

Central Valley Rocket News

Tripoli Central California

May 2009



M powered drag race, James Daugherty versus Jack Garibaldi. Photo by Gary Walker.

Written by Jim Norton

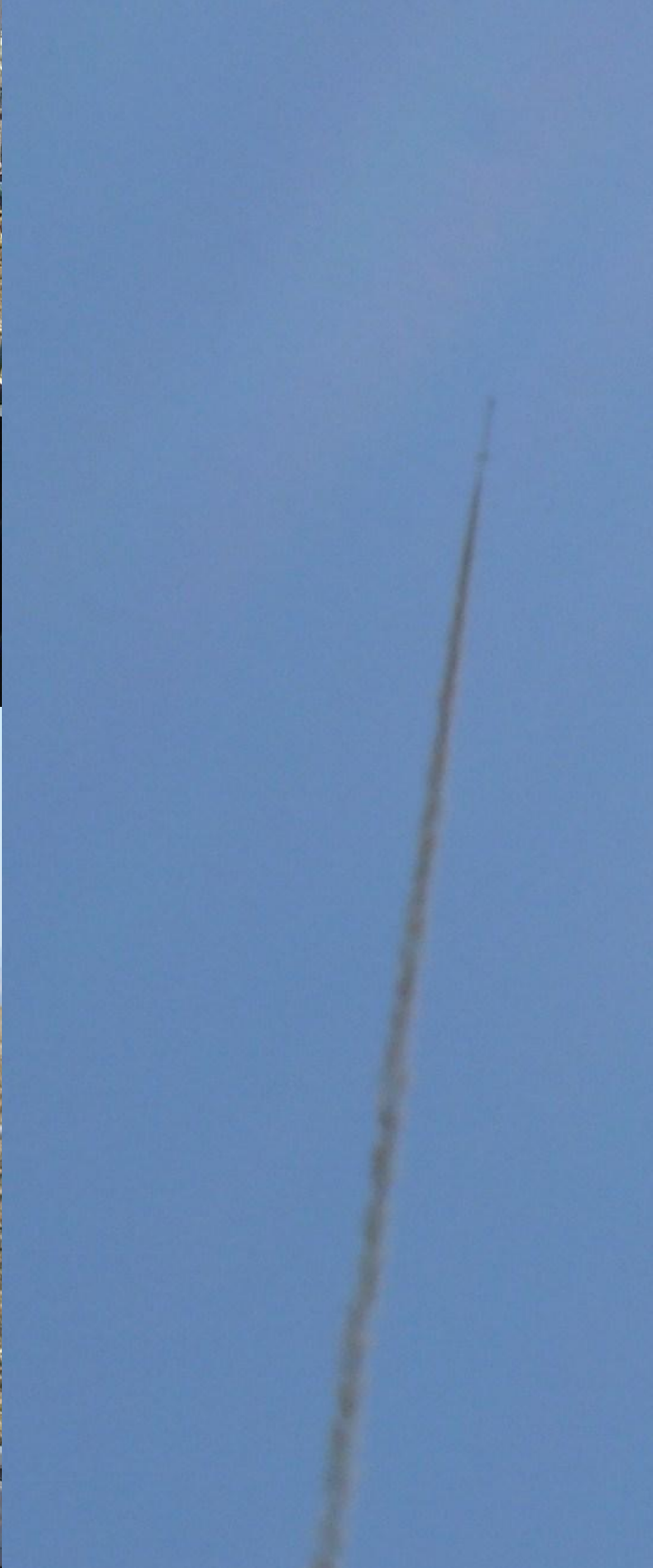
Photos by Gary Walker, Cliff Sojourner, Brett Wilkerson, David Flournoy, Mark Canepa, Mike Sutton and Jim Norton

FRIDAY

The day started out very windy, resulting in the slowest start to any launch I have been too. Finally, around 2:30 Robert Zylstra took the plunge, launching his Pipe Dream on a G64. He was soon followed by a handful of other flyers. While the breeze had decreased somewhat, I think most of the flyers were simply waiting for someone else to be first. Robert's rocket went straight up and then down, but it is a sturdy rocket, and survived undamaged. Robert would fly the rocket again for his Level 2 Certification, and it was also the last rocket flow

on Sunday. Other notable flights on Friday were Tony and Al's Speedy Gonzales on a L900 True Blue Too motor, James Marino's Get Over It on a L1024 Alumna 2 motor and James Daugherty's Intimidator 5 on a M1800 Whimpy Red motor. Friday also saw what I think is the first Skidmark motor launched with TCC. This was a G69, a motor that produces a shower of sparks and other effects. Also on Friday were static tests by Shawn Stevens and by Tony and Al. There were a total of 36 flights and static tests on Friday.







