

STAR-DATE 11.86

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STAR-DATE is published by the Albany Schenectady Troy Rocket Enthusiasts (ASTRE), Section 471 of the National Association of Rocketry. STAR-DATE is edited by Jeff Vincent, Box 95, New Scotland, NY, 12127, (518) 439-2055. Articles, plans, or suggestions for publication should be sent to me at this address. Advertisers should contact me for information on publication of their ads. STAR-DATE is provided to ASTRE members as a membership benefit. STAR-DATE is available at a low-low subscription rate of \$4.00 for eight issues (approx. one year). Send subscriptions to the same address.

EDITOR'S THERMAL

Hello again, everyone. It's nice to be back at the keyboard again. For those of you who hadn't heard, my trusty Atari 800XL crashed and was down about six weeks for repairs. However, as you can see, we are back in action again.

Well, what's been happening? A lot and not much. Since our last issue, we've held two meets and our year-end banquet. However, the snows of November have brought a swift close to the flying season. While we may not be flying, we hope to remain in touch and active. We will have meetings scheduled through the winter (including a particularly important one Dec. 9, see details elsewhere).

This is the time of year you can do all of those things you didn't have time for this summer. Thinking of a Scale or Sport Scale model? Now's the time to search for data and begin construction. The same is true of any R&D projects you may be considering. How many times have you stayed up to a ridiculous hour that night before the meet just to make parachutes or streamers? Winter is the

time to work on these items. Another nice thing about models you build in the winter, you won't lose them for a few months!

Winter is also a good time for writing up something for the newsletter (hint! HINT!!!). Everyone out there probably has a tip, technique, or area of expertise which would provide material for publication. Just send a legible copy of your item to me and I'll work on getting it in here. Remember, this is your newsletter, and you get what you deserve.

Ah well, I guess that's about it for this time around. Keep thinking rockets and I'll see you December 9th.

Jeff

ASTRO - 4

by Pat Perrella

The ASTRE Section managed to squeeze in its final open meet of the year on Sunday, October 5th, despite the "monsoon" weather conditions of the previous week! Unfortunately, we missed the outside competitors who had planned to fly on the 4th, but the loyal, hardy ASTRE crew braved the brisk 19.5+ mph winds and soggy field to fly the scheduled events.

A Division newcomer Peter Hryniak woke everyone up with his 30 second Predicted Duration flight after he had called it at 32 seconds. Veteran Chuck Weiss of the Odd Couple Team lifted a 33 second flight on his 32 second prediction to claim 1st Place in C Division. No other A Division competitors flew, so Pete's flight took 2nd place, followed by the Ariane II Teams' 26 second flight which was 4 seconds off the mark for 3rd place. Pat Perrella finished 4th, Jim Nolan 5th, and Chuck Hemker's model caught a real wind shear to place 6th.

Open Spot Landing proved to be a real "Star Wars" battle with Pat Perrella's Estes Flying Saucer landing 7.3 meters from the spot, edging out Jeff Vincent's (Odd Couple) Centuri Flying Saucer positioned at 11.3 meters. Etienne LaVallee's (Ariane II) Delta Wedge hit at 19.8 meters for a 3rd place finish, just beating Jim Nolan's "Spot" at 20.1 meters. The more conventional entries of Peter Hryniak and Chuck Hemker placed 5th and 6th, respectively.

The 1/2A Int Streamer Duration competition displayed much skill among the entries as there were only 3 DQ's among the 18 flights. John & Etienne LaVallee of the Ariane II Team combined flights of 45, 36, and 54 seconds to claim the 1st place. Pat Perrella flew 47, 26, and 29 second flights to place 2nd, and the Odd Couple Team took 3rd with a two flight combo of 93 seconds. Peter Hryniak claimed the 4th place with 75 seconds, Jim Nolan, 5th and Chuck Hemker hit the same wind-shear problem for another 6th place finish. Prospective member Joanne LaVallee turned a few heads with a 2+ minute flight (unofficial & sport) on her small model she had built during our 9/30 meeting/workshop. (Watch out, fellas !)

Both her streamer and Pat Perrella's were tastefully decorated by Monique LaVallee.

B Helicopter Duration proved to be quite an entertaining event. Pat Perrella's and Chuck Hemker's Tasmanian Devils (AmSpac, July '86) kept the "smoke & fire" action close to the launch pads as they battled for 3rd & 4th places in the event with total times of 11 and 10 seconds each! The more intricate and skilled flights of the Ariane II Team's "Rose-roc" combined flights of 59 and 57 seconds to take 1st place away from the Odd Couple who suffered a crucial DQ on their first flight but flew a 68 second "Rosero" to place 2nd.

