

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

Serving the Central California Chapter of the Tripoli Rocketry Association – October 2005

*September 18<sup>th</sup>*  
*Launch Report*



Bound for the corn field... Greg Morgan's BLUE SMOKE on a J540 Redline.



Mike Smith's Nike Smoke on a K700!  
Merle Heggen's J-CAT 2 on an I161W.



**OCTOBER SKIES** Info Inside



Photo by Nathan Montalvo

**Food, Rocket  
& Motor  
Vendors**

**BIG DADDY'S**

*Big or Small...  
Bring 'em All !*



**October  
Skies  
2005**

October 14 - 16, 2005  
Maddox Dairy

**GET YOUR....  
T-Shirts,  
Sweatshirts,  
Tank-Tops...**

**Pre-Orders taken  
by Rod Lovley...**

**ralovley@cs.com**

**Jack Garibaldi's massive upscaled Estes  
Patriot will fly on Saturday morning!  
1M & 3 L's !!!!!**



**MADDOX DAIRY, RIVERDALE, CA  
OCTOBER 14, 15, 16, 2005**

**Movies on a  
10 foot  
screen  
Saturday  
night.**

**Group  
Photo  
Sessions at  
lunch time -  
Saturday &  
Sunday.**



Photo by Sam Montalvo

**Darth D2 Flies Again!**

**MANY, MANY MORE!!**



**Richard King's  
newest "GOT M?"**

# September 18, 2005 Launch Report

*Editors Note - In an attempt to get this issue out prior to the OCTOBER SKIES launch, the following flight descriptions are once again a bit abbreviated. Thanks go out to Lance Wright for submitting his article, Jim Norton and Jeff Stout for submitting photos, and to the volunteers that ran the RSO, LCO, set-up and tear-down! Thanks also to CK's, What's Up Hobbies & Mojave Desert High Power for supporting TCC launches! - GW*

## Launch Stats...

31 flyers

72 total flights

77 motors burned

5 A's, 6 B's, 11 C's, 4 D's, 12 E's, 7 F's, 13 G's, 7 H's, 8 I's, 3 J's, 1 K

David Cummings of San Jose launched his black and red LOC *Vulcanite* on an H123. GWIZ LC Deluxe and Perfectflite altimeters handled the deployment.



Built specially to fly on windy days on the playa, Barry Dobyms of Los Gatos flew his 64" custom, au-natural *Priority Mail* on an I154J, with a Perfectflite altimeter for altitude readings only. A failed motor ejection led the rocket to nose in hard and destroyed the rocket.



Jason Daniel of Salinas, had his 65" red and blue What's Up Hobbies kit, *Power of Powers* go up on an I400.



Becca Dobyms launched her highly visible, yellow and green Estes Mean Machine dubbed the *Ugly Stick* on an E9 and an orange and purple *On Time Delivery* LOC Graduator on an F50.



Robin of Fresno flew a *Silver Comet* twice on a C6's, a 5" *Peanut Jr.* on a 1/2 A3 and a scratch built 14" S.S.S. on a C6.

Fresno's Kylee Heggen had numerous flights, as usual, including her pink and green *Fatboy* on a C6 a purple *Baby Bertha* on a C6, a blue Estes kit on a D12, a green *Patriot* on a B6, a *Red Guardian* on a D12, a camouflage *Stormcaster* on a D12, a white LOC *Onyx* on a G77R, and a white Estes *Bullpup* on a C6.



Matthew Klein flew his red, white and blue *MACH 16* on an F20 and Alex Klein, launched a red, white and blue LOC *October Skies* kit on an F20.

Mark Lawrence of San Jose flew 5' orange Binder *Jaguar* on an Ellis Mountain I134.



Merle Heggen in addition to LCO duties and helping with the range flew his yellow and black LOC *J-Cat-2* on an I285R and an I161W. He also launched a white LOC *Iris* on an H238T and a yellow LOC *October Skies* kit on a G75J.



