

January 2017

WHAT'S UP



Newsletter of the Syracuse Rocket Club / NAR section 566 / TRA Prefecture 53
Volume 12 Number 1

October
Launches
Fall Meetings
2017 Calendar



SRC at Walt's
Secret Santa

Walt's Hobby Welcomes
Syracuse Model
Rocket Club

Thank You!

FALL FLYING

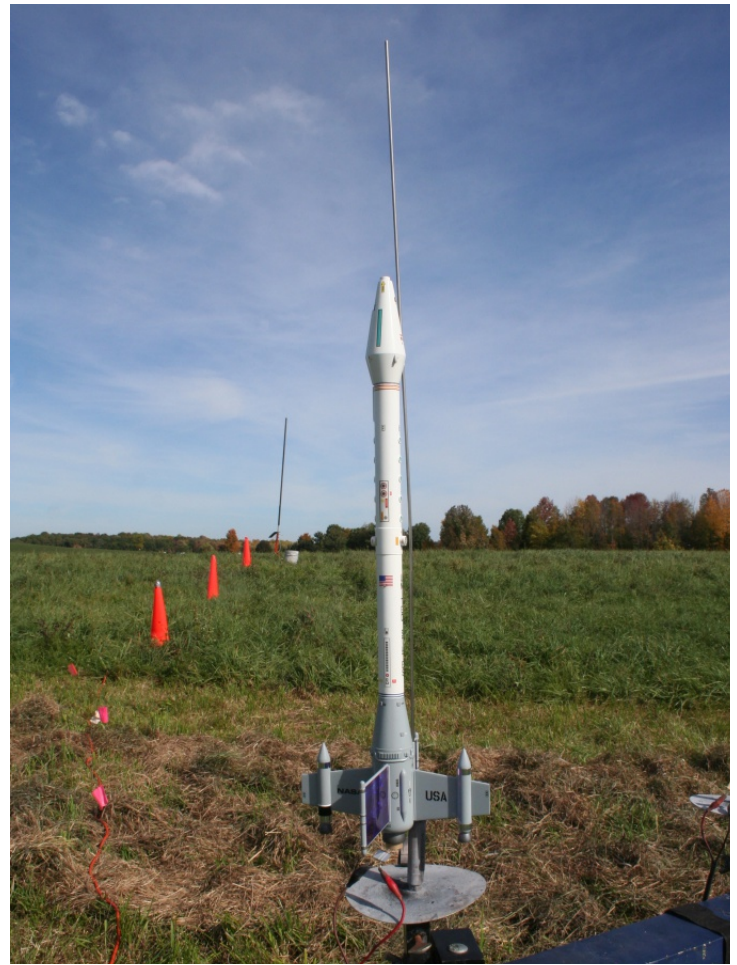
report and photos by Scott Sellers

October 15 was the last club launch for 2016. David Grimes launched his Stretch rocket on a variety of G motors including G64 White Lightning, G76 Mojave Green, and G53 Fast Blackjack. Rocket recovery was a challenge due to wind over 10 mph most of the day. Dave utilized a Jolly Logic Chute Release to open the main chute at 200 to 300 feet and bring his rockets back close to the pads.

He also pushed his Estes Pro Series II Star Orbiter to the limit, powering it with an Aerotech G74 motor. The rocket flew beautifully and was recovered safely, but most of the balsa fins shredded and were missing after the flight. There was no evidence of fin loss at liftoff. The fins must have shredded near motor burnout, but the decreased fin area did not adversely impact stability at the rocket's high speed. Moral – don't use balsa fins for high speed rockets.