The tight competition continued between Ariane II and the Odd Couple during the B Rocket/Glide flights as Jeff Vincent's Odd Couple Model

outlasted the Ariane II entry with 52 and 58 second flights to claim a solid 1st over Ariane II's 17 and 41 second times.

As the Canadian Geese kept our eyes turned skyward with their continuing flight formations and loud honking, the ASTRE competitors steadily plugged away at the 1/2A B/G (rigid wing) event which was a real challenge with the brisk winds and apparent lack of helpful thermals. The Odd Couple Team took 1st place with an impressive 56 second Midi Dactyl flight. Jim Nolan flew 20 and 18 second flights to edge Ariane II's 13 and 21 second times, but Pat Perrella, after a DQ on her first Mini Dactyl flight, boosted another to grab 2nd place with 42 seconds.

Due to the conditions, it was decided to conduct the plastic model conversion judging and flights at a later date. Chuck Hemker and Jim Nolan met at Jim's house a week later to conduct the static judging. The judges gave Jeff Vincent's Odd Couple entry, a tiny 1/128 Monogram Titan II missile, a slight lead with 630 points. Pat Perrella's 1/100 Euromodel Ariane 1 was in second with 597 static points. The flights were conducted on October 16th in weather strikingly similar to the 5th. Jeff's model made a pretty good flight on an A3-4T, breaking a fin on landing and scoring 792 points. Pat's Ariane made a sort of wimpy flight on a C6-3 and ejected its engine. While it was recovered safely, the DQ gave the Odd Couple a solo first.

When the points were finally tallied, Peter Hryniak scored 96 points in A Division (quite impressive for flying against C Division at his first meet. Hopefully we can support an A Division next year.) In C Division, the Odd Couple Team led the pack with 956 points. Making another good showing was the Ariane II Team in second with 592 points. Pat Perrella scored 348 points on her way to third place. The ASTRE section scored a solid 2106 points, giving us over 6000 points halfway through the season.

While the weather was not perfect, this proved to be a fun meet. From the dueling UFO's and Tasmanian Devils to the competition in HD and R/G, there was plenty to interest everyone. ASTRE will be holding three open meets next spring and I hope all of you will join us in the fun. See you at ASTRO-5!!!

B HD

CONTESTANT	1	/	2	=SCORE	PT
C Div					
1)Ariane II Tm	59	/	57	= 116s	180
2)Odd Couple Tm	DQ	/	68	= 68s	108
3)Pat Perrella	5	/	6	= 11s	72
4)Chuck Hemker	5	/	5	= 10s	36
Jim Nolan	DQ	/	-	= 0	

ASTRO-4 Results
Oct 5, 1986

OPEN SPOT LANDING

CONTESTANT	SCORE	PT
Combined A & C Div		
1)Pat Perrella	7.5m	40
2)Odd Couple Tm	11.4m	24
3)Ariane II Tm	19.8m	16
4)Jim Nolan	20.1m	8
5)Peter Hryniak	26.7m	4
6)Chuck Hemker	50m	4

PREDICTED DURATION

CONTESTANT	PRED.	ACT.	ERROR	PT
Combined A & C Div				
1)Odd Couple Tm	33s	32s	3.0%	100
2)Peter Hryniak	32s	30s	6.3%	60
3)Ariane II Tm	30s	26s	13%	40
4)Pat Perrella	40s	27s	33%	20
5)Jim Nolan	36s	22s	39%	10
6)Chuck Hemker	30s	8s	73%	10

1/2A INT SD

CONTESTANT	1	/	2	/	3	=SCORE	PT
Combined A & C Div							
1)Ariane II Tm	45	/	36	/	54	=135s	160
2)Pat Perrella	47	/	26	/	29	=102s	96
3)Odd Couple Tm	57	/	DQ	/	37	= 94s	64
4)Peter Hryniak	DQ	/	41	/	34	= 75s	32
5)Jim Nolan	25	/	22	/	-	= 47s	16
6)Chuck Hemker	22	/	DQ	/	5	= 27s	16

1/2A B/G (rigid-wing only)

CONTESTANT	1	/	2	=SCORE	PT
C Div					
1)Odd Couple Tm	56	/	-	= 56s	200
2)Pat Perrella	DQ	/	42	= 42s	120
3)Jim Nolan	20	/	18	= 38s	80
4)Ariane II Tm	13	/	21	= 34s	40
Chuck Hemker	DQ	/	-	= 0	

