

# ◆ Tri City Sky Busters ◆

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## Rocketry Class Sky Busters in Lakewood OH

*by Bill Sinkins*

Adult rocketeers are easily enticed by the upward spiral of bigger, more elaborate, more powerful rockets. While this is an engaging and rewarding pursuit, we mustn't forget our roots. Most of us began this hobby as youngsters, and it is fun to introduce a new generation to this exciting pastime. Thus on Feb. 1st and 8th, 1997, the Tri-City Sky Busters conducted a rocketry class for 12 children at Lakewood High School. Leading the class was Gerry Freed, and lending assistance were Mark Sadowski and his daughter Jennifer, Mark Hanna and son Josh, George Christ, Ray Maskow and daughter Becky, and your correspondent, Bill Sinkins. Day 1 began with a brief introduction and a display of the many models that the Sky Busters brought along; the latter ranged in size from a Mosquito to an I-Roc, giving our young rocket scientists a broad view of what's possible. The intro was followed by a round of questions from the kids, including "Do they blow up?"; one lad was especially curious in this regard. Next, Gerry gave a tutorial on the basics of model rocket design, flight, and safe recovery, illustrated with many overhead transparencies taken from the Stine handbook. We then moved on to the construction phase of the class, and 12 Estes Alpha III kits were distributed. A quick inspection showed that there were no missing parts, and soon everyone was cutting and gluing. Mr. "Blow-up" was at first intrigued by the "exploded view" pictured in the kit's instructions, but at the end of the

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## Message from the President

I would like to congratulate all of the Sky Buster members and all of the other nice folks who entered models in the 47th National Model Plane Show. Your outstanding efforts won us the "Best Club Display" award for a third year in a row. This year, we had even more models than last year. The workmanship and finish of this year's entries showed that all of you are very capable modelers. For a full review of the show, see the article on page x.

I would also like to thank all you who helped set up and take down our display, and especially those of you who took time to be at the display booth to talk to the public during the 3 days of the show. Many rocketeers, both young and old, expressed interest in our club. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

I want to remind all of the Sky Busters members that your \$5 dues need to be paid as soon as possible. As of this writing, only 17 members have paid their dues. The revenue from dues and launch fees are used for such things as postage, club supplies, and maintenance of our launch equipment.

Mother nature continues to curse us with bad weather. Our two launches so far this year have been windy and cold. A launch near Pittsburg that was attended by some Sky Buster's was nearly canceled because of high winds. I recently attended the Magnum VIII launch on April 5th, but it was raining steadily in the morning. I hung around for a few hours and chatted with many of the other rocketeers who had showed up. After leaving for home in the late morning, I found out later that they finally did set up and launch under less than ideal conditions. Oh well.

I don't want to cast a gray cloud over our hobby, but lately I have become very discouraged. Between the new

government regulations for high power rocketry (something I only started getting into early last year), and poor weather conditions on the weekends (why is it sunny on Monday but not on Saturday or Sunday?). It seems like every other weekend I am packing the van, only to drive an hour or two and arrive at a launch site in the middle of a rainstorm. I know that things are probably not as bad as they seem, and that the weather is sure to improve, but sometimes it's hard to keep going.

It all comes down to that familiar "rush" when seeing a rocket lift off the pad, the so called "AP high" when a high power rocket thunders into the sky, the joys of camaraderie with the other rocketeers. These are the things

### And from the First Lady

*By Linda Bade*

Thanks to all of you who helped in making the mall show a success. I was there on Saturday for awhile, and I got to meet some new people, and say hello to some people I have known for awhile. I could not believe the number of entries in each category. It appeared that everyone worked very hard on their rockets, and you could see the pride and enjoyment shine from the entrants eyes. It was a show to be very proud of, and all that participated should have gotten awards this year. I really must thank Tom Campbell for all of his entries and for taking all the large first place trophies. This means that I don't have to dust them and find another place for more trophies, so THANKS!!! Of course our club took best of the show again for the third year! Way to go guys and gals-it was really great!

Someone had an R2D2 model there. That was the first thing every kid said as they walked down the table-"LOOK

MOM -R2D2!!!" The faces would light up and the "Star Wars" sound effects would be next. There were lots of NASA's rockets in scale, too. The grown ups liked those, and you could see them thinking back to when that particular rocket took off for the moon, or for space, and how old they were, and where they were, and what they were doing. I overheard one man trying to tell his son about it and how much of a significant achievement it was for the whole country when man first walked upon the moon. You could see the kid didn't understand a lot of the talk, but he sure did understand seeing R2D2! Thanks again to all who helped with the show, and all of you who showed up.

