

THE UPSTATE ROCKETEER

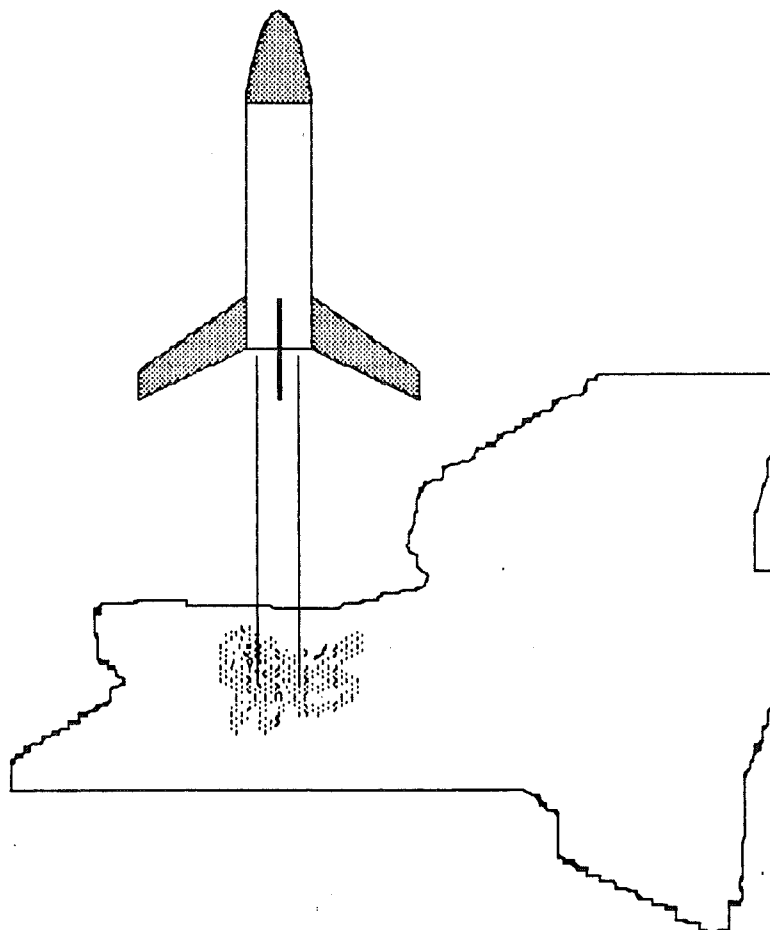
The Official Newsletter of MARS
NAR Section #136
Serving Western and Central New York



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Jeff Ryan (Vice-Pres.)	46148
Ferenc Roka (Sec.-Tres.)	11077
Mike O'Brien	28089
Andrew Dowd	27713
Bob Dowd	
Jay King	
Rob Landis	
Mary Wolf	46379

Blowin' In the Wind

Hello fellow Upstate spacemodelers. Welcome to another issue of *UR*. This month's issue is being edited while I am watching the NCAA college basketball tournament. As many of you probably know, my passion for college hoops is right up there with model rocketry. With one eye on the TV screen and the other on the computer screen, some mistakes may creep in. Spell checkers are great but they can't catch everything!

Anyway, this is an interesting issue with two alternate views of the hobby brought forth. One in a kit review and the other in a plan. The plan, submitted by downstate rocketeer and ASTRE member Will Safford, represents the high power (and often expensive) end of the hobby. The kit review, by MARS member Ferenc Roka, represents (in my opinion), the mainstream of the

hobby. That is, your basic Estes rocket (with a few twists). The responses I received to the subscriber survey in the last issue were as broad and varied as the hobby itself and this is part of my attempt to serve all the readers of these pages. Thanks to both Will and Ferenc for taking the time to send these articles in. Now how about the rest of you?

I do want to take some time here and get off the "Please send me something for the newsletter" kick (sorry, but it's something all newsletter editors are required to do) and talk about something that happened recently that could have a significant impact on our hobby. I am talking about the episode of the television show "Thirtysomething" that was shown on ABC on tuesday, February 28th. For those who didn't see the show I will try to summarize it for you.

At the beginning of the show, one of the main characters, Elliot, and his son, are looking at what appears to be model rocket catalogs.

I have since learned that these "catalogs" were actually "doctored" up versions of Michael Bank's and/or former Rochesterian Doug Pratt's books on model rocketry.

Unfortunately I was only half watching the show myself and didn't get a look at them. At any rate, the show progresses with the boy building what appears to be an Estes Saturn V.

