

July 2018

WHAT'S

Newsletter of
Syracuse Rocket Club / NAR
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UP



Inside:

National Sport
Launch

June club launch

School programs

Tim Catterson's AGM 33 Pike

Delayed launch

Mama Nature was determined to make it up to us. After the May launch was canceled due to weather, June 16 was warm (borderline hot) and dry, winds light to none, clouds high to absent.

That made for some satisfyingly straight up and down flights, though not all were like that. There was some wind, especially aloft, and for instance when Dave Grimes's Stretch on an I200 went to 3102' and popped its chute at apogee (it was supposed to be deployed by a Chute Release considerably lower), Dave went for a walk. The Stretch came down six rows into the neighboring corn field — which would be a real problem in August, but in mid June, not so much. Dave also flew his Onyx twice, on an F35 and a G64, and the Stretch again on a G76.

It was the month for the Sprite clones we were building over the winter. Scott Sellers had a FlisKits Tumbleweed, flown on a ¼A3-3T, and a Semroc Sprite on a ½A3-2T, both successful. Rich Holmes's Semroc Sprite on the same motor came in ballistic after spitting the engine, but landed undamaged. Scott had cut an additional vent hole, Rich hadn't. Hm. The larger versions were Dennis Friend's scratch BT-60 upscale on a B6-4, Rich's scratch BT-80 Mega Sprite on a D12-3, and Brian Morse's 3D Rocketry Circulus 3 (as in inches) on an F50-6. All successful flights, other than that the Mega Sprite's parachute fluttered but didn't inflate for no apparent reason, but, again, no damage.

Along with Sprites, the month's theme was Estes Classics in general, and no, Rich's Metalizer didn't count even if it is out of production. What did count was kind of subjective but might include Rick's Starship Vega and Bullpup; Rick's and Tom Butler's Mercury Redstones; Joe Houlihan's and Rich's (formerly Mark Riffle's) Cherokee Ds; John Dolan's so-called Big Ugly and Ugly Baby (Bertha-ish as they were); and Dennis's Mars Lander, Dad's Old Honest John, Saros, Dad's Skyhook, Starlight clone, Aerobee 300 clone, Starship Nova, and Scorpius.

Contests included Drag Race, held over from May, and the ongoing A Parachute Spot Landing. In the Drag Race, one on one competitors got a point each for first motion, lowest apogee, and latest landing. This made for a rather mismatched heat between Scott S.'s Snitch (C6-0) and Rich's Ventriss (F36-5). The reader can probably guess which had the higher altitude and which landed first. The Ventriss moved first. Scott Lazzar's Nike-X (C6-3) was just slightly less incongruous against Corey Felts's AG33-Pike (F15); in that heat, the lower powered one won. Scott L. had to leave and Rich didn't have another motor for his Ventriss so the final heat will have to take





**Rich's Semroc
Sprite**

place on a later date.

Scott S.'s Make It Take It on an A8-3 won the Spot Landing with 44' 8", with Craig Lazzar's Totally Not Cheating Guys on a B6-4 second with 67' 2".

Tim Catterson's Quest Intruder had the distinction of being the first to fly at SRC with a Quest Q-Jet motor, a B4-4.

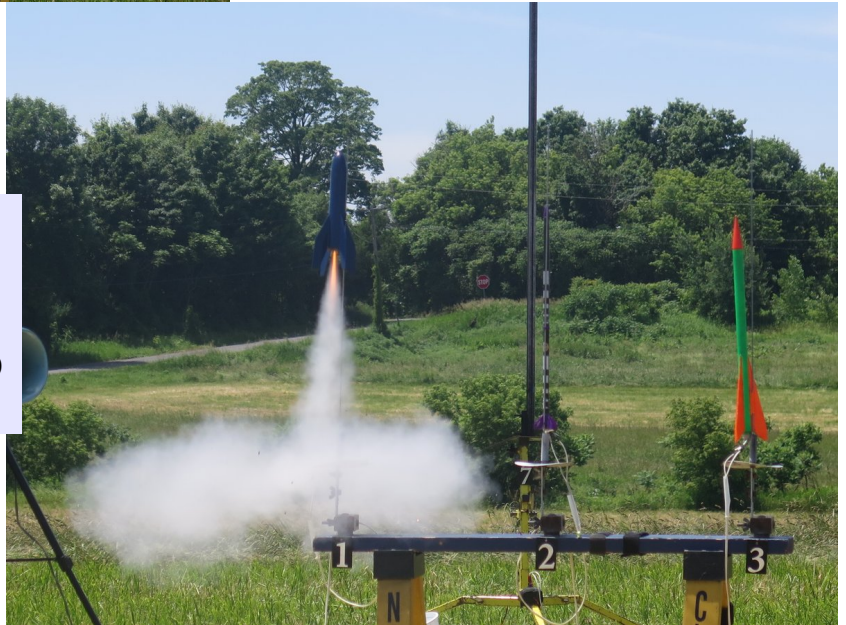
Unfortunately deployment failed and it lawn darter. Tim also flew the AGM 33 Pike he recently got his Level 2 certification with, this time on an I-297 Skidmark, getting to 2597'.