Sterling Mayberry got some assistance from mom and dad flying his 3" *Mini Meanie* on a 1/2 A3 twice.



Fresno's Dario McEwen made 2 flights with an Estes, orange and black *Bubba's Blaster* on A8-3's and once on a B6-4, plus flying a red, black and orange Aerotech *Wild Flower* on a G38J.

David McEwen flew his custom *Red Rocket* on a D12, *Blue Bomb* on an E9, and his 67" *Silver Missile* on an H242T.

Kevin McGrath's 4" X 84", all fiberglass *Thunderbolt* roared off the pad on a J540R with GWIZ-MC handling the dual deployment, and Kevin's green and white stretched PML *Ariel* went up on an I112J with the GWIZ also.



Greg Morgan of Clovis launched a black *Big Bertha* on a C6 and then flew his Polecat *Blue Smoke* on a J540R (see cover) drifting into the dreaded corn field and was not seen again, even after repeated treks through the dense growth to try to locate it.



Photographer and frequent flyer Jim Norton of Fresno launched a Quest *Zenith-2* 2-stage on a B6 to B6 combo, a PML *Io* on a G64, a LOC *Minnie Mag* on an H153, an Estes *Fat Boy* on a C6 and a Quest *Spin Fin* on a B6.



San Mateo's Paul Pittenger flew a distinctive 60" bronze and silver *Sparkler 3* on 3 E9's and a 5.5" X 40" Polecat *Thumper* named *Frequent Flyer II* (named for all the package labels adorning the rocket) on a J420R for a successful Level 2 flight. Congratulations Paul!



Bill Puckett of Fresno launched his blue and yellow LOC *Graduator* on a G75J. Charlie (Puckett?) also flew the *Graduator* on a G75J.

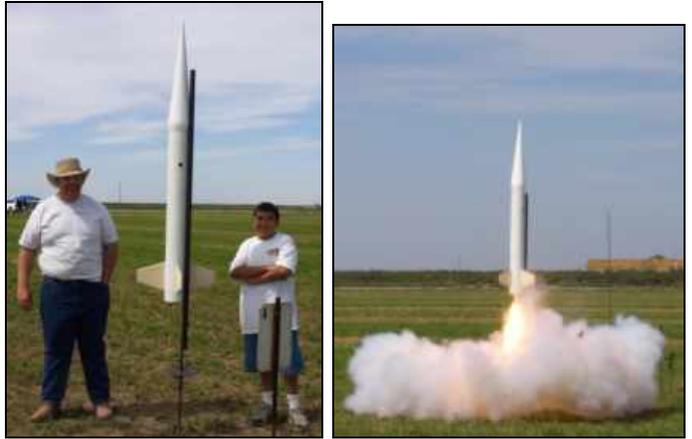
Sarah Puckett's red and black LOC *Onyx Speeder* flew off the Estes pads on an F37W, and later on a G77R.



Alden Rocha of Tulare flew a green and pink *Wacky Wiggler* on a C6 and a chrome and black Astron on a C6.

Dylan Rocha flew an orange *Hi-Flier* on a B6 and his white and red *Heads Up* rocket on a C6. Dylan's first steps into higher power were with a nicely painted red and white 50" LOC *Legacy* with G54 and G75J power.

For the biggest motor of the day, Fresno's Mike Smith launched his Polecat Nike Smoke, *My Mistress 2*, for a thunderous flight on a K700W with AltAcc2 and Perfect Flight altimeters. The main chute deployed at apogee leaving Mike to hunt down his rocket, luckily, just beyond the corn field.



Dale Soutas launched his orange and red *ACME Roadrunner Special* with an I211, and flew his red and yellow *Baby Boom!* on an H50 and an H180.



Taking time out from LCO duties, Visalia's Ben Sandoval flew his refurbished orange *Another Bad Photo* on an I205SS.

