



# The Launch Rack

The Journal of Garden State Spacemodeling Society  
National Association of Rocketry Section 439

Spring Issue 2011

## 5 – 4 – 3 – 2 – 1

**LAUNCH!** And, that is what we are doing with the club's newsletter...one more time.

Many months have gone by since our last issue. Ye Ole Editor, once again, was reminded that there is a need to get it on track being likened to the "circulatory system and it carries information to the individual members (cells) in an attempt to keep them a healthy part of the whole organism (club/section)." Hopefully, it will keep you the membership interested in the club and allow the leadership to maintain the club's focus.

*The Launch Rack* has always been published for the enlightenment and entertainment of the membership. The membership has always been invited and encouraged to submit articles, photographs, plans, letters to the editor, etc...in other words it is written for and by the members.

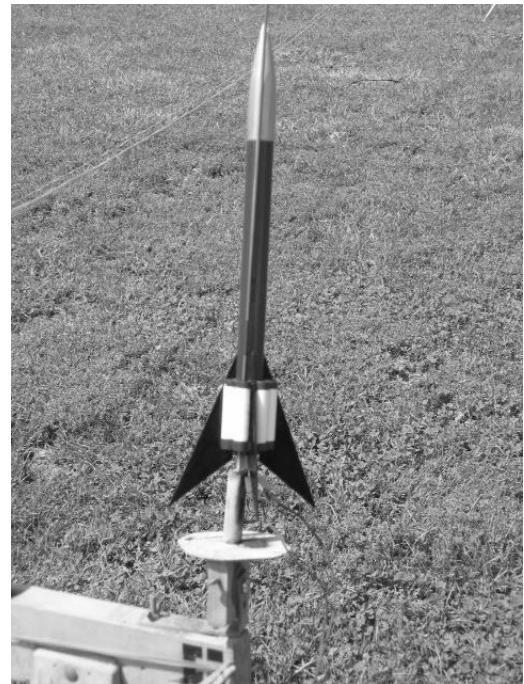
With that in mind this will not be a very big issue or a newsy one. The co-editors "Dr. Bob" Kreutz and Ye Ole Editor Jack Sarhage need your help. Our schedules prevent us from attending many of the monthly launches so we will need you to take notes, photos, etc and forward them for the next issue.

### Membership Status

Using the most up to date roster of members you have received this issue. Also, those of you whose membership was not renewed within the last six month have also gotten this issue with the invitation to renew. Please look at your membership card. If the expiration date does not read 31 December 2011 you need to send in your dues. Please use the form found elsewhere in this issue and mail it to the address shown.

You are also going to be asked to select how you want to receive future issues of the newsletter; electronically (pdf) or via USPS.

The newsletter will also be on view at the club's website by our webmaster Rob Nee.



A rocket built by Ye Ole Editor.

Those wishing to get their copy electronically will be able to see the photos in color and not printed as a grayscale like the above.

### Armed Services Day

The launch scheduled for May 21, 2011 happens to fall on Armed Services Day. A special contest will be held on that date similar to the NAR's Sport Scale Competition.

The contest is open to all GSSS members for any model rocket that resembles an existing or historical missile, rocket or space vehicle used by any of the Armed Services of the United States. They are to be built out of materials and within weight limitations as outlined in the Model Rocketry Safety Code of the National Association of Rocketry.

Each rocket will be judged as follows:

- **Construction and Details (Maximum 30 points):** Given for general accuracy and the extent of details such as rivets, antennas, panel lines, etc. as follows. **Not Much 0 to 10; Some Of It 11 to 20; Most Of It 21 to 29; All There 30.**
- **Coloring and Markings (Maximum 20 points):** Given for accuracy and extent of coloring and markings. Judging will consider items such as insignia, numbering, stripes, and color of the particular subject being modeled.
- **Workmanship (Maximum 20 points);** Given for workmanship such as paint, fillets and overall neatness of model.
- **Bonus Points:** Additional points will be awarded for: Each operating stage: 2 points per stage; Additional engine (cluster) 2 points per each engine.
- **Flight Points:** 10 points will be awarded for a successful flight (this means that the model is not disqualified for reasons as shown in Section 11 of the United State Model Rocket Sporting Code (Pink Book). A disqualified flight will result in a deduction of 25 points.

We hope you will get busy and build a new rocket for this special event as we remember our Armed Service members. After all their sacrifices makes it possible for us to enjoy the hobby/sport of model rocketry in our country. There are many countries where model rocketry is not allowed.

