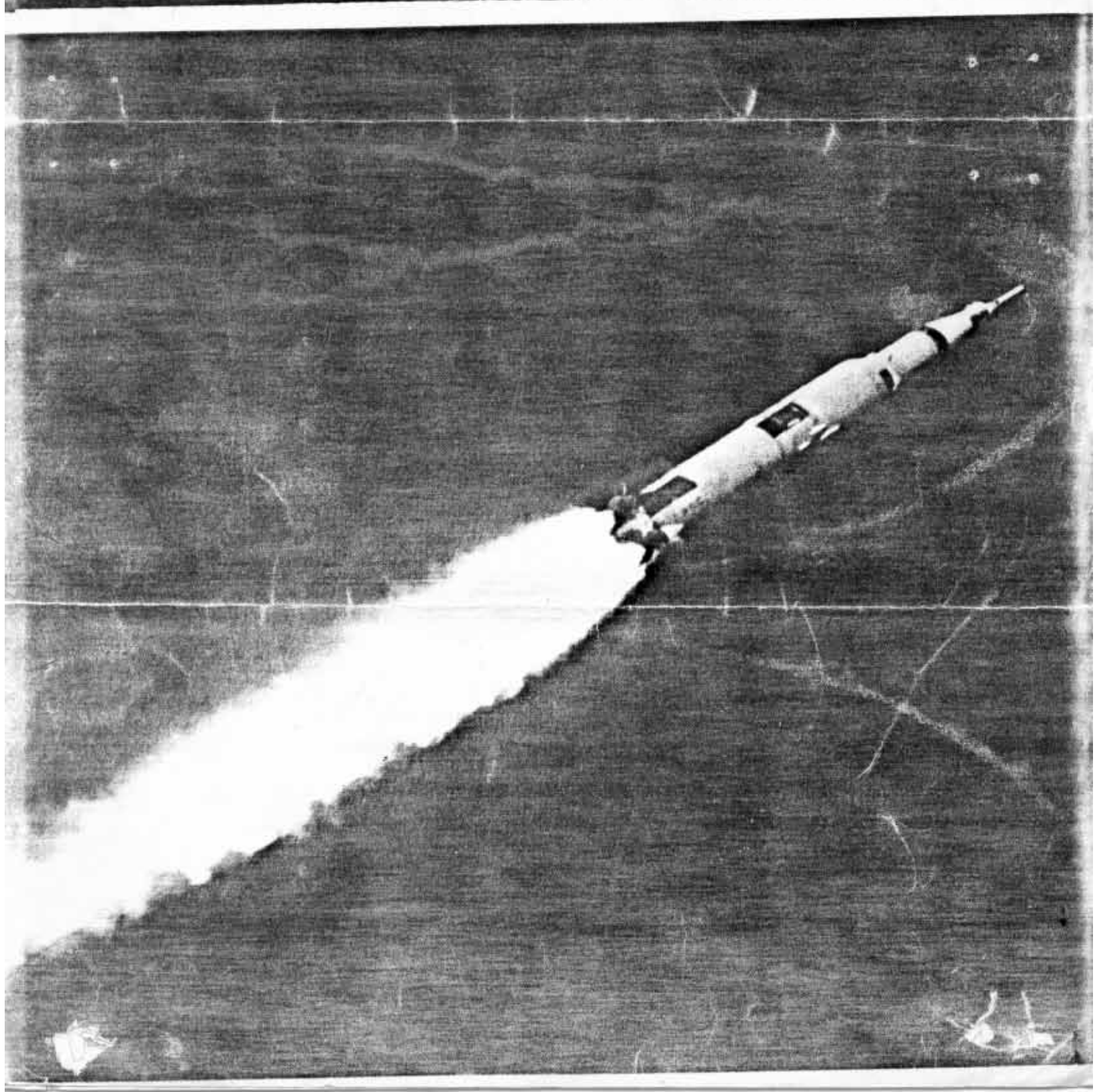




THE LEADING EDGE

VOL. 4 NO. 4



T minus ONE

MONTHLY NIRA MEETING July 3rd.
Glen Ellyn Civic Center 7:30PM
ETR-11 July 4&5th
Sanctioned Regional Meet at Bong.
WISC.-81 July 25 & 26
Sanctioned Regional Meet. Tomah, Wis.
MONTHLY NIRA MEETING August 7
Glen Ellyn Civic center 7:30 PM
NARAM-23 August 10-14
National Meet. Imagine going to a club
launch and staying for a week!

MODEL ROCKET "HUMOR" BY GEORGE

I'm beginning to wonder if it was such a good idea to give our son one of those rockets that blasts off for his birthday. As of today, we've got the only cat in Northbrook who knows what our house looks like from three hundred feet up.

NARF-NARF-NARF

Before I joined NIRA all I could do was prang and misfire. But it's just the opposite now! Since I joined NIRA, I misfire and prang.

NARF-NARF-NARF

Some of these rookie rocketeers are really dumb! One of them thought a micro clip was something done by a midget football player.

NARF-NARF-NARF

MANUFACTURER'S NEWS PAT PETERSON

I'd like to introduce you to some model rocket companies you may not know about, or never received any information about.

COMPETITION MODEL ROCKETS (CMR): This manufacturer deals mainly with serving the competition modeler, yet offer some fine things for the sport modeler also. CMR's products are characterized by light weight and low drag. Some brief examples of their product line include mylar chutes and streamers, an exact scale model kit, sandable body tubes, egg capsules and extremely light, plastic nose cones.

CMR Catalog- 50¢
Box 7022
Alexandria, Va 22307

CROWN ROCKET TECHNOLOGY: This company offers products mainly for the high-power buffs. Products include E & F composite engines, kits designed for high power and a full line of accessories.

CROWN ROCKET TECHNOLOGY
P.O. Box 341
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043
Catalog- 75¢

