

TRIPOLI CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
Central Valley Rocket News
Serving the Central Valley Chapter of the Tripoli Rocketry Association



Rod Lovley's Maddox Dairy Express

7th Annual Dairy Aire

May 19 - 21, 2006



Logo Courtesy of Rod Lovley and Alpha Graphics

7th Annual Dairy Aire May 19 - 21, 2006

Hi Everyone

I just wanted to thank everyone who came out to Dairy Aire for there support and help. All the vendors did a fantastic job keeping everyone supplied. Mr Ribs did a great job keeping food in our stomachs and the band rocked the dairy on Saturday night. Our new prefect Bruce Rohn worked his butt off with over 20 certification flights. Jim Abrames our equipment chair kept the pads alive all weekend.

Overall it was a fun weekend and we had many fantastic flights. It was really nice to see Steve Maddox push the button on Rod Lovely's picture perfect cow pattern painted rocket. Research (EX) day was one of our best turn outs. We also had the pleasure of having Gary Rosenfield, Carl Bowman, Tom Rouse, Frank Kodson all come out and fly and spend the weekend with us.

Thanks goes out to everyone who helped make it all happen, from set up to range duties to tear down. There is a lot of people to list so those of you who helped, you know who you are, thank you. Lastly a huge thanks for Steve Maddox because it all starts with him. Without the ground he lets us use, we can't fly our rockets.

Sincerely

Tripoli Central California
President
Jack Garibaldi



Friday (Research Day)

The early birds who arrived on Friday morning were greeted by a partially cut field of grain that was in the process of being harvested. TCC Equipment Chairman, Jim Abrames, was on site and already setting up the range although he had a short field to work with.

Arriving pick-ups, cars and trailers were dodging harvesters and grain trucks making their runs out of the field but no mishaps occurred as all were alert to the others presence.

The field was cleared and the range was completely erected and launching got going at just about noon. Although we got a relatively late start, the new "Research Day" policies allowing both EX and Manufacturer motors to be burned, probably accounted for the over 50 flights for the Friday afternoon. Quite a few more than our typical Friday EX launches.

First out to the pads was Eureka's Drew Gleason. He was stepping into the EX realm for the first time with some H and I-range sugar motors in a rocket dubbed UGLY EX. Upon ignition, the EX rose off the pad on a column of white smoke, but once the rail was cleared, the rocket rolled and spun rapidly before slamming into the ground. Undeterred, Drew would return.



Drew Gleason's UGLY EX - Photo by Gary Walker

The second flight was a little more stable. Rather than rolling, the rocket raced off in "cruise missile" fashion directly into the east end of the flight line where it disappeared through some insta-shades (Drew's own camp as it turned out! A homing rocket??). Uh Oh!! Luckily no one was hurt, and the dent in the side of my trailer is only superficial. ;-)

Next out was veteran EX flyer Jeff Proschold of Sacramento. Along with Adam Spohn they were flying the PRINGLES EXPRESS, a really cool looking rocket made up of green Pringles Potato Chip containers twice on SOD G60's. Jeff also flew a Sumo and a Big Daddy, also on SOD G's, a 40" EXPLORER on an I400, and his 4" diameter ASP on a SOD K1200 for a rip-roaring flight.



Adam Spohn with the PRINGLES EXPRESS



Jeff Proschold's ASP - Photo by Gary Walker

Chico's Geoff Huber lit up the skies with several different rockets and EX concoctions. One was a PML IO pushed skyward by a 3 grain G140 purple propellant and he followed that with a LOC V2, also sporting a purple H159. The purples were real cool!

But Geoff also mixed some green propellant. He flew a 4" Little John on a K1000 Fast Green propellant and supplied motors for some other fliers as well.



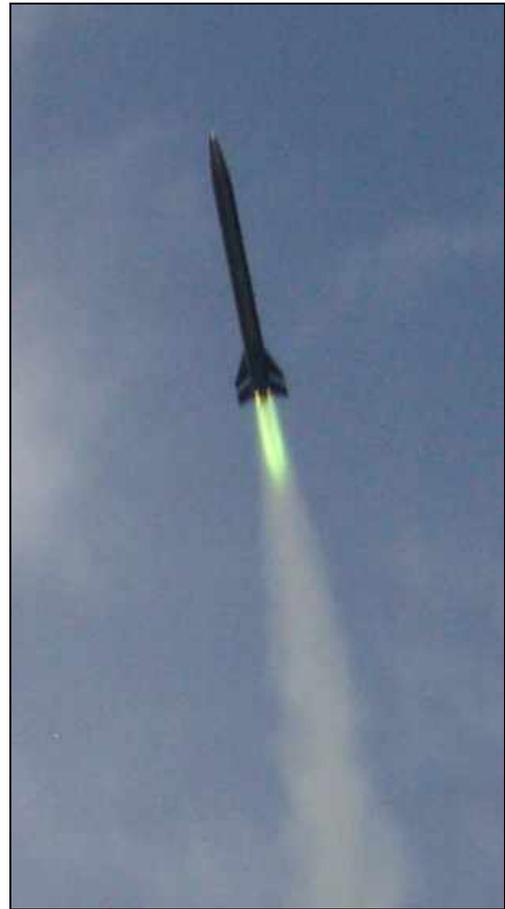
Geoff Huber, Jeremiah Henry and Dewayne Dowd prep the Endeavor

Most notable of those was the 9 foot tall ULTIMATE ENDEAVOR of Fresno's Jeremiah Henry. Geoff and Jeremiah packed the business end with a central K1500 and 3 outboard J800's. All Geoff Green motors. When the countdown reached zero, the rocket screamed off the pad on a bright green flame trailing from all the motors for a spectacular flight.

Jeremiah was also involved with Dewayne Dowd in flying a nice yellow and black DYNACOM V2 on a K820 Everclear.



Jeremiah and Dewayne ready the V2 - Gary Walker Photo



Jeremiah's Ultimate Endeavor on Geoff Green - Gary Walker Photo

In the red propellant category...San Jose's Gary Dwyer burned a Red J275 in his white 4" LOC EZI I using an Adept Alt 2 for dual deployment.



