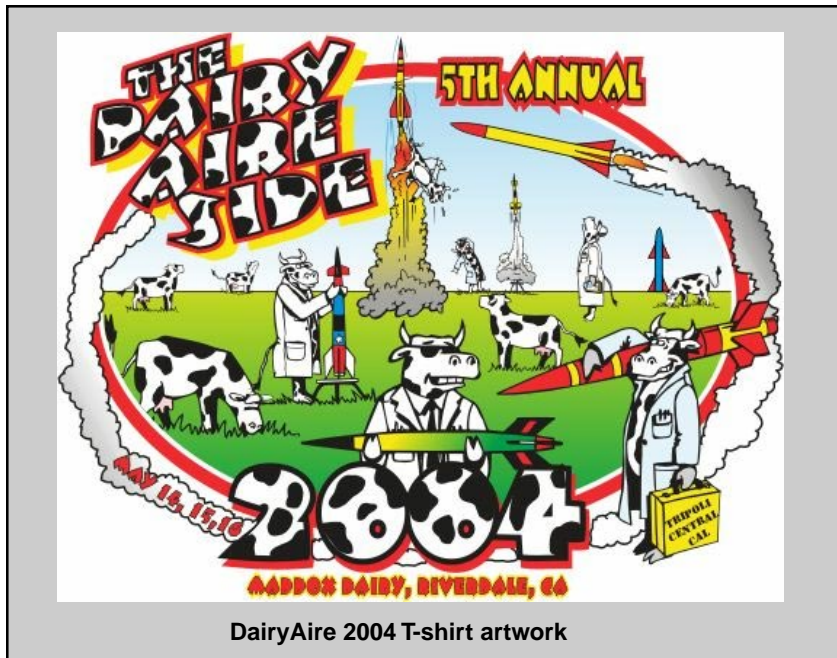


Central Valley Rocket News

Serving the Central California Chapter of the Tripoli Rocketry Association * * April 2004

Here comes Dairyaire 2004!



DairyAire 2004 T-shirt artwork

5th year for one of the West's biggest events to be held May 14-16

DairyAire 2004 is on schedule to commence liftoff at the Maddox Dairy in Riverdale on May 14, 15 and 16. This is the fifth year of what has become one of the largest launches on the West Coast.

Begun in 2000 as a two day event, DairyAire has attracted flyers from all over the West and expanded to three days two years ago to allow for an experimental day. This year's EX day will be Friday, May 14.

DairyAire has seen rockets of all shapes and sizes, A through M power and for the last two years has hovered around 300 launches for the weekend. Last year's event was also featured as the cover story for the August 2003 edition of Extreme Rocketry magazine.

As usual, there will be raffles, contests, food and a whole lot of excitement. T-shirts are now available for pre-order from Rod Lovley (ralovley@cs.com) and will go fast. We need volunteers for duty over the weekend and anyone with an interest in lending a hand should contact President Scott Eakins or the other officers of Tripoli Central California. For more information on this great launch see the club's web site or contact an officer.

February Launch Report

By Gary Walker

WOW, What a start!

Welcome to the 2004 launch season for Tripoli Central California! Our 1st launch of the season was threatened by wet weather during the week leading up to the launch, but launch day certainly turned out to be a beautiful day. With only a slight cloud cover that moved in during the mid afternoon, we had clear skies most of the day.

Set-Up was scheduled for 10 am, but early arrivals got the range up and operating well before the scheduled 11 am launch time. **New club President Scott Eakins**, and **Club Prefect Nathan Montalvo**, chaired a meeting prior to launch to address some topics

like, a new PA system, updating from rods to rails, and volunteers to transport the club equipment trailer to and from events.

This time of year usually sees a low turnout because of cold weather and foggy mornings and overcast skies. But the long lull since OCTOBER SKIES 2003 and the beautiful weather combined to produce an amazing 73 launches by the end of operations at around 3:45pm. My hat is off to all the dedicated rocketeers that came out to kick off the 2004 season!

There were a total of 31 different flyers with 73 flights. A breakdown of the number of Black Powder & AP motors spent throughout the day is as follows...