AIRC-DYNAMIC COOPERATE: ADC's products include tower launchers, launch pads and launch control systems.

ADC
6261 S. Loomis Rd.
Waterford, WI 53185
Catalog- 50¢

COMPOSITE DYNAMICS: CD offers composite E & F engines, fiberglass tubing & finstock & high strength, epoxy resin molded nose cones.

COMPOSITE DYNAMICS
Box 5142
Torrance, CA 90510
Catalog- 50¢

FLIGHT SYSTEMS INC: FSI has a full line of kits, engines from A to F and a wide variety of accessories.

FSI
9300 E. 68th St.
Raytown, Missouri 64133
Catalog- \$1.00

CONTINUED ON PAGE TEN

MODEL OF THE MONTH WINNERS



The Model of the Month winner for May is IAN HALL (I remembered this time) and his Cruise Missile. Congratulations IAN !!



The Model of the Month winner for June Tom Pastrick and his Estes Sky Dart. Congratulations Tom !!

VOL.4 NO.4 JULY/AUGUST 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, Bob Kaplow

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.

NIRA SWEEPS M.W.R.C.

Weather was generally good for the 1981 version of the Midwest Regional Championships, May 30-31 at Bong Field, Wisconsin. NIRA's eight man group took places in all nine events, sweeping two of them. Not surprisingly, NIRA won the meet with 2,898 points.

Predicted Duration was the first event, and things didn't go well. Many of our B engine, Alpha-type rockets didn't stay in the air anywhere near as long as our practice flights. It took less than 10% to place in C Division. No general strategy appeared; the winners were just a bit luckier than most folks.

A Streamer Duration held better times for us. Bunny flew his ever-reliable Pipsqueek V for 2:57, the best time of the contest. Jedi George won B Division with a 2:53 total. Many modelers used tracing paper streamers, but they didn't always work. Some stripped off, others just didn't whip around enough to produce high drag. It seems the paper has to be of a certain stiffness to work well. Six NIRA-ites placed.

