

TRIPOLI Vegas

11

Official Newsletter of Prefecture #24 of the Tripoli Rocketry Association, Inc.

November 1996

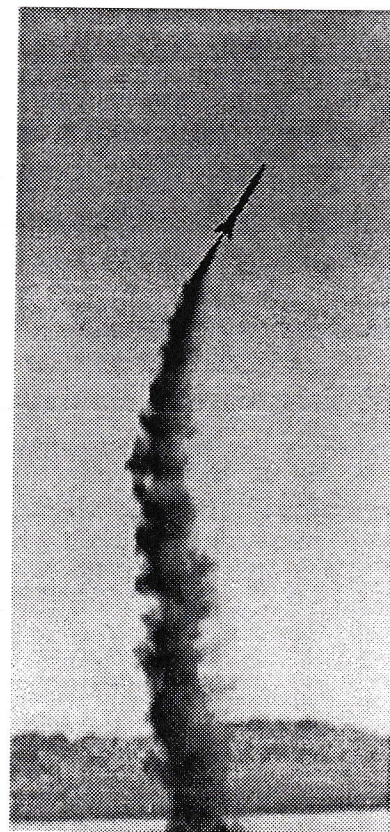
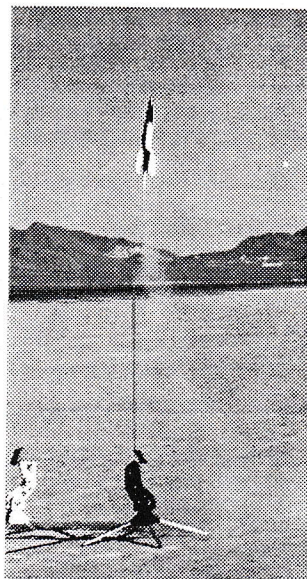
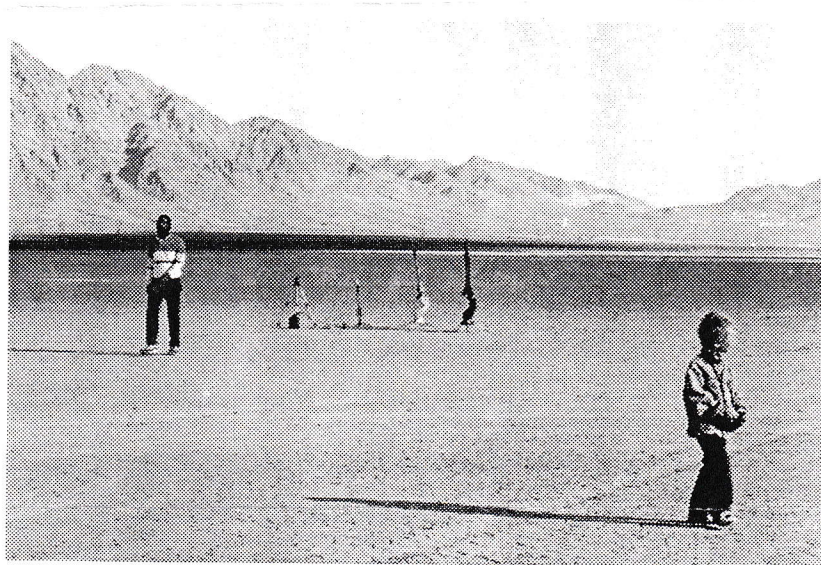
October Launch

by Brent McNeely

Because of a family obligation, I arrived a bit after nine in the morning to the Halloween launch at El Dorado. When I arrived, there was a very stiff breeze of 15-20 mph. However, there were about eight cars there and a good 15 people from the club. Dale Miller had his launch controller set up with a couple of Estes pads. Someone had brought a few Mantis pads as well. Unfortunately the person with the large pad did not show so we were not able to launch any of the high power rockets we had brought. Dale and Henry dominated the day with a number of flights. Dale put up a number of Estes rockets, missing several in severe crashes with stripped nozzles and other problems. But Dale did manage to recover quite a few of his birds.

