

TRIPOLI

Vegas

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

May 1997

February Club Launch

By: Dale Miller

Editor's Note: This launch report was written by Dale for last month's newsletter. However, because I did not get it published in that issue, I put it together in this issue. Thanks Dale for writing up the launch report for the club. I'd like to get everyone in the club to write at least one launch report for the club. Please contact me if there are any upcoming launches that you would like to write a short report for.

It was a beautiful day for a launch. I arrived, as usual, at sunrise and set up my launch controller and pads. The temperature was a bit cold (about 38 degrees) but warmed and was quite pleasant after the sun was up for a few hours. I took the advise of several members and choose a site several thousand feet south of the normal radio controlled airplane area. This also kept us well away from the paratroopers and I suggest we consider relocating our launches to this new area.

The ultra-lite pilots were a minor nuisance. It seems event though we have contacted them about our launches, they just can't resist a fly-by 'look-see'. Steve Ainsworth provided a radio receiver at launch control to monitor aircraft transmission and I picked up several transmissions that warned us of over flights. In the future we might consider two way aircraft communication.

Being a relatively new member I am not familiar with most members names and club procedures. I can report that 41 rockets were launched. These ranged from small Estes with A motors to several J motors.

Due to very good weather conditions, most launches were perfect. Some awesome launches were flown. Several clustered motor rockets had successful launches. A few rockets were lost out in the sagebrush, but were later recovered.

Many rockets utilizing the AeroTech Copperhead ignitors failed to ignite. Several of these blew the 50 Amp fuses in the launch system! I provided custom built Thermolite Ignitors and matches sold to me by Delta V and these rockets went off with no problem. One rocket took off at a low angle and separated near the ground. There was no damage to the rocket but upon examination we found that the Aerotech Mantis launch pad had come apart at the angle adjustment, not a good day for Aerotech accessories.

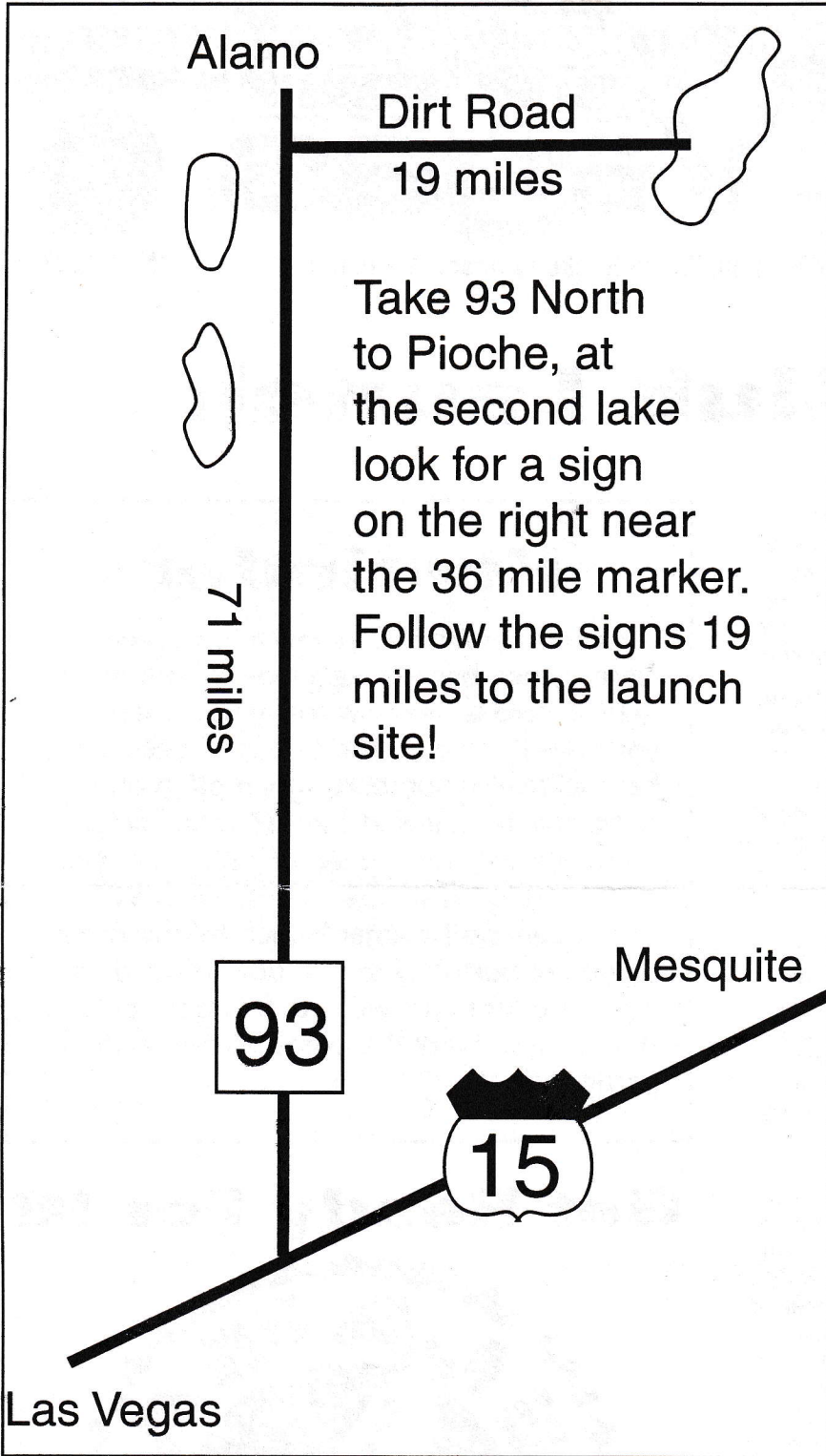
I apologize to the members that I can not name or give proper credit for their participation. I think we all had a very successful launch and a lot of fun. I'm looking forward to our next club meeting.

Reminder

As our membership renewal time gets close, remember to take a look at your membership card to see how many hours service you have logged for the club. You need to have all twelve numbers signed off in order to be able to renew at the \$15 rate. For each number that is not signed on your card, your membership fee will be an additional \$10. The upcoming Delamar launch this month is a good opportunity to get 'double' credit on your card for hours worked. If you haven't signed up to work the event, please consider participating!

Get Ready For It!





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

Leadership List

- President Leslie Derkovitz • 875-190
- Vice President Brent McNeely • 256-8215
- Secretary/Treasurer Lance Tharpe • 262-9131
- Prefect Ron Denton • 384-8233
- Newsletter Editor Brent McNeely • 873-8222

Launch Dates

- May 17, 18 Delamar Dry Lake Bed
- June 21 El Dorado Dry Lake Bed
- July 19 El Dorado Dry Lake Bed
- August 23 El Dorado Dry Lake Bed
- September 20 El Dorado Dry Lake Bed
- October 18 El Dorado Dry Lake Bed
- November 29 El Dorado Dry Lake Bed
- December 20 El Dorado Dry Lake Bed

Meeting Dates

Every Thursday prior to a launch date
 Graphic Design Courtesy of
 Brent McNeely & Planet Design, 233-8222



Note:
 Get ready for the
 Delamar Launch this
 month. We will be having
 a two day launch of high
 power experimental
 rockets.