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### Dallas Area Rocket Society ("DARS")

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WWW.DARS.ORG

**SHROUDLINES**  
A Dallas Area Rocket Society Production

# SHROUDLINES

A Newsletter of the Dallas Area Rocket Society



DARS  
NAR Section #308  
Sep/Dec  
2004

Volume 13, Issue 4

Dallas Area Rocket Society ("DARS")

DARS Officers  
By James Gartrell



Member - National Association of Rocketry ("NAR").

#### Special points of interest:

- Surprisingly, it was another relatively small turnout for the December elections. Oh well! Front and center are your new officers for 2005.
- Find out a little something about DARS member Royce Frankum. He's in "The Center of Pressure."
- A DARS events calendar for 2005 is provided so you can set those calendar dates early.
- Buzz (thanks for the story!!) fills us in on his experiences at the Space Day. See the article on page 5.
- Find out about a relatively new company, started by Carl McLawhorn, on page 6.



Above photo—Our new officers for 2005 (left to right): Suzy Sprague—Treasurer; Terri Magness—Secretary; Rags Fehrenbach—President; Buzz McDermott—Vice President; Don Magness—NAR Advisor. Photo by Robert Richer.

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Happy New Year! Well, we have another great group of suckers, er, officers to lead the way in 2005. Be sure to take some time to congratulate them and offer your support for the coming year. Also, be sure to give a pat on the back to the outgoing officers for a job well done in 2004, and especially to Bill Gee, our former club Secretary. Bill's been the club Secretary for as long as I have been a member and probably for a long time before then. He has tirelessly taken the minutes of every meeting, provided personal notices of the meetings and launches to each and every member, month after month for umpteen years, and been on hand at most of the launches to chronicle the flights with his excellent photo-taking abilities. Many of

those photos made their way into this newsletter to supplement articles. I'm sure there's a lot more he's done to represent the club, too, that I haven't listed. Thank you very much, Bill, for an heroic effort over these many years! Now, take a break and go fly some rockets!! ;-)

The club has also received notice of another upcoming big change. Rags said that he will not serve as President, next year. So, if you're up to the challenge, come to the December, 2005 elections, and put your bid in for the presidency. You've got some big shoes to fill, though. In the meantime, we can all look forward to another outstanding year under Rags' leadership with an excellent supporting lineup of officers. Congratulations!!

### McKinney Outreach, September 18

By James Gartrell

The McKinney Outreach was Don Magness' first outreach to participate in at DARS. He, Buzz McDermott, Pelham Swift, Rags and Shea Fehrenbach, Jack and Suzy Sprague, and myself showed up at 8am to begin setting up for the 9-Noon YMCA launch. It was pretty warm, as it was extremely humid and only a light breeze blowing that morning. Perfect flying weather, but also perfect for bringing on a really high temperature-humidity index for the day! We had heated up pretty good after getting the field cordoned off and the six 3-rail pads set up. Buzz and Jack had also set up a couple of repair stations to take care of rockets that needed some help before flight or a repair afterwards. Bryan Powers, the YMCA coordinator for the event had also set up a big prep table just outside the entry into the range. By nine o'clock, we were ready for rockets.

This was Pelham's second time to participate in a DARS outreach, so he was

well prepared with one of his bigger rockets on display and several smaller demo rockets to "wow" the crowd. He first sent up an Estes Snapshot (successor to the Astrocam), one of several demo flights he made for the spectators. Come to think of it, "Hey, Pelham! Where's the Snapshot photos?" Everyone got a big kick out of looking up to the sky to get their picture taken. Pretty cool!

By 10am, the launch was in full swing with a steady line of kids and parents waiting to launch. I was sending up three to six rockets at a time trying to maintain a manageable line, but it was hardly making a dent. There must have been close to 200 flights made in the three-plus hours we were flying. Suzy, Rags, Don and Pelham were about run ragged helping to load the pads, and it was starting to get really hot! No, really, really hot!! The heat was beginning to take its toll, certainly on me. I think Jack Sprague noticed that, so Shea

maintained his station while he came up to relieve me from range control somewhere between 10-10:30. Boy, was I ready!!

Jack's experience at these events really shines when he gets the microphone. Each rocket launched was described and the rocketeers congratulated. Each boy or girl was also given the opportunity to press the button for their flight. Most kids love being able to launch their rocket, but a few seem intimidated by the whole thing. Nevertheless, there were smiles after smiles on the faces of both parents and their kids.

