



Team Pittsburgh

Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Space Command NAR #473



Volume 12, Issue 4

#91

July/August 2000

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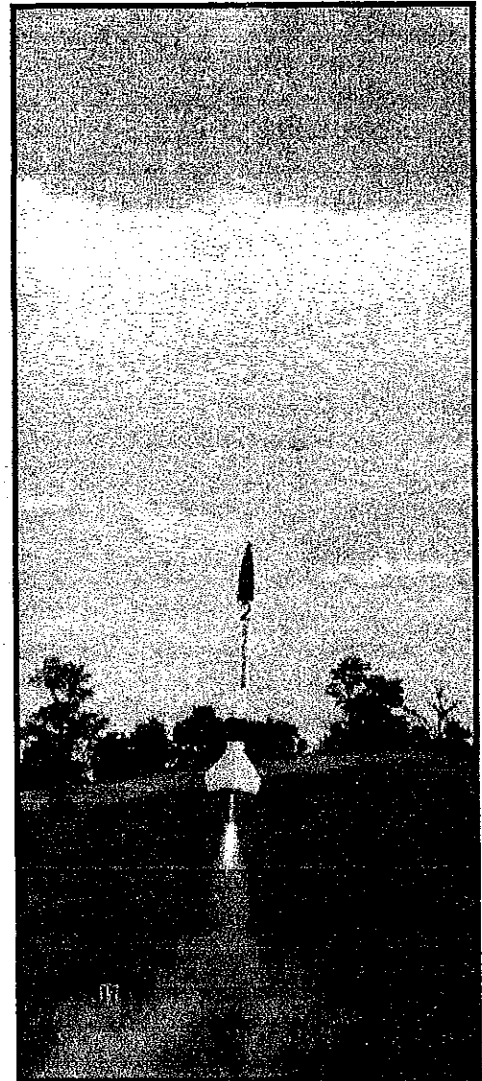
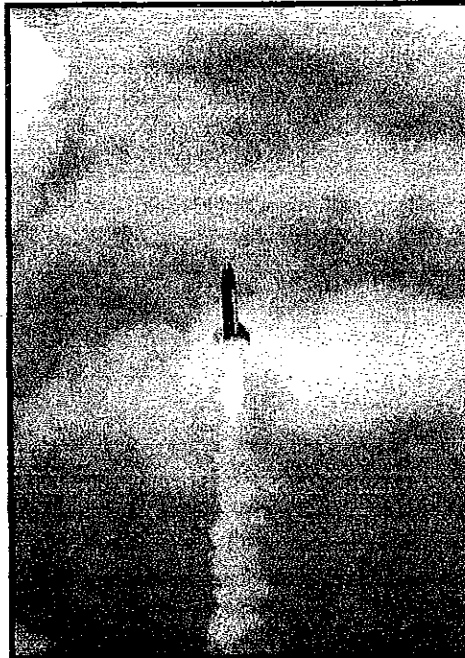
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PLUS —
another
Joe Peklicz Plan!
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Special NARAM issue



DRAGON'S FIRE 6/3/00

(Upper Left) — Dave Rose sends his upscale Fat Boy on a successful flight. (Lower Left) — a three engine cluster successfully lifts off, but the center (recovery deployment) engine fails to fire. (above) Christine's Graduator flies on an F reload.