A few of the other flights included Roger Forrell's No Name (F52) and Home Built (G33), Gabe's familiar Scraps (G80), Corey's Billy Bobby Joey (B something), Scott L.'s 21 Pilots (G38) and Blue Scorpio (A10-3T), and Rich's Razor (A8-3).

We had some newcomers present and gave away some rockets. Landlord Milt Weigand stopped by to say hello. It was good to be flying again!



**Left: Brian Morse's Honest John;
Right: Rick's Mercury Redstone**



Above: Dennis's Starlight clone
Right: John's Ugly Baby
Below: Rich's Mark's Cherokee D



Meetings

April 2

Some giveaway rocket progress: Dennis Friend brought a Wizard he'd painted. There are another 9 recent rockets to paint.

We discussed the state of the equipment, which is mostly good aside from some problems with one of the controllers.

Dennis proposed some changes to the club's flight cards.

We designated launch directors for the May, June, August, and October launches. Still need directors for July and September.

Brian Morse brought some club logo vinyls he'd had made.

May 8

All launches this year will be Tripoli launches (but no EX in August).

We discussed designating an Assistant Launch Director for each launch, to give the LD some more flexibility to fly, assist other flyers, and so on.

We discussed the Rocket Team Challenge, upcoming school launches, and plans for the National Sport Launch.

June 5

We talked about the recent RTC and NSL, and coming school launches.

Scott Renshaw handed out a crossword puzzle.

The Pratt controller is going back to Pratt for refurbishing.

James has his M6000 motor for his Level 3 flight. They've redesigned the casting tube.

School Rocketry Programs

by Scott Sellers

For more than ten years, Syracuse Rocket Club members have been assisting Syracuse area youths with a variety of rocketry programs. Our goal is to introduce students to model rocketry as an exciting hobby and a pathway to science, technology and engineering careers. 2018 has been our busiest year to date with youth rocketry programs. Here's a rundown on this year's activities.

Southwest Community Center

James Shattell and Scott Sellers, assisted by SRC Youth Division members Cory Felts, RaMeek King and Zygyuan Brantley, mentored students in a rocketry program sponsored by the Southwest Community Center in Syracuse. The program began with a Team America Rocketry Challenge team of four students who met on
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National Sport Launch

Club flying:

The SRC had a strong contingent at the National Sport Launch on Memorial Day Weekend. Club members at the NSL included Tim Catterson, James Shattell, Scott Sellers, Rich Pitzeruse, Craig and Scott Lazzar, Joshua Gourgue, Zygjuan Brantley, RaMeek King, Angel Martinez, Marc Winston, Camilo Reina-Martinez, and our landlord Milt Weigand. There were reportedly 237 registered flyers.

Tim successfully made his Level 2 certification flight (see cover photo) and also flew his Mark's Discovery. James flew his Junior Jart on an H410 Vmax and hopes someone will find it someday. Joshua flew his Graduator.

Rich Pitzeruse reports:

The only rocket I flew was my 4" diameter upscale Citation Patriot on a Pro38 I345 to an altitude of 1036'. My very first model rocket back in 1976 was the Citation Patriot. Twenty years later I built the upscale rocket and flew it for the first time at LDRS in 1996 in Orangeburg SC. For me the highlight of NSL was meeting and chatting with Vern and Gleda Estes. It was a true honor! And to have him sign the upscale version of my first model rocket was just amazing! I was very nervous to fly the rocket... it's 22 years old, and now has Vern's signature on it. What could go wrong?! Thankfully, nothing went wrong and I got to show it off to everyone once I got home.