See launch, page 2





Tripoli Central California

Tripoli Central California is a chapter of the Tripoli Rocketry Association, an international organization dedicated to high-power rocketry and governed by safety rules promulgated by state and federal agencies. Founded in the mid-1990's, Tripoli Central California welcomes new members. Annual dues are \$20. For more information, call one of our officers, check out our club hotline at 559-447-5888, or see our web site at:

www.tripolicentralcalifornia.com

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Thank you Steve Maddox and the Maddox Dairy for your support!



Launch, from page 1

1 ½ A, 2 A, 9 B, 14 C, 3 D, 3 E, 6 G, 22 H, 8 I, 2 J, 2 K, and 1 L.

The first push of the launch button, however, wasn't a launch at all. **Sean Stephens**, always known for pushing the envelope, brought out an experimental motor for a static test. Snugly buried into the dairy soil, the "launch" button was pushed, but Sean's motor immediately CATOed.

The recovery process meant digging DEEP into the soft, wet ground where the motor had lodged itself. Better luck next time Sean.

Tracy's **James Marino** was "Big Dog" of the day once again

here at the Maddox Dairy. His 9' tall, 4.5" dia. rocket dubbed *Speak To Me* sported a yellow finish, GWIZ & Olsen electronics and a Walston tracker. It definitely spoke to the crowd as it screamed off the pad on a L850 and punched through some low clouds that had drifted into the afternoon sky. A tangled recovery system however brought the rocket down hard and it sustained some fin joint damage. Thanks for another exciting flight James.

Another "big" flyer was **Ted Sobieralski** of Visalia. His 78" scratch built *Tomahawk*, with Missile Works electronics, poked a couple of large holes in the sky on a K700 and a K1100. Oooh Yeah!

Sheryl Cooper of Hayward flew her awesome 54" *Bomarc* on

an I200. Off the pad was great, but the motor pods and some other material began to shred off at about 500 feet. Undeterred, the Bomarc kept on truckin'. We hope to see Sheryl back with this crowd favorite in the future.

The only certification flights of the day were flyers from the San Jose area. One was **David Raimondi**, with son **Chris**, who had a smooth flight with his PML *XCaliber* on an H123. The other was **David Cummings** flying his LOC *Vulcanite* on an H128. Dave also flew his *Vulcanite* earlier on a G64. Both Daves had successful NAR Level 1 certification flights and were observed by James Marino. Congratulations!

Bill Granger, another NAR flyer, put a Pro38 H153 in a large blue *Crayon*, and also flew a white Aerotech *Initiator* on a G35. Both great flights.

A regular flyer here at the dairy, Stockton's **Mark Anderson** got in a couple of flights as well. His red & yellow LOC *Legacy* went up on an H128 and his orange Vaughn Bros. *Javelin* had a cool flight on an H238, both with motor ejection.

We had a few flyers who could only squeeze one flight into the day's schedule. Local flyer, **Steve Sawyer**, of Madera made a single flight with his orange and white stretched Aerotech *Barracuda* on an H128 with AltAcc electronics. **Mark Bosca's** *Test Fire* had a nice flight on an I 285 with AltAcc 2c electronics and a Walston tracker and Fresno's **Brian Dalby**, who never seems to miss a launch, flew his *LSX?* on a B6.

Christopher (last name?) came down from San Jose to launch his 30" gold Quest *Icarus*, his blue & silver *Tidal Wave* and his yellow & blue Quest *Totally Tubular*. All had great flights on C6-5's. **Dave** (last name?), also from San

