



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

Serving the Central Valley Chapter of the Tripoli Rocketry Association - November 2006



**Dillon, Ollie, Justin, Noah (kneeling), Matt, and Graham**

*Lance Wright Photos*



**Monterey County Lyceum "Blast Off With Rocket Science" class**



November 19th 2006

The November monthly launch was being held in roughly the same location as the October Skies launch, an alfalfa field just to the south of the dairy's residential housing. That's what Rod Lovley told me as I arrived at the dairy for the launch. I headed out the dirt road leading to the fields, portables in tow, expecting the obvious view of trailers, and vehicles. One problem, I couldn't see a dang thing. A heavy fog covered the entire landscape.

I finally came upon Jack and Andy's trailers along the field side. The decision was made to go on with setting up for the launch in hopes that the sky would clear. That wouldn't happen. The launch site was shrouded in fog or low clouds the entire day, but the flyers came and pounded out more flights for a single days launch than in quite some time.

Because of the low ceiling, the Estes pads ruled the day, with launches off the high power pads much slower than usual. There were an amazing 119 flights for the day with 36 flyers. There were 126 motors burned with several clusters in the mix. No 2-stagers were launched for obvious reasons.

The motor breakdown was as follows:

12 A's, 24 B's, 32 C's, 12 D's, 16 E's, 10 F's, 7 G's, 8 H's, 4 I's and 1 J.

Maybe it was the fact that this would be our last launch of 2006. No one knows how the weather will affect the early months of 2007, but it would certainly be months before our next launch. Attendees were flying with a vengeance.

One contributing factor to the launch numbers were the presence of 2 youth groups. Their exuberance and excitement was contagious.

Lance Wright brought along his group of students, and some families, from the Monterey County Lyceum "Blast Off With Rocket Science" class. Cliff Sojourner's group was the Shooting Stars Y-Adventure Guides, of Cupertino. I'll let them describe their experiences in their own words...

## What's Better Than Your First High Power Launch! by Lance Wright

Six students from the Monterey County Lyceum class, "Blast Off With Rocket Science", attended their first high power launch, with the first model rockets they had ever built. They had built their rockets in a five- week (Saturday afternoons) class taught by yours truly.

I had designed modified LOC Norads to incorporate several up-grades and expose the students to a wide range of building techniques, and provide them with a rocket that could be launched with big F or G-motors. They did a good job building the rockets and I was impressed with the paint schemes they had applied on their own. The guys had no idea what to expect after a long drive from Monterey and meandering through the fog in the San Joaquin Valley.

For first timers, all the rockets taking off from the model rocket pad was very cool. They were anxious to get their rockets up, so we started with F50T motors, and later moved up to G80T motors. They were all pretty nervous about the outcome of their first flights. We were all really happy as the rockets all streaked skyward along a near vertical path. We could hear the "pop" of the motor ejection up in the white stuff, and cheered as the rocket appeared safely drifting down with the parachute fully open.

I decided not to launch my rockets due to the low ceiling, but had a great time just seeing the excitement of kids having a super experience. This will be an event they never forget.

The more experienced adult rocketeers made this a wonderful experience for these kids. First by doing all the work to put on the launch, and also by launching rockets with some pretty exciting motors. Watching a 7.5 inch V-2 lift off with a J415W for the first time is definitely awesome. Finally, thank you to the guy with all the beautiful Estes rockets. Not only did he put on a great show with all the launches, he spread a lot of happiness by giving away several of his rockets to many of the smaller kids, who had a lot of fun launching them.





Jack, Dave, TCC Regulars and Lunar Lunch Bunch folks:

Thanks VERY MUCH for going on with the launch today! Here's the reasons:

The group is the "Shooting Stars" Trailblazers from NW SV YMCA, from Cupertino, CA. The boys are all in 4th grade now. We've been together since Kindergarten. The entire NW SV YMCA did a LPR rocket launch with LUNAR last year, and this year one of our projects was to build the double red crayon. We launched it twice last Sunday, first on H73 (smoky motor), second on H123 (white lightning, took a left turn off the pad).

Despite the conditions, the Shooting Stars Y-Adventure Guides had a couple good launches and recoveries of their red double-crayon group project. When the fog is so low, even an H73 is impressive :) We also put an H123 in the double-crayon and it didn't re-appear for a long while. I told the boys that it might have stuck to the ceiling. Their discussion about that comment lasted long after the rocket re-appeared.

At least three of the dads are now completely pumped about rockets - They are all asking... When is the next time we can do it?... Why didn't I tell them years ago about High Power Rockets?... And at least one is determined to get L1 next time. - He bought kits and motors.

Also if you didn't know, we hosted three visitors from Brisbane, Australia today. (Or maybe it was yesterday for them. Or something.) The Aussie kids were just thrilled with rockets. They had no idea such a great sport existed. They can't wait to show their friends at home all about it. Good luck to them, I think rocket motors are very expensive in Aus, and places to fly are really hard to find, they have a Texas-sized burn ban there.

Cliff Sojourner



Rocketry is

Shooting Stars Y-A Adventure Guides

SERIOUS

FUN!

Photos by Steve Sandke



There were 4 certification flights, of which, all were successful. Mike Furlotti of San Francisco, Moshen Chan, Erik Gilling and William Kisse, Jr. all certified Level 1! Congratulations!



William Kisse with his L1 Callisto - Jim Norton photo

Jack Garibaldi's dependable little *Fat Man* went fog-born on an I566 VMax and Jim Norton used an H143 to power his naked *Minnie Magg* for one of his 8 flights.



