

August 2016

# WHAT'S UP



Newsletter of the Syracuse Rocket Club / NAR section 566 / TRA Prefecture 53  
Volume 11 Number 4

June and July  
Launches

Rocket Team  
Challenge

Summer  
Meetings



James Shattell's Extremely Fat Boy

# FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Be at Weigand's Field on the 20th!

The August launch is always our big one: the annual Family Picnic launch. Plan on lunch — hot dogs and hamburgers and other free food for all.

Plan on flying — if you've never flown a rocket before, we'll help. If you're a kid without a rocket, we'll give you one and a motor to fly it with before you take it home.

Plan on winning — we'll be giving away rocket kits in our raffle. Proceeds help fund the club.

Plan on company of all ages — there's always a large turnout of parents and kids and grandparents and spouses and none of the above.

Plan on staying late — we'll have our fourth annual night launch after sundown, using low power rockets lit up with LEDs and glow sticks!



Tom Kopp's  
Decaffeinator at  
the 2015 Family  
Picnic Launch

Plan on not having to drive away in the middle of the day — there'll be a porta potty on site.

Plan on some exciting flying. Our usual FAA waiver of 3200' AGL will be in effect. Mark Riffle says, "I will be flying the Buzz-a-Bee on a K530 Smoky Sam. I will also send Miss Ellie (named after my beautiful granddaughter) up on a J360 Skidmark. We will also witness the first Weigand's Field high power two stage flight. The Wildman DarkStar Junior will boost on a I-223 skidmark and stage on a G-106 Skidmark motor." Whoa! There also will be lots of odd-rocs, because that's always our August theme, and if you have a Fat Boy (original, mini, clone, downscale, upscale, whatever) plan on bringing it, because that's our *other* theme. It's our other theme because James Shattell will be attempting his level 3 high power certification using his Extremely Fat Boy, a 10x upscale flying on (tentatively) a CTI M2505! You don't want to miss that.

Plan on being there!

*The Family Picnic Launch will run on August 20 from 10 am to 10 pm at Weigand's Field in Van Buren. See back cover for directions.*



James Shattell's  
Extremely Fat Boy



Rich Holmes's  
Micro Fat Boy

# URRF 3

Scott Sellers and James Shattell were among SRC flyers at the third Upstate Research Rocketry Festival in June. James writes: "At Potter, NY today (6/26/2016) getting ready to launch the EZI-65 with a new fiberglass metal tipped nose cone on an experimental K785 motor (homemade rocket fuel) and a high tech voice output tracking and telemetry device in the new longer nose cone. Flight was extremely successful , but the added weight kept the flight to 4800 feet. I think this rocket now deserves a new paint job."





# SUMMER CLUB LAUNCHES

We're doing pretty well on weather so far this year... knock on wood. The June launch director was Abby Riffle, spelled by her father Mark Riffle for a while. The theme was clusters, and there were a few. Dennis Friend usually does a few clusters and this day was no exception. The Prometheus flew on four A3 motors and the Silver Spike with three eggs aboard used three D12s to get them aloft. The Sky Shark went up on an E9 and two A10s but lawn dartsed after the E9 ejection charge failed. Rich Holmes flew his Callisto on three 1/2A3s and a Ranger on three B6s.

For the C egglofter duration contest Roger Forell got a great 1:04 time on a lightweight rocket with a wide Mylar chute that caught a thermal. Rich's Bad Cholesterol on a C11-3 couldn't touch that. Rich did better in the B Streamer Spot Landing, flying a rebuilt version of the B3S2 rocket that catoed in May. It's now called B3S2a and this time it flew without incident, touching down 4.5 paces off the target. I think Craig Lazar's Alpha came in second.

Roger also flew the PK-8 on an H180 that took a while to get going, and a redshifted Metalizer on (I think) an F motor that put it way above the Estes estimated altitude. Corey from Lincoln Middle School, ably assisted by May Lin, launched his Millennium Falcon on a G80 and Zyjuan flew his Snake Eyes. Tim Catterson's Starship Vega went up again on an E30. The S.T.A.R. L.A.W.S. team, fresh from a successful Rocket Team Challenge, put the Star Laws 3 up on a G80. Another G80 went into Kris Bajorski's LOC IV. Paul Gagnon's Scraps, no longer hanging in a tree, flew on an F35.

