



LOUISIANA AREA ROCKETRY



JUNE 2006

IT'S ALIVE!!!!

Well, at least for now anyway.....Hey! Any of you remember this newsletter? Kinda just disappeared about 16-18 months ago? Anyone miss it? Well, hopefully things have calmed a little and the newsletter will become a regular "publication" again (As long as there is something to report about anyway). For those of you who didn't miss it, well.....For those who can't remember that far back, I am experimenting with a new design. It might stay like this and it might change next issue. As always, I am more than open for suggestions to improvements or changes. One item I am really wanting (besides anything to include within the newsletter) is some input on a new name. The current name makes me yawn every time I type it. I just know there is some creative title out there for this thing and I bet we have at least one creative person out there! I certainly hope I get some feedback on it, whatever that may be...Like it, hate it, take my name off the list, whatever.....So now, onward with the "news?"

Recent SOLAR Launches

Well, not quite as bad as the regularity of "Louisiana Area Rocketry", but the attendance at the last few SOLAR Sport Launches in Baton Rouge has been slim to put it mildly. For those of you who have been by the Tinseltown site, you know that it has been cut down to about half of what it was last year. (More on that later) It actually appears worse than it is however as we have had two successful launches, March and May, with very little impact felt.

The March launch brought out Ray Mancuso, Jr. and his Dad, Whitney Richard, his girlfriend and her son (Nathan), the Boudreaux family, and myself and my family. The wind was blowing, and gusting at times, from the north (from Walmart toward the field) so we set up along the ditch at the new north boundary. Whitney and Nathan flew an Estes Snapshot 3 times and a Blue Ninja twice including a drag race with Ray, Sr. In addition to

the drag race flight, Ray, Sr. also flew an Estes Stars and Stripes, a Wacky Wiggler and had a really pretty flight of an SR-71 Blackbird. Ray, Jr. had a total of six flights including his Launch Pad "Type 30" rocket on an E9. It was a real pretty lift off and ended up relatively close to the pad even with an increasing wind.

By about 11 o'clock the wind was gusting very unpredictably with one gust that even turned over a table and a few chairs. The launch was finished out with the Ninja drag race.

The May launch again saw a very limited attendance. This time the wind was out of the south so we set up along the southern road (opposite from Walmart). In attendance were all three of the Mancuso guys, myself and my family, and Jerry Boudreaux and his family. While there were no official flight logs collected, there were a few memorable events that took place. Jerry Boudreaux brought in a few new rockets that he and his sons designed and built from scratch. One of them was a near relative of the Baby Bertha with a 24mm motor mount. Jerry flew it first on a C11 and then later could not resist the temptation when someone dared him to shove a D12 in it. It was last seen floating over the Walmart building. Ray Jr. launched his upscale Eccentric rocket on a pair of E motors. If I recall correctly, the chute got a little tangled

Upcoming Launches

June SOLAR Launch
June 24 @ 9 am
Tinseltown Field

LDRS 25
June 29 - July 4
Amarillo, TX
www.ldrs25.org

NARAM 48
July 30 - Aug 4
Rainbow Valley, AZ
<http://www.sssrocketry.org/default.htm>

and Ray had to make a great save over the road to prevent damage. Ray has to be the club expert at rocket catching. Chris Mancuso decided to launch his AT Mirage and that rocket jumped off the pad so quick that it sounded like a shotgun blast. With the decent wind conditions prevailing, I decided to launch my AT Mustang for its maiden flight. After several attempts with more than one Copperhead and different launch systems, Ray offered up a First Fire Jr. igniter. That proved to be just what the E18 needed to get it burning. The flight was a little more of an arch than is desired and the 7 second suggested delay was quite a bit longer than needed. Ejection happened about halfway back to the ground with the rocket accelerating nose first and resulted in about a 1/2" zipper. The day of launching was closed out as requested by Ray Sr. with a trio of Blue Ninja's launched simultaneously. Ray had previously informed us that he had a picture of every other combination up to 8 and needed to fill the series. My finger proved to be a little nervous and I caught all three still sitting peacefully on the pad. Sorry, Ray, we'll try again next time.