B R/G

CONTESTANT	1	/	2	=SCORE	PT
C Div					
1)Odd Couple Tm	52	/	58	= 110s	260
2)Ariane II Tm	17	/	41	= 58s	156
Jim Nolan	DQ	/	DQ	= 0	

PLASTIC MODEL CONVERSION

CONTESTANT	MODEL	SCORE	PT
C Div			
1)Odd Couple Tm	Titan missile	792	200
Pat Perrella	Ariane 1	DQ	

TOTAL NAR POINTS

A Div	
1)Peter Hryniak	96 pt
C Div	
1)Odd Couple Tm	956 pt
2)Ariane II Tm	592 pt
3)Pat Perrella	348 pt
4)Jim Nolan	114 pt
5)Chuck Hemker	66 pt
ASTRE Section	2106 pt

Estes Industries Rocket Plan No. 15

SPUTNIK-TOO!

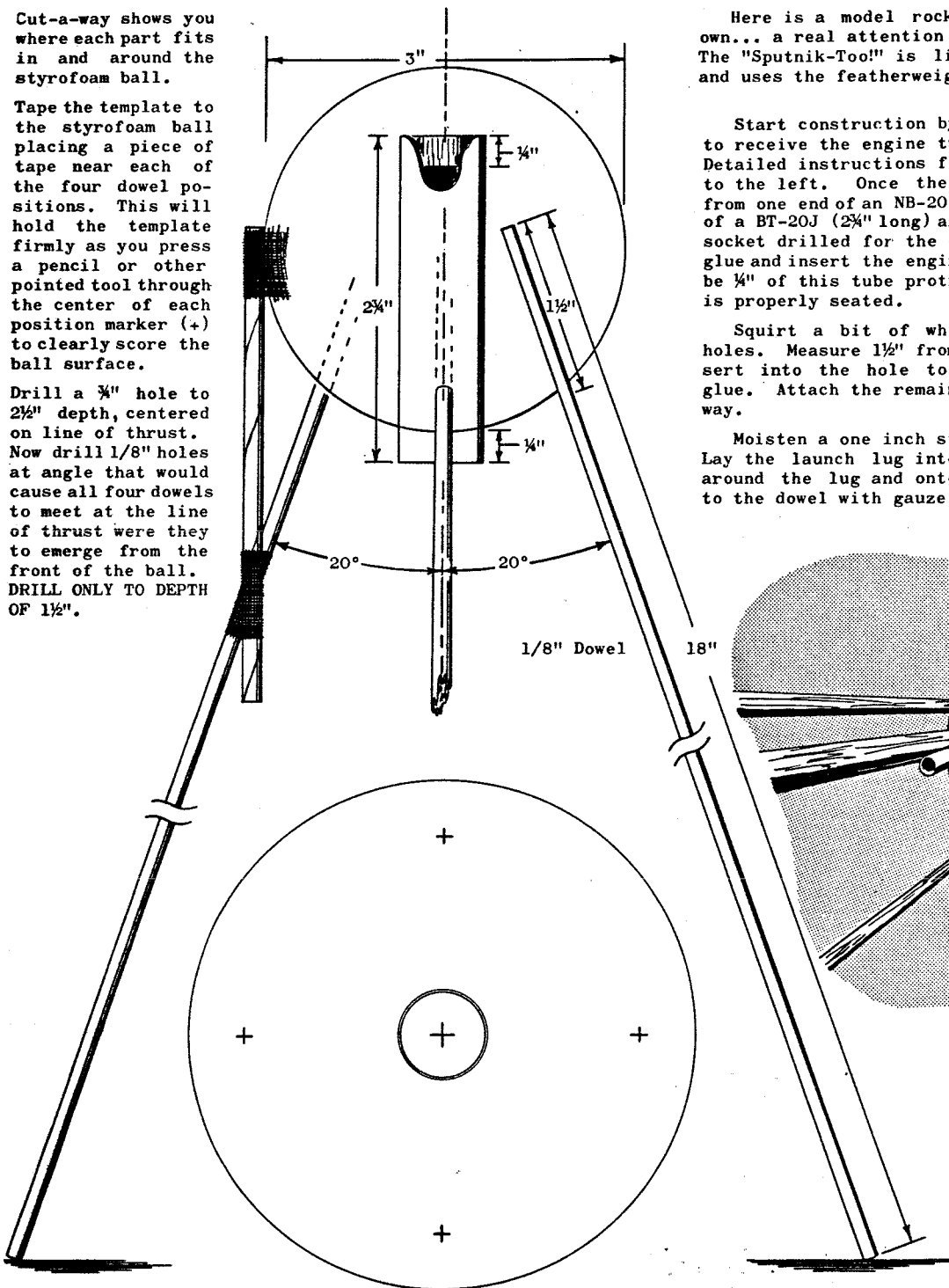
AN ODDBALL...

