



THE BUZZ!



#752

Newsletter of the South Western (Ontario) Association of Rocket Modellers

SWARM

Harvest Classic 2015 is a Huge Success

Two days of fun and friendly competition

This year's Harvest Classic competition was bigger and better than our inaugural 2014 event. Participants included S.W.A.R.M. members Chris, Mark, Matt, Grace, and Charlotte along with Brian and Sean Guzek from Pittsburgh Space Command.

The weather was cold but sunny and almost perfect for a fall launch. When a cold wind showed up, shelter could always be found in the back of a nearby SUV, if needed. Prepping rockets for flight was sometimes tough on the hands, but we managed to survive and get up quite a few spectacular flights.

The first flights of the day were for Open Spot Landing. We then moved on to Classic Model, A-Parachute Duration, B-Parachute Duration, and



the new Standard Precision Payload. Results can be found on page six of this newsletter.

Although we did win some ribbons and earn points toward NAR standing, the highlight of the event was sharing a day of rocketry fun with friends, new and old.



In this issue...

- The Beginning of a New Hobby
- Competition Conversation
- Quick Kit Review—Estes Argent
- Harvest Classic 2015 Results
- S.W.A.R.M. Announces S.T.A.G.E.R.
- 2016 NAR Events Schedule

President's Perspective

Chris Halinaty NAR #85414

I had originally written an article for this space about all that has happened with S.W.A.R.M. in the past year. We have had a great year, with a bunch of launches, Girl Guides, the Threshing Festival, and HC15, but recalling all that didn't seem enough. Instead, I plan to write a series of pieces about where I would like to see S.W.A.R.M. move in the future. I will focus on several key areas, like sport launches, competition, high power rocketry, community involvement, national and international exposure, and attracting new members.

I would love to see all these dreams come to fruition but I realize that they may not. However, lofty goals have always been a part of rocketry.

Competitive rocketry has been a part of S.W.A.R.M. since its inception. We have held our Harvest Classic for two years and

participated in the last two NARAM's.

Making competition a bigger part of S.W.A.R.M. means three things: adding another meet, increasing the number of competitors and clubs involved, and adding more S.W.A.R.M. members at other meets. The Harvest Classic is held every fall. Adding another meet would likely mean a spring date. This would allow time to prepare over the non-flying months. A second meet would need to stand apart from the HC--perhaps a theme to its events or something in addition to launching, such as how-to sessions or field trips.

Increasing the number of competitors could mean getting more local flyers to come out or having flyers join in from other clubs. Pittsburgh Space Command participated in HC15 and it would be nice to see more rocketeers from other US clubs make the trip to Chatham. Having more local flyers could involve having schools send teams to participate or recruiting through local hobby stores.

It's great to see S.W.A.R.M. with points in the yearly standings of NAR competitive rocketry. Having a larger presence at NARAM or other regional meets such as PSC's Carl McLawhorn Memorial Fly-off or Steel City Smoke Trail would get us even more exposure and earn us more points.

Competition can be great fun—let's get out and do it!

Upcoming S.W.A.R.M. Events

March 12: Regular Meeting

March 19: S.T.A.G.E.R.
Saturday

April 9: Regular Meeting

April 16: Regular Launch

May 14: Regular Meeting

May 21: Victoria Day
Weekend Celebration Launch

The Beginning of a New Hobby

Matt Turner NAR #98730

It was the summer of 2014; my nephew decided that him and his Uncle Matt (myself) did not spend enough quality time together. So he asked his grandmother if he could spend the night one weekend and for me to spend the day there. Once everything was planned, I was wondering what we could do together for the day.

So I ventured to the local hobby shop. I was looking at model cars, but thought he might get bored after a short period of time. I came across a rocket kit with the launch pad. Having never flown one before, I decided to make the purchase. It was an Alpha 3.

Saturday morning came by. I drove to my parents' around 8:30 in the am and after breakfast my nephew and I cleared the table and started construction. While the glue was curing we went outside and set up the launch pad then went fishing for a couple hours.

It was finally time for our little Alpha 3 to reach the sky. It was a little breezy and the beans in the field were almost waist high. We counted down to one then fired...a dud? "Hmm...what's wrong?" So i re-read the instructions: make sure the igniter is inserted properly as far into the motor as possible. Lets try again: 5...4...3...2...1...fire! Well holy smokes! The C6-5 in that little rocket shot straight up and over the house and over the river. The parachute deployed and the wind took over, and that was the beginning of me getting my exercise for the day. We found the rocket after about an hour of walking through the bean field. My nephew was excited. "Can we do it again?" he kept asking, so two more walks throught the field, and unsuccessfully

finding it the 3rd time. As far as our day went, it was a success. We both had fun.

