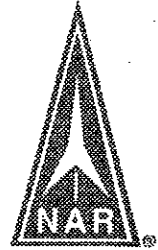


# Team Pittsburgh

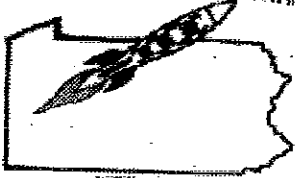


NEWSLETTER OF THE PITTSBURGH SPACE COMMAND NAR #473

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1

JAN-FEB 1999

PITTSBURGH SPACE COMMAND



NAR 473

## NEW YEAR — NEW LAUNCH SITE!

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PITTSBURGH PA  
AUGUST 7 - 13, 1999

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**ROCKET**  **MAIL**

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By Ken Good



Starting in January —  
Lutherlyn is the **NEW HOME** of  
**PITTSBURGH SPACE**  
**COMMAND.**

Regular and contest launches to take place at the field which has hosted Melvin and R & R launches of the past. For details and directions, please turn to page 5.

VISIT OUR WEB PAGE AT THE FOLLOWING URL:

<http://www.nb.net/~rockets/psc.html>

PSC INFO, NARAM-41 OFFICIAL WEBSITE

TEAM PITTSBURGH

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OF SAFE MODEL ROCKETRY.

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**MAP TO SEVEN FIELDS LAUNCH SITE**



**NORTH/SOUTH 1-79 : TAKE CRANBERRY EXIT**

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The following is an excerpt of a letter received by Mort:

11/2/98

Dear Mort:

I just received the Nov-Dec PSC Newsletter. Dick did a fine job on the Epoxy Pourer tip. I also enjoyed your Aiming High article on Dick Freed. I wish I were there for your glider show in October! I unfortunately couldn't find a ride.

The newsletter said my "Psycho" rocket was scratchbuilt. It is not. It's a Public Enemy rocket. Purchased from Discount Hobby Center, Utica, NY. (see Sport Rocketry, Sept/Oct page 41.)

Rocket on!

Sincerely,  
Joe A. Peklicz

Joe — Thanks for your letter and for all your submissions to Team Pittsburgh. I have quite a backlog of them on my desk at present, but will try to work them in in upcoming issues. Thanks for the photos also! Congrats on your level one certification flight, which appears below.

Dick Freed, Editor, Team Pittsburgh NL

Editor's Note: This is a NEW FEATURE for Team Pittsburgh. Hopefully, this column will continue on an "as received" basis. We appreciate your writing and telling us what you think. When appropriate, editorial responses or comments will also appear.

**Subject: New Pink Book Available**  
From: Mark B. Bundick (from RMR Newsgroup)

A new printed copy of the Pink Book is now available at NAR HQ. For a variety of cost and production reasons, we have returned to the "old" 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 format last printed in the early 90's. These books should easily fit into your range box, and will be quite compact.

Members who want or need a new copy can contact NAR HQ and request one simply by emailing your name, NAR number and address to nar-hq@nar.org. If you don't have email, write Headquarters at: P.O.Box 177, Altoona, WI 54720

November 9, 1998

Dear Mort,

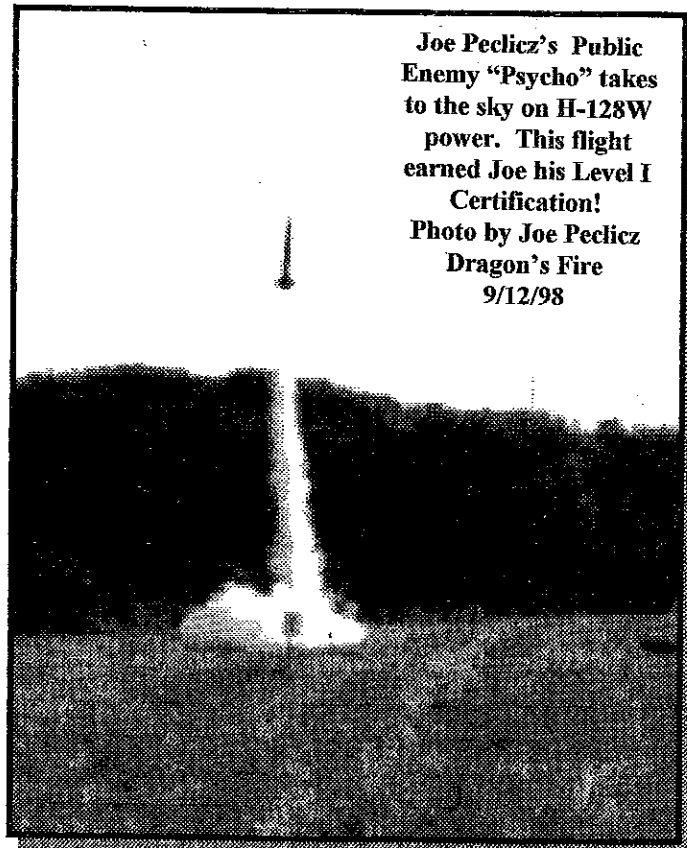
We enjoyed reading the recent PSC Newsletter, especially page 3, Although it was Children's Palace that closed, so Toys-R-U's may not enjoy reading it! (Just Kidding)

The article of yours on Dick Freed was unbelievable. How does he find the time to do so much? Camp Lutherlyn must be terribly honored to have such a devoted person on their staff. We're glad the wadding found such a good home, and if it ever happens again, you and he will be the first to know. (Is there a chance Team Pittsburgh could use Camp Lutherlyn's launch site?)