Trackers were set up during the lunch break, and Ric Gaff's phone system handled the communications. Martin Huber armed with TI-59, computed all the altitudes.

In A Altitude Efficiency, you have to get as much altitude with an A engine and a model weighing between 25 and 30 grams. NIRA swept this event, Braxton Miller's 231 meters with a swept finned, orange model being the best overall. Mark Schmidt's unpainted Pipsqueek V gave the trackers fits, but generous amounts of tracking powder put Mark in the winners' circle. Bullet Bob Kaplow managed to tip-off/go-slightly-unstable for one of the few mishaps in the event. An interesting design note: many people chose to ballast their small models to the necessary weight. Tom Pastrick simply flew a very long model, made the minimum weight easily without ballast, and got better stability out of his bird to boot.

George with his parasite blew away the competition in F B/G.



Bullet Bob redeemed himself in B Payload. His orange epoxy paint finished model went 197 meters in a fairly stiff breeze, some 44 meters higher than his closest competitor. Aside from that, there weren't any really superlative flights. The wind messed up most people, causing crooked boosts and lower altitudes. Towers helped a lot. There weren't any good prangs either.

C Helicopter was another NIRA disaster. We just couldn't seem to put two good flights together. Everyone flew Rotarocs, except for the WWAR club. They did quite well with Don Quoxite/flexible blade models. I don't think any thermalled away, and one flight set a national record.

B Eggloft Duration "cracked us up." The Holy Handgrenade, a model based on a L'Eggs capsule, worked well last fall at Shooting Star, but failed us here. The large parachutes used got charred by the ejection charge and didn't open. NIRA did manage a 2-3-4 placing in C, Bullet's :33 being the best, but overall, the times were disappointing.

MWRC

Tom Pastrick and his nicely built F-104 Plastic Model.



A Rocket Glide was our most productive event. Mark Schmidt's "Rebel" turned in :51 for 1st in A division. There were an unusually large number of shreads here. Bunny had another 1st all wrapped up until the Zeemacz Team from Michigan thermaled a large slide-wing model out of sight for a 4+ minute time. George and George flew tiny (15 sq. in.) slide wings with mixed success. Jr. won, but Sr. had loopie-loopies in the boost. And there didn't seem to be any differences in the models.

F BG also paid off big, though only three NIRA-ites placed. Jedi George won in B Division with an excellent parasite glider on a 3 D12 booster. Mark Schmidt won A Division with an E20/1/4A parasite. Mark's wings were reinforced with epoxy, and the flight amazed everyone on the field! Bunny's Aptyeryx, "a wingless bird with hairy feathers" boosted high, but glided steeply for a second place in C Division. Chuck Hoffman's multiple touch-n-go F7 was the best prang here.

Plastic Model brought a 60+% DQ rate, and George's Cylon Raider (no parachute) was the only weird model. Tom Pastrick's 1/32 scale F-104 was the best static model, but a topsy-turvy crash put him out. Bunny's 1/72 scale F-104 boosted fine, but no chute. That left George Sr.'s Saturn V to take first. Pat Peterson's modified (?) Space Shuttle won in A Division.

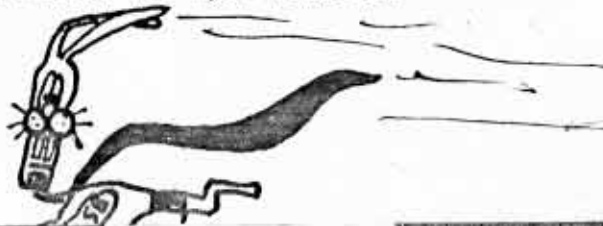
Good events, good weather and good organization by CD Tim Vaccaro made MWRC a success. NIRA salutes RAC for a fine meet. Don't miss the 1982 version!

Tom's "camera fodder" Plastic Model Flight.