Gary Dwyer's EZI - Gary Walker photo

Also from San Jose, David, and son Chris, Raimondi, flew the sustainer from Dave's Quantum Leap II, sans the booster, on a J400 Wimpy Red to test some upgraded GWIZ MC's.



David and Chris Raimondi's Quantum Leap - Gary Walker photo

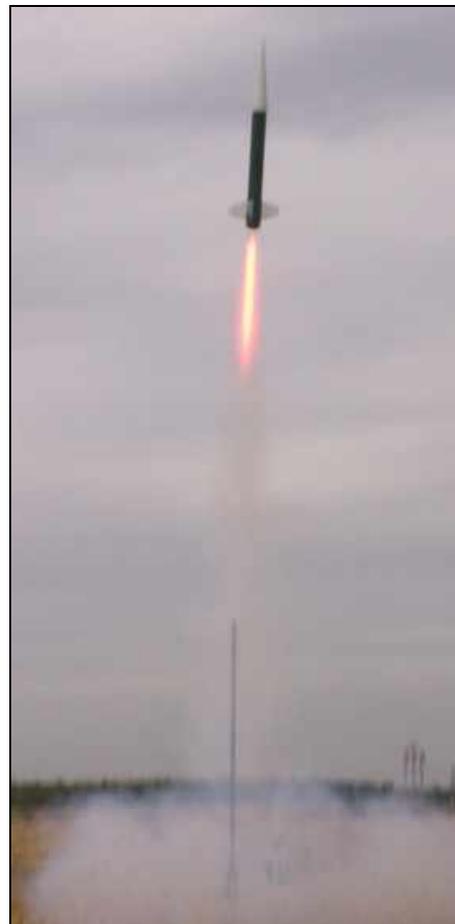
The father/son team of Jeff and Jordan Raice showed up in force making some really impressive flights over the weekend. On Friday they flew Jordan's green Polecat NIKE SMOKE on one of James Marino's L1200 Wimpy Reds. Most waited for an almost inevitable shred, but the SMOKE beat the odds and held together to make a number of other flights throughout the weekend.

A couple of the other flyers to burn the red stuff was Lowell Hart of Fresno flying a 65" tall minimum diameter rocket powered by a J360

and San Jose's Steve Kendall packing a K800 WR into his yellow and red MACH-UP.



Steve Kendall's MACH UP - Gary Walker Photo



Jordan Raice's Nike Smoke on a L1200 WR - Gary Walker Photo

Shawn Stephens burned a seemingly endless number of static sugar motors. All but one, if I recall, burned flawlessly.



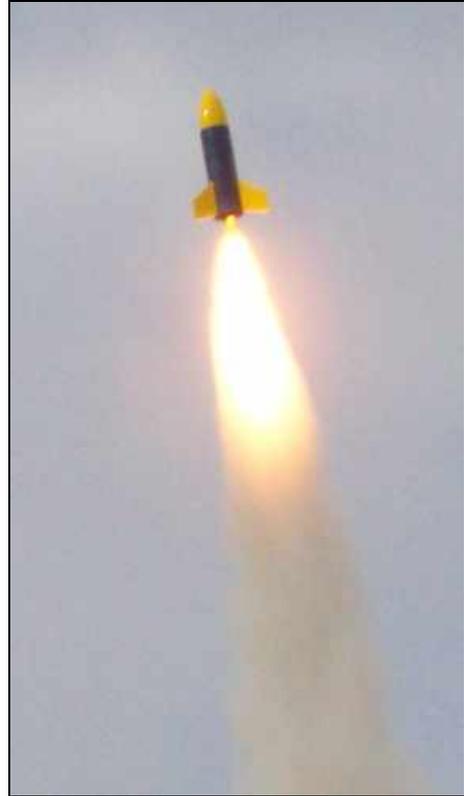
Shawn Stephens burying yet another motor for a static burn

Tracy's James Marino couldn't find a flyer for a 98mm Wimpy Red motor he was itching to burn, so he plunked it in the ground and did a static firing.



James with a "STILL HOT" motor after firing

Our very own Prez, Jack Garibaldi, flew his "little" 5.5 inch diameter Polecat FATMAN on a K550W for a real scorcher of a flight!



Jack Garibaldi's "little" FATMAN - Gary Walker Photo

Showing off some of his new POLECAT kits, Andy Woerner of What's Up Hobbies flew one of his new RAVENs on a new RCS I225 BlackJack demo motor and a stubby little GOBLIN powered by a J800 Geoff Green motor.



Andy Woerner with his new RAVEN

Mark Bosca was another flyer of the many demo motors supplied by the vendors. His 6 foot tall DRACKEN made a rapid ascent using an H669-Warp9 and carrying a Blacksky AltAcc2C and a Walston Tracker.



Brian Dalby assists while Mark Bosca loads the DRACKEN



The "away pad" was warmed up in style by Alameda's Mike Hobbs and Greg Davis with a V2 powered Jeep ;-). Just kidding! The V2 made a solo, without the Jeep, and the business end was packed to the hilt with an "M-something". The liftoff was straight and true, but at about 2000 feet, the V2 decided to live up to it's history and started a wide horizontal arc, apparently looking for a target! Luckily it headed toward the almond orchard to the north and slammed in under power! Whoa!



Mike Hobbs' and Greg Davis' V2 soars off the pad - Gary Walker Photo

Saturday

While Friday was a bit hazy and overcast, Saturday was clear and the skies were a bright blue! Perfect rocket weather!

I was late arriving to the launch on Saturday due to one of my son's Scouting Derby, but Ben Sandoval, Jim Norton and David Flournoy were kind enough to handle some photography chores and describe the action for me...

"Saturday morning started out sorta quiet for the people that camped out. But that was soon gone with all the people arriving and setting up camps along the flight line. Before long the whole flight line was full and a second row started to take form

All of the people had one thing in common, a smile of anticipation on their faces. They would not be denied! Even sometimes gusty winds couldn't slow them down.



