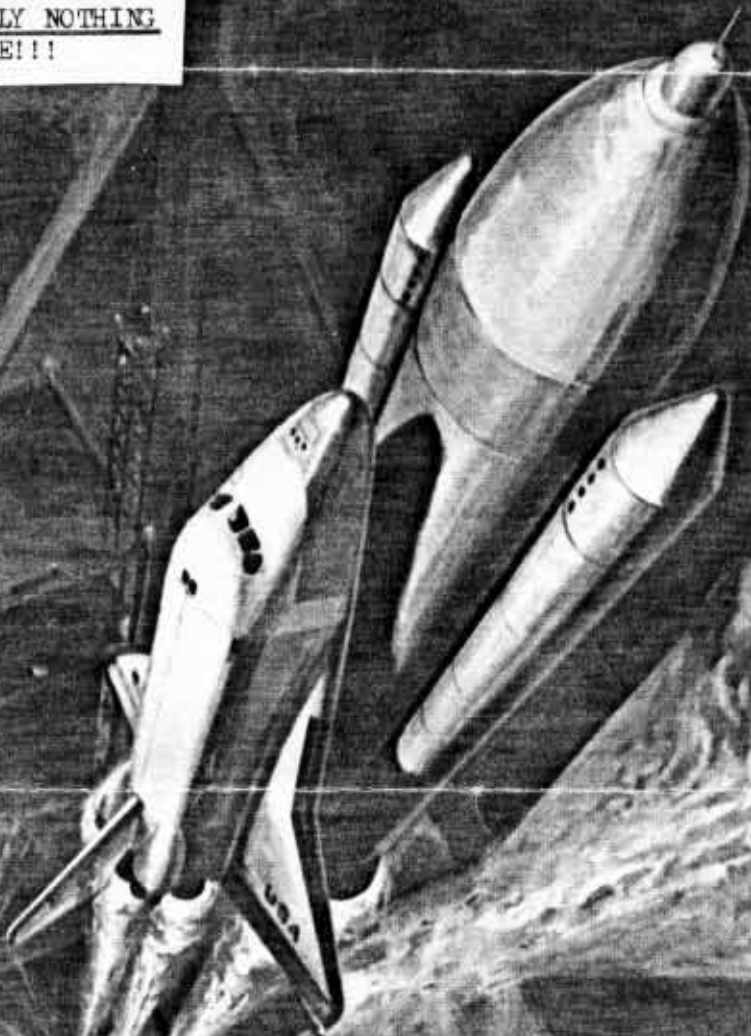


# THE LEADING EDGE

VOL. 4 NO. 3

IN THIS ISSUE, ABSOLUTLY NOTHING  
ABOUT THE SPACE SHUTTLE!!!



SPACE SHUTTLE LIFTOFF

VENTURI

VENTURI where Science Fact becomes  
Science Fiction.

