

Central Valley Rocket News

TRIPOLI CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

Serving the Central California Chapter of the Tripoli Rocketry Association - MAY, 2004



RSO ready for flyers - Photo by S. Montalvo

This issue of the Central Valley Rocket News may look a little different to you. In an attempt to keep the CVRN current, this issue is being compiled and published by Gary Walker, Tripoli Central California member and "photographer". That's me. While I don't have the same publishing software that Mark Canepa uses, every attempt is being made to follow Mark's format if possible (why mess with what works?) When Mark's schedule allows, his steady hand will once again wield the reigns of CVRN. Thanks! -GW

GOOD NEWS for HP Rocketry

Take a look at www.rocketryonline.com and bring up the article dated April 26, 2004. It says in part "Hobby rocketry received some major relief from the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. last Thursday. On April 22, 2004, Judge Reggie Walton agreed with NAR/TRA's interpretation of his recent order our court case. Judge Walton said that the 1994 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives exemption granted to hobby rockets as "propellant actuated devices" (PADS) remains valid.

This means that unless and until BATFE properly promulgates a rule rescinding the 1994 PADS exemption, fully assembled rocket motors are propellant actuated devices under the law and are exempt from regulation by BATFE." There's a lot more to read including a copy of counsels interpretation of the ruling communicated to the U.S. Attorney's office. ~Jim Abrames



The CRAP SHOOT heads for 8000 ft on a K700
Photo by Sam Montalvo

April 18, 2004 Launch Report

King & Vielbaum Team Up for Record Attempt!

Those attending the April 18th launch got to witness a shake-down flight, to 8000 feet, of Gary Vielbaum's beautiful 9'5", 4" dia. Crap Shoot on a K700P. Gary is teaming up with Richard King for an attempt on the 'N' powered altitude record later this year at the BALLS launch in September at Black Rock, Nevada. The electronics compliment is quite loaded, as one would expect. ALT ACC, GWIZ, ADEPT, GPS Flight, and Walston Tracker.

Here is a brief description of the project provided by Richard King...

"I worked out the motor construction requirements with Paul Robinson of Animal Works. He makes the Gates

brothers' motors. This motor is a 4" diameter (as opposed to 98mm) that is supposed to be "100% N" as opposed to the Aerotech N2000 that weighs in at 29% N. The approximate burn time is 9 seconds - about three more than Aerotech's. I wanted a motor that could significantly deliver more thrust than the N2000 in an airframe that is only slightly larger in diameter than it's predecessor."

"My first N powered rocket was named "Gamblin Money Aint Got No Home." It still holds the N motor record. Gary and I wanted to break that record using the same tower, same date/place, and same gambling theme, hence the name "Crap Shoot." Gary built the rocket to agreed upon specs and I agreed to supply the tower and motor. At this year's Balls launch we hope to break 40K". ~ Richard King



Gary Vielbaum & Richard King prior to launch.
Photo by Gary Walker

Certifiable Rocketeers

This month's launch saw 5 successful certification flights!

LEVEL 1 FLIGHTS

Larry Hobbs, of Bakersfield, made his successful L1 flight on his second attempt of the day. His first launch with his *BSD Canadian Sprint* on H148R had a problem with deployment of the chute, but Larry came back later with his *California Kid* and made a great flight on an I285 Redline.



Larry Hobbs with his BSD SPRINT - GW Photo

Brett Wilkins flew his brand new orange/silver *Explorer* on an H180 to certify with a very smooth flight..



Brett Wilkins with his EXPLORER -GW Photo

LEVEL 2 FLIGHTS

Gordon Balena returned to the dairy with sons J.P and Nicholas to fly his beautiful 77" white *Jumanji* on a J275 for a flawless flight to garner him a Level 2 certification.



Team Balena with JUMANJI! - GW Photo

Vito Orlandella, of Auberry, certified L2 using a J135 in his all white *Black Brant X*. That J135 just kept going & going...



