

# THE BUZZ!



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

**SWARM**

## 2016: The Year in Review

### Major Changes and Lots of Fun!

2016 was a very good year for S.W.A.R.M. There were some major changes but still tons of fun! We had more launch days than ever with more flights than in any previous year; Saucer S.W.A.R.M. and club pins and badges debuted; we gained a new member; and we upgraded our launch equipment.

S.W.A.R.M. held six official launches in 2016 and we had a total of 145 rockets in the air—both new highs for the club! S.W.A.R.M. was also represented at the Carl McLawhorn Memorial Fly-off run by PSC.

Our newsletter certainly paid dividends this year, as our newest member, Ron, came across a copy at Hover Haven and decided to join us for a meeting. We were having our first meeting at Tim Horton's when Ron came by and said "I think you are the folks I'm looking for." Since then, he has brought a wealth of enthusiasm and rocketry experience to our club. We've also enjoyed the snacks and beverages from Tim's at all our meetings since then as well.

Our new launch equipment from Tripoli Pittsburgh also made its debut in 2016, with excellent results. Misfires have been greatly reduced and we now have the capability of running 10 model rocket pads and 10 high power pads!

The first ever Saucer S.W.A.R.M. launch was also a big hit in September. Six different saucers went up, including Mike's upscale F-engine version. It was so popular, in fact, that it has become an annual event. S.W.A.R.M. badges and pins were also new, donated to the club by Mark. They are now a part of new membership benefits and worn proudly by all members!



Ron's Vintage Canadian Interceptor

## Simulated Rocket Series

Chris Halinaty NAR #85414

S.W.A.R.M. is proud to announce the Simulated Rocket Series! This is a friendly competition wherein members will design rockets using OpenRocket or RockSim and enter them into a virtual rocket contest. Since real winter flying in Chatham is not much fun, the Simulated Rocket Series is meant to supply an alternative type of competition where members still have to use their experience and design ideas.

The first SRS contest is "All the Basics." It encompasses several simple competitions that most competitive flyers will be very familiar with. There is a twist though—only one rocket design

must compete in all five events! Those events are: B Impulse Streamer Duration, C Impulse Parachute Duration, A Impulse Altitude, Open Spot Landing, and Drag Race.

Points will be awarded in each event using the current NAR system: 10 points for 1<sup>st</sup>, 7 for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5 for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3 for 4<sup>th</sup>, and 1 point for qualified finishers 5<sup>th</sup> and lower. The Contest Champion will be the flyer with the most points over all five events. Bragging rights for being the first ever winner of S.W.A.R.M.'s Simulated Rocket Series are up for grabs—get your design ready and submit before February 4, 2017!

# The Ontario Team Championship

## 1982 Contest Re-visited 35 Years Later

S.W.A.R.M. is not the only chartered section of the National Association of Rocketry based in Canada. Two more clubs have sprung up: Astronautical Society of Toronto and Airdrie Space Science Club out of Alberta. AST has a rich history of rocketry in Ontario and S.W.A.R.M. is excited to be included in a revised version of one of their activities.

The Ontario Team Championship was last run in 1982 and is making a comeback in 2017. AST and S.W.A.R.M. are teaming up to compete for this vintage trophy in a two-part meet to be held April 8 in Chatham and June 17 in Guelph (where the AST flying field is located).

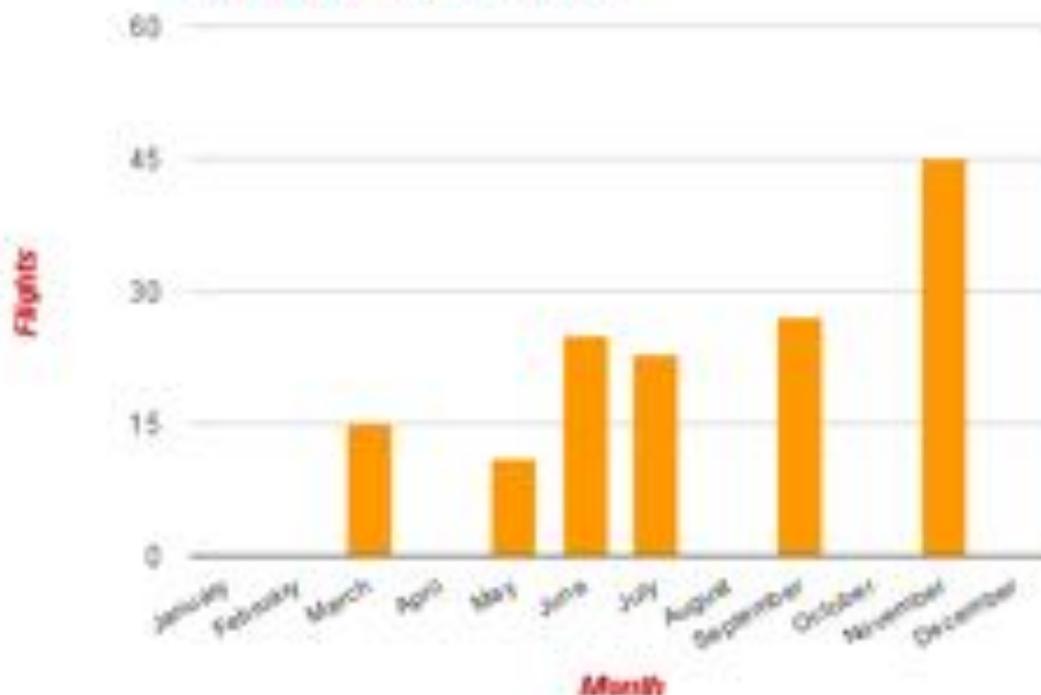
### In this issue...