Photo's by Bob Kaplow

Bunny's Aptyeryx "a wingless rabbit with furry feathers" pulls a second place.

Lift-off of Jedi George's F B/G.



The Masters

BY GEORGE RIEBESEHL

The Masters convention was held on the weekend of April 25 and 26. 6 NIRA members attended accounting for half of the attendance. Although this was no Wiscon, it turned out to be an enjoyable event.

The Masters convention was just as its name implies; a convention of masters. All of the people who attended the convention have been around in model rocketry for a long time and have a great deal of experience. Too bad there wasn't anyone to teach.

The first discussion group was held by Bunny at 9:15. Since there were no inexperienced rocketeers to explain things to, the format of the discussion groups were geared more to the advanced rocketeer. Bunny's talk was on starting beginners in model rocketry. Bunny talked of the importance of building and reliability to keep the beginner from becoming discouraged.

The next talk was on computers by Bob Kaplow. Bob brought his magic box with him and demonstrated what the machine could do.

Tom Pastrick was next in line with a talk on gliders. It is surprising how people have different opinions about B/g's.

At 2:00 Tom Hoelle led a group on advanced scale. Tom stressed the importance of taking your time and making what you have to do into what you want to do.

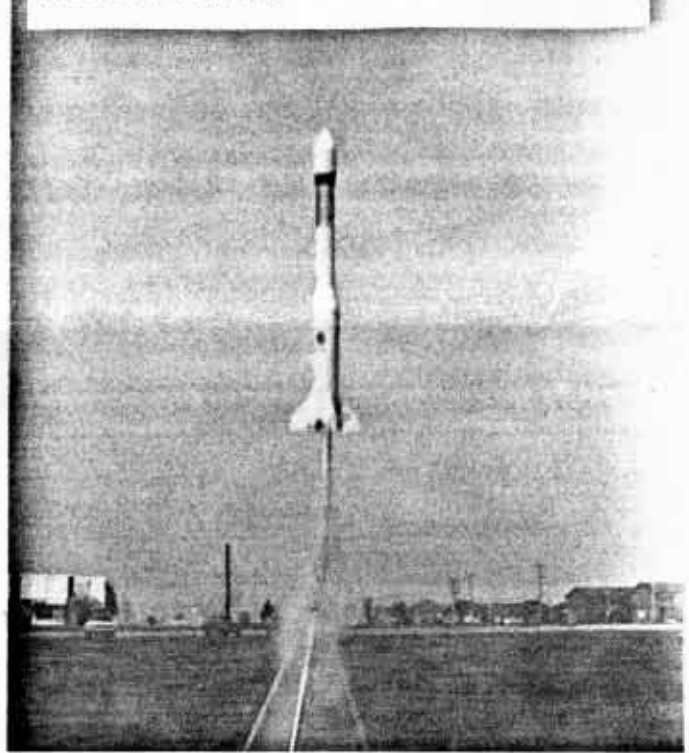
The final talk of the day was on pulse R/c gliders by Bunny. Pulse is a cheap and easy way for a beginner to start in R/C.

After a half hour drive we finally arrived at dinner. (Thanks for the tour of Wisconsin, Warren)

Two talks were held on Sunday: one by Bob on nostalgic engines and one by Tom Pastrick on parachutes.

A launch was held that noon and Tom Hoelle's Ariane flew well as George's R/C bit the dust.

Tom Hoelle's "boilerplate" model of the Ariane flies beautifully at the Masters launch.



Tom Hoelle with two good friends.





Tom Pastrick leads a discussion group on parachutes



Jedi George and his RC E/G.



Bob Kaplow and his collection of old and foreign engines.

MIDWEST PRANGE Film
AT
July NIRA MEETING

7

BOB KAPLOW'S

RENT-A-KAT

..... HAS MOVED!