See launch, page 4

Tripoli History Files: Dateline 2000 DairyAire 2000

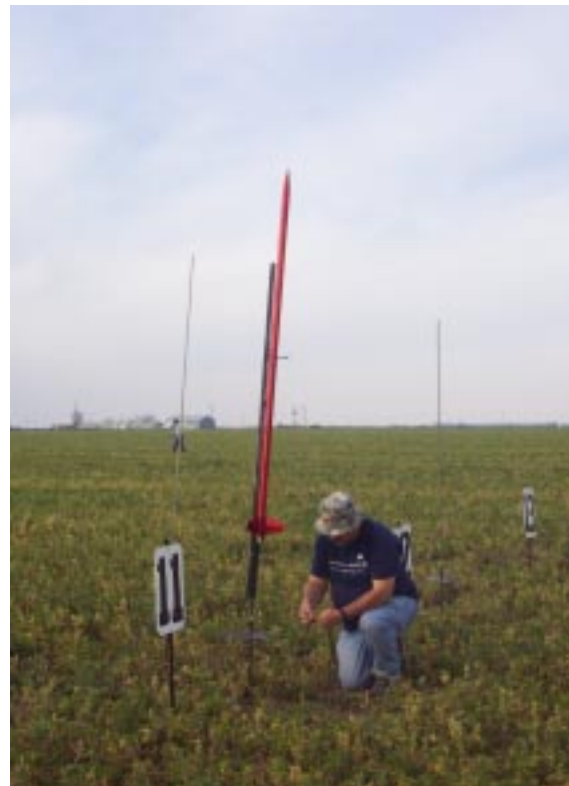


Blast from the Past!

Our club has been in operation for nearly a decade and we have attracted rocketeers from all over the Western United States for some of the greatest launches in the country. Beginning this month, to celebrate our own rocketeering history, the *Central Valley Rocket News* will bring its readers a blast from the past with every issue. If you have an interesting photograph or story from the Maddox Dairy or related to the members of Tripoli Central California,

submit it here so we can compile our own historical library for the years to come.

This month's photo: Rod Lovley, left, and Scott Eakins take a break at the very first DairyAire five years ago in May 2000. On this day both future club presidents certified Level 3 with their scratch-built rockets pictured above!



launch, from page 3

Jose, flew his 3' Estes *Phoenix* on a D12.

Kyle (last name?), from Clovis had 3 different rockets launch on high power. His Aerotech *G-Force*, on an H180, a blue *Tethys* on an I211 and a *LOC 40* on an H200T rounded out the threesome.

Another *G-Force*, this one a long version, was flown by **Anthony Cooper** on an I 285 and with a Pro38 H156 with AltAcc 2c electronics dual deployment. Great flights Anthony.

Chuck Clarke also had some nice flights. He flew an Aerotech *Tomahawk* on an E16 and a PML *Bullpuppy* on an H128.

Tom McLachlan of Campbell had his usual string of good flights. He flew his 61" *Blue Angel* on an H180, a 23" Aerotech *Tomahawk* on an H55, and his 6' *Coyote* on a Pro38 J285.

The **Pettinicchi family**, of San

Ramon, notched up 10 flights with their fleet of rockets. **Joe** flew his PML *Amraam* on a G35 and his *Amraam4* for a nice smokey flight on a J350 with PML CoPilot electronics on board. **Cathy** launched her *Tethys* twice for great flights on an H148 & a H165, both redlines. **Jessica** flew her Quest *Hijax* on a B6 and **Zach** flew his *Fat Boy* and *Bandit* on C6's, his *Cosmic Cobra* twice and his Quest *QEZ Payloader*, all

on B6 power.

Norm Newlon came from Sunnyvale to send up his Orange *Mini Magg* on an H148 and his 40" *Menace* on an H180 with an RDF radio direction transmitter on board.

Regular flyer, **Terry Swift**, also of Sunnyvale, mixed it up with 4 different rockets. Terry's *Alarm* made it up on an E30, his *Nike-Smoke* on a G80, his *Sumo* on an H180 and his really tall (6') and skinny (1.4") *Thunder Jr* shot out of sight on an I285.

Tripoli Central California needs YOU!

Our next launch is Dairyaire 2004 and as always we need volunteers to help with LCO and RSO duties and also to tow the trailer from our Fresno location to the launch. Lend a hand and help keep our local club one of the finest in the country. We are not looking for long-term commitments, just a few people to share the load every now and then. Please contact any club officer at least a week prior to launch if you can help out. Remember, without you, we cannot put on our launches!

Another flyer from the Bay Area was **Ross Ohmen**. He made his first attempt at electronic recovery with the first flight of his unpainted, fiberglass *Thunderbolt 38* on an H123 using a Perfect Flight altimeter. Unfortunately, there was no recovery deployment and the Thunderbolt snapped in half when it lawn darted a few hundred yards from the flight line. Ross came back to fly his Estes *Classic* on a C6, *Wolverine* on an A10 and the *Mace* on ½ A3. Better luck next time Ross.