## SPACE TELESCOPE

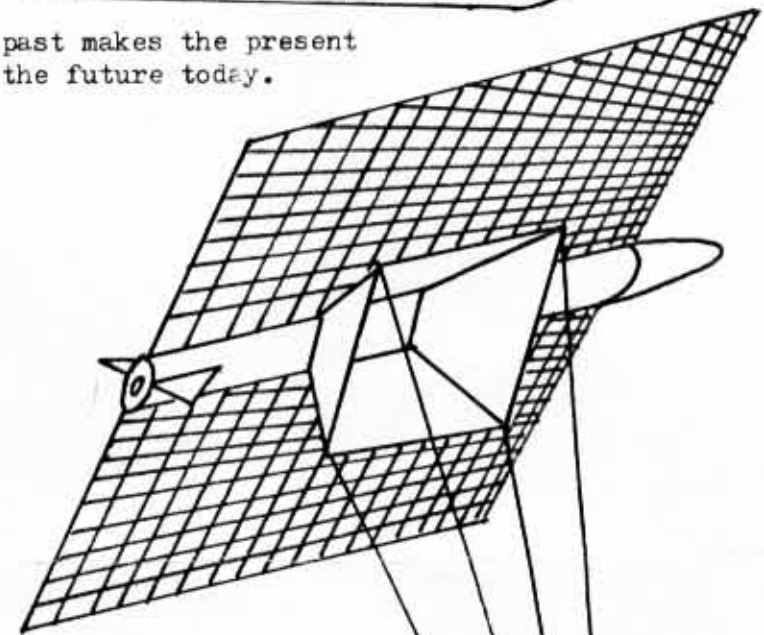
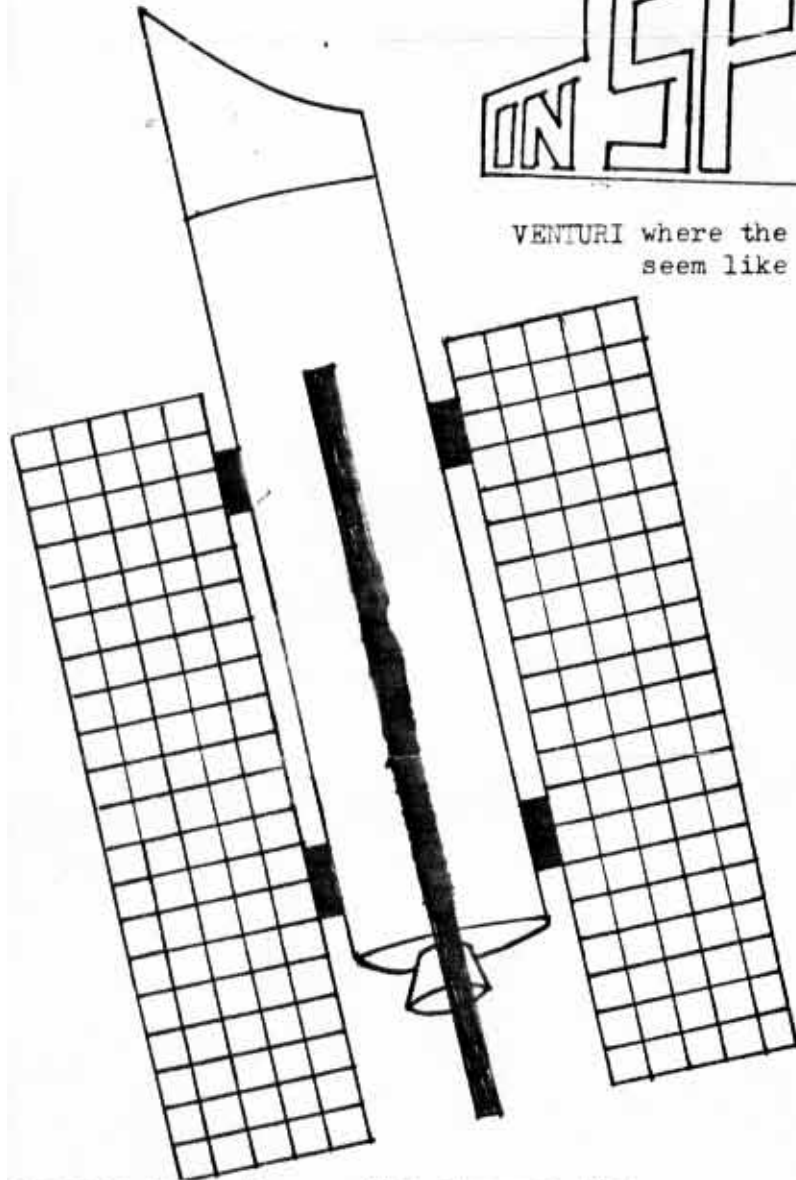
High above Earth's life-giving, light-distorting atmosphere the Space Telescope's 96 inch mirror will make all Earth-bound scopes look like yesterday's news.

Venturi's 1/100 Dubious-scale model of the ST can be flown today! (available August '82).

# PEACE

# ON SPACE

VENTURI where the past makes the present  
seem like the future today.



## SPACE POWER SATELLITE

Sometime in the not to near future huge solar "farms" will supply the world with electric power beamed to earth by microwaves. You can fly our 1/20,000 dubious-scale model of the SPS today! Its huge "solar panel" wings produce incredible flights with tumble-recovery. The display "microwave horn" stand removes for flight.

VENTURI where the possible becomes the improbable, the impossible becomes the ludicrous, where nothing is considered impossible until we prove it can't be done.

"Dubious" and "ludicrous" scale are registered trademarks of Venturi Incorporated.

Ric

# MODEL OF THE MONTH WINNERS



OOOP! Your infellable editor has pulled a boner and forgotton the name of Marchs' Model of the Month winner!! The model is an Estes Space Shuttle. Congratulations and my apologies.



The Model of the Month winner for April is Bill Hoffie and his Maxi-V2. Congratulations Bill!!

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VOL. 4 NO. 3 MAY/JUNE 1981

The Leading Edge is published bimonthly by and for the members of the Northern Illinois Rocket Association (NIRA), section 117 of the National Association of Rocketry and is dedicated to the idea that Model Rocketry is fun.

Articles, plans, newsletters and other items of interest should be sent to the editor: Ric Gaff, 331 third St., Northfield, Ill., 60093.