Sometime between 11-Noon I think the THI reached 100, but it wasn't long after that the event ended. Hot and tired, we loaded up and left. It was loads of fun, but the heat had taken its toll. I promised Don before we left that not all outreaches were so hot. He must have believed me, because he's made a couple more since then. Thanks a lot Don and everyone there! We survived!!

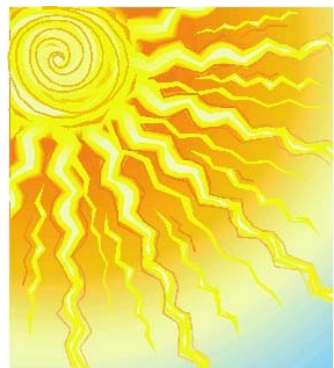


Top Right: I decided a trophy was needed for all those who participated in this Outreach. It was HOT!!

Top Left: Pelham Swift captured this unbelievable shot, as three rockets leave the pad simultaneously (well, almost--the 1st disappeared before Pelham could snap the photo).

Bottom Right: Buzz McDermott really captured what these outreaches are all about—the kids. Kaitlyn and Samantha Bragg display their exceptionally well decorated rockets. These are the moments that make it worth sweltering in 100-degree weather for a couple of hours.

Bottom Left: Rags Fehrenbach, Suzy Sprague and Don Magness take a moment to pose for a picture, as young rocketeers and their parents begin to show up for the launch. Photo by James Gartrell.



I SURVIVED THE 9/18/04 YMCA LAUNCH

### Dallas Area Rocket Society

-- NAR Section #308

Currently expires: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Renewal through: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email to Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_ card sent: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date processed: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

New Membership OR  Renewal

OR  Single Membership (\$10/yr) (Make checks payable to DARS)

Family Membership (\$15/yr) List family names: \_\_\_\_\_

Member of: NAR # \_\_\_\_\_ or / and TRIPOLI # \_\_\_\_\_

Certification Level: 0 1 2 3 Certification Level: 0 1 2 3  
 (circle one) (circle one)

DARS event notification by: \_\_\_\_\_ OR phone call at this number \_\_\_\_\_  
 e-mail at address below

(please print clearly)

Mail to: DARS Membership, c/o Suzy Sprague, 1104 Ellard Dr., Hickory Creek, Texas 76210-3900

For additional information contact Suzy at 940-321-2132 or 940-497-7009

DARSAPP.doc revised September 2004



The Dallas Area Rocket Society is a non-profit chartered section of the National Association of Rocketry ("NAR"). Its purpose is to promote the hobby of consumer rocketry in the Dallas/Ft. Worth metropolitan area.

Membership in DARS is open to all interested persons. Membership in NAR is encouraged, but not required. Annual dues are \$10.00 for individuals and \$15.00 for families. The entire family, including children, are welcomed to the meetings. Fill out and send the application, above, to join or renew your membership.

The club meets on the first Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m.

Meetings are held in Plano, TX at:

Plano Late Night Bingo  
 1805 Ave K (18th and K St.)  
 Plano, TX 75074

Exit off Hwy 75 to East Plano Parkway (just north of George Bush Turnpike—Hwy 190) and go east, turn left on K St., and turn right into the shopping center just north of 18th St.

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Call me at:  
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 neilchad11@comcast.net



Stay connected! All of us will reach greater heights with your attendance at the club meetings.

## Vendor Review—Semroc Astronautics Corporation

By James Gartrell

It has been a real struggle lately with what to do for articles. With moving and the rain, there hasn't been a lot of launches with yours truly in attendance, not much building of rockets, etc. So, here I sat, ready to go with the newsletter—except there's still space for one more article. Hmm. What to do? Then, I suddenly remembered a really fantastic thing that happened to me. Semroc (www.semroc.com) sent me a free kit! Talk about surprised. I enter all kinds of raffles, etc, but seldom win anything. Then, suddenly, out of the clear blue sky (remember those—well, actually several DARS members recently experienced an excellent one of those out at the Rockwall field, but I digress) I get this box marked, "Thanks for being a Semroc Recruiter." Inside is a nice letter of thanks and a special issue kit, the Recruiter Space Probe, put together specifically for folks who have supported their business in some special way. Wow! Talk about deja-vu. This was one of those rockets I drooled over, but never scraped up the money to buy. Heck, it cost \$2.50 in 1967 when Centuri first released the kit. Now, here it was, 37 years later, delivered to my doorstep, and didn't cost me a thing. Woohoo!!