I had decided to watch a few YouTube videos on model rocketry, and became very interested. That being said, I believe I had watched almost every one posted. I was thinking of any cylindrical tube I could find, to construct a rocket. Then I stumbled across sugar motors—cool! I can make my own! Only to quickly find out...nope, no I can't--not legally anyway.

I saw a 2 stage rocket for the first time and was floored. "Cool! I'm going to build one!" So I found a rocket I liked the looks of and still do. It wass an AGM Pike 33, but not having the schematic or design i just guessed the fin size etc. Also, not knowing anything about CG or CP, I had finished construction of my first 2 stage rocket for use with 2 E motors. My thoughts: "Boy, this thing is going to fly!" So the whole family was over for a barbeque, and I thought "Well, let's go see this thing fly. Let the count down begin...5...4...3...2...1...fire, smoke, and up she went—to about 30 or 40 feet before spinning then falling to the ground. As it hit the ground, the second motor ignited, shot out the side of the air frame and took off across the field. Yes, I was very lucky no one was hurt, and that was the day I decided I had better do some research and learn more. After reading the basics, I decided to rebuild a scale version of the pike after buying a smaller one.

After snooping around on the NAR site I saw there was a club in Chatham, where I live. I went to the next club launch.





After meeting Chris Halinaty (club President) even though not launching anything, I was sold on becoming a member.

I was able to make it to Potter, NY this past summer for my first major rocket launch event—it was awesome. I did manage to receive my L1 cert with my up-scaled model of the AGM Pike 33. It was a 2.6" diameter rocket launched on an H242, reaching an altitude of 2300 feet with a nice soft landing in the neighbouring corn field. Unfortunately, after that, Mother Nature had different plans for us with 3 days of steady rain.

After that weekend it has been pretty slow. Only making it to our local club launch/meeting, with my current job keeping me on the road, I have not been able to do as much as I wanted.

So to conclude, not only did I find a fun creative hobby to partake in, I have met a lot of friends.

Charlotte readies a rocket in the tower



How to get started

There is no right or wrong way to get started in model rocketry. We do, however, have some helpful tips to get your first rocket off the ground.

1. Come to the next SWARM launch and take in all of the action. You can talk to any SWARM member to find out why they love rocketry.
2. Get help choosing a model that is appropriate for your building skills. We would love to offer some building advice so that your experience goes smoothly.
3. Bring your finished model to another launch and put it up! You'll love it so much you'll want to join SWARM and the NAR on the spot!

Start your journey into the world's fastest hobby now! Check out SWARM's website today!
www.swarmnar.weebly.com

Competition Conversation

This year's NARAM events have been announced! They include:

- Plastic Model Conversion
- E Scale Altitude (Altimeter)
- G Streamer Duration
- D Rocket Glider Multi-round
- C Parachute Duration Multi-round
- A Helicopter Duration
- 1/2A Super-roc Altitude (Altimeter)
- Open Spot Landing
- Research & Development

S.W.A.R.M. is planning a spring competition with similar events. Join now and get some practice!



Quick Kit Review:

Estes Argent (ProSeries II)

By Chris Halinaty NAR 85414

Length: 56.4"

Diameter: 2.5"

Max. Altitude: 1700'

Recommended Engines: F26-6; F50-6; G40-7; G80-7

Construction: The Estes Argent is a straightforward build. In some respects, it is easier to put together than a similar but smaller kit, simply because the large parts are easy to work with. I used epoxy on mine but white glue shouldn't be a problem.

Flight: The Argent flies great on Estes black powder F15-4 engines. Flights average a little over 500'. I have yet to fly mine on anything more powerful, although flights with up to H motors have been reported.

Overall: This kit has great features (quick release motor retention, nylon chute, plywood fins, long shock cord) and is a super value at Estes normally discounted price of only \$22.50 US! Definitely worth picking up several if you plan on making the leap from low power to mid (or even high) power.



My version—flown many times but not finished; and as shown on the kit cover card (courtesy Estes).

Harvest Classic Results

A-Parachute Duration			
Competitor	Place	Points	
A	Grace Halinaty	1	140
	Charlotte Halinaty	2	84
T	G-Farce	1	140
	H-Bomb	-	0

B-Streamer Duration			
Competitor	Place	Points	
A	Grace Halinaty	1	180
	Charlotte Halinaty	1	180
T	G-Farce	1	140
	H-Bomb	-	0

Matt Turner readies an Estes Ventris on the rail.