Every beginner's first model, right? The father warns his son that he can only fly it with adult supervision.

Later in the show the boy's sister comes in the house with blood covering her face. The adults rush out of the house and find the boy rolling around on the ground, smoke in the air, with injuries to his head. At the end of the episode, we see the boy in a hospital bed, with one side of his head including one eye completely bandaged up. The possibility that he may have lost his eye or at least his eyesight in it is evident.

I was upset with this episode for two reasons:

1. For its unfair treatment of the hobby. The writers did not represent the hobby fairly. Even without adult supervision, it is hard to imagine an accident of this magnitude as depicted in the vague details of the show. It is much more probable for a boy to be seriously hurt when involved in almost any other boyhood activity (Little League, camping, skateboarding, bicycling, etc.)

2. For the impression of the hobby that it left on the millions of Americans who were watching and know nothing about the hobby. Imagine the response of some parents who know nothing about the hobby except for this episode, when their son or daughter sees an Alpha starter kit at Toys R' Us and wants to get it. Many parents may not wish to see their children

participate in model rocketry after seeing that episode.

I have been monitoring the comments of fellow modelers across the country on Compuserve's Modelnet. Many expressed the same thoughts as I have above. In addition, many have pointed out how fragile our hobby is. A show like this, coupled with simple ignorance, can literally kill the hobby.

The question is what can we do about it, now that the damage has been done. Pat Miller, the NAR president has stated that the NAR will continue to work with the DOT, NFPA, CPSPC, and local and state authorities as it always does when problems come up. The NAR has been very successful at doing this in the past and keeping the hobby alive and legal throughout the country.

As for the individual NAR members, the best thing that we can do is write to all the people involved to express our dissatisfaction with the show's treatment of the hobby. Following are addresses for the network and the Producers of the show.

ABC Television
77 West 66 Street
New York, NY 10023

Ellen Pressman
Thirtysomething
4024 Radford Avenue
Administration Building, #340
Studio City, CA 91604
(continued on page 7)

MARS February Meeting Report

Six members were in attendance at the MARS February meeting, including new MARS member Jay King. Jay, whose name appeared on a list of NAR members sent to me by Pat Miller, responded to a mailing of the newsletter to local NAR members. Welcome aboard Jay! It's good to have you with us.

The meeting started with Roy Metz showing us his parachute packing method featured in the February UR. Since the graphics didn't photocopy well Roy brought a model and a chute along to give us a demonstration of the technique. Thanks Roy.

A rather informal election of club officers was next. The officers remain basically unchanged with Roy still the Senior Advisor, Dan the President and Ferenc serving as Secretary-Treasurer. This year however we have a Vice-President, Jeff Ryan.

The other main business of the meeting was the planning of an NAR sanctioned contest. The contest will be held on June 10th with a raindate of June 11th. It was decided that since this was to be

the first sanctioned contest to be held in Rochester for a few years, that it not be an Open meet but rather it will be a local meet. A local meet is a new type of meet under the new Pink Book. It is identical in most respects to a section meet but will allow all NAR members from Western and Central New York to participate. We will try to publicize the contest as much as possible including an entry in the *American Spacemodeling* Launch Windows column.

An unofficial highlight of the meeting was examination of the new Estes catalog. Thanks to Roy Metz and Ferenc Roka for bringing the catalogs along.

It was decided to take up Rob Landis on his offer of reserving guest tickets for the club at the planetarium so we will be "meeting" there for the March meeting. See a report of this outing elsewhere in this issue.

BIG BERTHA CONTEST

Attention all Upstate Spacemodelers. Sunday April 16th is the first annual Upstate Big Bertha contest. This fun event will take place at 2:00 PM at Black Creek Park. Come on out and enjoy some friendly competition with your fellow modelers at this contest in recognition of the grand old lady of the Estes model rocket fleet - the Big Bertha. All events must be flown with an Estes Big Bertha. The contest will be comprised of the following four events:

1. A Parachute Duration. For this event, one flight will be allowed using an A engine. The rocket must come down as a single piece using a parachute for recovery. The duration of the flight will be timed (from liftoff until it touches the ground) and the model that stays up the longest will be the winner.

2. C Streamer Duration. Again, one flight only will be allowed,

this time with a C engine. A streamer must be used for recovery. The winner again in the model with the longest time.

3. Open Spot Landing. In this event any certified engine may be used with the model landing the closest to a spot marked on the field declared the winner.

