

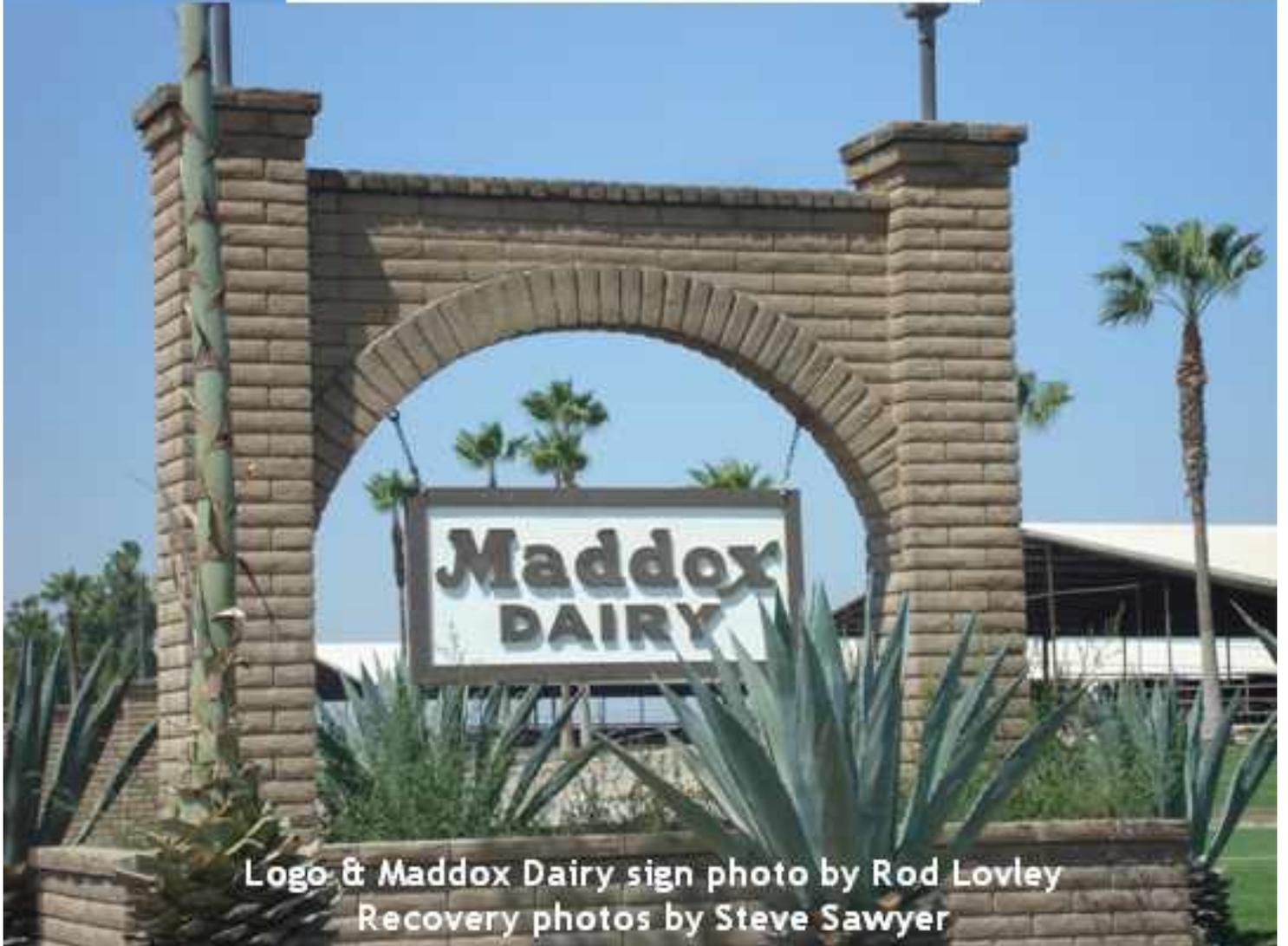
TRIPOLI CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
Central Valley Rocket News
Serving the Central Valley Chapter of the Tripoli Rocketry Association



October Skies 2006

41

Rod Lovley's Honest John lifting off on an L330 - Photo by Steve Sawyer



Logo & Maddox Dairy sign photo by Rod Lovley
Recovery photos by Steve Sawyer

President's Message:

I just wanted to thank you all for a great October Skies 2006. Everyone who helped out with set up, range duties, registration, tear down, vendor donations, raffle sales, clean up, T-shirts, Mr. Ribs, CK's, What's Up Hobbies and for coming out to fly and support the club we all greatly appreciate every little bit.