Mark Canepa, Jeff Engelman and Carl Bowman? - Ben Sandoval Photo

The Vendors were all set-up ready to help accommodate any needs flyers had. The RSO table was busy all day. Big small fat and tall, they came one and all. There seemed to be more anticipation in the air than usual. I would attribute it to the lack of suitable conditions in the prior months."

~Ben Sandoval



RSO and Vendor area photos by Jim Norton

The rocket/motor vendors on hand were Larry Frieson's MOJAVE DESERT HIGH POWER, Andy Woernor's WHAT'S UP HOBBIES, and Scott Ulrey's JUST ROCKETS. Not only did they have their usual supply of kits, motors and accessories, they sponsored a BUNCH of flights by donating some of the new Aerotech line of motors! THANKS!!

Brett & Crystal Wilkins' CK's was also there to keep the flyers themselves fueled up between flights with coffee, snacks, snow cones and smoothies. Yummy!

LOC's Barry Lynch was on hand all weekend with his "now expected!" commemorative rocket kits and some new toys to while away the hours. He flew his new "Ready-To-Fly" COOL SPOOL numerous times on F and G motors. Spools ARE cool!

Also on hand was Aerotech's Gary Rosenfield, who got the bug and flew one of Barry Lynch's COOL

SPOOL's on a "G-Mystery Motor", and Frank Kosdon doing what Frank Kosdon does!



A smiling Frank Kosdon - Brett Wilkins Photo

There seemed to be more than the usual number of certification flights, even for a Dairy Aire, to keep our new TCC Prefect, Bruce Rohn, and other officials busy. It turns out that the Engineering group from Cal Poly- San Louis Obispo (SLO) was getting a bunch of the students certified for some upcoming projects, but they weren't the only ones, of course.

For Level 1, there was Gino Dennis, Tom Fetter, Doug Fielder, Laura Marino (Woo Hoo!), Marco Rose, and Ron Sherrill.

Level 2 certification flyers included Johnathan ?, Alexander Althougies, Paul Avery, John Cape, Martin Hall, Kris Hauert, Robert Tashjian, Kimball Tucker and Aurelio Villarenon.

Level 3 cert flyers were Paul Lane, of Rodeo, and Dave Kenyon. Dave made his cert flight with his 11 foot yellow ZOID packing an M1419 for power and PerfectFlight and GWIZ electronics with a digital camera on board as well.

Paul's rocket was a 10" by 5 foot Polecat kit named TARKUS powered by a Pro 75 M1400. Recovery electronics were 2 GWIZ's.



Dave Kenyon's ZOID - David Flournoy Photo



Paul Lane's TARKUS - David Flournoy Photo

At the other end of the spectrum, it was a real family affair at the Estes pads for the Gollos clan from Citrus Heights with Brian, Jack, Kate, Mollie, Jean and Sean all flying. What a great way to get the whole family involved!!

It was like that all day long as moms, dads, sons and daughters kept the launch pads smoking!

Always in the thick of the action are Lance and Bobby Wright of Pacific Grove. Bobby tried a record attempt, and Lance brought over his High School Rocketry Class

Lance later described their experiences. *"My rocket class students launched our MX-774 (with authentic paint scheme) to a height of 2,311' with a J350W. (It is designed to take up to a J570W) The 70" parachute carried it deep into the almond orchard, but we finally found it."*



Lance Wright's rocket class crew Drake Wilson, Kenta Nolin, Dillon Hoffman - photo by Lance Wright

"Bobby made another attempt at the "large model rocket G-motor" altitude record but came up short and the rocket also lost its parachute. The hard landing ending that rocket's short but exciting life - three attempts but no record.

Also always exciting are the clustered motor flights. Norm Newlon flew a cluster of 3 C6's in his DEEP PURPLE rocket as well a LOC FANTOM on a J350 and a real unusual SPUDNIK (Mr. Potato Head) rocket on an F52. Cool Norm!



Norm Newlon with his SPUDNIK - Ben Sandoval Photo

David Arrate of Elk Grove flew his silver, THE ULTIMATE on a pair of G64's and Orangevale's Jake Clark launched his EYE OF AN EAGLE on a cluster of E12's.

Paul Pittenger, one of our frequent flyers for the weekend, flew a trio of F21's in his custom built TRIPLE KISS. Paul had an awesome total of 18 flights over the entire weekend before heading home to San Mateo. A very busy rocketeer!



Paul Pittenger loads one of his MANY rockets - Ben Sandoval Photo

Right on his heels though was Fresno's Jim Norton with 13 total flights. What amazes me is that Jim

flies A's through J's and also takes a lot of photos for the club newsletter between flying rockets. I don't know how he does it! But THANKS Jim!



Jim Norton takes a break from photography - Ben Sandoval Photo

Saturday's biggest cluster was the mammoth 11 foot tall rocket of Jordan Raice. Striped red, white and blue, the 34 lb FREEDOM WON lifted off with a central K700 and airstarted 2 J400 outboards, at 4 seconds in, for a real exciting flight.



Jordan Raices's FREEDOM WON - David Flournoy Photo

Visalia's Ben Sandoval is really getting to be a permanent fixture at our launches. He flew his orange ANOTHER BAD PHOTO, a PML kit, on a demo I364FJ, supplied by AEROTECH and JUST ROCKETS, for a fast and smoky flight.



Ben Sandoval's ANOTHER BAD PHOTO - David Flournoy Photo

Along with flying rockets, Ben helps with RSO and LCO duties, takes photos and still finds time to help out the younger crowd. In addition to many others, he's been assisting brothers Dylan and Alden Rocha.

