

TRIPOLI Vegas

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

September 1997

August Launch

By: Brent McNeely

Well, as we might have expected, last month's launch was a hot one. About the only club member living the life of luxury during the launch was Dale Miller who would hide in his air conditioned camper between flights. What a way to be... The rest of us got out to the lake bed as early as possible and tried to get our rockets into the air before the sun baked us like lobsters.

I arrived about 8:30 about the same time as the rest of the people. Things were already set up. Dale supplied the smaller pads and launch system as usual, while our newly elected president, Mike Alber, supplied the larger launch pad with his new compact launch system. When I arrived, some Estes rockets were going off Dale's pad and people were wanting to buy motors from me. So, I set up my little table and talked shop.

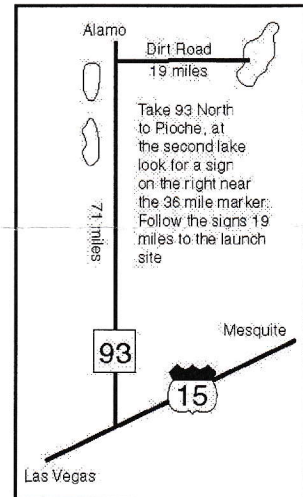
The big flights of the day were made by Henry Jordan, Mike Alber and myself. Henry brought several rockets to the large pad and flew them for nice flights. However, his last rocket of the day, and nice four inch diameter job, never did make it off the pad. Henry tried every igniter given to him, but it seemed that nothing could light the I-195 he had in his rocket. Henry ended up packing up for the day and saving the motor for another day. I apologize, but I don't remember how many flights the Alber crew got in at the last launch. I do remember seeing the Rainbow Warrior fly on its classic black smoke I-154 for a perfect flight (how many hundred is that now?). I'm sure Mike got off a few more with his other rockets while my back was turned.

The night before the launch I prepped two motors, an I-435 and a J-135. I didn't want to have to play with greasing 'O'-rings in hundred degree heat. After selling a few motors, I prepped the Poltergeist 2, arming the Adept altimeter, and took the rocket out to the pad. I had made some new fly away launch lugs for this flight, and found out while putting the rocket on the pad that I didn't get the rubber stretched tight enough. Although the fly-away-lugs held the rocket on the pad fine, once the rocket launched, the lugs didn't fly away from the rod like the should. Instead,

the hung onto the rocket fins for a short ride up to about 2,100 ft. where the parachute deployed and brought everything back down. No damage was done, however, the flight was far under the 5,000 feet I expected to get.

My last flight of the day was my new rocket. I made a virgin flight with a nine foot, four inch diameter rocket titled 'Warm-Fusion'. Warm fusion lifted beautifully on the J-135 and climbed for over seven seconds into the blue sky. Right on schedule the Adept altimeter kicked out the small chute. The rocket fell for about 500 ft. until, unexpectedly, the main chute deployed. I think I didn't get the nose cone on tight enough. Next time I'll use more masking tape. The result was the oversized 96 inch parachute came out at about 3,500 ft. The lake bed was hot enough that thermos developed below the chute causing the rocket to hang in the air for over ten minutes. I had time to chat with people about it. Load up my car and drive out to where it landed light as a feather. I'm thinking I'll use the same chute for the cornish game hen loft contest we are having at the Turkey Shoot. I figure that ought to keep the little bird up there for 20 minutes or more.

I'm sure there were many other notable flights last month. I apologize if I missed putting them down in this short article. Remind me and I'll try to get your future flights in upcoming launch reports.



Leadership List

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Prefect Ron Denton • 384-8233
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Launch Dates

September 20, 21 Delamar Dry Lake Bed
October 18..... El Dorado Dry Lake Bed
November 29, 30..... El Dorado Dry Lake Bed
December 20..... El Dorado Dry Lake Bed

Meeting Dates

Every Thursday prior to a launch date

This is your LAST newsletter

If you have not renewed your membership, now is the time. If you have not paid your membership fees, you will be dropped from the newsletter mailing list. If you have any questions regarding your membership status, call Dave Pacheco at 751-3948. Dave is our new club secretary.

Our Club Website Has Moved: mcneely.net/tripoli_vegas

Not only has the website moved, I've completely revamped it with all new graphics, photos, and layout. Check out the new and improved site and let me know what you think! If you have ideas or suggestions for the website, please send me email.