The weather on Friday was a little over cast but some great flights still took place. Saturday was a picture perfect day and everyone was flying and having a great time. Sunday started off a little windy but that soon stopped and we were in full force by noon.

We had 4 successful certification flights who consisted of Terry Goodfellow-L1, Brett Wilkins-L2, Richard Hoffman-L1, and Brian Dalby-L2. Congratulations to all and welcome to High power.

Thanks to our news editor Gary Walker for always doing what you do, (a lot), Rod Lovely for some killer shirts and Alice Lovely and Laura Marino for working there little hearts out all weekend long. The donuts and cookies they brought always keeps a smile on my face.

Thanks again and we will be back at it in November because we love it.

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Friday - Research Day

This year's OCTOBER SKIES launch started off on, you guessed it, Friday the 13th! Yes, October brings out the Halloween spirit and our theme/shirt logo combined that spirit with the traditional red, white and blue, thanks to Rod Lovley and Alpha Graphics. GREAT JOB!!

With "Friday the 13th" came some cloudy skies and some threatening weather, but hey, TCC rocketeers won't be denied by just a little weather! However, an even darker cloud hung over the Friday event.

Our usual vendor glut was running thin this weekend. Conflicting schedules and a dash of real life dealt us a single vendor, Andy Woerner's What's Up Hobbies. But his schedule was forcing him to pack up and leave on Friday evening.

Of course, those in attendance on Friday loaded up on motors and supplies for the weekend, but what of the large number of flyers that usually arrive on Saturday? More on that later.

Friday's flight numbers were a bit sparse but a few did brave the lightly overcast sky to warm up for the weekend with a total of 31 flights and numerous static motor tests.

Andy Woerner helped get things rolling with his 10" diameter green *Goblin*. Its 1st flight was with a spectacular motor, an Aerotech J2135 with a total burn time of just 0.6 second!! For one, I was stunned to see that big a rocket leap off the pad so quickly and coast to apogee for a really smooth, but quick, flight.



Over the course of the day, TCC President Jack Garibaldi flew Andy's *Goblin* twice more on a J800 and a K650. Both great flights.



Merle Heggen flew his custom yellow *Thrud* on an H242T and a G185 with a Perfectflite Alt15k on board. Merle's Yank *Iris* launched on an H165R and recovered via motor ejection. Merle and daughter Kyley would definitely return on Saturday and Sunday for some great flights.

Sacramento's William Walby burned a Kosdon I550 (Yee Haaw!) in his slender white and red *Special Delivery* and his gold *UFO* wowed the onlookers on an Ellis Mtn. G20.

Rodeo's Paul Lane had a silver *Whistler* rocket (yes, with whistles!) powered by an H143 Smokey Sam and also put up his black *Dark Side* pyramid on a J400.



James Marino topped off the motor ladder with his awesome black *Money* rocket flying on an M1500 Wimpy Red, a favorite propellant mix for James. *Money* had a great flight, as usual, with deployment handled by an Olsen M2 and a GWIZ LCD800.



James loads *Money* - Steve Sawyer photo



James Marino's *Money* - Steve Sawyer photo

Looking to burn some more of the "Red Stuff" James, with some other bay area cohorts (Ross Ohmen, Dave and Chris Raimondi), set up an N motor for a static burn test, with a load cell recording the data, at the AWAY cell. After burying it firmly in the Maddox Dairy sod and securing it with anchors and straps, everyone crawled into their bunkers (not really) as the countdown reached zero...



The big red motor roared to life emitting a bright red flame and a tall column of smoke for a beautiful long burn. Nice Job!!



Always dabbling, Shawn Stephens had a long string of sugar motors that he was static testing throughout the day. Some had problems starting up, but most burned well and I think one catood.

