

**Central Valley Rocket News**  
**Tripoli Central California**  
**October 2010**

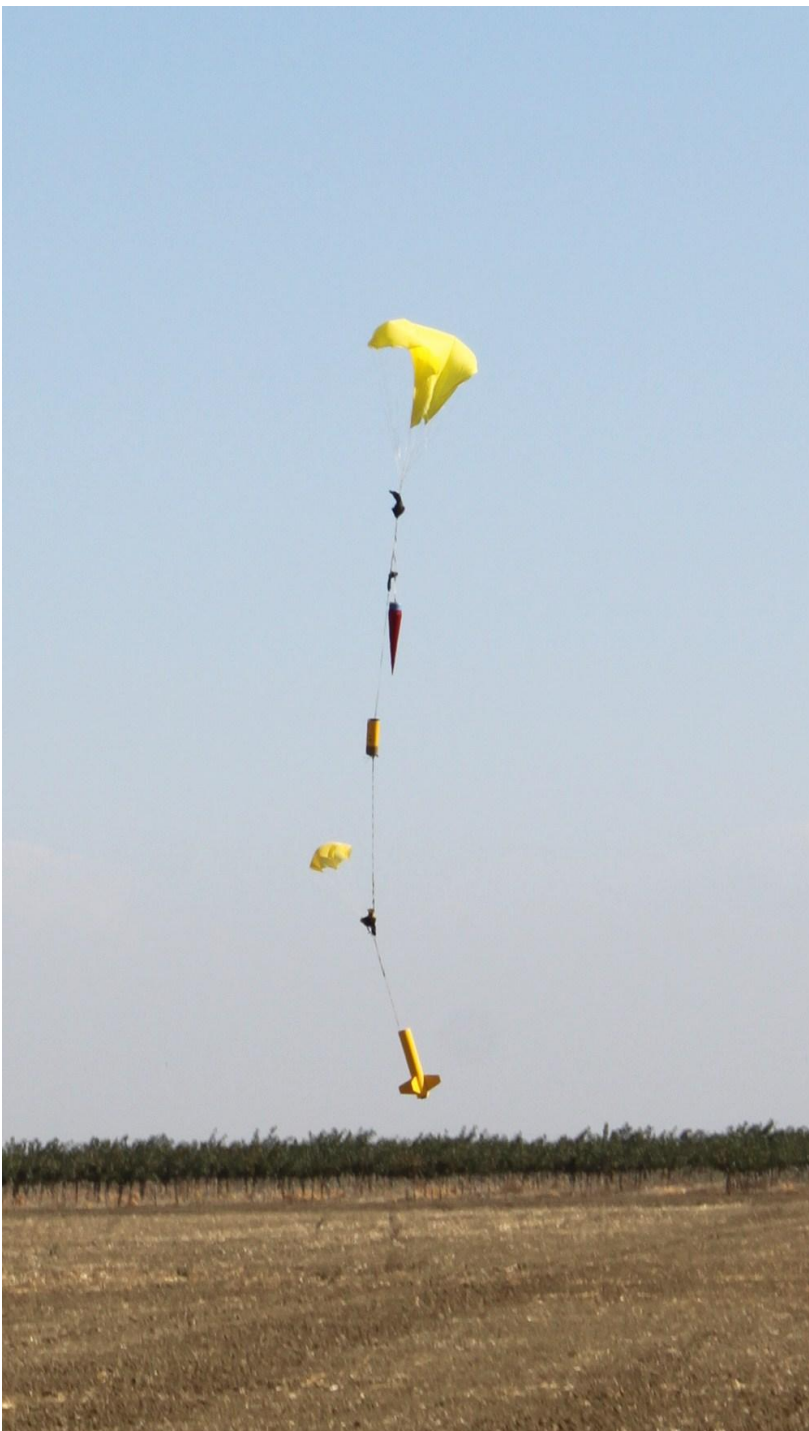


Michael Levi's Thunderball took off on an Aerotech M1297 for a Level 3 Certification flight. Photos by Jim Norton.

Written by Jim Norton. Photos by Jim Norton. Mike Garret, Michael Levi and Duane Uhl,

## Friday

The first day of October Skies was a relaxed day, with just 41 flights. There was a steady breeze all day, with warm to hot temperatures. Robert Zylestra attempted to get his Level 3 Certification flying his red and blue Crimson Maxamillion on a M1230. Unfortunately the rocket shredded, possibly because of the removable fin system that Robert was using. Gene Engelgau flew his Comp4 on a L1430 Alumaflyer motor. James Marino chose a L1400 Alumaflyer motor to launch his yellow and black Get Over it. Bob Feretich flew his black and white Totally Stable on a K480. Charlie Wittman launched his 5 foot tall rocket on a K900 Blue motor. And Paul Pittenger celebrated his birthday by giving away motors and two-stage rockets to the kids.