Vito Orlandella and BLACK BRANT X
Photo by Sam Montalvo



Jeff Raice teamed up with his son Jordan to certify L2 with a mean-looking yellow *Warlock* on a J350. I just love those short stocky looking rockets!



Jeff & Jordan Raice - GW Photo

Mike Smith, of Fresno, passed the L2 written portion and will return at a later date to make his L2 flight. Good Luck Mike!



Richard King contemplates combining an 'N' motor with his fiberglass BIG DADDY project.
GW Photo

High Power Flights

One of the earliest arrivals of the day, Jack Garibaldi of Stockton, made a couple of flights on Cesaroni power. His 67" black & white *ARMY ONE* went up on a Cesaroni J330 and his 75" red/blue *SkunkWorks 5.5"* diameter *G-Money* on a Cesaroni J380, both with motor ejection. Jack also launched a LOC Onyx kit dubbed the *Blue Goose* on an Aerotech G80.

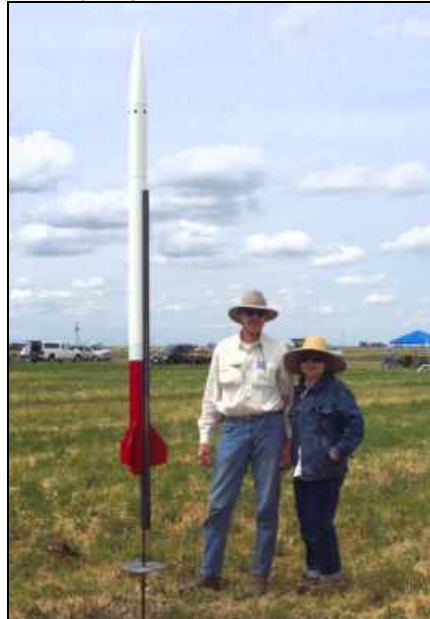


Jack Garibaldi's G-MONEY - GW Photo

Duncan McDonald got the crowd's attention when he appropriately asked for everyone to keep an eye out for his 65" 54mm dia. custom-built *Root For The Chute*. Going up on a J570 with G-Wiz electronics, Duncan estimated the flight to peak out at 13000 feet! Unfortunately, the chute didn't deploy but the rocket came down in a gentle flat spin. Several keen-eyed observers were able to track the rocket to a watery SPLASH DOWN in an adjacent field only a few hundred yards from the crowd.

As a side note, Duncan wasn't the only rocket to come down in a flat spin during the day. I counted 4 that I personally saw. There may have been more. Is this a new recovery system trend that is being explored? Maybe.....?

LUNAR member, Joseph Heckenbach of Martinez, came down to fly his custom built white & red 4" dia. *JOMAMA* on J460 and dual deploy utilizing an ALTS25 & DDCS, his 73" *Certifiable* on an I284 (motor ejection), and his 3" dia. blue & yellow custom *Dragonfly* on an H128. [PS... How many of you caught the episode of "Tactical to Practical" on cable/dish this month featuring LUNAR in a rocketry segment??]



Joseph & Judy Heckenbach's JOMAMA - GW Photo

In addition to his 2 flights to certify at Level 1 (see previous page), Larry Hobbs of Bakersfield also flew a 6'6" PML *Sudden Rush* on an I161W with dual deployment duties handled by a Missile Works Co-Pilot.

In addition to his Level 2 certification flight, Gordon Balena made another smoky flight with his 4' white *Warlock* on an I357 and returned under chute to nearly land on the LCO table.



Gordon Balena's JUMANJI - GW Photo

Clovis's Kyle Bearce mixed it up in the high power and model categories. Kyle flew his 53" purple/blue *Tethys* on an I211, "Okie Chrome" *G-Force* on an H180, "sparkly" Estes Flash on C6-5 and rounded it out with an Estes Max Trax on C6-7.