Standard Precision Payload			
Competitor	Place	Points	
C	H-Bomb	1	320
-	Matt Turner	2	192
T	G-Farce	3	128

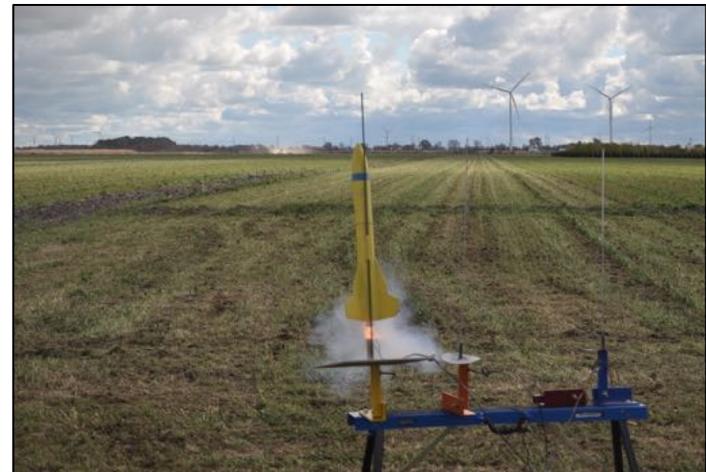
Meet Champions			
Competitor	Place	Points	
A	Charlotte Halinaty	1	344
	Grace Halinaty	2	328
C	H-Bomb	1	830
-	G-Farce	2	696
T	Matt Turner	3	192



Brian and Sean launch their F-Postal Altitude Contest rocket. Notice the fly-away rail guides. This boosted dart placed second overall at 2094 feet.

Open Spot Landing			
Competitor	Place	Points	
A	Charlotte Halinaty	1	80
	Grace Halinaty	2	8
C	H-Bomb	1	80
-	G-Farce	2	8
T	Matt Turner	-	0

Classic Model			
Competitor	Place	Points	
T	H-Bomb	1	400
	G-Farce	2	240



Brian and Sean's Standard Precision Payload rocket blasts off our new pad.

S.W.A.R.M. Announces S.T.A.G.E.R.!

S.W.A.R.M. is proud to announce the start of our very own rocketry achievement program—S.T.A.G.E.R.! The S.W.A.R.M. Tiered Achievement Goals for Excellence in Rocketry is a self-paced, relaxed way for members to build their rocketry skills. It is similar to the NARTREK program but is set up in a less prescriptive manner.

S.T.A.G.E.R. consists of 14 different areas that can be worked on at any point in time. Each area is made up of 3 different levels or stages. They are:

- Altitude (100 m, 250 m, 500m)
- Staging (one, two, three)
- 13 mm (1/4A, 1/2A, A)
- 18 mm (A, B, C)
- 24 mm (D, E, composite)
- 29 mm (E, F, composite)
- Recovery (tumble, streamer, parachute)
- Payload (standard, altimeter, egg)
- Endurance (1/4A/1/2A/A, A/B/C, D/E/F)
- Cluster (two, three, four)
- Complex (boost glider, helicopter, rocket glider)
- Competition (duration, altitude, scale)
- Rocketry (beginner, advanced, expert)
- History (beginner, advanced, expert)

Each stage must be done in order, although any area can be attempted at any S.W.A.R.M. launch. The Competition area may be completed at any NAR sanctioned competition. The Rocketry and History areas are completed by filling in an on-line quiz that is found at www.swarmnar.weebly.com/stager.html.

Information for the Beginner Rocketry quiz can be found on our website also. Topics include the NAR Model Rocket Safety Code, parts of a model rocket, flight profile, and model rocket engines.

Earn your S.T.A.G.E.R. levels and get rewarded with online badges on the S.W.A.R.M. website.

SWARM

TIERED

ACHIEVEMENT

GOALS FOR

EXCELLENCE IN

ROCKETRY

Join SWARM Today!

Senior (21+) Membership—
1 year \$10

Leader (16-20) Membership—
1 year \$5

Junior (under 16) Membership—
free

Check out the SWARM website for more details.



Brian, Grace, and Sean post-recovery

Flying model rockets come in a countless variety of shapes and sizes. As a S.W.A.R.M. member, you will have the opportunity to share in others' builds and purchase whatever type of rocket you want. You can even learn how to design your own using free computer software!

SWARM NAR #752

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www.swarmnar.weebly.com

Visit SWARM by scanning this code with your mobile device.



2016 NAR and Model Rocketry Events

Jackson Model Rocket Club
Spring Fling Regional (April 23-24)
Manchester, MI

PSC's SCST XVI (April 30, May 1)
Pittsburgh, PA

NSL (May 28-30)
Manchester, TN

ECRM Regional (June 18-19)
Mount Airy, MD

CanAm Cup (June 25-26)
Muskegon, MI

NARAM 58 (July 23-29)
Walnut Grove, Missouri

PSC's CMMF IV (October 15-16)
Pittsburgh, PA