TRA-LA High Power Season

As is the case each year with the current high power launch sites, the beginning of spring brings about the close of the high power season for the Louisiana based group. From the reports I saw, it was a very successful season. Doug and Clarence Mumphrey got their L2 certification at the October launch, so congratulations goes out to them. Reports from a few of the HPR guys are that their season continues on through out of state launches. Whitney is planning to attempt a Level 3 Certification flight at the LDRS launch in the next few weeks and, if my memory serves me right, Andrew Grippo said he was



2 Ninja Drag Race at the March 06 Sport Launch

planning to attend at least one of the other large HPR launches.

Hopefully in the future, the newsletter will stay a little more on top of reporting the current happenings with the high power group also. Possibly luck will be on our side and we can locate a new launch site where we can have some combined launches.

SOLAR Launch Site

As mentioned earlier, the Tinseltown launch site that SOLAR has been using for the past few years is diminishing in size very quickly. There is one rumor circulating around about a lead on possibly using a field out at the Lamar-Dixon facility near Gonzales. No other details have been reported. This location would certainly cut down on the drive time for the fliers from the New Orleans area. If ANYONE knows of any piece of land that might be usable, please check into it. If the owner has any concerns with risk of damage or liability, the Section (SOLAR) has insurance through NAR which will cover this. Documentation can be provided if needed.

Giant Leap rocketry

HIGH POWER ROCKETRY MATERIALS

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Giant Leap News

Giant Leap Rocketry has made a few new products available in the recent months. Slimline Quick-Lok retainers are now available for both 38mm and 54mm motors. These retainers require no special tools and are compatible with existing Slimline threaded retainers. A few months ago, the Talon-2 debuted to join her 3 inch and 4 inch diameter sisters. Ed reports that the Talon-6 is on its way soon and is a perfect Level 3 kit.

For more details about these products, check the website at: www.giantleaprocketry.com

SOLAR Membership Dues

Ray has noted that membership dues are now due. Still no increase in those as they remain \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for kids 16 and under. Some memberships are now over a year delinquent. In the past, dues have always been collected on the annual anniversary of the member joining which means that each member has a different

renewal month. Ray has suggested that we adopt a policy that would make a specific month the annual renewal month for everyone. This would make it much easier to keep up with.

2006 Mass Ninja Launch

Ray Mancuso has put out the call for all Blue Ninja owners to bring out their rockets for the June launch. Ray wants to break the existing Mass Ninja record of 8 launching simultaneously. If you don't have one yet, they go together in less than 30 minutes and fly really well on 24mm motors. Hint: Hobby Lobby usually stocks these kits—Watch the Sunday newspaper for the 40% off coupon, or check their website for an online coupon and get a real nice flier for just a few bucks.



2006 EMRR Challenge

Once again, the Essence Model Rocketry Review website has issued its year long challenge. This years list of challenges differs slightly from last years and puts more emphasis on building rather than writing, although writing of reviews and articles is still part of it.

Also going on right now on the site are two other contests. The "More Power To Em" contest revolves around building the most powerful rocket you can design within the Rock-Sim software. Of course there are design requirements and also bonuses for actual construction and launching of the rocket. Check out www.rocketreviews.com for all of the details.

The other ongoing contest is an actual design and build contest which requires the contestants to scratchbuild a replica of one or more of six fantasy/future spacecraft shown on the website. For all of the details, you'll have to check the site at www.rocketreviews.com.

Editors Notes

Well, that's about it for this re-emergence issue of the newsletter. I know there is a ton of stuff that has happened since the last one that didn't get mentioned here, but I promise to do better from now on.

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Chris Mancuso's AT Mirage blasts off the launch pad at the May SOLAR Launch

Remember, it's summer time so for those of you attending launches, don't forget the sunscreen, water, and if you can shade! With the dry conditions lately, it is probably a really good idea to bring along a fire extinguisher or a water spraying bottle. Our launch sites are hard enough to come by and we don't need to lose access to any by burning them down.

Hopefully, the rest of the summer will see a couple of well attended launches and maybe even a new launch site.

Lastly, please feel free to send anything that you might think could be included here, whether it be news, product reviews, launch reports, photos, etc. Thanks!

See y'all out there!!

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