

STARDUST

The Journal of the Albany Schenectady Troy Rocket Enthusiasts (ASTRE)
www.astre471.org
SPRING 2010



John Sicker glues on a fin at the Take IT / Fly IT build session. Photo by Alex DeMarco

Take IT / Fly IT Build Report

On March 20th, ASTRE met at ArchTech in Albany to build models for this years Take IT/Fly IT event at NARAM. As part of the NAR's outreach program a new flyer can go to NARAM and be given a free, built model ready to fly. This is done in the hopes to spark the flyers interest in the hobby. NAR sections from around the country donate built models every year. Although our club is small I thought it would be a good idea to get everyone out of the house and get those model building juices flowing.

In attendance were, Alex DeMarco, Chuck Weiss, John Sicker and Sarah Majot. We have built three models which I will be sending off to NARAM.

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Jim Cesare and son pose with Jim's V2 prior to it's first flight

Photo by Chuck Weiss

ASTRE Spring Fling Report Our first Sport Launch of 2010

ASTRE's first sport launch of 2010 was held on Saturday, April 24. After having to reschedule because of inclement weather the week before, we lucked out with a perfect day for flying rockets.

After a bit of a delayed start because the range gear had to be rounded up from a couple of different storage locations, the launch got underway about 11:30 AM. Alex DeMarco RSO'd the launch. The launch was also attended by ASTRE members Chuck Weiss, Jeff Vincent, Vince Giovannone, Mark Kulka and Don Martin our newest ASTRE member who joined on the flying field. We welcome Don to ASTRE.

It was a beautiful sunny day around seventy degrees with very little wind. Most flights were landing very close to the range head. Jeff Vincent started out the ASTRE 2010 flying season with his new Quest Penetrator model on a B6-4. The Penetrator replaced his Blue Ninja which saw it's better days last year. Alex followed with a Hyper X on a C6-3. Alex flew his RC SR71 on an E15 P. It was a nice flight but suffered some damage during landing because of the

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ASTRE would like to thank ArchTech for allowing us to invade their break room and drink their coffee. A fun time was had by all.

- Alex DeMarco

First Contact Meet Results

First Contact, ASTRE's first NAR sanctioned open meet in several years was flow on Sunday, May 16. The day turned out much better than the revised forecast indicated the day before. The ten to fifteen mph winds with high gusts never materialized. Winds were minimal until about 2 pm and increased to about eight mph for a couple of hours before diminishing again for the last hour of the meet. Temperatures were also very comfortable with partial sunshine through the duration of the meet.

Six dedicated ASTRE/NAR members including Alex DeMarco, Vince Giovannone, Mark Kulka, Dave Tregaskis, and Jeff Vincent and Chuck Weiss flying as a team gave ASTRE the five entries required to meet the requirements of an open meet. George Tregaskis participated in the unofficial random duration event. Several fliers also participated in sport flying including Dave's friend Maura. Mark Kulka's Wife Jean made the trip down from Tupper Lake with Mark to watch the flying. Tim Martin who contacted ASTRE from the website attended with several spectators from Parents Without Partners to see what model rocketry is all about. Tim took a membership form with him when he left. We hope to see him again at the range with some models to fly.

The contest flying started with Random Duration which has to be a contestants first flight of the day. The target time was thirty seconds. There were no aces in the event. Duration times ranged from 9 to 47 seconds. Everyone who flew random duration qualified. Four places were awarded in the NAR random duration event going to Alex, Dave, The Dead Woodchuck team and Mark respectively. Prizes went to Alex, Dave and George in the unofficial random duration contest. Alex DeMarco and the Dead Woodchuck team competed in 1/4A HD and

1/4A BG. Chuck's 1/4A HD Rosa Roc model took top honors with Alex qualifying for second place with a Tasmanian Devil. Jeff's 1/4A BG took first with Alex close behind for second place. Places 1 through 4 were awarded in 1/4A SDMR to the Dead Woodchuck team, Alex, Vince and Mark respectively.

Unfortunately, I forgot my camera and we didn't record the names of the sport flights at this launch. But several sport flights were made by Dave, George and their friend Maura, Mark, Vince, Jeff, and Alex. It was a fairly easy recovery day and I'm not aware of any models being lost. Of special interest was Vince's self designed model that sampled air particulates during flight. Vince has been working on this as a science project for quite a while.

Overall, the First Contact open meet and sport launch turned out to be a great day of flying and a lot of fun for everyone who participated. Thanks to everyone who helped with setting up, running and taking down the range.

Chuck Weiss

First Contact Contest Director

ASTRE Outreach Report

On Tuesday May 18th, I visited Allan Kirks technology class at Averill Park High School. I gave a presentation to approximately 15 high school students. Topics covered were the various types of model rocketry: Sport, Competition and High Power. We also discussed the various types of motors available and the propellants they use.

In an effort make model rocketry "Cool", I brought along a variety models. These models hopefully conveyed the idea that there is more out there than the standard 3FNC models.

For the finale I flew my Smiley Face saucer on a F Motor.

- Alex DeMarco

Second Contact Meet Results

Second Contact, ASTRE's second NAR sanctioned event of the year (did you notice the trend?) was flown on Saturday, June 19th, at our field in Guilderland. Due to the anticipated increase in wind speed over the course of the day I moved up the launch window by one hour. However, for the most part the wind increase never materialized.

The following events were flown: 1/4 PD, 1/4 SD, B ELD, Set Duration (45s).

