

# THE 206-43

The Newsletter of NARHAMS, NAR Section #139.  
NAR National Champions 2001, 2004



## NARAM-50 from the CD's View

by Jim Filler NAR 27862

Wow..... Some days I wake up and wonder to myself is it over already? When you start planning for something three years in advance, then the event only lasts for seven days, it has some after effects. At NARAM-47 we were talking about hosting NARAM-50 and I told Jennifer Ash-Poole the only way I would agree to be the CD was if she would coordinate the Old Rocketeer Reunion which would be scheduled the first Sat of NARAM-50 and be my assistant for the rest of the event. She agreed and with the help of oh so many other people we pulled it off. A lot of planning, a lot of people volunteering their time and a lot of support from the vendor community helped make it happen. I could go through a significant list of people that helped, but for now I will try to keep it short.

I mentioned Jennifer; by the time NARAM actually got here we were on the same page and could finish each others sentences. Chris Kidwell who not only did all of the contest data review and almost all of the webpage layout and design, and also helped with making sure the contest ran smooth everyday. Tom Lyon who was there everyday to take care of anything I needed. Tom and I both hung around the range ops tent all week and by the end of the week, Tom had performed more range jobs then I did while filling in for people that were either late, confused or left for the week early. Tom, Maria, Chris and Zack Ha, this family effort went along long way. Tom handled the duties of event treasurer and juggled NARTS sales with the entire family helping. Maria spearheaded the registration process. Chris and Zack did anything and everything any of us needed. I couldn't tell you everything they did all week. Kevin Johnson, our PR guy. Kevin arranged the visits from the media onsite. Kevin also designed and filled the event program that came in the contestant packet. Mark Wise our vendor liaison helped with the vendor's setup under the carnival tent. Mark also worked as an R&D judge by night, and also

was drafted to work trash roundup as his alter-ego "Cletus" along with "Jed" the other trash hauling guy. Josh Tschirhart an adopted NARHAMS member was instrumental in doing design and graphic work for the NARAM logo and subsequent items with the design. John Hochheimer was our go to guy for anything we needed done in Virginia. The hosts of the meet were NARHAMS (located about 2 hours away from Great Meadow in Md.) and NOVAAR. John is the NOVAAR Section Advisor and is a newly elected trustee to the NAR board. John did most of the legwork for the ORR rentals and the food and drink orders and planning. John also took care of the picnic contacts as well. Last but not least John was our contact for the Great Meadow staff and anything we needed from them he got for us. NOVAAR had originally decided to help us do this by providing the field and the support to run the sport range. Special thanks go out to the entire NOVAAR club for taking care of this for us all week long with out any problems.

Friday morning before NARAM several of us arrived at the field to find the tents were already in place and proceeded to set up the range equipment. Friday night we started to get people in for registration. Saturday morning arrived and we opened the sport range at about 8 am with very little activity. Slowly traffic started picking up and by 11 am things were moving right along.



*What's wrong with Jim? He spent a week as NARAM CD.  
Photo by Chris Taylor*

At 11 am I closed the range down for regular sport flying and proceeded to open check in for the scheduled Old Rocket

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**VOL 30 ISSUE 10**

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**AND MORE!**

## ZOG-43

**Volume 27     Number 6**  
**June 2005**

ZOG-43 is the official newsletter of NARHAMS the National Association of Rocketry Headquarters Astro Modeling Section # 139

NARHAMS is the oldest model rocket club in the United States!

ZOG-43 is dedicated to model rocketeers of all ages, abilities, and interest. We are committed to providing the most current, up-to-date information on model and real world rocketry, and to provide educational material as well as entertaining information. ZOG-43 is published monthly and is available to anyone on a subscription basis. Current rates are \$10 for meeting pickup or email or \$15 for postal mail U.S. Funds for 12 issues a year, payable to NARHAMS

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For more information.....

If you have any questions about ZOG-43 or NARHAMS, or if you have any comment(s), correspondence, free merchandise or if you'd like to submit an article, send them to :

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ZOG-43 is edited by Kevin Johnson, and is an eight-time winner of the NAR/LAC "Rockwell" Trophy, recognized as the best NAR section newsletter.

Years won: 1969, 1973, 1975, 1990, 1991, 1992, 2003, & 2004

Zog-43 staff typist is none other than Jennifer Ash-Poole a.k.a. Secretary to the Stars !

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## NARHAMS ON THE WEB

<http://www.narhams.org>

Send and receive E-mail with other NARHAMS members through NARHAMS Web page group list via yahoo-groups.



NARHAMS serves Baltimore, the state of Md., Washington DC and the surrounding Metropolitan areas. The club is a section of the National Association of Model Rocketry (NAR) and we are the oldest continuously active model rocket club in the United States, first established as a high school club in 1963, changing our name to NARHAMS when chartered as a NAR section in 1965. NARHAMS is the only seven time winner of the NAR "Section of the Year" award.

Years won: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2006, and 2007

NARHAMS members regularly fly their model rockets at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center on Soil Conservation Rd. in Greenbelt Md. The launches are open to the public and are held the first Sunday of every month (weather permitting), starting at 1 PM.

Sport Launches are usually held the third Saturday of every month at Old National Regional park near Mt. Airy, Md. Check the web page for updates.