SATURDAY

Saturday's activities started bright and early with Tom Austin playing the National Anthem accompanied by the simultaneous launch of three interceptors, all of different sizes. Helped by the Boy Scouts and the 4-Hers, we probably set a one day record for number of flights (367). At times there were so many people waiting to fly low-power rockets that all the rockets on the pads were launched at the same time. And thanks to our Ten Year celebration we probably set the record for the most M-powered flights in one day (12). Saturday ended with our first night launch, followed by some special entertainment.

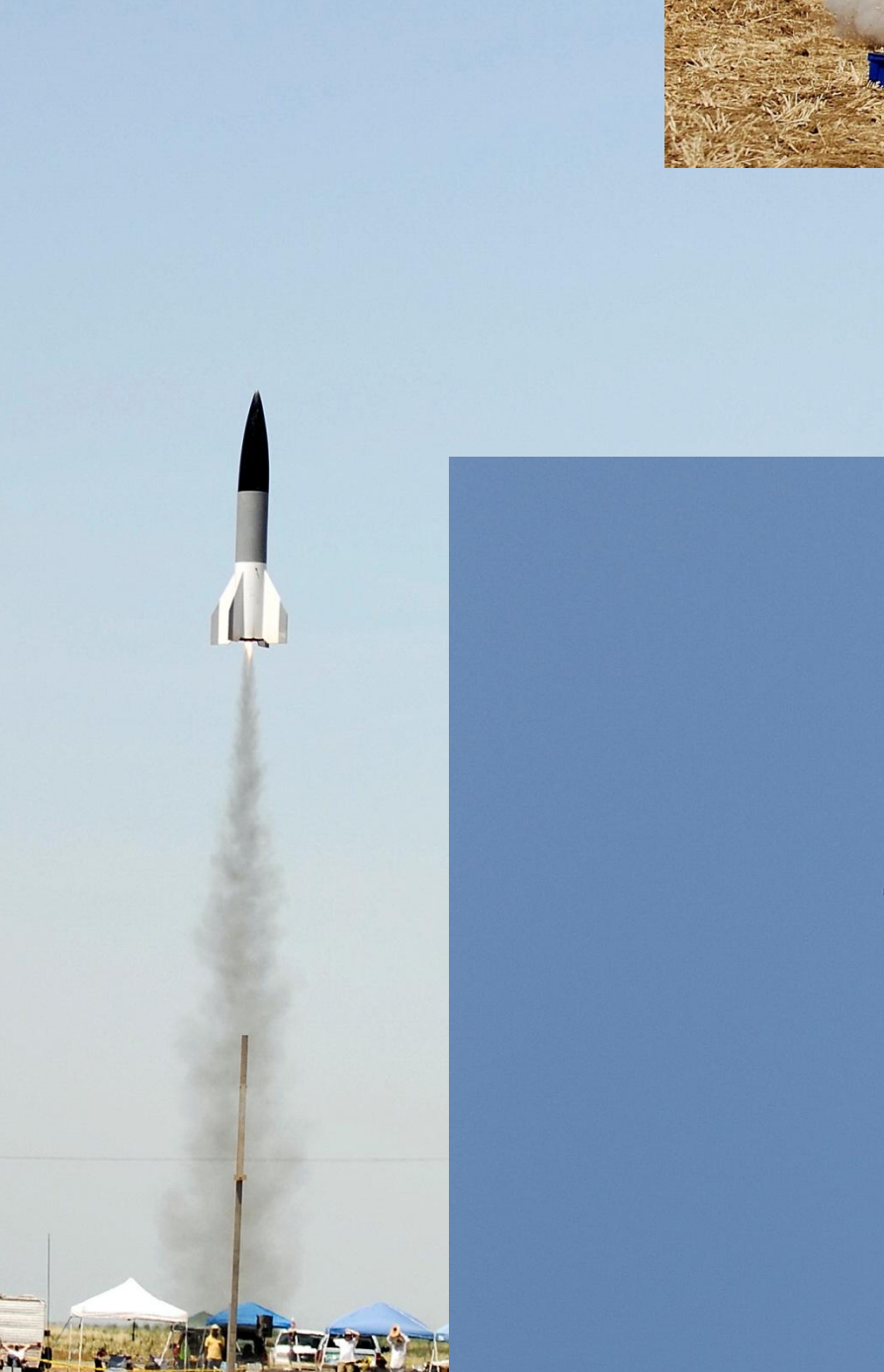


The original plans were to drag race ten M-powered rockets, but this dwindled to just two. Jack Garibaldi flew his 10" blue and grey Nike Smoke powered by a M2000 against James Dougherty's ½ scale Patriot that sported a scale paint job and took off under a M1939. It is clear that Jack led all the way. Also flying Ms on Saturday were Rod Lovely flying his 6 foot tall black and green Monster Madness on a M650. Alas, something went wrong with the recovery and the rocket made a lasting impression in the pavement. Scott Eakens flew his blue stretched LOC V2, dubbed the V-blue, on a M650. Gary Walker of Atwater tried to fly his great looking Thunder Struck, which he used just two months ago to get his L3 Certification, on a M1315. Unfortunately the

