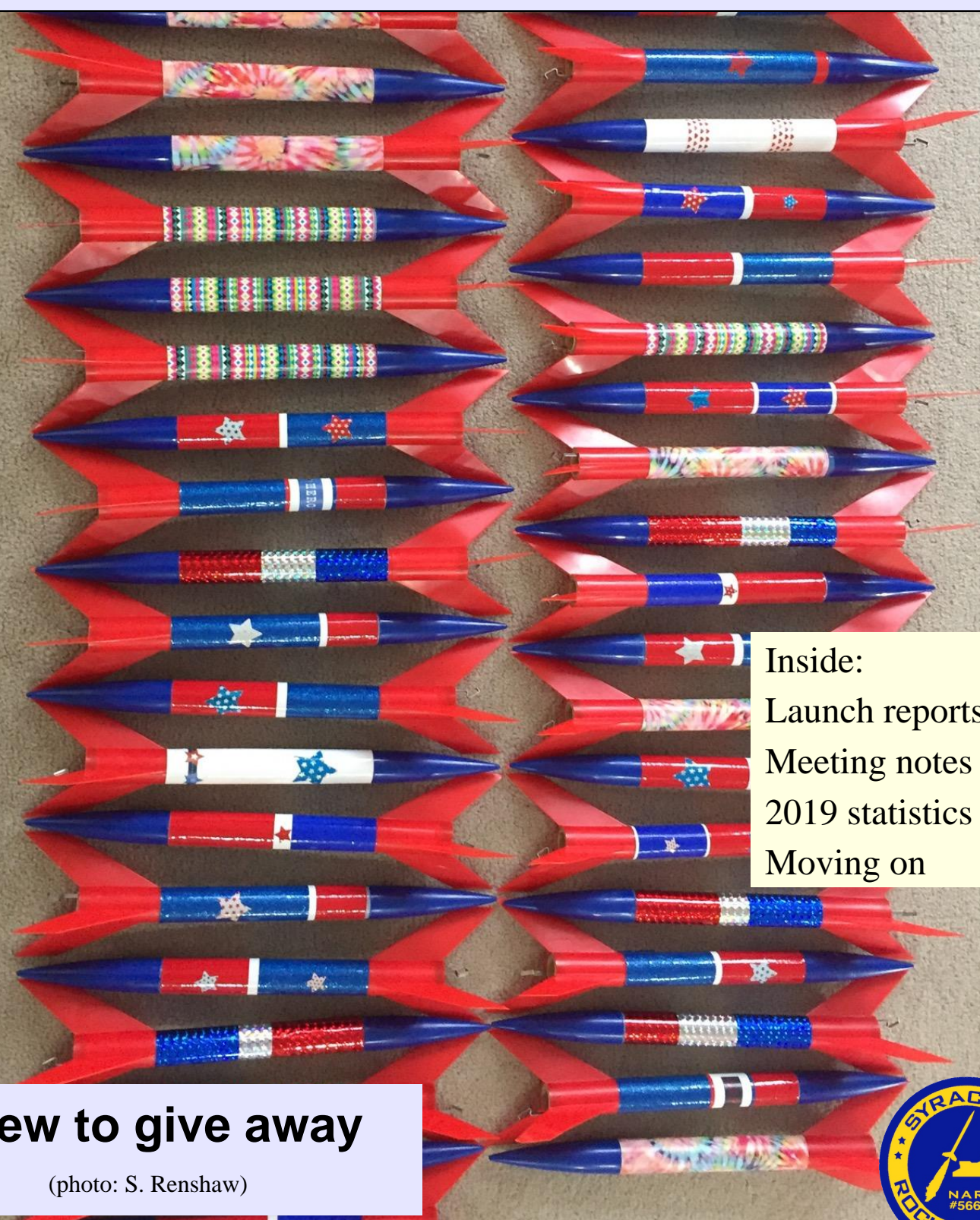


November 2019

WHAT'S UP

Volume 14
Number 3

Newsletter of
Syracuse Rocket Club / NAR section 566 / TRA Prefecture 53



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A few to give away

(photo: S. Renshaw)



Some launches

Weather at the summer and fall launches was... variable? In July, 92°F with heat index 105°F. The worst part was packing up and hauling out the stuff at the end in mid afternoon. A month later, winds near 10 MPH and occasionally gusting to 16 MPH, until late afternoon, and the temperature just barely hit 70°F. Nice in September, then in October there were reports of frost that morning up north — but it got up to 60°F by afternoon. We didn't have to cancel any launches, so that was good.

