

# THE BUZZ!



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

**S.W.A.R.M.**

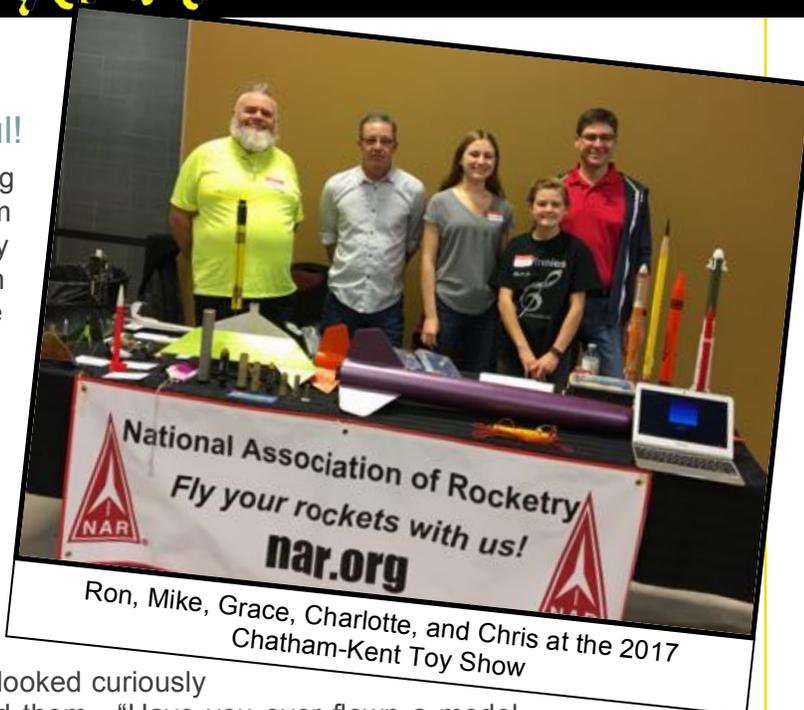
## Chatham Toy Show

### Last Minute Decision Proves Successful!

As luck would have it, our January meeting happened the day before the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Chatham Toy Show and Sale. A suggestion was initially made that we visit the show together. This soon turned in to having our very own S.W.A.R.M. table at the show!

The organizers were quickly contacted and responded with an enthusiastic welcome. There would be no fee for a display table and they had a perfect location for us. Ron, a toy show veteran, Mike, and I decided we would love to spend a Sunday talking rockets, so we had a plan.

As it turns out, our location was perfect. We were near the washrooms and food court, so we saw quite a bit of foot traffic. Most people simply looked curiously for a moment then carried on unless we engaged them. "Have you ever flown a model rocket?" was the question of the day. Surprisingly, many people answered "yes." Almost everyone seemed to know what a model rocket was, even if they hadn't personally launched any. By the end of the day, we had almost fifty people registered for our free rocket giveaway! Two lucky folks walked away with prizes—an Estes Fletcher and an Estes Laser Lance. We will certainly be back next year, probably with two tables and more giveaways.



Ron, Mike, Grace, Charlotte, and Chris at the 2017 Chatham-Kent Toy Show

## First January S.W.A.R.M. Launch!

### 13 Degree Weather Makes for a Great Launch Day

S.W.A.R.M.'s first ever January launch took place on Saturday, January 21, 2017. After a week of unstable weather with rain, mist, and fog, Saturday was a beautiful day for rocketry. Only myself and our field owner, Jeff, were able to make it but we shared a great afternoon of fun!

The field was very muddy. In fact, my car got stuck in the soft grass just past the stone driveway. Jeff had to use his mini-loader to tow me out! That made the decision to launch from the stone area beside the shed an easy one. There were some nearby trees, but we little to no wind, neither Jeff nor I thought there would be any problems. We were proved correct.

With only one flyer, there was no need for any

heavy duty launch equipment. We used my PVC tripod launch pad and an Estes controller with fresh batteries.

First up was my standard rocket to test conditions—a Big Bertha that my nephew had built years ago. It flew well on a B6-4 and recovered near the pad with a 14" parachute.

Next was an Estes Ninja that had seen quite a few launches but none in the last couple of years. It flew well, albeit with quite a spin, on an A3-4T. Recovery was nearby but just on the roof of the shed. No problem, though. Jeff got out the extension ladder and I had it down in a matter of minutes.

The third launch of the day was my

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Estes Crossbow. It flew on an A8-3 and recovered well on a small streamer. It wasn't even cold enough to keep the plastic streamer from deploying in this minimum diameter rocket! I think this was the Crossbow's best flight ever.

The reliable Estes Alpha III was up next. A B6-4 carried it to quite an altitude and it drifted slightly on its 14" chute. Still, it only landed a few yards out in the mud and was easily recovered. It didn't even get too dirty, as it stood on two fins in the mud.

The last launch of the day was one of my first ever rockets—the Quest SuperEagle. The last flight this one had was on an Aerotech D21. It required re-gluing of the fin can but it was ready to fly again. This time a C6-5 was the engine of choice. A three second delay would have been better but I had none on hand. I hoped for a nice, straight



The Estes Ninja prepares for its 13<sup>th</sup> lifetime flight and first since 2015

launch and got lucky. The tall rocket boosted straight up and deployed a little past apogee. A 14" chute carried the nose section down while the booster deployed an 18" chute. Both parts descended side by side and landed gently in the field a few yards out.

Not only was this a great January launch, this was a great launch. Period.



The Quest SuperEagle leaves the launch pad on an Estes C6-5

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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. business card