NARHAMS welcomes all prospective new members to our monthly meetings. They are held on the first Saturday of the month from 5:30 to 9:30 PM at the College Park Airport Annex Building. Dues are 10 cents a week, with an initial 50 cents up front (good for 5 weeks) as a sign of good faith.

*Monthly meetings available on-line via chat-room , simply go to the NARHAMS homepage and click on the link.*

## ZOG ROYAL COURT

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## 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 building is adjacent to the "Ops" building.



Commemorative Launch. I collected 45 flight cards that we'll say have some pretty cool stuff listed on them. The first three flights were very special indeed. Not only did I get to RSO the flights, I got to safety check the models and I even provided engines for these "rocketeers" to fly their models. First up was Bill Stine NAR #24 flying a Model Missiles Inc. Aerobee -100. Bill wrote on the card that "All original MMI Parts – built by G. Harry Stine in 1958. The model flew great and recovered inside the range circle. Second up to fly was Vern Estes NAR # 380 flying his vintage Big Bertha built in the early 60's? The model flew great on a B6-4 that I gave him. You want to talk about nervous? Here I am running the event, asking one of the pioneers to launch his model and I provide him with a motor that bears his name and praying that when I countdown to launch the motor works correctly since I provided it. Whew! The next rocketeer to fly was Lee Peister NAR #1236. He chose a vintage Centuri Screaming Eagle that was also flown at NARAM-14. Again a great flight. I am not going to go through and detail each flight, but I will mention a few more. Vern, Gleda and Betty (Their daughter) Estes all flew Semroc Golden Scouts during the commemorative launch. Vary neat to see these models fly at NARAM-50! NARAHAMS member Ole Ed Pearson along with Jay Marsh and Ed LaCroix flew their vintage Astron Drifter which also flew at



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NARAM both previous times an Old Rocketeer Reunion was held. Paul Horning flew his Gemini Titan cluster model from the 60's. John McCoy flew his Mercury Redstone from 1973. Alan Williams flew his upscale Nomad used as a tracking test model from the 4<sup>th</sup> WSMC held in NJ. Mike Hellemund flew a couple of really nice models from his collection, a vintage Cherokee-D and a Centuri Nike Smoke. Jim Wilkerson flew a Quest Totally Tubular model that he had previously flown in Antarctica. I have to tell you, as the CD of the meet this event was one of the most memorable for me and I am sure I will remember it fondly for years to come.

Saturday continued with sport flying great weather and three ranges going at the same time. We had the sport range running from what would become the contest range on Monday, we had a separate high power range running from down range supporting up to "J" power flights, and we had a dedicated RC range that was self run by the RC flyers. The RC championships were flown between Sat & Sun. Every other year we have this event at NARAM and it is growing in participation. This year we got to see more people than ever flying on the RC range. The sport flying for the day was over early at 3pm to allow for everyone to get back to the host hotel and get ready for the Old Rocketeer Reunion that evening.

Special thanks here again to NAR member John Langford for opening up the hanger to his facilities at Aurora Flight Sciences located at the Manassas airport. Doors opened at 5pm and this was an event that many will talk about for years to come. We had over 320 people in attendance for this event. I recognized many of the names we printed for name badges but would have never known many by face only. Thank goodness for name badges! The food was great the company was even better. NARHAMS decided to "crash" the party by bringing in local carryout pizza from Ledo's pizza nearby. Ole Ed Pearson thought this up and the club approved to pay for the pizzas. Going to Ledo's pizza after NARHAMS events has been tradition going back to the 60's. Nice touch Ed!

Jennifer's husband Ward and one of his co-workers set up shop for group pictures in one corner. James Duffy was set up on the other side of the hanger recording video memories. We only had a brief program about half way through the evening. Mark Bundick addressed the crowd and we also had Bill Stine and Vern Estes also give quick addresses to the crowd as well. Mark awarded the NAR Presidents award to James Duffy for all of his hard work on compiling the ORR DVD that was available for sale at NARAM-50. Thanks to Launch Magazine for their gracious support of this program. The DVD is still available through NARTS and I highly recommend you get a copy. This disc contains a lot of early NAR history. The event went off without a hitch, thanks to Jennifer Ash-Poole and John Hochheimer for all their hard work and planning.

Sunday morning came a little earlier than normal after the late night on Sat evening that continued even after everyone left the ORR and returned to the hotel. Sport flying,



Jim gets some advice frm Scott Branche on his Saturn 1B model. Photo by Chris Taylor

High Power flying and RC flying was once again going on all at the same time on the Great Meadow Field. By Sunday most of the vendors were also on site. Many took advantage of the huge tent we set up alone on side. The participants were able to use the rest of the tent as a prep area. This made for a festive almost carnival atmosphere under the big tent.

Sunday's fun event was drag race. Thanks to Chris Kidwell for running this and making it go. We originally played with the idea of making this event an official NARAM event. The fly-it take-it event also continued on Sunday. This event was run by the Ha family. The idea is simple advertise to first time flyers on site that they can take a pre-built model and fly it then keep it. We are planning on taking models that other NAR clubs donated to us to NARAM-51 if the organizers would like to continue this event. Rob Edmonds also showed up on Sunday to emcee the Imagination Celebration.

