



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

Special points of interest:

- "Ignition!" It has been an eventful couple of months...
- Gary Briggs writes about a great rocketeer and better friend.
- Stuart Powley adds a bit to it.
- Then Gary writes about the DARS Fall Classic VI.
- We have so many DARS Classic pictures that we devoted a whole lot of pages to them. I hope you don't mind!

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Ignition! By J. Stuart Powley



Rome Gracia and his grandfather, Jim Gassaway, recently demonstrated how they build rockets together while on ENN news at Jefferson School, for the Dallas Area Rocket Society.

Well, it has certainly been a busy past couple of months. We have had good news, and not so good, but overall things are going well for DARS.

On September 4, member Wayne Day was awarded five dollars by the NAR for recruiting new members. Wayne has tirelessly done this through TARC and related programs. He even donated the money to DARS! Thanks for all you do, Wayne!

Speaking of outreach, DARS members Rome and his grandfather Jim made the Sherman/Denison paper with the above picture and cut line. It seems Rome did a school

wide TV spot on rocketry all by himself! Great job, Rome!

In more somber news, James Gartrell finally passed away after his long bout with cancer. Gary Briggs has a great article on him and his legacy.

In brighter news, the DARS Fall Classic VI was a huge success. Gary has provided us another great article on the event, and many other people have provided pictures!

It looks like the flying weather is getting better, so good things are ahead. Fly 'em safe and high!

James Gartrell Memories

By Gary Briggs
NAR 76909 L2

For me it goes back to when I really got to know James. In 2007 we were working on our third iteration of the Fall Classic. I sort of casually knew James at that point. He had competed at previous Classics and had taken the open category and best in show in the 2006 with a Red River Rocketry Stratos, as well as wrote the article for the newsletter. When things were getting started up for the event in 2007 and the call went out for volunteer support, he jumped in with both feet and took on the task of rounding up prizes. Well, since he had a close relationship with many of the vendors, we had a plethora of prizes that year. As we worked together on this, I got to know him better, and he never ceased to surprise me to the layers of his personality. He wasn't one to ever talk about himself, so you had to pick things up along the way.

Always a fierce competitor at the Classic, James had gone big this year and came in with 6 models ready to compete. He won the 60's category with one of his favorite rockets – a Mars Snooper painted to match the 1966 catalog which he also displayed. In the 70's category he took 2nd with a 2 stage Cherokee D. In the 80's category, he took 1st and 2nd with Torellian Invader and an Orion Starfighter, and just to round things out, he was in the 3 way tie for 1st place in the Open category with Doug Sams and Stuart Powley with his Hawks Hobby Super Sprite. On top of that he won a prize in the contestant drawing as well.

With each victory James was challenged with what to do with the prizes. It puts you in an interesting position when you have helped to set up the event and acquire

the prizes to take them home for yourself. James being the selfless kind of guy that he was quickly came up with multiple solutions. On the contestant drawing he offered it up to Mike McFadden if he would write an article for the newsletter, which James was the editor. His prize for the 80s category ended up with Laurie Powley in much the same way. He also gave away the prizes in the 60s category, but I never found out who to. He may have taken 1 kit out of the mix, but it gave him much more joy to spread those prizes around to others.

I had forgotten about the picture that James got that year of the contestants and prize winners. It is probably one of the best we ever got, and I am pretty sure that is because James rounded everybody up for it. Note Sam Barone with his Goblin with which he took the special bonus points showing the rocketeer and his rocket back in the day. Mike McFadden is there holding the charred remains of his Rubicon which he launched with 7+ motors (it went unstable shortly after takeoff, landing a short ways away, and starting a small ground fire which I remember getting very out of breath running to with a water jug). I am there next to James, who is holding several prizes, with the ever present smile on his face. Laurie and Stuart are there with their prizes, next to Mark Hawkins, who



flew the Super Orbital Transport late in the day, but early enough to influence the Best in Show votes his way. Since the prize was one of his rockets (HawksHobby sponsored in a big way that year) he gave it away to someone else as well. The whole story is here <http://www.dars.org/newsletters/dsv16n4.pdf> in one of James great newsletters. He held the role of editor for several years and really enjoyed putting it together. It was another avenue that gave many a chance to get to know James. I think he might have kept doing that to this day if his illness hadn't made making deadlines unpredictable.