Kyle Bearce & David Edwards - GW Photo

Campbell's Thomas McLachlan, a regular here at the dairy, flew his 72" blue & silver custom *Silver Bullet* on I161 for a great flight, his gold & black LOC *Tomahawk* on G80 and his 5'10" yellow/black custom *Arrow 3.0* on an I211. In a very unusual occurrence for Tom, the *Arrow* had a deployment failure.

While he spent most of the day helping out with photographer duties Sam Montalvo prepped and flew his beautiful blue & white *The Great Wabba* on an I284 with Missile Works altimeter on board. Nice flight and nice pictures. (see Sam's pictures on page 6) Thanks Sam!

Chuck Clarke flew his PML *BullPuppy* on a G64-7 and once on an H180.

Gary Dwyer of Cupertino made a single flight with his 42" white *Screamer* (West Coast Rocketry kit) on an H128 sporting dual deployment with an Adept ALTS-2.

Sunnyvale's Norm Newlon made a nice flight with his highly visible 3-foot tall, 6" dia. bright orange *Mini Magg* on an I211. Beautiful launch Norm.

Vito Orlandella of Auberry warmed up his 9'6" tall, 4" white PML *Black Brant X* with a flight on an I284W before making his successful L2 flight

on a J135. Congratulations on 2 great flights Vito.

The father and son team of Jeff & Jordan Raice, of Los Gatos, made a real showing with 4 launches throughout the day. As is mentioned above, Jeff & Jordan made a successful L2 certification flight with their LOC *Warlock* on a J350 and motor ejection. They also flew their impressive yellow & black *BSD Thor* on an I161, Jordan's 46" tall purple PML *Callisto* and Aerotech *Mustang* on G35's.



According to Jeff, Jordan (12) is the "rocket builder" in the family. "Jordan built his level 1 (*BSD Thor*) and level 2 (*Loc Warlock*) rockets completely by himself (with my supervision, of course ;-)) And those are just some of the rockets he's built and flies, including his *Initiator*, *Mustang*, *G-Force*, *Callisto* and *Graduator*. He loves to build rockets, when he's not working on *Rocsim* "

Between helping his son Mikey get his rockets flying, Mike Smith of Fresno made a nice single flight of his red 81" scratch-built unnamed rocket on an I285 Redline. Mike is expected back soon to make his L2 certification flight attempt.

Fresno's Brett Wilkins backed up his Level 1 certification flight with another flight of his 47" silver/orange PML *Explorer* on another H180. Don't ya just love how those 180's BLAST off the pad!!



Mid-Powered Flights

James Cole of Fresno made one flight of a LOC *Beta* on an F20-7W and followed that up with 2 flights of his white Estes *Amraam* on C6-3's.

Brian Dalby was on hand again with a black Aerotech *Mustang* launched on a G80, a blue *No-Name* on a D12, and a red & blue *Cork Screw* on a C6-5.

Making single flights in the mid-powered range were Nicholas Homan flying his yellow *EZ-65* on a G75J and Matt Vieira putting up a lengthened Aerotech *Initiator* on a G64-7.

Dave, Dominic and Anthony Morini (father & sons) of Fresno returned this month to fly their reliable Aerotech *Strong Arm* on G35-7W and F21-8W motors and a Quest *Genesis 2000* on an A8-5.

Fellow amateur astronomer Greg Morgan of Fresno brought out his newly scratch built, cluster powered, *Pip-Squeak* for 2 flawless flights on pairs of E9-4's. Greg plans on returning for the Dairy Aire launch to fly on a pair of F21's.



Jim Abrames COKE BEAR leaves the Estes Pad

Model Rockets

Tying for 1st place in the Frequent Flyer category were Bobby Wright of Pacific Grove and Kyley Heggen of Fresno.

Kyley flew 6 different rockets for 8 flights. Kyley flew a green & pink Estes *Fat Boy* on C6-3's (3 times), a camo Estes *Stormcaster* on a C11-5, a white Estes *Bullpup 12D* on a C6-5, a yellow/orange *Sam-X (2-stage)* on a C6-0 & a C6-7, a red/yellow/blue Estes *Gemini DC* on a C6-7 and a purple/white *Baby Bertha* on a C6-5.