The DeadWood-Chuck team of Jeff Vincent and Chuck Weiss emerged as the overall meet champions, followed by Alex DeMarco, Mark Kulka and John Sicker.



Newest ASTRE member Dominick Pinto eagerly awaits the launching of his rocket!
Photo by Phil Pinto

The Second Contact Meet was well attended. ASTRE welcomed many visitors during the launch. Phil Pinto and his son

Dominick spent some time flying models as did Monty Liu and his dad. One of John Sicker's co-workers stopped by to watch. We quickly put him to work timing models.

All in all a good time was had by all. We had clear skies and relatively light winds. I flew my Applewhite Rocketry CINCO on a Redline G with lots of smoke and red flame, very cool.

Be sure to watch the Yahoo group and the ASTRE471 website for announcements about future launches.

- Alex DeMarco



John Sicker having a Zen moment with one of his models prior to flight.
Photo by Phil Pinto



Monty Liu and his dad using a rocket as a walking stick
Photo by Phil Pinto

hard ground. Jeff tested an Ivey BG on one of the wimpiest 1/4A's we've seen in a long time. Glad he got rid of that motor before the First Contact Open Meet in May. Vince Giovannone test flew an interesting two fin rocket called a NACA Monoplane. The fins are slightly canted to also provide spin stability. It was an interesting illustration of the subtle things that can impact model stability. The model was marginally stable on an Estes B6-4 . It started out with what appeared to be neutral stability and then became more stable into the flight. The model was completely unstable on a C6-5 while demonstrating complete stability on a B6-2. It can be theorized that the neutral stability on the B6-4 was caused by the center of mass being too far back at the beginning of the flight. As the fuel mass burned off, the model became more stable. In addition, the increased rotational spin further into the flight increased stability. The even higher mass of the C6-5 motor made the model completely unstable. The B6-2 being slightly lighter (19.3 g) than the B6-4 (20.1g) probably accounts for the models complete stability using the B6-2. Another highlight of the launch was the V2 flight on a G80-10 by Jim Cesare. Jim previously contacted Alex to see if he could get some assistance flying his model at the launch. The 10 second delay on the G80 was a bit long causing the model to go over the top quite a ways before deploying the chute. But everything held together and the flight was a success. The model suffered a little fixable fin damage from the hard surface that it landed on. We hope Jim decides to join ASTRE and attend some more of our launches. Mark Kulka also made the trek down from Tupper Lake and got some nice flights in later in the day. Mark flew his FSI Orbit clone on the new Quest D5 motor. The flight was super straight and achieved an impressive altitude. The 4.5 second burn time brought back memories of the old FSI E-5 which was really a D power motor.

Photos from the launch are available in the photos section of the ASTRE 471 Yahoo Group.. If you didn't make it, you missed one of the nicest flying days we have had in long time. We hope to see more participants at ASTRE's next launch in May. The following is listing of most of the flights made at the launch - model, motor, flier:

Penetrator B6-4 Jeff Vincent, Hyper X C6-3 Alex DeMarco, Penetrator C6-5 Jeff Vincent, SR71 E15-P Alex DeMarco, Ivey BG 1/4A-3 Jeff Vincent, Richochet A8-3 Jeff Vincent, Smilie F20-6 Alex DeMarco, Frick & Frack B6-4 Alex

DeMarco, Richochet B6-4
 Jeff Vincent, Richochet C6-5
 Jeff Vincent, Birdie A3-4T
 Jeff Vincent, NACA
 Monoplane B6-4 Vince
 Giovannone, Earth Day F12 -
 ? Mark Kulka, Flying Saucer
 D5 -P Mark Kulka, V2 G80-
 10 Jim Cesare, FSI Orbit
 Clone D5-6 Mark Kulka.

- Chuck Weiss



Jeff Vincent's Richochet.
 Photo by Chuck Weiss



Vince with his Monoplane.
 Photo by Chuck Weiss



Alex preps his soon to be retired R/C SR 71 Blackbird while new member Don Martin looks on.
 Photo by Chuck Weiss

Event Calendar

August 22nd - Sport Launch

Location: Johnstown, NY 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Contact Information

Visit ASTRE at:

<http://www.astre471.org>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ASTRE471/>

Reach our officers at:

Chuck Weiss Pres@astre471.org

John Sicker VicePresident@astre471.org

Alex DeMarco Secretary@astre471.org

Jeff Vincent SeniorAdvisor@astre471.org

Sarah Majot MemberAtLarge@astre471.org

ASTRE Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

NAR Number? _____ Tripoli Number? _____

Date _____

- Junior member (under age 18) - \$5.00 dues
- Senior member (18 and over) - \$10.00 dues
- Family membership, above is the *primary* member - \$15.00 dues for entire family

Please mail your completed application(s), including a check payable to "ASTRE" to:

ASTRE Membership
c/o Alex DeMarco
43 Bloomingdale Ave
East Greenbush, NY 12061



It's here!
Your latest issue of **STARDUST!!!**

Inside you'll find...

- Take IT / Fly IT Report
- Spring Sport Launch coverage
- First Contact Results
- ASTRE Outreach Report
- And more...



Chuck Weiss scanning his Baby Bertha instructions
(photo by Alex DeMarco)

**Chuck reading the instructions?
Are you serious?
Look inside to find out why!**

ASTRE's Stardust
c/o Alex DeMarco
43 Bloomingdale Ave
East Greenbush, NY 12061