



ZOG-43



MAY 2008 VOLUME 30 NUMBER 5

The Newsletter of NARHAMS, NAR Section 139

Co-Sponsor of NARAM-50

EYE WITNESS REPORT: EXPLORER 1 ANNIVERSARY

by Ole Ed

"...king, non-smoking, arriving January 29 and leaving the Kennedy Space Center Marriott on February 1. Is this correct?"

"Yes," I replied.

"Wait for the confirmation number," Rick continued; "It is 434 343."

"Hold on, my mind just froze. I got the 434 part. Was the last part 334?"

"No, it is 434 343. Got it?"

"I think so. You're saying to me that the confirmation number is 43 43 43."

"I guess you could look at it that way. You ought to play that one on the lottery. You don't see a number like that very much."

"Rick," I replied, "You have no idea."

And so the planning went for our trip to Florida. If you come to the NARHAMS meetings frequently then it is highly probable that either you or a family member received my letter citing "Greetings from sunny Florida"



Thomas Henderson and Ed Pearson with a full scale model of Explorer 1, America's first satellite, 31 January 2008. (Photo by Diane Pearson)

and carrying a postal cancellation commemorating the 50th anniversary of Explorer 1, January 31, 2008.

You know then that Thomas Henderson, my wife Diane and I traveled by car to be at the site where Explorer 1 was launched and to talk to some of the pioneers that helped make possible America's first satellite entry into space.

This is a summary account that hopefully you will find interesting.

Basically it took us two days to get to Florida. We stopped in North Carolina the first night, and

on the second day got on the road to be bombarded by road signs advertising Pedro at something called South of the Border (we'll call it SotB).

In this case "South of the
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ZOG-43

VOLUME 30 NUMBER 5
MAY 2008

Thomas Henderson Editor

ZOG-43 is the newsletter of the National Association of Rocketry Headquarters Astro-Modeling Section # 139 (NARHAMS). We are committed to providing the most up-to-date information on model rocketry to rocketeers of all ages, abilities, and interests.

Current rates.

| | |
|----------------|------|
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| USPS delivery | \$15 |

Submission Guidelines.

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NARHAMS ON THE WEB

<http://www.narhams.org>

NARHAMS serves the Baltimore/Washington metropolitan area and the state of Maryland. The club is Section 139 of the National Association of Rocketry (NAR), and is the oldest continuously active model rocket club in the United States. It is also the only six-time winner of the NAR Section of the Year award.

PUBLIC LAUNCHES are hosted by NARHAMS at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Visitor Center on ICESat Rd. in Greenbelt, MD. The launches are held, weather permitting, the first Sunday of the month at 1 PM.

SPORT LAUNCHES are held the third Saturday of each month at the Old National Pike Recreation Park on Rte. 144 near Mt. Airy, MD. They are always open to non-club members who wish to fly.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the first Saturday of the month from 5:30 to 9:30 PM at the College Park Airport Annex Building. All prospective new members are welcome.

DUES are 10 cents a week, with 50 cents required up front as a sign of good faith. (This has not changed since 1965.)

Directions to College Park Airport.

Follow I-495 to Kenilworth Ave. South. Make a right onto Paint Branch Parkway, then make a right on Cpl. Frank S. Scott Dr. At the airport entrance, go straight to the Operations building. The annex is adjacent to the Ops building.

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A couple of scout troops showed up for the April sport launch. (Photo by Dave Dolbier)



Mike Kelley flew this scale WAC Corporal on a G motor. (Photo by Dave Dolbier)



John McCoy brought out a few models, including this Centuri Orion clone. (Photo by John McCoy)



Jennifer Ash-Poole and the Tschirhart kids watch Jennifer's Sprite take off at ECRM. (Photo by Thomas Henderson)



Chris Greco flew an Estes Oracle video rocket. (Photo by John McCoy)



No. 43, the club logo rocket, takes off at ECRM on an F27 Redline. (Photo by Thomas Henderson)

ECRM-35 EVENT COVERAGE

by Thomas Henderson

Tom Lyon and the Vikings Rocket Society hosted the 35th East Coast Regional Meet in Richmond, Virginia, on April 19, 2008.