In addition to helping with the big N motor test, Ross Ohmen flew at the other end of the spectrum. Ross stuffed a C6 in his really cool looking *Alien Space Probe* for a nice flight and an F40 in his purple *Ranger*.



Another cool looking rocket was Bill Puckett's *Flight of the Bumble Bee* flying on an H242. As its name suggests, Bill's Polecat kit is painted up like a bumble bee. Neat!

Near the end of the day, Jack Garibaldi and Andy Woerner could be found helping out a group of Stockton youngsters flying rockets for their first time. They were friends of Jack's son and all were having a blast!





hole for the N-motor test, Chris had 6 flights including 2 of his gold *Icarus*, twice with his *Zenith II* 2-stage and singles with his E28 powered *Onyx* (in its “underware”), and his *Alpha*. Look out when this youngster is old enough to fly high-power!!



Rounding out Friday’s list of flyers were Rick Miller with his *I Hope It Works* on an H210 and his *Skipper* on a G33, Wes Freeman flying an *EZI 65* and Charlie Wittman with a *Mustang* on a G77R. Charlie also set up a sugar motor for a nice static burn in a unique test stand he made out of a jack stand.

As the day wound down, the wind picked up and folks made some last minute purchases, had some dinner and retreated to their camps to prep for the coming days flights. Andy’s store-on-wheels pulled out around 8pm leaving a large hole in the center of the flight line. L



Rick Miller’s Skipper - Steve Sawyer Photo

Of course Christopher Raimondi was frequent flyer of the day. When he wasn’t helping dig a



Andy’s Goblin under chute - Steve Sawyer photo

Saturday

Saturday morning was calm, cool and CLEAR! The clouds were gone and the forecast was clear for the remainder of the weekend. It looked to be an outstanding day for flying! Woo HOO!

Scanning the flight line, there were a lot of empty spaces where vendors and flyers usually have packed in by now. Friday's weather had apparently slowed the arrival of some out-of-towners and Rod Lovley, driving out from Fresno, even reported some heavy FOG along Highway 41. Weird!



Launching got under way around 9am after a stirring recording of the Star Spangled Banner was played.

It was a beautiful day and the great weather seemed even nicer when we got word that the launch that Andy Woerner had left to attend the night before was rained out and he was pedal-to-the-metal and returning to support the October Skies launch with motors and supplies.

With that problem left in the dust (or mud), October Skies pushed ahead. Although flights seemed to go a little slow in the beginning, Saturday topped out at 218 flights. Not bad!

Merced's Cole Pennington, and his dad Jeff, were on hand early with their fleet of superbly detailed scale rockets including a V2, Mercurys *Redstone* and *Atlas*, *Saturns 1B* and *V*, and a futuristic *Scissor-Wing Glider*. Jeff could be seen conversing with Brian Weese, our resident builder of BIG Saturns, likely planning something cool!



Jeff & Cole Pennington's scaled collection

When Atwater's Matthew Traverse was asked what he would like to do for his birthday, he told his mom that he wanted to come to the October Skies launch. And that he did. Matthew brought along his friend Cody Boone and mom made Matthew a birthday cake shaped like a rocket and had his party at the launch! How cool is that?! Thanks Mom!



Matthew flew his *Outlaw*, *Max Trax* and his *Blue Ninja* for a total of 7 flights on the day and Cody flew a *Big Bertha* and a *Max Trax* for 4 flights.

Our venerable Brian Dalby had 2 flights with his 38" *Starburst* sporting a twin motor cluster. One flight was loaded up with 2 D12's and the second flight stepped up to 2 F21's. Cool rocket Brian!

Shawn Stephens also flew a double cluster in his *ER Systems* test rocket. This cluster was boosted by 2 I200's for a fast and fiery flight.

Eureka's Drew Gleason made a single flight Saturday with his green *Mini Magg* on a J285. If I recall correctly, Drew has been flying this rocket out here for several years, but this flight had some chute problems and came in a bit hard. Dang!

Merle and Kyley Heggen returned Saturday and flew Merle's beautifully upscaled Estes *Guardian*. This *Guardian* stands almost 5' tall and roared twice off the pad powered by I357T's. Blue rocket, blue flame! The Heggens also launched their red *Stumpy* on an I435T and their *Blue Angel* on an H210R.



