

STAR-DATE 1.87

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EDITOR'S THERMAL

Hello again, everyone. As we suffer through the dead of winter, we've been making our plans for the spring contest season.

Originally, we had intended to hold three open meets this spring, like last fall. However, a number of factors have caused us to reconsider. Instead, we have decided to host a section meet in April, an open in early May, and attend an "outside" meet in June (probably WUBBA-10) to round out our contest schedule. This will result in having to run fewer meets and allowing our members to gain experience from meeting rocketeers from different areas. We will finalize the plans for these meets at our next meeting (February 17), so be there if you have any preferences.

One point which should be made is that, like individuals, sections are limited to a certain number of meets. For this reason, we make our plans and select the meets we plan to fly for the section. If any ASTRE members fly at other meets, they must fly as "Independents", with no section affiliation. To do this, merely leave your section name

and section number blank when you fill in your entry blank.

This is the section of the editorial where I nag about lack of submissions, so to simplify:

NAG,

NAG,

NAG.

I feel better now. Well, I'll be seeing you February 17th.



THE DREAM IS ALIVE AND WELL IN GLOVERSVILLE, NEW YORK!!!

by Pat Perrella

Each Wednesday afternoon twenty-seven third, fourth, and fifth grade students converge on my classroom at Kingsboro school to discuss "what's up in space". They are members of the "Short Shuttlers", chapter 471 of The Young Astronauts Program. Organized in 1984 to help promote "a greater interest in math, science, and other related subjects" among American youth, the YAP boasts over 4000 chapters in the U.S., along with new programs in Japan and the USSR. The program supplies its chapters with a wealth of educational material as well as classroom aids. Most text books which are used in the average classroom today are way behind on the technological achievements of the United States. (I even found one which didn't have anything on the U.S. moon landings!) The YAP fills this gap by providing students and instructors with current information. There is also a nationwide computer network, "ASTRONET". Young Astronauts with home computers equipped with modems and printers can access new informational topics monthly.

Our classes are quite varied. With so many pupils involved, I've found it necessary to have several projects going so there is something interesting for everyone. Since our school also has a science fair in the spring, most of our

projects are developed toward this display. A classroom telescope is often used to observe the moon when it appears in the daytime sky. Creative writing and art is popular, as well as watching space related videos and NASA movies. Last year we hosted the NASA educational van at the high school with Young Astronauts acting as assistants to the NASA Educational Specialist during his presentations.

Without a doubt, the highlight of the group's activities is model rocketry. In the spring of 1985, we received an Alpha rocket kit which Estes Industries provided through the YAP. Only one student had any experience with model rockets, so throughout the summer we worked very diligently to develop our skills and learn more about the hobby. One of our early members, Etienne LaVallee, has further pursued his interest by joining the NAR and he is flying with the ASTRE Section. He finished among the top ten in the national rankings in the under-14 age division!

Etienne also assists during the after-school workshop which follows the class on Wednesdays. This group is also attended by several students from the other three elementary schools and the middle school in Gloversville. In all, we have 35 participants. Basically, the newer students build Estes kits while they are learning building skills and finishing techniques. Once they become more adventurous, they try other designs and ideas. I really stress proper safety practices and we review the NAR safety code quite often so they get an idea of the practical use of the safety rules. We hope this group will serve as a "farm team" for a better developed A division of the ASTRE section. There's a lot of good talent emerging from both girls and boys and the next milestone to reach is to see who has the dedication to fly competitively in the NAR.

I enjoy working with the group a lot and if you're in the neighborhood, just stop by the school on a Wednesday from 1:30 to 4:00pm. I guarantee you'll get caught up in the excitement and enthusiasm of the space age Young Astronauts.

BALSA SCRAPS

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.

HOW MANY FEET???...Gee, wanna make a snowman? While we diehard rocketeers have dreamt about the flights of summers past and future, the snow keeps falling. The Albany County Airport has recorded six and a half feet of snow so far this year, including a record 48" in January alone. Reports from the epicenter of the snow belt (Broadalbin) have not yet been received. Seems they haven't tunneled up to the surface of the snow yet.

BEEP...BEEP...BEEP... ASTRE has its first "satellite" member, Michael Pereira. Michael is a nine year old rocketeer from Great Neck, Long Island. We hope to see Michael this summer at some of our activities.