### Launch Dates

Following are the remaining launch dates at North Branch Park for 2011: April 16; May 21; June 11; July 23; August 20; September 24; October 22; November 26; December 17. It is hoped you will be able to attend as many as you can. Be sure to

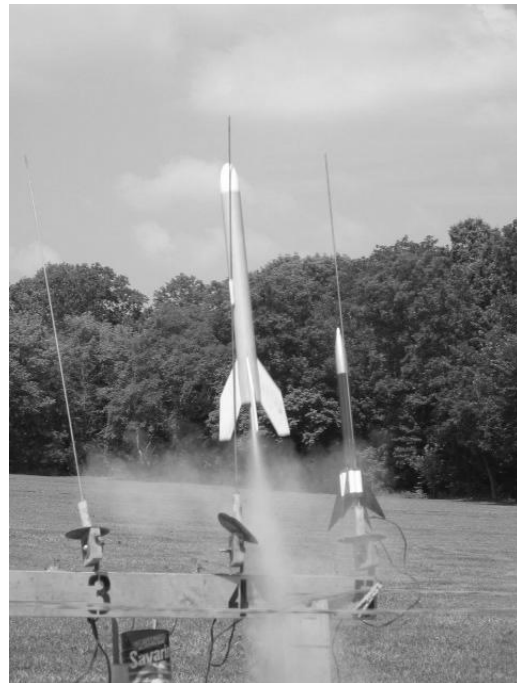
watch the website for cancellation information on the mornings of each launch date.

And be sure to thank Arnie Klein for lugging, setting up and taking down the launch equipment for your enjoyment. One way to thank him is to help him set up and take down.

### 2011 Election of Club Officers

According to the club's by-laws we elect club officers in odd numbered years. Positions are President, Vice-president and Secretary/Treasurer serving a term of two years. Nominations are to be made not later than October 31. Consider running for one of these offices or nominate someone. If you are interested in learning more of the duties of each position, information can be requested from GHQ.

In the Summer Issue we will provide you with an official nomination form and rules for nominating a member (in good standing) for one of the positions listed above.



Off the launch rack

*"If there is anything that links the human with the divine, it is the courage to stand by a principle when everybody else rejects it."*

--Abraham Lincoln

## NJ Senator Lautenberg equates Model Rocketeers to Terrorists

Contributing Editor: Dr. Bob Kreutz

When I read the article above in my local paper back in 2003, I was appalled and disgusted with the idiocy of some of our elected representatives, based primarily on their reactionary behavior, groundless accusations and general lack of correct information before they spoke. It made me wonder, and still does, just how much more they have “reacted” to and where they get the information they base their decisions on that ultimately create the laws by which we govern. “We, The People” – remember that? Seems like some of our local politicians have forgotten whom they serve and I would think it their responsibility to research and confirm the statistics they formulate their opinions upon. A few million dollar study should reflect the ultimate effort to determine what is true – or maybe buy what is needed to promote an unfounded accusation – such as this.

Do you all detect a little anger in my voice? You Betcha!

From terrorist rocketeers to the trans-Hudson tunnel project (projected to run over costs in the billions) you have to wonder just where are Schumer and Lautenberg getting their information?

Have they preconceived notions they would prefer to just act on and make statements that simply serve to give their constituent supporters something to point a finger at? I don't know, but I can take an “educated” guess. Although not mentioned in the Asbury Park Press article, if you check the record, Senator Menendez can be counted with these two, having voted the same way.

Let's take a look at some of the facts. The Olympic park bombing analysis determined the compound used in the device was nitroglycerine dynamite (Wikipedia.) Correct me if you know better, but I don't know of any hobbyist using such a compound for model rocket propellant. On the other hand, Wiki also reports that the Unabomber devices were based on simple smokeless powder. Smokeless powder is the name given to a number of propellants used in firearms and artillery which produce negligible smoke when fired, unlike the older gunpowder (black powder) which they replaced. Granted,

black powder is used in the manufacture of smaller, low impulse model rocket motors, but not smokeless powder. The majority of this compound is used as the propellant in firearms ammunition. If this information is readily available on the net and through Wikipedia, are we to assume that Senators

Schumer and Lautenberg have some inside track that goes contrary to accepted common knowledge? Or, possibly, are they playing some game with public opinion and singling out some small cadre of hobbyists as scapegoats? Model Rocketeers: someone to point the finger at, despite the truth, to serve their purpose of pretending to do something to protect all of us. Groundless political lies and innuendo. Senators Schumer and Lautenberg: give me a break. But here's the real “rub:” If our Senators truly believe they have protected the public by enacting legislation limiting model rocketeers, are the rest of their actions, on this topic and others, based on a similar lack of information and merely a façade to cover inept attempts to rectify the problems the citizens of this State face every day?