Merle Heggen's Upscaled Guardian

Rod Lovley's beautifully painted Polecat *Honest John* had a beautiful flight with a real loooong burn Ellis Mtn L330. That motor just seems to burn and burn and burn...(See cover photo) An Olsen M2 deployed the chutes at apogee with the nosecone and airframe drifting down separately for what seemed an eternity.



Get Over It was the name of James Marino's 7' Performance Rocketry kit. Powered by a K550, and packed with a GWIZ MC2 and LCX for recovery, the *G.O.I.* made a smoky ascent into the bright blue sky for a real nice flight.

Along with some other nice rockets, Kevin McGrath's sharp looking red *Magnum* was one of several air-started flights over the weekend. Kevin's *Magnum* lifted off on an I435T and air-started 2 H97's.

Jordan Raice and father Jeff flew their huge 10 foot *Freedom Won* with the flight plan calling for lighting 2 I600R's on the ground and air-starting a single K700W. One of the I's was a little late starting and resulted in an arcing flight path to the south.

Luckily (because of the now nearly horizontal flight path) the K failed to light, but the electronics deployed the chutes and brought the rocket down safely. Vowing to try again, the motor combo would be retried on Sunday! Jordan also flew his green *Nike Smoke* on a K185.



Jeff Proschold's *Sundagger* on an M1939

Jeff Proschold and fellow team members had the only M-powered flight on Saturday. Their rocket was the 14 ½ foot tall, 7 ½" diameter, red and black *SunDagger*. Motivated by an M1939, this 4th flight of the *SunDagger* rode a huge column of fire and smoke into the clear afternoon sky for an awesome flight. Recovery was handled by dual GWIZ's and an Adept timer.

San Jose's Steve Sawyer flew a seemingly benign looking Estes *Big Daddy*, Mach Daddy, on an H73. Steve also flew his 8' tall, gold, red and blue *Maggie May* with a K1100T getting her off the pad in a hurry! Recovery was handled by AltAcc and PerfectFlite altimeters.



Steve Sawyer's *Mach Daddy* and *Maggie May* - S.Sawyer photo

Also in the K ranks was Jim Sherill with a Giant Leap *Vertical Assault 3.0*. The *V.A.* was launched on a K475W and recovered via and AltAcc altimeter.

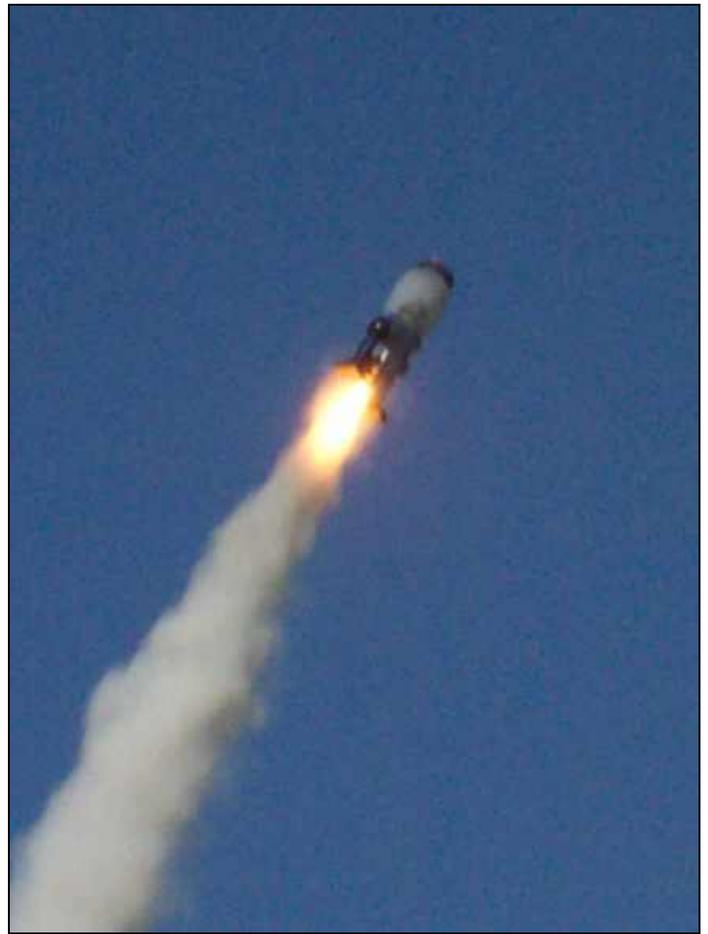
Mike Smith also had a K flight with his *Sancha* Polecat kit powered by a K700.

