

October 2016

WHAT'S UP



Newsletter of the Syracuse Rocket Club / NAR section 566 / TRA Prefecture 53
Volume 11 Number 5

August and
September
Launches

Late Summer
Meetings



Dennis Friend's
Airfix Saturn V/
Skylab

END OF SUMMER

The August Family Picnic launch is always a high point of our year. This time we had good weather but lower than usual attendance, probably because we didn't do as much publicity this year. James Shattell was the launch director. The Plumleys cooked up lots of hamburgers and hot dogs, and more than a few desserts were provided. There was a raffle and plenty of giveaway rockets. Camera difficulties unfortunately limited the number of photos I was able to take.

Mark Riffle once again brought his best spectacle game, as he always does in August, and he provided lots of details on the backs of his flight cards. Never one to turn down copy for the newsletter, I quote here:

"429SS LOC Precision kit. 2 H175 Smoky Sam at ignition. Minitimer 4 (PerfectFlite) will ignite 2 G106 Skidmarks two seconds after the H175s burnout. Altimeter: Missileworks RRC2. Streamer at apogee, main at 500'.

"Miss Ellie (Rocketry Warehouse Adventurer 3 kit). J-360 Skidmark. Primary altimeter: Stratologger CF. Streamer at apogee, main parachute at 600'. Secondary altimeter: Stratologger CF. Streamer at apogee + 1 second, main at 500'. Mobius video camera on board.

Rocketeers at work



"Dark Star Junior 2 stage. Kit by Wildman Rocketry, all Fiberglass. First stage: J-140 classic. Missile Works RRC2 altimeter. Main parachute at apogee. Second stage: G-107 Skidmark. PerfectFlite Minitimer-4 will ignite 1.5 seconds after first stage burnout. PerfectFlite Stratologger CF altimeter. Drogue at apogee, main parachute at 500'. Mobius video camera on second stage.

"Buzz-A-Bee (Madcow Rocketry DX-3XL kit) K530 Smoky Sam. Primary altimeter: PerfectFlite Stratologger SL-100. Streamer at apogee, main at 600'. Secondary altimeter: Missile Works RRC3. Streamer at apogee+1, main at 500'. Mobius video camera on board. This flight is dedicated to my friend Bill Pittenger. Bill joined the Rocket Club last year while looking to find a pre-retirement hobby. Bill helped the Club with last year's Family Launch. He really enjoyed himself. Bill retired this past January and very unexpectedly passed away this June. I'd like to think he is watching today and I know he would enjoy this. For you, Bill."

Mark's Cluster Duck flight card warned the Duck would definitely crash if the central Estes E motor failed to ignite, since recovery deployment depended on that ejection charge. Fortunately all the motors ignited. Unfortunately the E spat its nozzle and deployment failed. It was just one of several rockets making its last flight that day.



Scott Watson and his Galaxy Explorer

James Shattell's Extremely Fat Boy (and a normal Fat Boy)



One highly anticipated flight didn't occur. Due to the impact of the fire at CTI on motor availability, James Shattell was not able to fly his Level 3 attempt. The Extremely Fat Boy, a 10x upscale of the Estes Fat Boy, was present on display, but didn't leave the ground.

One of the contests was B helicopter duration. Rich Holmes attempted to fly his Rose-a-Roc on a B6-4. Unfortunately the igniter got confused and instead of igniting the motor it ignited one of the fins.

The other contest was yet another B streamer spot landing, and Rich again flew his B3S2a. It landed short of the target, by 53'6", but that ended up being the shortest distance.

Congratulations to Tim Catterson, who got his Level 1 certification — I'm missing details on the rocket and motor, unfortunately.

Dave Grimes flew his Stretch on a G76 and an Onyx on a G77. Dan Fritz's Eruption went up on an I800 but did not survive a recovery failure. Roger Forell's Crayola Red likewise landed too hard for its continued health.

James's veteran EZI-65 took off on a J350. Spencer Wiess flew his Gramps Express on a C11-0/C11-5 combination.

A whole family of Gonzaleses — Miguel, Javier, Jose, and Mateo — flew model rockets. Scott Watson's scratch built Galaxy Explorer

went up on an F26. It'll need some repairs to fly again but looked good.

Zyjuan Brantley's All The Way Up two-stage rocket went all the way up on a B6-0 and a B6-4 with a grasshopper aboard. The passenger survived.

Rich's Excel went up on a CTI H120 Red Lightning, but not far. A motor cato blew the nose cone off soon after launch. Quick extinguisher work put out the resulting grass fire but the rocket's airframe was destroyed. Nose cone and chute were salvaged.