Sunday evening was the competitors briefing followed by the vendors forum. SR editor Tom Beach polled the crowd for volunteers to cover the individual NARAM events. Launch Magazine's Mark Mayfield was the emcee for the forum. Several of the vendors in attendance announced new and exciting products. Scale and R&D turn in also was Sunday night. Monday evening was the NAR Town Hall meeting. Mark Bundick who did not run for re-election to the board of trustees delivered his "farewell" address, a very memorable moment for all in the room. Trip Barber is now the new NAR president and I am certain he will do a great job! Tuesday after the contest flying was done; we had a full BBQ picnic delivered right to the big top tent at Great Meadow. After the picnic, awards were given out for the first three events flown for the week. Many in attendance got their first glimpse of the NARAM-50 medals given out instead of the usual trophies. I did not hear any negative comments about the medals. I believe they were received by all as sharp looking, nicely done and in "Olympic" style. Back at the hotel Tuesday evening was the Canon Educational Scholarship Auction. Each year the host section gathers donations from NARAM attendees to auction off with the benefits going toward educational scholarships awarded to teachers that use model rocketry in the classroom. Thanks to all those that attended, donated and helped with the process. We

supplemented the auction this year due to the large amount of items we received with a silent auction alongside the regular auction. Thanks to Tom Lyon our auctioneer, Kevin Johnson, Scott Branche and Joanne Racher for helping and recording. We set a record take this year at \$7544 taken in.

Wednesday was the day off scheduled for NARAM-50. Everybody was able to go and see the sights of our nation's capital including many who chose to visit the National Air & Space Museum. Wednesday evening the A&B division entries to present for R&D were done. The host hotel approached us earlier in the week about doing a customer appreciation picnic since the NAR has been utilizing this hotel for NARAM-46 and also for TARC each year and once again NARAM-50 this year. So those in attendance for NARAM-50 got treated to a free picnic out by the pool at the hotel on Thursday evening. The C&T division R& D presentation along with scale viewing was also going on Thursday evening.

Friday was a short day with the range closing down at 2pm. With only one event scale the day was rather easy for most. We started tearing the range down early and was able to complete the task by about 3:30. We headed back to the hotel, I took a power nap got cleaned up and dressed up then proceeded to the awards presentation. Thanks to my Mom & Dad for picking up the awards and bringing them to the banquet. The banquet went off with out any problems. Trip Barber awarded the Galloway Award to Joe Egan posthumously for all the work he did for the NAR on the legal front and the fight against the regulatory issues affecting the hobby. The winner of the LAC award was the MASA Planet for best newsletter. The banquet was over before 10pm and everyone seemed pleased with an early exit.

I went through my list at the beginning of this article about all the help and effort I got from my team. It really was a team effort and I had a team of All-Stars on my NARAM-50 Team. I just want to say Thank You to all of you again. The other THANK YOU I want to emphasize is with the vendors. The vendors that supported individual event awards, National Championship Awards, and the vendors that provided door prizes thank you as well. I still have a few exceptions that I feel went above and beyond. NARTS and the Ha family for being on site everyday, handling all merchandise requests and the costs and time put into most the printing for the event. Thank you to Semroc Aeronautics for doing the Golden Scout Commemorative

Sky of Gold National Event, and the "Red Scout" giveaway to all of those at NARAM-50 and for the "B" Division National Champion Trophies. Quest and Bill Stine donating the registration packet giveaways to all attending and not only sponsoring the "A" Division National Champion Trophies but also giving out merchandise certificates to all four places in every event we flew at the meet! I also mentioned Launch Magazine earlier. Launch also donated awards for the NARAM-50 Meet Champion Trophies and they also made a large donation towards the NAR-DVD. 

*Right- Jim's Saturn 1b model lifting off.*



*Below- Jim acts as RSO for the NARAM-50 Old Rocketeer launch. Photos by Chris Taylor*



# October Skies

By Jennifer Ash-Poole, NAR 61415

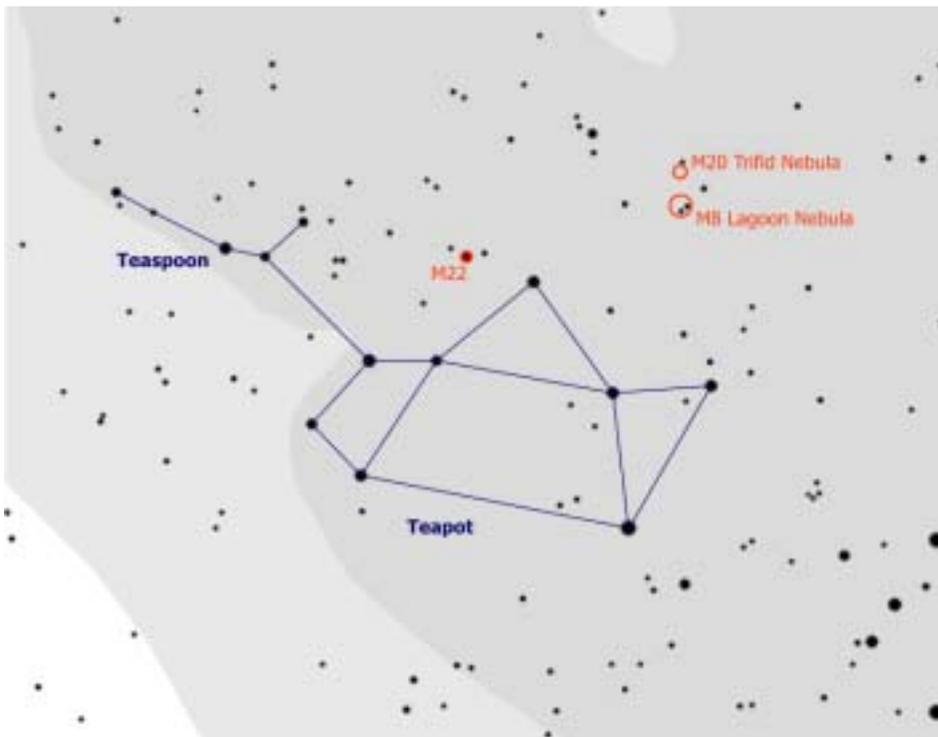
1st Quarter Moon - Oct 7  
Full Moon - Oct 14  
3rd Quarter Moon - Oct 21  
New Moon - Oct 28

