

Jackson Model Rocketry Club

JMRC NEWS

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October 2010

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>October launch</i>	1
<i>Upcoming Birthdays</i>	1
<i>2010 Contest</i>	2
<i>Sci-Fi Contest</i>	2
<i>Turkey Chute</i>	2
<i>Request for Saturns</i>	3
<i>Thanks Roger</i>	5
TARC	5
From the Field	6

2010 Launch Dates

- November 13 (TBD)
- December 4 (Gumbert's)

NOTE: Launch dates are subject to change without notice. Be sure to call the "launch hotline" at 517.262.0510 for the latest weather and field information.

REMINDER

The Team One, Michiana combined launch at Three Oaks is scheduled for November 5th, 6th, and 7th Friday is the re-search day, with commercial flying on Saturday and Sunday. Hope to see you there.

OCTOBER LAUNCH REPORT

The JMRC October launch was held at MIS on October 9, 2010. The weather could not have been better. The day was sunny and clear with the temperature getting into the 70's by the middle of the day. The winds were calm all day. Twenty eight flyers made a total of 121 flights. 146 motors were used with a total impulse of 12,924.12 NS. Chuck Coulter had the most flights, closely followed by Carl Wagner and Art Upton.

Two contests were held during the launch. Eight flyers attempted to hit the 2010 altitude target and five rockets were entered into the Sci-Fi contest.

Lunch was prepared at the JMRC CAFÉ by Pinky with her usual degree of excellence.

Chris Palmer had two flights that caught everyone's attention. His Izzy had a spectacular CATO during it's flight and his sci-fi contest entry provided an excellent display of sky writing Unfortunately the flight, a real crowd pleaser, did not qualify as being successful.

Chris had a great flight with his Jeepers Creepers rocket. Odds were being offered on the flight line as to when the eye balls would separate from the rocket. Gerry Wellman had a good flight with his SR 71 Blackbird, but unfortunately was not able to land it successfully using his radio control set up.



JEEPERS CREEPERS

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

The members below have birthdays coming up in the next few months, so if you see them at a launch, be sure to wish them a happy Birthday!

NOVEMBER

James Howells 11/5
Buzz Nau 11/6
Paul Tobias 11/8

DECEMBER

Brian Naverette 12/14
Jim Fustini 12/19

Rob Dickinson 12/21

Art Upton 12/23

January

Ron Watkins 1/1

Gabe Osborn 1/4

Kathy Miller 1/14

Remember, I can only post the birthdays I have, so if you don't see your name here, please let me know your birthday, and I'll get it posted!

Thanks!

The rocket suffered some damage on landing, but I am sure Gerry will be making repairs and modifications to fly the blackbird again at another launch. Gerry also flew his Witches Broom to celebrate Halloween. The rocket had a good flight.



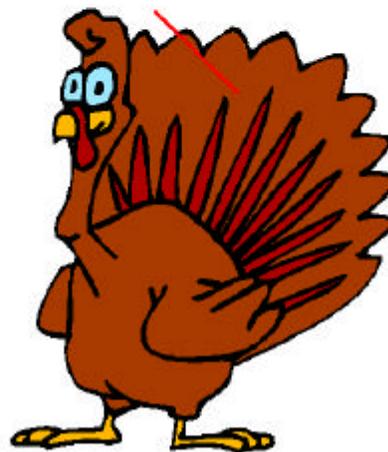
Sci -Fi Contest

There were five rockets entered into the contest, Carl Wagner entered two rockets, Buzz Nau, Chris Palmer and Rob Dickinson each entered one. The rockets were judged by the launch attendees for first second and third place. Once the rockets were judged, each had to make a successful flight to qualify to win a prize. The prizes were an Estes Mean Machine, A LOC Weasel and a field box built by Carl Wagner. After the flights, Rob was the winner with Carl and Buzz taking second and third. Chris's Sci-Fi rocket had a spectacular flight. But not one that qualified as safe.



Rob Dickinson's Skyfish Space Wagon

TURKEY CHUTE



During the November Launch we will be holding a "TURKEY CHUTE" contest, A turkey target will be placed on the field and the rocket that lands closest to the target will win a gift certificate to use to purchase a Thanksgiving Turkey. The distance to the target will be measured from the nose cone of the rocket. The cost to participate in the contest will be two dollars a flight. You can make as many tries as you like. In case of a tie a fly off will be held. All proceeds from the contest will go to the clubs general fund. Please plan to enter the contest, The winner will not only go home with the gift certificate but will also have bragging rights to being the JMRC's biggest Turkey!

