

Louisiana Area Rocketry

Covering SoLaR, TRA-LA, and anything else reported

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February 2005



Upcoming Area Launches

February SOLAR Sport Launch:

February 26 @ Ristroph Farm

High Cotton XXI:

March 26-27 @ Winnsboro, LA



January Launch Report

The weather gave it a good shot at stopping the launch again in January, but it fell a little short. The launch site was very wet, and low clouds discouraged high altitude flights, but the winds were light and apparently a few of the members had developed a need to launch. So, on went the rubber boots and the rockets started flying.

Some guy named Steve Kennedy (just kidding) started everything that morning by launching a Wacky Wiggler up. Steve hadn't been able to attend a launch in quite a while due to work conflicts but he let everyone know that it was nice to be launching again. Steve went on to launch a total of eight times on the day including a Quest Tomahawk and Nike K and a Custom Sam-X.

Mike Rangitsch and his son Phillip showed up to launch some of their rockets including a "Micro V2" loaded up with an old Apogee 10.5mm motor for some real quick boosts.

Griff brought out a lone rocket for this launch, his reliable Quest Big Betty. He also decided to leave his launch equipment at home and make guest launches off each of the other attendees' pads. Betty made a total of five launches, performed

December Launch	# of Flights	Total N-s
Ray Mancuso, Jr.	7	54
Christopher Mancuso	4	26.5
Steve Kennedy	8	47
Gerald Boudreaux	10	107
Chris Guidry	6	72.5
Griff Finkenaur	5	45
Mike Rangitsch	9	39.25
Total Recorded	49	391.25

almost flawlessly, and Griff took her home for a well-deserved rest.

Ray and Chris Mancuso brought several Estes and Quest models to launch. Chris launched his Red Wizard twice to finish up their remaining supply of C5 motors. Both flights were very quick off the pad with nice altitudes. Ray's launches included a new Estes HeatSeeker and Python. The Father/Son team combined for eleven launches on the day

Jerry Boudreaux brought in his fleet of rockets and led the way in number of flights with ten. Probably the highlight of his flights was a cluster launch of his Big Red on two D12's.

Finally, as for my launches, around 10:00 I decided to launch my Blue Ninja. The flight was pretty typical for this reliable model except that just before apogee, the rocket disappeared into the clouds. I don't think I was the only one caught off-guard by the occurrence. My final flight of the day was the maiden launch of my Estes "Intimidator" Executioner on an E9. After what happened with the Blue Ninja, I was a little nervous, but the flight was visible the whole way.

While attendance was light for the day, it was still a very successful launch with almost 50 flights and very few mishaps. A nice way to start the new year for SOLAR.

High Cotton Launches

High Cotton XX was postponed from February 19-20 to the upcoming weekend, February 26-27. Check the Tripoli Louisiana website at www.tra-la.org for more information and directions to the site. There is one more scheduled high power launch on the

calendar for this spring and that one is slated for March 19-20. The HPR group is actively seeking other sites that might be available for launches during other parts of the year.

SOLAR Member places in EMRR Contest

Just after the January launch, the "On Display" photo contest held on the Essence Model Rocket Reviews site (EMRR) finished up and our own Chris Mancuso took 4th place. His photo was of the rack that they have at home holding about 80 of their rockets. For his prize, Chris chose a Q-Modeling MRS-STILETTO. Not too bad!

SOLAR members are starting to show up more and more in the winner listings over there, which brings up a point. If anyone decides to enter one of the contests there that are based on voting, why not send out an email to the group to go and cast a vote? I realize that it might result in more people entering the contest, but for those that choose not to enter, their vote can be cast for a local entry



And Speaking of EMRR

The latest contest hosted on the EMRR site is a year-long challenge. The contest is open to anyone with no entry fee or anything. The only requirement to join in is that you subscribe to the site's announcement email list, which usually results in one or two emails per month. The contest consists of 10 separate "challenges" to accomplish before December 15 of this year. Check out the "2005 EMRR Challenge" at www.rocketreviews.com/ for all of the details. (Oh, FYI, Andrew Grippo gets credit towards Challenge #1 for the link appearing in this newsletter as he was the one who pointed out the challenge to me first.)

Boudreaux Wins the Science Fair

No, that's not the title of another joke; this one's for real. I was able to stop and talk personally with Christopher Boudreaux during the January launch about his Science Fair accomplishments. He explained to me that his project involved investigating the effects that small amounts of weight had on the altitude achieved by a model rocket. To do this, he launched the same rocket three times in each of three configurations for a total of nine flights. The first configuration was without any added weight, the second configuration had 0.2oz added, and the third flight had another 0.2oz added. For each of the flights, Christopher recorded

the altitude to compare later. After he compared the altitudes, he learned that the second group had the highest average altitudes; therefore he had to figure out why. After doing research on the subject, he determined that the added weight for the second group resulted in more momentum, which carried the rocket higher than the first group with no weight added. The third group had lower flights because too much weight had been added.

With his project and thorough knowledge of it, Christopher placed first at both his school fair and the parish level science fair. That deserves big congratulations. It certainly is nice to see young minds working like that AND getting rocketry involved.