motor CATOed, badly damaging the rocket. Ron McGouh of Riverside also suffered a CATO on his black, gray and white 10" Thumper. The rocket got a few hundred feet up on a Hypertech 1001 before the bottom part of the rocket was destroyed. James Marino sent up Fly-it-Naked on a M1297. Richard King flew his 3 foot tall Got M? on a M2400. Wow. Alan Thym flew his blue and black SuperNova on a M1419. Rich Miller did his Level 3 Certification using his 60" tall V-Moo, powered by a M1297. Mark Canepa launched his red Winternationals using a M1315. And San Jose State University sent up their ATROMOS on a M1600, a flight sponsored by Jack Garibaldi.











There were a number of other interesting flights on Saturday. Frank Kosden flew an 18mm G330, a 15.5" long motor. David Flournoy flew some FSI F-100s manufactured in 1984. Kevin McGrath flew his red and white Marginal at Best on a cluster of 8 D12s. Dairy owner Steve Maddox (with Jim Abrams) flew his first rocket, the Tripoli 1, on a J350. Jim Norton, Andy Hanson, Ross Ohmen and Steve Jurvetson all did airstarts. Flying K motors on Saturday were Ted Sobieralski, Mark Jackson, Steve Kendall, Gene Engelau, Pale Lane, Cliff Sojourner, Gary Vielbaum, Patrick Kellas, Mike Smith, Charlie Wittman, and Jonathon Amberg of Cal Poly Space Systems. Those doing Level 1 Certification flights on Saturday included Aliko Loper-Leddy, Joshua Van Schoyckl, Doug, Joshua Herrmann, Nick Marcotte, Kevin Byrne, Esteban Alvanado or Alvavado, Alan Ma and Gary Silvers. Level 2 flights were done by Warren Lippold, Zach, Paul Geitner, Aaron Hagadorn and Justin Lawer.







SUNDAY

On Sunday the breeze continued and the temperature went up. And no one complained when it was suggested that the range get torn down an hour early. Still, there were 73 flights for the day. There was one final M motor for the weekend. Paul Sutcheck of Petaluma flew his Ugly Betty rocket on a M1297 to 4500 feet for a successful Level 3 NAR certification under the tutelage of James Marino. Robert Zylstra, of Denair flew his great looking Wood V2 on a C6-5. Unfortunately the rocket was underpowered and the rocket hit the ground before the ejection charge went off. Ron McGough of Black Dog Rocketry flew his Starfire on a Hypertek J330 HyEFX special effects motor. Zach of San Louis Obispo attempted the only high power two stage launch of the weekend. The sustainer did not light, but the parachutes all deployed for a safe recovery. Joshua Herrmann did a Level 1 Certification flight, while Jason Carpenter went for his Level 2. Kevin McGrath did an air-start flight. Gene E, Steve Sawyer, Jonathan and Richard King, all did flights on K motors.





Thank You

Thanks to all of those who sent in photos. I am just overwhelmed by the quality and quantity. Also a big thanks to all the volunteers, flyers, spectators, vendors and a big thanks to Steve Maddox.

Jim Norton-Newsletter Editor

I also want to thank everyone for a great Dairy Aire, it was hotter than ever as usual and everyone as a group with RSO, LCO, set up, clean up, registration and every possible duty you can think of. You all are

the ones to thank and I thank you. It was very nice to see all the drag races from Estes to high power and all of the 10 M flyers it was wise of you to bow out of your drag race. (couldn't resist) All of the flights were great.

Tripoli Central California
President
Jack Garibaldi

A **huge** thank you for a wonderful day this past Saturday. Our entire 4-H group had a great time. Considering how many youth were there- the 4-H kids and the Boy Scouts- I thought you all did a great job in trying to handle the volume of rockets being launched. And, I had some kids who had "technical rocket" questions or problems that was beyond the scope of Bryan or my knowledge level- and again you and your club members graciously helped. Every kid had a successful launch. One of the parents that brought their child out to attend the 4-H event was truly impressed. "I certainly wasn't expecting to see this many people, much less the size and scope of the rockets here. Wow!"

The "M" rocket launching was awesome! And, we were thrilled that Steve's rocket made a successful launch, AND landed (thanks Jim) without hardly a scratch on it- it is now ready to be displayed again.

Jim Abrames did a great job speaking to our group about the high powered rockets and discussing the various levels of engines, motors, electronics, etc.

Thanks to Rod Lovely for the framed graphics of the past Dairy Aire shirts that were given to Steve. It was perfect! Exactly what I had envisioned. I had planned them for Steve's office, but the family was so impressed with them we are thinking of hanging them in the Dairy Barn viewing area so that our many dairy visitors can see them.

Thanks again to everyone for your generosity and hospitality in working with our youth group.

Sincerely,

Julia Maddox Chow