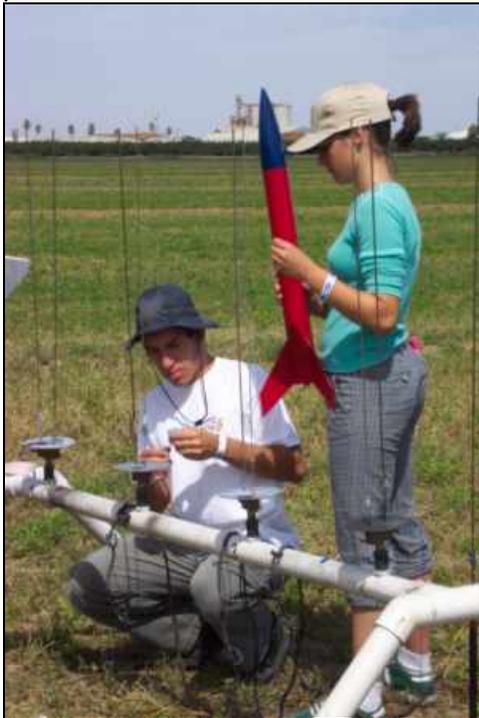


Terry Swift wowed the crowd with the flight of a 25" *Spaceship One* on an E9. The ship did a roll on ascent just like the real thing! Terry also flew a blue *Lil' Johnny* rocket on an F50, a red, white and blue Fliskits *Starlord* on 3 E9's, a silver Launch Pad *Bolo* on an E30, an olive-drab *Type 30 Military Rocket* with an E15, and a 34" Cosmodrone *Nike Smoke* on a G80.



Curt Walker flew a gray Aerotech *Hercules* on a G64.

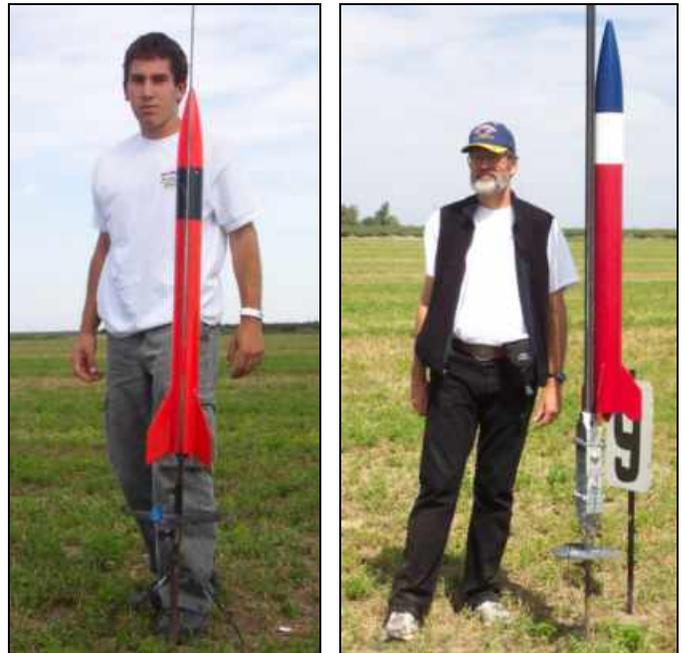
Monterey's Rachel Phillips made 2 flights with a red LOC *Graduator* on a G40W and her red *Maxi-Alpha* on an E30.



David Gavrin of Carmel flew his silver 25" LOC *Onyx* twice on F20's.



Bobby Wright of Pacific Grove made an attempt at the "G" Large Model Rocket Altitude Record, but came up a little shy with his Estes *Executioner* on a G75J.



Lance Wright also made an altitude record attempt for the "H" Large Model Rocket category with a red, white and blue *LOC IV* with an H268R and a PerfectFlight Altimeter. For more information, see the following article submitted by Lance Wright

# The Wright Stuff

Photos and documentation by Lance Wright

I have included two photos from the September launch showing my successful (but not yet confirmed) attempt to set a new TRIPOLI altitude record for the "Large Model Rocket, H-Motor" category.