Bobby flew no less than 7 different rockets for 8 total flights. They included an Estes *Alpha III* on a B6-4, a black Estes *Executioner* on E9-4 (twice), a blue Estes *Comet* on a D12-3, a silver Estes *Bullet* on a D12-3, a yellow Estes *Maniac* on a D12-5, a red *no-name* Estes on B6-4, and a silver & red modified Estes on an A8-3. Wow!

Lance Wright flew an Estes P.G.1 on a D12.

Tripoli Central California's new Equipment Chairman and trailer organizer extraordinaire, Jim Abrames, flew a reeealy coool red & white Coca Cola Polar Bear on a C6-3. Who says you have to fly HP to have fun! Jim also flew a 2' boost glider on a C6-3 after suffering a minor fire on the pad.

Mikey Smith of Fresno also kept himself prepping rockets all day. He launched his green Estes *Snitch* on a C6 and a B6, his *Big Daddy* on a D12-3, his Estes *Code Red* on a B6-4 and his white *Tiny* rocket on 1/2 A3-4T.

Other Fresno flyers were: David Botwin with his yellow Cosmic Cobra flown on C6-3's (twice) and a B4-4; Brad Duncan's black/orange Estes on B4-4 and B6-4; William & Jay Ratliff flew their black Quest Whiplash on B6-4's for 2 flights; Justin Rodriguez made 3 flights on C6-5's in his white Quest Aries.

Storm McNerney flew the venerable 29" Estes *Mercury Redstone* on a C6-3 and a *Big Daddy* on a D12-5.

George Morgan returned this month with his black *Big Bertha* for a flight on a B6-4 and his red *Red Rover* on C6-3. Inspired(?) by Jim Abrames' Coke Can/Bear rocket, George and his dad Greg created the *Mug Root Beer Soda Can of Doom* that made an "interesting" flight on an A10-T. I'm starting to see a trend here?



George Morgan prepares to launch the MUG ROOT BEER CAN OF DOOM - GW Photo

Brad Havens had an exciting 2-stage flight of his yellow *Quest Zenith II* on B6-0 & B6-4 and got 2 flights in with his silver *Estes Hi-Flyer* on a B6-2 and a C6-3.

Alden & Alex Moir of Sanger got 4 shots out of their red *Free Fall* on B6-4's and A.J. & Dustin Pippin flew their *Estes Chrome Domes* on B6-4's.



Members of Fresno's Boy Scout Troop 301
Photo by Gary Walker

Finally, Merced's Brandon Walker got in 2 flights with his red/yellow *Estes Fat Boy* on a D12 and his green *Estes Exoskell* on C6-3.

Well, if you've lost track by now, that totals up to 97 launches for the day. There were 27 high power launches and 70 medium/model launches and a total of 43 different rocketeers.

The motor break-down goes as follows:
1 ½ A, 3 A, 19 B's, 26 C's, 8 D's, 6 E's, 2 F's, 9 G's, 7 H's, 12 I's, 7 J's, and 1 K.

All in all, this was a VERY successful launch. We had a large number of flyers turn out and a lot of smoke put into the air. AHHH, the smell of APCP and BP in the morning!!

Our next launch, Dairy Aire 2004, the 5th launch of its' kind, is scheduled for May 14, 15, 16. I hope to see ALL of you there! ~Gary Walker



For those who don't recognize me, I'm the guy with the 49ers straw hat with the camera stuck to my nose. Photo by Sam Montalvo



Photo by Sam Montalvo



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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Thanks again to
Steve Maddox
and the Maddox
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continued
support!

April 18, 2004 Tripoli Central California launch at the Maddox Dairy



All pictures on this page courtesy of Sam Montalvo.

Photos by Gary Walker - walkergw@elite.net





More Feb. 15th Launch
Photos by G. Walker



Gary Vielbaum's *Crap Shoot*
Photos by G. Walker



Feb. 15th Launch Photos by Nathan Montalvo