Jack Garibaldi and his Fat Man - G. Walker photo



Erik Gilling preps his L1 Odin - G. Walker photo

Other high power flyers were few. Merle Heggen, with his *Blue Angel* rocket, launched on an I161W, and his beautiful upscaled *Guardian* went up on I435T.



Jim Norton's Minnie Magg - G. Walker photo

George Thym's *Patriot* flew on an I161W, and Robert Tashjian (initially wanting to do his

Level 2 flight) decided instead on an H242 in his *Fantom EXL*.

TCC Treasurer Richard King arrived early intending to fly his newly completed Polecat V2, but was hesitant because of the fog and low visibility. After a bit of prodding and many “Come on! We’ll help you find it!” pleas, Richard loaded up the V2 with a J416 and toted it out to the pads.



*Richard King's Polecat V2 - Lance Wright photo*

After the fiery liftoff, the entire flight line went silent, a technique learned through the day's launch experiences. After burnout, all would listen for the “pop” of the ejection charge and scan the sky for some sign of a parachute. “There it is!” someone shouted, as the V2 and its large chute were drifting out of the haze for a soft touchdown just north of the flight line.

The day's frequent flyers were Christopher Raimondi of San Jose with 15, Ross Ohmen of Union City (including a cluster of 3 E9's) and Mike (?) of Elk Grove flying a wide variety of sharply painted rockets, both with 12. Mike was in the Christmas spirit already and was giving away rockets to the kids! Kudo's Mike!

Always a favorite of mine this time of year is Paul Pittenger's *Santa's Silver Sleigh* rocket that he flew on a G33. Paul also flew his Triple

Kiss ( with Hershey's Kiss deco) clustered with 3 E9's.



*Mike of Elk Grove and his fleet*



*Paul Pittenger's Santa's Silver Sleigh - J. Norton photo*

There were of course many others flying the pants off mid-power and the Estes pads, keeping young and old alike entertained for the remainder of the day.



Anyway, it's time to sign off for the 2006 flying season. It's been an exciting year with many new rockets and new rocketeers, as well as the veterans, gracing the TCC launches and the Maddox Dairy fields.

Thank You Steve Maddox and the Maddox Dairy!

Have a great Holiday Season! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year of rocketry!! See you in 2007!

Gary Walker  
Editor - C.V.R.N.

### **Flyer List...**

Brian (No Last Name)  
Mike (NLN)  
George (NLN)  
Mark Anderson  
Moshen Chan  
Ollie Cripe  
Mike Furlotti  
Jack Garibaldi  
Erik Gilling  
Merle Heggen  
Dillon Hoffman  
Graham Home  
Liam Home  
Richard King  
William Kisse Jr.  
Noah Limbach  
Rowan Limbach  
Willow Limbach  
Kevin McGrath  
Carl Nash  
Jessica Nash  
Jim Norton  
Ross Ohmen  
Paul Pittenger  
Chris Raimondi  
Kevin Sandke  
Matt Schmidt  
Justin Shaber  
Cliff Sojourner  
Jack Sorenson  
Robert Tashjian  
Emily Thym  
George Thym  
Ethan Van Steenburg  
Gavin Van Steenburg  
Charlie Wittman

Letters to the President...

*Jack,*

*Thanks for forging ahead with the launch today despite the fog and low clouds. Christopher and I had a ball flying low power stuff. There are a lot of great people who make this a super club. I think that there were only about a dozen or so high powered flights today, but everyone was just as eager to fly and help spot rockets for others when the rockets decided to play hide and seek with the low clouds.*

*Thank you again and have a Happy Thanksgiving!*

*David and Christopher Raimondi*

*TRA 10781 L3*

*NAR 82676 L3*

*Howdy,*

*I found a destroyed rocket with a Cesaroni casing on the way out from the launch on Sunday the 19th. It was not from that day, and probably got drug over to the side by the disc or some such modern farm implement. Describe the rocket and casing type and I'll bring it to some future event.*

*Sunday's fog launch reminded me of flying on the garbage flats outside of Brisbane, circa 1973. Any else remember that old VFW NAR section?*

*Lowell*

*[lhart@lightspeed.net](mailto:lhart@lightspeed.net)*

*TRA 5419*

*NAR 20482 (lapsed....)*



*TCC President Jack Garibaldi*

THANKS to

Larry Frieson's  
Mojave Desert High Power

Andy Woerner's  
What's Up Hobbies

Brett and Crystal Wilkin's  
CK's

for supporting

Tripoli Central California's launches



*What's Up Hobbies*

## 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](http://www.tripolicentralcalifornia.com)

President: Jack Garibaldi  
[jackgaribaldi@msn.com](mailto:jackgaribaldi@msn.com)

Treasurer: Richard King  
[drbk@comcast.net](mailto:drbk@comcast.net)

Equipment: Jim Abrames  
[jabrames16@comcast.net](mailto:jabrames16@comcast.net)

Prefect: Bruce Rohn  
[rohnrokt@aol.com](mailto:rohnrokt@aol.com)

Editor, C.V.R.N.: Gary Walker  
[walkergw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:walkergw@sbcglobal.net)

Web-Master: Eric Holland  
[croessus@yahoo.com](mailto:croessus@yahoo.com)

Past Editors  
Mark Canepa (2000-2003)  
([moparmbc@aol.com](mailto:moparmbc@aol.com))  
Bob Dahlquist (1996-1999).

Photos by Lance Wright, Steve Sandke, Jim Norton & Gary Walker



*Launch Photos below by Jim Norton*





**Jim Norton Photos**





Photos by Gary Walker





Photos by Gary Walker

