

TRIPOLI CENTRAL CALIFORNIA *Central Valley Rocket News*

Serving the Central Valley Chapter of the Tripoli Rocketry Association – November 2005



L.U.N.A.R.

INVASION

November 20 Launch Report

Our last launch of the 2005 season was a great one.

The set-up, tear-down and overall handling of the launch duties were performed by members of L.U.N.A.R. (Livermore Unit of the National Association of Rocketry.)

THANK YOU L.U.N.A.R.!!

That meant that the usual crew made up of TCC members and officers were FREE TO FLY!!!!

The weather was clear and calm, but there seemed to be some high altitude winds. Some of the higher flying rockets drifted off toward the main dairy and worker housing, making for some interesting rocket hunting.

I was helping one of my sons get some rockets in the air and was chasing down some rockets of my own, so I didn't take many photos.

However, Jim Norton, Jack Garibaldi and Lance Wright filled in to help with the picture taking. Thanks Guys!

With the close of the season, we have a chance to take a break and reflect on the launches of 2005 and plan for next year. As we do so, let's all extend a **BIG THANK YOU!** to **Steve Maddox** and the Maddox Dairy for providing such a great venue for our launches. Having such a large site on private land is a luxury that most clubs do not have.

Thanks also need to be extended to our regular vendors for helping to keep the rockets and rocketeers flying high.

[Brett & Crystal Wilkins of CK's](#)
[Larry Frieson of Mojave Desert High Power](#)
[/RocketMotion](#)

[Andy Woerner of What's Up Hobbies](#)

See you all next year!!

-Gary Walker

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 ...

www.tripolicentralcalifornia.com

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Photos contributed by Jack Garibaldi, Jim Norton, Lance Wright & Gary Walker.

As most of you know, Scott Eakins is leaving the position of TCC President. He has been a TCC Officer for many years now and deserves the chance to get back to flying. I'm sure he'll still be helping out though!

I know I speak for all of us in wishing Scott "HAPPY FLYING" and "THANKS!" for his years of service to the club.

Stepping into the Presidency is Stockton's Jack Garibaldi. Jack has been seen at all the pads, from the "Estes" to the "Away" pads, and has a seemingly permanent smile. Rocketry will do that ya know. Welcome Jack!

NOVEMBER LAUNCH STATS

47 Flyers

107 Flights

117 Motors Burned

3 A's, 10 B's, 16 C's, 15 D's, 5 E's, 16 F's, 16 G's, 12 H's, 10 I's, 8 J's, 6 K's

Flyer List

Mark Anderson
Jack Bankson
Matthew Cantu
James Cole
Jerry Cole
Brian Dalby
Robin Delancey
Gary Dwyer
Scott Eakins
Bob Engellenner
Jack Garibaldi
Jonathan Gordon
John Gross
Kyley Heggen
Merle Heggen
Norm Heiger
Mark Jackson
Mike Keene
Sarah Keene
Mark Lawrence
Kevin McGrath
Ryan Milavckas
Rich Miller
Richard King

Anthony Morini
Dominic Morini
Jim Norton
Ross Ohmen
Elizabeth Ohmen
Cole Pennington
Cathy Pettinicchi
Jessica Pettinicchi
Zach Pettinicchi
Paul Pittenger
David Raimondi
Alden Rocha
Dylan Rocha
John Sanders
Ben Sandoval
Craig Saunders
Mike Smith
Dale Soutas
Terry Swift
Brandon Walker
Gary Walker
Andy Woerner
Lance Wright

Thank You Steve Maddox!!







Jack Garibaldi Photos





Jim Norton Photos





Jim Norton Photos





Gary Walker Photos





Gary Walker Photos



Letters/E-mails to the Editor

Hi Gary,

Mike Smith here, the flight of my Smoke on a K-700 w. Here are the stats from the Black Sky Altimeter Altitude was 6635 FT. Max Vel. was at 889.12 Ft. Per Sec. WOW that's 606 MPH!!!!!! Came down about a mile away with one broken fin. Not bad for a ride like that. Hope you and the family had a Happy Thanksgiving, and a wonderful Holiday season awaits you and your family.