Attendances were good. In July we had Peter Plumley's class joining us. For the August family picnic we had guests of our host, Milt Weigand, and some first time families. After a year off, the August event once again included a night launch.

The ongoing B streamer duration contest start off lopsided and ended close-fought. Rich Holmes's (May, July, and August winner) times dropped ten seconds or so, for some reason, between the early season and late, while Scott Sellers and Tom Butler (June and October) pushed theirs up and Chris Hansen's were variable, including a winning 53.7 seconds in September. Other contest winners were: (June) 2-Stage Spot Landing: Tom Butler (69'-3"); (July) Lunar Spot Landing: Tom Butler (13' - 0", 2" ahead of Roger Forell); (August) Drag Races: Tom Butler and Scott Sellers (tie); (September) 1/2A Glider Duration: Scott Sellers (00:31.6); (October) Sport Scale: Scott Sellers (90 points). In September Rich's Uff Da flexwing glider was disqualified because, after six minutes aloft, it had drifted out of sight and is, so far as anyone knows, still up there somewhere.

Dave Grimes got his Level 2 certification in July with his Trash Can on a J340.

The July launch was notable for occurring on the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing. Saturn V models and other NASA rocket models were in abundance. Rich brought a copy of the July 20, 1969 *Post-Standard*.

In September, Dave Grimes brought and flew ten (10) different scale Big Bertha clones — all painted! — on motors ranging (I think) from 1/2A to H.

The record for most flights for the season was hotly contested, ending with Dennis Friend at 61, Tom Butler at 60.

A few of the other flights were:

July

Dennis Friend: Little Joe 1 (C6), Little Joe 2 (E30), Mercury Redstone, Mercury Atlas (D12)

Rich Holmes: Saturn V (Doctor Zooch, stabilized since May; B6), Mercury-Redstone (1/2A6)

Tom Butler: LOC Fantom Mini (A8)

Jennifer Bailey: Land Viper (3xC6)

John Dolan: Mean Machine Achieving Grapeness (E12)

Sue Renshaw: Saturn V (Estes 1/100; E30)

Tim Catterson: Cool Spool (G75)

August

Rich Holmes: V-2 (B6), R13 (D21), Star Orbiter (F15), Scion (G125), Big Daddy (D12), Flat Boy (B6), Big Blinka (C6), Roll Model (C6)

Dave Grimes: Trash Can (I-327), prompting Dennis's comment: "Really hard to take a nap around here"; Big Max (H210), an eventful flight but repairable; Stretch (H180)

Dennis Friend: USN Airship USS Akron (D12)

Tim Catterson: Scout 2 (F50)

September

Scott Renshaw: Borealis (C6)

Rich Holmes: Bohica's Dead Ringer (B6)

Bruce Sherman: Prowler (F15)

John Dolan: Achieving Grapeness (E12), Star Orbiter (E16), Big Ugly (C6), Lead Shot (G53)

Tom Butler: Expedition (E12)

Tim Catterson: Mark's Discovery (H87)

Roger Forell: 315 High Flight (H135)