As Ben would later remark, *"Dylan's first rocket was his Loc Legacy on an H268R, straight up and never to be seen again. This did not slow down the brothers. Alden was next with his modified Onyx called BATSO. If you have ever seen this rocket you will know where it gets its name. After 3 flights they put up Dylan's' scratch built CENTERFORCE, another finely built rocket. These kids can build rockets!"*

Brian Dalby was another recipient of the sponsored demo motors. MOJAVE DESERT HIGH POWER provided an I225 to power Brian's red, 4 pound SUPER DEE. Brian also flew his FATBOY on an F20.



Dylan Rocha with his LOC LEGACY - Ben Sandoval Photo

SHORTY on an I205, an 8 foot MACH ITCH on an I435 and his green LOC MINI MAGG on a J285.



Drew Gleason prior to launching - Ben Sandoval Photo

Jay Easley made the trek up from Burbank to fly his PML BULLPUPPY on an H112, his orange PUMPKINHEAD on an I154 Blackjack and again on an I285 Redline, and lastly his red PML ECLIPSE on a J420.



Brian Dalby's SUPER DEE - Ben Sandoval Photo

The father/son team of Chris and Dave Raimondi were on hand once again. Chris flew a few Estes rockets and helped dad out with his X-CALIBER flying on an H242 and an I211. Dave also flew his QUANTUM LEAP II on a J460 with a GWIZ MC on board.



David and Chris Raimondi with the XCALIBER - Ben Sandoval Photo

After struggling a bit on Friday, Drew Gleason returned to fly a custom built 1.5" by 7 foot tall

Another team effort, this time the father and daughter team of Merle and Kyley Heggen, started out their weekend flying their brightly painted CIRRUS DART on a G67Redline on Friday, and continued into Saturday flying the DART twice on G61's. Merle flew his red 5.5" by 3 foot tall STUMPY powered by an I435 T and again on an I600R.



Kyley and Merle Heggen prep the CIRRUS DART - Ben Sandoval Photo

Bill and Sarah Puckett, another father/daughter team from Fresno, launched their purple and green LOC FANTOM twice on I284W and I300T power, a yellow and black CIRRUS DART on an H238 and Sarah's red and black SPEEDER with an H165 Redline.

Jeff Engelman's beautifully detailed, scratch built, 1/5 scale PERSHING II put in a rare and welcome appearance this year. The PERSHING looked just like the real thing as it roared skyward under the thrust of a K550W. To handle the recovery, Jeff installed an ADEPT altimeter and a back-up timer to deploy the 2 chutes.



Jeff Engelman's PERSHING II - Mark Canepa Photo

Winner of the "Consistently Cool Rocket Names" category just had to be Santa Rosa's Tom Purkhiser. He flew a 22" Aerotech rocket dubbed FROZEN SHOULDER on a G80, a 36" yellow and black KODIAK MARMASET on an I284, and his 72" Giant Leap kit named SMOKIN' ARMADILLA on a K695 Redline. Very original!

Also flying in the K's was Jeremy Clark of Orangevale who flew a multi-colored, 6 foot tall, minimum diameter PML kit named NIMBUS sporting a long-burn K185 for thrust.

After warming up on Friday with a couple of F-powered flights, Ken Biba of San Francisco, came back on Saturday to step it up. Ken's black and white HAIL CAESAR took to the sky with a K550W for motivation and a GWIZ MC, MC2 and a GPS Flight unit to track the flight and handle the recovery. Ken also flew his white and orange ALL IN with a K780 motor and the same compliment of electronics, plus a video camera!

To break the late morning routine, Tom Rouse just about set fire to the entire range when his test fired N-motor ripped away from his test stand, shot several hundred feet in the air and bounced across the field. I hear it really woke everyone up and rumors are that this may be added to the program each year ;-). Yes, Tom, you CAN come back!

Thanks to some vigorous footwork, the smoldering grain stubble was eventually subdued. A water truck was also called in to help wet down the area since some of the large rockets were also doing their part to set small fires in the field.



Some quick footwork to put out the fire. - Trevor Foster Photo

Continuing on, San Jose's Steve Sawyer flew his 6" by 8 foot blue, gold and red custom MULTI MAG loaded with a K550W and AltAcc2 and PerfectFlight altimeters. Steve also flew his purple WILDCAT on another of the I225 Black Max demo motors.



Steve Sawyer loads his MULTI-MAGG on the rail - Ben Sandoval Photo

Local rancher Mike Smith again flew his red and white MY MISTRESS, a Polecat NIKE SMOKE kit,

but the K700 catoed in mid flight sending pieces showering over the range. At least the nosecone came in for a soft landing. Mike did have a good flight with his 4" diameter TACO on a J415 Redline.



The remains of Mike Smith's MISTRESS - Gary Walker Photo

Also flying K's were Alan Thym of Newark, CA and Gary Vielbaum of Burlingame. Alan was flying his 8 foot, metallic blue ARIES, RDS kit on a K550W, and Gary flew his 6 pound, 6 foot THIRD TIMES THE CHARM on a K550. Gary's electronics bay was chalk full with a PRM II, AltAcc2, Timer2, CD3 and a Walston Tracker.



Gary Vielbaum loading up the rail - Ben Sandoval Photo

Jeff and Jordan Raice were tapped by Andy Woerner to fly another of his new POLECAT kits on display this weekend. Andy's 8 foot POLECAT HAWK, painted in a khaki green, was prepped by the Raices with an RCS L850 for a real smokey flight.