CONTRIBUTORS: Mark Bundick, George Riebesehl, Ric Gaff

All NIRA members are encouraged to give the editor their suggestions for articles and plans. Contributions are encouraged! We are trying to keep NIRA members informed about club and member activities, so we would like to hear from you.

# T minus ONE

- MONTHLY NIRA MEETING May 1st  
Glen Ellyn Civic Center 7:30 PM
- NOMID-81 May 2-3 Detroit, MI  
Sanctioned Regional Meet
- ROCKET WORKSHOP May 9th  
Glen Oaks Recreational Center 9-12 AM
- MwRC-81 May 30-31 Bong Base, WI  
Sanctioned Regional Meet
- MONTHLY NIRA MEETING June 5th  
Glen Ellyn Civic Center 7:30 PM
- BOATLOAD OF MAR June 20-21 Ft. Wayne  
Sanctioned Regional Meet

I don't get no respect! When I took my new scale model to the latest contest, they assigned me to pad 13. That wasn't so bad, except that there were only 12 pads.

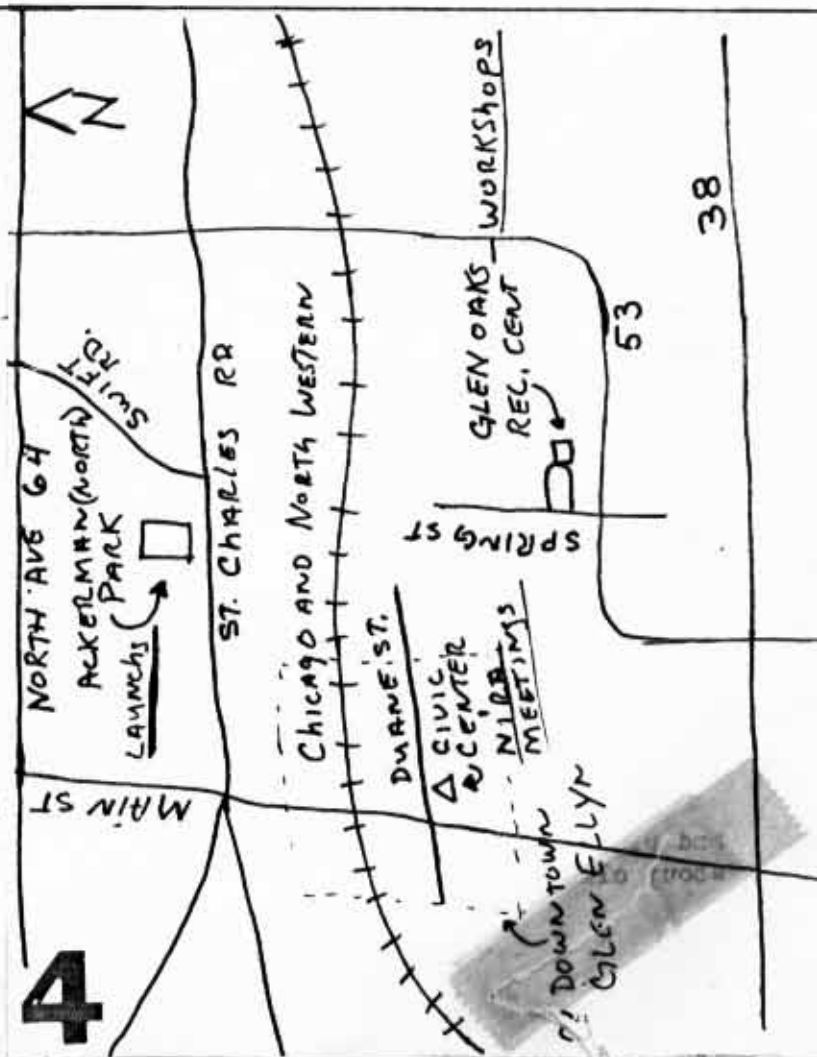
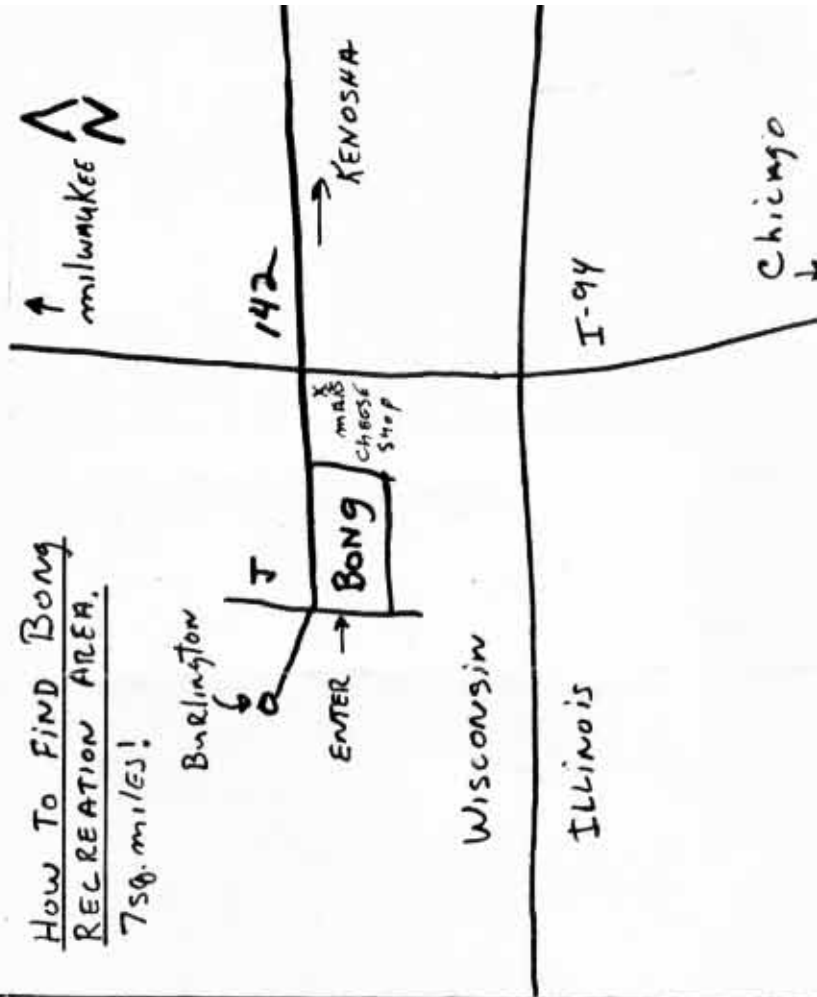
NARF-NARF-NARF