4. B Ping Pong Ball Duration. Each model will carry a Ping Pong ball that is to be released at ejection. Timing will start at ignition and stop when the ping pong ball touches the ground. The winner is the contestant with the longest time. Note: This is a CHAD(Cheap and Dirty) altitude event.

Prizes will be awarded to the winner of each event as well as to the overall winner. Come on out and join in the fun!

Thanks to HUVARS and the HTF BBS where this idea came from.



As the ModRoc World Turns...

(news & rumors heard 'round the hobby)

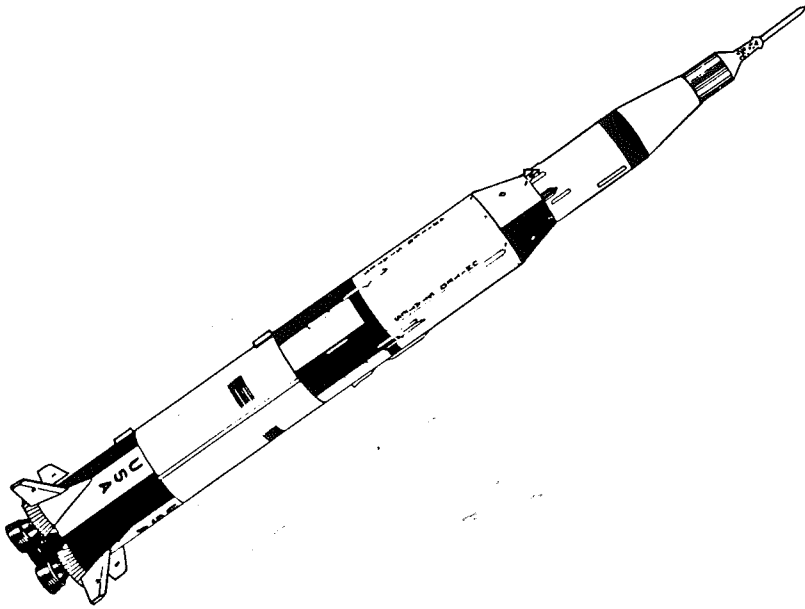
Industry News... Several companies have recently released their 1989 catalogs, one of them being Estes. Estes has brought out several new kits. Those of most interest include a 1/72 scale model of the Titan IIIE, the rocket that launched the Voyager and Viking space probes. Another is the model on the back cover, the Explorer Aquarius. The Aquarius is a SciFi futuristic model that looks like a cross between something from "2001" and a model rocket. Both these kits are skill level 4. Another model that is sure to be a popular is the Super Big Bertha. In the tradition of the Maxi-Alpha, this skill level 2 kit is a scaled up version of the Big Bertha. Thanks to this model we now have another nose cone to fit the BT-80 body tube. Another skill level 2 kit that stands out from the typical Estes kit is the SDI Satellite. The nose cone of this model appears to be the payload of the Geo Sat LV or something that looks like it. Overall 16 new kits were added, while 20 were dropped. Kits that were dropped include the traditional Scout and the Skyhook. Hard to imagine an Estes catalog without them! Other kits that were dropped of note include the Honest John (again), the Gemini-Titan, the Mini-Shuttle, and the Mini Mars Lander. Many starter kits were dropped including the X-15 starter, Ninja starter, Discovery starter, and the Deluxe starter. Also appearing this year are two ready to fly kits, the Minuteman and the Patriot. Strictly opinion on the Estes catalog. The new catalog seems to be a marketing response to offerings by MRC and the now defunct and never was Enertek. In the last two years, Estes has introduced a skill level 4 (Titan IIIE) and a skill level 5 (Saturn V) scale model, another relatively large skill level 4 model (Explorer Aquarius), as well as the skill level 2 but HPR type Super

Big Bertha. It would seem these models would be attractive to the "adult" rocketry crowd that Enertek was supposed to be after. On the other hand, the Patriot and Minuteman seem to be in direct response to the MRC "RTF" models. Other companies that have new catalogs out include *Apogee Components* and *North Coast Rocketry*. In other industry news, a couple weeks ago I received a letter from Ed Reilly of Buffalo, where Ed told me about attending the Toy Fair in New York City in February. While there, Ed saw that Cox was displaying many of their old models including the Honest John, Saturn 1b, Saturn V and others. With in days of receiving Ed's letter Doug Pratt posted a message on Compuserve's Modelnet stating that he received word from John Elliot of Cox that Cox is definitely getting back into model rocketry. Doug says they have published a flier that shows the Saturn 1B, Saturn V, Honest John, X-15, Little Joe II and the Space Shuttle America twin glider. They are to have the kits in the hobby stores by fall. After the debacle with Enertek, I will believe it when I see it!