Andy Woerner's HAWK flown by the Raices - David Flournoy Photo

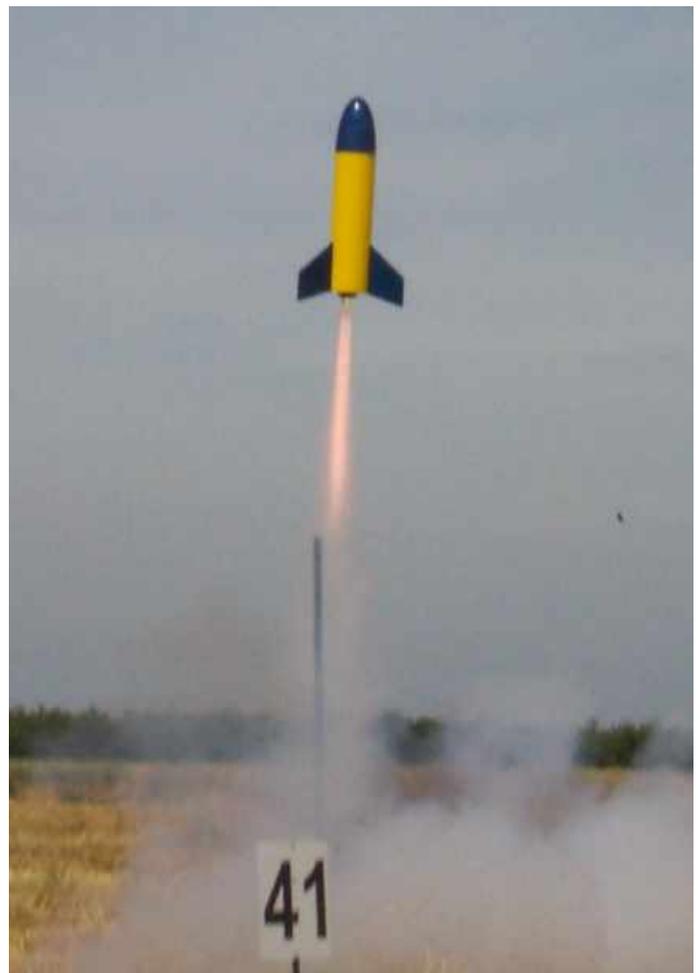
Hoping to improve on his Friday experience, Alameda's Mike Hobbs brought out his beautiful 8 foot tall GREAT GIG IN THE SKY to the away pad packed with a KOSDON L3500 1.5 second burn motor. Unfortunately the flight was even shorter than that as the L cato'ed on the pad, scattering pieces of the big rocket to the wind!

After his great flight on Friday with his 5.5" FATMAN on a K550, Jack Garibaldi upped the ante with his 10" diameter POLECAT FATMAN. The motor was a looong, looong burn (12.8 seconds) Cesaroni M795. The 50 pound rocket soared into the sky, going..., going..., going..., going...GONE! Jack would later comment, "I love those long burn motors, but there is a point where you just wish it would STOP BURNING!"

The FATMAN disappeared from sight and no one saw it come down, so Jack and company headed off to the south along its last trajectory in search of the rocket. They searched for several miles down range, but to no avail and Jack posted a reward for the finder of his rocket



Jack Garibaldi and crew with the FATMAN - Gary Walker Photo



The FATMAN on an M795 - Gary Walker Photo

Luckily, a few hours later, Rose Marino, either by skill or happenstance, spotted Jack's rocket in the top of an almond tree to the north of the range. Apparently, a high altitude wind carried the rocket back in the other direction. Needless to say, Jack was thrilled to get his rocket, motor casing and electronics back!

There were a LOT of great flights and super performances, but the launch that really stood out as the highlight on Saturday was that of past TCC President Rod Lovley's MADDOX DAIRY EXPRESS. All painted up like a black and white milk cow and sporting pink fins, Rod had flown this same rocket at the very first Dairy Aire in May of 2000 to get his Level 3 certification.



John Weigand and Rod Lovley pose with the MADDUX DAIRY EXPRESS - Alice Lovley Photo

"In conversations with Steve Maddox" Rod recalled, "I came to realize that he had NEVER launched a rocket! So, today when this thing is ready to fly, he's going to push the button." And that he did.



Lowell Hart and Steve Maddox launch the MDE - Alice Lovley Photo



Mr. & Mrs. Maddox and Rod, Lovley with the MADDUX DAIRY EXPRESS before liftoff - Gary Walker Photo

This was a really special moment. After all his years of supporting TCC and making these launches possible, Steve finally got his chance and launched Rod's 11 foot tall MDE on an M1325 for a beautiful liftoff! (See Cover Photo)

The up part was great, but there were some parachute packing issues that Rod later related, and the MDE came down hard with the nosecone dangling, but no chute. The upper tube was damaged, but it looked to me that it would fly again.

As launching frequency waned and the day wound down, attention turned to the evening program. The DAIRY AIRE launch is already a well known event, but, besides the huge gathering of rockets and rocketry enthusiasts, the Saturday night-life is becoming a real trademark of this great event.

Saturday Night Fever (NO, there was no disco music!!) included a keg or 2 of beer, thanks to Lowell Hart and Sequoia Beverage, for the adult crowd and a great meal of BBQ Ribs and Chicken for dinner supplied by Mr. Ribs of Fresno. To top off the evening with musical/dancing entertainment, the TRE TOSH BAND played blues and vintage rock music for at least 3 hours while some danced, some sat and listened, and the youngsters ran though the field with light sticks, played ball and generally had a good time! It was WAY COOL!!



ELMO joined the band for one song!



Ahhh! Time to relax!



The TRE TOSH BAND



Duane Uhl follows along playing AIRE ROCKET!

SUNDAY

Upon waking on Sunday morning, it was evident that the weather was closing in. We had a high ceiling of clouds with more menacing looking rain clouds closing in. There was a sense of urgency for those planning to fly if they were going to beat the rain!

We were also greeted by the site of a large rocket on the away pad. Jake and Jeremy Clark were prepping their 12 foot multi-colored SOLAR STORM for an early launch on a Hybrid Contrail L2525. It launched soon after 9am, emitting that distinctive hybrid buzzing sound. The STORM made a great flight into the gray sky and recovered via ARTS and PerfectFlight altimeters.



Jake and Jeremy Clark's SOLAR STORM - Gary Walker Photo

Merced's Gary Walker and Visalia's Ben Sandoval, (a.k.a. *Ben and Gary's I-Scream Rocket Team*) spent the morning quickly prepping their DEF DADDY EXPRESS. This was an extended version of their DEF DADDY flown at the last October Skies on a J540Redline. Standing at just over 5 feet tall and 6" in diameter, it would lift off on a J540 Redline and a pair of XAVIEN Cluster Motor Igniter boards would fire 4 outboard H128's upon sensing liftoff.