Happy Birthday NASA! NASA was formed on October 1, 1958 to help organize America's efforts to get into space. 10 years later, on October 11, Apollo 7 was launched, the first manned Apollo mission. 5 years ago on Oct 14, the Chinese launched their first man into space, making them the third nation to launch a man into space. Lots of other nations have put astronauts on Mir and the Shuttle, but only the Soviet Union, the USA and Chinese have done it with their own space hardware.

In the evenings during early October, you will see Mars and Venus setting with the Sun. The Moon will pass near Jupiter (2 degrees north) on Oct 7 and 8. It really doesn't go near Jupiter, but it looks like it when it is in the sky. Jupiter is near the constellation Sagittarius. Look south after sunset, and if you see a teapot, that is the constellation Sagittarius. Jupiter will be the bright object north of it. Jupiter sets in the western sky before 10pm for most of the month, so the kids can see it before they have to go to bed.

By mid-month, Mars has gone below the horizon, but Venus is still there, in the Southwest, just after sunset. Early, Halloween evening, look for the new Moon, and Venus will be towards the horizon. Because the New Moon is Oct 28, it will be dark Halloween night, so remember you flashlights for your ghosts and goblins!

Early risers can see Saturn in the East, just before sunrise. It's near the constellation, Leo, which can look like a backwards question mark. As the month progresses, Saturn will be farther up in the sky every morning. By mid-month, when the sunrise is later, you can see Mercury rising as well. By 7am on Oct 25, the Moon will be between Mercury and Saturn in the eastern sky. Get some coffee, and go outside and take a look before you go off to work or school. 



*Look for Jupiter near the constellation Sagittarius this month. In the southern sky, find the teapot near the horizon.*

## Hail and Farewell

I have enjoyed my time as president, and I hope that I have helped the club get the word out about model rocketry. I know we have changed a few things about the club (when we meet, when we launch) while I was president. Most of those changes came about because someone in the club suggested it. I tried to listen to what club members wanted and have a useful discussion about it, in a planning meeting or at a club meeting.

Hopefully with my free time, I will finish up some of my NAR board work, and possibly find some time to build some sport models and fly them. I hope club members stop forward to fill in some of the areas that need help. People burn out, and they don't always know it. If you haven't yet, please consider stepping up and helping as launch manager, write an article for the Zog-43, or offer to run a build session at a meeting. This is your club, and you don't have to be an officer to help run it.

Good luck to Jim Filler, your next president, please support him.

Jennifer Ash-Poole  
Zog Bubbles 

Greetings from your new/old newsletter editor! I was asked to step in and fill the editorship again after some personnel changes I wanted to thank Thomas for taking on the tough job of being editor, and for putting together some really nice issues.

I made this appeal on the NARHAMS Yahoo group already, but I can't stress enough that the Zog-43 is YOUR club newsletter. Not only does it give you information about what the club is doing, but you have a stake in what gets printed. As editor, it's my job to take your submissions and combine them into a whole. To do that I need stuff! And who better to provide stuff for the club than club members! So if you have photos, drawings, article ideas, interesting news or tips you want to share with the club, send it in!

The email address for submissions is [zog43editor@yahoo.com](mailto:zog43editor@yahoo.com) or you can send me submissions through snail-mail at the return address found on this issue.

Kevin Johnson  
Zog-43 Editor 

# Air Force Space and Missile Museum Receives Spacefarer's Award

By Ed Pearson, NAR 5694

The section has been busy, you know with NARAM-50, the GSFC Apollo Contest, and the Capitol Cup recently. It also found time to recognize others: John Langford received the NARHAMS Frog Award at NARAM and now the subject of this article—the Spacefarer's Award.

NARHAMS Spacefarer Award is given to recipients who represent historically significant achievements in space flight. Last year, 2007, the club awarded the Spacefarer's Award to the Baikonur Cosmodrome for the first man made satellite launch—Sputnik-1 on October 4, 1957.

An earlier ZOG-43 chronicled Chris Kidwell and myself going to Kazakhstan and making the presentation on Sputnik's 50 anniversary.