William Walby returned to fly his 60" LOC 2 29 SS on 2 G77R's and 2 F50T's for a real cool flight along with a number of other rockets.



William Walby prepping his 4-motor cluster

Always a little unnerving, Gary Walker's *Darth D2* made its 3rd flight, this time to fly on a K550. The liftoff was spectacular with little *Darth* rising from a huge cloud of smoke. Unfortunately, Gary shaved a bit too much off the delay grain and *Darth* popped his top at full burn resulting in a badly burned parachute and a broken leg after a rough landing.



Darth D2 pops his top just a wee early.

After gathering up the pieces, Gary then loaded up his modified LOC Expediter kit. *Expeditious* was now a 2-stage rocket with the payload section sporting fins, chutes and electronics in the nosecone.



Liftoff on a K550 - Merle Heggen photo



The booster was powered by an I200W and recovered via motor ejection. A Gwiz LCD 400 lit an H128 in the sustainer for a flight to just over

2900 feet. Recovery was dual deployment with a streamer at apogee and a 36" chute at 400 feet. Whew, it worked! Thanks to Mike Ryan for helping out and taking videos of both flights! Mike Ryan, along with his 2 daughters Chloe and Bridgette, also took time to fly their first rocket, the *Luck O' The Irish*, painted up with 4-leaf clovers! *L.O.T.I.* is a LOC commemorative kit from the '04 October Skies and flew on an F50 and a G40.

Frequent flyer honors went to Phil Hofman with 13 flights and Chris Raimondi with 12 for the day. They were closely backed up by Jim Norton with 10 flights and Cole Pennington with 9. Charlie Wittman had 8 flights and Matthew Traverse, Jack Meredith, Cliff Sojourner and William Walby all had 7.

Steve Maddox, Dairy owner and host to all Tripoli Central CA launches, came out about mid afternoon with a tractor and trailer and gave the kids, and a few adventurous adults, a hay-ride to the dairy facilities and gave them a tour.



The Ryans with The Luck O' The Irish.

There were 3 successful certification flights on Saturday. Terry Goodfellow certified Level 1 flying his *Cirrus Dart* on an H123W with motor ejection and Richard Hofman made his Level 1 cert flight with his 65" custom built *BYE* powered by an H165R. Congratulations to you both!

Brett Wilkins, of CK's, made a successful level 2 certification flight with his 63" custom built *Crystal Kay*, (named for his always smiling partner at the food stand) powered by a J420. Congrats Brett! Does this mean coffee prices are going up??



The Hay Ride - photos by Jim Norton and Rod Lovley

CK's was of course on hand with their usual coffee, drinks and goodies and were decked out with Halloween decorations! Mr. Ribs was in and out throughout the weekend with burgers, hot links, BBQ chicken and beans. Mmmm Good!