Gary Walker and Ben Sandoval with the DEF DADDY - Eric Estes Photo

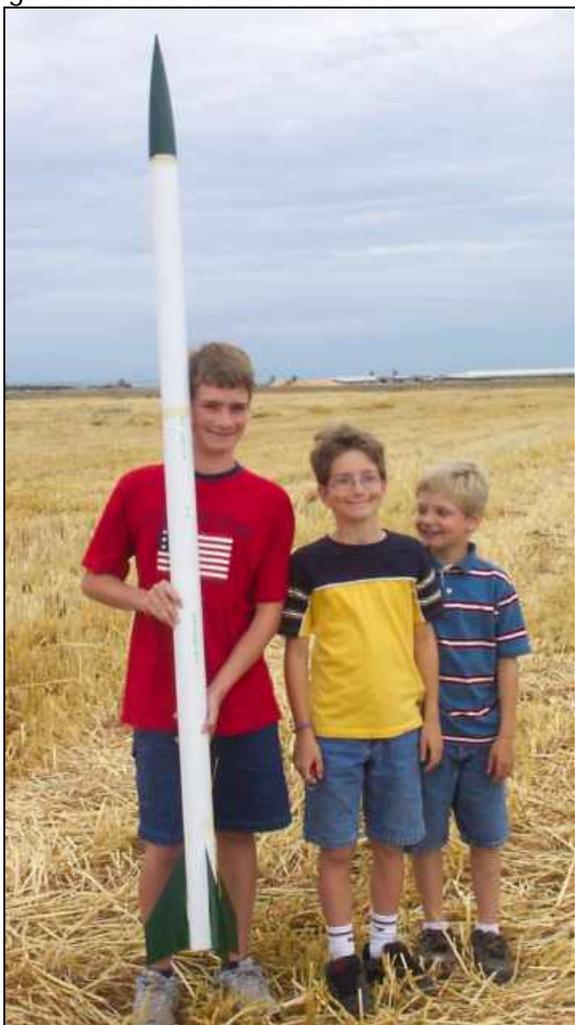


DEF DADDY EXPRESS leaves the pad on 5 motors - Mark Canepa Photo

Later photos would show that the electronics worked great and that all 5 motors were burning before the rocket even cleared the rail. Unfortunately, in their haste to get prepped, some o-rings were switched and one of the H128's burned out a huge hole between 2 fins, pouring flames out the side of the rocket.

Luckily, other than a ruined motor casing and some other localized damage, the rocket held together and the flight went on as planned with dual deployment recovery handled by a Missile Works RRC2X. It could have been worse!

Representing the McSwain 4H Rocketry group in Merced were Eric, Sean and Steven Estes (No relation to Vern that we know of...). They would fly their 4H group project for its first time up. It was an AEROTECH MIRAGE flying on a G80T. The flight was successful with the exception of some tangling of the 2 parachutes and a chipped fin on landing. The boys also flew a variety of other rockets that they had brought and had a GREAT time.



Eric, Sean and Steven Estes with their 4H MIRAGE - Gary Walker Photo

In another cool air-start, long time flyer here at the dairy, Kevin McGrath of Los Gatos flew a LOC MAGNUM with a central J460T firing off the pad and air-starting 2 H97J's. He also launched a unique clustered, 2-stage LOC VIPER 3! The booster fired off 3 D12's and it staged to a sustainer with 3 E9's for a real cool flight! Wow!!

Connor of Santa Clara also flew a cluster of 3 E9 motors in his LOC VIPER 3 as well as flying his 53" PINK EYE on a H242.

Scott Christiansen of Los Osos would fly his PURPLE PETE, a Dynacom Python rocket, on a K550W and a radio beacon for tracking.

Burbank's Jay Easley returned to fly a K1100 in his 6 foot, red JORDAN for a good flight with a CoPilot ejecting the mains at about 600 feet..

Jordan Raice seemed determined to keep his green NIKE SMOKE in the air on Sunday as much as it was on the ground! Hi flew it on a K550W, a K695 Redline and a K1100 for 3 great flights! I wonder if you can actually wear out a rocket??



Jeff and Jordan Raice's NIKE SMOKE - Jim Norton Photo

Many other flyers also crammed the pads on this last day of another Dairy Aire, but by about 2 pm, the clouds were getting thicker and most folks were tearing down their camps and heading out.

The launch was called to a halt just in time. By the time the range was completely packed the sprinkles had slowly started and while a few of us were still folding up our gear it built to a heavy rain.

Even so, there were at least 136+ launches on Sunday. Saturday numbered almost 250 and with Friday's higher numbers, this was one of the largest Dairy Aire launches on record with nearly 450 flights overall. Probably many more, but that's the "official" flight card count.

Thanks need to be extended again to those stalwart members of Tripoli Central CA who planned and executed this 7th in the Dairy Aire series, and to all the other flyers and family members who helped out with set-up, tear-down, RSO and LCO duties. You know who you are!

Thanks again to Andy Woerner, Larry Frieson, and Scott Ulrey for supporting our launches with your extensive inventory and to CK's and Mr. Ribs for the fine food!

Thanks also to The TRE TOSH BAND for the great music and for taking a gig in the middle of a field on a dairy!

Finally, THANK YOU Steve Maddox! Your generosity is deeply appreciated by rocketry enthusiasts from one end of California to the other, and beyond! It couldn't happen without your support!

See you next time!
Gary Walker



By Sunday, we would let just about anybody RSO - Jim Norton Photo



A boost Glider lifts off the Estes Pads - Jim Norton Photos



Gary Walker staring off into space, as usual... - Trevor Foster Photo

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, check out our club hotline at 559-447-5888, or see our web-site at ...