My rocket friends are so nice! Since I didn't make the internet team, they took up a collection to send me to the El Salvador National Championships.

NARF-NARF-NARF

My Space Shuttle flies alot like the real one: it spins, arcs over, parts come off and lands without a parachute.

NARF-NARF-NARF





# NIRA CLUB CONTEST

Gray, threatening skies greeted NIRA's fliers on April 12 as rocketeers gathered to kick off NIRA's 1981 flying season. Spirits were undampened by the rainy weather as the range was set up and the morning's spectacular Space Shuttle launch was discussed. We ended up dodging a couple of softball practices, but peaceful co-existence was the order of the day.

Five events were on schedule, all democratically agreed on at the previous meeting. It turned out to be about two events too many. People not used to flying competition got pushed for time, or simply didn't enter everything. Surprisingly, competition turned out to be very stiff.

B Altitude was up first. Jedi George and Bunny did the tracking chores on newly repaired trackers; we didn't bother with the hard-line phone system. Just write down the angles and compute the altitudes later. No great innovations were seen in the designs, though many folks used tracking powder for the first time.

A Parachute Duration produced none of the flyaways predicted at the meeting, even with a fairly stiff breeze. People forgot to bring the baby powder, so many an Estes 18" chute fell victim to the "stickies". Only Mark Schmidt tried building his own parachute, a monster from a dry cleaner bag. It didn't turn in that impressive a flight, but it was better than anyone else's.

Mark Schmidt also had the only Oddball Model entry, a ham-and-Swiss-on rye. So what if it didn't fly all that well? It still deserved a place for the effort. Drag Race attracted no entries, so we canned it.

LeMans Start, a yo-yo event from Canada, turned out to be a big attention getter and super fun. Everyone, contestants, spectators and range crew, got involved in cheering on the entrant on the pad. It was side splitting fun to watch people tearing out after their bird trying to catch it and racing back to the starting point. Some weird strategies also appeared. A couple of models flew with large engines, dooming their owners to long chases. Scores ended up being close with only 18 seconds between four places. This event is a must for our next launch!

Overall, Mark Schmidt was a clear winner. He flew all four events and placed in three. Tom Eckels, by virtue of his 2nd in PD, edged out Al Cadiz for overall second place. Prizes will be distributed at the May meeting. Let's get started on planning NCC-2!