Tripoli Rocketry Association keeps track of altitude records for several classes, one of these is "Large Rocket Altitude". For this class the rocket must meet a minimum size for each motor. For the H and I classes, the rocket must be at least 3.75" in diameter for a length of at least 36". Lance modified a LOC IV to add a payload section for the small PerfectFlight altimeter, and reduced the fin span to achieved a static margin of 1.47 calibers (with motor installed) using the RockSim method of computing the center of pressure. He used an H268R motor with a long delay to get as close to the maximum allowable total impulse of 320 newton-seconds. The RSO and two Tripoli-member witnesses must sign off on the documents which have been sent to Tripoli for confirmation. After he sent in the record attempt documents to Tripoli, Lance stumbled onto a website that documented Mark Clark's record of 5,464 feet for the "Large Model Rocket, I-Motor" category. Mark's rocket, which was lighter than Lance's, was destroyed on it's next flight going for the H-motor record!

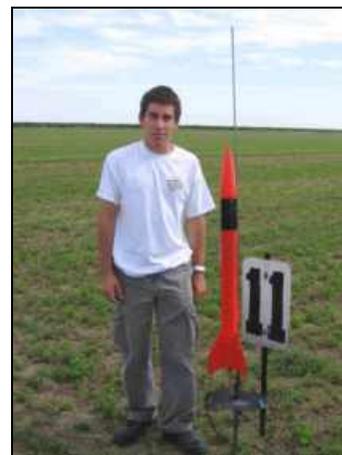


*The LOC IV streaks to an altitude of 2,503 feet on an H268R. Lance needed to break the old record by Steve Klausmeyer of 2,348 feet by more than 2% (2,395 feet).*



*Lance stands next to his modified LOC IV prior to his altitude record attempt. He is using TCC's new, hinged rail, which he "really likes".*

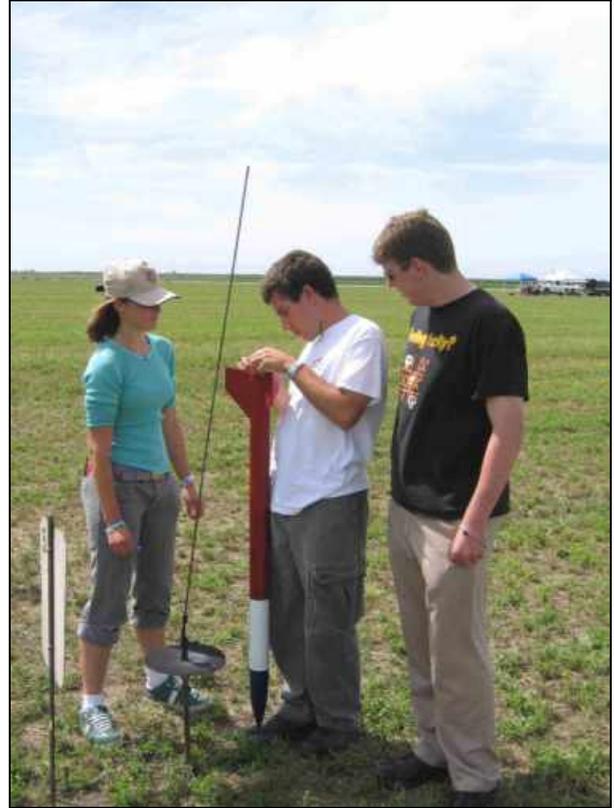
I was pleased to bring three members of the York Rocketry Club to the September Launch. Bobby Wright, Rachel Phillips, and David Gavrin attend the York High School in Monterey, CA.



*Bobby Wright prepares to launch his modified Estes Executioner on a G75J in an attempt for the "Large Model Rocket G-Motor" altitude record. The record is 2,770 feet and Bobby would have to exceed it by 2% (2,826 feet) to claim it.*



York Rocketry Club members, Bobby Wright, David Gavrin, and Rachel Phillips retrieve Bobby's rocket which reached an altitude of 2,742 feet. Unfortunately the payload/nosecone separated from the airframe at ejection. Bobby has learned that it doesn't take that much black powder to blow out an Estes nosecone.