In 2008, James was back to help out on the event again, and this year entered his upscale Mars Snooper with Vern and Glenda Estes signatures on it. It took 2nd place in the upscale category. It also was on prominent display at his funeral as were pictures of him with Vern and Gleda. I think it was Jack that mentioned the child like excitement that James enjoyed when meeting his heroes, whether that be Vern and Gleda or Buzz Aldrin. His eyes always lit up when he talked about those meetings.

I feel fortunate to have worked with him on an event he enjoyed so much and that opportunity to get to know James. He loved this hobby and the people in it. James was a one of a kind rocketeer for the ages, and a great friend. I wish I had known him longer, but I will always remember him and the



kind and thoughtful soul that he was.

More Memories...

J.S. Powley, NAR 29573

I could probably write pages and pages about James, but I think Gary has done a wonderful job. I will add, though, that I realized that I have the first and last things James ever said to me.

You see, I first "met" James when he commented on a rocket I had put on EMRR. He wrote, "Outstanding! I thought about doing one of these myself. Glad to see you actually did it. ;-) I love the Screaminverkins idea. Super! Looks excellent." (J.G.)

His last words to me were also written. He wrote, "Nice newsletter, Stu. Hope you, Laurie and family are doing well.

James " Less than two months later he was gone.

My point is that these statements sum up James to me. He was always encouraging and supportive. I never heard him being negative about anyone. In my mind, that is the best thing that can be said about a person. I will miss him mightily.

The DARS Fall Classic VI

By Gary Briggs
NAR 76909 L2

I had a good feeling about this year's classic. It seemed like things were coming together exceedingly well between the web site, the sponsors, the shirts and the logistics. I was concerned about a potential work conflict that looked like it could cause trouble, but 1 week before the event that too, went away. The weather was the final potential nemeses of the event, and when I walked out the door that morning, I knew it was going to be a great day.

I tried to change a few things up this year. We added drawings hourly for the young rocketeers in the crowd to get their hands of some easy-to-build rockets. Not quite a make it and take it, but something to hold their interest and hopefully bring them back. We even had a couple of RTF rockets donated, so if they brought motors, they might have been flying their new rocket that day. We also added a swap meet, which I expected to be something for the older rocketeers looking for the special rocket they couldn't find on eBay. What I didn't expect was that the kids would be the most dedicated bidders at the event.

There were some good classic items on the table, including Estes 25th Anniversary Klingon Battle Cruiser, but the one that had all the kids buzzing was the Exo-

skell. It ended up with 2 pages of bids on it. I guess no one has taught them how to snipe yet.

This was an amazing launch and contest. There were plenty of great flights throughout the day from A to G. The cub scouts kept the range very busy in the morning after they exhausted their Alka-Seltzer rockets and moved on to BP.

This was, by far, the most people I have ever seen on the Frisco field. We also tied with the highest number of rockets that we have ever had in the contest (49) and had the highest number of contestants with a good mix of hard core veterans and newcomers. What was interesting to me is how many of the first time competitors walked away with the prizes.

The Classic Classic category had 33 (count 'em, 33) rockets from 13 different contestant, easily surpassing the highest number of rockets we have ever had in any single category. This new category combined the 60s, 70s, and 80s categories from the past into one easy to use category. It was won by first time contestant Adam Amick with an Estes Strike Fighter. So popular was this rocket that Adam left at 1 or 2 o'clock, and he still had 5 points on his nearest competitor, and that was with no bonus points! He won an Estes Interceptor from R/C

Zone.

