



TRIPOLI CENTRAL CALIFORNIA **Central Valley Rocket News**

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



Dave Raimondi's INSANITY roars skyward on a K700
Photo by Brett Wilkins

TCC Launch - March 18, 2007

March marks the end of Winter and the beginning of Spring and of course, baseball season. The March launch was blessed with a beautiful spring-like day with cool morning temperatures and sunny blue skies all day long. Great weather for baseball and rockets alike.

There were a total of 74 flights by 32 flyers and 77 motors burned. Not bad for March!

While there were many great flights throughout the day, the rocket gods/umpires uncharacteristically frowned down upon some veteran TCC flyers.

TCC treasurer Richard King loaded his silver and blue *Okafied Technology* with a J570 for what should have been a somewhat routine (for Richard anyway), yet exciting flight. After a beautiful liftoff and burn the nose of the rocket drag-separated, ripped out the anchor and zippered the airframe. Richard later commented that the damage wasn't that bad and it could easily be repaired. The up side?? He didn't have to pay Rose to retrieve his rocket ;-). Strike 1!



Richard King's Okafied Technology - Walker Photos

A bit later, past TCC President Rod Lovley readied his nicely detailed, red/white, 2.5" diameter *Don't Blink!* for flight. Loaded with an I435T to hammer it off the pad, the name was quite appropriate! Well, between liftoff and a blink later, the DB shredded into a large number of pieces. Strike 2!



Rod Lovley's Don't Blink - Walker & Wilkins Photos

Vito Orlandella of Auberry brought down a nice custom built upscale of the old Estes *Astron Cobra*. The old Cobra was a 3-engine cluster, I believe, and Vito held to tradition by powering his 4" by 57" white rocket with 3 H210 Redlines. Vito constructed the "motor can" to be removable, thus allowing cluster or single motor flights. Very nice!!

This was gonna be cool! All 3 motors lit together and the bright white Cobra rose on 3 bright red flames. Early photos would later show that there was trouble from the start. Photos and later discussion with Vito suggests that 1 motor suffered an aft o-ring failure and burned into the adjoining motors, causing all 3 to fail and sending the rocket into some wild gyrations. All 3 motors were trashed, but once again, the remains of the rocket appeared repairable! Strike 3!



Vito Orlandella's Cobra - Walker & Wilkins photos

Next at bat was Dave Raimondi of San Jose. Dave brought out his Level 3 rocket, *Insanity*, and loaded it with a K700 for a home run of a flight. The 94" tall *Insanity* lifted off with a smokey roar and recovered via dual deployment controlled by a GWIZ LC800 and MCI. Take THAT!!



Dave Raimondi's *Insanity* - Walker photos

Dave also flew his scratch built, sparkly colored *Dragon Fly* on an H242 in a drag race vs. Cliff Sojourner's green *Dragon Fly Crayon* on an H238.



Cliff Sojourner vs Dave Raimondi *Dragon Fly* drag race. Norton & Walker photos

Chris Raimondi got in a measly 4 flights (just kidding, Chris usually out-flies most everyone) with his *F15 Eagle*, *Onyx*, *Big Daddy* and *Megalodon*.

Cliff Sojourner's nicely detailed 60" *Pershing II* lifted off on a J350W for a realistic liftoff and ride up to apogee. Don't ya just love those scale rockets! Electronics were a Big Bee tracker and

Beeline GPS. Cliff also launched his *Arreaux* on a G64 and his *Redliner* on an E9.



Cliff Sojourner's *Pershing II* - Norton & Walker photos

Cliff teamed up with son Aidan to fly a white *Nike Smoke* on an I161 with a Big Bee tracker on board.

Tracy's James Marino hauled out his *Babylon Sister* for yet another in a long line of its many successful flights. This time the BS flew on a J90W moon burner for a really long burn. Altitude was not reported but must have been really high!! Recovery was done by a GWIZ LCD 800.