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Pittsburgh Space Command
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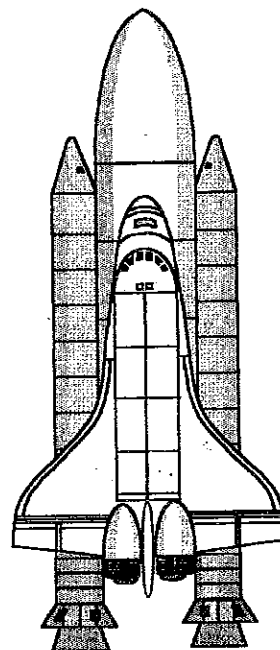
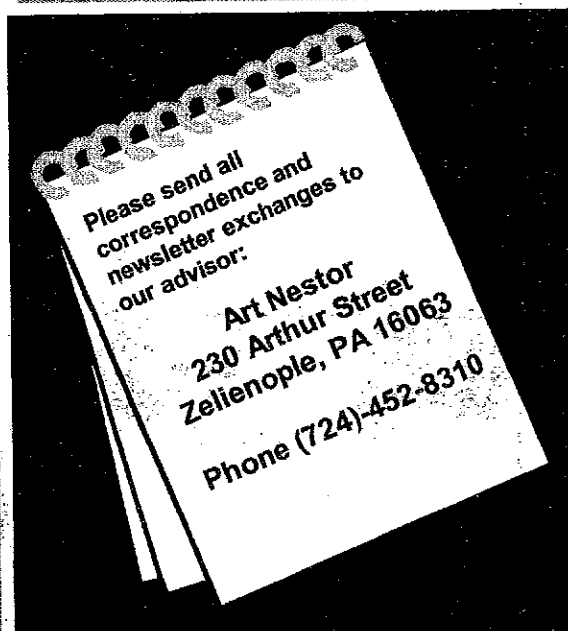
PSC Officers for 2000:

President: Rod Schafer
Vice President: Mort Binstock
Treasurer: Steve Foster
Advisor: Art Nestor

Newsletter Publisher: Richard Freed
Webmaster: Jo Ann Karaffa

PSC Web site:

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



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Mort's Column
By Mort Binstock, NAR 27182

This column starts out with two big WOWs!

LEVEL TWO ACHIEVEMENT

WOW 1: PSC member CHRISTINE RIAL recently earned her LEVEL TWO CERTIFICATION. Level two certification is difficult to obtain therefore QUITE an achievement.

CHRISTINE, how about a short article on your level 2 efforts, the rocket plus flight details? How did it feel to obtain the coveted level 2?

Congratulations CHRISTINE on your coveted level two!

WORLDS RECORD SET

- ANOTHER WOW: I have never seen a world record set. JOHN PACE's super roc made a record setting flight at May's contest. Fantastic? Congratulations JOHN! How about a short article providing super roc details and how it feels to hold a world record?



Photo courtesy Tripoli Pgh "Rocket Mail"

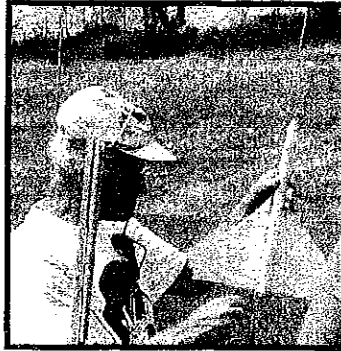
DICK HART:

I hate to see a good rocketeer leave the hobby, but it happens. DICK was one of PSC's founding members. Dick supported the club for many years including upgrading our launcher's cabling and serving as club treasurer.

DICK's life has changed and he has moved on. His donated rockets and rocket supplies were distributed among PSC members at the April launch. Thanks DICK for all your support, friendship, and supplies. I wish you the best. We will miss you!

MONOCOPTER:

One of my heroes, Thomas Edison, said invention was 1% inspiration, 99% perspiration. FRANCIS has worked hard, smart, and long to resurrect the monocopter; a most unusual and difficult to get to fly flying machine. April's flight



was perfect: powered by a long burn Apogee D3.

FRANCIS, your flight was, according to by memory, better than the original Kory Kline flights. Your monocopter spun, slowly lifted off its launcher,

then slowly flew across the field. Fantastic flight!

FRANCIS has also just published a delightful & informative book on the monocopter. Success breeds success! Many PSC members purchased copies right after the monocopter's successful flight. A copy of FRANCIS' book may be purchased directly from FRANCIS or ordered from Apogee.

A subsequent monocopter flight attempt was made at Dragon's Fire using an original antique Kory Kline monocopter powered by my 40ns E6 R/C reload. Take off was slow, perhaps too slow and underpowered. The monocopter flew briefly, its flight interrupted with a collision with another launch pad. I'm sure that the damaged monocopter is repairable and will fly again.

