

# WHAT'S UP

A Publication of the Syracuse Rocket Club

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NAR Section 566

Syracuse and Central New York, USA

Special Points of Interest:

- [Elections and More](#)
- [News from the Secretary](#)
- [Treasurers Report](#)



## ELECTIONS and MORE

The club announced their annual call for nominations to fill the various roles of club officers for 2021 at the November virtual meeting.

SRC held their annual elections during the December 2020 meeting, and the slate of officers largely remained the same.

Elected to office were:

Scott Sellers, President (incumbent)

Tom Butler, Vice-President (incumbent)

James Shattell, Treasurer (incumbent)

Tom Ha, Secretary

In addition, to these officers, Tom Ha has volunteered for the position of newsletter editor, so you now have in your hands/inbox the newest version of the What's UP newsletter.

Many thanks go to the past newsletter editor, Rich Holmes, for the five years and 22 issues that he created and delivered. The last issue went out dated November 2019. Thanks to Rich for the December meeting minutes published here too.

This space intentionally left blank while it waits for YOUR articles and pictures!



Tom Ha at NARAM 2007,

## Meet the Editor/Publisher

Hey, it's me again, Tom Ha. You will learn lots about me, mostly regarding rocketry. My rocketry hobby started as one of several hobbies that my Dad tried to interest his sons in. Rocketry stuck with me, where birding (ornithology) stuck with my oldest brother. I started flying rockets with

my family in the 60's when we were living in south Florida.

I'm not actually a BAR (Born Again Rocketeer, a term for those that return to the hobby later in life), as I flew rockets everywhere I lived as I grew up, from Key Biscayne, Florida to Lancaster, New Providence, Mil-

lerville and other places in PA. I branched out a great deal when I really got back into rocketry as Maria and I brought our sons into the hobby. I believe I've flown rockets in at least 13 states so far, ranging from Florida to California and many points in between.

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## WHAT'S UP

# Club Goals for 2021

At the November meeting, a number of club goals were outlined and approved to attempt to reach in 2021.

- Have launch equipment setup completed by designated launch start time
- Launch the Upscale Saber (a previous Syracuse Rocket Club group project) in at least one Syracuse Rocket Club launch and one regional or national launch such as NYPOWER, NARAM or URRF.
- Recruit new members and bring our member-

- ship up to at least 128
- Distribute at least 100 giveaway rockets
- Run at least 2 beginning rocket builder classes at Walt's Hobby
- Advertise our club launches in Family Times and other local publications
- Launch at least 768 rockets at Syracuse Rocket Club launches
- Reach a total impulse equivalent to one full O-class motor (40,960 Newton-seconds) at Sy-

- racuse Rocket Club launches in 2021
- Email membership renewal reminders by the end of December. Send second email reminder at end of January. Follow up with postal letter in February.
- Hold local contests at our launches that allow participation by high power flyers as well as low and mid-power.

with many of us newer members listening in.

There was much discussion of these goals at the meeting from the long time members,



## Estes News

By now most if not everyone knows that Estes Industries was purchased out of bankruptcy in 2018 by the Langford family.

The Langfords are long time rocketry family, being involved in everything from local to national level competition and beyond to international competition, and supporting the USA Internats Team via John Langford's business (now a part of Boeing), Aurora Flight Sciences. I first encountered the Lang-

fords at NARAM-43 in 2001 in Geneseo, NY where the BRS and MARS clubs hosted the event for a full week. Ellis Langford even took B Division (ages 14-18) in the competition. Ellis is now the President of Estes Industries!

I had the pleasure of working with John Langford through my position on the NAR Board and by attending various events, like the NOVAAR rocket club holiday parties, some of which were hosted at Aurora's offices in Manassas, Virginia. John also hosted the NARAM 50-year Old Rocketeers Reunion, where I was selling NAR items as the

NAR Technical Services (NARTS) Committee Chair.

If you see more variety of motors, kits and a return to some of the classics of the past, you can thank the Langfords and their attention to the model rocketry community.



