

January 2016

WHAT'S UP



Newsletter of the Syracuse Rocket Club / NAR section 566 / TRA Prefecture 53
Volume 11 Number 1


October launch report
Late 2015 meetings
Walt's Secret Santa
Events for 2016



INTO THE DARK

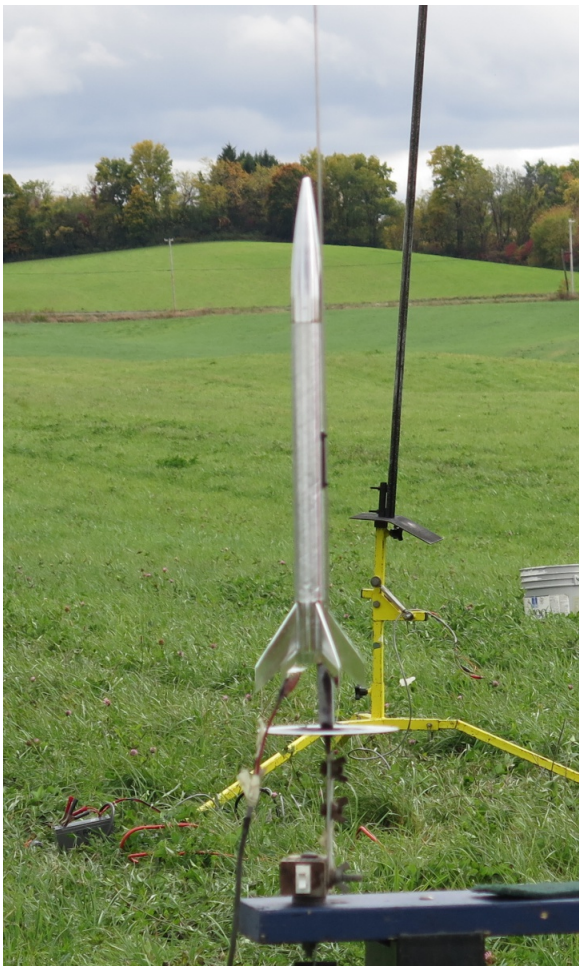
Historically October is not the best of times to plan a rocket launch in Syracuse, but this year the weather was, if not cooperative, at least acceptable. The temperature started off in the high 30s (F) and climbed into the 50s. Wind was in the 10 or 12 MPH neighborhood, and it was cloudy. There'd been rain and graupel on the drive there, but once we got on site there was no precipitation except what were probably the first very few snowflakes of the season at one point. Not ideal but workable, and so we were six for six on launches without cancellation this year.

Rich Holmes was launch director, which helps account for the paucity of



Some people prepping some rocket*

*Your editor was too busy to keep track of everything, okay?



photographs for this report: it's hard to press the shutter button and launch button at the same time. 18 people flew rockets including several young TARC and CNYRTC veterans.

The contest was random duration. We rolled a die to determine the target duration, which was 40 seconds. None of the three contestants had any good test flights first, so it was pretty much stabs in the dark. Two of the contest flights were way over 40 seconds while the third (Rich's Metalizer) suffered a chute separation and DQed. Scott Sellers's Mini Fantom won with a time of 2:20. Roger Forell was second.

Wind and low clouds being what they were kept the impulses down. Rob Goldberg's Egg Force One was the only high power flight of the day on a Ceseroni H133. Andrew Goldberg's beautifully finished Fed Eggs and Scott Watson's Red, White & Blue both flew on G80s. Dennis Friend had the most flights of the day (7) and the most motors (also 7 — almost no one was flying clusters either, except Roger Forell's Sky Writer on two C6-5s). Thomas Kopp and Mike Capriotti were close behind with 5 flights, in Mike's case using only two rockets, an Alpha 3 and a Metalizer. Thomas's Nell had a very short flight — it hung up on the rod — but the others went better, including a nice Black Star Voyager.

We closed down a little on the early side to go home and warm up, but for October it all went pretty well.



WE ALL HAVE SECRETS



Once again the Saturday before Thanksgiving was the day of Walt's Secret Santa, the great big demo, door prize giveaway, and storewide sale at Walt's HobbyTown. As usual the Syracuse Rocket Club had a table, with rockets, motors, and equipment on display and a slide show running on a monitor. We had a number of Alphas and other giveaway rockets on hand, some of which were among those launched outside the building every couple of hours. James brought some of the parts of his in-progress 10x upscale Fat Boy — see if you can spot the nose cone, motor tube, centering rings, and fins in the picture! Lots of people stopped by to talk and lots of flyers with membership forms were handed to them. We hope to see those folks again at a 2016 launch!



Intrepid November flyers
(actually not bad weather) and
some quite small rockets



Walt stopped by

LATE 2015 MEETINGS

3 Oct:

The agenda was pretty light. James reported the donated rockets were brought to URRG and mostly sold, taking in about \$400. Buying a porta-potty was discussed. Cost would be about \$200 to \$300, plus about \$25 per month for servicing.

We need to start thinking about officer nominations, to fill Mark Riffle's vacancy.

The schedule for 2016 will not be finalized until January, but for purposes of coordinating with URRG and MARS we agreed to have launches on the third Saturday each month.

Still need an LCO for October. Rich Holmes volunteered.

Paul Gagnon talked about BALLS and showed some videos. His launch was very successful, going to Mach 2.4 and an unexpectedly high 40,279' AGL (per KATE). Recovery was not so successful. Deployment failed and the rocket hit ground at 965 feet per second. Paul found the hole with the remains of the rocket starting about two feet down. Digging was difficult and seemed unlikely to uncover anything recoverable so he just buried it. At least his propellant worked well!