Mike Smith

Just a few notes on the equipment. We started off bad but then ended everything with a pretty good launch. The 150 ft Battery box has a broken box on top with the pluggins pretty shot too. Most of all the alligator clips need to be replaced, The battery cables are starting to get corrosion build up on them. With out going on and on basically we need to have an equipment clean up and repair party. So I am just throwing it out there and I will be glad to buy some clips and bring my soldering gun and wire brushes to get something going before our next launch. Maybe some ones house that is equally distanced for the majority of people or volunteers that would like to help. I know there were a lot of people fighting through it for the day. Any thoughts bring 'em on.

Jack G

Only flew the one "Okafied Technology" but it did go to 14,191 feet.

Interestingly, as I left the launch (without helping in the least, thanks to our hosts!) I thought I'd try to help Dale Soutas find his rocket in the hay stacks. Wandering around in the maze, I run into another rocketeer looking for his Mini Magg having no luck. I see this kid that lives in the worker's houses that tells me he saw one come down and brings it to me (Mini Magg). I thank him and give him two bucks as a reward (Rose has competition). A minute later, he finds me again and tells me he knows where another one is (Dale's). Dale's would never have been found, having landed in an extremely improbable spot. Kid scores another two bucks. Moral of this story? Probably a few, but that kid had been sitting atop those high hay stacks to watch the show. Nice resource!

Richard King

Richard,

... I think you might have the altitude record for our site, I really can't remember anyone recovering a rocket that went higher.

Scott

Gary,

Another great launch, nice to see you and the others get a chance to launch...

Jim N.

Hi,

When I was out looking for my lost Day-Glo Red LOC October Skies Special beyond the cow pens, I found someone's 18" red/orange nylon parachute. I can either bring it to the next launch or identify what's left of the shock cord and I'll mail it. email me off-list @ terryswift@malihini.com. Beautiful flying day.

Thanks LUNAR guys!

Terry

Hey all
I now have fraternal twins.

1. Original Estes Mosquito (on top of big Mosquito's Nose cone in case you didn't see it up there)
2. Upscale 5.5" Mosquito (Andy's Skeeter skit with some Carbon fiber layed on) Just in case I would like to stress it out.

Jack G



Hi Gary,

I am having fun teaching a rocket class on Saturdays to a small group of high school students. We are building a model of the MX-774 from a 5.5 inch LOC V-2 (R-2/ARO) kit. We have added a payload bay for a small altimeter and invertebrate biological payload (beanie babies). We hope to launch it in November on a big I motor or J350/420. I have attached a photo. We had fun learning the different between an Estes D motor and an N2000 (mock up of the casing used)!