Although ECRM is normally a two-day event, a dire weather forecast for Sunday resulted in a last-minute decision to fly all events on Saturday, April 19. The launch was extended to run from 9 AM all the way to 6 PM, so there was still plenty of time to fly all events. Most of the day's flying was from the contest range, but there was some sport flying going on. 19 rocketeers made 40 flights from the sport range, and,

appropriately enough, they burned a total of 43 motors. The flights ranged from 1/2A-powered gliders all the way up to Ben Ullman's upscale "Deuce," which flew on twin H97 motors. (Although only one of the motors lit; more on that later.)

As for the competition, there were a total of 17 contestants in three divisions, and six sections were represented. In addition to the Vikings, there were contestants from NOVAAR, SPAAR, PARA, Pittsburgh Space Command, and, of course, NARHAMS.

Considering five events were flown in the space of just one day, the contest went very well. The events were SD (50 sec), A BG, B HD, B PAY, and C ELD. Full results of the meet have yet to be released; these will be published in



Rocketeers watch the launch of a Deltie from the contest range at ECRM. Left to right: Steve Foster (Pittsburgh Space Command), Tom Lyon, Ben Ullman, Bruce Sexton (all Vikings), Bruce Canino (SOJARS), Jennifer Ash-Poole (NARHAMS), and Trip Barber (NOVAAR).

the June issue of ZOG-43.

There were a number of interesting flights made from the sport range. Jennifer Ash-Poole, one of the two NARHAMSters who did any flying (the second one being me) made a practice flight of an FAI Parachute Duration model which thermalled away spectacularly on a 1/2A motor. (Bear in mind, it was designed to fly on an A...) She also flew the Peter Alway bunny rocket, a saucer, and a conventional, all in addition to contest flying. My day could have started out better, for reasons I will not go into, but I did make a few nice mid-power flights later on, with the Magical Mystery Rocket and the club logo rocket, No. 43.

The Vikings' Ben Ullman flew an upscale "Deuce" on two Aerotech H97 motors. As previously mentioned, only one

motor ignited. Even so, the model managed to make a good flight, although it did not go very high. That's what makes the Deuce such a neat configuration: the angled motors mean that it can fly safely even if one fails to ignite. The second H did not go to waste, however: it was fired later in the day in a LOC/Precision V2.

It must have been "Blackjack Fuel Day" or something; by my count, six blackjack motors were launched while only five composite motors were fired using other propellants (three of those by me). Those were: two H97's in the Deuce and the V2, a G38 in Viking Paul Bethel's upscale Quark, two F23's in my Magical Mystery Rocket and Bruce Sexton's 2x Cherokee-D, and Jason Collins' Phoenix on an F12.

Rob Edmonds also showed up with a neat little glider made of



Ben Ullman's Deuce takes off on one of an intended two H97 motors--but flies anyway! (Photo by Thomas Henderson)

styrofoam which he entered in the contest. Unfortunately it flew away and he didn't get a return, but it flew very well. (Future kit, Rob?) At his urging, I also flew a little Valkyrie on a 1/2A that I'd brought for the contest which flew fairly well.

All in all, it was a pretty good day. Further coverage, and full contest results, will be published next month. Until then, I look forward to ECRM-36 next year.



The crowd watches a UFO model lift off on a G61 White Lightning. (Photo by Thomas Henderson)





Veterans of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency and the Explorer project pose for a picture at the visitors' complex at Kennedy Space Center. (Photo by Ed Pearson)

Explorer 1 cont'd from page 1
 Border” meant the North Carolina border and as soon as we crossed into South Carolina, there was SotB—a multi-building, multi-hectare (‘cause hectares sound larger than writing “acres”) tourist trap. We stopped to go to the bathroom.

The place was basically closed for the winter except for the public bathroom. A sign between the



Ed points out the building number on the SotB restrooms. (Photos by Thomas Henderson)

men’s and ladies’ rooms let all travelers know that this was SotB building number 43.

(I am not inventing any of the above accounts, by the way; nor the parts that follow).

The long and the short of it, we went to the Kennedy Space Center’s Visitor Center Complex on Merritt Island on January 30th, the day before the launch anniversary. There we met an employee, Jeff Keller, who escorted us on tours throughout the space center.