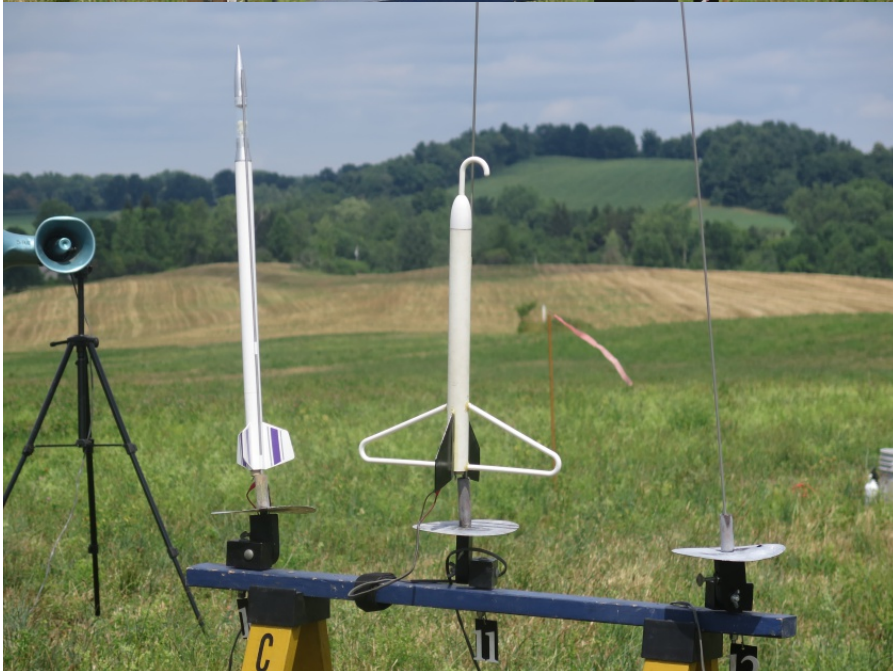
There was one high power certification launch. Dan Fritz successfully flew his Eruption on a J94 for his level 2. Yay Dan!

The July launch (Tim Catterson, Launch Director) got under way with Gabe's Porta Pot Shot and Tom Daley's Curvilinear. Tom also had the TEC 2, a 2x upscale Bandit, and a very odd Hanger. Dennis's rockets included an Aerobee 300, a Snitch, and the Blue Dome on an E6-5.

Left: Tom Kopp's Decim8  
Right: Dennis Friend's Lynx has non standard additions





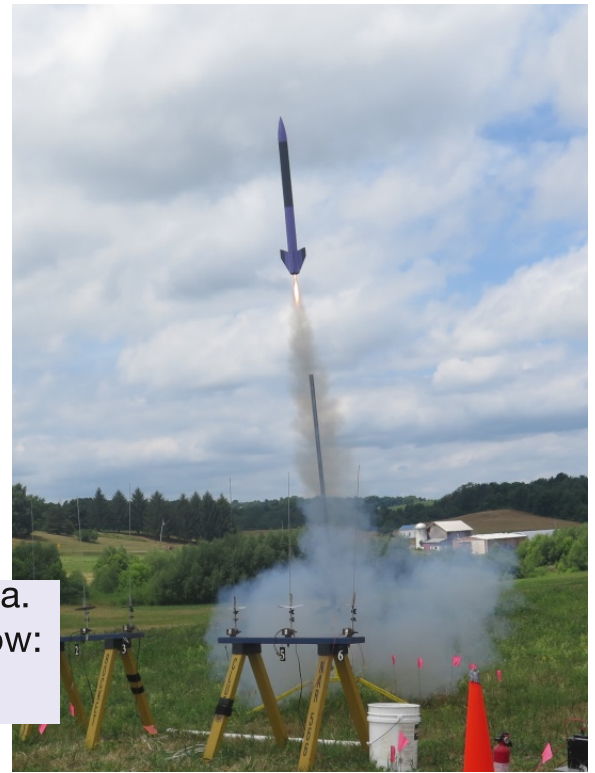


Top left: Dennis's Blue Dome  
Center left: Ellie's Pink Power  
Bottom left: Tom's Hanger  
Right: Dan Fritz, Level 2





Left: Tim's Starship Vega.  
Right: Rich's Scion. Below:  
Corey and May Lin.



Ellie flew her Pink Power, a Hello Kitty themed Mini Max from the club's giveaway stash. Tom Kopp's Black Star Voyager had a nice flight. Dave Grimes's Stretch Leviathan launched on a G64.

For the 1/2A Glider Duration contest Rich's Uff Da flex wing would have taken first place had he been able to find the glider. It went over the trees and well beyond, no doubt coming down (out of sight) in the corn field if not beyond it. Rich's second entry, the Nymph slide pod glider, lost a part during boost, went unstable, and lawn darter. Tim Catterson's EeCee was able to beat that, at least. Rich's B3S2a flew again for the B Streamer Spot Landing contest, and he also flew his new Scion on a CTI F32.

We don't yet have official contest standings. We'll report them when we do. Nor do we have stats and award winners for 2015 after all; there still are cards missing. Sorry!





Clockwise from top left:  
Dennis's GBU-23 (I think);  
Teaching moment with Scott and  
Xyjuan; Tim, Mark, and Roger;  
Roger's PK-8; Xyjuan's Snake  
Eyes





# SUMMER 2016

# MEETINGS

## June meeting

The June meeting featured a debriefing session on the Rocket Team Challenge. Rich mentioned the need for Nitrile gloves and masking tape in the Technical Support supplies. More emphasis and clarity seems to be needed on the altimeter vent hole and on the proper spacing for the rail buttons. The club is awarding family memberships and rocket kits for the team with the best name.