This year the club awarded the Spacefarer's Award to the Air Force Space and Missile Museum at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida.

The museum is housed at old Cape Canaveral block house 26—the launch control for Explorer 1, America's first successful man made satellite launched on January 31, 1958.

Thomas Henderson, my wife and I ventured down there on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Explorer, and while Diane and I stayed to visit relatives, Thomas flew home and attended the February club meeting. The club voted at that meeting to award the Florida site the Spacefarer's Award.

At a subsequent NARAM planning meeting the plaque was unveiled. Subsequently the plaque was sent to

Emily Perry, Director of the Museum whose office is on the Explorer 1 launch site!

The plaque read:

## *Spacefarer Award*

*Explorer 1, January 31, 1958,  
Ushered The United States Of America's  
Entrance Into Satellite Spaceflight.  
In Recognition Of Fifty Continuous Years  
Of Space Exploration, The National  
Association Of Rocketry Headquarters  
Astro-Modeling Section  
Confers Its Spacefarer Award To:  
Cape Canaveral  
Air Force Station  
2008*

Hopefully someday future visitors to the site will be able to see the plaque hanging on an office wall within the Museum. ✨



Members of NARHAMS display the Spacefarer Award at the last NARAM-50 planning meeting.

L-R: Jim Filler, Tom Ha, Zach Ha, Mark Wise, Chris Kidwell, Alan Williams, Chris Ha, Jennifer Ash-Poole, Scott Branche, Maria Ha, Kevin Johnson. Photo by John Hochheimer.

## NASA Stardust Capsule to Go On Display at Smithsonian

WASHINGTON — Having returned the world's first particles from a comet, NASA's Stardust sample return capsule will join the collection of flight icons in the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington. The capsule will go on public display in the museum's Milestones of Flight Gallery on Oct. 1, the 50th anniversary of NASA.

Stardust, comprising a spacecraft and capsule, completed a seven-year, 3-billion-mile journey in 2006. A tennis racket-like, aerogel-lined collector was extended to capture particles as the spacecraft flew within 150 miles of comet Wild 2 in January 2004. Carrying the collected particles, the capsule returned to Earth Jan. 15, 2006, landing in Utah. Two days later, it was transported to a curatorial facility at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

"Very few people get to build something, launch it into space, see it be successful and then get it back in their hands," said Karen McNamara, Johnson recovery lead for the Stardust mission. "To be able to share this with the public is phenomenal."

The capsule joins the Wright brothers' 1903 Flyer, Charles Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis and the Apollo 11 command module Columbia that carried the first men to walk on the moon.

"The Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum is delighted to add to the National Collection the Stardust return capsule," said Roger Launius, senior curator of the Division of Space History at the museum. "As one of the premier space science missions of the recent past, Stardust will take its place alongside other iconic objects from the history of air and spaceflight. I look forward to helping to impart more knowledge to our visitors about the makeup of the universe using this significant and path breaking object."

Hardware provided to the Smithsonian includes actual flight components. Elements relevant to the science goals of the mission remain with NASA.

After successfully completing its mission, Stardust will use its flight-proven hardware to perform a new, previously unplanned

## Calendar of Events for 2008

*Oct 4* - 5:30 - 10 pm Monthly meeting, Acme/M rocket building session  
*Oct 5* - 1 - 2 pm Goddard Public Launch  
*Oct 18-19* - 10 am - 4 pm MARS regional contest (Oct 25-26 rain date)  
*Oct 25* - Haymarket scout launch?  
*Nov 1* - noon - 4 pm Planning meeting  
College Park Airport

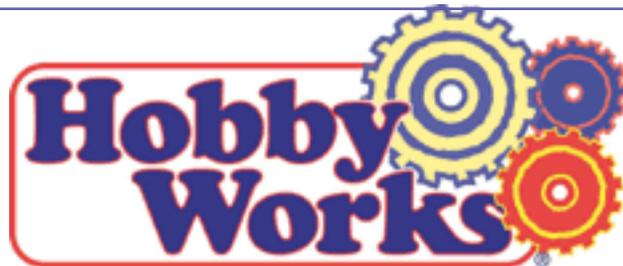
*Nov 1* - 5:30 - 10 pm Monthly meeting, glider building session (Robert Edmonds)  
*Nov 2* - 1 - 2 pm Goddard Public Launch  
*Nov 15* - 10 am - 4 pm Sport launch (Nov 22 rain date) Acme/M rocket theme  
*Dec 6* - 5:30 - 10 pm Monthly meeting, holiday party TBD  
*Dec 7* - 1 - 2 pm Goddard Public Launch  
*Dec 20* - 10 am - 4 pm Sport launch (Dec 27 rain date)

**Help Fill This Calendar!  
Planning Meeting is November 1st!**

Sport launches are held at Old National Park from 10am-4pm, waiver up to 3.3 lbs and "G" motors not exceeding 62.5 grams of propellant. All flights "E" power and above are restricted while soccer games are present on the field adjacent to the launch area. Call ahead to confirm launch and waiver availability.

Business meetings are held at the College Park Airport Annex Building. Meetings begin at 5pm with building sessions or presentations and last until 10:00pm or so.