Heard on the Net... Other items "heard" recently on Compuserve's Modelnet forum. Changes are underway for NAR insurance. It seems the agreement with the AMA under which the NAR obtained insurance for its members caused problems with the IRS as far as treating the AMA as a nonprofit organization. Because of this, the NAR and the AMA have worked out an agreement whereby NAR members wishing insurance will join the AMA as affiliate members. The cost for joining is \$7.00. The only benefit for joining will be the insurance.

The coverage will be \$100,000 for bodily injury and property damage with a \$500,000 aggregate. NAR Sections can apply

(continued on page 9)



MARS Has Planetarium Outing

On Friday March 17th, a group of 9 MARS members and guests spent the evening at the Strasenburgh Planetarium. Rob Landis was our host for the night. Rob arranged for guest passes for the MARS group to take in the show. Prior to the show, Rob took us behind the scenes and gave us a glimpse of the tools, techniques and processes used to prepare the planetarium shows. Rob also took the time to show us his Cineroc/Space Shuttle video taken out in Colorado as well as some footage of the original Estes Cineroc footage used in a promo film that Estes put together over 16 years ago! After our "tour" we took in the show which included the Northern Nights, Northern Lights Mini-Show and the Starflight Feature Show. The shows were informative and interesting and the behind the scenes look beforehand made one appreciate them and the work that goes into them that much more. MARS thanks Rob for an enjoyable and informative evening. Thanks Rob, it was great!

*(Blowin' In the Wind
- cont. from page 2)*

If you saw the show and are unhappy about it as well, please write to the above addresses. Express your dissatisfaction with the poor way that they treated our hobby. If you did not see it, well I can't ask you to write to protest something you didn't see but perhaps MARS could draft a letter that all the club members could sign. It has also been suggested that the sponsors of the show should be written to but I have no idea who the sponsors are. Well that's about all I have to say on the subject at this time. More info about it can be found in "As the ModRoc World Turns" elsewhere in this issue.

You will note in the Events Calendar many new listings. Most of them are here in Rochester or in nearby (3 hr. drive from Rochester) Amsterdam, NY. These events are scheduled for April, May and June so take a look, clear your calendars and start building. Ten of the 12 weighting factors allowed by the Pink Book for a contest year can be achieved by flying in contests in Rochester and Amsterdam this spring and summer.

In April, MARS will be holding a Big Bertha Contest. Look for information on it elsewhere in the issue too. Until next time.

Dan

Kit Review - Estes Sprite

by Ferenc Gy. Roka, NAR# 11077

Recently, a lot of the emphasis in Model Rocketry has been on the large scale birds: the upping of the weight limit, and the increase in engine power.

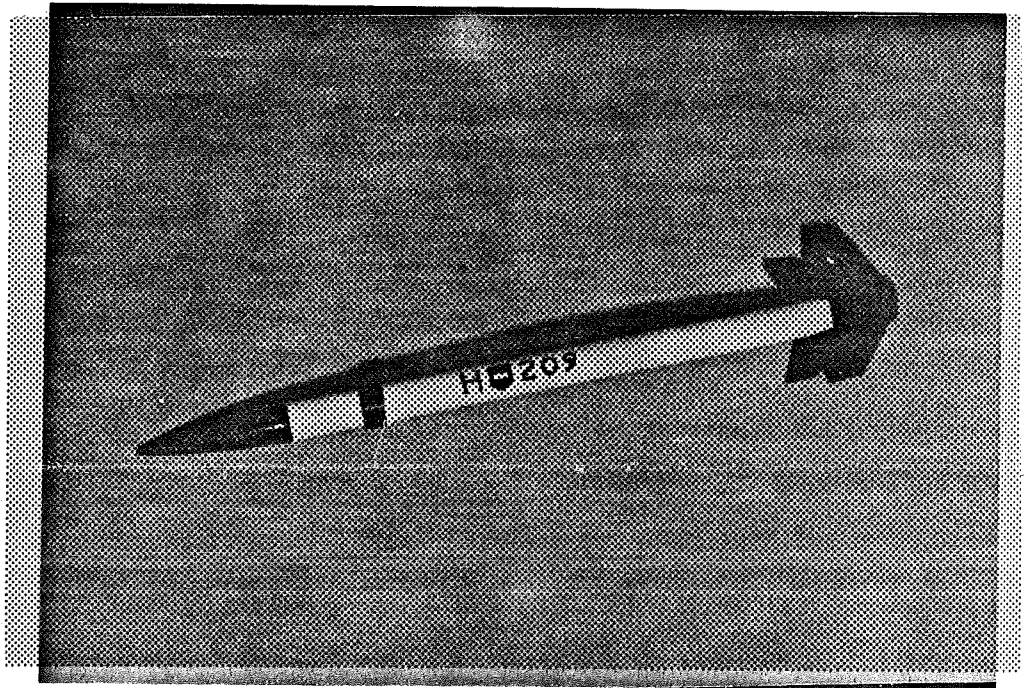
However, its good to know that those of us who are not blessed with vast salt flats for flying fields or the desire to run a marathon to accomplish recovery have not been forgotten. Last year Estes introduced three kits,