## NIRA CLUB CONTEST - 1 (NCC-1) RESULTS

### B Altitude

- |    |               |          |
|----|---------------|----------|
| 1. | Mark Schmidt  | 693 feet |
| 2. | Kevin Ertzman | 652 feet |
| 3. | Jon Yates     | 565 feet |
| 4. | Ian Hall      | 553 feet |

### LeMans Start

- |    |               |         |
|----|---------------|---------|
| 1. | Paul Radavich | 31 sec. |
| 2. | Roy Flynn     | 34 sec. |
| 3. | Dave Ewoldt   | 39 sec. |
| 4. | Al Cadiz      | 49 sec. |

### A Parachute Duration

- |    |               |         |
|----|---------------|---------|
| 1. | Mark Schmidt  | 26 sec. |
| 2. | Tom Eckels    | 21 sec. |
| 3. | Al Cadiz      | 19 sec. |
| 4. | Denny Ertzman | 18 sec. |

### Oddball Model

- |    |              |              |
|----|--------------|--------------|
| 1. | Mark Schmidt | (only entry) |
|----|--------------|--------------|

Drag Race CANCELLED

# PHOTO PAGE

# NCC-1



# GLIDER TECHNOLOGY FOR SALE

A CATALOG REVIEW BY RIC GAFF

A new company has been advertising in the Model Rocketeer lately, Rocket Glider Technology and as their name implies they sell rocket glider kits. RGT has 10 models listed in their catalog; 6 R/G's the Bat, Falcon, Albatross and three Tornados, which are the subject of the MR ad, two B/G's, the Bumble Bee and an unnamed model, a B/G drop pod and a model of unknown purpose.

The Bat, Albatross and Falcon are no-moving-parts R/G's, in which the weight lost by the engine burn causes the model to transition from boost to glide configuration. The Tornados are delta-wing rear-engine models in three sizes; mini, standard and a giant for D's. The ad in the MR is more than a little misleading concerning the Tornados. The ad describes and pictures the Air Force's Tornado jet fighter leading one to think RGT's Tornados are some kind of scale model. Not so! As can be seen in the photos the RGT Tornados have only the faintest resemblance to the A.F. Tornados.

Two B/G's are shown in the photos but only the Bumble Bee is described. The B.B. is a small, lightweight glider designed mainly for mini's, the catalog indicates that it can be used with D's but I find that hard to believe.

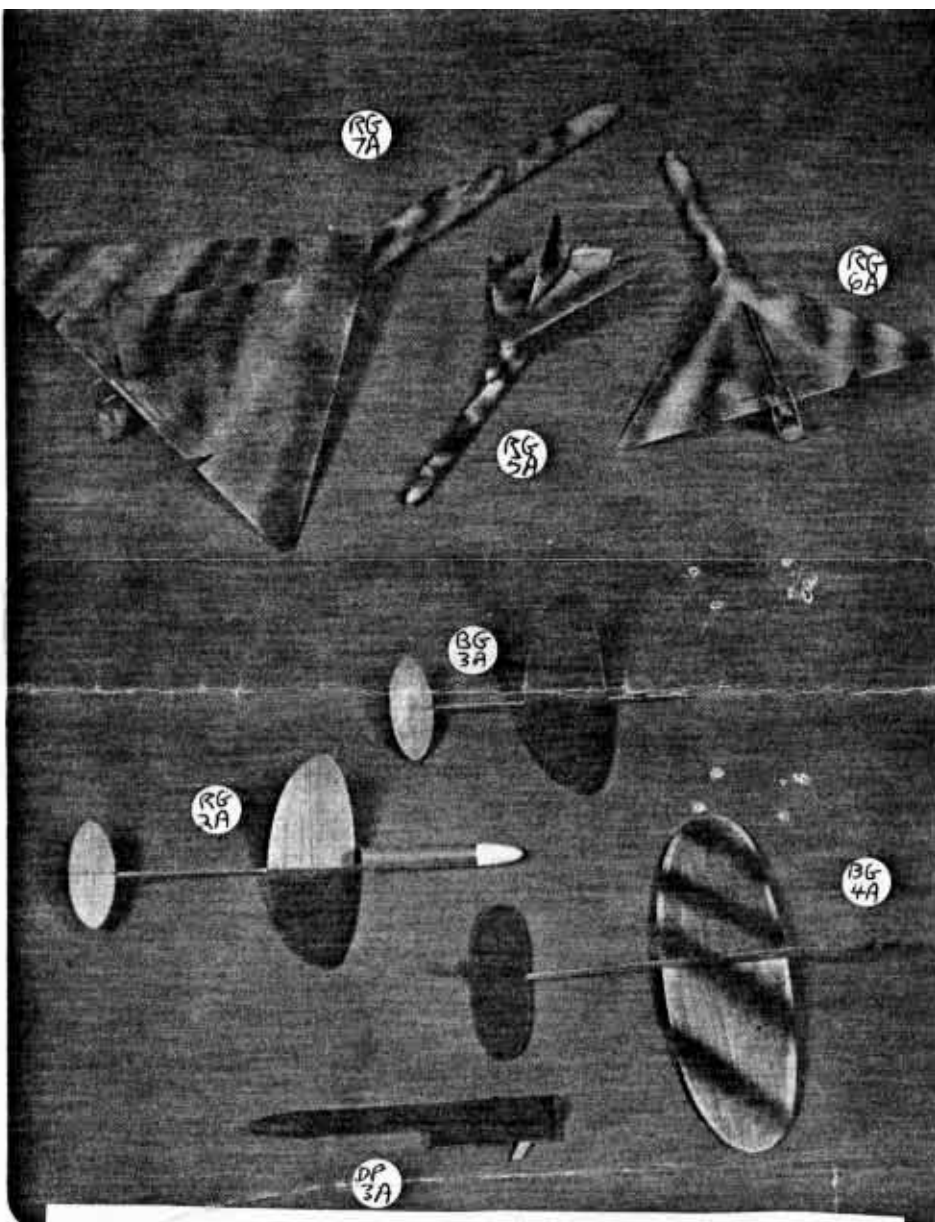
With the exception of the Tornados, the various models sold by RGT look fairly good and several could be outstanding in competition, unfortunately the prices are quite high. The least expensive kit is the Bumble Bee at \$5.50 and is unfliable without the drop pod for \$2.50. This strikes me as being somewhat expensive.