Betty Wilson

Betty — Thanks for the kind words in your letter, and also for your donation of wadding. I figure that I will probably have to buy wadding for camp programs by about 2008! Your letter was also a bit prophetic, as we have just received the go-ahead to launch at Lutherlyn on a full time basis. I hope you continue to enjoy our newsletter!

Dick Freed, Editor, Team Pittsburgh NL



Joe Peklicz's Public Enemy "Psycho" takes to the sky on H-128W power. This flight earned Joe his Level I Certification!  
Photo by Joe Peklicz  
Dragon's Fire  
9/12/98

**MORT'S COLUMN  
BY MORT BINSTOCK  
NAR #27182**

**1999:**

Welcome to 1999 and a GREAT flying year! I predict GREAT flying & GREAT weather!

**DUES:**

1999 dues are due. If you have not done so, your prompt payment would be appreciated. If there is a problem with your prompt paying and you wish to continue to receive the newsletter please let us know. We'll continue your newsletter! Your prompt payment allows me to complete the 1999 mailing database, put the business end of the club behind, & resume flying rockets.

**AEROTECH E15 "SECRET" TOOL:**

Some Aerotech E15s have an ignitor insertion problem. The ignitor just won't go in. I think the fuel core opening is marginal and there might also be a burr blocking the opening. I have helped several members including, at R&R, JOHN SAROSI get the ignitor inserted. My "secret" tool consists of a straightened paper clip. Insert the paper clip into the engine nozzle and into the ignitor channel. Wiggle the paper clip to remove any burrs. Works every time!

**AVATAR - END OF THE ROAD:**

I decided at Dragons Fire to fly or scrap my North Coast Avatar. The Avatar is a radio controlled space shuttle look alike boost glider. Published literature indicates the Avatar does not fly well if at all. Test results at Dragons Fire proved to be inconclusive. First flight's D12 barely boosted the Avatar. Second flight's trusty 24mm F12 reload catoed 20 feet into the flight ending all testing. The Avatar was retested at September's launch. A new F12 reloadable motor provided a perfect boost. Upon burn out the Avatar started to tumble uncontrollably. The Avatar was scrapped, I'm on to better things!

**AEROTECH RELOAD CATO:**

PSC treasurer STEVE FOSTER was at one time plagued with small (19 or 24mm) Aerotech reloadable motors catoing. I had assumed STEVE's catos were due to problems with the ejection charge. My first ever cato occurred in my Avatar. The motor pinged ejecting the nozzle and its retaining cap. Upon examination at home, the inside of the casing was completely clean and empty. Even the tightly fitted time delay element was gone. It looked like a faulty ejection charge fired blowing everything out. HOWEVER, there was no ejection charge. I do NOT use an ejection charge when boosting R/C gliders. A mystery to me! Anyone have any ideas what caused the CATO?

**IMPROVING THE SWEET VEE:**

I have been learning to fly R/C gliders and hope to fly my Sweet Vee



again at rocket launches soon. The Sweet Vee has a nasty tendency on a turn to stall on the insidewing tip, flip over, then crash. I decided to have my R/C sail plane instructor look at the Sweet Vee. My instructor said that the stall was caused by the lifting air exiting out from the wing tip during a turn. He suggested a vertical wing tip fin to stop this lifting air exit. My instructor then proceeded to show me a sail plane with that wing tip fin feature. We tested the Sweet Vee's glide. I tossed the Sweet Vee as hard as I could, my instructor flew it. Under my instructor's skilled control, the tossed plane made a lengthy flight even gaining, powered by the wind, altitude. I now believe my Sweet Vee is capable of flying well. I now plan to add a tow hook and tow the Sweet vee up as a sail plane with my instructor's help. This should allow me to develop Sweet Vee flying skills safely.

**CLUB TEAMWORK:**

I contacted the Seven Fields borough manager to learn if another flying field might be available. The borough manager indicated that Seven Fields had a park and, if the park was large enough, we could work out an arrangement to use it. PSC member DIANE SCHMIEDEL of HOBBY EXPRESS agreed to check this field out. Unfortunately the field is too small. Thanks for your help DIANE! Anyone know of a field that we can use?

