

Central Valley Rocket News
Tripoli Central California
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Scott Joseph's Skyfinder found the sky on a L1395 motor. Photo by Jim Norton.

Written by Jim Norton

Photos by Jim Norton, Steve Sawyer, Aaron Hagadorn, Mike Garret and Jeremy Garret

Typically, the launches the month before one of our three day regional events tend to be rather slow. But that was not the case at our April launch where the activities included a P motor static test, six certification flights, and two L powered rockets. The P motor was a Bruzin Blue P5200 built by Kimball Tucker. The motor was 6 inches in diameter and 37.5 inches long and contained 36.2 pounds of propellant. It burned for 7.42 seconds and the total impulse was 42056 NS.

In certification news, Michael Levi of Oakland went for the daily double, using his 2.6 inch blue Predator and an I229 motor to get his Level 1 and the same rocket with a J350 for level 2. Chris Franco used a black and yellow 5 foot tall rocket powered by an I150 bluestreak motor for L 1. Mike Garrett went for the unpainted look with his 4 inch diameter Performance Rocketry Mad Dog powered by a J350 for Level 2 Certification. Russell Garcia used a 4 inch diameter Madcow Patriot with a J350 for L 2. David Alford of Squaw Valley put a J460 in his blue 7 feet tall Loc Magnum to obtain Level 2. Greg Smith of Visalia used his 68 inch tall 4 inch diameter Liberty and an Aerotech J350 for Level 2 certification.

Scott Joseph fly his Skyfinder on a L1395. I think it was his first flight on a L motor. Some students from San Jose State University and their advisor Tom Rouse flew their Extended Arliss on a L1500. The white rocket was 12 feet tall and 6 inches in diameter and weighed in at 50 pounds. The rocket had a Mars lander that deployed airbags and opened doors once it was on the ground. It also included a 3.3 pound weight to simulate the weight of a cubesat.

Jared Ureno of Turlock had another great flight of his two stage white and red Orion. The booster contained a G78 and the upper stage a F25. Gary Dwyer of San Jose flew his white and black Nova on a Kosdon K700 and his white 4 inch diameter EZI on an AeroTech J275. Adam Levi of Oakland flew his fiberglass Little Dog on an I218R. Jim Norton of Fresno launched his 5 Feet tall white and red I-roc on an I212. Jeff Steele of Bakersfield flew his 29 inch tall 4 inch diameter rocket on an I229 blue thunder motor. Mike Bailey sent his red and black Vulcanite skyward on an I297 skidmark motor. Jimmy Franco from Selma sent up his Knight of the Long Knives on an I154. Paul Avery of Agoura Hills launched an un-named rocket on an I161. Russell Garcia from Armana sent up hi 4 inch Madcow Patriot on a H123 skidmark motor. Ross Ohmen made the trip from Union City to launch his orange Tang rocket on an I245. Ben Sandoval's 3 inch diameter Monster rocket exploded off the pad on a H400 V Max motor.





