Rockets are being refurbished for the giveaway stash.

James Shattell gave an update on the finances. He thought we'd have a porta potty purchased in time for the June launch. (Turns out we didn't.) He also suggested we should get a new multi charger for the club batteries, and maybe consider replacing the small batteries which may be getting to end of life.

The upscale Saber was mentioned; it still needs sanding.

James and Scott Sellers were planning school launches at Willowfield, Huntington, Lincoln, Frasier, and Danforth.

NYPower was discussed. Kris Bajorski mentioned he was building a LOC IV.

Abby Riffle will be June Launch Director.

Paul Gagnon talked about head end ignition for high power staging and clustering.

## July meeting

James brought the upscale Saber and Rich Holmes and Brian Morse took the lower and upper portions, respectively, to get started on sanding and finishing (though Rich said he couldn't promise he'd actually get to anything in any reasonable time).

Tim Catterson will be Launch Director for July.

We talked about rain dates. The problem with rain dates is that the day after is often too soon — if it's not raining, the field may be too wet — and the week after people often have other plans. It was suggested we instead designate two "contingency" launch dates late in the season, to be used to make up an earlier canceled launch — or just as a bonus launch if there's interest. We decided on September 24 and October 22 for this year's contingency launch dates.

There's been informal talk between members of SRC, MARS, URRG, and CTRA-NARCONN about coordinating our launch schedules. SRC has for several years stuck to a pretty regular schedule, third Saturday from May through October (except September this year), so it would make sense to continue with that and have the other clubs divide up the other weekends.

Rich announced NAR had sent the club two safety vests and a form for a free Junior membership to be awarded as we please. There was some discussion of who to award it to.

James Shattell says his Extremely Fat Boy is still in progress. He's debating a 24' versus 30' chute. Fins will be installed soon. Tim Catterson brought the rocket he will use for his Level 1 attempt.



# ROCKET TEAM CHALLENGE

Once again the club participated in organizing and running the Museum of Science and Technology's Rocket Team Challenge competition. 84 middle and high school teams participated. The event took place at Syracuse University's Skytop parking lot, the same place as last year — the new track having permanently displaced us a few hundred feet from the old site. Launches went smoothly, with a good success rate.

There was a tie for first place in the Senior Division between Eye of the Tiger Shark from Jamesville-DeWitt High School and Vigilance from Civil Air Patrol. In second through fourth place were The Radical Rocketeers from Paul V. Moore High School in Phoenix, The Cabinet from Auburn High School, and Genesis Flyer from West Genesee High School.

In the Junior Division the winners were Star Hunters from Pine Grove Middle School, followed up by The Wacky Bananas from Ed Smith School, S.T.A.R. L.A.W.S. from Huntington School, and West Genesee Rebels from West Genesee Middle School.

S.T.A.R. L.A.W.S. also won the SRC award for Best Rocket Team Name. It's from the initials of team members Alyssa Long, Rylee Smith, Anthony Taylor, and Spencer Wiess.



Left: Here's where it all comes together. Top right: Heading for the pad. Bottom right: Star Hunters win their division.





## 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 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>.

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 [rs.holmes@gmail.com](mailto:rs.holmes@gmail.com).

Next issue target publication date is October 2016.



# UPCOMING SRC EVENTS

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

Date	Time	Location	Event
Aug Mon 1	7:00–8:00 pm	Walt's HobbyTown	Club meeting. Discussion Topic: Planning for annual picnic and night launch.
Sat 20	10:00 am–10:00 pm	Weigand's Field	Club family picnic launch. Themes: OddRocs, Fat Boy Clones (Micro Maxx to 10x). Contests: B Helicopter Duration, B-Streamer Spot Landingh
Sep Sun. 11	10:00 am–3:00 pm	Weigand's Field	Club launch. <b>Note unusual date!</b> Theme: Scale Models. Contests: Plastic Model Conversion, B-Streamer Spot Landing
Mon. 12	7:00–8:00 pm	Walt's HobbyTown	Club meeting. Discussion Topic: Scale Models - Bring Your Best Examples
Sat. 24	10:00 am–3:00 pm	Weigand's Field	Contingency club launch date. Check web site for announcement.
Oct Mon. 3	7:00–8:00 pm	Walt's HobbyTown	Club meeting
Sat. 15	10:00 am–3:00 pm	Weigand's Field	Club launch
Sat. 22	10:00 am–3:00 pm	Weigand's Field	Contingency club launch date. Check web site for announcement.
Nov Mon. 7	7:00–8:00 pm	Walt's HobbyTown	Club meeting
Sat. 19	9:00 am–5:00 pm	Walt's HobbyTown	Walt's Secret Santa
Dec Mon. 5	7:00–8:00 pm	Walt's HobbyTown	Club meeting
2017:			
Jan Mon. 2	7:00–8:00 pm	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.