I didn't really do that much to recruit customers for them. I think the quality they put into their product and service causes that to happen automatically. I put them up there with BMS when it comes to that, perhaps even higher. Semroc does for old Centuri fans what BMS does for old Estes fans. They are the only company I know that sells just about a complete line of the basic parts to build almost every Centuri rocket you ever wanted, plus they provide a line of very reasonably priced "retro-repro" kits of several old Centuri rockets, including one of my all time favorites, the venerated Laser-X. Not surprisingly, two of their kits, the Micron and Lil' Hercules, were on the page opposite of the "Recruiter" page I scanned for this article from my old '67 Centuri catalog. One thing you do have to be careful about is that their reproductions are exacting, so if you build it as designed, some of the currently available motors won't fit. I suggest going to Ninfinger's site to identify the motor used in the kit before building it. You may need to change out the motor mount if you're building it to fly.

Semroc also offers a high quality line of plastic parachutes that feature the old

Centuri graphics and colors. A yellow and black one came in my Recruiter. Way cool! Those colors always looked so cool on the military styled kits. They also have the blue and white or yellow and orange parachutes in addition to the ever popular red and white. They're an excellent deal at a buck a piece! You can even get one of the old "rocket racks" used for displaying your favorite kits. I have my Estes Orbital Transport clone that was signed by Vern Estes at NARAM 44 (Thanks, Bill!) displayed on one of them. Yeehaw!! I got a couple thrown in for free with my first big order from Semroc. From what I've heard on the OldRockets Yahoo group, that isn't an unusual promo by the company.

Recently, they've begun producing up scales of some of the old Centuri kits. I think those are being produced so we can envision the rockets today at the size they seemed to be when we were kids. ;-) They even have a down scale of one kit. I'm not sure what that's all about, but given the success of the company, they probably know what they're doing. They do have the Excalibur listed as a "planned" kit. My next order will go in when they get that one out on the market, even though I've already ordered the parts from them to build it. They just recently released the Lil' Ivan, which some of you may remember—Centuri released it in 1982. The decals are really cool, and it's one of those "big small" kits, 1.64" diameter but only 8.7" long. Come to think of it, I might have to get that order in a little early. ;-) They also have a number of the old kits put into RockSim files, so you can download a copy off their website and then print out a parts list to order from. Centuri fans, is this what you've been waiting for, or what?

OK, everyone send Semroc an email and let them know what a glowing review I provided for them. OK? Uh, anybody? No, seriously. They really are an excellent company, and I would say that even if they weren't loading me up with free stuff.

## The Center of Pressure

By James Gartrell

that passion has also led him to develop resin casts for just about every part in the Cineroc, from the nose cone to the film advance gear. I looked at the parts he made and couldn't tell the originals from his copies! They are excellent!! This capability has made him quite popular in the "Cineroc community." ;-)

Getting to know our Mr. Cineroc over the past year has been a real pleasure. Like most rocketeers, he is also a superb person. Most times I've gone to fly rockets with Royce, including NSL 2004, his family is with him. His oldest son, Jared is fast becoming "Mr. Patriot." He flew an original Estes Citation Patriot about 25 times at NSL 2004—so many times that the glue had softened so much that it wouldn't keep the fins stabilized any longer. After his insistence, we had to put CA over the fillets so he could keep launching it. Jared also has built a beautiful upscale which he now routinely launches on F motors. Woohoo!! He's certainly setting the pace for toddler brother, Mitchell. Wife, Marissa, is also spectacular. I'll never forget what she told me when we first met. I commended her for "putting up" with her husband's passion for rocketry. Her reply was, "There's a lot worse things a man could be involved in, and we all enjoy going to the launches. It's fun!" Royce, you're a very lucky man! BTW, don't plan on launching on Sunday's with Royce. He and his family always attend church services then,

without fail to my knowledge.

