



# **TRIPOLI CENTRAL CALIFORNIA** **Central Valley Rocket News**

Prefecture #52 - Serving the Central Valley Chapter of the Tripoli Rocketry Association - June 2007



**Drew Gleason's Thumper  
streaks skyward.**

## June 16, 2007

The June launch was held on a Saturday this year to not conflict with Father's Day. Perhaps it was the change of schedule that hampered attendance. The launch didn't draw much of a turnout as there were only 10 flyers and a total of 18 flights, but that included 2 M's!

Always one of the first to fly, **Jim Norton's** burgundy *Vertical Assault*, an 89 inch tall Giant Leap kit, weighed 7.5 lbs and powered by a J275W roared to 4916 feet as reported by a Perfect Flite altimeter.

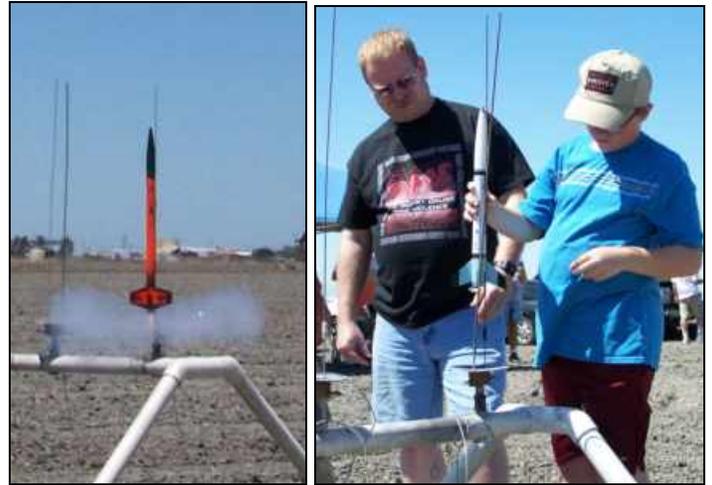


Jim's new *Dude*, an Estes rocket that is essentially a mylar balloon in the shape of a rocket whipping in the wind, powered off the pad with a D12-7 for a great flight and recovered under parachute, although I doubt it was really needed. J.

Jim's *Quest Force 5* kit flew on a B6-4 and later on a C6-5 but suffered a recovery failure.

Also flying from the Estes pads, **Sara Martin's** black and orange, 21" *Fire Fly* made 3 successful flights on D12's and Hanford's **Luke Goss** launched his red and white *Mandor the Torpedo* on an A8-3. Luke also

flew his white and blue *Miss Behave* on a B6-4 and A8-3.



Sarah Martin's Firefly (L) and the Goss's (R)

**Jack Garibaldi** and **Andy Woerner** can always be counted on to stir things up and prepped a pair of Polecat *Goblins*, perched atop a pair of rails, to drag race on Blue Thunder motors. Cool!



The Parkers from Los Gatos, a family of relative newcomers to the dairy, were on hand to fly as well. **Mike Parker** (dad) made his Level 1 and Level 2 certifications at last month's Dairy Aire and was eager to perfect some more skills.

**Mike, and son Nicky**, attempted a drag race between Mike's 41" *Unpronounceable*, an Aerotech Tomahawk, with a G64W and Nicky's 37" *Bob I*, an AT Warthog powered by a G71R. Unfortunately there may have been some motor assembly issues as both motors failed in flight burning through the motor casings.



Nicky and Jessica Parker

**Jessica Parker's** purple, green and yellow *Arcas* flew on a G40W with motor ejection for a textbook flight.



Mike Parker's Nike Smoke lifts off on a K185.

Mike's white Polecat *Nike Smoke* made a shakedown flight to test out his MAWD electronics and Mike's first dual deployment attempt. Powered by a Redline H, the Nike had a nice flight with the mains deploying at 500feet as expected.

Mike's last flight of the day was a return of his Nike Smoke dubbed *Not For Public Disclosure* to put his dual-deployment system to a real test by packing the Smoke with a long burning K185! The rocket separated at apogee with the airframe falling free and the nosecone coming down slowly under chute. The rocket was recovered with minimal damage and the MAWD electronics survived the ordeal and reported a peak altitude of 7297 feet and a max speed of 510 mph! Whoa!

**Drew Gleason**, of Galt, made another flight with his Polecat Thumper named *Skeeter*, after it earned him his Level 3 certification at last month's Dairy Aire launch. The bright orange and black 10" diameter monster lit on the pad with a screeching roar fed by a Jack Garibaldi igniter and roared skyward on a huge column of white smoke provided by an M1315 motor. Perfect Flite altimeters ejected the mains at apogee for a long slow return to earth. Very Nice!!



Drew Gleason's Skeeter

Unable to make his level 3 cert last month due to altitude considerations at a southern California launch, **Tom Bauer** made the trek up from the Pasadena area with his minimum diameter, 4" by 7 1/2 foot *Just Fly Baby*. The black and silver Performance rocketry kit weighed in at 30 lbs and housed a Control and Missile Works RRC2X altimeters for recovery.



*Just Fly Baby* on its way to 15K+. – Mike Parker photo

The M1315 motor pushed the rocket quickly off the pad and screamed off to the pale blue sky and disappeared from sight. After a tense few minutes of eye-straining, the call of “Got it!” rang out and the separated rocket could barely be seen tumbling down just to the west of the launch site. The main chute deployed right on cue and the rocket drifted slowly down and “UH OH!”, it appeared to land on the roof of the Shipping/Receiving building at the nearby Con-Agra plant.

Tom and company took off in their vehicle to assess the situation and plead their case to the Con-Agra folks to get their rocket back. Fortunately, the rocket was hanging off the edge of the roof and was recovered without much ado. How high did this “Baby” go?? How’s 15, 667 feet grab ya? That has to be one of the highest flights in recent memory at the dairy.

With the excitement of M-powered flights finished, and the small crowd, the launch concluded by early afternoon and all got an early start home.

You should all know by now that the July TCC launch is cancelled due to the date conflicts with LDRS in Jean Nevada. For those of you going, have a great time and tell us all about it when you return.

See ya’ll in August!  
~GW



Jim Norton’s Force 5



# 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 currently suspended. For more information, call one of our officers, call our club hotline and see our web-site at ...

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*Photos by Gary Walker except where noted.*



**Jim Norton Photos**



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