We saw the Shuttle (old Apollo) launch pads, the VAB, its associated firing building, Shuttle payload processing buildings, the shuttle landing area, the crawler, ISS module assembly clean room and more. We went to the Saturn V building where Jeff normally works and saw a remaining unfired Saturn V. We saw a gator, an eagle, wild pigs, raccoons, all kinds of marsh and shore birds (herons, spoonbills, pelicans, etc.). We took in an IMAX film on the ISS all the

courtesy of Jeff.

Jeff is one of 300 Delaware North employees who staff the visitor center complex. It was his day off from the gift shop at the Saturn V building, but he wanted to show us around and made a superb host. We were so fortunate to have his gracious hospitality. He let us know that our admission tickets (normal admission without frills run about \$43 or so per person) allow the visitor to come back a



Thomas, Ed, and Diane with the nozzles of the Saturn V on display at KSC. (Photo by Jeff Keller)



The control room in the Complex 26 blockhouse, where Explorer 1 was launched 50 years ago. (Photo by Ed Pearson)

second day without charge. And we wanted to come back.

On January 31 we arrived at the visitor center complex shortly before opening. We knew that people who worked on Explorer 1 would be there for a group picture in the morning.

You should know that Explorer 1 was not launched from the Kennedy Space Center. Explorer 1 preceded NASA and NASA's decision to launch from Merritt Island. Explorer 1 was launched instead from Cape Canaveral further east.

Cape Canaveral in the early days was also known as the Eastern Test Range for missiles. They flew all sorts of stuff there, before NASA, including Bumper WACs. And until KSC got up and running, Canaveral was the site of all US manned missions through Apollo 7.

Nowadays, the site is known as the NASA Cape Canaveral Air

Force Station and NASA's unmanned spacecraft are still launched there as well as military missions. I think that's why "NASA" gets prefixed to the facility name.

The Explorer pioneers wanted

to get a group picture taken in front of the Juno rocket (what I call the Jupiter C) at the visitor center on the anniversary date. A similar Juno on Canaveral at the Explorer 1 site fell victim of a hurricane a few years back and now there are only two (am I wrong on this?) full scale Junos left—KSC visitor center complex and at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC.

We found the pioneers all right; they were assembling before the Juno for their picture. I call them pioneers appropriately as they all worked for the Army Ballistic Missile Agency (ABMA) in 1958 working under General John Medaris and technical consultant Werner Von Braun at Huntsville.

For this event, more than 50 of them, still alive, and more than ten widows for compatriots who are gone now, came back from all over (although many had settled there in Florida and continued with NASA



This plaque was given to the Cape Canaveral museum by the AIAA in commemoration of the anniversary. (Photo by Thomas Henderson)

after leaving ABMA).

Thomas and I took their photos.

These honorees were also treated to breakfast by Delaware North, and after their pictures were taken went on a bus tour of KSC.

At noon, they assembled by launch Complex 26 at Cape Canaveral where Explorer took off. The AIAA was there as well and the honorees joined the group for a ceremony in which the AIAA awarded a plaque to the Air Force station as being a national historic site.

Lunch was served and the honorees returned to KSC by bus to pick up their own vehicles.

Our group from Maryland toured the site that afternoon and wants you to know that Complex 26 is now known as the Air Force Museum. The grounds have several rockets on display at the area where Explorer 1 was launched, and the Explorer launch blockhouse is a small museum with gift shop.

The shop had Tee shirts for Explorer 1, pins, patches, coins and posters. They sell a nice 9" Explorer 1 semi-scale model rocket there for \$25. A-powered thing. The designer of the model lives in Maryland and is a member of our local Tripoli prefect. How about that?

There were plans to launch 50 of the Explorer models that day for the anniversary at the site, but permission was denied by the base commander who allegedly worried that these models might fly to the nearby (something like two miles away) Delta launch pads and do who knows what damage.

(Are model rockets safe or



The Explorer 1 50th anniversary banquet. (Photo by Ed Pearson)

what? Boogy Boogy, the widdle Explorers are going to dent a Delta.)

Admission to the AF Museum is free, but if you're not in the military, you'll have to get there by bus from the KSC visitor center complex (for an extra \$22 to their admission price) or know someone who can prearrange for the guards to let you on site.

This is a simple procedure, you arrive at the reception building before entering the AF station, they look up your name on their list. Then you merely show them two forms of government-issued ID, and they'll then take your picture, give you a badge and you are on your way.