Royce may get a little embarrassed by this next story, but I think it's important to share. Royce was giving a "how-to" presentation on resin casting after one of the monthly meetings a couple of months ago. He had also brought an original boxed Cineroc that was sitting in front of him on the table. Marissa and Mitchell were with him, and I walked over to say howdy. He extended the kit to me and said, "That's for you, James." I started getting that "old rocketry" overload feeling again. Stupidly, I refused. "I know you've always wanted one of these, James," he insisted. Marissa said, "James, he wants you to have that." Somehow, I managed to accept the gift, shake Royce's hand, and give Marissa and Mitchell a hug. I had just come to the meeting to deliver something and had to leave. I don't know how I managed to leave, but I did somehow. The rest of the afternoon was one of those blurs. Is Royce a friend of mine? You bet! Did I deserve that gift? No way! That's just the kind of people the Frankum's are. And that isn't unusual behavior for rocketeers. I've seen it many times. It's only unusual when you're the recipient of it. If you see the Frankum's at a meeting or a launch, make a point to stop and say howdy. You'll be glad you did. They're superb folks!

Left photo by Bill Gee of Royce's Cineroc lifting off the pad at NSL 2004. Right photo by James Gartrell of Royce and Jared returning to the tent after the maiden flight of his upscale Cineroc, which broke a fin upon landing in the high winds at NSL 2004.



Left: Scanned page from my '67 Centuri catalog. I sure remember wishing I had that one! Estes released it in later years, also, after Centuri was acquired. I have an Estes version I got off eBay. Sadly, though, I'll probably never be able to afford one of the Centuri kits if one ever comes up on eBay. :-)

Right: Scanned kit art from my Semroc kit. Notice the "production number" card that can be used to put on one of the Semroc "rocket racks" to display your finished kit. Yeah, baby!



Royce Frankum, a fairly new DARS member joining late 2003, but old rocketeer, is my victor, feature member this month. He really loves flying rockets, especially Cinerocs. Yep, real, nostalgic, drool inducing, true-to-life Estes Cinerocs. For those possibly not familiar with the Cineroc, it is a movie camera first produced by Estes in the late '60s that uses Super-8 film. Finding the film and getting it processed can be a challenge, and you'll probably have to find a suitable projector on eBay. Royce has solved both of those issues. A few folks in the club have Cinerocs, but the only one I've ever seen flying one was Royce. And not just once, but numerous times. That makes him, in my book, the DARS' "Mr. Cineroc." In no way do I mean any disrespect to Mr. Desind, and I believe he would agree with my salute to Royce.

Royce has "wowed" me with his flights since the very first time I saw him fly rockets. The first rocket he pulled out was an original Astron Scrambler. I thought he was just going to show it off. I almost had a heart attack when he put a motor in it and headed for the pad. After barely recovering from that flight, me not the rocket, Royce reaches into the trunk of his car and pulls out an original Cineroc perched atop an original Estes Omega 2-stage rocket. He wasn't showing this one off, either. Everything after that was just a blur. I was suffering from "old rocketry" overload. Watching Royce fly rockets over the past year has helped me to get over my "illness." I have now become sufficiently accustomed to the shock of watching original old rockets fly that I can actually breathe, keep my eyes open, and somewhat enjoy the events. ;-)

There's only one thing more exciting than watching the Cineroc fly, and that's watching a Cineroc "movie." Royce invited me over to his house to watch a reel he spliced together of several flights, including one flight just outside of the Estes plant up in Penrose, Colorado. Way cool!! I've seen some pretty spectacular videos on the Gates brothers' internet site, but this was nirvana. We must have watched the movie two or three times, after reversing several times and replaying using slow motion. The Cineroc doesn't really produce a picture that comes anywhere close to the quality of other video cameras available today, but it does produce some awesome nostalgia. I literally watched in total awe as each flight zoomed from the pad, deployed and landed. If you enjoy old rockets, and especially the Cineroc, you need to look Royce up and get an invite to watch his movie. It is one "feature film" I will never forget. Thanks, Royce!

Royce has a passion for flying Cinerocs, but



DARS Events

By James Gartrell

DARS OUTREACH SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
1/29, 9am-1pm	Dino Dash Exhibit	George Sprague
5/7, 9am-4pm	Scout Show at Market Hall	George Sprague
5/21, 9am-1pm	Rockwall YMCA Launch	George Sprague