NEW ADDRESS:

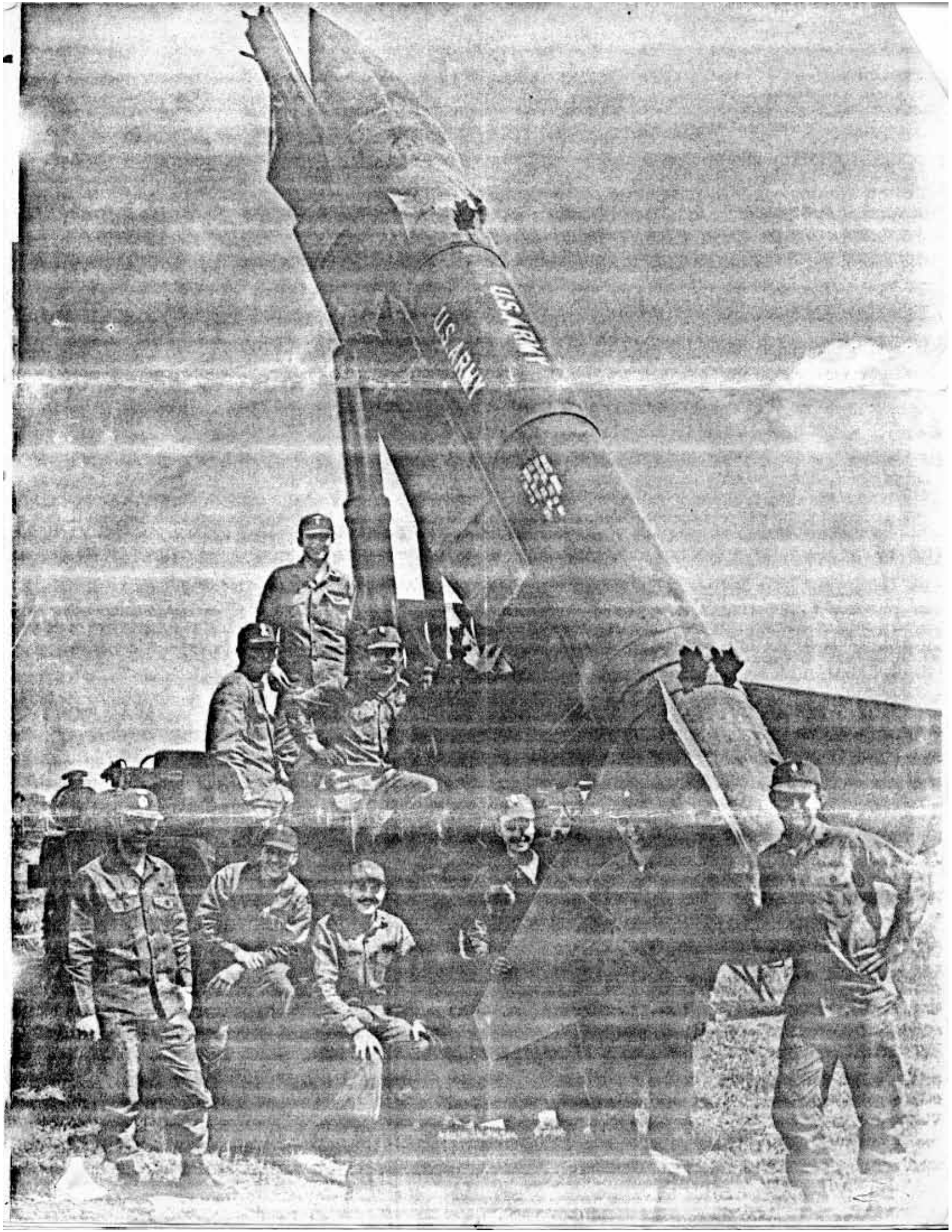
1628 WATERFORD LN.
PALATINE, ILL 60067

NEW PHONE:

(312)-934-1160

OLD NAME

BOB "KEYPUNCH" KAPLOW



Contest Calendar



B.T.R.