Questions? Call Club President Jim Filler at 301-524-4447 or visit NARHAMS online at <http://www.narhams.org>



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# NARHAMS Sport Launch, August 16, 2008

By Mark Wise, NAR 34702

The sun shone brightly in a clear sky as the first of us rolled up to Old National Pike Park shortly after 9:00 on Saturday morning: A rookie launch manager, his barely-awake son, and an experienced pro who took pity on the newbie and volunteered to help with setup.

Jim Filler, my son Michael, and I began setting up the range, and we were joined fairly quickly by John Stalnaker and the McCoy's. With people pitching in, the range was ready in time for the scheduled 10:00 start. We had a few challenges setting up Jim's pop-up shelter, but it came together with the help of some bungee cords and duct tape.

A local Cub Scout pack rolled up just as the launch was beginning, and John Stalnaker, an experienced Cub Scout leader, briefed the boys on range rules and safety. We had the usual problems with overly enthusiastic Cub Scouts, plus the one or two boys in every crowd who just won't listen, but we had no serious problems with range discipline. John had another Cub Scout function that afternoon, but he stayed until the last possible minute and made sure that the Scout leaders knew how to prep rockets before he left. Thanks, John!

We saw some memorable flights that day. John McCoy achieved some amazing altitudes with his MicroMaxx 1/8A helicopters. A piston launcher makes all the difference! At the other end of the total-impulse spectrum, Mike Kelley flew a Crayon on a G71-4R, and it was magnificent! Fifteen feet from the pad, the clear plastic fins were invisible. It was a great piece of craftsmanship, and it flew beautifully.

Alex Mankevich's Neptune turned in a nice performance on a D12-5. Mike Howie brought out a Mini-Interrogator, a Probe, a Stubbie that flew nicely on two B6-4's, and a half-dozen eye-catching birds that flew well. Thomas Henderson's Shuttle parasite glider boosted well on a D12-5 and glided quite nicely, much to the entertainment of the Cub Scouts.

We saw 31 Cub Scout flights that day. Each boy built a Quest Starhawk for the launch, and some of them flew quite well. They all flew with A6-4 motors for their first flights, then progressed to B6-4's as the day went on. John Stalnaker and the Scout leaders did a great job prepping rockets,

and nearly all of them that flew stably also had successful recoveries. We had discovered previously that the club launch system would fire a Quest igniter during continuity check, and the RSO had to keep this in mind whenever flying a Cub Scout rocket, since most of them were flying Quest motors. Even so, there were one or two inadvertent launches when the RSO forgot. Sorry about that!

The weather cooperated for most of the day, but the rocket demons had to get involved. While there were some spectacular flights that day, there were some heartbreaking mishaps, too.

Jim Filler's RC B/G hung up on its power pod at ejection just long enough to tear off a control actuator, and he couldn't gain control before it crashed. Adding insult to injury, the wing on his Scissor-Wing Transport stayed in the boost position after ejection, deploying on impact when it wouldn't do any good. It was a scene reminiscent of a Wile E. Coyote mishap, but it really wasn't funny. On the bright side, Jim's Big Jimmy, with one of the most unusual custom decals ever seen on a rocket (you'll have to ask him; better yet, have him show it to you!), turned in nice performance on a D12-5.

Several of the Cub Scout rockets went unstable off the pad until one of our people realized that the fin cans were too far forward on many of the birds. It was a simple matter to slide the fin cans into position during safety check, and the problem pretty much went away. In the meantime, Thomas Henderson ran out to more than one crash site for a quick fire check. No fires that day, but vigilance is always a good idea.

In the interest of full disclosure, I must admit that the Wise family Edmonds Deltie CATO'd with an A3-4T – I'd never seen a mini-motor CATO before – and our Custom Rockets Elite, complete with egg, sustained a shock cord separation and scrambled the egg in spectacular fashion. Thank goodness we called "heads-up" for that flight! We finally rehabilitated ourselves with a very nice flight of an Aerotech Initiator, my second mid-power flight ever. As we were hooking up the F42-4T, Michael looked at me and said, "You know, Dad, after the last two flights, I'm a little nervous about this one." Well, so was I, and it was with a good deal of trepidation that we listened to the countdown. Thankfully, the bird leapt off the pad on its Blue Thunder Econojet and

came down well inside the limits of the field, leaving two slightly sunburned but happy rocketeers to carry it back to the car.

The field saw a brief football practice on the soccer field around midday, but careful attention to launch rod angles prevented any problems. The wind picked up in the early afternoon, and while it was never outside of safe launching limits, it did prove to be the last straw for Jim's pop-up shelter. We salvaged the canopy, but we had to truck the frame to a dumpster after the launch. After all the practice Jim and I had hauling trash at NARAM, a clean, dry metal frame was a piece of cake!

The official launch total for the day was 127, but a few launches may not have made it into the paperwork. Still, 127 is a pretty impressive total for a six-hour launch window, and many nice flights didn't make it into the article because there simply wasn't room to tell every story. Thanks to everyone who helped with setting up, running, and tearing down the range, and a special thank-you to Mary McCoy for keeping Michael from starving. He hadn't told me about his growth spurt....

See you at the next launch! 