PSC members also provided teamwork plus community service. I was approached by Walt Golden to provide a talk on rockets to 100 Cub Scouts and their families. LAURIE FOSTER printed, on three day's notice, 100 copies of PSC's newsletter. LAURIE really provided service, she even delivered the newsletters to the fire hall where I gave the talk. Thanks LAURIE, a great job well done!

To my surprise Cub Scout parent and PSC member MATT WHERLE was there. MATT helped me with my presentation. MATT also brought and displayed to the awe of the Scouts his high powered Sandhawk. Thanks for the help MATT!

**MORT'S COLUMN  
(CONTINUED FROM P.4)**

My rocketry presentation went well. Hopefully we will get some members from the scouts. It pays to help the community, sometimes help is returned. Cub Scout pack leader Walt Golden is a radio announcer for KQV and offered to help PSC publicize NARAM 41.

PSC has had great flying in '98. Here is to great flying and to Pittsburgh sponsored NARAM 41 in '99! Keep on flying!

Mort Binstock NAR 27182

**NEW (BUT FAMILIAR) LAUNCH  
SITE SECURED  
BY DICK FREED, NAR 24586**

December marked the final launch of PSC at the Seven Fields launch site. The field served us well over the past four years, and we thank the Borough of Seven Fields for allowing its use. But development of housing over the past months has closed in on all sides, making this field no longer practical to use.

At one of the fall meetings of PSC, I was asked to persue use of the Lutherlyn field we use for Melvin and R & R. Lutherlyn has welcomed us with open arms, even to the point of including our launch dates on its own web site!

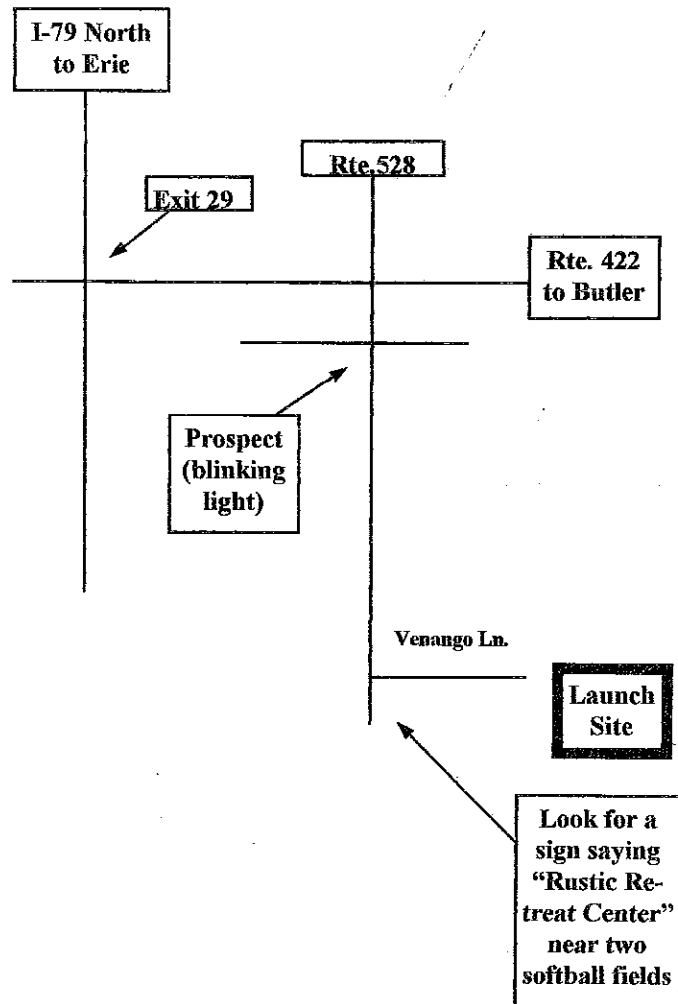
Launches will begin in January, and hopefully we can continue a long relationship with the camp. To do this, we need to remember a few things —

1. No Foul Language or Alcoholic Beverages.
2. G engine limit — less if conditions warrant.
3. Neighbors to the south have not been particularly friendly in the past. If we experience north winds, we should downgrade engines used so as not to have to recover in these areas.
4. We need to clean up wadding, igniters, etc, from the grounds after the launch, so if you see any litter, wadding, etc. laying around, please pick it up and put it into a trash barrel.

A big thank you to member Geir Hundal and the Lutherlyn administrative staff for making the field available for our use.

**DIRECTIONS TO OUR NEW  
LAUNCH SITE @ CAMP LUTHERLYN**

Map: (Not to scale)



**Directions to Lutherlyn Launch Site:**

*From North or South on I-79 ...*

Get off I-79 at the Butler-New Castle exit (29) and travel east toward Butler. Get off at the Prospect exit (route 528) and head south. About 1/4 mile you will come to a blinker light in the center of the "metropolis" of Prospect. Continue straight through on 528 for about 3 miles. Look on your left for a large sign that says "Lutherlyn Rustic Retreat Center" and turn east onto Venango lane. Travel for 1/4 mile to launch site.