## The American Rocketry Challenge

# About What's UP

What's Up is the official newsletter of the Syracuse Rocket Club.

What's Up is published six times a year and is distributed electronically on the SRC website; latest and back issues may be downloaded at [syracuserocketclub.org/](http://syracuserocketclub.org/)

[newsletters.html](#).

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ate 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.

## Newsletter Thoughts and Hopes

I first started creating newsletters about rocketry for SPAAR, the Southeastern PA Area Association of Rocketry in 2000 with the May/June issue of *The Countdown*. After that I provided many articles and support for the ZOG-43 newsletter for the NARHAMS rocket club in Maryland/D.C.

I then created newsletters for my own clubs, Central Pennsylvania Rocketeers (CPR)

and the Elkhart Rocketry Group (ERG), and now here I am!

### Do You Have What It Takes??

I am in need of content for this newsletter. I accept anything within reason, though I may need to edit to fit or for other reasons. I can use photos, meeting topics, discussion topics, build articles, glue articles (sorta kidding

on that one!), list of local flyers, statistics from launches, news from around the rocketry world and more.

I will strive to keep a minimum level of local club content going, but only you can make sure that this works for your club! In addition you will see space news, rocketry news and other topics that I think may interest you. Since I am new to the area, please keep me informed if you have sources for information from the local area!



## Acronyms and Abbreviations

Have you ever wondered at some of the unique names used in rocketry? Here are a few of them, with some explanation:

**BAR**—Born Again Rocketeer. An affectionate term for someone who flew rockets as a kid then left the hobby for a while and came back.

**HPR**—High Power Rocketry. A term for rockets and rocketry that uses high-power rocket motors. High power is

considered “H” class motors and above.

**MPR**—Mid Power Rocketry. Typically used for rockets and rocket engines from “E” to “G” class.

**LPR**—Low Power Rocketry. What’s left that’s not MPR or HPR, rockets and motors from 1/8A to “D” class.

**RSO**—Range Safety Officer. Every launch should have a person designated as RSO, who watches for aircraft,

clear sightlines and safety distances for people and anything else safety related. Sometimes combined with LCO.

**LCO**—Launch Control Officer. Typically the person who verifies continuity in the launch system and pushes the buttons to launch the rockets, this is also often a backup to the RSO for safety.

## Australia Anyone?

I threw in a rocket picture in here, of my Estes Pro Series II Nike Smoke in flight in Australia, when Maria and I went there for the first Thunda Down Under. What you don’t see are the fins stripping off this rocket because I flew it on its maiden flight using an H motor, when it was designed and built for an E or F motor. Estes could not find me replacement fins for it, so it is still awaiting repair.

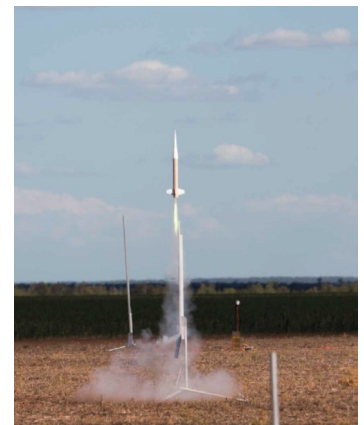
Maria’s Talon 2 **was** built for high power, and she flew it on an H motor, but in her case it stayed together nicely. Unfortunately it took hours of searching over a couple days on her part before she stopped without finding it in the vast sorghum fields surrounding our launch field. I was the dutiful spouse, waiting for her to emerge from the fields and handing her a cold bottle of water. On the last day of the event, one of

the

rocketeers that flew in the M motor drag race came across it and it was returned to Maria and lives on to fly again and again.