James Marino's *Babylon Sister* - Walker & Wilkins photos

Sporting an identical J90W, Mike Smith flew his 4" by 21" Polecat *Fatman* with a rare paint job of red and yellow. Utilizing motor ejection, Mike was in for a walk, but seemed to have little trouble spotting his rocket's touchdown (wait, that's football). Nice Mike!



Mike Smith's Goblin - Walker photos

Merle Heggen patched up Jack G.'s old black *Nike Smoke* (now a bit shorter) and packed it with a J180 and a PerfectFlite altimeter for a nice pinch hitter flight to 2188 feet. Merle also flew his Green Goblin on an I600 (wow!) to an altitude of 4794 feet and his upscaled Guardian on an I435 to 2433 feet.



Merle Heggen's Nike Smoke - Walker photos

Fresno's Jim Norton had a big hit into the outfield with his 78" *Nike Smoke* flying on a J400 with recovery handled by Perfect Flite and a Big Red Bee for tracking. Jim kept on swinging as he launched his *BSD 38 Special* with an I218, a *Stormcaster* on a D12 and a *Bull Pup* on a C6-5.



Jim Norton's BSD 38 Special - Walker photos

Steve Sawyer debuted his all new, 6 foot tall, carbon fiber *Ion Drive* for a beautiful flight on a J540R. Recovery systems were an AltAcc2 and a PerfectFlite 45K. Steve later reported that the Ion Drive went "a mile plus 2! 5282 feet!" Sweet!



Steve Sawyer's Ion Drive - Wilkins & Walker photos

With his Aerotech kit dubbed *Scarab II*, Tanmay Bangalore of San Jose made 2 flights with his green and gold 56" rocket on a G77-7R and a G64-7W.



Tanmay Bangalore's Scarab II - Walker & Wilkins photos

Dan Best of Fresno flew his 18", red and gold #1 rocket 5 times on a myriad of B's and C's.

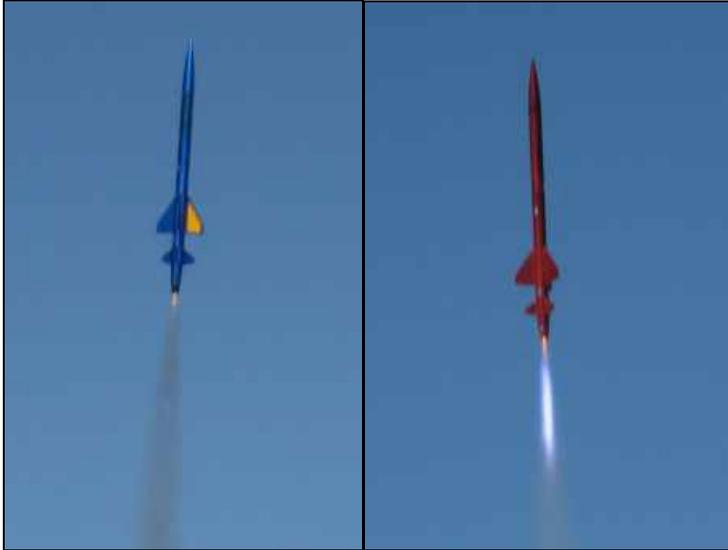
Ty Bustamante of Saratoga launched a gold *Zinc* rocket on an F25 and the *Golden Eye* on an F50.

Justin Gee of Los Gatos flew a grey *Robert* rocket powered by a G77-7R and the black and white *I Don't Know* on a G64.

Fresno's Wil Kisse hit 3 singles for the day. One was his 48" *Pinky* rocket on an H400, one was his custom built *Gray Goose* powered by a G186 and

his 68" *Stretched 1/4 Patriot* rounded out the trio with an I205 Cesaroni for power. All had good flights!

Mark Lawrence was flying a pair of Giant Leap *Talons*. His 4' blue *Talon 2*, motivated by an H275, had a good flight on motor ejection. However, Mark's *Talon 3* was another of the rockets ejected from the game by the rocket gods. The 6' *Talon* lifted off on an I435 but quickly shredded into confetti.