2nd place went to Jon Osuch's Big Bertha as he brought along a strong voting bloc, and took full advantage of the available bonus points. He won a Long Tom from Estes. In 3rd was Stuart Powley's Klingon Battle Cruiser, even though I pulled a Captain Kirk earlier in the day and knocked off his port nacelle. As Stuart cleaned up in some other categories, he gave his Red River Rocketry Slip Stream to the next highest vote getter in the category, which was Marissa Collins.

In Starship, we had 10 rockets from 8 rocketeers. Bob Melton was back with a repeat of his 2008 win of the category, this year with his Shrox Star Shuttle, which took home a Semroc Taurus. In second place was Joshua Osuch with his Screaming Eagle. He won a Plasma Probe from Estes. In 3rd was Stuart Powley for his TWA Moonliner and he took home a Space Eagle from Estes. Stuart also won the Best Sci Fi award from Red River Rocketry and took home another Red Shift to add to his collection.

In Upscale Classic, there were 6 rockets from 6 contestants. Flight points seemed to be a requirement in this category with 5 of the 6 rockets getting the extra 2 points for risking their paint. Everyone needed these points except the

winner, Phil Anderson, who entered his Sirius Rocketry Saturn V, on somewhat of a whim. He was rewarded with the highest vote total of the day which netted him a \$25 Gift Certificate from HobbyTown USA Dallas for the Upscale Category win, and the Best in Show award, a Semroc Brighton.

2nd place went to Stuart Powley for his southern themed Interceptor E, which got him a Semroc Centurion. Third place went to yours truly for my 3X upscale of a Centuri Black Widow which I flew early in the day on 3 D12s as a tribute to James Gartrell. I hope you enjoyed the show today buddy. We sure did miss having you there. The third place prize was the cool 2 stage ring finned Solar Flare from Estes.

The other tribute flight of the day was the Mike Doffler launch. Mike was an engineer at Estes and created many of the hobby's innovations including the CineRoc, which is traditionally flown on the Estes Omega 2 stage rocket. He also invented the AstroCam.

We ended up with 4 Omegas, 2 with original CineRoc Super8 movie cameras loaded with real film, and one AstroCam. The CineRocs belonged to Ted Mahler and Royce Frankum. Sam Barone went with a more modern digital video camera and Dave Schultz went sans camera all together. I didn't get the name of the gentleman who flew the AstroCam.

It was a mass launch, and all 5 of the rockets fired, and all 4 of the 2 stage rockets staged successfully. Recovery proved to be a bit more challenging. Royce had a separation but got all of his parts back. Sam took a pretty long walk, but the field was not successful on this day of eating this Omega as it had his previous one. Dave Schultz was less lucky as the field did manage to eat his rocket, leaving him with only the booster. Ted had a wadded/tangled parachute causing the rocket to come down hard, well behind the range head and up the street. The hard landing shattered the nose shroud, but the camera appears to be OK. We will see how we all look when Royce and Ted get their film back from processing.

We closed out the day with a contestant drawing, to spread a bit more cheer around the family. Just to get everyone's name in the paper, here are the winners of the contestant drawing, and the young rocketeers that took home prizes as well.

Young Rocketeers Drawings:

Hanna Newburn – Semroc Astro Jr.
 Caroline Wilson – Estes Sky Writer from R/C Zone
 Zach McCook – Estes Sky Writer from R/C Zone
 Devyn Mandala – Estes Rascal from R/C Zone
 Josh Osuch – Estes HiJinx from R/C Zone
 Margaret Hatton – Semroc Sky

Hook II
 Hanna Kheeh – Semroc Sky Hook II
 Rome Garcia – Semroc Start
 Jon Osuch – Semroc Start
 Contestant Drawings:
 Mike Satterfield – Estes Twister from Estes
 Joe Osuch – Estes Monarch from Estes
 Ted Mahler - \$10 Gift certificate from HobbyTown USA Dallas
 Greg Collins - \$10 Gift certificate from HobbyTown USA Dallas
 Bill Gee – Red River Rocketry Lepton

A huge thank you must go out to our sponsors who provided us with close to \$500 worth of prizes this year. Thanks to Semroc, Estes, Red River Rocketry, R/C Zone and HobbyTown USA Dallas. Please thank them with your patronage as they deserve our support. I have to personally thank all the contestants who came out and complete. I also must thank everyone who helped out, with special consideration for Sam Barone, Stuart Powley, Jack and Suzy Sprague, and Doug Sams without whom I could have never got this done. To everyone who enjoys The Classic, please let me know your thoughts on how to make the event even better.