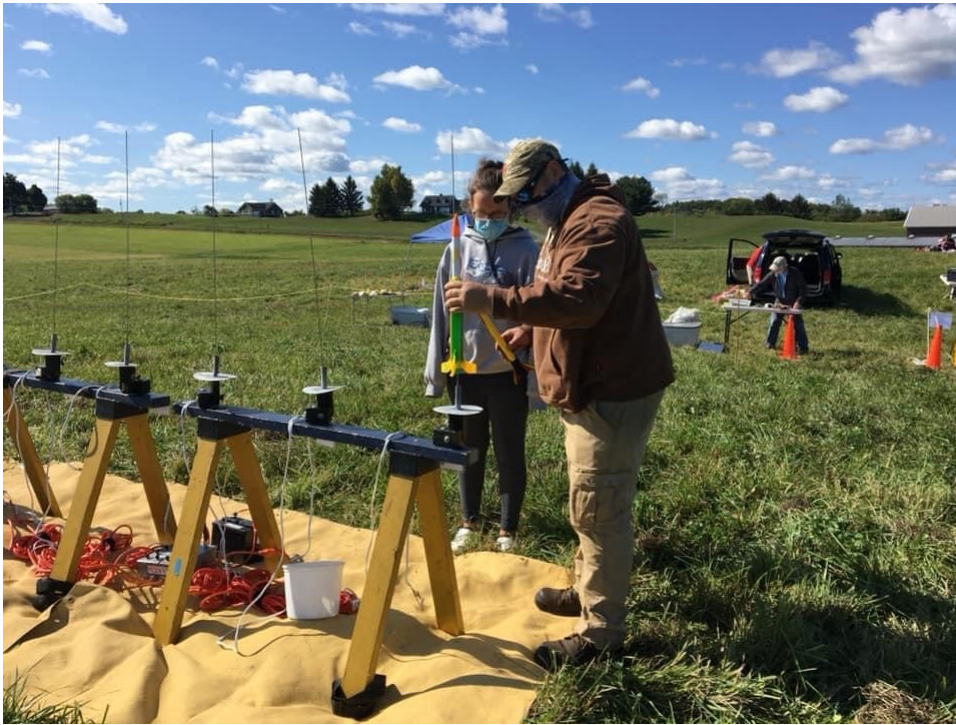
Maria Ha’s Talon 2 in flight Down Under



Tom Ha’s Nike

DATE		LOCATION	EVENT
January 2021	Mon. 4th	Zoom Meeting	Club Zoom Meeting, 7:00 PM
			Presentation & Discussion Topic: Cheap Rocketry by Tom Ha
February	Mon. 1st	Zoom Meeting	Club Meeting, 7:00 PM
			Discussion Topic: Make your own ignitors. Winter project show and tell.
March	Mon. 1st	Zoom Meeting	Club Meeting, 7:00 PM
	Sun. 21st TENTATIVE	Walt's Hobby	Beginning Rocket Building Class, 1:30-3:30 PM
April	Mon. 5th	Zoom Meeting	Club Meeting, 7:00 PM
	Sun. 25th TENTATIVE	Walt's Hobby	Discussion Topics: 2021 Rocket Contests. Altimeters
May	Mon. 3rd	Zoom Meeting	Beginning Rocket Building Class, 1:30-3:30 PM
	Sat. 15th	Weigand's Field	Club Meeting, 7:00 PM
June	Sat. 5th TENTATIVE	Skytop?	Discussion Topic: Planning for NYPOWER, URRF, NARAM Aerotech and CTI reload demos.
	Mon. 7th	Walt's Hobby	SRC Sport Launch and Test Launch for MOST Rocket Team Challenge Teams, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
	Sat. 19th	Weigand's Field	Theme: Saucers, Spinners & Spools Contests: C+ Saucer Spot Landing 1/2A Helicopter Duration
	Fri. 25th - Sun. 27th TENTATIVE	Potter, NY	Upstate Research Rocketry Festival (URRF) (TENTATIVE)
July	Mon. 12th	Walt's Hobby	MOST CNY Rocket Team Challenge? TENTATIVE
	Sat. 17th	Weigand's Field	Club Meeting, 7:00 PM
	Sat. 24th - Fri. 30th	Geneseo, NY	Discussion Topic: Computer modeling and flight simulation
August	Mon. 2nd	Walt's Hobby	SRC Sport Launch, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
	Sat. 21st or 28th Date TBD	Weigand's Field	Theme: Winged Wanderers and Whirlybirds (Glider & Helicopter Recovery) Contests: A Boost Glider Duration A Rocket Glider Duration 1/2A Helicopter Duration
	Sat. 21st or 28th Date TBD	Weigand's Field	NARAM 62
September	Mon. 13th	Walt's Hobby	Club Meeting, 7:00 PM
	Sat. 25th	Weigand's Field	Discussion Topics: Planning for annual picnic and night launch
October	Mon. 4th	Walt's Hobby	SRC Sport Launch, Family Picnic, and Night Launch, 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM
	Sat. 23rd	Weigand's Field	Themes: Ping Pong Projectiles Fat-Boy-Inspired Rockets Contests: Largest number of ping pong balls successfully launched in a single rocket. Most flights by a single flyer that includes a ping pong ball as a payload. Ping Pong ball spot landing, closest to the spot wins. 1/2A Helicopter Duration Fattest Fat Boy
November	Mon. 1st	Walt's Hobby	Club Meeting, 7:00 PM
	Sat. 13th TENTATIVE	Walt's Hobby	Discussion Topic: Staging and Clustering Techniques
December	Mon. 13th	Walt's Hobby	SRC Sport Launch, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
	Mon. 13th	Walt's Hobby	Theme: Multi-Motor Madness (Staging & Clustering) Contests: C Eggloft Duration 1/2A Helicopter Duration
January 2022	Mon. 3rd	Walt's Hobby	Club Meeting, 7:00 PM