Dennis Friend
preps

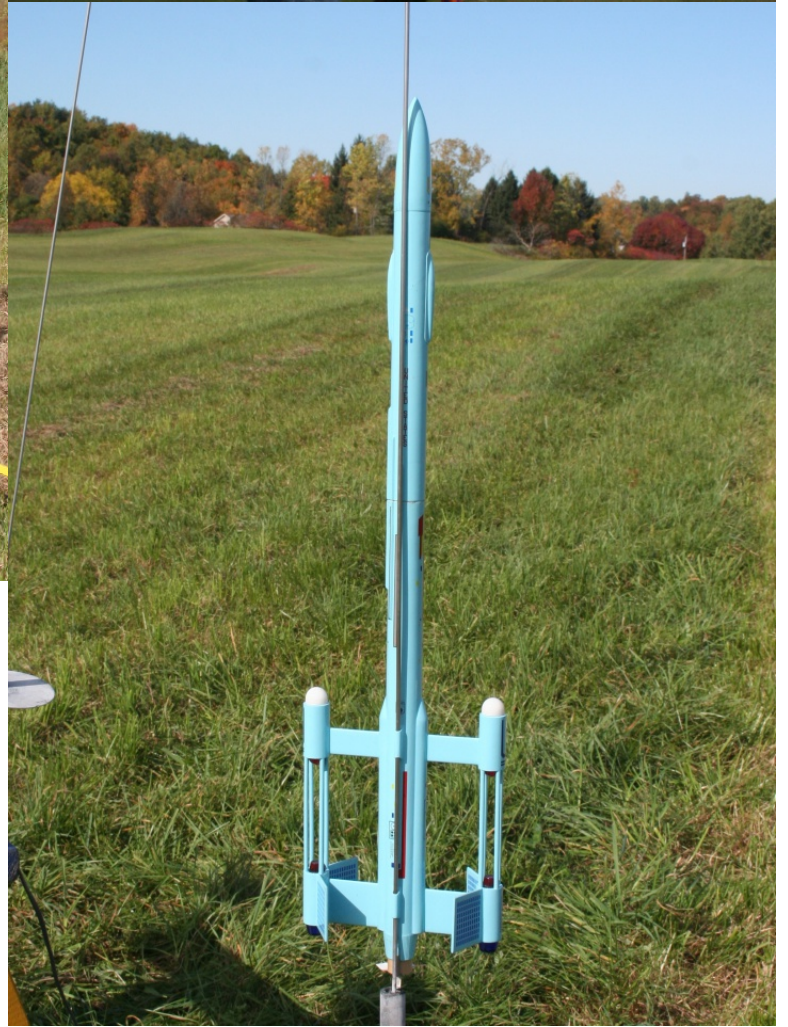




Top left: Dave Grimes with Stretch
Top right: Dennis Friend's scratch-built clone of the Centuri Skylab kit
Bottom: Discussion

Dennis Friend's
scratch built Klingon
Battle Cruiser (can
you count the nose
cones?)





Clockwise from top left: Dave Grimes's Stretch sticks the landing; Roger Forell with his scratch built no-name rocket; Dennis Friend's Scorpius II; Tim Catterson

MEETINGS

At the October meeting, we began by talking about getting some welding blankets. We want to try using them under some of the pads, to limit damage to the grass (and to catch plugs and dropped igniters so they can be disposed of properly). Costs and sizes of various types were discussed, and the question of how bulky these blankets are came up — because they'll have to go into someone's vehicle along with the rest of the club equipment. We do have some unspent grant money left from last year and haven't asked for a grant this year, so cost shouldn't be a problem. We decided to get one heavy duty blanket for a high power pad and one light duty for low power pads to try them out.

Brian Morse has the club's upscale Saber; no news from him. We decided to get two PerfectFlit CF altimeters for it.

Other projects to work on over the winter: Clip replacement on the launch wires and extra leads; repairing the "Next Launch" sign; Plugs for the Pratt controller; Velcro on the sawhorses for the pad numbers.

We'll discuss the draft 2017 calendar in November.

Limits of the field: For class II rockets we need 1500' radius to any inhabited structures or roads with more than 8 cars per hour. We're borderline. Realistically we may need a policy on altitude and

impulse limits. For instance, a 3000' ceiling (a little below our waiver) and I impulse limit, except by approval of the launch director. We'll discuss this further.