2 Nov:

We started with discussion of plans for Walt's Secret Santa. (see p. 4) We tossed around some ideas for the 2016 club calendar and for buying a porta-potty. Regarding the latter it was proposed, in a somewhat reversed version of what universities do with their buildings, that anyone donating a sufficiently large amount of money toward the purchase would have the right to not have their name on it.

From there it was a short leap to the subject of club officers. With Mark gone there was a vacancy. Scott Sellers (not present) was reported to be willing to take the job of President, and James Shattell said he'd continue as Treasurer. James then nominated Rich Holmes for the Vice President/Secretary job being vacated by Scott, but Rich declined.

James raised the question of whether club members would like to offer to do some work at Weigand's farm for the benefit of both the landlord and the club: Cutting down some trees, for example, and building a bridge over the creek. There did seem to be some interest.

Rich mentioned he had entered the October launch sheets into a spreadsheet and would be willing to take over another of Mark's jobs, compiling the launch statistics.

7 Dec:

There were cookies! Some rocket shaped, which prompted some speculation about building an edible (flying) rocket.

James handed off the flight cards for the July and August launches to Rich for compilation. May, June, and September's cards' whereabouts are unknown.

Dennis Friend proposed adding new rocket categories to the club's flight cards: Plastic model conversion, Odd-roc, and Altered kit.

Officer nominations were announced: For President, Scott Sellers. For Vice President/Treasurer, James Shattell. For Secretary, Rich Holmes. For Tripoli Prefect, Roger Forell. Although we'd said we would be having elections at the December meeting, in fact the bylaws say elections are to be held at the first meeting of the calendar year. So officially, these are only nominees until then, but given the unlikelihood of any new nominees, we can be reasonably sure these will be the 2016 officers.

There was some talk of the Black Friday URRG launch. Paul Gagnon reported on his chainsaw recovery of a rocket which due to winds came down with a higher horizontal velocity than vertical and ended up 40' up in a tree.

We filled in contests and meeting topics for the 2016 calendar. Roger suggested having two contests at each launch, one being the same for every launch of the year, allowing opportunities to refine techniques and improve results. This met with approval.

What about that upscale Saber? The diaspora is over, James has all the pieces. We talked about scheduling a work session in January but didn't settle on a date.

The porta potty subject came up again, and we made the decision to go ahead and spend about \$350 on a purchase.

We talked about what to do with 2016 NAR grant money. Rich suggested we might consider replacing or improving our PA. A new fire extinguisher was mentioned, as were new batteries and chargers.

Due to missing flight cards the club's launch statistics had not yet been compiled, so awards for the year were not given at this meeting.

Rich brought his Estes D-Region Tomahawk, which he'd flown in September, to Walt's, and after the meeting he and Scott did an evaluation of it for Rich's NARTREK Silver scale model requirement.

MORE EVENTS FOR 2016

The 2016 SRC calendar has been finalized and can be found online (<http://syracuserocketclub.org/calendar.html>), or look at the back page of this issue for an abbreviated version.

We have some information on other, non SRC events of interest, too, for those of you looking for an excuse to get out of town:

MARS launches (Geneseo, NY):

Jan 1, May 28–30 (NYPower), Jun 11–12, Jul 23–24, Aug 20–21, Sep 17–18, Oct 1–2 <http://www.marsclub.org/new/launch-schedule/>

URRG launches (Potter, NY):

Apr 23–24, May 21–22, Jun 24–26 (3 day launch; apparently they're not calling it URRF though), Jul 30–31 (annual picnic), Aug 27–28, Sep 24–25, Oct 29–30, Nov 25–26 (Black Friday/Saturday). http://urrg.us/?post_type=tribe_events.

NARCON (NAR National Convention):

Feb 26–28, Dayton, OH <http://www.nar.org/site/narcon2016/>

Red Glare:

Apr 10–12, Price, MD

NSL (NAR National Sport Launch):

May 28–30 (Memorial Day weekend), Manchester, TN
<http://www.nar.org/site/nsi2016/>

NYPower:

May 28–30 (Memorial Day weekend), Geneseo, NY <http://nypower.org/>

LDRS:

Jun 8–12, Lucerne Valley, CA <https://ldrs35.wordpress.com/>

NARAM (NAR National Championships):

Jul 23–29, Walnut Grove, MS <http://www.nar.org/site/naram-58/>

BALLS:

Sep 23–25, Black Rock, NV <http://balls25.com/>

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>. We also are on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SyracuseRocketClub>.

SRC officers(-elect) are:

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

About *What's Up*

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>.

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Next issue target publication date is April 2016.

UPCOMING SRC EVENTS

(Abbreviated; for details and full year see <http://syracuserocketclub.org/calendar.html>)

Date	Time	Location	Event
Jan Mon 4	7:00–8:00 pm	Walt's HobbyTown	Club meeting Discussion topics: Annual club awards, 2016 calendar, school launches for 2016.
Sun 17	12:00–3:00 pm	Walt's HobbyTown	Club rocket project session
Feb Mon 1	7:00–8:00 pm	Walt's HobbyTown	Club meeting Discussion topic: Dual deployment
Mar Mon 7	7:00–8:00 pm	Walt's HobbyTown	Club meeting Presentation: NARCON summary
Apr Mon 4	7:00–8:00 pm	Walt's HobbyTown	Club meeting
May Mon 2	7:00–8:00 pm	Walt's HobbyTown	Club meeting
Sat 21	10:00 am–3:00 pm	Weigand's Field	Club launch
Jun Sat 4	9:00 am–2:00 pm	Skytop	CNY Rocket Team Challenge
Mon 6	7:00–8:00 pm	Walt's HobbyTown	Club meeting
Sat 18	10:00 am–3:00 pm	Weigand's Field	Club launch

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.