. It might have antique value, though James denied buying it off a Civil War vet.

The other discussion item, held over from February, was high power certification. Dave and Rich H. both are interested in L1 this year, and Mark reviewed the process and answered questions.

Our next meeting will be April 6 at Walt's. Activity: Prep equipment for Spring launches.



Above: Rich Holmes's Xarconian Cruiser, awaiting painting season.
Left: Mark Riffle's Darkstar Jr. 2-stage, mid build.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon. April 6th at Walt's Hobby: **Club Meeting**. Activity: Prep equipment for Spring launches

Mon. May 4th at Walt's Hobby: **Club Meeting**. Discussion topics: Streamer recovery, R/C boost gliders

Sat. May 16th Weigand's Field: **SRC Sport Launch** and Test Launch for MOST Rocket Team Challenge Teams.
Theme: Scratch-built rockets. Contest: B Streamer Spot Landing. Launch Director: Abby Riffle

Sat. May 23rd - Mon. May 25th at Geneseo: **NYPOWER** — see <http://nypower.org>.

SRC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Location	Event
April	Mon. 6th	Walt's HobbyTown Club Meeting
May	Mon. 4th	Walt's HobbyTown Club Meeting
	Sat. 16th	Weigand's Field SRC Sport Launch and Test Launch for MOST Rocket Team Challenge Teams
June	Sat.23rd – Mon. 25th	Geneseo NYPOWER regional event
	Mon. 1st	Walt's HobbyTown Club Meeting
	Sat. 6th	Skytop MOST Rocket Team Challenge
	Sat. 20th	Weigand's Field SRC Sport Launch
July	Thu. 25th – Mon. 29th	Potter, NY LDRS national event
	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.