Well, the rocket god sure isn't happy with all of us. He has caused it to rain the last couple of launches, and let me tell you it sure is not fun living with a rocket man who can't fly! I am hoping and praying that very quickly there will be a nice day for flying. Either that, or all of us ladies are going to ship all of you rocket men somewhere to live with each other and drive each other crazy until you can launch. Believe me, it sure is no fun for us, either. I sure get tired of Neal watching the weather channel, calling all over creation, and end up being depressed because he can't launch. I sometimes wonder if it's not harder on me and Bear (our nice dog) than it is on him! In order to appease the rocket gods, one of these days I will sacrifice Neal on their alter if he doesn't quit moping and crying that he can't launch!

Thank you to Bill Kish for his article about his Gnome rocket. I was very surprised to get his letter in the mail so quickly with an article. I am looking forward to his letter about the Ninja. Thanks again Bill! And thanks to everyone who has contributed articles! We sure do enjoy reading them. Until next time, here's hoping for good weather, blue skies, and sunshine!

(Continued from page 1) Rocketry Class

first day as the final glue joints were being made, he was overheard saying "I don't think I want to blow this up anymore". Progress! Day 2 started with Mark Sadowski giving an explanation of model rocket motors and electrical ignition systems, so that our students would know how to fly safely. We then watched the famous Estes video that is hosted by William Shatner. I think the adults got more enjoyment from this than the kids, laughing the 1970's clothes and hairstyles. I got a kick out of seeing a lot of my favorite (and now discontinued) old Estes rocket, like the Nike Ajax, Interceptor, Scissor-Wing Transport, and the big Saturn V. Sigh... but enough reminiscing, we had rockets to launch! In the past week our pupils had applied the decals to their models, so all that remained was to attach recovery systems. It was a windy day and we were going to be launching in the school's small sports field, so we prepped with streamers rather than parachutes. Off we marched to the snowy launch area and as the Mark and Josh Hanna readied the pads the rest of the Sky-Busters helped the young rocketeers put ignitors into their 1/2A6-2 motors. This size motor turned out to be perfect for the conditions: all models launched twice each with no losses and no CATOs. The kids enjoyed pushing the launch button, and drag races proved to be very popular. In spite of the cold weather, a great time was had by all, and thanks must be extended to Wendy for contacting the Sky Busters and inviting us to conduct the class. I hope we were able to ignite the same spark in those youngsters that has us still building and launching many years

## Phone Numbers

### Important Phone Numbers:

Neal Bade	(216) 265-3093
Mark Sadowski	(330) 666-5235
Dan Harold	(330) 673-7482
Gerry Freed	(216) 476-2496
Jim Phillips	(330) 898-5851

## February 1997 Launch Report

*Reported by Neal Bade*

The Sky Busters held a sport launch on February 9, 1997 at our Richfield, OH launch site. It was cold (a few degrees above freezing) with light winds, and the sun was shining most of the time. Only 4 flyers and 1 spectator showed up. Despite the cold weather, we managed to get in quite a few flights. The following are the highlights of this small launch.

Mark Sadowski had quite a few nice launches this day, and a few spectacular failures. His Estes Shadow flew just fine using an Aerotech D15-4 24mm RMS. His Super Vega never managed to get very far this day with the first launch getting caught on the

*... a few nice launches this day, and a few spectacular failures.*

ignitor clip and then laying on the ground. Its second launch on an Estes D12-3 ended with the motor blowing out the top and shooting a nice fireball up into the air. The rocket looked like it will survive after some minor repairs. An Aerotech HV Arcas flew fine with an E30-4 but later suffered a prang when flown with an F14-4. It seemed underpowered to me and didn't get quite high enough. This plus what seemed like a long delay caused the Arcas to prang. The nose cone was severely deformed and the impact knocked all the paint right off of it. The upper body tube was destroyed, but the lower half of the rocket was still in fine shape.

George Christ launched an Estes Patriot three times, twice on B6-4s and once using a C6-3. His North Coast Tempest flew very nice on an E30-4, then again with an E15-4. His Estes

Tornado/Reliant flew twice on A8-3's. I launched a few rockets this day, including my Estes Arrow, first on an A8-3 then later with a B4-4. I also brought out an almost finished Estes Broadsword (still in white primer). Its first launch flew great, but recovery was weird when the chute got all tangled up. It managed to stay horizontal and floated down to a soft recovery. Its second flight was very nice and straight, with recovery in the normal fashion when the chute opened all the way this time. An Estes Mongoose was launched single stage on a B4-4 for a super flight. Also, an Estes Apache-2 was launched single stage on an A8-3 for a suprisingly high flight.