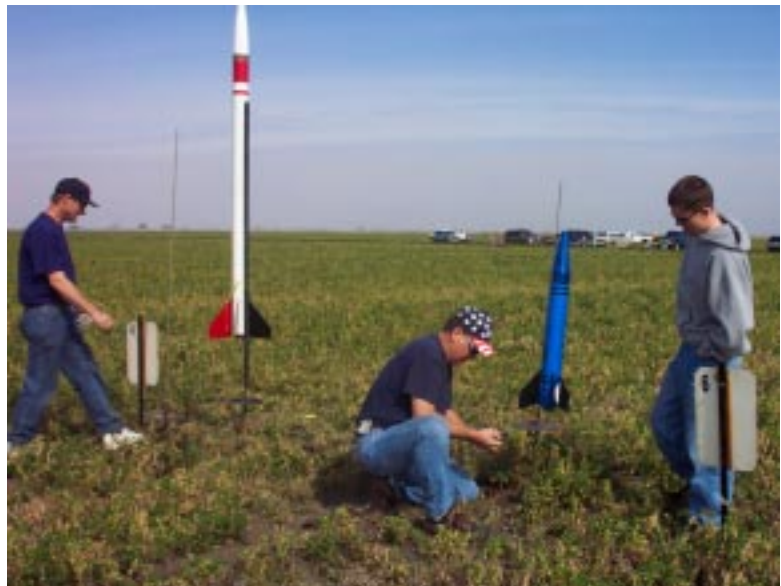
Fresno's **Mikey Smith** also had a busy launch day as he made 7 flights in all. He launched his green Estes *Snitch* flying saucer twice on B6's and twice on C6's. *Code Red* and *Chrome Dome* both flew on B6's and his *Big Daddy* went up on a D12.

Between Mikey's flights, **Mike Smith** was able to make 2 flights with his grey and white scratch-built rocket. Once on an I285 and once on an I435. The recovery system failed to deploy on one flight, keeping the nosecone intact. But, rather than coming in ballistic, Mike's rocket came down in a flat spin just as smooth as a leaf on a gentle spring breeze. Amazing!

Also from Fresno, **Dale Soutas** flew his orange and silver *Lissa-Melissa* on an I211 and his yellow and red *Mr. Bigglesworth* on an H180. **Steve Soutas** made 2 flights as well with his *Red* rocket on a C6 and his 6' black and red *Johnson* rocket on an E9.

PJ Scardino started out his day with his cool, shiny gold, Applewhite *Delta Flying Saucer* on a G35. He then set up his trusty blue and pink *Precision* rocket, only to have the G80 CATO on the pad. PJ's 3rd flight was an *Alpha III* on a C6.

Clayton's **Lee Teicheira** had a couple of flights with his *Sky Spike* on an H238 using an AltAcc altimeter and his *Cloud Buster* with



H180 motivation with MC GWIZ electronics.

Gary Vielbaum arrived from Burlingame with a red and black, 12" tall rocket titled *Whoever Finds This – Its Yours!* I don't know if anyone ever found it?! Gary also launched his 6' tall 2.25" *Son Of Crap Shoot* with GWIZ electronics for a real nice flight.

The **Morgan family**, fairly new to rocketry, were here again with son **George**. George flew his black *Big Bertha* 3 times on C6-3's and his 4" purple *Cutenik* on an A8.

Chris Walker, one of my 4 sons and a member of Walker Team Rocketry, accompanied me this month. After some last-minute finishing touches, he had a single launch of his Estes *Venus Probe* on a C6-5. The flight was smooth and he then spent rest of the day socializing, eating candy, and hangin' out with George.

All in all, the first launch of the 2004 year went off very well and we had a great turnout. The following day, after the launch, was a rainy day and it seems the rain and wet weather has continued on since then. As I sit here writing, it is raining outside and it is all the more



apparent that getting the launch off when we did was a real stroke of luck. Let's hope the luck holds for this next month's launch and we have clear blue skies in March.

I hope to see you all there!

Gary Walker
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More February launch photos on page 6-7



February 15 launch photos are courtesy of Steven Sawyer, page 6-7.





Back cover photo: Air Force One departs Charlotte International Airport on April 5, 2004 with the President on board. Photo by Mark Canepa

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Dairyaire 2004: May 14,15,16