Published as a service to its customers by Estes Industries, Inc., Box 227, Penrose, Colo. ©Estes Industries, 1964

Cut-a-way shows you where each part fits in and around the styrofoam ball.

Tape the template to the styrofoam ball placing a piece of tape near each of the four dowel positions. This will hold the template firmly as you press a pencil or other pointed tool through the center of each position marker (+) to clearly score the ball surface.

Drill a 3/8" hole to 2 1/2" depth, centered on line of thrust. Now drill 1/8" holes at angle that would cause all four dowels to meet at the line of thrust were they to emerge from the front of the ball. DRILL ONLY TO DEPTH OF 1 1/2".

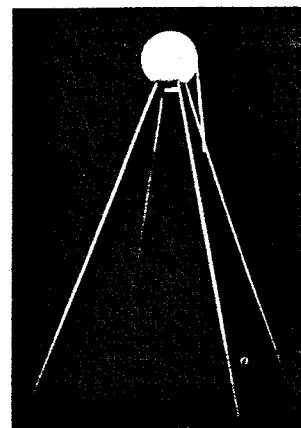
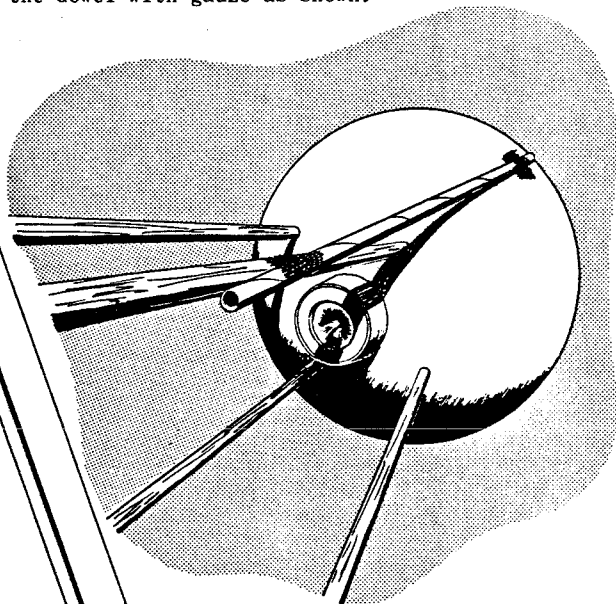


Here is a model rocket with a character all it's own... a real attention getter where ever it appears! The "Sputnik-Too!" is light in weight, easy to build and uses the featherweight recovery principle.

Start construction by preparing the styrofoam ball to receive the engine tube and dowel stabilizers. Detailed instructions for use of the template are seen to the left. Once the ball is ready, cut a 1/4" slice from one end of an NB-20, glue this slice into one end of a BT-20J (2 3/4" long) and stand aside to dry. Smear socket drilled for the engine tube with a film of white glue and insert the engine tube assembly. There should be 1/4" of this tube protruding from the ball when tube is properly seated.

Squirt a bit of white glue into one of the 1/8" holes. Measure 1 1/2" from one end of the dowel and insert into the hole to this point. Wipe off excess glue. Attach the remaining three dowels in this same way.

Moisten a one inch strip of gauze with white glue. Lay the launch lug into position and form the gauze around the lug and onto the ball. Secure the other to the dowel with gauze as shown.



- 1 Styrofoam ball, 3" O.D.
- 4 Dowel, 18" x 1/8" Dia.
- 1 Body tube 2 3/4" long
- 1 Nose block piece
- 1 Launching Lug, 5" long

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| Part # | SB-3 |
| " | WD-1 |
| " | BT-20J |
| " | NB-20 |
| " | LL-1C |

NOTE: -Rather than use the 5" launching lug, you may desire to mount a short lug on the ball and another lug on the dowel. If so, use another dowel to line them up.

ASTRE BANQUET

The members of ASTRE and their guests met at Parillo's Armory Grill in Amsterdam Friday night, November 7, for the first ASTRE Banquet. The banquet was conceived of as a chance to get together in a somewhat different atmosphere and reflect on the past year's activities. Those present included John, Joanne, and Etienne LaVallee, Pat Perrella, Chuck Hemker, Jeff Vincent, Chuck Weiss and Nancy Malachowski and our guests of honor, Bruce and Susanne Whitcavitch.