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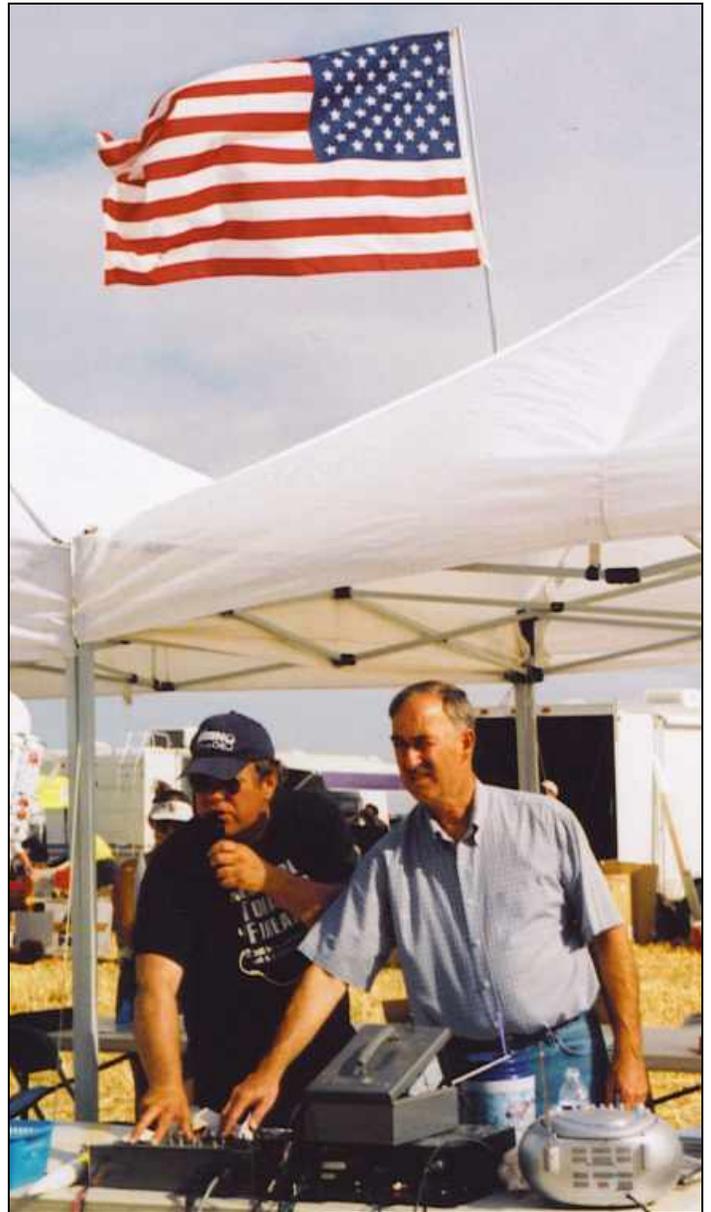
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Photos by Mark Canepa, David Flournoy, Alice Lovley, Jim Norton, Ben Sandoval, Brett Wilkins, Lance Wright, Trevor Foster & Gary Walker.



Rod Lovley Introduces Steve Maddox - Jim Norton Photo



THANK YOU STEVE!!



Photos by Ben Sandoval





Photos by Ben Sandoval





Photos by Ben Sandoval





Jim Norton Photos



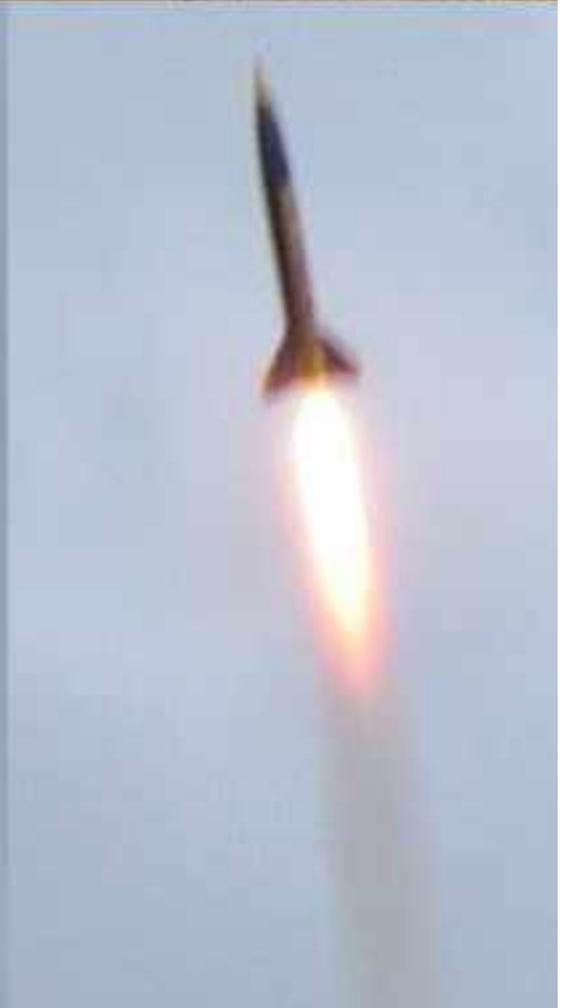


Jim Norton Photos





Jim Norton Photos





Photos by David Flourney





Photos by David Flourney



Photos by Lance Wright



Lance's Hopi-Forte drifts down right towards the LCO/RSO tent.

Kenta Nolin stands next to Lance Wright's Hopi-Forte



Bobby Wright prepares to launch his dual deployment Vulcanite

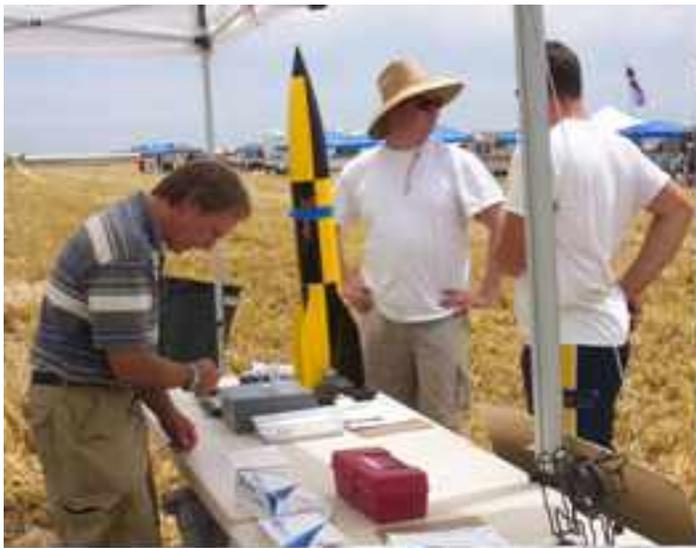


Bobby and his friend Graham Davis recover the Vulcanite. Hey, thanks for the loan of the shovel.