All-in-all if you want to build Rocket Gliders, Boost/Gliders or sport gliders you might want to check out RGT or you ask Bunny for plans, use your own materials and save some bucks.

ROCKET GLIDER TECHNOLOGY  
140 Pearl St.  
Seymour, Connecticut  
06483

Catalog is 50¢

My thanks to Tom Pastrick for obtaining this information.



TOP: RGT's "Tornados"

MIDDLE: RGT's "Bumble Bee", "Albatross", unnamed B/G, and B/G drop pod.

BOTTOM: Ric Gaff with his "Stealth" Tomahawk built from Model Rocketeer plans. Ric recommends using a CNA "Banshee" when model is flown.





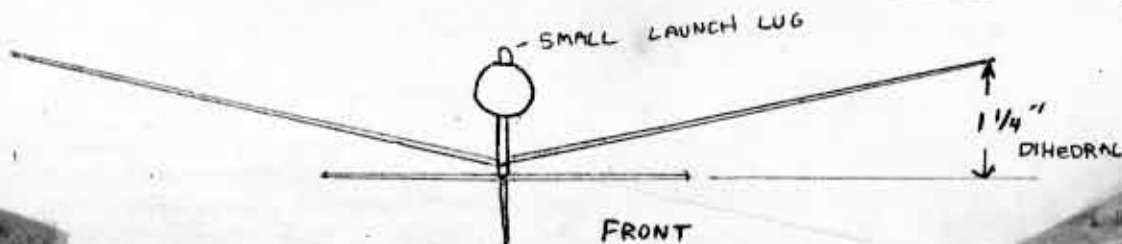
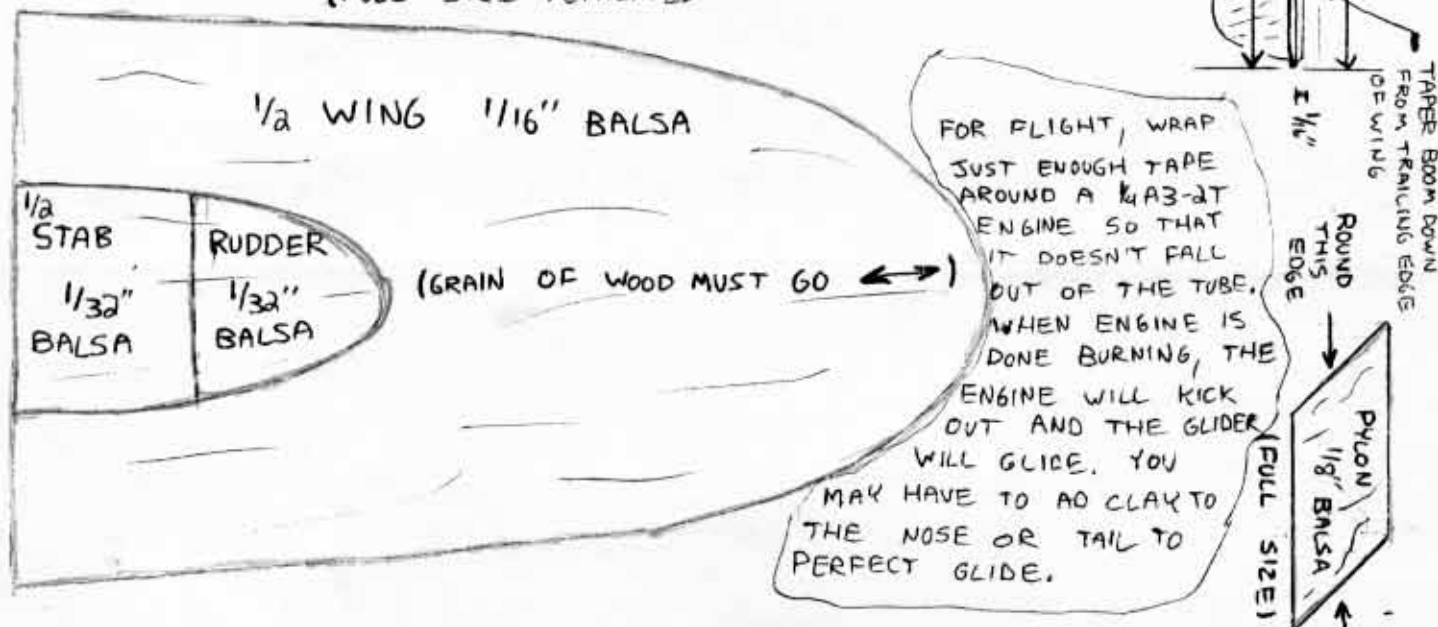
# 1/4 A - ENGINE BOOST GLIDER