April Launch Theme

At the end of the January launch, an impromptu meeting of the remaining attendees formed at the back of Ray's truck. Several ideas were discussed and one of the conclusions reached was concerning another theme type launch, similar to last summer's "Mass Ninja Launch" (Will that become an annual event?). Ray came up with a nice idea to have a "space rocket" launch, so for the April launch, everyone interested is asked to bring a model of a real rocket that went into space. There is nothing mandatory about it and the only requirement is that it be a rocket that actually went into space. There are plenty of kits out there, from the Quest "Quick Kits" of the Apollo rocket to the big and sometimes-expensive Saturn kits. Models of any of the rockets that carried payloads into space count also, like the Delta's and Titan's and don't forget about the SpaceShipOne that has just been released.

Giant Leap rocketry

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Upcoming SOLAR Launches

Another topic discussed over Ray's truck bed was the possibility of having one or more of the upcoming SOLAR launches at one of the larger fields near Baton Rouge. Mike Rangitsch reported that the crops should be down until probably the end of April and that we could possibly use them depending on the weather. As noted at the top of the first page, the February launch is tentatively

planned to take place at the Ristroph farm. The field is rather wet as is due to seepage from the river, but it is usable if we don't get much rain close to the launch date. If we do get rain, which makes the field unusable, the launch will be moved back to the Tinseltown site. Watch your email for late announcements.

Bayourat Rocketry

Announces



**GOING OUT OF
BUSINESS**

**ALL REMAINING STOCK MUST
GO!!!!**

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South Louisiana Rocketry

NAR Section #596

January 2005 Launch Report

Mike Rangitsch		
Cub Scout Rocket	C11-3	Nice flight – Good altitude
Ion Pulsar	B6-4	Kept dowels on!
Spot Lander	C6-3	Lost fins
Astra	A8-5	Nice flight – Shredded chute, OK
Baby Bertha	A8-3	Nice flight
Micro V-2	1/2A2-2	Apogee motor – very fast boost
Ion Pulsar	B6-4	Good, impact on landing
Micro V-2	1/2A2-2	Apogee again – again fast boost
Baby Bertha	B6-4	Nosed in – no ejection? No damage
Ray Mancuso, Jr.		
Estes HeatSeeker	B4-4	Low arched flight. Easy recovery
Estes X-ray	A10-3T	Good high flight, landed on street
Quest Nike Smoke	B6-4	Nice clean flight & close recovery
Estes LSX	B6-4	Deployed satellite and recovered
Estes Banshee	A10-3T	High flight. Engine blew out at ejection. Lawn darted but no damage
Estes Super Nova Payloader	D12-5	Good medium flight & close recovery
Estes Python	D12-5	Very good flight for heavy rocket.
Chris Mancuso		
Red Wizard	C5-3	Perfect high flight & close recovery
Red Wizard	C5-3	Last C5 in inventory. Another good flight. Broke shroud on chute, but OK
Estes Mach 12	B6-4	Launched with 2 different fins. Good flight and recovery
Estes Cruise Missile	A10-3T	Very good flight & recovery for all plastic rocket
Jerry Boudreaux		
SuperBird	C6-3	Upper portion bulkhead separated – 500' – no damage
Bull Pup	B6-4	300' Nice-n-straight
Menace	C6-5	Straight 400'
Gemini DC	B6-4	300' Only 1 chute deployed
Big Daddy	D12-5	300' chute deployed
Big Red	(2)D12-5	600' landed near water 20" chute cracked fin
Chrome Dome	B4-4	9" nylon chute – 350' in water
Altitrack	B4-4	317' recorded, nose in pond
Stormcaster	C11-7	600' road rash, lost tip of fin
Baby Bertha	C6-7	750' straight up, landed by pads
Steve Kennedy		
Estes Wacky Wiggler	A8-3	Nice low flight – Maiden flight
Quest Tomahawk	B6-4	Good mid level flight. Landed on street, no damage
Quest Nike K	C6-5	Very nice high flight. Recovered not far from pad
Quest Tomahawk	C6-5	Cork screw flight due to cracked fin. Ejected 30' from ground, no damage
Custom Sam-X	A8-3	Nice mid level flight
Custom Sam-X	B6-4	Real fast off pad for a high flight. Recovered 50 south of pad
Quest Tomahawk	C6-5	Still a little squirrely in flight. Good recovery, no damage
Quest Nike K	B6-4	Nice straight mid level flight. Landed in street, no damage
Griff Finkenaur		
Big Betty	C6-3	Ray's Launcher – Aimed into wind, smooth arc toward Walmart and landed 100 yds downrange
Big Betty	C6-3	Boudreaux's Launcher – Same as 1 st flight but chute broke off. Both pieces recovered w/ no damage
Big Betty	C6-3	Guidry's Launcher – Aimed toward crosses. Highest flight w/ good deployment. Caught 50' from pad
Big Betty	C6-3	Kennedy's launcher – Rod whipped, rocket went up at 45° angle on high spot – landed 50 yds east

Big Betty	C6-3	Mancuso's Launcher – Straight up and high. Caught next to Kennedy's van. Pretty flight
Chris Guidry		
Pip Squeak	A8-3	Very quick high flight
Spin Fin	B4-4	Nice flight, saved from street by Ray
Tour de Duece	A8-3	Another nice flight for this paper rocket
Blue Ninja	D12-3	Nice high flight into the low clouds
Big Daddy	D12-5	Nice flight and nice recovery
Intimidator	E9-6	Maiden flight, nice....caught over parking lot

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