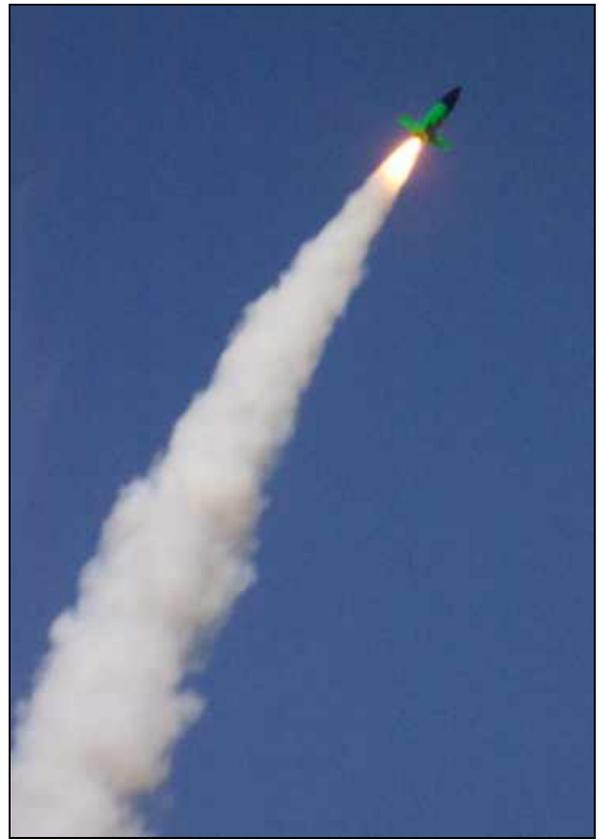
Sunday

Although a bit breezy in the morning, Sunday was just as beautiful a day for flying as Saturday.

Bill Hayes and son flew Sunday's only M. Their 11 ½ foot tall scratch built *Dragon* lifted off on an M1315 for a beautiful flight. Recovery was deployed by PerfectFlite and PML Co-Pilot altimeters. Great flight guys!

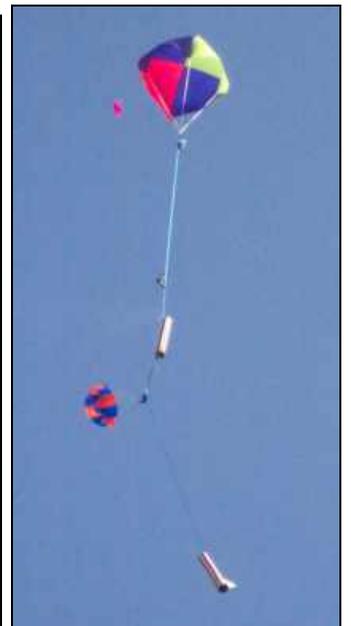


TCC President Jack Garibaldi flew Andy's big *Green Goblin* again, this time on an L952. The greater mass at the tail end apparently caused the Goblin to lean over off the rail and it did a smoky impersonation of a cruise missile as it made a hurried beeline to the east. WOW!!



Jack also brought out his black and blue Polecat *Nike Smoke* for a flight with a Cesaroni K1440.

After having some motor ignition problems on Saturday, Jeff and Jordan Raice tried some different igniters and made a second try at their *Freedom Won*. The twin I600R's lit perfectly on liftoff leaving twin red flames in its wake and the K700 air-started right on cue for a stunning flight! Yee Haw!



Jordan also flew his workhorse, the green *Nike Smoke*, on a Cesaroni K1440 and an L730 and Erica Raice flew her cool looking *Cat In The Hat* rocket twice on F23's.



Kevin McGrath's beautiful LOC *Magnum* rode a column of bright flame and white smoke on a K550W and Antioch's Michael Hoskins' beautiful orange and white *Quasar* rose slowly and majestically off the pad on a K185 for a long burn. Very nice!



Michael Hoskins' Quasar



Kevin McGrath's Magnum

Rod Lovley jumped on the 10" *Goblin* bandwagon and flew Andy's rocket on a K1275 Redline donated by Duane Uhl for a perfect flight.



Rod's flight closely followed Kevin's launch (or was it the other way around?) and the 2 large chutes graced the blue fall sky together and landed within a stones throw of each other. Very nice!



There seemed to be very few J's flown on Sunday but there were a swarm of I-motors.

Fresno's Mike Smith hammered his yellow Polecat *Fatman* rocket with a J800 and Matt Campbell's scratch built *Out Of Control* went up on the old reliable J350.

The only other J's were 2 certification flights. Brian Dalby had a great Level 2 certification flight with a PML *Endeavor* on a J350. Congrats Brian!



Having gotten his level 1 cert on Saturday, Richard Hofman also had a level 2 attempt on Sunday. Unfortunately he experienced a nosecone separation and didn't get it. Better luck next time Richard.

As for the I motors, Merle Heggen and crew flew their *Fantom*, *Guardian* and *Stumpy* on I284W, I37T and I800 power respectively. Rod Freeman and Rick Miller also had 3 I flights. Rod with his *Mary Noa* and *RJ's Revenge* and Rick flying his *Butt Ugly*, *Goblin* and *God I Hope It Works*.