-GEORGE RIEBESEHL

You will need: 1/8"x3/16"x10 1/2" balsa  
 1/16"x3" balsa sheet  
 1/32"x2" balsa sheet  
 small piece of Estes BT-5  
 small balsa nose cone for BT-5  
 scrap piece of 1/8" balsa  
 super glue or hot stuff glue

Take the 1/8"x3/16"x10 1/2" balsa and make a mark 5 7/8" from one end. Taper the balsa down to 1/16" at one end as shown on the plans. Make the pylon out of the scrap 1/8" balsa with the grain running as shown on the plans. Glue the pylon to the untapered half of the balsa boom. Cut a piece of BT-5 as shown in the plans and securely glue the nose cone to the un-angled end of the tube. Glue the tube with nose cone to the pylon as shown. Cut out the wing, stab, and rudder from the balsa sheets. The wing and stab are one piece, even though only half the template is shown. Round the leading edges of these pieces and taper the trailing edges. Cut and reglue the wing with the proper dihedral. Glue the wing, stab, and rudder to the boom.

(FULL SIZE TEMPLATE)



SCALE - 1/8" = 1"



# Contest Calendar



## ECATLOAD OF MAR

June 20-21 1981

B Eggloft Alt.	B Payload
1/2A R/G	1/4A Int. B/G
1/2A Int. SD	1/4A PD
Fred. Alt.	A SD
Plastic Model	

CONTACT: Tom Hoelle, 2009 Emma Av.  
Ft. Wayne, IN, 46808

NOMID-81 May 2-3 1981 Detroit, MI

1/4A Alt. Eff.	1/2A Int. SD
A R/G	B Payload
Plastic Model	1/2A PD
A HD	B Eggloft Alt.
C R/G	

CONTACT: Steve Schowiak, 28127 Bellcrest  
Farmington, MI 48018

SHOOTING STAR-SIX Tomah, WI Sept. 5-6

1/4A HD	1/2A PD
1/2A SD	A R/G
B Alt.	B R/G
C Egg Dur.	C SD
D E/G	

CONTACT: Jim Zingler, 324 W Milwaukee,  
Tomah, WI 54660

MARC-81 Bong Base, WI May 30-31

Plastic Model	B Egg Dur.
P R/G	C H/D
B Payload	A SD
A Alt. Effy.	Fred. Dur.
1/2A R/G	

CONTACT: Tim Vaccaro, 3022 23rd Ave.  
Kenosha, WI 53140

NARAM-23 August 10-14, 1981

1/2A Int. SD	B Payload
1/2A PD	B Altitude
A R/G	R&D
1/2A B/G	D Scale Alt.
A HD	B B/G- A div. only
	E B/G with RC- B&C only
	OR E B/G without RC- B&C only

## ROCKETRY ALL YEAR LONG-JOIN NIRA

NORTHERN ILLINOIS ROCKET ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP/ SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Please fill in completely, print or type

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/19\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

NAR NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRES \_\_\_\_\_ AMA NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