As usual for August we had a theme of odd-rocs. Dennis Friend's Colony Ship Beta Orionis was odd enough. Rich brought his Bohica's Dead Ringer, Ninjago Scimitar, and the new R13, a 1:1 scale model of a Buffet B-flat clarinet flying on a D21-4. After the flight Rich removed the mouthpiece cap and played a bit of music while bringing it back.

Attendance dwindled in the late afternoon, but as evening arrived so did flyers for our night flight. Several rockets with LEDs or glow sticks aboard went skyward.

September's launch was held on the second Saturday, rather than our usual third Saturday, at our landlord's request because he had guests that weekend who wanted to see a launch. Rich Holmes was the launch director. Weather was windy but usually within our limits. Besides the date another notable feature of this occasion was the presence of a porta potty, the same one (serviced, of course) as the previous month: we have it for the remainder of the 2016 launch season. Because I was busy pushing the go button I was able to take only a few photos of rockets on the pads.

Milt Weigand's friends did indeed want to see us fly, and were very interested in the details; they asked lots of questions and got lots of information. Eventually Jamie Weidner was given a rocket; he dubbed it Beauty, boldly chose a C6-7, and flew it. Thanks to streamer recovery he got it back.

Gabe DeMeo flew Blue on a B6-4, Outlaw on another B6-4, and Scraps on an F35. Colin Demarest put up a Yankee on an A8-3. The D12-3 in Tim Catterson's LBW2 unfortunately catoed. His Blue Thunder on a B6-4 fared better. It was a B streamer spot landing contest flight and it came down 29' 8" from the upwind-located pin, taking first place.

Dave Grimes's Stretch flew again, this time on a G53. James Shattell's EZI-65 also returned to flight on an I600.

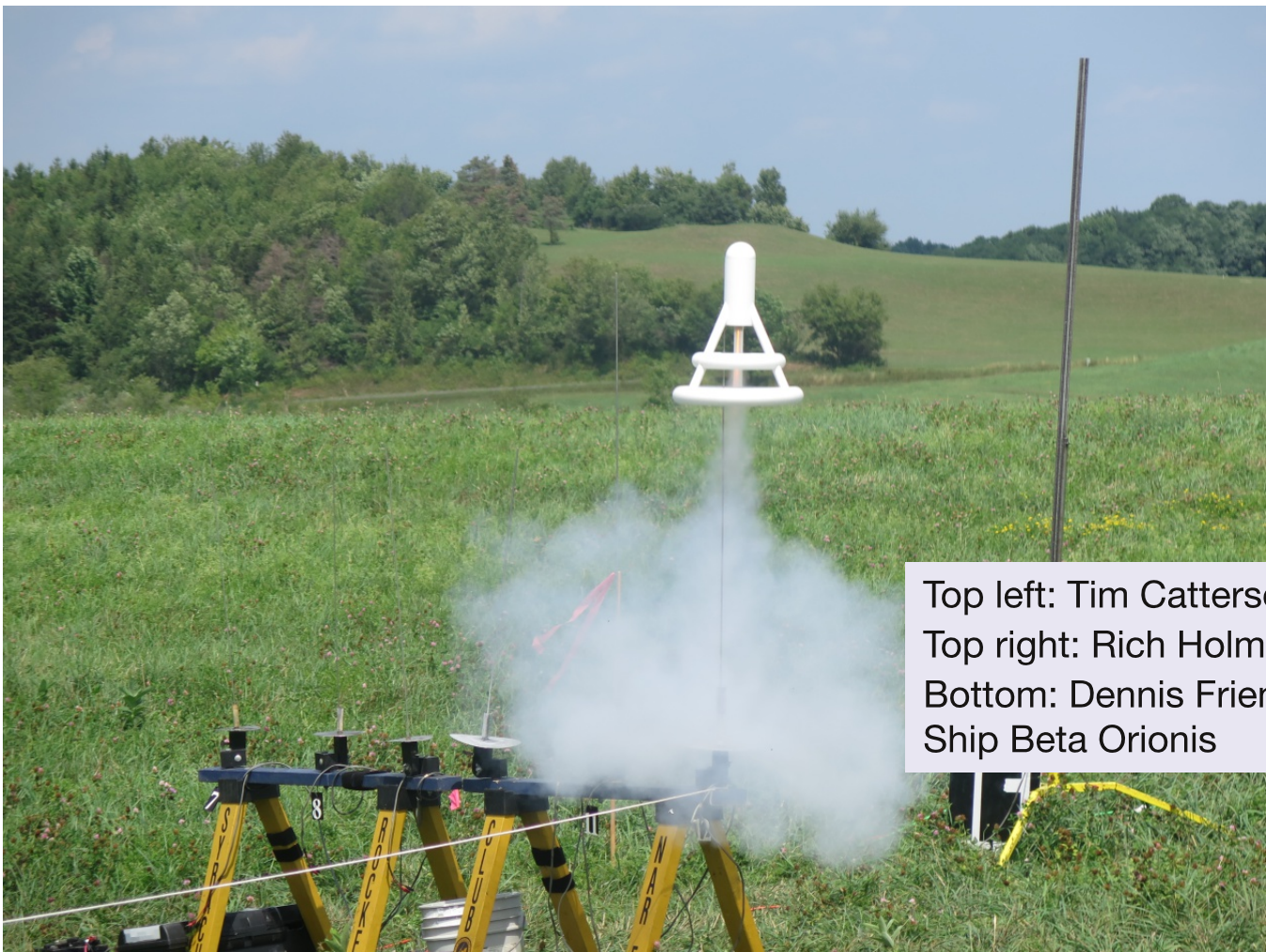
The announced theme and second contest for the month was plastic model conversion, and there were quite a few plastic models flown... all of them by Dennis Friend. They included a Lindberg Mars Probe, a Saturn 1A on a single B6-4, a Saturn 1B, a Saturn 1C on 2 B6-4s, and an Airfix Saturn V/ Skylab on a scale-appropriate 5 B6-4s. Dennis's Interrogator went up on a B4-4, a flight notable for its flight card which apparently was originally filled out in 2013.