We are not that stupid, but they must believe their constituents are.

Contrary to my introductory rage, I must laud Senator Enzi for his efforts to promote activity that is truly beneficial and educational to all model rocket enthusiasts, especially our nation's youth. That is, in a nation that ranks 23<sup>rd</sup>

in the world in high school math and science: At least he supports a way of possibly reversing this trend “from the ground up” as they say. Something that helps the youth of today get off their kiesters and get outside away from the inane pursuit of World of Warcraft or Call of Duty. Rocketry: An activity that might actually foster further self study and pursuit of the knowledge, math and science, that has it's foundation in aeronautical science. Rocketry: Something that creates and builds youthful independence and thought and not the reliance of generations upon others and their government.

Independence Day is coming.

The local elections are all over the news and our politicians terms are up this November. Be sure you get out and vote and remember to **THINK** about and independently research what is the real truth surrounding what you are voting for. Sy Sims says that “an educated consumer is the best customer.” So, be

ASBURY PARK PRESS WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2003

### Senators condemn loosening model rocket restrictions

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A bill that would loosen federal restrictions for model rocket enthusiasts drew fire yesterday from senators from New York and New Jersey, who said the proposal would give terrorists access to dangerous explosives.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., criticized the measure by Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., to change the Homeland Security Act to allow rocket enthusiasts to buy black powder and another form of high-powered rocket propellant without submitting to a background check.

The act was passed after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Standing next to a 7-foot-tall rocket, Schumer said the legislation effectively would allow would-be terrorists to amass large quantities of explosives.

“Sometimes you see things in Congress that make you scratch your head in wonderment,” Schumer said. “This is one of those days.”

He and Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., said passage of the bill would allow terrorists to stockpile the same material used in the 1996 Olympic Park bombing in Atlanta and a bomb sent by the Unabomber, Theodore Kaczynski, in 1985.

The Justice Department also has opposed Enzi's bill, saying in a June 10 letter that the current regulations exempt 90 percent of rocket hobbyists and require background checks only for those who use the largest rockets.

The Homeland Security Act requires the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to monitor the purchase and transfer of any chemical mixture or device with the primary function of causing an explosion.

“It's a sad state of affairs when we see a government agency and senators go to such lengths to squash efforts to preserve a constructive, educational and important hobby enjoyed by millions of Americans,” Enzi said. “My bill is not a license to build bombs, and the senators know it.”

Tim Lehr, rocket manager at Al's Hobby Shop in Elmhurst, Ill., said the restrictions are killing the rocket hobby business and are an unnecessary hassle for hobbyists.

“It's going to put dealers out of business, period,” Lehr said. He predicted the hobby will die out within five years.

Two rocketry groups, the National Association of Rocketry and the Tripoli Rocketry Association, accused the senators of equating hobbyists with terrorists. In a statement, the associations called the issue “a prime example of the government overreacting to something that is not a threat.”

**N.J., N.Y. AGAINST BILL**

sure to do a little homework, just like you do in your hobby - *before* you pull that little lever...

*(Dr. Bob as he is known has been a GSSS member since 1985. He has served the section in several capacities including that of President. He was also one of the writers of the bill that eventually eliminated the Model Rocket Motor Permit in New Jersey. Dr. Bob competed in many NAR competitions include several Nationals. Was for many, many years the FAI Chairman for the Spacemodeling Committee and went to the World Model Rocket Championships overseas. He also has designed several rockets that have appeared in past issues of this newsletter and has no equal when it comes to building ODD-ROC that included a flying bovine milk bottle announcing the birth of his daughter, Katie in 1989 and earlier in 1987 won the Plastic Model Conversion event at JOISEE III with his Astronaut Manned Maneuvering Unit.)*

### **"Do FAA Regulations Mean Blue Skies or Storms Ahead?"**

So reads the cover of the March 2011 issue of *Model Aviation*, The Official Publication of the Academy of Model Aeronautics. What does this have to do with us that fly model rockets? Maybe nothing, but then again...

The FAA's Unmanned Aircraft Program Office (UAPO) has the responsibility of proposing regulations for small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) later this summer.