- The Ontario Team Championship
- 2016 Club Flight Stats
- 2017 Calendar Highlights
- Competition Corner – NARAM-59 Events
- 2016 Photos
- The Summer of the Born-Again (Again) Rocketeer by Ron Orr

The S.W.A.R.M. events will include Precision Payload, Predicted Altitude, C Payload, and B Altitude. Altimeters will be needed for all events. The events hosted by AST will be A Rocket Glide Duration, FAI A Helicopter Duration, Fragile Precision Payload, and FAI A Streamer Duration. The section that scores the most points in all eight events will be the Ontario Team Champions 2017 and will be awarded the event trophy for one year.

<b>2017 Calendar Highlights</b>	<p>February 4: SRS Contest #1 Submission Deadline</p> <p>March 18: Record Rally and Club Launch</p> <p>April 8: Ontario Team Championship—Part I and Club Launch</p> <p>May 13: Club Launch</p> <p>June 17: Ontario Team Championship—Part II</p> <p>July 15: Club Launch</p> <p>August 19: Club Launch</p> <p>September 16: Saucer S.W.A.R.M. II and Club Launch</p> <p>October 28, 29: The Harvest Classic 2017 and Club Launch</p>	<b>2017 Calendar Highlights</b>
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**S.W.A.R.M. Flights (2016)**





2016



# The Summer of the Born-Again (Again) Rocketeer

Ron Orr

Blame my aunt and uncle. They got me started way back in 1969, with the Estes starter kit, an Alpha, some A8-3s, and a red plastic launcher that used D batteries for weight. I flew that rocket to pieces, bought others, and flew them the same way. I even joined the Canadian Rocket Society and flew in some of their competitions. Enormous fun! The family and a house came along, the city built up, and suddenly there was no place nearby to fly. I packed things away, but still played around with various designs, keeping my hand in rocketry. I moved to a village with NO open space to fly in except the surface of frozen lakes...but then I got internet access—wow! The honey was alive and well! Those of us early rocketeers who had started flying again after some time away were calling ourselves BARs, Born-Again Rocketeers. And to my surprise, the CRS still existed, now flying out of a sod farm north of Orangeville. I started to attend their meets, and this time brought my daughters along. They had just as much fun as I did—they built their own rockets (I helped with the painting) and loved watching them fly. My oldest even did a science fair project on rocketry. Didn't do half-bad, either.

But things changed, and I ended up down here in the flatlands, unable to do much travelling. Lots of room to fly, especially off-season when the crops were in, but no-one to fly \*with\*. Until I dropped in to Hover Haven last May (picking up some paint) and happened upon the S.W.A.R.M. newsletter. Another club, and one I could get to! I went to the

next meeting and I attended the next launch as a spectator. Then I unearthed my old rockets—some of them over forty years old, the rest around fifteen—and flew them at the next launch. And I was hooked again. I repaired the old models, and replaced some of them, like my Cursed Fat Boy. I scrounged motors and flew on those. I built new rockets, like the Ryerson Tri-F-O and the Astron Invader and flew them in competition. I even did a couple of new designs using OpenRocket software and flew THEM with some success. And I can't wait for 2017. I've got some old stuff I never got around to building, and some ideas for competition models. I'm joining the NAR as soon as the budget allows. I have a few of the local kids interested in seeing what it's all about. And my daughters have talked about making the long drive down to fly again... All because my aunt and uncle thought a technically-inclined boy like me would enjoy flying rockets.

## Competition Corner

NARAM-59 Events

- Open Spot Landing
- C Altitude
- B Super-roc Altitude
- C Payload Altitude
- B Eggloft Altitude
- G Helicopter Duration (C&T)
- D Helicopter Duration (A&B)
- C Flex-wing Duration
- Scale
- Concept Scale
- R&D

## Join SWARM Today!

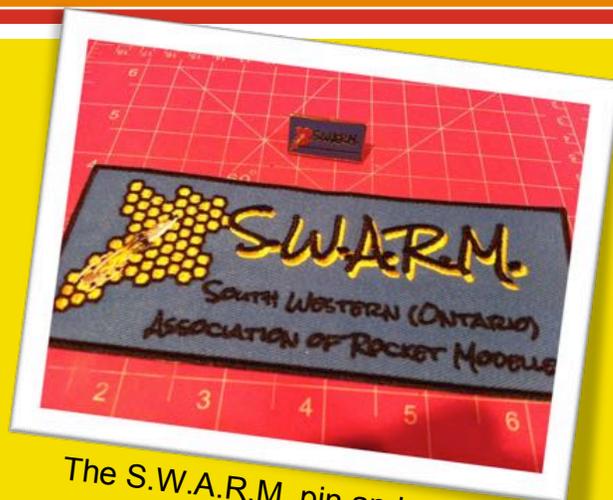
Senior (21+) Membership—  
1 year \$15 (includes a S.W.A.R.M. patch or pin)  
\$10/year thereafter

Leader (16-20) Membership—  
1 year \$5

Junior (under 16) Membership—  
free

Check out the S.W.A.R.M. website for more details.

[www.swarmnar.weebly.com](http://www.swarmnar.weebly.com)



The S.W.A.R.M. pin and patch.