FRANCIS, remember Thomas Edison, Keep trying! I have seen rockets hit trees and even an Army tank (that score was rocket 0, tank 1). I have also seen skillfully controlled R/C planes hit trees and monuments. These strange collisions happen, perhaps a topic (gravity waves?) for your next research.

Congratulations FRANCIS on April's fantastic flight!

Mort's Column (Continued)

MICRO BALLOONS:

Micro balloons are a product I have read about, but until recently never tried. My current project, the Cuda rocket boosted R/C glider, suggested its use.

Micro balloons are small light weight hollow glass spheres. Micro Balloons are small! Micro balloons look and feel like talcum powder, not like the hollow glass spheres they really are. Micro balloons are quite light too! Their 8 ounce (by volume) filled plastic container feels empty.

The micro balloons that I purchased at my local hobby shop are made by K & B. Micro balloons are mixed with epoxy to make a light weight easy to sand fillet. More micro balloons makes the joint lighter and easier to sand, less micro balloons makes the joint stronger.

Adding micro balloons to epoxy also makes the uncured mix thick and run free. The epoxy becomes thicker and drip free. This makes for a great gap filler and fillet maker.

I used the micro balloon/epoxy mixture to glue the Cuda's wing sections together. My wing fit was good but not perfect. There were a few gaps. The micro balloon/epoxy mixture hardened to a smooth strong gap free joint.

I recommend this product's use wishing I had discovered it years ago. Adding micro balloons to epoxy enhances the epoxy's ability to make strong smooth gap free joints and fillets.

CUDA UPDATE: My Cuda is almost finished. I've covered the wings, installed most of the radio gear, installed and reinforced the body pod (read on why I reinforced the body pod). Left to complete my CUDA is battery installation, balancing, and then a test glide.

STEVE FOSTER's CUDA is complete. To minimize risk of damage during its test glide, STEVE wisely brought the CUDA to Hartwood Acres. At Hartwood, expert R/C sail plane flyers belonging to the Steel City Soarers (SCS) carefully inspected, trimmed, then hand tossed STEVE's CUDA.

The CUDA's glide was long and controllable! The Steel City Soarers were MOST impressed with the CUDA's gliding ability. Unfortunately even with a perfect landing the CUDA's balsa body pod cracked.

The landing was gentle! As designed, the pod is weakened by hollowing out its balsa hull to save weight, then adding weight to achieve balance. Seems dumb and counter productive? Then, the pod absorbs the full force of the landing.

STEVE reinforced the body pod with carbon rods and fiberglass to be back the next day for another try. SCS again hand tossed the CUDA several more times. SCS continued to be most impressed with all the subsequent flights (so was I). Also, NO more body damage (testimony to STEVE's fix).

I learned much from STEVE's two flying sessions including the need to reinforce my CUDA before test flying.

STRATOBLASTER UPDATE:

I flew the StratoBlaster at May's Dragon's Fire. It flew OK, specifically I got it back in one piece. For me one piece recovery is synonymous with a perfect flight.

The StratoBlaster boosted true and high using a 43ns F12 reload. It was difficult to fly after boost having a tendency to dive and turn sharply. I was able to use the radio to fight these tendencies to eventually make a blind landing behind a small hill.

The StratoBlaster was retrimmed and then

Mort's Column (Continued)