Nine-Eleven hurt visiting the museum. Prior to the date, some 70,000 people saw the museum annually. After the tragedy, some 11,000 are able to see this historic site which is only a short distance away from launch complex 29 where Alan Shepard went into

space aboard a Mercury Redstone. An extant Redstone still stands at that launch site, unaffected by that hurricane cited earlier.

In the evening the honorees were treated to a reception at a nearby Canaveral resort hotel. This was a fantastic event both from form and substance. On the substance front, these men and a few women (secretaries—roles were rather rigid and archly defined back then) who made history, gathered and recounted individual slices of the experience.

There was great fellowship and humor as well. "I am glad to be here and see you all...am glad to be anywhere in fact," one octogenarian quipped. Another quip, "I am surprised to see so many of you can still drive at night." A third, "It took us 84 days to get Explorer launched once we got the go-ahead and 210 days to organize this reception tonight." A fourth, 'we asked a rocket man to say the



A Mercury-Redstone on display at Complex 5/6, where the originals launched Alan Shepard, Gus Grissom, and Ham the Chimp. If you look VERY close, you might see Ed by the base of the rocket. (Photo by Thomas Henderson)

bleasing (referring to an ex-Rockwell retired vice president) because we knew rocket men knew how to pray.’

They recounted being turned down more than once in the quest for permission to launch a satellite before Sputnik took off, chagrin and disappointment when Sputnik was launched (not so much as knocking the achievement but from bitterness of knowing that politics kept ABMA from achieving that milestone), the spontaneous gathering in the streets in

Huntsville by people when Explorer flew, how the former secretary of defense (who turned down ABMA’s earlier efforts) was burned in effigy in Huntsville that night and insights on what it was like in those days. They expressed a commitment to meeting responsibilities, a confidence in their abilities to perform engineering challenges and a “We will walk through fire for you” type respect and admiration for their leaders.

On the form side, there was a

beautiful ice sculpture at the reception’s entrance in the shape of the Jupiter C. Plastic models of the rocket adorned the centerpiece of each table (and these models were given away in a drawing later). George Lucas designed a pin that each honoree (or representing widow) received. Later, people were given facsimiles of the Huntsville Times announcing the launch of Explorer, and also a bottle of wine from a vintner who also worked on Explorer and who unfortunately succumbed before he could see the reception realized.

In the hours approaching the actual historic launch time (after 10 at night on 1/31/58), the honorees drifted back to their rooms or cars and another bit of history passed. Thomas flew home the next day and was able to attend weekend NARHAMS and GSFC activities. Diane and I drove back on a two-day journey guided by a flotilla of spacecraft broadcasting to our GPS. Went down to celebrate the launching of our first satellite and came back benefiting from the legacy. And where will we (mankind) be in another 50 years?



(Photo by Ed Pearson)

WOOD ACRES SPACE DAY 2008 REPORT

by Jennifer Ash-Poole NAR
61415

Wood Acres Space Day, a biennial event, happened on April 17 with Ed Pearson and Jennifer Ash-Poole attending. Richard Hickok and Thomas Henderson were planning on coming, but Richard broke his ankle and Thomas had something come up at the last minute. You both were missed, but the absence was understandable. (NOTE: don't walk down or up stairs carrying boxes so you can't see where you are going. Just ask Richard.)

The weather was sunny, warm and not breezy. The kids built Alpha III models and flew them on A8-3 engines. We swapped out the parachute for streamer, and all models were recovered. We had several boys helping out for volunteer hours, and the 44 launches were spread out over 2 hours. Ed and I handed out first time flyer certificates and fliers for the Goddard contest. It was not as crowded as previous launches, but the kids were enthusiastic and had a lot of fun. Ed and I then split a pizza from Ledo's. Yum!

I looked through the minutes, and found the first Wood Acres Space Day we attended was back in 2000. We even held a meeting once after one of the launches. How time flies, and every Space Day, they are excited to have us there.

See you in 2010!

APRIL SPORT LAUNCH REPORT

by John McCoy and
Thomas Henderson

The NARHAMS sport launch was held on Saturday, April 19, which unfortunately conflicted with a number of other events including ECRM in Richmond and Red Glare on the Eastern Shore. We nonetheless had a wonderful day, with near calm winds in the morning, picking up to 15-20 mph in the afternoon. John's weather station recorded a high of 82.4 degrees at 1:20 PM with high clouds and good visibility.