November's agenda began with a treasurer's report (we have \$1266.32) and discussion of the 2017 calendar. Some meeting topics were suggested. We reviewed plans for Walt's Secret Santa and nomination of officers for 2017.

The Saber is in Brian's basement awaiting further finishing work. Paul Gagnon's finished setting up the electronics bay.

James Shattell is going to get two welding blankets.

We talked with Milt Weigand about the possibility of parking a trailer at the field during the launch season to store our club equipment. Paul may be able to supply a trailer, and has space to store it over winter.

In December, James brought the club parts stash for members to paw through. We discussed 2017 meeting topics and launch contests. Cookies were consumed.

ON THE BENCH

Brian Morse is continuing to work on the club's Upscale Saber. As for his own rockets, he has in progress an Estes Honest John, and a scratch built 4" WAC Corporal.

Tom Kopp already has a couple of replicas of the Goddard Nell rocket. Now he's building an 8' tall version — approximately full size.

Rich Holmes is sporadically working on an ASP V-2 (18 mm motor mount). He has two Square One rockets (Too Square and Square In the Air) and Semroc versions of the Centuri Point and Estes Blue Bird Zero in the build pile.

WALT'S SECRET SANTA

It's usually rather cold and not infrequently snowing on the Saturday before Thanksgiving when Walt's HobbyTown hosts its Secret Santa Sale event with exhibits and demos by various local hobby groups. This time the weather was mild and the winds were calm, which was great for launch demos. Or at least it started that way. We got hit with a major snowstorm later that weekend, and the first signs of it were rapidly falling temperature and increasing wind by late afternoon. By then we'd burned up a large fraction of the club's motors, though.

A lot of those went into three heavily-stressed

Snitches, at least one of which underwent CA adhesive surgery between a couple of its flights, and ended the day in pieces. Some little MMX rockets flew too, including the first flight of Rich Holmes's Buck Shot; Rich also launched an Estes Blender a few times (a couple of times suffering motor catos which turned out to be his fault).

Inside there was the usual display of model rockets, rocket motors, and launch videos. The upscale Saber, still under construction, was on view.

At day's end James Shattell won the \$100 gift card drawing. It'll go some way toward replenishing the club's motor stash.



MORE EVENTS FOR 2017

The 2017 SRC calendar has been finalized and will soon be 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 27–29 (NYPower), Jun 10–11, Jul 22–23, Aug 19–20, Sep 16–17, Sep 30–Oct 1 <http://marsclub.org/launch-shedule/>

URRG launches (Potter, NY):

Monthly launches April to November TBA

NARCON (NAR National Convention):

Feb 24–26, Herndon, VA <http://www.nar.org/events/nar-convention-narcon-2017/>

LDRS:

Apr 6–9, Price, MD <http://ldrs36.org/>

NSL (NAR National Sport Launch):

May 26–29 (Memorial Day weekend), Alamogordo, NM
<http://www.nar.org/site/nsi2017/>

NYPower:

May 27–29 (Memorial Day weekend), Geneseo, NY <http://nypower.org/>

URRF:

Jun 23–25, Potter, NY http://urrg.us/?post_type=tribe_events; <http://urrf.us/>.

Rocketry Festival (NARAM NAR National Championships):

Jul 29–Aug 4, Muskegon, MI <http://www.nar.org/site/naram-59/>

BALLS:

Sep 22–24, Black Rock, NV <http://www.rimworld.com/balls/>

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
Jan Mon. 9	7:00–8:00 pm	Walt's HobbyTown	Club meeting. Election of officers; 2016 club awards. Discussion topic: Low end reloadables NOTE: SECOND MONDAY
Feb Mon. 6	7:00–8:00 pm	Walt's HobbyTown	Club meeting. Discussion topic: Jolly Logic Chute Release and other electronics
Mar Mon. 6	7:00–8:00 pm	Walt's HobbyTown	Club meeting. Model rocket building basics

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.