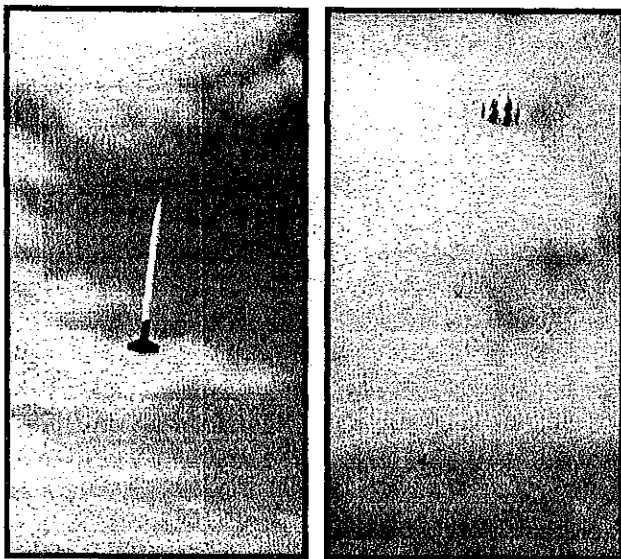
hand glided at Hartwood Acres by SCS. This time, it glided perfectly.

I flew again at PSC's May launch using a D11-P (thanks DAVE ROSE!). The flight was short but good. My landing was a little rough, the Strato-Blaster sustained minor damage.

I will try another rocket boost soon, probably at Camp Lutherlyn in June.

See you at the next launch!

Mort Binstock NAR 27182



PHOTOS BY CHRISTINE RIAL

Kreig Williams again catches the eye of the crowd with the launch of his 25 lb J800 rocket. The main chute deploys for a picture perfect flight and recovery.

NEWS FLASH!!!

I have just received word through email that our launch correspondent, Francis Graham, has been injured in an automobile accident. Word is that he is progressing satisfactorily, but some of his injuries will require therapy for rehabilitation. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Francis! — Editor

Contest Schedule — PSC Regionals

April 15-16
"Rocket into Spring VI"

MEET FLOWN
Results included
in May/June edition
of Team Pitt

May 20-21
"Keep 'em Flyin' High VI"

MEET FLOWN
See Results:
Page 6 of
this Newsletter!

June 10-11
"Reach for the Sky XII"

1/4 A Boost Glider Dur
1/4 A Helicopter Dur
1/2 A Streamer Dur (MR)
B SuperRoc Dur
C Eggloft Duration

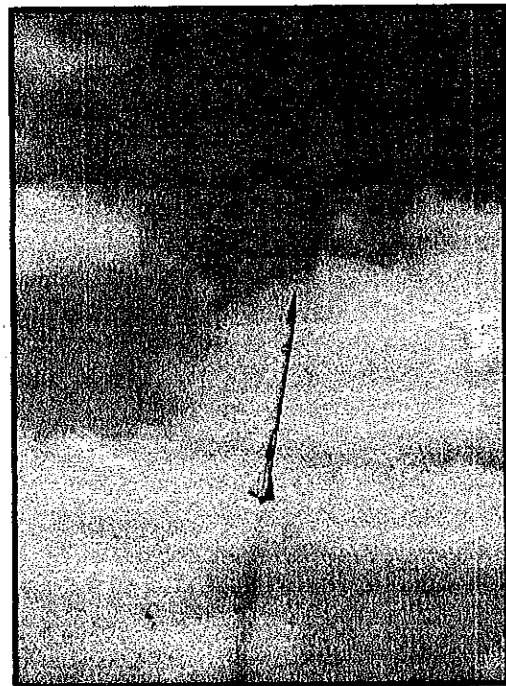
October 15
"Fall Flyer VII"

1/4 A Flexwing Dur (MR)
1/4 A Helicopter Dur
C Dual Eggloft Duration
Random Duration
(2000-2001 Flying Season)