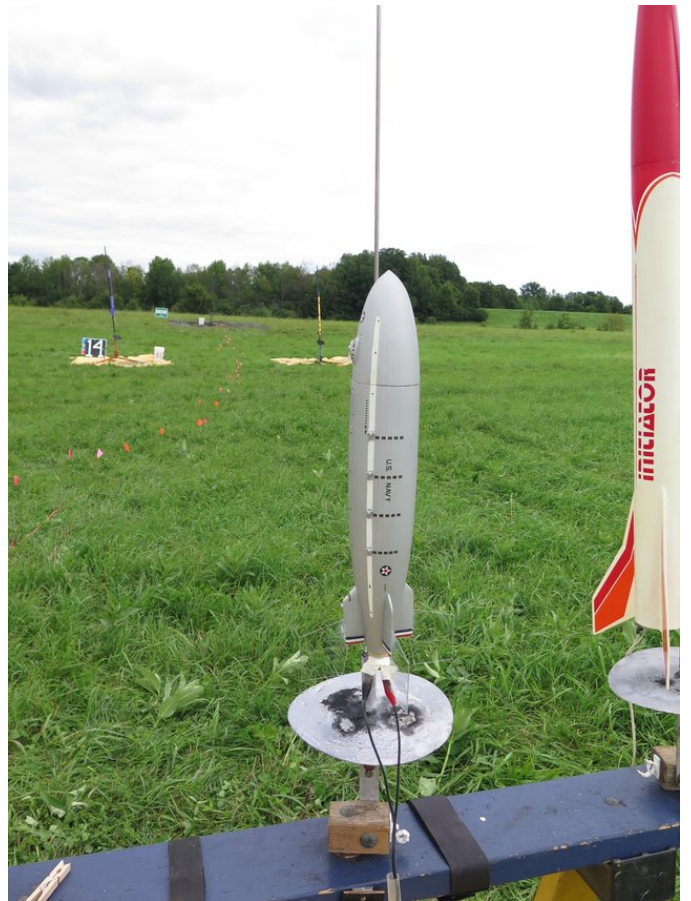
James Shattell: Vulcanite G78 Reunited (G75)

October

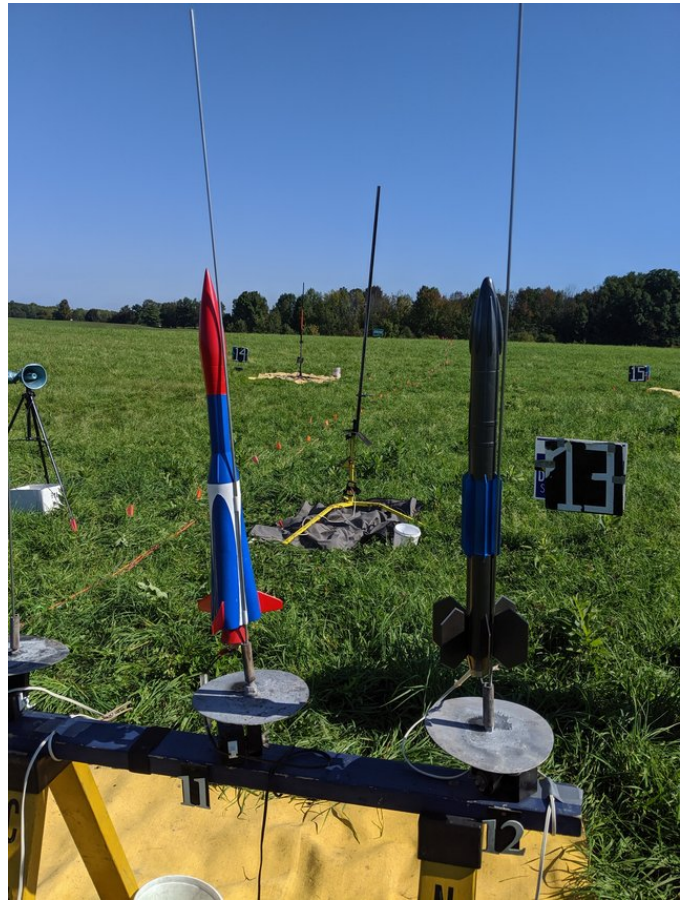
Rich Holmes: Pumpnik (C6)











Bottom photos: Scott Renshaw

Meeting notes

August

Financial report: Balance \$974.64. Current membership is 101 (32 youth, 69 adults), substantially higher than ever.

Bill and Mary Beth Clune called in to discuss next year's NARAM at Geneseo, where SRC will assist in running the sport launch.

We have 30 or 35 giveaway rockets available.

We have a new email address: syracuserocketclub@outlook.com.

September

Brian Morse brought in three Alphas of various sizes including one his dad built in 1966, a Super, and a 4" diameter upscale.

Memberships and dues receipts are way up. We took in \$300 with our special raffle.