Thats all I have for now, the weather here in Northern Ohio is still quite bad

## The Leprechaun

*By William Kish*

My Grandson Jonathan Ross and I decided to make an Estes rocket called Gnome in July of 1992. We had several successful flights until one day we had a malfunction in the body tube. We took the Gnome, or as I called it, the Leprechaun, to my basement work shop and did some fast body work on the tube (after all, we did have two years of rocketry under our belts).

We took the Leprechaun outside to our launch pad, put an A3-4T engine into our newly rehab rocket, launched the rocket high into the sky and watched the ejection charge give a large puff of smoke. To this date, April 7, 1997, we are still waiting for our Leprechaun to settle back to Earth. I guess our work on the body tube was something of a disaster, or back to the drawing board. Happy Launching

(Continued from page 3) September Launch

## March 1997 Launch Report

*Reported by Neal Bade*

The Sky Busters held a sport launch on March 22, 1997 at our Richfield, OH launch site. It was cold (about 38 degrees) with gusting winds, and cloudy skies. Seven flyers showed up despite the weather conditions. A total of 32 flights were logged for the day. A total of 36 black powder motors were fired. The breakdown is as follows: 3 1/2A, 14 A, 15 B, 3 C, and 1 D motor. The young kids who came out to launch with us this day seemed especially excited, some of that excitement even wore off on us old folks.

I started the day off by launching my Estes Arrow launched on an A8-3 for a rather low altitude flight. Jim Phillips was up next with TP Special, made from toilet paper tubes. A cluster model, it was launched with 3 A8-3 motors. Jim then flew Aquarius Explorer on a D12-5. For her first flight ever, 9 year old Christine Angyal launched her Quest Quasar on a B4-2. Although it was a fine flight, it unfortunately floated into a tree and could be seen hanging quite out of reach. Gerry Freed attempted to launch a Sierra on a Quest A6-4 motor, but the motor catoed and shot a small fireball out of the top of the rocket (that is the first time I had ever seen an A motor cato). I next launched my Arrow again, gaining more altitude this time using a B6-4 motor.

Dan Angyal was up next with his Gnome powered by an A3-4T. I believe he lost it because he wrote "Over hill, over dale" on the flight log. Young Joel Sawyer launched his nicely painted Estes FatBoy using an A8-3 motor. Gerry launched his Sierra again, this time using an MRC A8-3. It became a "lawn dart" due to an unusually long delay. Dan's Dagger also suffered from a poorly performing

Quest A6-4 motor that had an extremely early ejection. Gerry's long suffering Sierra flew again, this time on a 1/2A6-2. Douglas Angyal launched his Bandit, also using a 1/2A6-2 motor. Joel flew his Serval on a B motor of some type. Jim Phillips Estes Tomcat flew great on a C5-3, gliding in circles to a soft landing. Joel then flew a Yellow Jacket on a B motor and his Airwalker on a C motor.

Jim's SDI Satellite flew next on an A8-3 motor. Douglas then flew his Bandit twice, first on an A8-3, followed by another flight on a 1/2A6-2. Gerry's scratch build Red White & Blue took off on an A8-3. Dan's Dagger "stayed in bounds" when flown with an A8-3 (a popular motor today!). Jim's SDI Satellite flew great on a B6-4. My old Estes Red Max flew fine using a B4-4. Jim's Tomcat was nearly destroyed by a C6-3 cato (a spectacular sight). Pieces of the rocket were still smoldering even as he picked up the pieces. Gerry launched his Red White & Blue again, this time on a B4-6 for a nice flight.

Dan's Quest "kit bash" flew on an A8-3 for a fine flight. Jim's TP Special was loaded with 3 B6-4's and produced a great flight. It makes me want to build a cluster rocket. Joel's FatBoy flew fine on a B6-4. Dan's "kit bash" was then loaded with a B4-2 for a very nice flight which ended up in a tree. Douglas's Estes America took off with a B6-2. My last launch was my Maniac using a B6-4 for a nice straight flight. Joel Sawyer ended the day with his Estes FatBoy flying on a B6-4.

That's all I have for now, the weather here in Northern Ohio continues to be bad for us rocketeers, but we see steady improvement and Spring is almost here.

Please remember that your \$5 yearly club dues need to be paid for 1998. You can make payments to any of the club officers. Make checks payable to "Tri-City Sky Busters". Reminder: If you have NAR insurance, it also needs to be paid for 1998. You can reach the NAR headquarters at 1-800-xxx-xxxx.