Merle & Kyley Heggen's *Fantom*

Drew Gleason launched his *Mach Itch* twice on the awesome new I800 VMAX motors, Terry Goodfellow's *Rage* flew on an I211 and his *Jon Henry's Dart* flew to over 6000 feet on an I218.

Joe and Cathy Pettinicci had nice flights with Joe's *D-Region Tomahawk* on an I357T and Cathy's *Naked Fat Man* (what an image that congers up) on an I195J.



Cathy Pettinicci's *Naked Fat Man*

Andy Woerner put an I566 in one of his 5 ½ “*Goblins*, Patrick Munneke’s *Mini Magg* flew on an I364 FJ, Steve Sansen’s *Chaos* went up on an I284, Disney Hayes’ *Diz’s Black Brant* made a single on an I200 and Brandon Walker got dad’s help flying Gary’s scratch built *Endeavor* on an I284.

For the cluster fans out there, Mark Anderson’s LOC *Viper III* was powered by 3 E30’s for a triple E cluster flight and Jesse Gelders flew his *36D Squared* with 2 D12’s.

Gary Walker broke in his LOC *Dairy Aire Li’l Diter* powered by an H123 in a drag race with his son Brandon. Brandon flew Gary’s Level 1 rocket, a scratch built *Bigger Daddy*, on an H128. Gary’s got off 1st, but both had good flights.

There were of course many many other flights. G’s and H’s and scores of B’s and C’s!



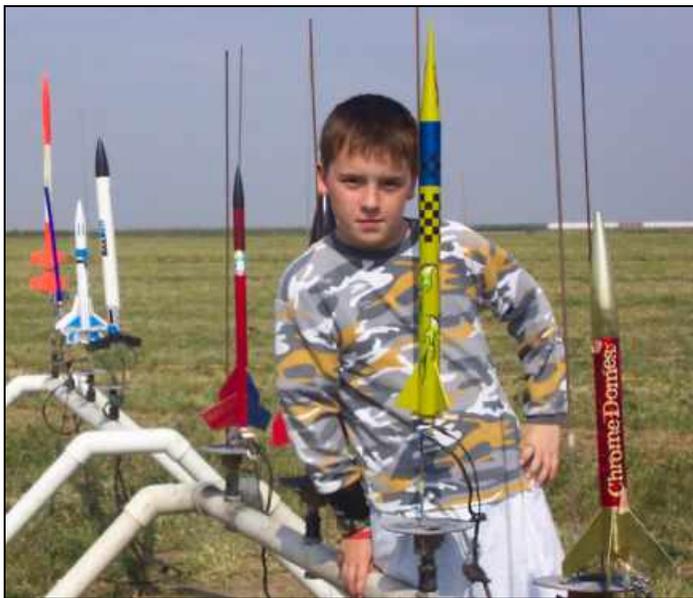
The hands-down clear frequent flyer on Sunday was Christopher Raimondi with 16 total flights. Jim Norton tied with Altadena’s Matt Campbell at 9 flights each. While Matt’s flights were mostly high power, G’s through J, Jim was across the spectrum from A to H, with a cluster and a 2-stage in between, AND acting as club photographer as well!

I’d like to close out with a Thank You to all those who submitted photos and flight info for this newsletter. It couldn’t happen without you!

See Ya!

Gary (better late than never) Walker

Photos by Gary Walker except where noted.



Robert Stone at the Estes rack.



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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Photos by Jim Norton, Steve Sawyer, Rod and Alice Lovley, Merle Heggen, Brian Dalby, Andy Petersen, Mike Ryan & Gary Walker



Kevin McGrath's New Captain America in the foreground and Jordan Raice's Freedom Won in the distance.



Norm Newlon's Spudnik.



Bye!