We had a great crowd, including fliers as well as about a dozen folks who just came to watch. There were quite a few mid-power flights.

The adjacent soccer field was empty for most of the day, except for a team practice for about an hour, so there were no restrictions on the flying of large models. This is the second month there have been no games on that field while we were flying.

THE EDITOR'S COLUMN

by Thomas Henderson

Beginning next month, this column will be on Page 3 along with two other monthly columns. What those will be hasn't yet been officially decided, but I'm hoping to have a President's Column (which we used to have but no longer do) and a column on the monthly Goddard launch (which will be new). Until then, I've used

it for pictures.

I was unfortunately unable to come out with the April issue on time last month; both April and May are being published in May. My apologies for the inconvenience.

Well, this is certainly an interesting time for NARHAMS. Spring and summer are the times when we do most of our outreach. During April we wrapped up the Cadet program, hosted Space Day at Wood Acres, and did a build session at Rockville Science Consortium, in addition to the usual Goddard and Mt. Airy launches. In May, we're doing just as much if not more, as well as getting ready to host NARAM-50 this July and attend the Internats in August. I am certainly going to have plenty of material over the next few months.

In March, long after Ed and I were back from Florida, I got on a train and went back down for the launch of *Endeavour* on STS-123. It lifted off right on time (for once), early in the morning of March 11, and it was a spectacular sight. Now I'm looking forward to going back for the first launch of the Ares I...



The Shuttle Endeavour lifts off on mission STS-123 last March. (Photo by Kris Hinterberg)

MINUTES FROM THE APRIL MEETING

recorded by Chris Kidwell

Meeting called to order at 7:42 pm
by Jennifer Ash-Poole

Members attending: Matthew Allen, Roger Allen, Jennifer Ash-Poole, Scott Branche, Jim Filler, Brad Grant, Chris Ha, Tom Ha, Zach Ha, Thomas Henderson, Chris Kidwell, Roy Lappalainen, Alex Mankevich, John McCoy, Jim Miers, Ed Pearson, Mark Petrovich, Mark Wise, Alan Williams

Outreach

Mar 30 - article in Carroll County Times, along with video on web site

Minutes from March read. Motion to accept (Roy Lappalainen /Chris Ha) passed.

Old Business

Wood Acres launch on Apr 17 3-5 pm for Space Day. They will feed the helpers and make a donation to the club.

Cub scout launch at Carderock May 15 5 pm

Goddard Contest on July 20. Event this year is 30 sec predicted duration.

Need launch managers for May, June, August, December.

Paperwork for donations box at Mt. Airy is still in progress. Need to have EIN number for tax purposes.

Roy has ordered a few items from CafePress with the NARHAMS logo. He will open up the site once he gets the EIN number.

Chris reviewed results and handed out ribbons from HQSM-42 section meet on March 15.

Jim noted his concerns about our self-imposed restrictions to lower power flights when soccer games are in progress. His concern is that it may be overly restrictive and may limit our ability to support TARC flights. Thomas feels that finding a new launch site not on park property should be a priority. Mark Wise says that if we trust our RSOs, we shouldn't need additional binding rules. Jim Miers reminds us that it is a safety code violation to launch an untested model if people are unaware of the launch (ie, soccer players). Chris Ha suggests additional training for RSOs may be necessary, but no changes to restrictions are needed.

Treasurer's Report

In March, we collected \$75.49 and spent \$408.08.

Income: 23 dues, 25 ZOG-43, 15 hat sales, 12 raffle, .49 interest.

Expenses: 187.24 cadet program, 172 storage fees, 48.84 ZOG-43.

Cash: 150.14

Bank: 1724.43

Total: 1874.57

Motion to accept (John McCoy/Mark Wise) passed

New Business

Alex is supporting Sapce Day at Maryland Science Center on May 3, 10 am - 4 pm. Will only have 4 tables this year, as opposed to 6 previously.

Following the July 19 launch, we will have a NARAM-50 packet stuffing party at Hobbytown USA in Frederick. Jim may shut the launch down early if weather is too hot.

