



TRIPOLI CENTRAL CALIFORNIA **Central Valley Rocket News**

Prefecture #52 - Serving the Central Valley Chapter of the Tripoli Rocketry Association - January 2007



Mike Smith's FATMAN lifts off on an L850 - Photo by Jim Abrames

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January 21, 2007

The Ice Breaker Launch!

The very first launch of 2007 treated Tripoli Central California flyers to clear and sunny skies. Albeit very cold!!

Central CA was in the grip of a frosty January with low temps dipping and holding in the teens for almost a week and California's citrus industry was hit hard. Many people were adversely affected financially by the frost damage: ranchers, farm workers, and those on down the line. Hopefully all will rebound soon. We wish them well

This was one of the first January launches that TCC has held in a number of years. Typically the weather is wet and the fields are muddy from rains. This time, it was just darn cold!

The launch was covered by a team from YAHOO NEWS. They trailed flyers throughout the day collecting information, stories and interviews as well as a bunch of photos and video. As of this writing, I've yet to hear what coverage we will get in the news.



Shawn Stephens interview - G. Walker photo

Maybe it was the cold, maybe it was the fact that NFL playoffs were under way, but the number of flyers and launches was down. But those that flew made a real day of it.

There were 17 flyers and 37 total launches. The motor breakdown was as follows...
2 A's, 2 B's, 4 C's, 3 D's, 2 F's, 7 G's, 3 H's, 4 I's, 6 J's, 3 K's, 1 L, and 1 M.

These included 2 successful Level 2 Certification flights by Moshen Chan of San Francisco and Merle Heggen of Fresno.



Merle Heggen's Stumpy - G. Walker photo

Merle kicked off the launch with his custom red *Stumpy* rocket on a J275 for his Level 2 flight to 2829 feet, as read out by his Perfectflite ALT 15K altimeter. Merle also brought out his black and blue upscaled *Guardian* for a good flight, as usual, on an I357 Blue Thunder to 1239 feet.



Merle's Guardian take to the air - G. Walker photos



Jack Garibaldi's Nike Smoke- Pics by G. Walker & J. Norton

Moshen's certification flight was with his 3" by 72" black and white *Little 2 Ballistic*. Also powered by a J275, the rocket made a great flight with the ARTS flight computer registering 5,588 feet. Congratulations to you both!

Jack hauled it out again later in the day for another flight, on a Cesaroni K660 this time, kicking the motor casing out. Did you get it back Jack?



Moshen Chan with Little 2 Ballistic - G. Walker photo

Mike Furlotti of San Francisco ripped a nice hole in the sky with his Giant Leap *Firestorm*. Standing 86 inches tall, this minimum diameter rocket roared skyward on a K550W for a screamer of a flight. We didn't get the final altitude, but the *Firestorm* was fitted with an ARTS flight computer for dual deployment.

TCC President Jack Garibaldi was also one of the first out of the box for 2007. To get the YAHOO group juices flowing, Jack loaded up his black and blue PoleCat Nike Smoke titled *G-Money*. *G-Money* took to the air powered by a Cesaroni K445 for a rip roarin' flight on motor ejection.



Mike Furlotti's Firestorm - Pics by D. Faegre & G. Walker

Sunnyvale's Cliff Sojourner, and son Aidan, spent much of the morning prepping their 10" by 12 foot tall Polecat *Nike Smoke*. Weighing in at 60 pounds and packed with a GWIZ MC and

Perfectflite altimeters, Cliff hauled the Smoke out to the away pad loaded with a full M1939.



Cliff & Aidan Sojourner's M- powered Nike Smoke - Top photo by G. Walker. Bottom photo by Cliff Sojourner

With the Yahoo News crew at the ready with cameras and video equipment, the motor lit with

a roar and the Nike rose rapidly on a huge column of white smoke. The huge rocket drifted majestically down on a calm breeze for a beautiful landing about a 1/2 mile away. Wow!