## Stardust, cont...

investigation. The mission, called Stardust-NExT, will revisit comet 9P/Tempel 1. This investigation will provide the first look at the changes to a comet nucleus produced after a close approach to the sun. It also will mark the first time a comet ever has been revisited.

"Usually, when a piece of your spacecraft goes into the Smithsonian that means the mission's over," said Stardust-NExT project manager Rick Grammier, of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. "But the Stardust spacecraft is still doing the job for NASA and in February 2011, it will fly within 120 miles of the comet."

Stardust is a low-cost, Discovery Program mission for NASA's Science Mission Directorate. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory manages the project. Joseph Veverka of Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., is the mission's principal investigator. Lockheed Martin Space Systems of Denver manages mission operations.

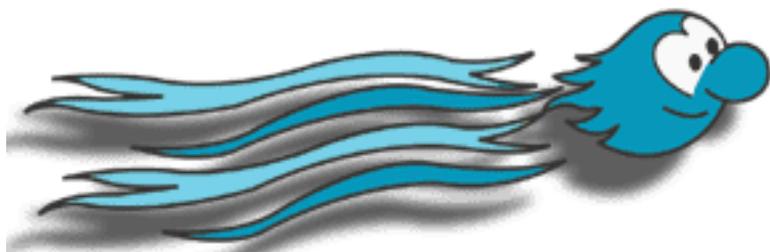
For information about the Stardust mission on the Web, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/stardust> 



## A Real Shooting Star!

Jet planes are really fast. They leave long, skinny clouds across the sky like fat chalk lines. These “clouds” are called contrails. Contrails form from the jet engines’ exhaust. The exhaust contains water, which quickly freezes into sparkling ice crystals trailing behind the plane.

Well, scientists were surprised to discover recently that a really fast star can leave a sort of contrail too. Mira (MY-rah) is a star that scientists have studied for 400 years. But NASA’s Galaxy Evolution Explorer telescope captured a very surprising image of Mira. It showed for the first time that Mira has a long tail of dust and gas—13 light-years long! That is 20,000 times longer than the average distance from the Sun to Pluto!



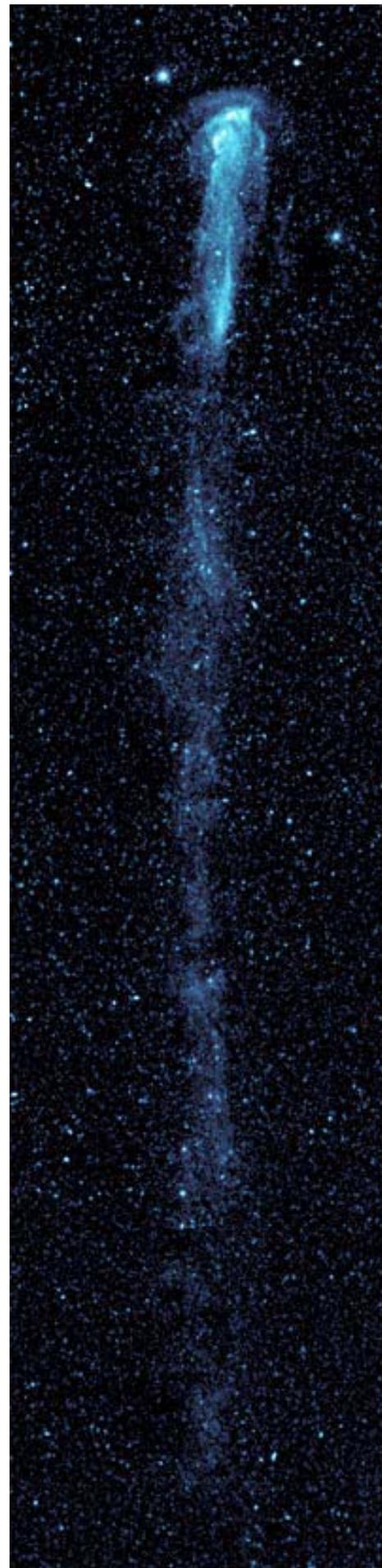
A star’s life has a beginning, middle, and end, just like ours. Only a star’s life is much, much longer. Mira is a red giant star near the end of its life. It is blowing off much of its mass in the form of gas and dust. It has already flung out enough material to construct at least 3,000 Earth-sized planets!

Mira is moving at 291,000 miles per hour! This is much faster than the other stars in our part of the Milky Way galaxy. This speed and the huge amount of material coming off Mira have created its contrail-like tail.