Gary Walker Photos





Gary Walker Photos





Gary Walker Photos



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Rocket event is a blast

100 models are fired into the skies over dairy land in western Fresno County.

By Sarah Jimenez
The Fresno Bee

HELM — Seven-year-old Sebastian Sutcheck eagerly hopped up and down before the launch of his rocket Sunday in a western Fresno County field.

Sebastian watched the 1-pound, 43-inch rocket shoot into the air, leaving a trail of white smoke. He peered to see when it would hit its peak and come down.

"Ohhhhh ... parachute's out!" Sebastian yelled.

But it was a few more seconds before he let out a second, louder sigh of relief as the parachute opened and the rocket floated back to the ground.

Asked later whether he was worried the rocket would crash, Sebastian confidently said: "No, I thought it would fly good, and it did."

Sebastian's rocket was just one of about 100 expected to take to the skies Sunday — the final day of an annual three-day event known as "October Skies," hosted by the Tripoli Central California

See **ROCKET**, Page B4



CRAIG KOHLRUSS/THE FRESNO BEE

Seven-year-old Sebastian Sutcheck gets help mounting his model rocket on the launch pad from his father, Paul, on Sunday.

Rocket: Models fired off

Continued from Page B1

Rocket Club.

The club is one of the largest in the Western United States, said its president, Scott Eakins of Clovis, with members from across California and parts of Nevada.

The club uses land owned by Maddox Dairy for its launching events. Single-day launches are held once a month, when weather permits. Another three-day event, "Dairy Aire," is held each May.

The area is ideal for launching because there is wide, open space, Eakins said. Rockets are allowed to fly 17,000 feet at the dairy.

The club operates 24 launch pads that have wires running to a control pad where rockets are set off.

Rockets vary in size and power — weighing anywhere from a few ounces to nearly 200

pounds and standing from a couple of inches to 20 feet, Eakins said.

This year was Sebastian's and his family's first time attending "October Skies." He and his parents — Paul and April Sutcheck — traveled from Petaluma in Sonoma County.

Paul Sutcheck said he built model rockets as a child but became interested in them again when his son was about 2 years old and received a starter kit for Christmas. The Sutchecks have built several models over the years. The largest project took eight months to complete; it weighed 150 pounds and stood 15-feet high.

Certification is required before rockets can be launched, said Nathan Montalvo, prefect for the club. The prefect inspects rockets and determines whether they are safe for launching.

Merle Heggen and his daughter Kyley, 12, joined the club about a year and a half ago. The father and daughter from Fresno started building rockets after Kyley joined a rocketry club affiliated with her 4-H Club three years ago.

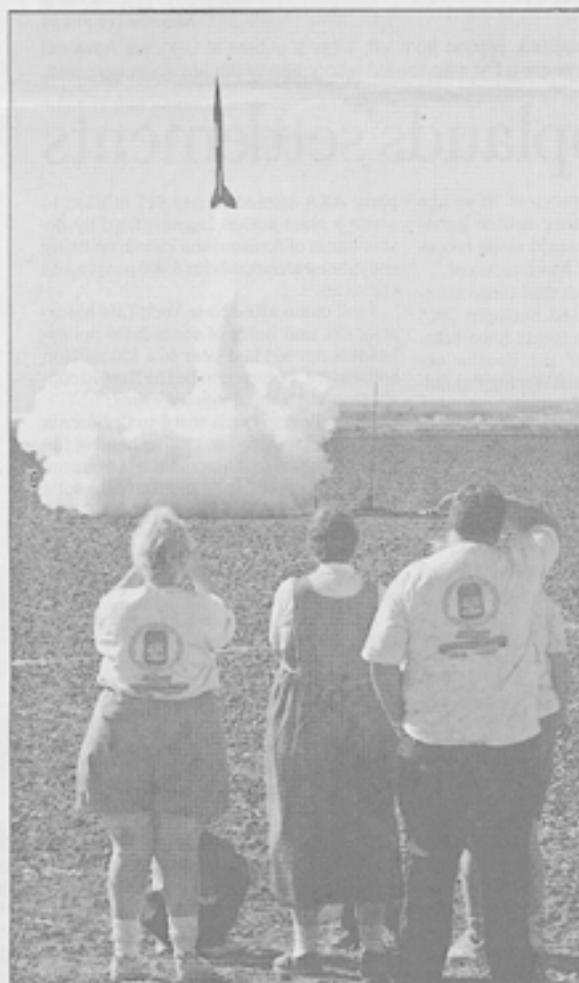
"I didn't really know much about rocketry, but then we came out here and it was a lot of fun," Kyley said.

The Heggens have launched about 20 rockets in the past three years — ranging from a small, starter rocket to a 6-foot, 7-pound project.

"There's a lot of anxiety when your rocket's out there, ready to launch," said Merle Heggen.

"But there's a lot of pride when it goes up and does what it's supposed to do."

► The reporter can be reached at sjimenez@fresnobee.com or (559) 622-2413.



Gary Vielbaum's Black Brant Aerotech L1120 32-pound rocket blasts off Sunday. Vielbaum, from Burlingame, has high-tech equipment aboard his rocket and can read actual altitude among other statistics.

Brian Dalby came across this article from the Fresno Bee in October.

It is dated Monday, October 17, 2005

Thanks for sharing Brian!