2010 CONTEST

During the launches in September, October, November and December we are having a 2010 contest. The goal of the contest is to have a flight that comes closest to 2010 feet without going over the target. The entry fee is five dollars for each flight. The money should be paid to a Board member before the flight. Entry forms will be available at the registration table. The prize for the contest will be 50% of the entry fees. The flight must have a safe recovery. Two flyers made flights during the September launch. Rob Dickinson and Dale Hodgson both made flights with Dale having the best attempt at 1453 feet. During the October launch eight attempts were made to hit 2010 by six flyers. Jim Fustini flew Burn Notice to 1358 feet. Tom Kurecka flew Astrobe to 1726 feet and Blue Phoenix-XL to 3481 feet. Buzz Nau flew his Cherokee Double D to 1835 feet. Eldred Pickett had the best flight of the day. His EZI-65 hit 1859 feet for a new best height for the contest. Fred Zigler flew his debauchery rocket to 1708 feet and 2153 feet. Watch out Eldred,

I think Fred is serious about hitting 2009 feet! Bob Dickinson flew his Bigger Burtha but technical difficulties prevented both apogee and main parachute deployment. Tony Haga has announced that he plans to win both the 2010 contest and the Turkey Chute with one flight. He did not say if Barbie will be participating. There are two more launches to try and have the best flight. Good luck to everyone

JMRC Christmas Party

The JMRC Christmas party is scheduled to be held on the Grotto Club in Jackson. The party will include a pot luck lunch, business meeting and a raffle for the club. Don't miss it! Saturday, December 4, 2010 is tentatively scheduled for the launch. Check the JMRC group web site for further information.



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The Request For Saturns

By Buzz Nau

On August 28, 2008 I was one of several modelers contacted by Carl McLawhorn of Semroc requesting builders for a massive Saturn 1b project to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Apollo 7. Semroc and Launch Magazine were co-sponsoring the event and wanted to use 30+ Semroc 1/70 scale Saturn 1b's to be used as table center pieces. The idea was originally thought of by Dot Cunningham, wife of Apollo 7 astronaut Walter Cunningham after seeing one at NARAM.

The celebration scheduled for October 17, 2008 at the Frontiers of Flight Museum in Dallas and would include a panel discussion and luncheon. Notable speakers scheduled to attend included astronauts Neil Armstrong, Bill Anders, Alan Bean and Mission Control Director Gene Kranz. NASA Administrator Mike Griffin would also be there to present a mission award to Walter Cunningham, the last surviving member of the crew as well as posthumous awards to fellow crew members Walter Shirra and Donn Eisele. The crew never received their awards after the flight due to Mission Commander Shirra's irritable attitude towards mission controllers during the mission. Though Shirra had announced his retirement prior to the flight the bad feelings were so bad that neither Cunningham nor Eisele would ever fly again. Despite the abrasion, NASA Administrator Chris Kraft stated in a recent interview that he considers Apollo 7 one of the most successful missions ever especially for an 11 day flight of a brand new vehicle.

Construction

applying a very thin layer of the white glue. Overall I was happy with the results.

The Saturn 1b kit also includes a lot of what we called "fiddly bits". These included antennas, retro rocket housings, etc. Some of these involved forming paper over launch lugs or dowels. The Semroc 1/70 scale Saturn 1b is a faithful reproduction of the 1967 Estes kit designed by Gene Street. While the Semroc kit has some improvements (Kevlar shockline, laser cut parts), it is still a skill level 5 "modelers" kit. One of the most difficult parts of the kit, the Apollo capsule, was sidestepped by Semroc also supplying Apollo capsule kits from Apogee Components. This reduced the amount of work tremendously. When I build my next Saturn 1b I will probably splurge and buy an Apogee capsule kit not only for the simplicity, but also because it is an extremely accurate and detailed capsule.

The building the Saturn 1b kit took nearly every modeling skill I have developed over the many years I have been in hobby. There is a little bit of everything in this model and despite being a challenging build it was very rewarding and fun.

Semroc mailed the kit to me in a large 36x12x12 box full of popcorn packing. This box would be used to ship the assembled model to John Dyer of Red River Rocketry. John was coordinating things at the site of the luncheon as well as helping assemble 10 Saturn 1b's with the Dallas area club DARS. The kit parts were in a bag that could have fit in a shoe box. It's amazing how compact the parts are in kit form compared to how big the finished model is.

Having never built the Gene Street Saturn 1b I knew after looking through the instructions (several times) what the difficult steps would be, 1) built up fins, 2) fuel tank scallop shroud, 3) embossed wraps, and 4) painting. The built up fins are composed of a card stock shell over a frame made of 5 balsa parts. There are eight fins on a Saturn 1b, so we're talking forty individual balsa parts. It took a few nights watching football to get the fins completed. I was amazed how well all eight came out looking. The built up fins do not take a lot of skill, but they do require a lot of patience.