Research Day Photos by Steve Sawyer and Gary Walker





Steve Maddox Providing a Hay Ride - Photos by Alice and Rod Lovley





Steve Sawyer Photos





More Steve Sawyer Photos



Rod and Alice Lovley Photos





Merle Heggen Photos





Jim Norton Photos



More Jim Norton Photos





More Jim Norton Photos





Gary Walker Photos





Gary Walker Photos







Gary Walker Photos





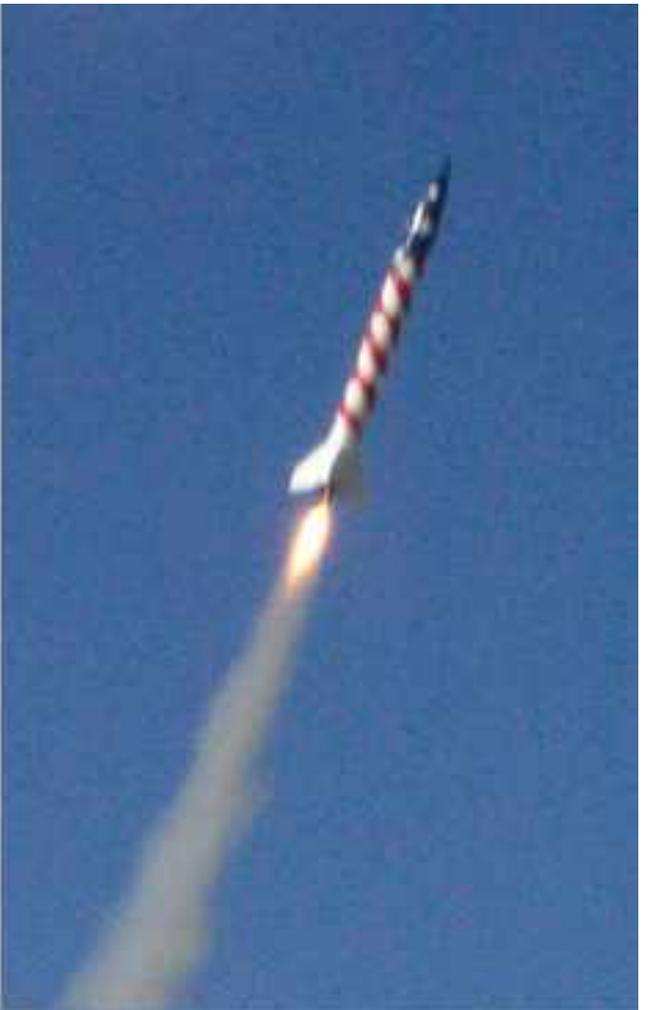
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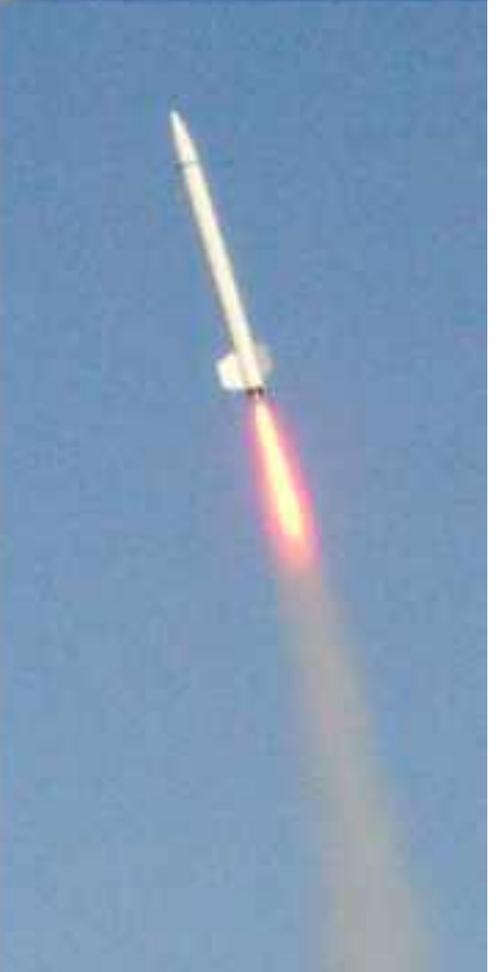


Gary Walker Photos





Gary Walker Photos





Gary Walker Photos



Thank You
Steve Maddox
and the
Maddox Dairy



Steve Maddox with Rod Lovley's Maddox Dairy Express
At the 2006 Dairy Aire Launch