



AERONAUT

The Newsletter for the Association of
Experimental Rocketry of the Pacific
Tripoli Rocketry Association, Inc.
Prefecture No. 23

November 1996 Volume 8 Number 4

First Commish's Corner, November 1996

by Pius Morozumi, AERO-PAC First Commissioner

The 1996 AERO-PAC high power rocket season ended on a high note with a great Hayburner VI launch at Paso Robles in September. We all need to thank Jerry Vaughn and Vaughn Brothers Rocketry for putting on another terrific launch and barbecue. The weather was nearly perfect for both days of the launch. Everyone agrees they had an outstanding time.

We had a really up and down season out at Black Rock this year with a more than the usual number of windy and cloudy days at Mud Roc 3.0 in June and Black Rock VIII in July. Despite the weather problems, we still had good times out on the playa with many AERO-PAC members successfully flying their level 1 and 2 certification flights this season. There were even a couple of the first successful level 3 flights at our Black Rock launches this year. Congratulations to all the flyers who achieved their new certification levels this season.

FireBALLS 006

FireBALLS 006, which was held at the Black Rock Desert in August, deserves to go down in the record book for having two of the highest and most powerful rockets ever successfully flown. Congratulations to Paul Robinson and Jim Rosson for the launch of their R Rocket with its stunning video

views of the earth, and to Ky Michaelson for the successful recovery under parachute of his P-motored rocket that went over 60,000 feet! I won't go into the details on these flights so I don't steal any material from the person writing the launch article. If you weren't there to see all the action, come out to see the big ones fly next time. It was definitely worth the trip this year.

Hearty congratulations and our thanks go out also to Jim Hart and LTR for putting on the launch for the benefit of all of us. I know that they worked very hard to get their launch equipment up to the site from Los Angeles. We also need to thank Jim for arranging the BLM use permit, and Lance Griffin for getting the FAA waiver. They also brought out the portable toilets from Sparks. I want to say for myself, it was sure nice being their guest at this launch and letting them play host.

While I'm on this topic, there is a rumor going around that I want to correct and dispel right now. It was passed on to me that some of us, including myself, felt that it was solely Jim Hart and Bruce Kelly that decided to let LTR take a crack at running FireBALLS this year. That is wrong. Bruce correctly reminded me of a conversation he and I had at the end of LDRS/FB last year. When Bruce suggested that LTR might want to try running the launch this year, I said "good, let 'em." I am willing to talk to anyone privately who wants to go into this further, but I hope that this puts an end to the public criticiz-

ing that I heard. Sure, LTR made some mistakes such as setting up too close to the playa edge, but they weren't responsible for the gusty winds on Saturday that dumped many of our rockets into the dunes. Potentially serious mistakes were also made by several of the LCOs who were not as familiar with the launch system as they should have been, but thankfully no one was hurt as a result. Regrettably, that didn't bring back Karl Baumann's Pluto, but Karl is a generous and forgiving rocketeer who doesn't carry grudges. So let's give every one associated with this launch a little slack, shall we, and go back to enjoying our flights and each others' company.

Has anyone made plans to attend LDRS XVI in Colorado next summer? LDRS XVI dates are August 7-10, 1997. Dario Brisighella, Prefect of Tripoli Colorado, has requested and been given permission by the AERO-PAC Board to borrow the AERO-PAC launch equipment in order to host the event. Dario originally approached our Board last year when he came out to help us with LDRS XIV. He presented Colorado's bid to host LDRS next year based on our helping out. Bruce Kelly has kindly offered to haul the AERO-PAC launch system from Black Rock to Colorado and back. Our members will be needed to help Dario and his crew to set it up as well as help with the launch operations. I would like to see AERO-PAC members show up in force so that we can repay Dario and his group for helping us out last year.

Members Meeting on December 8

The next AERO-PAC Members Meeting will be held from 1 to 3 PM on December 8 at a new location. Rick Mann has arranged for us to be able to meet at Apple Computer. I want to publicly thank Rick for working so hard to set this up. There is a video player and projection screen television in the room, so bring along any interesting tapes you would like to show as well as items for swapping or selling, or just plain showing off. We want to use this meeting to allow you, the members, to help decide on the dates for next year's launches. So come with your ideas. Your vote counts.

I will again be making the Level 2 written test available to anyone who wants to take it after the Members Meeting. If you need to make alternative arrangements, give me a call or drop me an email message.

