

Central Valley Rocket News
Tripoli Central California
July-August 2008





Written by Jim Norton

Photos by Jim Norton and Ben Sandoval

The July and August launches had much in common. Both days saw high temperatures near the century mark, with clear skies and little wind. And both launches were lightly attended, with just fewer than 30 flights each day.

In addition to the usual assortment of flights the July launch saw two different groups doing static tests.

Michael Bailey of Sacramento did his NAR Level II certification flight using a LOC Vulcanite rocket dubbed the "Pink Hottie." The red and black rocket went up on a J-350 and used a Missile Works RRC@ mini to handle the deployment. Mike also flew a Cherokee-3D on an f40 and his Estes Eliminator twice, once on a D12-5 and also on an E9-8.

David Close of Fresno sent up his Fort Sill Beta on a G64-10 and a Big Bertha on a C6-5.

James Dougherty sent up his Mongoose 54 on a J460T, an AMRAAM on an I200W plus his Barracuda on a G20-6.

Matt Lawrence of Fresno was the frequent flyer of the day with 6 flights. He flew his x-15 twice, using a C6-5 each time. He also flew his Aerotech Tomahawk twice, using an E23 and F40. He also flew a Space Ship One on a B4-2 and an Executioner on an E9-6.

Ashley Lightfoot flew his 85 inch Ellipse + twice, once on an I211W and then on an I245G. He also flew his Renegade XL on 3 d12s staging to an E9-6.

Tom Lipscomb flew a 3 inch Expediter on an I161w and a 4 inch Expediter on an I154.

Jim Norton of Fresno flew his Aerotech Initiator on a G76-7 Mojave Green Demo motor donated by What's Up Hobbies. The G76 76 is one of several new Green motors. I also flew my Jack's Lawndart (a repaired LOC IROC) on an I366R, a 4 inch Polecat Goblin on an I245G and a Quest Big Betty on a C6-5.

Ross Ohmen flew a stage of the 99K rocket on a K1499, the largest motor of the day.

The first flight of the day was David Raimondi's Crayon-O-Death on an I435-M. The up part was good but the ejection charge failed to go off and the rocket came down in a flat spin. Reports are that it should be repairable. David also flew his ARLISS-K on a J250 and X-Caliber on a H123.

Scott Sobieralski of Prescott Arizona flew his orange Spare Parts rocket on a J570.



Ben Sandoval Photos





Jim Norton Photos





The August launch got off to a slow start. The first rocket off the pad was my Spontaneous Combustion (a Polecat Aerospace 7.5" Thumper) which was surprising because it has redundant dual deployment and requires a whole lotta preparation. The motor was a K805, one of the new Mojave Greens, and it produced a Hugh green flame. I used a Perfect Flite timer to light a smoke canister 7,5 seconds into the flight, mainly to see if it would work. James Dougherty flew the biggest motor of the day, a M1600R which sent his Intimidator 5 to 12000 feet. Along with the successes were some spectacular failures. Robert Briody's Rattworks K240 hybrid motor suffered a high energy CATO. In addition to producing a lot of rocket confetti it bent the blast deflector at a 90 degree angle and badly damaged the launch rail. Larry Taylor's Level II certification attempt flight on a J275W did an imitation of a cruise missile, exiting stage right. Other August fliers included Bo, Mike Bailey, Brian Ngo, Andy Hansom, Matthew Hansom, Alex Hayes, Ashley Lightfoot, Carson Lightfoot, Kenneth Vo and Charlie Wittman.

Ashley Lightfoot has posted a great video of the flight of his Green Weenie at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJiU8yCOzE>

Jim Norton Photos