Now the light our eyes can see is only a teensy part of all the light that exists. Mira’s tail is visible only in ultraviolet light, which our eyes cannot see. But the Galaxy Evolution Explorer can. The Explorer is a space telescope whose job is to survey the universe in ultraviolet light. As you can see from Mira, this special telescope is helping scientists make new discoveries about the universe. ✨

*This article was provided by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.*

*The star Mira, with its 13-light-year-long tail, zips through the galaxy at 291,000 miles per hour! This image was made from several Galaxy Evolution Explorer images put together into a mosaic.*



# MARS REGIONAL 31

**Hosted by:** NARHAMS Section 139

**Contest Director:** Bradley Grant bseball1@yahoo.com

**Date:** 10/18 and 10/19 **Rain Date:** 10/25 to 10/26

**Time** 9:30am to 4:00PM on 10/18

9:30am to 2:00PM on 10/19

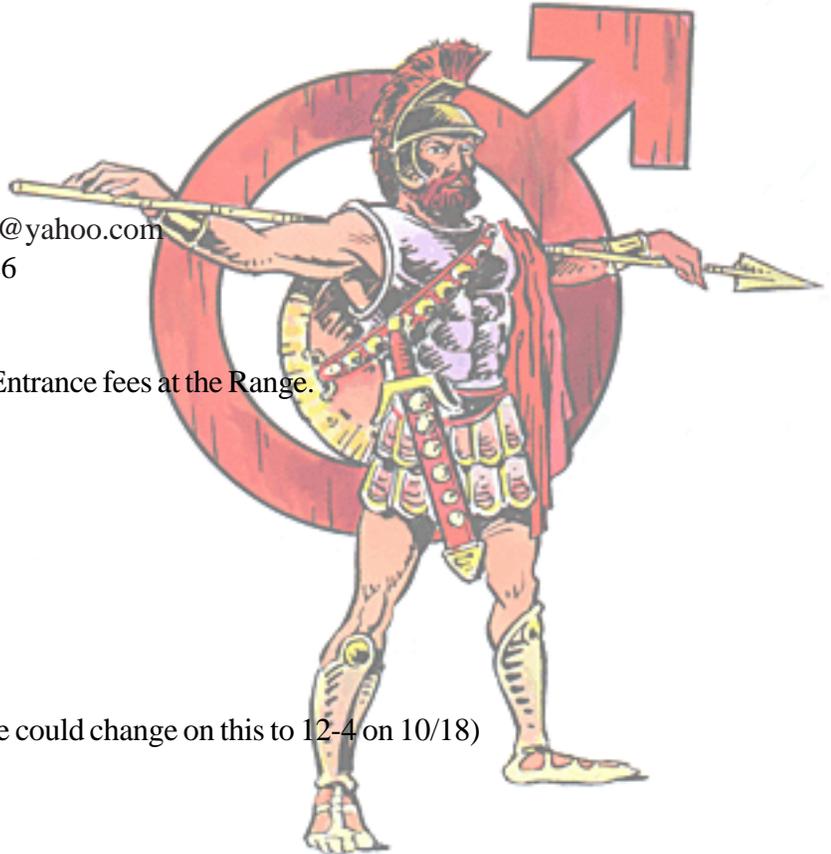
You will need your NAR Card. We will collect the Entrance fees at the Range.

## **Entrance Fees:**

A & B Division \$10

C Division \$15

T Division \$20



## **EVENTS:**

B Rocket Glider

C Eggloft Altitude 1-4 PM on 10/18 only (The Time could change on this to 12-4 on 10/18)

B Streamer Duration M/R

1/8A Helicopter Duration

A Parachute Duration

## **Other:**

There will be sport flying for non NAR members and I will have a NOTAM in place, however there are Soccer games in the park on both days, so E,F and G Rockets that have not flown before will be discouraged. Clustered powered sports flights and any single engine more powerful than a D class engine will be flown when there are no soccer games being played. Contest flights will have priority over all other flights.

## **Hotel Accomodations:**

Days Inn Frederick

5646 Buckeystown Pike

I-70 & MD Route 85

Frederick, MD 21704 US

Phone: 301-694-6600

<http://www.the.daysinn.com/frederick06450>

Internet rates start at \$62.90/night prepaid, or \$74/night guaranteed

## **Directions to Field:**

Take I-70 to Exit 62 (MD Route 75 North toward Libertytown, about 8 miles east of Frederick). Turn right at the second light on to Old National Pike (MD Route 144). Park entrance is about 2 miles on the left (there is a large sign on the left). Follow the main road to the back of the park. Note that no more than 2 vehicles are allowed to be parked on the field, so please either drop off your gear or haul all your stuff from the parking lot.



*Aug 7th*

Visitor's Center  
Goddard Space Flight Center  
PUBLIC LAUNCH

*July 17th*

Visitor's Center  
Goddard Space Flight Center  
PUBLIC LAUNCH

*July 9th*

9:00AM-4:00PM  
Middletown Park  
SPORT LAUNCH

### Launch Schedule

206 - FORTY THREE  
5269 RIVENDELL LANE #5  
COLUMBIA, MD 21049



*HAMsters at the ORR-*  
*First Row: Jennifer Ash-Poole, Ed Pearson, Jim Barrowman, Jim Kukowski*  
*Second Row: Julie Barrowman Lenox, Maria Ha, Zach Ha, Paul Miller, Ann Mesioll*  
*Third Row: Judy Barrowman, Mike Loman, Steve Kranish*  
*Fourth Row: Dave O'Brian, Peter Helt, John McCoy, Dave Lewis, Paul Horning, Chris Ha, Chris Kidwell, Tom Ha, Paul Croakin, Alex Mankevich, Jim Filler*  
*Fifth Row: Alan Williams, Mark Wise, Scott Branche, Lynn Thomas, Carl Kratzer*  
*Top Row: Bruce Blackistone, Jim Berg, Steve Humphrey, Tom Lyon*