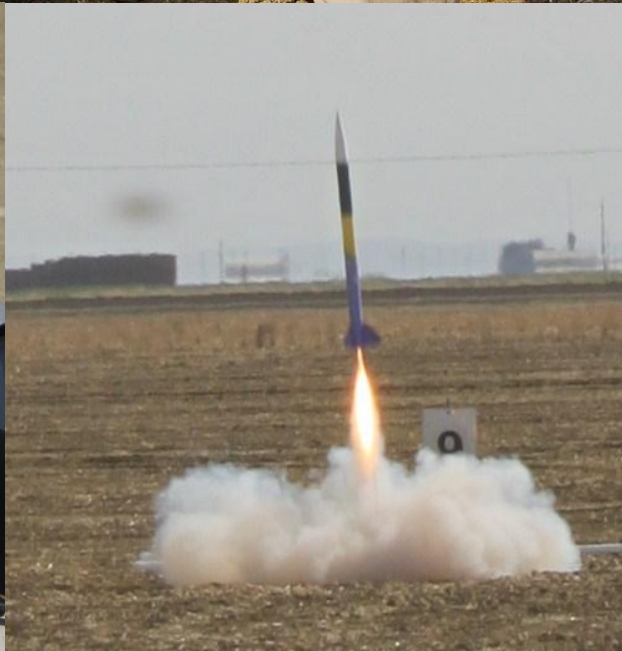
## Saturday

As usual, Saturday was the busiest day with a total of 195 flights. The breeze increased, but the temperature dropped some. Gordon Balena of Los Gatos flew his 7.5 inch diameter Hawk Mountain Nike Smoke on a M1297 for his Level 3 Certification. Mark Canepa sent up his ten foot tall Click Click Boom on its first flight using a M1315. He also flew a Talon 4 on a K700. Gene Engelgau launched his Talon 4 with a L1200 Red Rino motor. Tom Fetter of Santa Rosa sent up his red and yellow Speed Motion using a L800. Jeremy Clark launched his three inch diameter Drunk & Disorderly with a K350 tribrid motor. James Dougherty and Terry Erb drag raced their four inch diameter Nike Smokes on K2045s. Patrick Kellas of Exeter flew his fifteen pound For Whom the Bell Tolls on a K540 Metalstorm motor. Bobby Wright of Pacific Grove launched his 8 feet tall Big Nuke Dual Deploy using a K700. Charlie Wittman flew his 3 inch diameter Yellow rocket on a K460. Paul Geitner flew his 5.5 inch AGM 83 Bulldog on a K550. Brian Weese flew his Battle Cruiser on a K695. Aaron Hagadorn flew his Cluster Buster on 3 J90 long burn motors using thermite ignitors to make sure they all lit at the same time. Karl Baumheckel flew his yellow and black Sky Stinger with 2 H220s in the booster and a H242 in the sustainer. Kevin McGrath launched his LOC Bruiser on an J540R and then air started 2 I154s. Sam Fineberg of Palo Alto flew his G-Force on a H133 for Level I Certification and then his Nike Smoke on a J290 Level 2 Certification. Rob Diehl of Clovis used his 4 inch diameter Hyperloc 835 and a J290 to go for his Level 2 Certification. Christopher flew his Seipert on a H123 for Level 1 Certification, and Lydia from Sacramento flew a Black Brant 10 with a H73 to go for her Level 1 Certification. And there was a J drag race to see who could get to 3000 feet in the least amount of time. Chris Franco was first with a time of 2.7 seconds on a CTI J1520. Jimmy Franco was second with 3.8 seconds on a AT J570 and third was Andy Hansom with 4.8 seconds on a CTI J760.

The day's action ended with a great night launch. Duane Uhl from LOC/PRECISION, not content to do things the easy way, used the night launch to recertify at the level 2 level. He used his 17 pound LOC Bruiser and a K550 for the flight.















## Sunday

If Friday was late summer then Sunday was a taste of early winter with blustery winds, a thick but high cloud cover and occasional sprinkles. The range was torn down very early in case the rain started to come down hard, but we were still able to send up 50 flights for the day. Michael Levi went for his Level 3 Certification with his 14 feet tall Thunderball and a M1297. Because this was his seventh high power rocket, Michael went with a 007 theme for the rocket. Karl Baumheckel launched his 7.5 inch black and white V-2 Polecat using a Contrail M711 hybrid motor. It looked like the V-2 was going to lawn dart, but the parachute opened about 500 feet up. There was some damage, but I am sure that Karl will be able to repair it. Jeremy Clark flew his 4 inch Talon on a K240 Hypertec motor. Kevin McGrath of Los Gatos sent his It's Not Pink skyward with a K550.