DARS LAUNCH SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
1/1, 10am-2pm	New Year's Day Launch—Rockwall	Buzz McDermott
1/15, 9am-3pm	LMR Sport Launch—Rockwall	Buzz McDermott
2/12, 9am-3pm	LMR Sport Launch—Rockwall	Buzz McDermott
2/19, 10am-4pm 2/20, 9am-3pm	NTHP 26—Windom	Buzz McDermott
3/19-20	St. Patrick's Day Launch—McGregor	TBD, Contact Rags
4/23-24	Sport Launch—McGregor	TBD, Contact Rags
5/28-29	Jim Turner Memorial Sport Launch—McGregor	TBD, Contact Rags
6/18-19	Father's Day Sport Launch—McGregor	TBD, Contact Rags
7/16-17	Hotter-n-Hell Sport Launch—McGregor	TBD, Contact Rags
8/27-28	NTHP 27—Windom	TBD, Contact Rags
9/24-25	Sport Launch—Windom	TBD, Contact Rags
10/15-16	Shoot for the Stars Sport Launch—Windom	TBD, Contact Rags
11/12-13	Turkey Shoot Sport Launch—Windom	TBD, Contact Rags

OTHER DARS EVENTS SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
1/12, 1pm-?	1st 2005 DARS Meeting	Rags Fehrenbach
1st Sat.—other months, 1pm-?	Remaining DARS Meetings	Rags Fehrenbach
12/10, ?	DARS Potluck Lunch	Rags Fehrenbach

Below are a few pictures taken by Tim Sapp at the December 18, 2004, DARS Rockwall Launch:  
 1—A test flight of Don Magness' upscale Red Baron. Sweet!  
 2—Buzz walking back from recovery with his grandson, Liam. Tim titled this one, "What it's all about." Yep!  
 3—Guess whose Midget this is? ;-)



Space Day at Frontiers of Flight Museum

By Buzz McDermott

The local chapter of the National Space Society (NSS) some time back asked if DARS could participate in a 'Space 3-Day' event they were putting together at the Frontiers of Flight museum next to Love Field. It was originally scheduled to be a two day event with corporate sponsorship, guest speakers, presentations and displays, all in celebration and in conjunction with National Space Week (October 5-11). Unfortunately, most of that fell through. The end result was a one day set of static exhibits by local space enthusiast organizations.

So, with that in mind, David Schaefer and I set out to the museum bright and early the morning of Saturday, Oct 11. Dave had previously arranged to have the big X-30 at the museum, and he and I both brought additional materials the morning of the exhibits. We set up a DARS display across 3 tables that included everything from a couple of 10.5mm contest rockets at one end to the X-30 at the other. We also had DARS flyers, some NAR materials, videos, rocketry magazines and such. Along with DARS, some of the other local groups displaying included the NSS,

Mars Society, Lunar Society, Texas Astronomy Society (TAS) and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Taken together, it was a very nice display of tables and materials. It's a shame nobody saw them...There was virtually no publicity for the event. It turned into a \*very\* slow day for the museum. All told we had maybe a 10-20 total visitors come through the area between 10 am and 5 pm. That was it.

The day wasn't a \*complete\* loss. I did finally get signed up with TAS (I've been meaning to do that for over a year). Also, I haven't been to the museum since they moved out of the Love terminal and now have room to show off some of their aircraft. It's a nice little aerospace museum. They are mostly all aircraft oriented at present but they have a space section being built. Among the items they have for that section is the Apollo 7 command module. I also met up with the head of the museum education department and the manager of the gift shop. It looks like there are going to be a number of outreach opportunities for DARS at the museum. They plan to start up some classes on model rocketry and also the Girl and Boy Scout Space

Exploration badges to go along with their current model plane and Aeronautics classes.

Let's see, I spent about three hours getting printed materials (including an updated DARS flyer) together for the exhibit. Another two hours was spent picking out and packing up (and later unpacking) the rockets, stands, and such for the display. And David Schaefer left his house a little after 8 am and got back a little after 6 pm (picking me up and dropping me off along each way). I don't count the time David took getting the X-30 to the museum - it is going to be put on permanent display there! It had to be delivered anyway. However, there were still over 25 man hours spent on this outreach for very, very little return. The NSS is talking about doing it again next year. They are planning on a bigger, better supported event with corporate displays as well as amateur groups. They are also planning on advance publicity. \*IF\* that all comes about I would encourage DARS to participate again. If not, our community would probably be better served if we supported a different event.

Left photo: Dave Schaefer's X-30 is proudly displayed. Sweet! It's worth a trip to the museum just to see that! Right photo: A few smiling visitors stopped by to view the awesome display Buzz set up for DARS.

Photos by Buzz McDermott; Captions by James Gartrell, Editor. ;-)