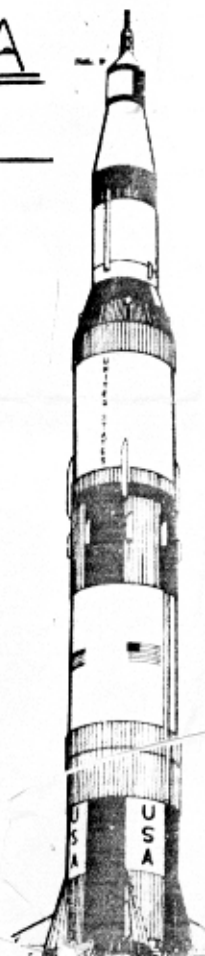
- (1) How long have you been involved in Model Rocketry? \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) List your favorite type(s) of rockets. \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) How did you first learn about NIRA? \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) List any other interests besides Model Rocketry. \_\_\_\_\_

Membership in NIRA- \$3.00 per year (includes subscription to Leading Edge)

OR

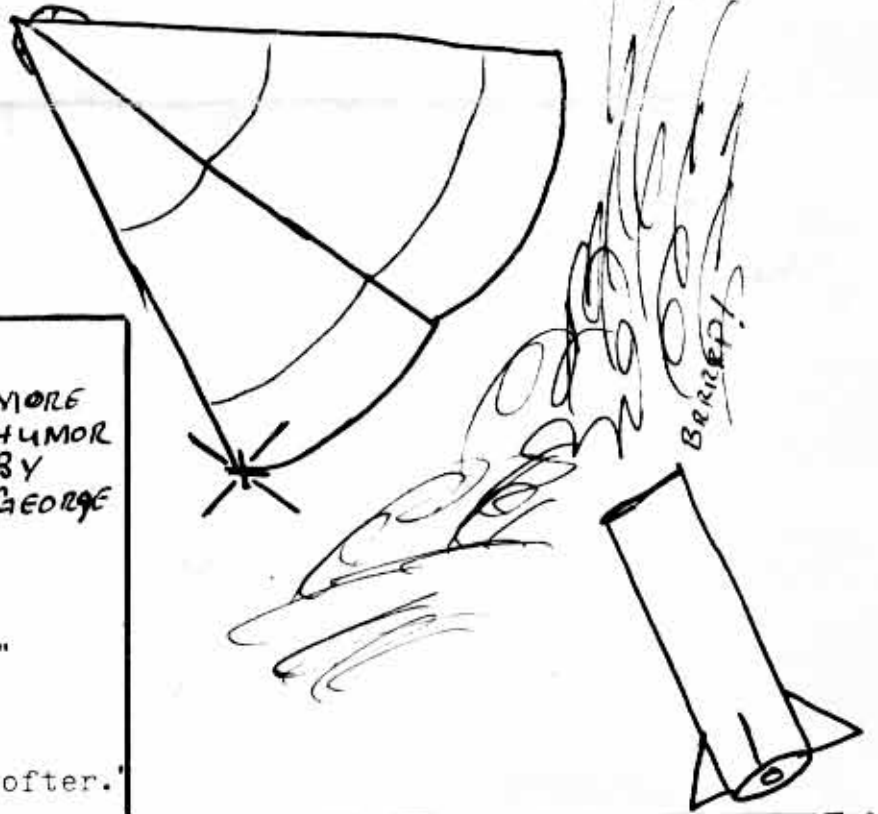
Subscription to Leading Edge along (6 issues)- \$2.00

Please make checks payable to the Northern Illinois Rocket Association



Hi, I'm ONE OF PAT PETERSON'S BETTER FLEXIES,  
 I'm NOT going to PRANG! IN FACT I'm ABOUT TO JOIN  
 BOB KAPLOW'S ATTITUDE MODEL in oblivion! (No, THAT'S NOT  
 BUT BEFORE I glide OFF FOREVER, I WANT TO A SMALL TOWN  
 TELL you about a GREAT Hobbystore. THATS RIGHT! IN WISCONSIN!)  
 THE GLEN ELLYN TOY + CARD SHOP  
476 MAIN ST.

So Long and  
 REMEMBER  
 I'm NOT A  
PARACHUTE !!



MORE  
 HUMOR  
 BY  
 GEORGE

Bob: "My third cat died today."  
 Tom: "Your third one?! How did your first one die?"  
 Bob: "He was killed in my cat-lofter."  
 Tom: "How did your second cat die?"  
 Bob: "He was killed in my cat-lofter."  
 Tom: "How did your third cat die?"  
 Bob: "He died of a broken neck."  
 Tom: "A broken neck, how did that happen?"  
 Bob: "He wouldn't get in the catlofter."

Richard Gaff  
 331 3rd St., Sunset Park  
 Northfield, Ill. 60093

First Class