all variations on a theme revolving around common parts: a one piece plastic fin unit (incorporating the lower launch lug), a plastic nose cone, and a unique upper launch lug ring/shock cord anchor, on a BT-5 body tube. The finish length of each combination is just under 12 inches.

I chose to build the "Sprite". The fin unit on this kit is installed "backwards" to give it a forward swept look. The rocket

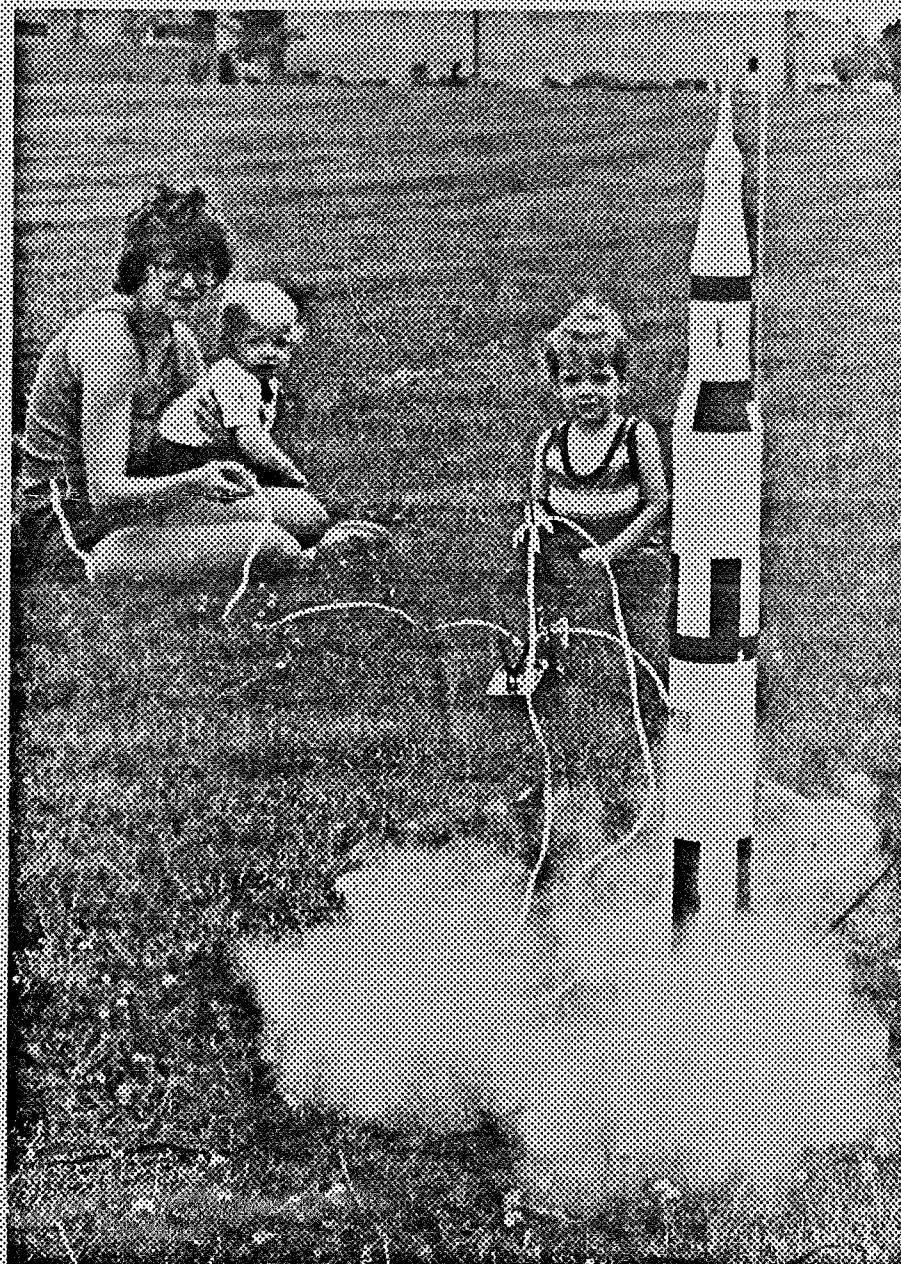
was built per kit instructions, and went together as advertised: quickly and well. One area I had my doubts about was the shock cord anchor. This is a plastic ring that also has the upper launch lug molded into it. The rubber shock cord is passed through a slit in the body tube and this ring is glued over it to form the anchor. A very quick and efficient method, but would it hold?