Hospitality and youth outreach at NSL

by James Shattell

The Syracuse Rocket Club was excited to help out The Monroe Astronautical Rocket Society (MARS) with their hosting of the National Association of Rocketry's National Sport Launch, Memorial Day weekend 2018. The SRC focuses on introducing families to the excitement of rocketry and supporting schools that want to use rocketry as part of their STEM education. To advance those club objectives, the club has initiated outreach programs to youths that include rocket building and give away programs. No youth or family will ever come to a SRC launch without having the opportunity to launch a rocket and take it with them. The club is so involved with this program that they have taken it on the road to other club launches in New York State. So when the SRC was asked if we would be willing to come to the NSL and help with hospitality for the spectators and families, the club was more than overjoyed to have been asked.

The SRC uses a large thirty by twenty foot tent that they have set up at launches near the flight line usually not far from the registration tent. The tent with its distinctive blue stripes atop is a fixture on the flight line at many of the major New York State rocket launches. The tent is normally used as a hospitality space for spectators to come and sit in the shade and watch rockets. The club keeps the area staffed so that they can answer questions and pass out information. Some of the club members use part of the space under the tent to prepare their rockets for launch. This allows spectators, especially families with youth, to get a close up look at the process while





being encouraged to ask questions. At the NSL, a number of families got to watch rockets from A to K motors get prepared for flight. This added to the excitement of watching the launches.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the SRC Hospitality tent is the rocket give away program. From donated parts and kits, club members build and paint rockets in order to keep a large number of rockets on hand to let visiting youth launch and keep a rocket if they should happen to show up with their families expecting only to watch. There are also quick build kits that are kept on hand in case a youth wants to give a try at building a rocket on site. The tent is staffed by SRC members who help the youth select a rocket, give them a motor, help prepare rocket for flight, and assist with putting the rocket on the launch pad. At the NSL the SRC Hospitality Tent distributed and helped launch no less than thirty-five rockets to youth that thought they would only be watching rockets.

A new give away program that the SRC started at the NSL was the distribution, to youth organizations, schools and teachers, of refurbished low power launch systems. The club has been collecting donations of low power commercial launch systems, such as the Estes Electron Beam® controller with a Porta-Pad®, and then refurbishing them to be given away. It seems like there is a multitude of these types of launch systems squirreled away in the back of the closets of many homes. The club thought that if they could get these launchers out to school teachers and youth organizations, there would be a willingness to try a rocket lesson using small football size fields for launches. The response to our request for donation of old launchers was significant. As a result, at the NSL the SRC Hospitality Tent gave out nine launchers to youth groups, including to a Boy Scout troop that thought they would have to suspend their rocket programs for the lack of launchers. The SRC is still accepting donations of old launch controllers and pads in any condition.

One of the more significant SRC youth outreach achievements that happened at the NSL was to bring a number of the club's youth division to this large national launch. The SRC youth division is made up of mostly inner city Syracuse youth that the club becomes acquainted with through its outreach programs. Youths that show a

special interest in learning more about rocketry are encouraged by club members to participate at club launches and to enter into competitions such as the Team America Rocketry Challenge. The members of the SRC youth division often become the leads in the club's other outreach programs. For example, at the NSL, these experienced youths were quite helpful in advising about rocket preparation for the rocket give away program. These youths, some that come from challenging neighborhoods and are considered at high risk of being misdirected in their lives, would unlikely have the opportunity to ever attend a national rocket event like the NSL without the support of the upstate New York rocket community.

Attending the NSL were Zygyuan Brantley, RaMeek King, Angel Martinez, Marc Winston, and Camilo Reina-Martinez. Besides the excitement of seeing so many rockets go off and having the chance to launch some of their own higher powered rockets, the highlight of the event for the youth division was perhaps having met the legendary Vern Estes. The group was told about the contribution that Vern Estes made to the hobby and that perhaps without his production ingenuity there would be no amateur rocketry. Upon greeting Vern Estes, one of the most touching moments of the weekend was when one of the youngest of the youth, a very bright fifth grader, ran up to Vern Estes and gave him a big hug saying "Thank you for giving us rocketry."

Overall, the hospitality and youth efforts at the NSL were successful in that families and youth that came to the event learned how rocketry is a family oriented and a fun educational activity. SRC hopes to bring its hospitality tent to other major rocket events in the Northeast of the United States. MARS and SRC certainly made the effort at this year's NSL to put forth the stated mission of NAR to promote safety, education and fun in all sport rocketry activities.

School Rocketry Programs

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Friday afternoons from January through March. The team designed and built a TARC rocket and submitted three qualification flights for the national contest. Following the TARC contest, we worked with students from 3rd through 10th grade building model rockets that were flown at Kirk Park launches on May 11th and 25th. An expanded rocketry program at Southwest Community Center is planned for the coming school year.