IT'S OVER... The logo contest has finally been decided. David Otto's logo was selected as the big winner at the last meeting. For his efforts, David gets a Cub Scout Rocket Pack. (You can pick it up at the next meeting, David.) We plan to begin using it this spring for patches, T-shirts, and club publications/advertising.

NEW SAFETY CODE... Well, it's now official, we have a 3.3 pound weight limit and G engines with the new NAR Safety Code. However, this doesn't mean you can run out in your backyard and fly your new monster tomorrow. The FAA has yet to clear the code, so you must have their approval for models over the old Safety Code. Also, state and local laws may not allow such flights, so check it out. Consult the January AmSpam for further details.

HOW ABOUT THEM GIANTS?... OK, so it's not your basic rocket topic, but the New York Giants have had a great year. Their performance in the playoffs (and their 12 game winning streak) are amazing. We congratulate and thank them for a great season.

THE COMPUTER CORNER

The Computer Corner is a new feature which will provide computer-oriented information for rocketeers. It may be software reviews, programming tips, or rocket math. I would like to hear from you to find out what you would like to see here and to see what rocket-related uses you have found for your computer. We inaugurate this feature with a software review:

"PROJECT: SPACE STATION"

Hesware (Human Engineered Software)

reviewed by Pat Perrella

This is an award-winning computer simulation of the planning and construction of a NASA space station. As mission coordinator you are in charge of designing, launching, assembling, and operating the station while dealing with schedules, budgets, politics, and public relations. Crews must be selected from a roster of 32 astronauts according to their specialities and abilities to work well together, information which is provided in individual crew profiles. Equipment and station modules are purchased and shuttle launches and landings are scheduled. Your decisions and their consequences are woven into the action of the simulation, making each construc-

tion unique.

"Project: Space Station" was developed with the assistance of NASA and is a close representation of their own space station development process. It is available for the Apple II family and Commodore 64/128 computers.

It's not really a game - it takes a lot of practice and study (a comprehensive 89 page manual is included) and planning ahead really helps. You can start missions and save them on disk to be resumed later. It reminds me of a long chess match and it is helpful to stop and save, as a well planned mission can take weeks. (That is if you don't go bankrupt or kill all your astronauts in stranded pods or solar flares!) At the present time we have three students in the Young Astronauts Program working on the program with me. We are all at different stages. However, none of us has started the "Research & Development" stage of the mission which is crucial to adding needed revenues to the budget. You also receive income from launching satellites to low or geosynchronous orbits.

Try it! It's lots of fun! It's a real challenge to make the "right" decisions and you can learn a lot about the intricate procedures of NASA along the way.

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 Pat Perrella

Send to: Pat Perrella, 16 Country Club Dr., Gloversville, NY 12078.

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

Signature _____ Date _____

ASTRE CALENDAR

- Feb 17 - Club meeting. Meetings are held in room 223 of the Classroom Building of Fulton-Montgomery Community College. The Board of Directors meet at 6:00pm and the general meeting is 6:30 - 9:00 pm. This month we will be finalizing the elections from last meeting and planning spring events. We will conduct an informal building session, so bring along something to work on and beat those winter blahs.
- March 15 - GODDARD III GSSS Open meet. North Branch Park, Bridgewater, NJ. 1/2A IPD, A B/G, A ISD, B ELD, B HD, C SRD, and Pred Dur. Meet fee is \$3.00 (A/B) or \$5.00 (C) before March 1st (fee doubles after this date). Contact Bob Kreutz 1301-A Comanche Ave., Point Pleasant, NJ, 08742, (201) 892-9148.
- March 24 - Club Meeting.
- March 28 - Sport launch. Dust off the cobwebs and bring out your models for the first launch of the year. Further details to be announced.

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- 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 - ASTRE Section meet. Events to be announced. Contact Jeff Vincent.
- early May - ASTRO-5 Open meet. Events to be announced. Contact Jeff Vincent.
- June 6 - MINUTEMAN II CMASS Open. Acton, MA. Events to be announced.
- June 20-21 - WUBBA-10 Regional meet. Center Valley, PA. Events to be announced.
- late July - ASTRO-6 Open meet. Events to be announced. Contact Jeff Vincent.
- August 2-7 - NARAM-29 National meet. Fountain Valley (L.A.), CA. See AmSpam for details.
- early Sept - Open meet Goddard Society. NH. Events to be announced.