The Cleveland Aeromodel Society annual model show is being held at the Great Lakes Mall in Kirtland Ohio on March 13-14-15 (Friday thru Sunday). As usual, we will need people to help set up on Thursday night (March 12), and to take down the displays after the end of the show on Sunday the 15th. Bring your models Thursday night for registration, or you can register them anytime Friday or Saturday. Judging is Saturday night and awards are given out on Sunday. We encourage all Sky Busters members to participate in this event. Our club has won "Best Display" awards for the past three years. Lets see if we can do it again.

We have made a few enhancements to our 6-pad launch rail system. This launch system, given to us by our predecessor, SNOAR, has seen quite a lot of use in the past few years. All too often, we had to replace the micro clips, due to corrosion from moisture and rocket exhaust. The micro clips are now "plug in" to make replacement easier. You will also notice that we now have large knurled knobs to lock in the angle adjustments. The old ones were just too small to get a good grip on. Our thanks to Matt Hudak for the fabrication and donation of these to the club. Good work Matt!



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## Launch Field ?

As usual, the Sky Busters continue to search for a large launch field in Northern Ohio. We have had several leads in the past, but these did not work out. Several people have mentioned possible launch sites, and we are looking into these. If you know of any available launch site, please contact one of the club officers. Thank

**TRI-CITY SKY BUSTERS****NAR #535****1998 LAUNCH WINDOWS**

**All Launches will be subject to the NAR MODEL AND HIGH POWER ROCKETRY SAFETY CODES (i.e. U.S. Model & High Power Rocketry Sporting Codes.)**

The following is our 1998 Sport Launch Window Schedule.

Standard Launch Dates will be the SECOND SUNDAY, and FOURTH SATURDAY of each month. With weather re-schedule dates of the THIRD SUNDAY and FIFTH -or- FIRST SATURDAY of each month as needed.

SUNDAY LAUNCHES will be held in Medina, Ohio at the Medina County Airport, (Freedom Field) on US Route 18, just East of I-71. Launch times will be 8:00/am to 12:00/Noon ET. ("G" motor limit conditions permitting)

SATURDAY LAUNCHES will be held in Richfield, Ohio at Mr. Davis' field, (3457 Southern Rd.). Launch times will be 12:00/Noon to 5:00/PM ET. ("F" motor limit conditions permitting)

<u>SUNDAY LAUNCHES</u>		<u>SATURDAY LAUNCHES</u>
January	11, 1998	January 24, 1998
February	08, 1998	February 28, 1998
March	08, 1998	March 28, 1998
April	12, 1998	April 25, 1998
May	03, 1998 (Adjusted)*	May 23, 1998
June	14, 1998	June 27, 1998
July	12, 1998	July 25, 1998
August	09, 1998	August 22, 1998
September	13, 1998	September 26, 1998
October	11, 1998	October 24, 1998
November	08, 1998	November 28, 1998
December	13, 1998	December 26, 1998

\* May 10, 1997 Launch Adjusted to May 03, 1997 Due to Mother's Day.

**If a launch is canceled or postponed for any reason, we attempt to notify everyone by email or telephone. If you plan on attending a launch, please call one of the club officers (see phone list on page 8). Remember, this is only a tentative schedule; launch dates are variable due to weather, field availability, and other conditions.**

An "All-Day Range Fee" of \$1.00 per Person launching will be charged, with a max. "Family-Fee" of \$2.00. This fee is in place to insure that all range equipment and supplies are maintained with the NAR Safety Code in mind. All Persons launching should fill-out & hand-in a flight log sheet before departing the field. These sheets are provided at the time you pay your launch fee. The flight log sheets need your Name, NAR or Tripoli number and launch date, as well as your flight information. Please fill in flight information such as rocket name, motor used, and any comments about the flight. We use these logs to write up launch reports. If you haven't joined the NAR or Tripoli, please do so, as it is necessary if you want voting privileges within our section.

**Newsletter Information**

The Tri City Sky Busters Newsletter is published bi-monthly for the members of Tri City Sky Busters, NAR Section # 535. The newsletter was edited and produced by Neal Bade. If you would like to submit an article or photos, or have a suggestion for future issues please send it to me via one of the following methods:

1. Email to Neal\_Bade@compuserve.com, or if using Compuserve at 71431,141. Please send either ASCII text or Word for Windows file format.

2. Mail to Neal Bade, 14055 Kathleen Dr., Brook Park, OH, 44142. I can be reached at 216-265-3093 in the evenings.

**Transolve Corporation**

Just a reminder to all of the Sky Busters members. John Fleischer, of Transolve fame, is a Sky Buster member. His company produces many products for us rocketeers. If you are in need of locating beepers, timers, or barometric altimeters, please give him a call at (216) 341-5970.

**Tri City Sky Busters**

c/o Neal Bade  
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