I needn't have worried. The mount has remained secure in flight, and after repeated tugging at the work bench. The model does fly well and just think, for the cost of one "G" motor I can fly this bird over a dozen times! The Sprite kit (#0885) list currently at \$3.19 so that won't put much of a dent in your wallet either.



(As the ModRoc World Turns.....cont.)
 for coverage by chartering as an AMA club for \$20.00 per year. Coverage for Sections is the same as before. Along with this, there are new rates for NAR membership. These rates are Juniors-\$15.00, Leaders-\$15.00, Seniors-\$25.00. More details on these items will be appearing in future issues of American Spacemodeling. The February 28th episode of *Thirtysomething* (See editorial for details) dominated discussion in the rocketry part of the net recently. Among things mentioned were that Estes was asked to review parts of the script and did not allow their catalog to be used. Also, Estes did not mention any of this to the NAR. If they had, the NAR may have been able to stop it or change it. In addition, one hobby store owner reported loss of sales as a direct result of the show. Opinion among modelers seems to be in two camps. Those who saw the show and were pretty upset about and those who didn't see it but have expressed concern over it. The other consensus seems to be that other than writing to the network and the studio, about the only thing we can do is wait and see what happens. On a related note, Ed Reilly recently wrote and told me that "I recently saw on HBO a movie called 'THE GATE'. It's a story about a couple of kids who release some demons by mistake. I was surprised to see a scene in the movie where 3 kids are launching an Estes X-15 model. Just as I was thinking how nice it was to see someone doing rocketry in the movies, my joy turned to horror as I

watched these kids blast off their model. They stuck a wick in the engine and lit it with a match...while sitting practically on top of it!! HOLY SAFETY RULES BATMAN!! There goes years of explaining to people that rocketry is different from fireworks...that's Hollywood for you." Ed is right, Hollywood has "discovered" our hobby and it seems that it would be better if they hadn't!



Ed Reilly's Cox Saturn V being launched by his wife while his kids looks on. Now a collector's item, Cox Saturn V may again be available in hobby stores by next fall.

The WUBBA-Roc
a sport model
and former F SR competition design
by Will Safford

In volume 2, number 6 of ASTRE's newsletter, *Star-Date* (6/88), my plan for an F SuperRoc was published. Check it out-it is a neat plan, if I do say so myself. In it I made reference to an earlier model that I had once built, and I said that I might write an article on it. Well, Dan Wolf, the editor of this newsletter has asked for articles, so here is that plan.

I used this model in the early '80s F SuperRoc. Besides doing well in competition, it flew spectacularly as a demo model. I used to launch it with everything from FSI E60 to SSRS and Crown F67 motors. Unfortunately, it crashed last year when its motor's ejection charge did not go off, so it is now a "pretzel-roc". I have just ordered parts to rebuild it. Here is the plan, so you can build it, too.

Construction of this model is mostly straightforward. The top BT-11 tube is glued into the top BT-18 tube just like an engine mount. Anyone who has built a "Two-Minute Egg" can make the transition shroud. Just trace the pattern onto some good-quality stiff paper (magazine covers work well) or thin (1/32 inch) A-grain balsa, form it into a cone, test fit it onto the model, then glue it onto the model. Also, this model uses through-the-wall fin construction. The tabs on the fins fit snugly into the slots cut into the tube, making a strong glue joint. To do this you must first mark the body tube for three fins. Make a mark 3/32" to the right of each previous mark, and draw lines through the marks. Mark the parallel lines 3.5 inches and 5.5 inches from the rear of the tube. Then cut out the slots demarcated by these lines. Glue the engine mount into the tube before gluing the fins in, making

sure not to get any glue from the engine mount into the slots. Then glue the fins into the slots. I use the shock cord mount design from the LOC kits. See the figure for details. Use nylon chalking line for the mount.

Here are some words on the design of this model. It was originally built out of 24 inch lengths of ACE tubing. Korey Kline has informed me that he no longer stocks the 1.8" tubing, so I have substituted North Coast Rocketry parts in this design. They sell their body tubes in 34" lengths. To preserve the original dimensions, I have specified that the top BT-18 be 14" long. (You can make a neat "little" rocket for D and E motors with the leftover BT-18 tubing.) Also, my original design had extra BT-11 tubing which could be spliced in with tube couplers, as we often do with smaller SuperRocs. Because of this, the nose cone was not glued in. You can extend your model, too, if you like. Just keep the weight of the model with the motor under 16 ounces if you fly this model without an FAA waiver, and do not use a high-thrust motor if the model is really long.

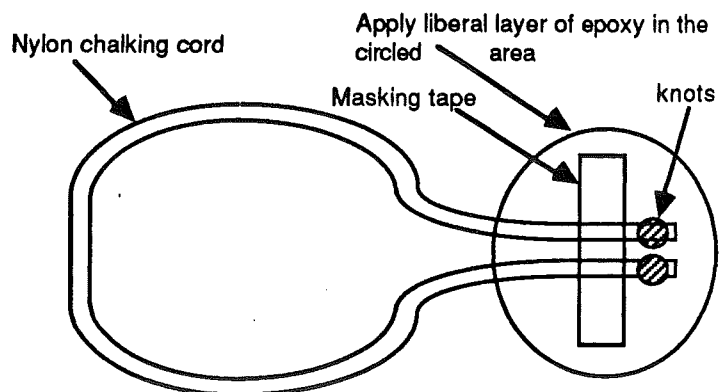
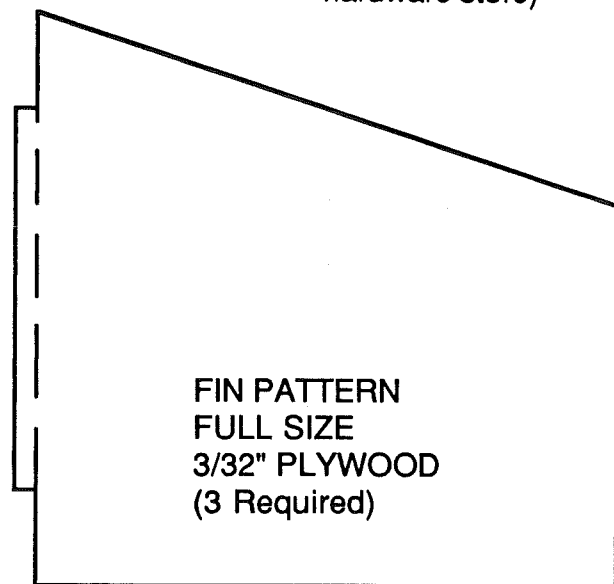
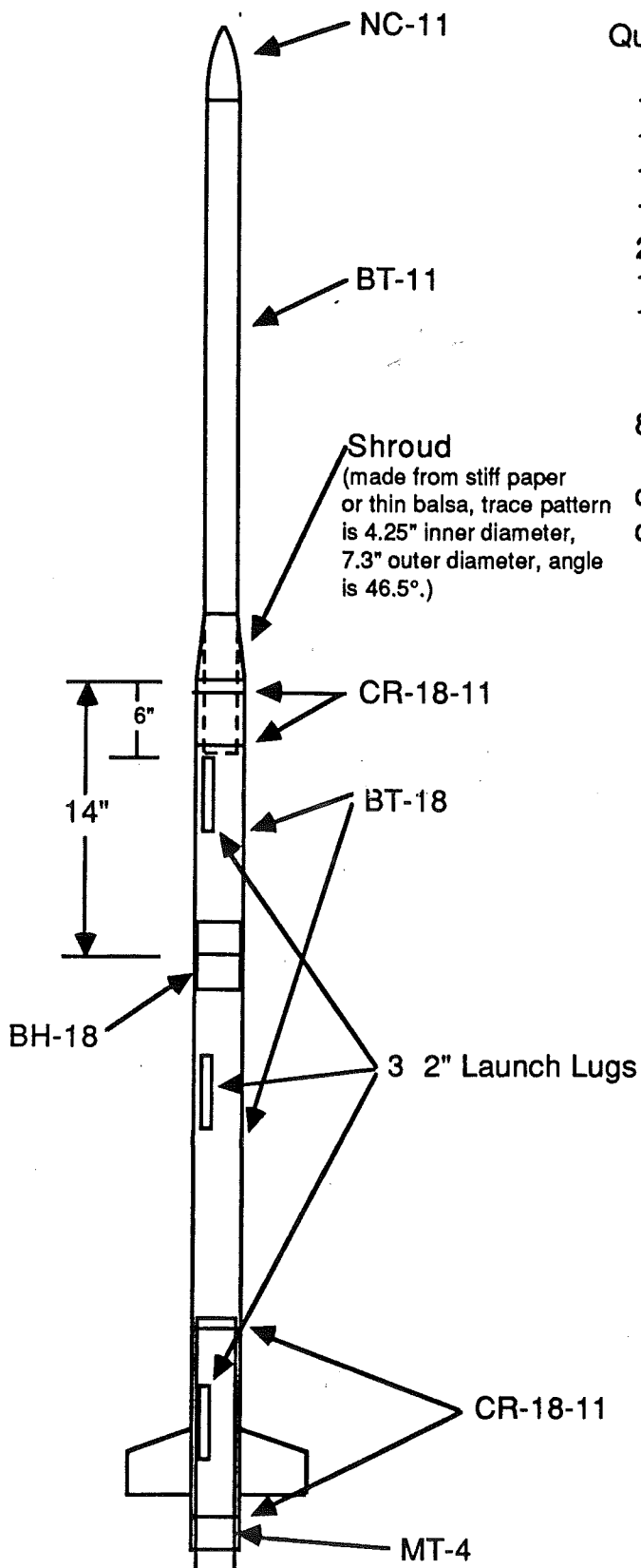
This model flies really well. It lances into the sky. Try it with a high-thrust motor such as an F80 or E50, and watch it jump into the sky. Also try it out with a new Aerotech F41 or G60 "white lighting" motor, available from Aerotech or through distributors (specify the "WL" motor). They are interesting, and they cost the same as other Aerotech motors. Also, use a long launch rod on a sturdy launcher. I recommend, and use, a 1/4" by 6 foot launch rod.

