



## COVERING ROCKETRY IN & AROUND LOUISIANA

FEBRUARY 2008

### January Launch

The January SOLAR launch ended up being postponed for a week which is not unusual for this time of year, but it turned out for the best as the following weekend, February 2nd ended up being a beautiful day for flying. It started out a little cool but quickly warmed up to the upper 60's and the wind cooperated nicely. The launch site at Tinseltown continues to diminish, however, until something better is secured, or the site becomes unsuitable completely, launches will remain there.

Attendance was slim this month again with only the Mancusos and the Guidrys showing up. Ray led off the launches with a Quest Intruder on a B6 for a wind check. After drifting out a little farther into the field than he liked, he adjusted the angle for the next flights. His next rocket was an Estes Goliath rigged up with a "new" parachute that Ray Sr. picked up. The chute has no shroud lines but connects with a piece of mesh which virtually eliminates the possibility of tangling. The only downside is that the extra bulk prevents it from being used in a tube smaller than about a BT-50. The chute performed perfectly and was then loaded up into his Blue Ninja for the next flight, again working fine. The last two flights for Ray were two new builds. The first was an Estes D-Region Tomahawk powered by an E9 motor. The lift-off was slow and im-

pressive and the flight was straight although not as high as Ray was expecting. Ray noted that the kit is a fairly easy build but the plastic parts add to the weight, accounting for the lower altitude. Ray's final rocket for the day was a very nice Hawks Hobby Super Cherokee. The rocket has a 29mm motor mount, but Ray flew it on an E30 with the use of an adapter. The flight was real nice up to about 800ft and it drifted right back down in the field. Unfortunately, when Ray retrieved it, he discovered that the 18 stock parachute was apparently not enough and one of the fins suffered the consequences. The damage was not unfixable though and Ray plans to fly it on an F impulse motor soon, along with a larger chute, of course.

Ray's Daughter was also in attendance with some rockets of her own. Her first flight was a brand new scratch design by Ray called the Butterfly. The fins on this rocket are shaped like butterfly wings and for its maiden flight, it was powered by a B6 motor. The flight was perfect and recovered nicely on a 12 inch chute. Rachel's next rocket was the Lady Bug which again flew flawlessly. Rachel finished up flying with a Blue Ninja on a C11.

For the Guidrys, after a few misfires with the launcher, the first rocket up was our Estes Gauchito on an A10. Problem was that I accidentally grabbed an A10-PT and it took



### Upcoming Area Events

**February SOLAR Launch**

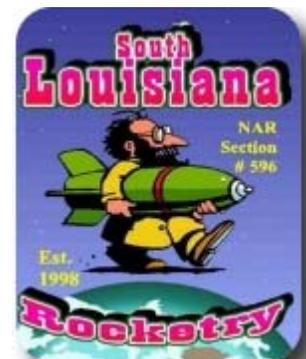
**February 23 @ 9am**

**Tinseltown Field**

**TRA-LA High Power Launch**

**March 8**

**Winnsboro, LA**



a dive about 2 inches into the damp ground. No damage though and we reloaded an A10-3T in the rocket and sent it up again just for fun. Next up on the pad was the old faithful Quest Spin Fin on a C6, followed by another Blue Ninja flight on a D12. With the winds still remaining rather calm, we decided to load up the Big Daddy and while it is showing a good deal of wear, the flight was fast and straight up, recovering out in the middle of the field. The Guidry finale for the day was a D12 propelled flight of the Estes Canadian Arrow. Again, the rocket flew well but one of these days, when I can find the courage, that rocket needs a little more power behind it. Maybe a bigger field would help.

And with that, the rescheduled January 2008 launch was in the books.



**Ray Mancuso's D-Region  
Tomahawk**

## **TRA-LA High Power Schedule**

The Spring HPR schedule has been set, it is as follows:

- March Launch—March 8 (March 23 Rain Date)
- April Launch—April 5-6 (Two Day Launch)

The April 5 & 6 launch will also have a club meeting/dinner at Jesse's Steakhouse on Saturday night. All HPR launches take place in Winnsboro, LA unless otherwise noted. Please see the TRA-LA website for maps and other important details.



## **New Website and Forum**

For those who may not have heard, SOLAR has a new website. Over the years, the old site had become subject to "abuse" through the guestbook and the free hosting site was very restrictive to customizing. Jared Elliot, one of the HPR regulars, volunteered to donate space on his server to host our site. On approximately February 1, the new site was uploaded. It is honestly a work in progress, as are almost all websites, so please send any input you want regarding content, photos, news, links, whatever and it will be included if at all possible. The photos page is blank right now and that one page is very important to attracting possible new members. Also note that due to some server changes taking place in the next few days, the site will be getting some extensive cosmetic work, so this would be a great time to send any information or photos you would like to be included. Just in case you haven't gotten the new address, here it is: [www.larocketry.org](http://www.larocketry.org)

Also, thanks to Jared, there is a new Louisiana Rocketry Forum up on the web. Forums are a great tool for getting information or advice and tossing around ideas. To participate, you are required to register, but that should not deter anyone as it is a private site and no information will be shared with any sort of commercial organizations.