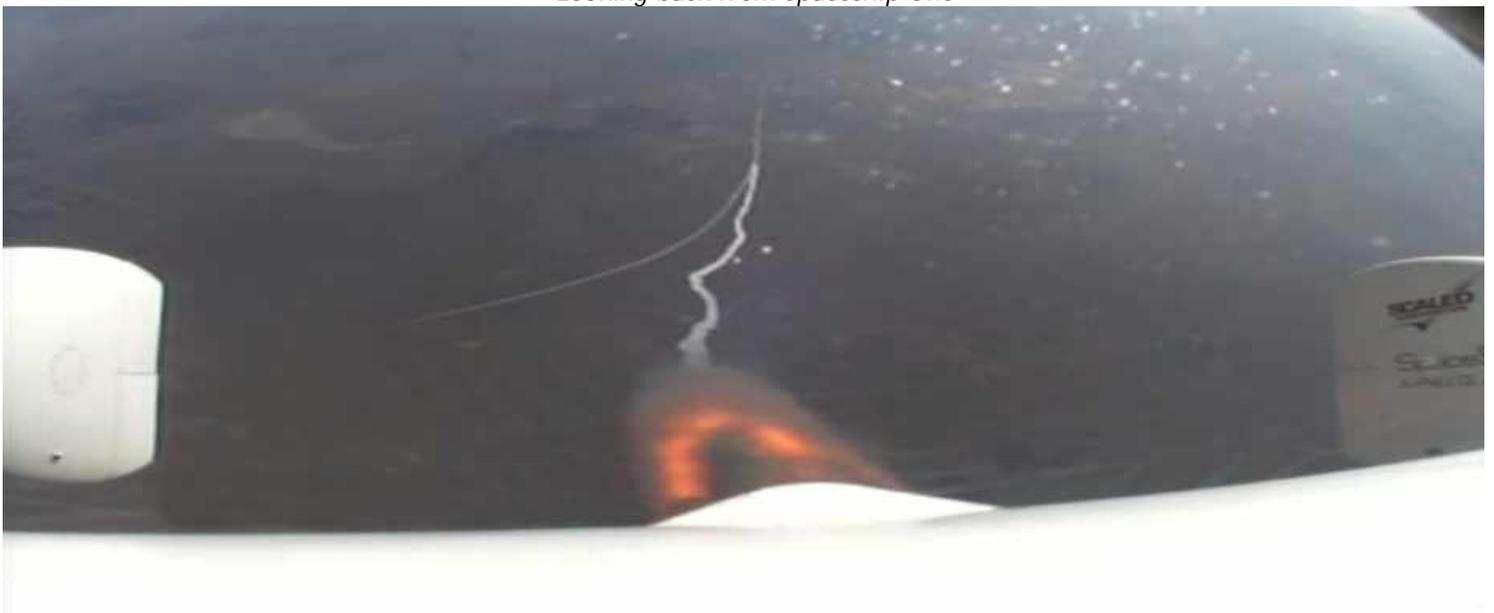
Best regards,
Lance

Gary,

I talked to Ben Sandoval, and told him we had added some red strips to Bad Daddy to complete the paint scheme. Over the winter, I will work on extending the motor tube to accommodate a K and learn more about igniters. It ain't over yet, Def Daddy.

Lance

Looking back from Spaceship One



The attached press release describes the group of students I brought to the November launch. They had a great time. It was certainly a very enjoyable launch for me due to the weather and watching all the really cool rockets that were launched.

The students were: Matt Djubasak, Ben Schmidt, Jonathan Gordon, and Rebecca Rosen.

We launched the rocket with a J350W-14.

Lance Wright

Local Students Launch High Power Rocket

Four local students built a high power rocket, and successfully launched it at a site southwest of Fresno on Sunday, November 20th. The ten-pound, six-foot tall rocket attained an altitude of 2,592 feet before deploying a parachute and safely descending. The four students are part of a Lyceum of Monterey County sponsored science class, titled: “Blast Off With Rocket Science”. Jonathan Gordon (8th grade, Pacific Grove), Matt Djubasak (8th Grade, Monterey), Rebecca Rosen (11th Grade, Carmel), and Benjamin Schmidt (9th grade, Carmel) constructed the rocket over a period of five Saturday mornings. The goal of the class was to promote interest in science and engineering. The students learned the techniques necessary to build a high power rocket from cardboard, wood, and plastic parts. They learned about post-World War II rocket programs and developed teamwork skills.

The class instructor, Lance Wright from Pacific Grove, is a member of Tripoli, the national high power rocketry organization, and holds a Level 2 high power rocketry certification.

The students named the rocket “Khet”, which is ancient Egyptian for “fire” or “flame”. The rocket carried a barometric altimeter and Beanie Baby dog in its payload bay. The dog was named “ZIB” after one of the space dogs that the Russians launched in a sub-orbital flight in 1951. The rocket was painted black and red, and was modeled after the American MX-774 rocket that was built in the 1950’s. The MX-774 was a precursor to the Atlas family of rockets, which were a key part of the early American space exploration and ICBM programs.

The rocket was constructed in accordance with the Tripoli Safety Code, and the motor was purchased and used at the launch site in accordance with BATFE regulations. The model rocket uses the same rocket fuel as the Space Shuttle Solid Rocket Boosters, and will be launched with a motor with 700 newton-seconds of total impulse. This is around 50 times the power in the small model rockets that can be purchased at hobby stores. The launch will be conducted by Tripoli Central California, a high power rocket club, which obtained a waiver from the Federal Aviation Administration for airspace clearance to launch model rockets up to 17,000 feet.



Matt Diubasak, Ben Schmidt, Jonathar Gordon, and Rebecca Rosen



Lance Wright Photos