

Central Valley Rocket News
Tripoli Central California
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Erik's Wocket lit up the night sky with a J360 Skidmark. Photo by Steve Jurvetson
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/jurvetson/>

Written by Jim Norton

Photos by Jim Norton, Steve Jurvetson and Aaron Hagadorn

This year's Dairy Aire saw three days of warm temperatures, steady breezes, and lots of great flying with over 400 flights. Adding to that total was Christopher Raimondi who brought out his entire collection of 31 rockets with plans to fly them all at least once. He actually exceeded his goal. The launch saw the new Metalstorm motors from Aerotech, the first monocopters that I have seen flown at the Dairy, some interesting cluster flights using motors with different color flames and some great night launches.



Friday

As usual Friday was EX day, which always means some interesting flights. There were a total of 59 flights and static tests on Friday. Robert Zylstra kept trying to static test his Orange Sunshine propellant, but did not have much luck getting the motors to light. Frequent flyer Scott Joseph of Monte Rio went for his Level 3 certification using his black and silver Skyfinder rocket powered by a M1297 motor. Scott, who also makes some great looking flight videos, just makes it look easy, which of course it isn't. Congratulations Scott. David Raimondi had had 30 successful flights with his 2 stage PML Quantum Leap, and Friday's plan was to launch with a K774 Alumiflame in the booster and a J314 Swamp Gas motor in the top stage.. But the booster flight was erratic, a problem traced to a problem with the EX motor. Fortunately the top stage did not light, and while the parachute deployed late it prevented any damage to the rocket. Dave assures us that the rocket will fly again. Tony Alcocer flew his orange Speedy Gonzales using a Wimpy Black L550. Steve Kendall of San Jose launched his 4 inch diameter Performance Rocketry Mach-up with a L850 Swamp Gas motor. Gene Engelgau used a K430 Swamp Gas motor to fly his red and blue Eve rocket. Karl Baumheckel launched his 8 pound Scorpion on a K257 EX hybrid motor, while his son Charlie flew the first of several flights of the mini-monocopter. James Marino flew his 7 foot tall yellow Get Over It using a K840 mixed motor. Ted Sobieralski flew his red 20 pound Mosquito Grande on a K458. James Dougherty flew his 4 inch Nike Smoke on a CTI K2045 and also had a flight on CTI K1400.









Saturday

As usual Saturday was the busiest day of the three day launch, with 271 flights and static tests. Taylor from San Luis Obispo flew his gold, black and red Maximilian rocket on a M1297 for Level 3 certification. The rocket was 9 feet tall, 6 inches in diameter and weighed 31 pounds. Congratulations Taylor. Students from San Jose State flew their blue and black ARLISS on a Aerotech M1845 "Karl Bauman Special". The rocket was 146 inches tall, 6 inches in diameter and weighed in at 45 pounds. The rocket released a Cube Sat with telemetry and also a Mars Lander that deployed a parachute at apogee, inflatable balloons at 400' and pyro cutters and operable doors at landing. Richard King's blue and gold Chubsy aka "the little rocket that could" had had 12 flights on M motors, so Richard decided to fly it on the powerful Cesaroni M4770. The flight was going well, but then the motor CATOd, producing a shower of rocket confetti. Still knowing Richard Chubsy might return to the Dairy for more punishment. Richard also flew his camo Der V2 7.5" diameter Polecat rocket on an AT K375 Dual Thrust motor. And he took part in a drag race with James Marino flying Maxi-Mags on K1100 motors. I think Richard won because James' rocket had a very early deployment. Ted Sobieralski flew his red BlackBrandt IIIB on a M1419. Karl B sent up his 30 pound V-2 using a M711 Contrail hybrid motor. Steve Jarvetson launched his black 9 feet tall 7.5 inch diameter Sledgehammer with an AT M1850. Shawn Stephens black Bully rocket stood 8 feet tall and was 12 inches in diameter. It flew on a L4800 Kosdon motor. The up part was good, but unfortunately there was no sign of deployment, and the rocket smashed into the ground. Better luck next time Shawn.