111

July
4-5

LAST
CHANCE!

BEST
MEET
IN THE
MIDWEST

NARAY-23

August 10-14, 1981

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| 1/2A Int. SD | B Payload |
| 1/2A PD | B Altitude |
| A R/G | H&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 |

SHOOTING STAR-SIA

Tomah, WI Sept. 5-6

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

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

EVENTS:

- | | |
|-------|----------------|
| F SD | SPORT SCALE |
| B B/G | D Eggloft Alt. |
| A HD | B PAYLOAD |
| C R/G | 1/2A INT. PD |

CONTACT:

(312)- R. GAFF
724-2975 331 3RD ST
NORTHFIELD, ILL 60063

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 _____

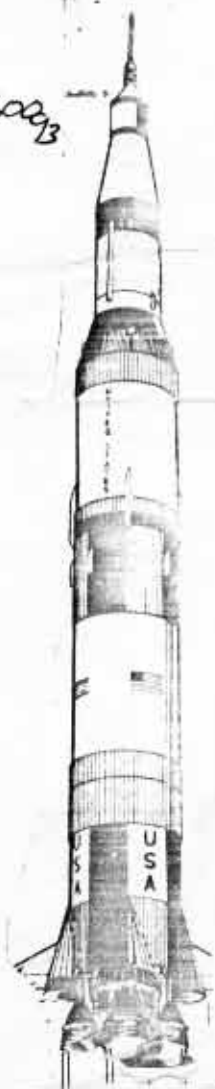
- (1) How long have you been involved in Model Rocketry? _____
- (2) List your favorite type(s) of rockets. _____
- (3) How did you first learn about NIRA? _____
- (4) List any other interests besides Model Rocketry. _____

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

OR

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

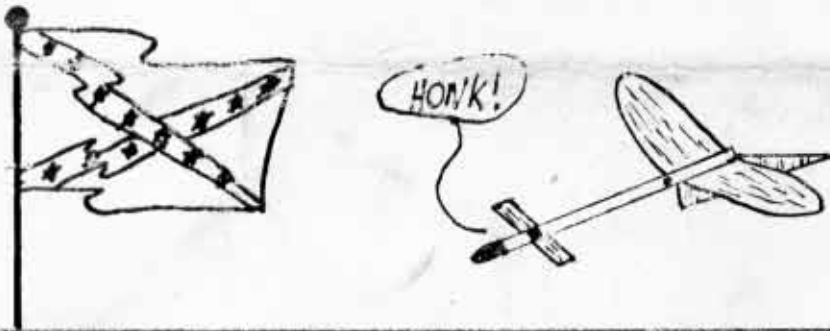
Please make checks payable to the Northern Illinois Rocket Association



HI Y'ALL! MAH NAME 'S TERRY LEE.

Down her' sout' of that there Mason-Dixon line, we ain't got nothing but small, littl' ol' launch sites, so some day, ah intend to come out to visit wi' Bunny and fly sum of mah Condors at Bong. But befor' ah go out to the range, ah'll just pay a visit to the one stop place for all yer rocket supplies: the Glen Ellyn Toy and Card Shop, 476 Main Street, Glen Ellyn

And jus' remember. This war ain't over till General Lee says so!



A new company was showing it wares at Boatload of MAR, Competition Chutes makes some of the spiffiest chutes I've ever seen! C.C. chutes are available in two materials; nylon and polyester. The nylon chutes are available in sizes 18, 24, 30, 36 inches and any combination of ~~Flourescent orange, burgundy, yellow, white, black, blue, gold, red.~~ The polyester chutes are 10, 12, 16 inches in colors: orange, yellow, black, white, & red. These chutes are strong and durable and will give years of service.

COMETITION CHUTES

c/o J. Kuczek
49354 BayLane
New Baltimore, Mich 48047

Catalog is a one-pager so be a nice guy and send along a stamp.

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

First Class