As the dinner progressed, we talked about our experiences in the first year of the club's existence. From the frigid sport launch in March to the sweltering heat of ASTRO-2 in July to the premature return of the mud season at ASTRO-4, we reminisced about the past and thought of the future.

After dinner, Jeff Vincent presided over (with frequent interruptions) the presentation of the ribbons from ASTRO-4, à la NARAM. Chuck Weiss then presented Bruce Whitcavitch with a special plaque in appreciation for his role as a gracious host to the club this flying season.

After about two and a half hours, the group broke up and headed for home. Hopefully, about this time next year, we can all get together again and recall the happy memories of 1987.

ASTRE CALENDAR

- Dec 9 - Club meeting. Vote on quorum ammendment, logo contest, and discussion of future schedule. Discussion topic is the uses of computers in model rocketery (with demonstration).
- Jan 13, 1987 - Club meeting. Election of club officers.
- March 15 - GODDARD III GSSS Open. NJ. Events to be announced. Contact Bob Zabriskie, 123 Duer St., North Plainfield, NJ, 07060, (201) 769-0943.
- April 3-4 - Pearl River Modroc Seminar. Pearl River Middle School, Pearl River, NY. A weekend of discussion groups, raffles, films, launches, and a free commemorative kit. Contact Dick Nelson, Pearl River Middle School, 520 Gilbert Ave., Pearl River, NY, 10965.
- mid-late April - ASTRO-5 Open meet. Events to be announced. Contact Jeff Vincent.
- early May - ASTRO-6 Open meet. Events to be announced. Contact Jeff Vincent.
- early June - ASTRO-7 Open meet. Events to be announced. Contact Jeff Vincent.
- early June - MINUTEMAN II CMASS Open. Acton, MA. Events to be announced.
- late July - ASTRO-8 Open meet. Events to be announced. Contact Jeff Vincent.

ASTRE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ NAR # _____ JR LDR SR (circle one)

Membership dues are \$4.00 per year Junior (under 16 as of Jan 1)
\$6.00 per year Leader (under 21 as of Jan 1)
\$10.00 per year Senior (21 or over as of Jan 1)

Make dues check or money order payable to Jeff Vincent.

"I pledge to abide by the NAR Safety Code in my rocketry activities."

Signature _____ Date _____

BALSA SCRAPS

Balsa Scraps is a new feature of STAR-DATE. Balsa Scraps is the place where all the little tips and bits of news that aren't big enough for an article accumulate (kind of like those scraps of balsa that accumulate behind your workbench - get it?). If you have any tips or news, send them along to be published here in BS. Whoops!

NAR INSURANCE RATES are going up. According to CMASS's "Sentinel", the individual insurance rate will be hiked from five to eleven dollars per year due to higher insurance costs. The new rates will go into effect January 1. Hmmm, sounds like a good time to renew.

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE time to shop for wadding? Yes, kids, as surely as the Easter Bunny brings us egg capsules in April, the Christmas season is the time to load up on cheap wadding. Look for those FLAME-PROOF cotton sheets used under the tree to keep the dead needles out of the carpet. "Twinkle mat" is my fave. This stuff is similar to Centuri's old cotton wadding (it's great for those large diameter models) and can be had for next to nothing in those few days just after Christmas.

GET THE ARK... Yet another North-east contest has been rained out. GSSS's SPOOK 86 meet, scheduled for October 26, had to be cancelled due to rain. Both SPOOK and the JOISEE regional have been cancelled due to bad weather. Better luck in March.

NEMROC II FLIES... Our friends to the East, the Goddard Society and CMASS, successfully hosted some 70 enthusiasts at the New England Model Rocket Convention. Plans are already being made for NEMROC III next year.

FURRIN' NEWSLETTERS are a good way to keep abreast of section activities in the Northeast region. Here's who to contact for subscriptions:

CMASS-"The Sentinel"

rate:unknown

Chris Tavares

11 Ontario Drive

Hudson, MA 01749

Goddard Society-"Aunt Effie's
Cabbage Patch"

rate:unknown

Jim Flis

Thornton St.

Merrimack, NH 03054

GSSS-"Launch Rack"

rate:\$3.00/year

Jack Sarhage

875 River Road

Piscataway, NJ 08854

AND JUST AS WE GO TO PRESS the new edition of the Squadron Shop's plastic model catalog has just arrived. While they don't have any model rockets, they do have 64 pages jam-packed with aircraft and spacecraft, perfect for PMC, as well as books, tools, glue, paint, decals, and other items for model builders. One thing which has caught my eye is the new Aerofax book on the X-15 rocket plane, 64 pages of scale data with over 200 photographs!!

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