**"Keep 'em Flyin' High"
Regional Contest
Results**

| NAME | SCORE | NAR PTS. |
|-------------------------------|------------|----------|
| ¼ A PARACHUTE DUR. MR | | |
| 1. John Pace | 101 sec | 330 |
| 2. Steve Foster | 87 sec | 198 |
| 3. Richard Freed | 62 sec | 132 |
| ½ A HELICOPTER DUR. | | |
| 1. Steve Foster | 70 sec | 570 |
| 2. Rod Schafer | 33 sec | 342 |
| A BOOST GLIDER DUR. | | |
| 1. Mark Cassata | 79 sec | 540 |
| 2. Steve Foster | 61 sec | 324 |
| 3. John Sarosi | 60 sec | 216 |
| 4. John Pace | 59 sec | 108 |
| 5. Richard Freed | 36 sec | 54 |
| B STREAMER DUR (MULTI) | | |
| 1. Steve Foster | 335 sec | 270 |
| 2. John Pace | 174 sec | 162 |
| 3. John Sarosi | 108 sec | 108 |
| C Superroc Duration | | |
| 1. John Pace | 36960 pts. | 450 |
| 2. Mike Uleski | 10206 pts | 270 |
| 3. Steve Foster | DQ | 0 |
| SET DURATION (40 sec) | | |
| 1. Steve Foster | 5 % error | 240 |
| 2. Art Nestor | 7.5 % | 144 |
| 3. Peg Nestor | 15 % | 96 |
| 4. John Pace | 37.5 % | 48 |
| 5. Andy Nigra | 45 % | 24 |
| 6. John Sarosi | 55 % | 24 |
| 7. Mort Binstock | 70 % | 24 |
| 8. Mark Cassata | 140 % | 24 |

| NAME | SECTION | NAR PTS. |
|------------------|---------|----------|
| 1. Steve Foster | 473 | 1602 |
| 2. John Pace | 473 | 1440 |
| 3. Mark Cassata | 473 | 564 |
| 4. John Sarosi | 473 | 348 |
| 5. Mike Uleski | 473 | 270 |
| 6. Richard Freed | 473 | 186 |
| 7. Art Nestor | Ind | 144 |
| 8. Peg Nestor | Ind | 96 |
| 9. Mort Binstock | Ind | 24 |
| 9. Andy Nigra | Ind | 24 |



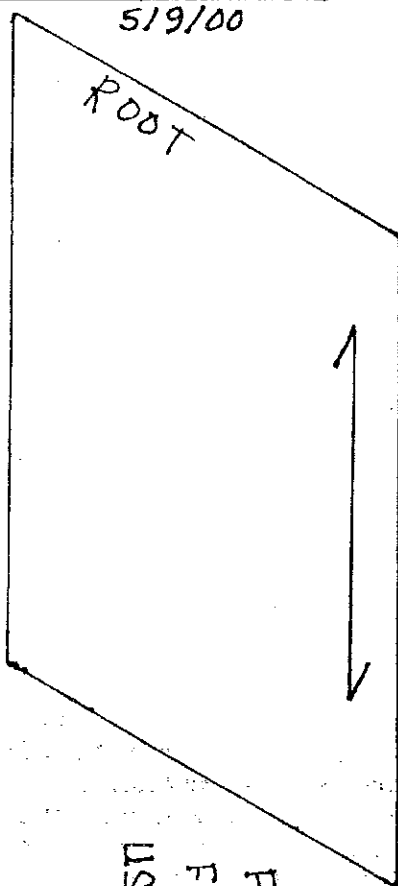
Francis Graham's King Viper flies at DF launch 6/3/00. Word has it that Francis will L2 certify with this rocket at DF in August.

DESIGN & DRAWN BY:

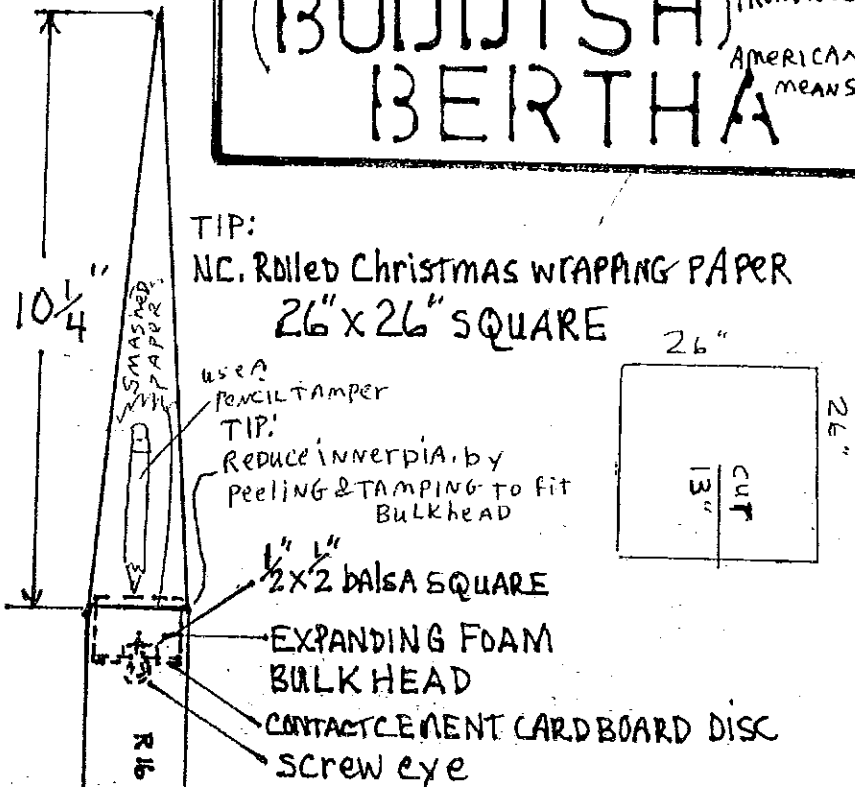
Joseph Peklicz
635 S Zane Hwy
Martins Ferry, OH 43935-1236



BORIS HUNGARY
(BUDDISH) PRONOUNCED
BERTHA AMERICAN MEANS



FULL SIZE
FIN PATTERN
USE 3/32" balsa X 3



TIP:
NC. ROLLED CHRISTMAS WRAPPING PAPER
26" X 26" SQUARE

use a PENCIL TAMPER
TIP: Reduce inner dia. by peeling & TAMPING to fit BULKHEAD

1/2" x 1/2" Balsa SQUARE
EXPANDING FOAM BULK HEAD
CONTACTMENT CARDBOARD DISC
Screw eye

RIB STAMPED (REYNOLDS)
ALUMINUM FOIL ROLL 12"
TIP: USE SPACKLING PASTE ON RIDGES.
(CUT OUT A PLASTIC MARGARINE LID 1/2" x 7")
TO USE AS AN APPLICATOR.

3" 1/8" Lip lugs
TO PRIME:
PAINT TIP: SPONGE BRUSH TUBE & FINS W/
WHITE LATEX HOUSE PAINT, LET DRY & SAND.

PIZZA BOX RINGS
THRUST RING

18mm Tube (BT-20)
1/4" CARDSTOCK RING
SPACKLING / SAND / LATEX / SAND
PAINT YOUR CHOICE OF COLORS
CARDSTOCK BOATAIL

RECOVERY SPECS:
1/4" ELASTIC SHOCK CORD X 26"
SHOCK CORD MOUNT
18" X 2 CREPE STREAMERS
WT: UNPAINTED 2 1/2 OZ.
LENGTH: 24 1/4"

ESTES PAPER SHROUD
60/20 (60 reduced 1/8")

Letter to the Editor

Hello, Fellow Rocketeers:

Late in the day at Dragon's Fire 15 (June 3, 2000) a Dr. Rocket 38mm motor casing was located out in the field, still attached to a PML adapter tube. No one present at the time laid claim to the item, and it is not clear whether it was lost at the current event or an earlier one (the latter would be my guess).

I am sending this message out to everyone on my e-mail list who may have knowledge of who the flyer is. If you think it's yours and you want to lay claim to it, please describe as much information as you can - i.e. serial number, Newton-second rating for the casing, attachment methods, closures, etc. I will be happy to hold the casing for return to the owner (either picking it up at my house or handing it off at the next launch), or mail it to the owner (mailing costs can be reimbursed to Tripoli Pittsburgh).

If no one claims the casing, I will retain it in my possession pending a decision by Tripoli Pittsburgh as to its disposition (i.e., keep it for collective club use, raffle it off, etc.).