The forum is just getting started and is evolving due to input from users, so it is a great time to get on board and have your opinions heard. Currently there are sub-forums dedicated to the various levels of rocketry as well as areas to post your photos and videos you might have. Check it out at: <http://forum.larocketry.org/>



## **Team America 2008**

From the information I have received from Team America, Louisiana has total of eight teams officially registered for the competition. Several of the teams have updated their status on the TARC website to "Design Phase". If you have been, or are in contact with any of the teams, please give us an update, either by email, or by using the forum. It would really be nice to help get one or more of these teams at least to the qualifying stage. Last year, a team from the New Orleans area showed up at a launch which was the weekend before the qualifying deadline. They did not have good luck that day and left virtually no time to regroup, repair, and try again. It is very important that test flights be made early to be able to fine tune the rocket for a qualifying attempt.

You can find more information and a list of the registered teams at the official website below:

<http://www.rocketcontest.org/>

## New NAR Certified Motors

NAR has recently released a listing of a few new motor certifications. Please note that ONLY certified motors are allowed at NAR (SOLAR) sanctioned launches.

The first three are new Quest motors that are allegedly manufactured in Japan. They are the A6-4, C6-3, C6-5, and a 20mm D5-P. The list also includes the new G80T from Aerotech which is a single use motor offered with 7, 10, and 13 second delays.



**Ray's Super Cherokee Lifts Off**

## New NAR Level 2 Exam

The NAR has issued a new version of the Level 2 Certification exam. This new exam is updated to reflect new technology, new safety rules as well as the latest release of the NFPA 1127 Standards for High Power Rocketry. The new exams are available from NAR by request for anyone planning a certification attempt. Due to concern expressed by several members, the old exams will only be recognized if the exam was taken AND passed within 12 prior to the release of the new exam (February 12, 2008) and the examinee must go over the changes in the test with the certifier verbally. Anyone who wishes to certify at Level 2 and has not passed the old test prior to February 12, 2008 must use the new version.

## “Fly 50,000 for our 50th” (Update)

Don't forget that this event is still going on. We will have nice color certificates for all “new” youth fliers at all SOLAR launches until this event is over.

## Upcoming Launch Ideas

As most of you know, our rocket group lost a great member a few months ago. Jerry Boudreaux was in the process of finishing up his HPR rocket to make his certification attempt when he lost his fight with cancer. The minute I got the news, once I could breath again, I had the idea to approach his wife once things got a little settled and ask her permission to see about getting the rocket finished and possibly up in the air. I didn't have to wait. I walked into the wake and it was the first thing she asked. Whitney and Andrew have already volunteered to lend their expertise so I'm certain the rocket will fly, but Whitney also offered a great suggestion. He thought it would be a great idea to have a Jerry Boudreaux Memorial Launch. Several of the people I met at his wake expressed interest in being present whenever the rocket was launched and many of them have connections to large pieces of property in the Breaux Bridge area. It would probably be best if we could find a launch site around there to make it convenient for his family and friends. However, wherever we can make it work out, it would be really special to have a large turnout. The rocket is not finished yet, so there will be some time before it can take place, but I wanted to get the idea out there for any thoughts and suggestions anyone has.

The other idea I had came to me as I was putting together information for the website. From what I can gather, SOLAR got its start in 1998. That means that sometime this year, our section will turn 10 years old. Would anyone be interested in trying to organized a 10 year anniversary launch? I know several of the originators of the section rarely get out to launches anymore, but possibly if schedules could be worked out, a date on which many of them could get away for a short time could be settled on. Any ideas? Opinions?



**Lift off of the Canadian Arrow**

## Editor's Notes

Not much more to say. One subject that keeps coming up between a few of the regulars is that of attracting new faces to the launches. There seems to be a few new ones on the HPR side, but it would be nice to get some more at the sport launches also. With spring coming up, a sense of optimism always increases. Possibly an opportunity will come up to help out with a scout or other youth group, or maybe one or more of the TARC teams will make a run at a qualifying flight. Then there is always the question regarding a new, hopefully larger launch site. I guess it is that old relationship between "spring" and "hope" that keeps the positive thoughts going. Anyway.....

Hope to see many of you at a launch soon!



**Giant Leap**  
**rocketry**

HIGH POWER ROCKETRY MATERIALS

6061 Hibiscus Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Phone: 225/954-0325 - Fax: 225/769-0710  
Email: Ed@GiantLeapRocketry.com

### SOLAR Officers

Griff Finkenaur [RFINKEN@entergy.com](mailto:RFINKEN@entergy.com)  
President

Chris Guidry [swampworks@cox.net](mailto:swampworks@cox.net)  
Vice President

Ray Mancuso, Jr. [Jr1253@aol.com](mailto:Jr1253@aol.com)  
Treasurer

Whitney Richard [whitney@bayourat.com](mailto:whitney@bayourat.com)  
Secretary

### TRA-LA Officers

Paul Sansoucie [paul@sansoucie.org](mailto:paul@sansoucie.org)  
Prefect

Edward Shihadeh [edwardshihadeh@cox.net](mailto:edwardshihadeh@cox.net)  
Vice President

Becky Harmon [CPARAH@aol.com](mailto:CPARAH@aol.com)  
Treasurer

Whitney Richard [whitney@bayourat.com](mailto:whitney@bayourat.com)  
Secretary