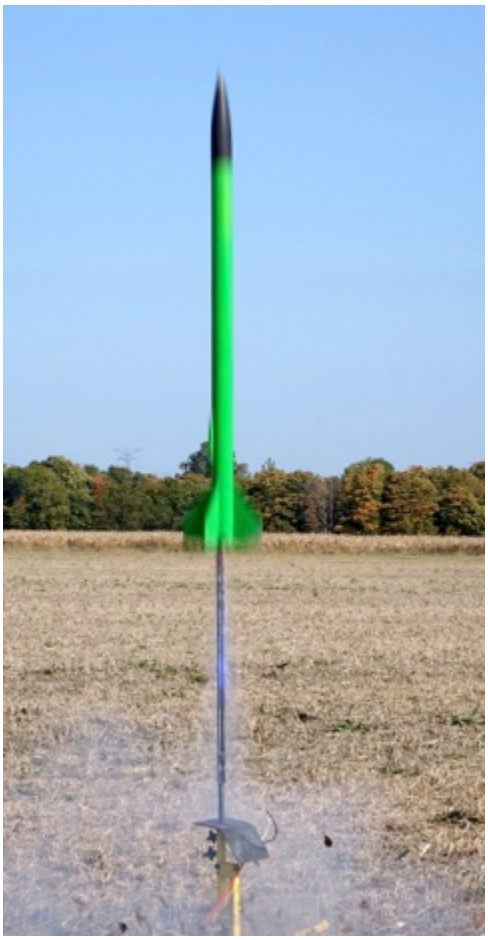
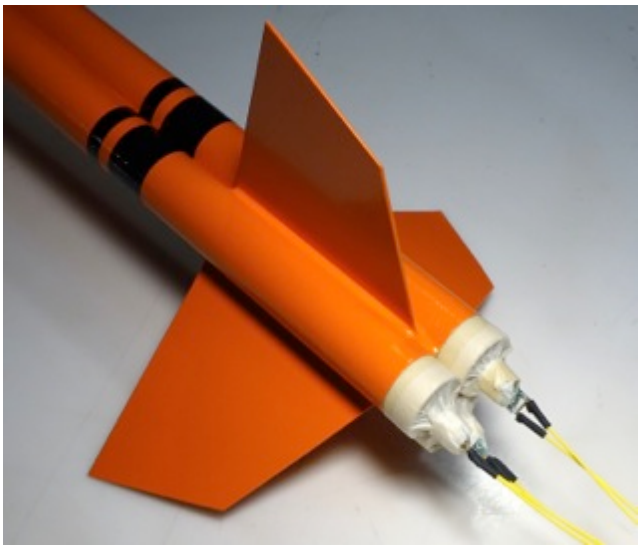
October 2016 Launch Report



Steve Eves (above left) flew his “Green Dragon” with a Loki H144 for a nice flight, which landed only 10 yards into the corn (above center). The next flight was “The Great Pumpkin” (above right) flown with a Research I300 Blue. The rocket flew to 1800 feet but the main parachute did not deploy. Fortunately there was little damage from the landing.

Chris Pearson (left) with his Centuri Enerjet clone 2250 and 2650. He flew the 2250 with three D12’s to an altitude of only 376 feet. “I thought that D12’s had more power than that back in the old days!” he said. The altimeter was set to deploy the main at 500 feet so as soon as the apogee charge fired, so did the main charge. It was recovered close to the pads. He stated that the reason he recently built four cluster rockets (three of them Enerjet clones with 29mm mounts) was to burn up all of those Aerotech/Estes 29mm motors he bought last year!



Check out the old-school retro-80's clustering technique! (left) Wire wrapped flashbulbs and thermalite!

The 2250 taking off (right) under the power of three mighty D12 motors!

Dan Vento (above) with his Aerotech "Sumo," (right). The umo" in flight (right). Sorry about the blurry take-off shots but I mistakenly had my camera set to aperture priority instead of shutter priority, resulting in low shutter speeds and blurred photos.

Andrew Kleinhenz (left) launched his Madcow Frenzy on an AT I200-W twice. The first flight the main did not open but the rocket did not suffer any damage after its hard landing! On the second flight (right) everything went well (except the nose cone came off the payload section). The main opened as planned, but the rocket landed in the corn. It was a MIA for a few hours but thanks to Dan Vento, Barry Lynch and Jason, we found the rocket and all turned out well. Thanks to Bruce Levison for finding my nose cone!

Jason Luzar (left) hooks up the igniter on his LOC/Precision Warloc which he flew with an AT J425 Redline motor (center).

We were fortunate to have Ken Allen of Performance Hobbies attend the launch to provide our membership with motor sales. A number of members pre-ordered certification motors from him and he also made delivery of a large fiberglass nose cone for Jim Siebyl's Level 3 certification rocket.

Chris Pearson flew his prototype LOC/Precision Explorer on an AT H195, which had a great flight (right), but the Jolly Logic Chute Release came apart at apogee and the electronics were lost. The nose cone also separated from the rocket. The parachute and shock cord became a tangled mess, which then landed 500 feet from the pads. The airframe tube was damaged on impact and Chris retired the rocket after already once replacing the tube after a prior crash.

Mark Hanna (left) won the “Most Flown Rockets” award this day. First flying his LOC Startburst on cluster of two F120's to 1,100 feet (right).

Mark also flew a 4” diameter upscaled Aerotech Mustang on an I345 to 1,600 feet. (left and right)

His first flight of the day was an Estes Partizon (below left) flown on a F40 to 1,200 feet to test the winds aloft. Despite the moderate winds, only one rocket was lost in the unharvested corn.

(Not pictured) He also flew a 3" ARCAS on an H165 to 1,300 feet, and a 2.6 inch Astrobee D on a H163 to 1,475 feet.

Chris Pearson (below right) flew his upscaled 3” Enerjet 2650 with 3-AT G40’s for a perfect flight, which hit 2200 feet in the increasingly stronger winds but landed only 200 feet from the pads.

Mark Coburn (above left) brought out another of his 4" "Bug Juice" rockets and flew it with an I161 White Lightning semi-Research motor provided by Steve Eves (above center). Steve has been purchasing sticks of propellant from Aerotech and burning it in AT cases with self-made graphite nozzles. Mark had another ready to go on the pad (above right) but when the igniter misfired, he thought twice about flying in the increasingly high winds and pulled it off the pad.

Dan Vento (left) hooks up the igniter on his PML Matrix. This was only rocket that was lost in the corn that day. I'm sure they'll find it when the corn is harvested.

Unknown rocket in primer takes off (right).

A LOC/Precision Norad takes off from the pad (below left).