McKinley Brighton Elementary School

Scott worked with an after school program at McKinley Brighton Elementary in May. Students built air powered rockets, then Estes Make-It-Take-It rockets that were flown on the school grounds on May 21st. James and Scott will be running a summer rocketry week at McKinley Brighton in July.

Webster Elementary School

James ran an after-school robotics program at Webster this Spring and finished the school year with a rocketry program for 4th graders. The students built Make-It-Take-It kits which were flown at a launch on May 23rd.

HW Smith Elementary School

James, assisted by Craig Lazzar, led a rocketry program at HW Smith for 6th and 7th grade classes. Students built Estes Gnome kits which the 7th graders flew on May 24th and the 6th graders launched on May 30th. Special education students at HW Smith flew Gnome rockets on June 8th.

Ed Smith Elementary School

James and Scott ran a launch at Barry Park on May 29th. Fifth-grade students built and flew Make-It-Take-It kits. Four teams of students also built more advanced custom-made rockets which were successfully flown at the Barry Park launch.

Rocket Team Challenge

As always Syracuse Rocket Club had a major role in running the annual Central New York Rocket Team Challenge. Launch day assistance was provided by club members James Shattell, Scott Sellers, Tim Catterson, and Roger Forell. Our pad management team did an excellent job, launching over 100 rockets and losing only one to a rocket eating tree. Rocket Club members served as mentors for several area RTC teams.

Westcott Community Center

James led a building session at Westcott Community Center on June 8 with a launch on June 11. Fourth through 8th graders launched Estes Up Aerospace rockets.

Roberts Elementary School

5th graders from Roberts Elementary School led by science teacher Kathleen Boyce launched 50 Make-It-Take-It rockets on June 15 with assistance from James, Scott, and Corey.

Willow Field Elementary School

Willow Field Elementary continues their annual tradition of holding a follow-up contest to the Rocket Team Challenge for Liverpool District Schools. On June 15, twelve teams launched LOC Graduator on F50 motors with launch control provided by Syracuse Rocket Club members James Shattell, Scott Sellers, Tim Catterson, Tom Butler, and Corey Felts.

Huntington Middle School

On June 18 in sweltering heat, James, Scott and Tim provided rocket repair, flight prep, and launch services for the annual Huntington Rocket Fest organized by science teacher Patrick Dehm. 7th graders launched about 50 Estes rockets on A through D motors. The grand finale saw two LOC Graduator launched and safely recovered on E23 motors.

Oswego BOCES

A June 20 launch was held for special education students in the Oswego BOCES program. Students built and successfully launched 24 Estes Make-It-Take-It rockets with assistance from SRC member Tom Butler.

It is extremely rewarding to see the excitement of students launching rockets that they have built. Consider helping with a future student launch or building session. You may inspire a future astronaut or aerospace engineer.

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 (but not invariably) on the third Saturday (weather permitting). 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 usually on the first Monday of the month (second Monday if the first is a holiday or if otherwise necessary) 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.

See calendar elsewhere in this issue for dates of launches, meetings, and other events.

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
Jul. Mon. 2nd	7:00 PM	Walt's Hobby	Club Meeting, Discussion Topic: Odd-Roc and night launch ideas for August launch.
Jul. Sat. 21st	10 AM - 3 PM	Weigand's Field	SRC Sport Launch, Theme: Scale Models; Contests: Plastic Model Conversion and A Parachute Spot Landing (note date change)
Aug. Mon. 6th	7:00 PM	Walt's Hobby	Club Meeting, Discussion Topics: Planning for annual picnic and night launch
Aug. Sat. 18th	10 AM - 10 PM	Weigand's Field	SRC Sport Launch, Family Picnic, and Night Launch, Theme: Odd-rocs; Contests: C Parachute Eggloft Duration and A Parachute Spot Landing
Sep. Mon. 10th	10 AM - 10 PM	Walt's Hobby	Club Meeting, Discussion Topic: TBA
Sep. Sat. 22nd	10 AM - 3 PM	Weigand's Field	SRC Sport Launch, Theme: Helicopter Recovery; Contests: 1/2A Helicopter Duration and A Parachute Spot Landing
Oct. Mon. 1st	7:00 PM	Walt's Hobby	Club Meeting, Discussion Topic: Planning for Winter Club Projects
Oct. Sat. 20th	10 AM - 3 PM	Weigand's Field	SRC Sport Launch, Theme: Halloween; Contests: A Super-Roc Duration and A Parachute Spot Landing

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.