Brad has been in contact with Bel Air cub scouts for doing a building session and launch, working toward a date in June.

There will be 40 scouts coming to the April sport launch, so Roy is begging for help.

Motion to adjourn (Jim Miers/Mark Wise) passed

Meeting closed at 9:12 pm





ZOG-43, THE ONLY NAR SECTION NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED MONTHLY

May 17
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Mt. Airy
Old National Pike
SPORT LAUNCH

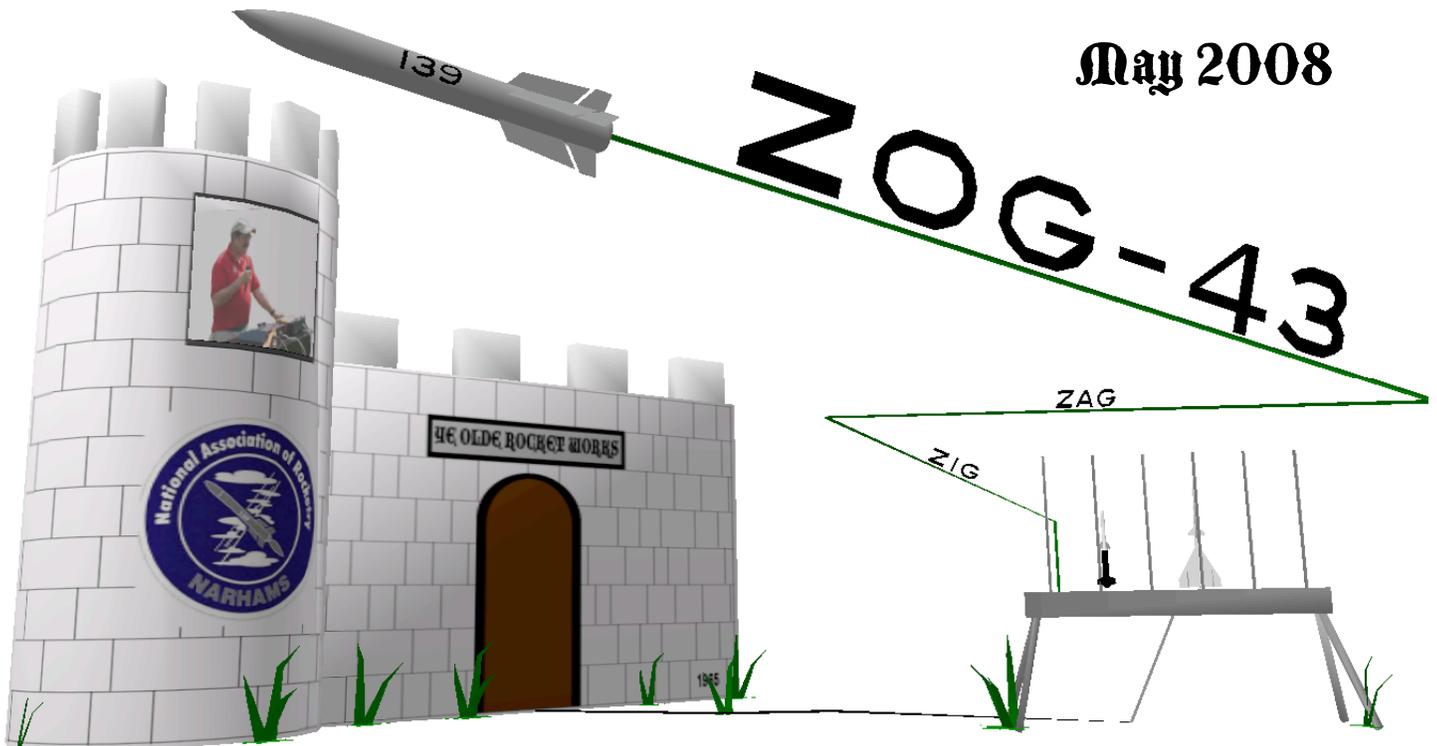


May 4
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Visitors Center
Goddard Space Flight Center
PUBLIC LAUNCH
LAUNCH SCHEDULE

ZOG-43
9112 Bradford Rd
Silver Spring, MD 20901

May 2008

ZOG-43



NARHAMS Model Rocket Club Newsletter