Henry brought out a little bit bigger rockets giving a good show with his scale V2 rocket (see the nice photo). The biggest motor used during the launch was donated by Steve Ainsworth to Brian Roardan. Brian put up a small rocket on a G-80 knowing he would never find the rocket. Predictions were confirmed when we lost track of the rocket near apogee and spent about 30 mins looking for the rocket.

There were other rocketeers launching, but because I didn't have my photographic memory loaded with film that day, I don't remember who they were and what they launched.



**Thursday Meeting:
November 21**

Please come help plan for the Turkey Shoot!

Tripoli Rocket Car Safety Code

MOTORS: Only commercially made TRIPOLI certified motors may be used.

CONTROL: All cars will be guided on a cable. The primary control of the rocket car shall be cable guided at all times.

CABLE REQUIREMENTS: The guide cable shall be made out of aircraft cable. A minimum of 1/16" 7x7 strand minimum tensile strength of 480 lbs. 2,000 ft. long.

ROCKET CAR CONFIGURATIONS: Acceptable body designs included dragsters, funny cars, streamliners, coupes, sedans, roadsters, vans, pick-ups, sports cars and panel trucks.

WHEELS: Rocket cars shall have a minimum of 3 wheels, although 4 wheels are recommended. It is all right to mount 2 of the front wheels side by side. The tire and bearings must be capable of withstanding high speeds.

ROCKET CAR CLASSIFICATIONS

CLASS H- Sportsman shall have a minimum wheel base of 24" and a minimum weight of 7 lbs.

CLASS I- Super Modified shall have a minimum wheel base of 32" and a minimum weight of 14 lbs.

CLASS J- Pro stock shall have a minimum wheel base of 55" and a minimum weight of 28 lbs.

CLASS K- Super Pro shall have a minimum wheel base of 72" and a minimum weight of 56 lbs.

CLASS L- Experimental shall have a minimum wheel base of 72" and a minimum weight of 106 lbs.

CLASS M- Unlimited shall have a minimum wheel base of 96" and a minimum weight of 110 lbs.

TRIPOLI will monitor elapsed times and speeds and in time may make changes in minimum weight to thrust rules

PRELIMINARY TEST RUN: The first time that the car is ever run, it shall be tested on a motor that is at least half the Newton Seconds that the car was originally designed for, in order to check the stability, tracking and control of the vehicle.

RACE COURSE DIMENSIONS: The length between the starting line and the finish line is 660 ft. The remaining 1,340 ft of cable will be used for shutdown.

RACE COURSE LAYOUT: The race course shall be laid out so that the rocket cars are at least 100 ft. from the spectators at the starting line. The cable shall be laid out 10 degrees or more away from the spectators. The minimum distance between the 2 cables shall be 10 ft. The minimum distance between the cars shall be 6 ft. The minimum length of the course will be 3,000 ft. 660 ft. for acceleration, 1,340 ft. for shutdown and an additional 1,000 ft clear area at the end of the cable for safety.

ROCKET CAR SITE: The course shall be hard, flat surface with no rocks or debris on the course. It must be clear of flammable materials (such as weeds, dry grass, etc.) The ideal place would be an existing 1/8 mile drag strip, airport taxi way, dry lake or salt bed.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT: At least one fully charged fire extinguisher should be at the starting line and one at the end of the track.

CARGO: Rocket cars shall NOT carry a vertebrae animal cargo of any kind or anything that is explosive or pyrotechnic in nature.

IGNITION SYSTEM: Rocket motors shall be remotely ignited by an electronic system that includes a switch that automatically turns to the off position when the switch is released in conjunction with a manual push button or key switch.