To get to the Apple R&D campus:

Take Freeway 280 to DeAnza Blvd exit in Cupertino. If southbound on 280, turn right onto DeAnza. At the first light, turn left onto Mariani. If northbound on 280, turn left onto DeAnza, cross over freeway. At the second light, turn left onto Mariani. You will approach the Apple R&D campus, which will be on the left. It is a group of six light-colored buildings visible from the freeway. Turn left just before them on Infinite Loop. You may park anywhere on the left. You are looking for Infinite Loop 1, on your right. There are three flagpoles in front of the door. Either someone will be out front to greet you, or the doors will be open (I'm not yet sure what the arrangements with Security are). If there is no one to meet you, try the doors. If they are open, enter the building 1 lobby, and head left down the hall. The AERO-PAC meeting room is called Singapore, and it is on your right. There will probably be signs posted. If the doors are locked and there is no one to greet you, try picking up the phone in front and dialing 4-6280. That should ring in the conference room.

Mid-West Regional Fun Fly

June 15th - 16th

Mike Vaughn — NAR #23248

I had some frequent flyer miles that were going to expire so I did something different. I flew to Chicago to attend MRFF, The Mid-west Regional Fun Fly. The launch was put on by the NAR section NIRA. The field was located in Pratt Wayne Woods near St. Charles, Ill. They had a 2300' AGL waiver which was okay given the size of the field. These people put on a great event, two days of launching, a BBQ, and a meeting Saturday night. The temperature was in the mid 80's but it was very humid and the mosquitoes ate me alive.

The range operation was the smoothest I have ever witnessed. The range opened at 9:00 and by 10:00 they had already broke 100 flights, by 5:00 the first day they had over 500. Granted the bulk of these were A-D powered model rockets but considering they only had 12 model rocket pads I was impressed. They also had two high power pads and these saw many H and I flights as well as one Aerotech J Hybrid and a K1100 in a large scratch built rocket. The model rocket pads were spread out in a horseshoe shape from the LCO table and spaced such that they could be loaded even if an adjacent pad was launching.

Flying to a launch was a new experience, it cuts down a lot on the amount of stuff you can take, including motors. I ordered my motors from Magnum and had them shipped to Bob Wiersbe to bring out to the field. I brought an Extreme 54, Stretch Blobbo, and a Mini-EX. I flew the Mini-EX on an A10-3 and proceeded to lose it in the swamp. I then flew the Stretch on an Aerotech E15-7 and lost it in some tall grass. 0 for 2 on recovery, not good! Next I prepped the Extreme with altimeter ejection and a Kosdon G170. Great boost followed by a separation of the lower section, I used an all kevlar shock line with a Rocketman parachute. The kevlar loop pulled out of the gap in the screweye at the payload end. Both pieces were recovered with minimal damage (it's nice flying in grass) and the altimeter was beeping out 1722'.

After the range shut down we enjoyed the barbecue prepared by NAR president Mark Bundick. Most people then went to the meeting. It started out with Mark Bundick giving a talk on some of the things the NAR was doing then opening up to questions from the audience. They also had a Peoples Choice judging and a Team Kitbash contest. My Peoples Choice had to be Dave Miller's USS Atlantis II. This was the successor to the one featured in an HPR construction article a while back. The amount of detail in this rocket was phenomenal, for the static display he switched on a sequencer that had LED's blinking all over it. He also attached a shuttle bay to the motor mount complete with shuttle and working landing lights. To

top it off he launched it earlier in the day on a Aerotech J Hybrid with apogee drogue deployment and RC main ejection for a great flight. The manufacturers were very generous to this event and everyone who attended the meeting won a raffle prize. I came away !
with a pack of BMS Estes clone nose cones.

The next morning I found my Mini-EX at the RSO table, someone else rescued it from the swamp. I flew it 3 more times with the remainder of my pack of A10's. On one of the flights I chad staged it with an A10-0 and learned that a Mini-EX is not stable in this configuration. I then borrowed a Aerotech 29/180 case and bought a H128 reload for another Extreme 54 flight. This flight was perfect with apogee at 1976'.

A new manufacture, Nordic Rocketry, was present showing off their line of model and medium powered rocket kits. Howard Olsen of Wisconsin along with his wife are starting this endeavor and have some interesting designs using quality components.

AERO-PAC Members Directory

September 1996

No.	Member	Address	City	State	Zip	Home Phone	E-mail
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12	Christopher Smith	2200 Cheyenne Way	Modesto	CA	95356	(209) 526-2183	chs10@
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21	Jeff Boyle	16977 Bissell Place	Grass Valley	CA	95949	(916) 273-3175	tcj3264
23	Thomas Johnson	3434 Villa Lane #100	Napa	CA	94558	(707) 944-0431	
27	Dave Cook	39 1/2 Nevada	Klamath Falls	OR	97601	(541) 884-1582	
33	Bruce Kelly	P.O.Box 06	Orem	UT	84059	(801) 225-3250	71161.;
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76	John Powell	602 D St	Davis	CA	95616	(916) 757-1808	jdpowe
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131	Stan Ridder	2639 Brentwood Dr.	Lancaster	CA	93536	(805) 940-1870	
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