Three families joined in July and we unanimously approved extending their memberships through 2020.

Sue has about 40 giveaway rockets, Tom has more than 20.

We discussed running "Pink Book" contests at our 2020 launches.

October

After a couple of financial inputs at the start of the meeting, our balance is \$1150.00 including a \$150 Performance Hobby gift certificate.

We decided to run "Pink Book" contests, including an ongoing 1/2A Parachute Duration at all 2020 launches.

We reviewed a draft proposal for the 2020 calendar. Dennis Friend suggested Classic Kits as a launch theme in 2020, and Oddest Odd-Roc for a contest.

There was discussion of putting an ad for New York State rocketry in *Sport Rocketry* in conjunction with URRG and MARS.

We discussed officers for 2020 and in particular having the Vice President and Treasurer positions held by two different people. Rich Holmes announced he would be retiring as newsletter editor.

There was a lengthy discussion of upgrading our launch equipment with a Wilson F/X launch controller and wireless pad boxes. Unanimous OK was given to request \$250 grants from NAR this year and next for this.

November

Balance is \$1250, including the 2019 NAR grant which we received.

After discussion, unanimous vote to purchase a Wilson F/X system sufficient for our high and mid power pads. This is to be expanded to low power once we raise the funds.

Near final 2020 calendar was discussed.

Officers for 2020 were discussed. Tom Butler accepted a nomination for Vice President.

Walt's Secret Santa this year will be three Saturdays, Nov. 9, 16, and 23. We had a choice of the first two dates and opted for November 9.

A proposal for a winter club project was discussed. This would involve build sessions once a month, starting with one for novices in which low power rockets would be built. In subsequent sessions we would build some mid power rockets and (possibly) move on to a high power rocket. Turns out Walt's staff was thinking of something along those lines too. We will look into starting this in January.



2019 statistics

Compiled by Scott Sellers; for more see the website.

Flyers: Peaked at 39 in July and 38 in August

Total flights: 574

Total motors: 644 (3 MMX, 3 1/4A, 18 1/2A, 143 A, 153 B, 102 C, 58 D, 48 E, 40 F, 50 G, 16 H, 9 I, 1 J)

Total impulse: 20,568.8 N-s

Highest number of flights: Dennis Friend 61, Tom Butler 60, Sue Renshaw 47

Highest number of motors: Dennis Friend 105, Tom Butler 67, Sue Renshaw 47

Highest total impulse: Dave Grimes 4264.7 N-s Scott Renshaw 3172.8, Tim Catterson 2768.7

Contest points: Tom Butler 40, Rich Holmes 27, Scott Sellers 25, Chris Hansen 7, Dennis Friend 3, Roger Forell 3, David Gilbert 1, Jacob Aretsky 1

Moving on

I became editor of "What's Up" about five years ago. My first issue was Volume 10 Number 1 in January 2015. By my count this is my 22nd issue, and my last.

It's been an honor, a privilege, and a pleasure to bring you these newsletters. But there's a season for everything and I feel my season here is done.

It's been a good, eventful five years. Participation in the club is up from what it was then, enough so that we can (perhaps a bit belatedly) actually have four people filling our four elected offices! Membership levels are at a record high. I won't claim the newsletter has had anything to do with our increasing activity, but at least it's been nice to document it.

At this writing a new editor has not yet been designated, but I'm confident the vacancy will be filled soon. I expect you will see my byline in future issues; I like taking launch photos, and not being busy with bread-and-butter reports means I might be able to submit an occasional article on some topic or another. Hopefully ones the new editor likes...

Until then, happy building and flying, and see you at the meetings and launches!

— Rich Holmes

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 four 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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Comments, correspondence, and articles or proposals for articles may be addressed to:

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or e-mail rs.holmes@gmail.com.

Upcoming SRC Events

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

Date	Time	Location	Event
Dec. Mon. 9th	7:00 PM	Walt's Hobby	Club Meeting. Topic: Holiday Celebration - Annual Club Awards. Election of 2020 Club Officers
Jan. Mon. 6th	7:00 PM	Walt's Hobby	Club Meeting. Topic: TBA

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.