IGNITER INSTALLATION: The igniter can only be installed after the car has been prepped and staged (attached to the cable)

GUIDE SYSTEM: The rocket car must have at least 2 guide points. One on the front axle and one at the rear axle. The guide shall be made of material that will not wear the cable (materials such as Teflon or nylon) The guides will be constructed so the car can be easily attached or removed from the cable. If the car is using 3 wheels, the guides distance must not exceed no more than 2" off the center line of the car.

SAFETY NOTE: Rocket cars shall not run if the wind exceeds 20 MPH. Spectators shall be made aware that the rocket cars are going to run and by announcing a 5,4,3,2,1 countdown. If a christmas tree is used, a heads up warning still must be given before the tree is activated.

SAFETY INSPECTION: Each car will be inspected by a range safety officer before it is allowed to run to make sure the car has the proper weight to thrust combination. That the wheels are aligned and the bearings are in good working order. The cable guide system is not overly worn and the car has a good structural integrity. The RSO has the final word regarding vehicle safety.

ADDING WEIGHT: Ballast may be added to qualify for a particular class provided that it is securely attached.

GROUND CLEARANCE: A minimum of 1" ground clearance will be allowed not counting cable guide system.

ROCKET CAR CONSTRUCTION: The cars can be constructed of wood, phenolic, aluminum, fiberglass, carbon fiber, rubber and steel.

VEHICLE BRAKING: All cars must be equipped with a parachute for stopping that may be actuated by a timer, radio controlled or mechanical way. All cars weighing over 80 lbs. must have a parachute and a breaking system that is either mechanical, hydraulic or a skid break.

MOTOR MOUNT: The motor must be mounted so when it is running the thrust of the motor is applying downward pressure to the front axle. Additional canards are also recommended for stability to keep the car from becoming airborne.

STARTING LIGHTS: A traditional christmas tree with a stage light, red light, 3 countdown lights and a green light may be used for drag racing.

MPH AND ELAPSED TIME LIGHT SET-UP: The elapsed time photo cell shall be set up at the starting line and 660 ft (finish line) The miles per hour (speed trap) photo cell shall be set up at 66 ft. before the finish line and 1 photo cell at the finish line. Each lane shall have an independent timing system.

ESTABLISHING RECORDS TRIPOLI Rocket Car records will be established to recognized individuals whose rocket cars have obtained the quickest elapsed time and highest miles per hour in 660 ft. Speed or ET record attempts will not be allowed if the wind exceeds 10 MPH or greater wind from the rear. These records will be established only at TRIPOLI Rocket Car National Events. A rocket car setting a record, then losing the record by another car on the same day at the same event will not receive credit for establishing that record. If a record is set the car shall be checked for weight and proper motor size for it's class by the RSO or other official.

QUALIFYING FOR TOP ELIMINATOR AWARDS

The quickest 8 rocket cars in their class will run for the top eliminator awards. The car with the quickest ET. will race against the car with the slowest ET. The car with the next fastest ET. will race against the car with the next slowest ET. If a car red lights, that car is eliminated. If a car hits another car and wins, the car responsible for the accident will be eliminated.

LANE CHOICE: In competition rocket car racing, the car with the quickest ET will have lane choice.

PROHIBITED ACTS AND SUBSTANCES: Any owner or pit crew found to be under the influence of alcoholic beverages or drugs regardless of the amount will be asked to leave the event. Such a condition will be cause for suspension of competition privileges.

Leadership List

President Leslie Derkovitz • 875-1904
Vice President Brent McNeely • 256-82
Secretary/Treasurer..... Lance Tharpe • 262-9131
Prefect. Tom Blazanin • 388-9644
Newsletter Editor. Brent McNeely • 873-8222

Launch Dates

November 23-24 (Turkey Shoot) ... El Dorado Dry Lake Bed
December 21. El Dorado Dry Lake Bed

Meeting Dates

Every Thursday prior to a launch date

Graphic Design Courtesy of
Brent McNeely & Planet Design, 873-8222



Visit Tripoli Las Vegas on the Internet
wizard.com/~planetds

