

***CENTRAL VALLEY ROCKET NEWS  
TRIPOLI CENTRAL CALIFORNIA  
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Static test of a P motor

Written by Jim Norton, photos by Jim Norton

Driving through thick fog down Kamm Avenue I was a little worried about the last launch of 2008, but the weather turned out to be great. While the turnout was on the small side both the low and high power pads were kept busy for much of the day for a total of 52 flights. The Baumheckel clan was especially busy prepping and flying rockets. It was also a day to test and try out things. The biggest was a static test of a P motor by students from CSU Sacramento. That is 8 times the size of the largest motors we are allowed to launch at the dairy. The 48 inch tall 7 inch diameter motor held 55.3 pounds of propellant. The burn look good to me, but there were reports of a problem with the nozzle. Some Cal Poly students tried out a new deployment system in their green Tree Killer rocket. The system worked perfectly and no trees were harmed during the flight. Rod Lovely flew his two stage Sling Shot rocket as a test for a planned M to M rocket. The pink and yellow rocket used a J275 staging to an I211. The up part looked great, but the parachute on the sustainer failed to deploy. Karl Baumii also did a two stage flight, sending his Big Joe up on a H242 staging to a G64. There were two certification flights at the launch. Robert Zylstra of Denair flew his black and white V2 on a H128 for Level one, while Patrick Kellas of Exeter flew his Madcow Patriot on a J275 for Level two. And in other news, Richard King's Big Daddy has been found.

## **PARTY LIKE A ROCKET STAR**

Next May will be the tenth anniversary of the first Dairy Aire launch, and plans to celebrate are underway. Scheduled to appear:

- 10 M flights
- BBQ
- Live music
- Free beer