The tank shroud was every bit a problem that I thought it would be. Regardless of how carefully I cut it out, there were gaps between the shroud and tanks. These were filled with multiple coats of thinned FillnFinish. After several days I finally had a result I was pretty happy with.

The five paper embossed wraps model the Saturn 1b's corrugated surfaces. There are two popular ways of applying these wraps, adhesive spray and white glue. I went with white glue with the advantages being it is more forgiving than the spray and it adheres well. I didn't have a problem getting any of the wraps on straight the first time so "forgiveness" was not needed. Next time around I'll try the spray. The problem I had with the white glue is that areas of the wraps flattened somewhat due to the glue softening the wrap. This happened despite in the case of the retrorocket housings my initial attempts to form the paper and dowel pieces came out horribly. I found it easier (and more accurate) to just sand pieces of



balsa to shape.

As with most scale models a good paint job will make the difference between a great model and an OK one. Even though the Saturn 1b is primarily black and white there is a major amount of tape masking involved. There are four areas that are masked for black paint, a stripe just below the LEM shroud, a roll pattern around the second stage, the first stage fuel tanks, and the fins. The fins are by far the hardest to mask. Two are all black, two are all white, and four are half black and half white. The tanks are also difficult in that you need to mask around the scalloped shroud and white stripes on the fuel tanks. I tried using a 3m tape for auto painting use. It was very tacky and I had hoped it would produce sharp crisp paint lines. What I got was far from it. There was a lot of bleed under and I was extremely time constrained at that point. Normally I would have sanded it down and started over. Instead I had to use an Exacto knife to scrape away the unwanted paint.

From that point it was crunch time to get mine finished and in the mail. I applied the decals, installed the "fiddly bits", and put a label with my name on the rear centering ring before packing it up and taking it to UPS. Due to the problems I had with masking for the black paint I knew I wouldn't be getting mine back. There were just too many nitpicky errors. I was just hoping mine would get there on time and be respectable compared to the others I had seen photos of posted to the secret forum on YORF.

The Luncheon

Events from the luncheon were relayed to the builders by Mark Mayfield, editor of Launch Magazine, Carl McLawhorn,

and the event broadcast on the NASA channel. Mark mentioned that Walt's wife Dot was very excited about all the models and Walt was stunned when he saw them all in front of the Apollo 7 capsule. Dot grabbed one to hug and everyone was afraid she was going to crush it. There were some photos taken of Walt and Dot with the models before they were put on the tables.

Prior to the luncheon there was a panel discussion that included Mike Griffen, Bill Anders, Alan Bean, Neil Armstrong, and Gene Kranz. Each made very moving remarks regarding Walt, Apollo 7, and the Apollo program. As always, Alan Bean was a crack up to listen too. Many also spoke at the luncheon when Walt was awarded his NASA Distinguished Service Medal.

The Saturn 1b's were very impressive looking on all the tables and many of those in attendance commented on them. Earlier in the day the Saturn's built by Craig McGraw, Caleb Boe, and Carol Marple were judged as the



best. Those models were signed by Walt and returned to the builders. Of the remaining models, several went home with astronauts, many were sold for \$500 which went to the Be An Angel charity, and the rest are to be auctioned later for the charity.

It was a fun project and one I'm proud to have been a part of. I received my award for my Apollo 7 model and it has finally been recognized for standing that it



fun project I'm proud to have been a part of. It's nice to have received my award and that has finally been recognized for the success.

Jackson Model Rocketry Club

JMRC News Editor:
Bob Dickinson
5668 Big Fish Lake Road
Goodrich, MI 48438

Phone: 248 627-2825
E-mail: rdicinc@msn.com

We're on the Web!
www.jmrconline.org

Blast off with Rocketry!

The Jackson Model Rocketry Club (JMRC) is a prefecture of the Tripoli Rocketry Association (Prefecture 96), and the National Association of Rocketry (Club 620). JMRC is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, and donations to the club are federally tax-deductible.

Prefect—Scott Miller

Vice Prefect—Roger Sadowsky

Secretary—Rob Dickinson

Treasurer— Bob Dickinson

JMRC holds launches monthly (weather permitting) year-round from two primary fields in the Jackson area. The club has launch equipment sufficient to launch any rocket from the smallest Estes model to large high power rockets, including hybrids. Waivers are 5,000 ft. AGL or 9,000 ft. AGL, depending on location. To find our next launch, or for more information on JMRC, see our website, www.jmrconline.org, or call Roger Sadowsky at 517.764.7514.

OUR MEMBERS IN THE FIELD...