Nike Smoke recovery - Photo by Jim Abrames

Cliff and Aidan continued flying throughout the day, Cliff with his *IQS4 Tomahawk* on a G64 and 2 flights with his *Sierra* on a B6 and a C6. Aidan launched his *Carrot* and his *Blaster*, both on C6's. The pair of them flew a 5.5" *Thumper* on an I357 Blue Thunder and the Shooting Stars group *Double Crayon* rocket with an I218 Redline on board.

Local rancher Mike Smith broke out an L850 to power his 10" Polecat *Fatman* for its first flight. Whoah! Packed with a Black Sky altimeter, the 28 pound rocket rose nearly straight up into the clear blue sky. (See cover for *liftoff* photo) Beautiful flight Mike!



Mike Smith & his Fatman - Jim Abrames photo

The Orlandella crew (Sandy and Vito Orlandella, Amanda Kaestner and Storm McNerney) made the trek down from chilly Auberry to fly, probably thinking it would be warmer down here. Ha! Sandy had a nice flight with her 5.5" by 29" *Fat Canary* with a loong burning J135 and Vito's blue LOC *Weasel*, a 1.5" diameter rocket, almost disappeared off the pad in a puff of smoke on an H180. So cool!



Sandy Orlandella's *Fat Canary* - G. Walker photo

Vito also cobbled together a 4" by 80" *Aerobee 300* from leftover parts. The 7 pound, black and silver rocket was powered by a J570 for a good flight.



Vito and Sandy O. with their *Aerobee 300* - Walker photo
Launch photo by Darcy Faegre

Amanda and Storm drag raced their rockets twice. Amanda's yellow 2" by 43" *Gone Bananners* and Storm's identical, but blue, *Monkey Business* both had great drag flights on G80's, but couldn't seem to get off the pads together. That may have been more due to launch system voltage rather than flyer expertise??



Storm McNerney (l) & Amanda Kaestner (r) prep for one of their drag races - G. Walker photos

San Jose's Steve Sawyer launched his burgundy and silver *Wildcat* on a J350 to 3617 feet with

recovery handled by an Alt Acc 2. Steve's 19" *Mach Daddy* had some carbon fiber modification and flew nicely on a G64 to 1502 feet.



Steve Sawyer's *Wildcat* and *Mach Daddy* liftoff - photos by Darcy Faegre (l) & Jim Abrames (r) - See the photo pages for a nice photo layout by Steve Sawyer

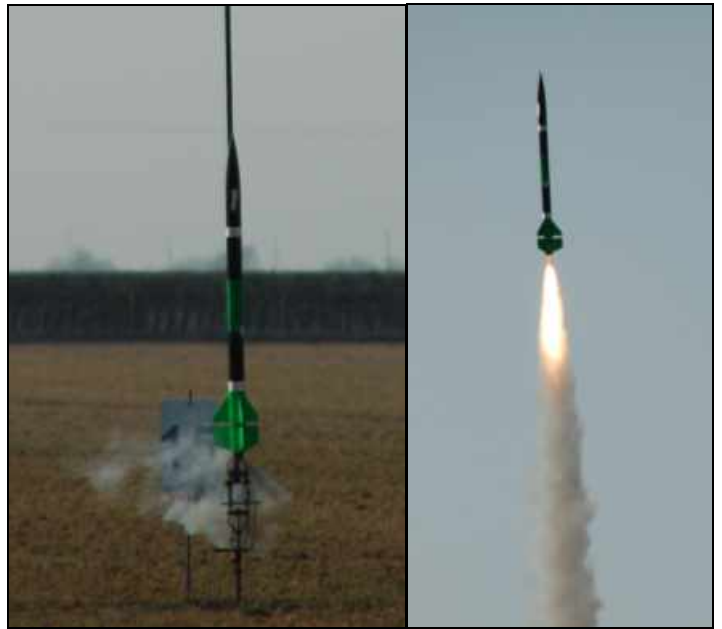
Always an avid flyer and photographer, Fresno's Jim Norton got 5 flights off the ground. Jim's 4" diameter, white *Ghost Goblin* raced off the pad under G185 power and landed perilously close to the water's edge of a nearby slew! The rocket gods/goblins were surely looking over him.