Paul Gagnon's Gitty-Up got up on a CTI J425.

Stephen Smith, making a return to rocketry after a few years' lapse, built an Estes Amazon on the field, christened it Blackie, and flew it on a B6-4.

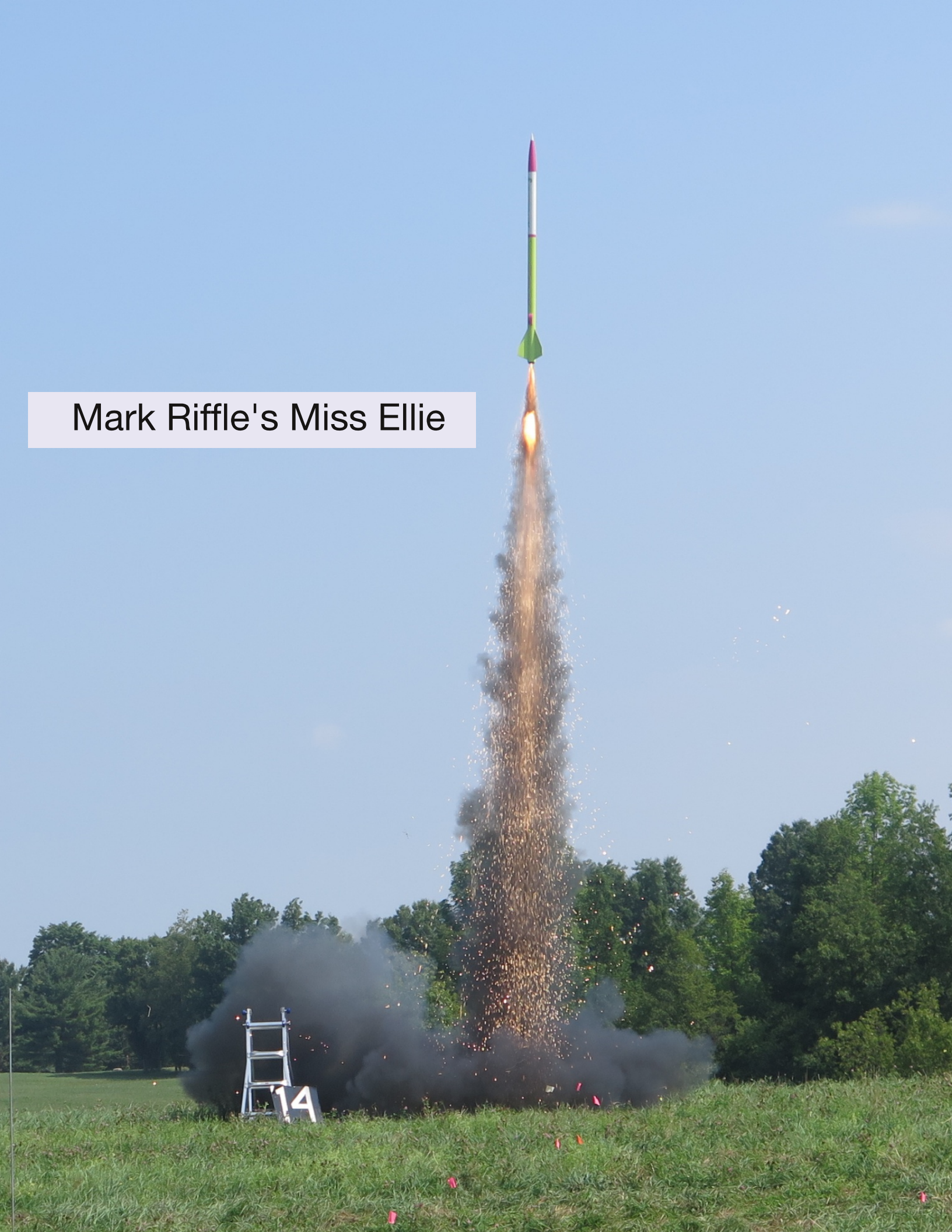
Scott Sellers provided a launch summary for September:

- 41 flights
- 53 motors used
- 12 flyers
- Most flights — Dennis Friend, 11
- Most motors — Dennis Friend, 22
- Highest impulse — Paul Gagnon, 783.9 N-sec (J425)
- B streamer spot landing contest:
 - 1st place, Tim Catterson
 - 2nd place, Craig Lazzar
 - 3rd place, Dave Grimes
- Plastic model conversion contest:
 - 1st place, Dennis Friend (Saturn V)



Top left: Tim Catterson, Level 1
Top right: Rich Holmes's R13
Bottom: Dennis Friend's Colony Ship Beta Orionis

Mark Riffle's Miss Ellie





Clockwise from top left: Spencer Wiess's hole in one; Dennis Friend's Mars Probe; James Shattell's EZI-65; Dennis with his Saturn V; Jamie Weidner, Scott Sellers, and Milt Wiegand (and Dennis far off)



MEETINGS

We started the August meeting with some discussion of the upscale Saber project. Brian Morse brought the top portion which he had sanded and primed. The bottom portion still needs similar treatment, and the electronics bay needs to be set up. A color scheme of white at the top, blue and yellow at the bottom was suggested. Brian offered a suggestion for adding a vinyl logo.

James Shattell reported he and Scott Sellers (who was not present) had been talking about the capabilities of our launch field. We have not imposed a formal impulse limit and it may be wise to do so: J or K maximum perhaps. This needs further thought and discussion.

The rest of the meeting mainly was devoted to the upcoming family picnic launch. Peter and Diane Plumley will be doing the cooking again. We'll be renting a porta potty. Probably we will buy one this fall or next spring.

Due to oddities of the calendar (the meeting was on the second Monday rather than the first due to Labor Day, and the launch was on the second Sunday rather than the third Saturday) the September meeting took place a day after the monthly launch. We were back to having a printed agenda, this time with a Space Shuttle launch background. Very snazzy.

James reported we have a balance of \$1379.24.

We reviewed the hot-off-the-presses summary of the previous day's launch.

We discussed getting an NAR grant to buy ground cover blankets. These would serve to protect against grass fires at the high power pads, and to catch plugs and other such contamination at the low power. Light duty welding blankets are cheap, but not very effective: We would probably want medium or heavy duty at the high power pads.

We are down to about 10 giveaway rockets. James brought parts bagged up as "kits" for members to take home and build.

James also has a large number (more than 40) of Estes launch pads and controllers which we could offer as giveaways for teachers and groups that come to a launch.

We talked a bit about the Secret Santa event. Do we want to offer kids the opportunity to build a rocket at our station? It was suggested we not advertise such a thing but offer it on the spot, to avoid being overwhelmed.

Dennis Friend brought in a painted Starlight Saber model. It met with our approval as a color scheme for the upscale Saber.

Scott showed several scale models he has built.



Dan Fritz, Brian Morse, and Dennis Friend pick through rocket parts while the Upscale Saber looks on.

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>.

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UPCOMING SRC EVENTS

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

Date	Time	Location	Event
Oct Mon. 3	7:00–8:00 pm	Walt's HobbyTown	Club meeting. Discussion Topic: Planning for Winter Club Projects.
Sat. 15	10:00 am–3:00 pm	Weigand's Field	Club launch. Theme: SciFi. Contests: Random Duration, B-Streamer Spot Landing.
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. Discussion Topic: Planning for SRC Displays at Walt's Secret Santa Sale. Nominations for 2017 Club Officers.
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. Topic: Holiday Celebration - Annual Club Awards. Election of 2017 Club Officers.

2017:

Jan Mon. 2	7:00–8:00 pm	Walt's HobbyTown	Club meeting
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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.