Bobby and David help Rachel prep the LOC Graduator she launched on a G40W.

Lance Wright

P.S. (an interesting story)

Several weeks ago, I earned my Level 2 certification. I had used a LOC Magnum with a J350W and had installed an 84" parachute for a soft landing. The motor-ejected chute carried the rocket quite a distance and I went through some anxiety in my search to find it. At the September launch I watched a Polecat Thumper on a J420R go up on a beautiful Level 2 certification flight. The chute deployed nicely at apogee, and while watching the slow decent, I realized that it was going to land a long way from the pads; into or beyond a tall "cornfield". I was too involved with another rocket launch to help the owner, but understood that there would be no Level 2 without recovery. A couple of hours later when I recovered my LOC IV which had also drifted past the "cornfield", a field hand waved to me and held up the Thumper. I went over and thanked him knowing how happy the owner was going to be. The field hand refused my small monetary gift of thanks, renewing my faith in the basic goodness of mankind. Suddenly the tired, dusty, sweaty owner emerged from the "cornfield" in time to thank the field hand and retrieve his unscathed rocket. (Lance Wright)



Rachel's Graduator takes off into the wind. It drifted back and had a picture-perfect landing near the pads.



David Gavrin's LOC Onyx lifts off on an F20. This was the first rocket he has built, and he was so pleased that he successfully launched it again on another F20. David did discover that silver paint is not the best choice. He plans to repaint it and put it up with a G-motor at October Skies.



**Photos by  
Jim Norton**





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Jim Norton**



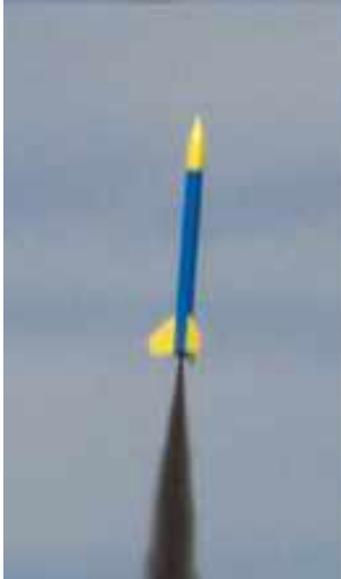
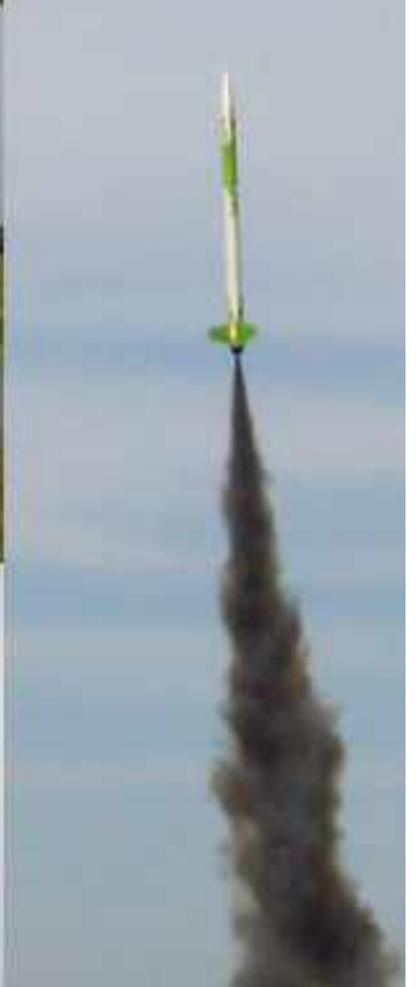


Photos by Gary Walker





Photos by 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 ...

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Article and photos contributed by Lance Wright & Gary Walker.

Photos also contributed by Jim Norton, and Jeff Stout. All other photos by Gary Walker.

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**Steve Maddox**  
**& The Maddox**  
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