Jim Norton's *Ghost Goblin*
G. Walker pics (top) Jim Norton pics (below)

Jim's *October Skies* kit flew on an F52, *BSD 38 Special* on an H143 and his tan LOC *Minnie Magg* took off on an I212-7, all motor ejections. Lastly his orange *Super Cinco*, an Art Applewhite saucer kit, flew on a D12-0 with drag recovery.

The green and black *Odin*, a BSD Thor kit, flown by Erik (last name unknown) from Oakland, had a good flight on a J350W with a GWIX LCX to handle the dual deployment and the mains popping at 800 feet right on cue.



Erik's *Odin* lifts off - photos by Darcy Faegre

Roxana and Noveed (last names unknown) flew a 2" diameter, yellow *Mr. Golden Sun*, a PML kit, on an H210 Redline. A Transolve P6K, a kit altimeter I believe, did its job for recovery.



Roxana & Noveed's *Mr. Golden Sun* - G. Walker photos

Brian Dalby lightened things up at the Estes pads when he flew his 12" tall rubber *Super Chicken*. The first flight on an A8-3 just barely left the rail, but made a better showing later with a C6 motor for a flight to about 50 feet...maybe. J Brian also had a couple other good flights, one with his red, white and blue *October Skies* rocket on an F22 and his striking yellow and green *Starburst* on 2 D12-5's.



Brian Dalby's Super Chicken
Photos by Jim Norton (l) and G.Walker (r)

Lowell Hart of "Fresburg" flew some rather unusual rockets as well. Lowell's 6" diameter *Rice Burner II* (an inverted foam? bowl) made a nice ascent on a B6-0 and floating recovery. Even odder was Lowell's 2" *5 Minutes to Heaven*, a clear medicine cup powered by an A10-0. Cool Lowell!



Lowell Hart's Rice Burner II & 5 Minutes to Heaven
Walker photos

All in all, it was a great day for rocketry. From an A-powered rubber chicken to M-powered monstrous Nike Smoke, you never know what you'll see at a Tripoli Central CA launch.

Thanks again go out to Andy Woerner of WHAT'S UP HOBBIES for supporting our launch and supplying some entertainment during down times with his awesome feats of aerobatic R/C helicopter/airplane flying.



Just one of Andy's flying machines - Photo by Darcy Faegre

The Maddox Dairy once again proved a fine location as host and we send our gratitude to Steve Maddox for his ongoing support. THANKS!



Dawn at the Maddox Dairy - Jim Abrames photo

The next launch is scheduled for February 18th and all you football fans won't have any excuse for sitting home on the couch! Let's see you out there flying!

I also want to extend my personal thanks to ALL those who contributed photos for this issue! Your help is greatly appreciated!

See you all in February!
Gary Walker, Ed.

Letters and Comments

Wow, what a great club, what a great bunch of folks, and what a great launch!! Aidan and I sure had an excellent time!!

Driving down to Helm this morning over 152, seeing all the wind, I was muttering about having words with the TCC Vice President In Charge Of Weather. But, it all turned out OK, only a little W at the lower levels, and by mid-day exactly as the forecasters said, light and variable. perfect rocket conditions as it turns out.

On the 10" Nike Smoke, I had a Big Bee GPS transponder/recorder. I downloaded the data, it makes a Google Earth file automatically. I hope this picture comes through. You can see the track of us carry the rocket out to the pad, the rocket launch and recovery, including the knee in the descent at 800' when the main chute came out. (and that big line off to the northwest? ahh, forgot to turn it off before driving home.)