Mark Lawrence's Talons -Wilkins photos

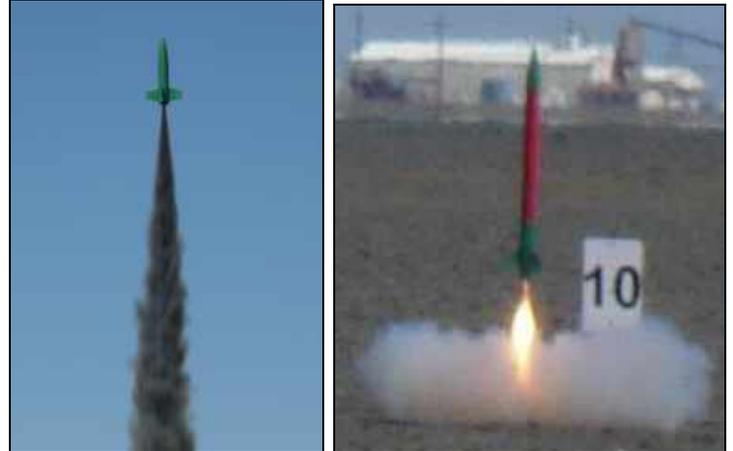
Spencer Lynch of Campbell got a triple with his silver and blue *Silver Streak*, flying twice on F42's and once on a G64.

Just joining the TCC team were rookies Mitch and Emily McMeen. Mitch made 3 successful flights with his 12" *USAF X-15* on C6's and Emily got in 2 flights with her 16" *Speed Freak*, also on C6's. Welcome aboard! Remember, no spitting on Coach Maddox's field J.



The Mc Meen's rockets at the ready - Walker photos

Rick Miller of Kerman joined in the Goblin mania that has gripped the TCC ranks lately by flying his 4" green *Goblin* on an I364. Rick also had a nice flight with his green and red LOC kit named *Skipper* powered by an H128.



Rick Millers Goblin and Skipper - Wilkins & Norton photos

Norm Newlon of Santa Clara got on base with a single flight of his orange *Minnie Magg* with an I211 for boost and motor ejection.



Norm Newlon's Minnie Magg - Walker photos

Nicky, Jessica and Mike Parker of Los Gatos batted change-up (name-wise?). Nicky flew red and white *Bob I*, *Bob II* and *Bob III* on E15, F26 and G40 motors respectively. Jessica flew her 2-stage *Fred* with a D12-0 in the booster and D12-7 in the sustainer, and also had time to fly red/white *Steve* on a G77 and *Popsicle* on a G44. That left Mike to fly *Frederick*, also red and white, on an F25 and *Unpronouncable* on a G40. J



The Parkers ready for one of many flights - Walker photos

The Pucketts of Fresno paired up to fly Charlie's blue *Aura* twice, F37 and G104, and Bill's red *Dart* once on a G79.



The Puckett's Red Dart - Wilkins photos

Sunnyvale's Robert Stone kept the infielders guessing with 5 different rockets. His *Streak*, *High Flyer*, *Athena* and *Destroyer* all flew on C6 motors and his *Robert's Rocket* went up on a D21 for a good flight.

Edwin Vonderbeck of Hanford bunted to get on base for a single with his white *Mr Ed* rocket on an A motor.

Relative new flyers here at the dairy, Kade and Kaisyn Watts of Fresno racked up 5 flights. Kade flew his *Skywriter* once on an A8 and twice on C6's and Kaitlyn's blue *Sizzler* went up twice using A8 and C6 motors.



Kylee Heggen helps prep the Watts' Skywriter

Well, that's just a brief rundown of the day's flights. Dairy Aire is just around the corner and we're all getting a bit frantic about getting those special projects done. So long! ~GW

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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THANKS!

Steve Sawyer with his Ion Drive Unit on a J540R to just over 1 mile.



Photos submitted by Steve Sawyer



Brett Wilkins Photos



Brett Wilkins Photos





Jim Norton Photos

Gary Walker Photos





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