Rocket Launch pictures courtesy of Scott Renshaw and Amy DeJohn

# December Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting on December 14, 2020

Treasurers report: Previous balance: \$1102.15, received \$10.23, spent \$111.65 on launch equipment.

## Discussion Topics

Newsletter: Every other month, need content!

Plans for 2021: beginner build sessions, backup launch site, calendar dates and flexibility for rain dates.

Elections: \*see story page 1

Dennis left gifts for club members at Walt's HobbyTown

View and talk by James on low power pad redesign

## 2020 Annual Awards

Frequent Flyer: Tom Butler (48 flights)

Most Contest Points: Chris Hansen

Thrust Master Award (most impulse): Dave Grimes, 6441 N-s

Motor Master Award (most motors): Dennis Friend, 68



## Visit us on the web!

The Syracuse Rocket Club promotes and encourages safe hobby rocketry in the Central New York area. We are an official section of the National Association of Rocketry (NAR #566).

We appreciate the support from Walt's HobbyTown in Syracuse and from other vendors, local and online. We also appreciate our generous hosts at our rocket launch site, the Weigand family.

We support many local educational institutions, from elementary schools to Syracuse University and in between. Rocketry is an educational, hands-on hobby that builds skills and educates while providing the thrill of sending something you built into the sky! Join us, we are eager to share our knowledge!

# Syracuse Rocket Club

## Officers:

President—Scott Sellers

Vice President—Tom Butler

Treasurer— James Shattell

Secretary—Tom Ha

Email:

SyracuseRocketClub@outlook.com

## Meetings:

Virtual meetings starting at 7:00PM Eastern Time on the first Monday of the month. Email the above to be included.

## Membership: (calendar year)

Single Member—\$10/year

Family—\$15/yr (includes spouse, children under 18)

## How To Join:

Join at a launch, or go to our website at [syracuserocketclub.org](http://syracuserocketclub.org) and download/print the membership application. Mail it to the address on the application with your member dues.

## Membership Benefits:

Membership Card

Zero Flight Fees at Launches

New to model rocketry? Bring your questions to a meeting, or email us at the address above! We all started this hobby at some point and had many of the same questions you likely have right now!

Reach the What's UP editor at:

6427 Lamphear Rd.

Rome, NY 13440

or

rocketha at gmail dot com