-Cliff Sojourner



Hello Gary,

I will be teaching my fourth rocket class this spring and plan to have eight students launch their rockets at Dairy Aire. The class is part of the Monterey County Lyceum program which is a major extracurricular program for Monterey County kids.

The attachment is the cover of their Spring 2007 catalog, and you can see that your newsletter cover was featured. This gives me another opportunity to thank you for your

excellent work putting the newsletter together. I always look forward to reading it.

Once again, my thanks to all the active club members who set up and run the launches. I think you all play a big role in helping make science and engineering an exciting option for kids.

See you,
-LanceWright

P.S. I expect you will all come up with an interesting theme for Dairy Aire. My suggestion would be to have a V-2 theme. The focus could be on historic rockets. There would be three groupings. German WWII, American Post-War, and Russian/Chinese Post-War. I have done some research in this area and Bill Beggs has a great V-2 website.

I purchased an Estes Big Daddy kit, and will be building it for F and G single use motors.

The image shows the cover of a catalog for 'The LYCEUM'. At the top, there are three red apple icons with symbols inside: a rocket, an atom, and a rocket. Below them is the text 'The LYCEUM' and the address '1073 Sixth Street, Monterey CA 93940' with the tagline 'Inspiring a life-long love of learning'. To the right, it says 'SPRING 2007 CLASSES' and 'ADULT CLASSES AVAILABLE'. Below that, it says 'WATCH FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION 2/1/07!' and 'See SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION on page 13! Información de la beca en pagina 14!'. The main image is a photo of five students holding rockets, with the text 'TRIPOLI CENTRAL CALIFORNIA Central Valley Rocket News' and 'CONGRATULATIONS to the Lyceum Rocketeers!'. Below the photo, it says 'Dylan, Otto, Justin, Noah (kneeling), Matt, and Graham' and 'Monterey County Lyceum "Shoot Off With Rocket Science" class'. At the bottom, it says 'ORIGIN OF THE WORD "LYCEUM" 336 B.C.' and a paragraph about Aristotle's Lyceum.

ORIGIN OF THE WORD "LYCEUM"
336 B.C.
The Greek philosopher Aristotle, pupil of Plato and tutor of Alexander the Great, established a school that became known as the Lyceum. Its buildings and covered colonnade were located outside Athens in a grove sacred to the Greek god, Apollo Lyceus. Here students could study and converse with great scholars as they strolled along the peripatos (walkway).

Tripoli Central California



Tripoli Central California is a chapter of the Tripoli Rocketry Association, an international organization dedicated to high-power rocketry and governed by safety rules promulgated by state and federal agencies. Founded in the mid-1990's, Tripoli Central California welcomes new members. Annual dues are currently suspended. For more information, call one of our officers, call our club hotline and see our web-site at ...

www.tripolicentralcalifornia.com

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January Photos by Jim Abrames, Darcy Faegre, Jim Norton, Steve & JoAnn Sawyer, Cliff Sojourner and Gary Walker

2007 LAUNCH SCHEDULE

Launches are held the 3rd Sunday of each month except where noted.

(Note that some dates are Saturdays!)

January 21

February 18

March 18

April 21 (Saturday)

May 18-20 - DAIRY AIRE

June 16 (Saturday)

July 15

August 19

September 15 (Saturday)

October 19-21 - OCTOBER SKIES

November 18

Christmas Party
December 15 (Saturday)
Location to be announced

2007 TCC Calendars

On Sale Now



Photos by JoAnn Sawyer



Steve Sawyers Wildcat – TCC January 2007

Photos by Cliff Sojourner
Note the burning igniter on
the ground below the Nike.





Jim Norton Photos



Jim Abrames Photos



Jim Abrames Photos





Darcy Faegre Photos



Darcy Faegre Photos



Gary Walker Photos



Gary Walker Photos



Gary Walker Photos