The reason behind this is the ever increasing number of sUAS being developed for commercial as well as public use and the congestion of the National Airspace System (NAS).

Though this probably will affect model aircraft to a larger degree than model rockets we must remain prudent and show our support of our model aircraft buddies. As said before this may not affect us at all except one of the proposals would have to do with the distance from an active airport. With Solberg Airport 5 miles from North Branch Park it might change whether we can fly there or not.

Since we do use the NAS we should keep abreast of these rule changes. You are urged to watch for developments on AMA's Government Relations Web-page at [www.modelaircraft.org/gov](http://www.modelaircraft.org/gov) and be willing to contact our elected senators and representatives.

### **Radical Rocketeers to Hold NAR Open Meet at CENJARS**

I sponsor Open meets so that everyone in our area may fly more than just sport flights. I had to downgrade the March Open meet to a NAR Local meet because we were short by one contestant from the 5 required to make an official Open meet. It is not likely this will happen at the April 3 event at CENJARS since we already have two clubs attending and there were plenty of contestants last year. Please your club enjoy the day with us at CENJARS. We truly had national level competition last time with even Internats level test flying!

I would say that our Great Meadows field is much larger than the CENJARS field. We even had a full soccer practice happening later in the day with no interference between us and them. As I said to the club I used to belong to, if you do not participate then I could always stop directing the contests, period. So please take advantage of the opportunities I provide while they are still available.

Please pass on the info on the meet to your clubs:

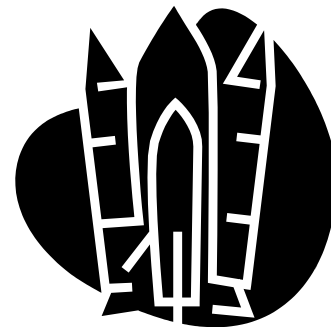
April 3, 2011 at CENJARS

Events:

C Egg Loft Duration  
1/2A Flex-Wing Duration  
Parachute Spot Landing  
B Rocket/Glider

Sincerely,  
Stephen E Flynn, Radical Rocketeers NAR Section  
Advisor, Contest Director

*( We regret this got to us after the newsletter deadline and hope Steve Flynn will keep us posted of other proposed contests)*





Old friend Manuel Mejia, Jr. got married. This is a picture of Manuel and Constance his lovely bride. We wish them all the very best.

### Launch Windows

Dates of the schedule launches for the year are as follows. These will be at North Branch Park on Milltown Road in Raritan, NJ. Times are from 1000 to 1500 depending upon local conditions and discretion of the RSO.

**April 16; May 21; June 11; July 23; August 20; September 24; October 22; November 26; December 17.**

Reminder: It is usually windy at North Branch Park beginning around 1100 so it is advisable to bring small rockets, using streamers for recovery. All rockets are to land within the confines of the park. We have had the privilege of launching here since 1985 and with launch site rare in New Jersey are protective of that privilege.

### Newsletter Deadlines

Again we are looking to you, the members to help publish this newsletter with articles, photos, plans, letters to the editor, etc. Deadline dates for the remaining issues of this year shown below.

Summer Issue – June 1  
Fall Issue – September 1  
Winter Issue – December 1

Thank you for your help.

### *The Launch Rack* Spring 2011

*The Launch Rack* is the official publication of the Garden State Spacemodeling Society and is published for the enlightenment and entertainment of the membership. It is published quarterly.

Submissions for publication should be send to the Chief Editor, Jack Sarhage, 24 Canterbury Court, Piscataway, NJ 08854 or [gssshq@optonline.net](mailto:gssshq@optonline.net).

Articles appearing in the newsletter maybe used by other publications provide proper credit is given to the author and the newsletter.

### Membership Survey

Please complete the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
GSSS Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
NAR Number: \_\_\_\_\_

My membership expires(ed) on:

\_\_\_\_\_  
If it expired prior to January 1, 2011 please renew.

- I am renewing my membership
- Senior \$10.00
- Leader \$7.00
- Junior \$ 5.00

Checks payable to **Arnold Klein**

*(If family membership deduct \$2.00 for each additional member and provide name and GSS number on separate piece of paper.)*

- My membership is good until December 31, 2011
- I would like to get my newsletter by regular mail.
- I would like to get my newsletter electronically. My email address is as follows: \_\_\_\_\_
- I would like to have monthly meetings.

**Please send completed survey to address of the editor. NO E-MAILS ACCEPTED FOR THIS SURVEY.**