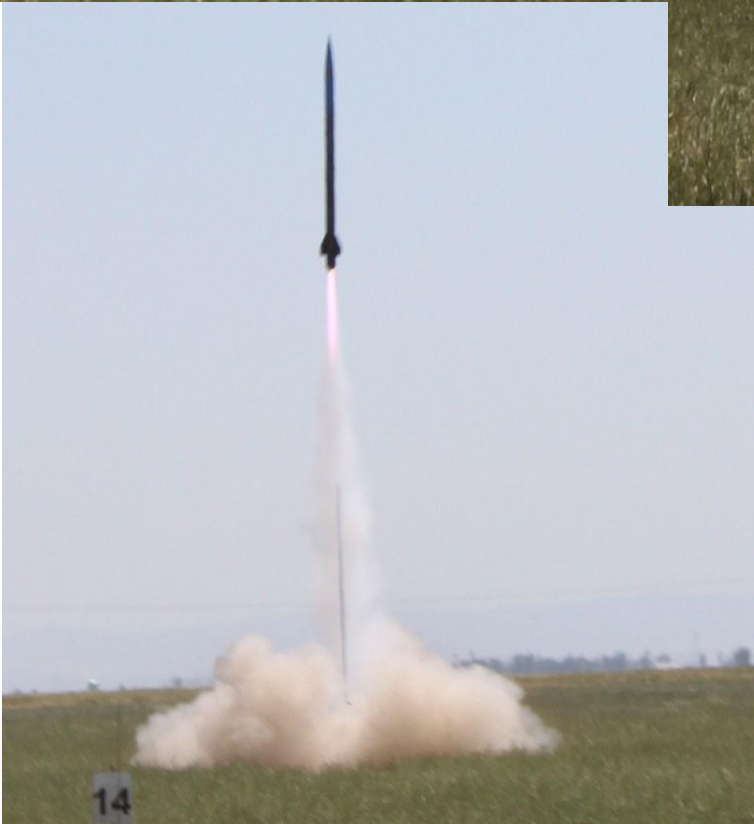
Tom Fetter of Santa Rosa flew his 23 pound red and yellow Speedmotion on an AT L850. Dave Alford got his Checkers or Wreckers, a Loc Magnum, off the ground with a K555 and then airtstarted a pair of H237s. Gene Engelgau flew an un-named 64 inch tall rocket on a K1100. Robert Briody launched his black and white Mongoose 98mm using a K1999. Erik Charlton flew his white 5.5 inch Army Hawk on a K1100. Robert Zylstra from Denair sent up his red, white and blue Patr8 on a K540 and used motor ejection for deployment. Adam and Michael Levi flew their 10 feet tall naked Bad Ass using K300, a motor with an 8 second burn time. Patrick Kellas launched his burgundy and silver Extreme Wildman using a Cesaroni K695 Skidmark. And Mike Bailey flew his red and white Performance Rocketry Comp 3 on a K185.

Saturday's activities ended with a night launch that included a number of spectacular flights, and also saw a flyover by the International Space Station and the Space Shuttle.













Sunday

Sunday's activities included 105 launches and static tests. The students from Cal Poly had a spectacular flight of their blue and orange two-stage Kaaaaaaaaaahn!!!, with a J800 in the booster and a J350 in the top stage. Adam and Michael Levi flew their naked Bad Ass again, this time using a Cesaroni K815 Skidmark motor. James Marino got in another flight of his Get over It rocket with a K700 providing the propulsion. Larry Lynch of Fresno flew a 5 foot tall black and white LOC V2 on a K540, while Cliff Sojourner flew a camo version of the same kit with a K540. Aaron Hagadorn launched his 9 pound red and silver Mad Dog with a K2045. And Gary Silvers flew his camo Slithis on a Cesaroni K1440.





Certifications

Those getting Level 1 at the launch were Tod Dusty Howze, Laurel Carral, Travis Miller, Sam Bowman, Rene Farfan, Jared Ruekberg, Matthew Houston, Allen Capatina, Nikola Dominikovic, Jonathan Lilley and Jason Reiter. Those that earned Level 2 Certification were Michael Smith, Jimmy Franco, Jeran Ott, Joshua Herrmann, Kevin Byrne, Allen Capatina, Nikola Dominikovic, Jonathan Lilley and Jason Reiter.

Aaron Hagadorn photos:

