

# THE UPSTATE ROCKETEER

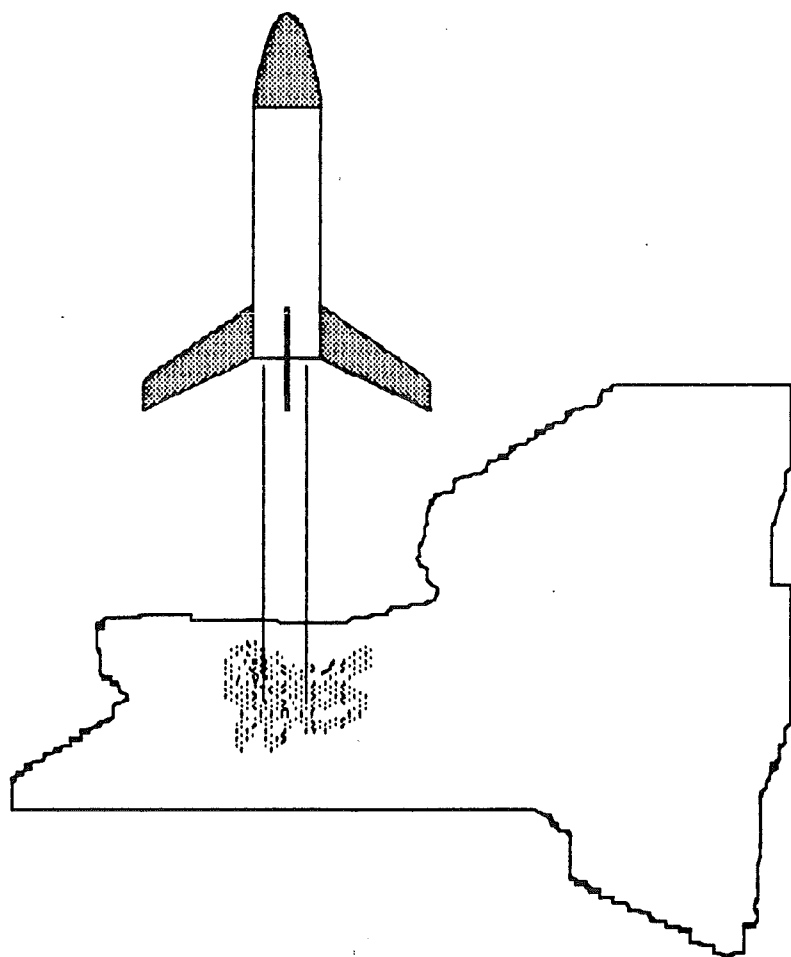
The Official Newsletter of MARS  
NAR Section #136  
Serving Western and Central New York



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*Upstate Rocketeer* c/o Dan Wolf  
235 Kislingbury St.  
Rochester, NY 14613

## MARS Membership List (as of 1/89)

<u>Name</u>	<u>NAR#</u>
Roy Metz (Section Advisor)	21672
Dan Wolf (President)	24516
Mike O'Brien	28089
Andrew Dowd	27713
Bob Dowd	
Ferenc Roka	11077
Jeff Ryan	46148
Mary Wolf	46379

### Blowin' In the Wind

I know, I know, this issue is a month late. I apologize very much. The holiday season plus the month of January were both much busier than usual around the Wolf household but things are returning to normal now.

I have received some interesting mail since the last issue. First off, I received a letter from J. Patrick Miller, NAR President. Actually, all NAR Section Advisors and Presidents received this letter. A large part of Mr. Miller's letter dealt with the low "voter turnout" for the 1988-91 Board of Trustees election. You may recall Mr. Miller discussed this in the "Presidents Corner" column in the November 1988 American Spacemodeling. As an attendee of the Association meeting at which the list of those who voted by mail was read off, (this was done so that if you were present you could have your mail in ballot thrown out so that you could vote in person) I was surprised by how few mail in ballots

were received. The majority of the votes came from members in attendance at the meeting. Mr. Miller asked me to talk to the MARS club members to find out why so few people voted.

This got me thinking about how to find out what the NAR members in the Upstate area are doing so elsewhere in this issue you will find a survey. One of the questions deals with the Trustee elections. There are also questions that will help me to make this newsletter a newsletter that will better serve its readers and questions that will help MARS and the MARS officers plan out activities for the coming year. Please take time to fill it out and send it in.

Speaking of MARS officers, the election of officers for 1989 will be held at the February meeting. Lets try to get a good turnout for this event. A notice about the meeting can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Mr. Miller also sent me a more recent list (Nov. 88) of NAR members in the Rochester area. There are several new names on the list. I am sending this issue of UR to them in hopes that they will become MARS members. I do not put a lot of hope in that however. Of the 30+ NAR members in around the Rochester area, only 8 are MARS members. I have sent numerous mailings announcing club launches and meetings as well as complimentary copies of this newsletter to them but have received virtually no word at all from most of them. I believe that other types

*(continued on next page)*

of recruitment are needed. Perhaps working with other organizations such as RMSC, Scouts, 4-H, and maybe school science departments will bring in some younger members. Displays at local libraries, schools, etc. plus some public demo launches are other techniques I heard have worked in other areas. I think this is an area that MARS needs to be more aggressive in this year, especially before the good flying weather is upon us.

I am pleased to say that my plea (bribe?) for newsletter submissions was at least partially successful. I received material from 4 different readers. Three from Rochester and one from the Downstate area. All of these people will receive a package of Sure Shot igniters. Roy Metz was the first one to respond and so Roy will receive the Centuri F15 kit. Thanks to all who responded. Now how about the rest of you?

Lastly, it is with great sadness that I must report the passing away of two time C division National Champion Al Nienast. Al died in his sleep last week. Those who knew him remember him as a gentleman on and off the flying field. I will always remember his swing wing R/Gs, particularly his beautifully crafted sheeted wing Eagle and Condor (sorry, I mean E and F engine) gliders. The midwest has lost one of the "good guys" and we all will miss him.

In closing, don't forget about sending in your UR survey. Also, don't forget about the MARS meeting coming up.

Until next time,

Dan

## December Snowbird Launch

In spite of falling on one of the coldest and snowiest days of December, two MARS members showed up at Black Creek Park for Snowbirds I, the last MARS sport launch of 1988. Ferenc Roka and Dan Wolf braved the elements for one last chance to "punch some up" before spring. With a temperature of 17 degrees and a brisk southeast wind, both Ferenc and Dan elected to limit the launch to a few birds. Most of the models were small low power ones. Ferenc flew his "unscale" WAC Corporal sporting an orange with white polka dot paint scheme. Ferenc also flew an old Centuri kit that uses blow apart recovery with two fins on one tube and one on another. The snow covered ground made the model's small pieces easy to recover. Dan flew a couple of small models then brought out Frosty the SnowRoc which he had built for his daughter to fly at the launch. Because the weather was so cold however, Mary stayed home but Dan flew it anyway. It turned out Frosty was under powered with an A8-3 and landed in the parking lot between Dan's and Ferenc's cars before the ejection charge fired but the only damage was one of the clear plastic fins was broke. To end the day, Dan couldn't resist flying one high powered model, and flew an F41 powered model. Unfortunately it landed in some trees north of the field and it took him quite a while to retrieve it.

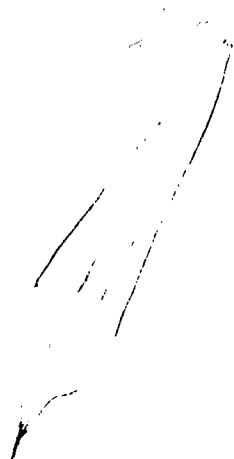
Afterwards at Dan's house, everyone (including Dan's wife Chris and daughter Mary) enjoyed the delicious cookies baked by Ferenc's mother. All in all it was a good day in spite of the weather. Remember, a bad day of flying rockets is *still* better than a good day at work. Look for the photos elsewhere in this issue.

## Parachute Packing - An Alternate Method

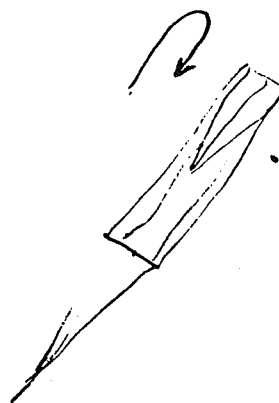
by Roy Metz NAR #21672

I have been using this method of chute packing in my model rockets for about 3 years. It is slightly more difficult to insert into body tubes this way, but it prevents any chute edges from catching on internal shock cord mounts. I haven't had a chute ejection problem, even in cold weather, since I have been using this method.

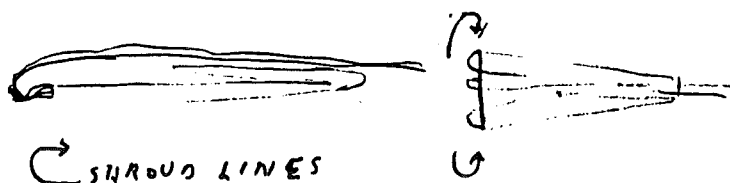
1. FOLD INTO SPIKE SHAPE



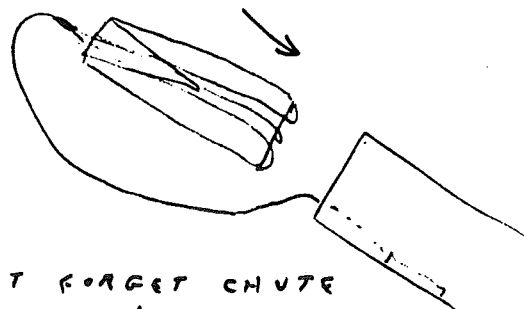
2. FOLD BACK  $\frac{1}{3}$  TO  $\frac{1}{2}$  LENGTH  
DEPENDING ON TUBE SIZE



3. PLACE SHROUD LINES BACK  
ACROSS CHUTE AND FOLD  
INSIDE



4. INSERT INTO BODY TUBE  
BACKWARDS - WITH LOOSE ENDS  
OF CHUTE DOWN



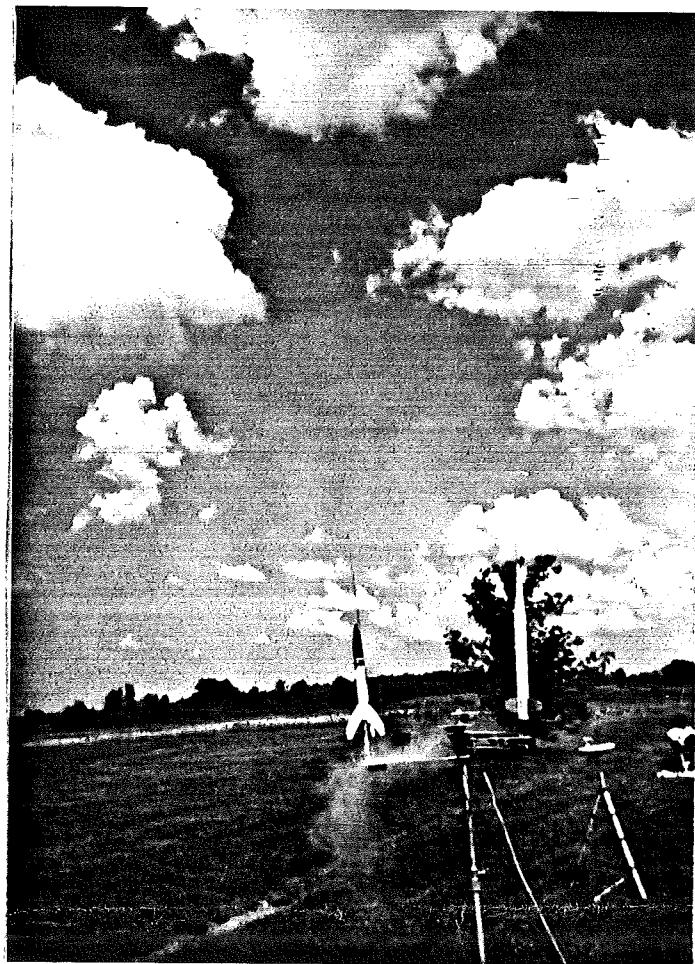
DONT FORGET CHUTE  
WADDING!

# Summer Launch Photos.....

## June 1988 Sport Launch - Black Creek Park



Roy Metz hooks up the clips prior to launch while Dan Wolf and Mike O'Brien prep their models in the background.



Roy's model moments after ignition as it heads for the beautiful summer sky!

Photos on this page by Ferenc Roka



Mike O'Brien just after recovering one of his SciFi models from a suborbital flight!



"Dr. Greg" demonstrates the right way to prep a model while his daughters and friends intently look on.

## **"Pennsylvania" Crude Kit Review**

Last year we reviewed three "high power" rocket kits. The three were all from LOC/Precision. They were the Graduator, the Viper III, and the Heavy Duty Beauty. As you may recall, I was very impressed with all of these kits. They were of very high quality yet were fairly easy to build. They were also made of very durable material allowing them to survive many flights. The only drawback to these kits seemed to be the price. The LOC kits tend to be expensive but the quality of them seems worth it.

This year I hope to run some reviews of kits from other high power vendors. This issue it's a kit from AAA Model Aviation Fuels, the "Pennsylvania" Crude. AAA Model Aviation Fuels was started in 1974 as a company that supplied custom blended fuels for model aircraft. In 1980 the company started the Large-Scale-Rocketry-Division mainly as a one stop mail order model rocket supply house for the northeast part of the US. Currently they carry many Estes parts, FSI parts and other building materials. They also carry the Estes, FSI and Aerotech motor lines. AAA is also a good source of Thermalite wick for use in flashbulb ignition of clustered engine models. Although they do not offer discount prices on other companies items that they sell, they have the best service of any mail order company I know. Everytime I have ordered from them, I have received the order within a week of when I mailed the order out. Besides the parts and engines from other vendors, AAA now sells its own kits for the high power crowd. One of the more popular and simpler of these is the "Pennsylvania" Crude.

AAA bills the "Crude" as the cheapest and easiest kit (for high power). For a price of only \$14.95 it is relatively inexpensive as high power kits go. It is not a small model either. With a diameter

of 2.6" and a length of 32 1/4" it is a nice size model for E and F power.

The kit is indeed easy to build with precut plywood fins, precut centering rings, and a preassembled payload bulkhead/coupler. The body tube, although not preslotted for thru-the-wall fin mounting like the LOC kits, is premarked for the fin positions. The assembly instructions say to poke a line of small holes along the premarked lines before attaching the fins so that they will bond well. This is a good alternative technique to the LOC thru-the-wall method and works well. The kit features a plastic nose cone similar to the MAXI-ALPHA. The fins are shaped such that they do not extend below the body tube. This allows the body tube to hit the ground first and absorb the shock rather than the fins. This is good since the recovery system is a 3" wide streamer and not a parachute. The advantage of that is that this is a high power model that can be flown from a smaller field. The streamer is a red, white and blue crepe paper type. Also included in the kit are some "Pennsylvania" Crude decals.

The kit instructions list a variety of E and F motors that it can be flown with. Although many composites are listed, my favorite motor to fly it with is the FSI F100-6. This makes for an impressive demo flight. It is also easier on the wallet. My second motor choice however is the F41-9.

Overall I rate this kit very high. The quality of the materials in the kit was very good. Construction is very straightforward. It is comparable to the LOC Graduator in being a good model for those "moving up" to high power and it also makes a nice sport and demo bird. A good deal at \$14.95. And if you want something bigger, AAA sells the MAGNUM PENNSYLVANIA CRUDE that is 57" long and 4" in diameter for \$49.95!

## **As the ModRoc World Turns....**

(news & rumors heard 'round the hobby)

### **NAR membership breaks 5000 mark! -**

From a note posted by Pat Miller on Compuserve's Modelnet recently. The NAR surpassed 5000 members for the first time since 1971. The membership stands at 5039 as of 12/31/88 - 2604 Juniors, 238 Leaders, 2197 Seniors.

### **Estes takeover rumors? -** Well sort of.

If you have been following Wall Street lately, it seems Damon, Estes parent company is in the midst of a takeover attempt. Evidently more than one party was interested, but in the end Damon agreed to be acquired by Nomad Partners (Nomad is Damon spelled backwards), a corporation formed by American Magnetics and Ballantine Partners for the purpose of acquiring Damon. It seems the interest is in Damon's drug and pharmaceutical businesses. Just think, if Kodak hadn't bought Sterling Drug two years ago for the same reason (to get into pharmaceuticals) perhaps they might have bought Damon! Anyway, word is that Nomad may sell off parts of the business to help finance the takeover, and one of the parts may be Estes. A popular rumor going around is that Monogram, the plastic model company, may buy Estes!

### **Model Rectifier Corporation Model Rocket**

**Catalog Available** - Recently I received a catalog from MRC of their complete line of Model Rocket Products. The catalog highlights all 13 of their kits including their scale model of the Sidewinder missile (which Ferenc Roka will hopefully review in a future issue of MR). In addition the catalog displays three different starter kits and the MRC engine line (A8-3, B4-2, B4-4, B6-4, C6-3, C6-5). The last page also has a listing of all the MRC parts which is essentially a complete list of replacement parts for the kits including body tubes, nose cones, decals, fins, etc. Also scattered throughout the catalog are

tips and information for the beginner. You can get a catalog for yourself FREE, just for asking. Send your request to Model Rectifier Corporation, Catalog Requests, 200 Carter Drive, Edison, N.J. 08817.

**Ravenna Rocket Research** has also recently came out with a catalog. This company, a composite motor manufacturer is back online after suffering some initial setbacks a year or so ago. After some successful launches at "Central Blast-1" including the launch of a nine foot tall, six inch diameter, 10.9 lb. rocket powered by nine H engines, the company is selling motors from size D through size H. List prices are typically lower than the equivalent Aerotech motor however at this time, the motors are not NAR certified. Word is that the company is seriously considering NAR certification so lets hope this happens in the near future. In the meantime, you must be a Tripoli member (or comply with NFPA-1122 some other way) to purchase these motors. Ravenna is also working on 18mm composite B, C and D engines and may offer them in the future. Write for a catalog to: Ravenna Rocket Research, P.O. Box 254, Ravenna, OH 44266.

## **Officer Elections at Next Meeting**

The next MARS monthly meeting will be held on Friday, February 17th at 7:30 PM at Dan Wolf's house again. (We had hoped on meeting at the planetarium but we found they charge \$40.00 for a meeting room per night so that ended that!) This is an important meeting as the election of officers for 1989 will take place. For those of you in the area who are not MARS members why not come and find out what being part of a chartered NAR section is all about. Also, on board movie footage from a "Cineroc Shuttle" (thanks to Rob Landis) will be shown. Plan on attending this one. A map to Dan's is on the back cover.

# FROSTY THE "SNOWROC"

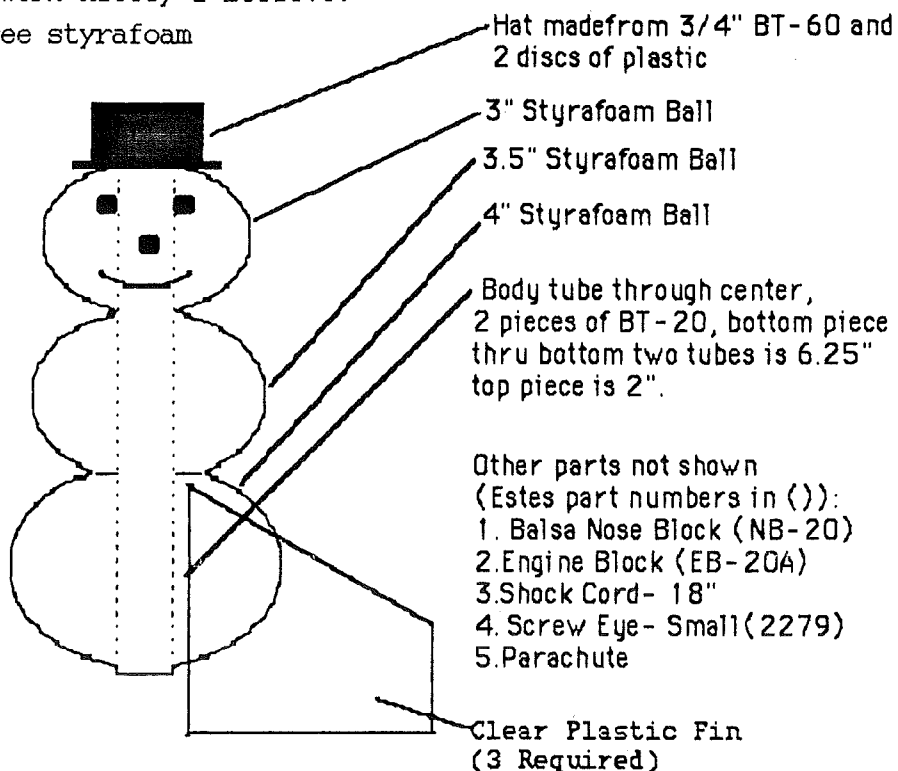
Frosty the "SnowRoc" was built for my daughter Mary so she could fly it at the MARS December 11th sport launch. She wanted to have a new rocket to fly because she was getting too old for her "bottle" rocket that she flew this past summer. Unfortunately, the weather was too cold for her to go to the launch but Frosty went along and flew anyway. He flew ok on an A8-3 but was underpowered. A B6-2 should work nicely I believe.

Frosty is made up of three styrafoam balls found in most craft stores. The larger two balls are glued together and the 6" body tube placed through the center. Flatten the balls where they are glued together as shown in the picture. The small body tube goes in the remaining ball. The hat is made from a 3/4" length piece of BT-60 with plastic discs, the top one the OD of the BT-60 and the bottom one with a diameter of 2.25". It is easier if you build the hat and paint it black before gluing it on top. The balsa nose block is glued in the top tube, making Frosty's head the nose cone of the

model. The screw eye goes in the block like in any balsa nose cone and the shock cord attaches to the bottom tube as normal. The engine block mounts the conventional way also. The fins are made from clear plastic so Frosty is stable without detracting from the snowman appearance. The fin shape is a clipped delta type with the root edge and bottom edge 4" and the fin tip 2". Insert the fins to the depth as shown on the drawing.

Before flying Frosty, a hole must run through the entire styrafoam body next to the BT-20 body tube to run the launch rod through. A hole must be placed in the top of the hat for the launch rod to fit through also.

. Photos of Frosty on his maiden flight can be found on the photo page. Hope you like this one. If not, how about sending in a plan you like.



FROSTY THE "SNOWROC"

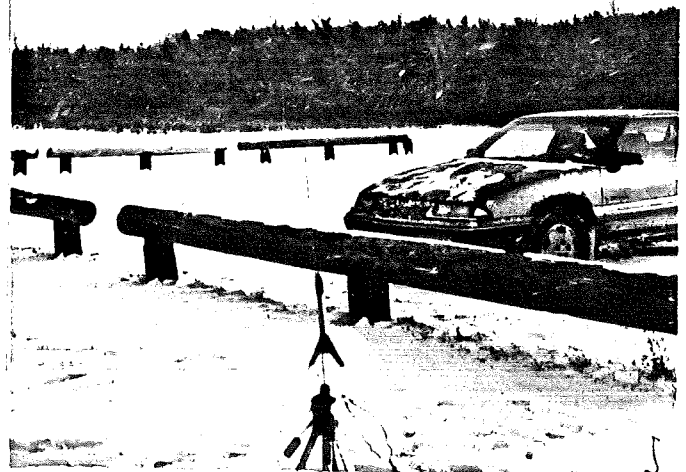


.....and Some Are Not!

## December 1988 Sport Launch - Black Creek Park

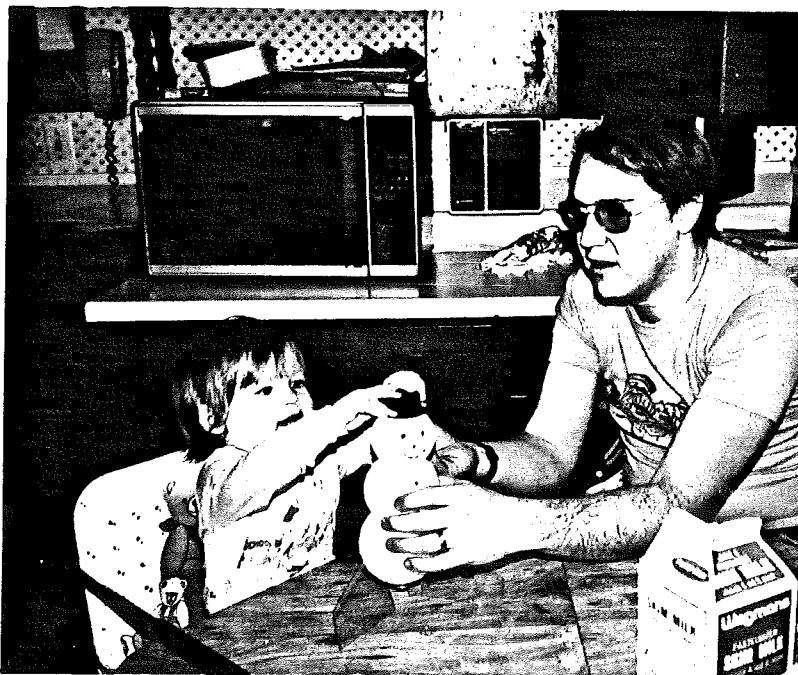


Ferenc prepares to launch his MRC Hornet as soon as he gets the micro clips unfrozen from his fingers!



Ferenc's Hornet just at ignition (note the smokeless flame below the model).

Photos on this page by Dan Wolf



Mary helps Dad (Dan Wolf) put Frosty's hat on minutes before his maiden flight.



Frosty sits on the pad, waiting to get "high", not on drugs, but on an A8-3.

## Upstate Rocketeer Subscriber Survey

In order for me to publish a newsletter that contains the articles and features that you the reader are interested in and also in order for MARS to plan and schedule activities that you are interested in participating in, please fill in the following survey, and mail it back to me. The more who participate in this activity, the better this newsletter can become. When completed, mail to the editor at the address listed on the front page. Thank-you.

### Part I - Who subscribes to this newsletter

1. How many years have you been flying model rockets? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What are your 3 favorite types of model rockets?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a. Basic model rocket ( 3,4 fin, A, B, C engine)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. Scale model
  - \_\_\_\_\_ c. High Powered models (E,F,G engines)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ d. Boost Gliders & Rocket Gliders
  - \_\_\_\_\_ e. Camera Rockets (Astrocam, Disc camera, etc.)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ f. Egglofters
  - \_\_\_\_\_ g. Staged models
  - \_\_\_\_\_ h. Clustered models
  - \_\_\_\_\_ i. OddRocs
  - \_\_\_\_\_ j. Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_
3. How often do you fly model rockets  
in the warmer months (April through September) ?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a. more than once a week
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. once a week
  - \_\_\_\_\_ c. twice a month
  - \_\_\_\_\_ d. once a month
  - \_\_\_\_\_ e. less than once a month
  - \_\_\_\_\_ f. less than 3 times a season
4. How many rockets do you build a year?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a. more than 12
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. 6 to 12
  - \_\_\_\_\_ c. 3 to 6
  - \_\_\_\_\_ d. 1 to 3
  - \_\_\_\_\_ e. 1 or less

*(cont. on other side of page)*

## Part II - Newsletter contents

Rank the following items 1 through 10 in order of interest.

- ☐ a. Sport Model Plans
- ☐ b. High Power Rocket Plans
- ☐ c. "Oddrocs" Plans
- ☐ d. Competition Plans
- ☐ e. Kit reviews
- ☐ f. Manufacturers news
- ☐ g. "How to" articles (finishing, painting, etc.)
- ☐ h. "High tech" articles (electronic payloads, cameras, computer programs, etc.)
- ☐ i. Club and area news, announcements, etc.
- ☐ j. ModRoc Photos.

## Part III - MARS activities

1. MARS meeting have traditionally been held once a month on Friday nights. Should this be changed? Please indicate the meeting day and time you would prefer and how often we should meet. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Rank the following items in order of interest for meeting activities.
  - ☐ a. Show & Tell (bring ModRoc Item and talk about it)
  - ☐ b. Videos/slides of prior launches
  - ☐ c. Workshop/building session
  - ☐ d. Kitbash contest
  - ☐ e. Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_
3. If MARS were to hold a local or open meet(s) this summer what are the chances that you would participate?
  - ☐ a. Definitely ☐ b. Probably ☐ c. Maybe
  - ☐ d. Probably Not ☐ e. Definitely Not
4. MARS often has sport launches (usually once a month) in the summer at a field in the Rochester area (recently Black Creek Park). What are the chances that you would participate in these launches?
  - ☐ a. Definitely ☐ b. Probably ☐ c. Maybe
  - ☐ d. Probably Not ☐ e. Definitely Not

Lastly, if you are a leader or senior member, did you vote in last summer's trustee election? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you answered no was the reason because:

- ☐ a. Did not understand the instructions
- ☐ b. Did not want to cut up my American Spacemodeling
- ☐ c. Did not realize an election was underway
- ☐ d. Didn't think it was important
- ☐ e. Just didn't get around to it
- ☐ f. Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_

## Upcoming Events

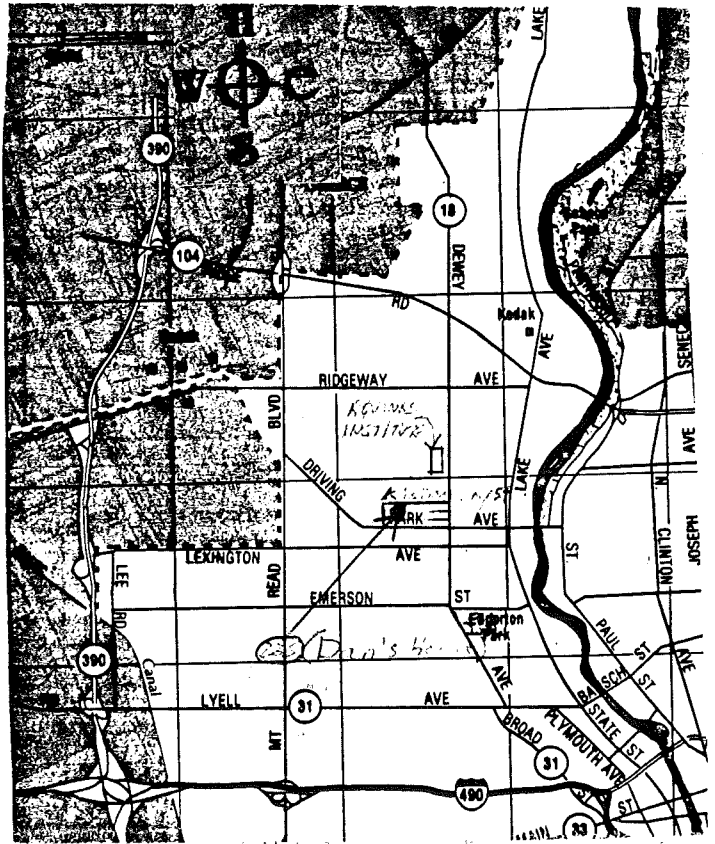
If you have an upcoming model rocket activity in your part of Upstate New York, send the info in to the editor and it will be listed here.

**February 17th, 7:30 PM - MARS**

**Monthly Meeting.** Dan Wolf's house (see map at right). Agenda: 1989 Officer Elections, Cineroc Movies.

**April 16th, 2:00 PM (date tentative) Big Bertha Contest.**

Black Creek Park. Fun meet with the following events: A PD, C SD, Open SPot Landing, Ping Pong Ball Duration. All events must be flown with an Estes Big Bertha. Special prizes awarded. Details in future issues of UR.

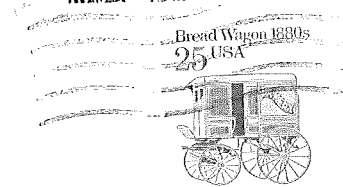


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