Ken Good
Prefect, Tripoli Pittsburgh

Notes From the Prez By Rod Schafer, PSC President

1. Good Weather! So far the weather on launch days has been decent, especially for the PSC and Tripoli Pittsburgh co-sponsored HP launches. Lets hope the trend continues for the rest of the year.

2. R & R Picnic! Don't miss the annual PSC picnic in August. Attendance gets bigger and bigger each year. See below for details!

3. Coming Next Time! A report from RAMTEC-8

Until next time...
Fly'em High,

Rod

Annual Picnic "R&R VI" Set for August 20

And, you ask, what is R & R? That's **Rockets and Relaxation!** It's also PSC's annual picnic at the Camp Lutherlyn picnic pavilion. So bring your rockets and engines, your picnic-type lunch, drinks (non-alcoholic), a grill if you like, and a dish to share. Also bring some kind of a rocketry related item to donate to our annual raffle. Tentative schedule follows:

11:00 a.m. Set-up
Noon — 2:00 p.m. Rocket Launching
2:00 p.m. Picnic & raffle
3:00 — 5:00 p.m. More Rocket Launching
Don't Miss R & R !!!!!

Dragon's Fire Launch information:

All Dragon's Fire launches will be conducted according to following guidelines:

FAA waiver: 5,000 ft AGL

Flyer's fee: \$5.00 (per flyer or family)

Set-up: 8:00 AM

Flyer's meeting: 9:00 AM (range opens following meeting)

Range closes: 5:00 PM

Only Tripoli or NAR certified motors may be used.

Up through I-range motors permitted without advance application.

J-motor flights require advance application/approval, subject to launch day flying conditions.

Contact Prefect Ken Good to apply for J-motor flights.

Important Note: Due to the launch site's proximity to an interstate highway, the RSO will reserve the right to lower the permitted motor range and/or limit launches as required by conditions.

**PSC
Launch Windows 2000**

Jonestown: (Dragon's Fire)

Aug 5 — DF XVI
 Sep 30 — DF XVII
 Oct 28 — DF XVIII

Lutherlyn:

Jul 16: Sport Launch: Melvin VII
 Aug 20: Picnic Sport Launch: R&R VI
 Sep 17: Sport Launch
 Oct 15: Regional Contest & Sport
 Launch
 Nov 12: Sport Launch
 Dec 10: Sport Launch

OTHER LAUNCHES OF INTEREST:

Orangeburg, NC
 July 1,2,3,4 — LDRS

Canon City, CO
 Jul 29 - Aug 4 — NARAM 42

Contests begin at 10 a.m., Sport Launch at 1 p.m.

Map to Dragon's Fire Launches At Jonestown Site

FROM I-79: Take I-79 south to Washington, PA. Take exit for I-70 East (Toward New Stanton). Continue for approximately 20 miles to Exit 13.

FROM PA TURNPIKE: Get off at Exit 8, New Stanton, and follow I-70 West for approximately 23 miles to Exit 13.

AT EXIT 13: Follow route 481 for 0.2 miles to Grange Road. At this point, look for signs that will direct you to the launch area that will be used for the day.

Map to Camp Lutherlyn PSC Launch Site

FROM 422 —
 Get off at Prospect exit (528) and head south. Continue to blinker light about 0.3 miles from exit. Go straight through this intersection. Continue south on 528 for approximately 3 miles — look for a sign on the east (left) side of the road which says "Lutherlyn Rustic Retreat Center". Turn left onto dirt road and continue approx 1/4 mi to the launch site.



CONTEST EVENTS:

- Research and Development
- Giant Sport Scale
- D Engine Superroc Altitude
- 4XA Engine Cluster Altitude (no airstarts and no boosted darts allowed)
- C Engine Egloft Duration
- 1/4A Engine Parachute Duration (Multi-round)
- A Engine Boost Glider Duration
- B Engine Streamer Duration
- 1/2A Engine Helicopter Duration
- D Engine Rocket Glider Duration

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