I hope you enjoy this model as much as I did. Let me know how yours works. Happy flying.

The WUBBA-Roc

PARTS LIST:

Quan.	Part #	Description
2	NCR BT-18	Lower Body Tubes
1	NCR BT-11	Upper Body Tube
1	NCR MT-4	Motor Mount Tube
1	NCR BH-18	Bulkhead
1	NCR NC-11	Nose Cone
2 sets	NCR CR-18-11	Centering Rings
1	NCR LL-1	Launch lug (cut into 3 pts.)
1	RR X-30	x-form parachute (or Space Dynamics 24" 'chute)
8 feet		3/8" wide elastic (from sewing shop)
one sheet		3/32" plywood
one foot		chalking line (from hardware store)



SHOCK CORD MOUNT- Loop Nylon cord as shown with knots in end. Place in body tube and hold in place with 1/4" masking tape strip as shown. Smear thick coating of epoxy over the tape/knot area as shown.

Events Calendar

Model rocketry related events in and around the Upstate New York area are listed below. If you have a upcoming model rocket event planned, send info to the editor.

April 16th, 2:00 PM , Big Bertha Contest, Black Creek Park. Events: A Parachute Duration, C Streamer Duration, Spot Landing, B Ping Pong Ball Duration. All events must be flown with an Estes Big Bertha. See details inside this issue. Contact: Dan Wolf, 458-3848.

May 6th & 7th, The Trouble With Tribbles Regional Meet, Amsterdam, NY. Hosted by ASTRE. Note: Some MARS members will be attending. Contact Dan Wolf for more information.

May 27th & 28th, A Piece of the Action Regional Meet, Amsterdam, NY. Hosted by ASTRE. Note: Some MARS members will be attending. Contact Dan Wolf for more information.

June 10th, 10:00 AM, UPSTATE I Local Meet, Black Creek Park. Events: 1/2 A Parachute Duration, B Streamer Duration, B Eggloft Duration, A Boost/Glide Duration, Open Spot Landing. Rain Date: June 11th. Contact: Roy Metz, 254-5847 or Dan Wolf, 458-3848.

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