I think this may have been the only year (besides NSL) where we didn't get pushed off our original date by rain, a burn ban, or some other random act. The stars seemed to have aligned well this year, and let's hope we can have a repeat for The Fall Classic VII!

DARS Fall Classic VI Picture-Palooza!!!



Royce Frankum takes a stroll down memory lane at the contestant's table.



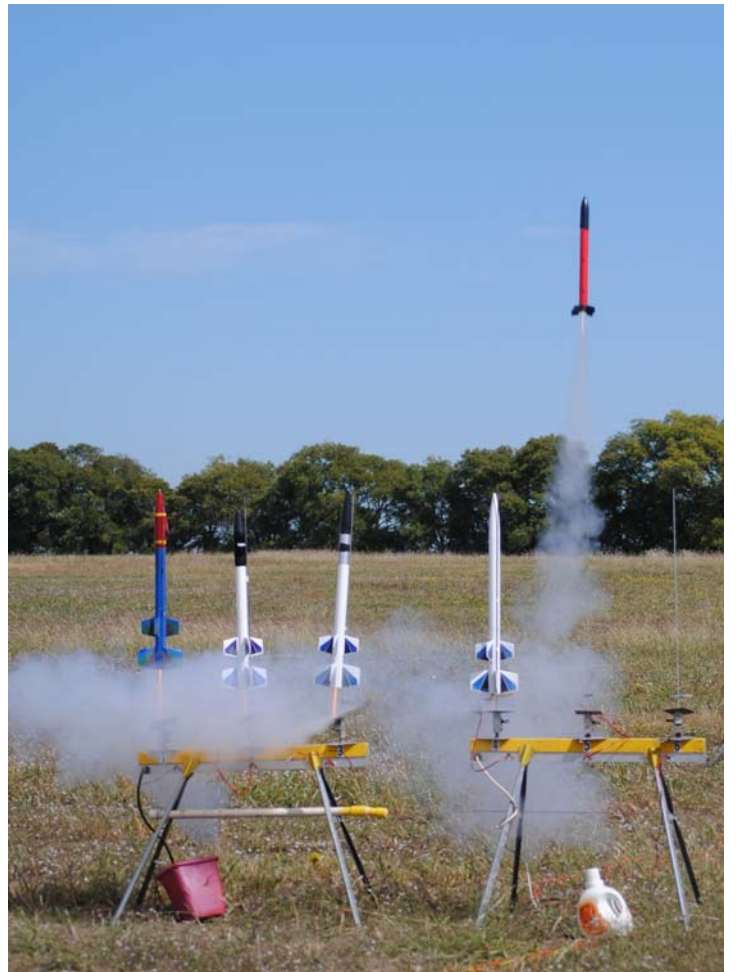
Sam Barone preps his digital Omega for the Mike Doffler tribute launch.



Gary Briggs and Chas Russell hand out prizes at one of the many drawings.



Chas Russell sent me this picture of his Madcow Skreech on an F20. It lives up to its name!



*This is the reason that the Astrocam isn't in most of the Doffler tribute pics. It was much faster than the Omegas!
Chas Russell*



*The brave and gallant tribute launch team stands by their magnificent birds!
Gary Briggs*



This is what upscale is about! A regular sized Centuri Black Widow rests on Gary Briggs' upscale. Note James Gartrell's initials on the upscale.

Gary Briggs



The Omegas take to the sky!

Bill Gee

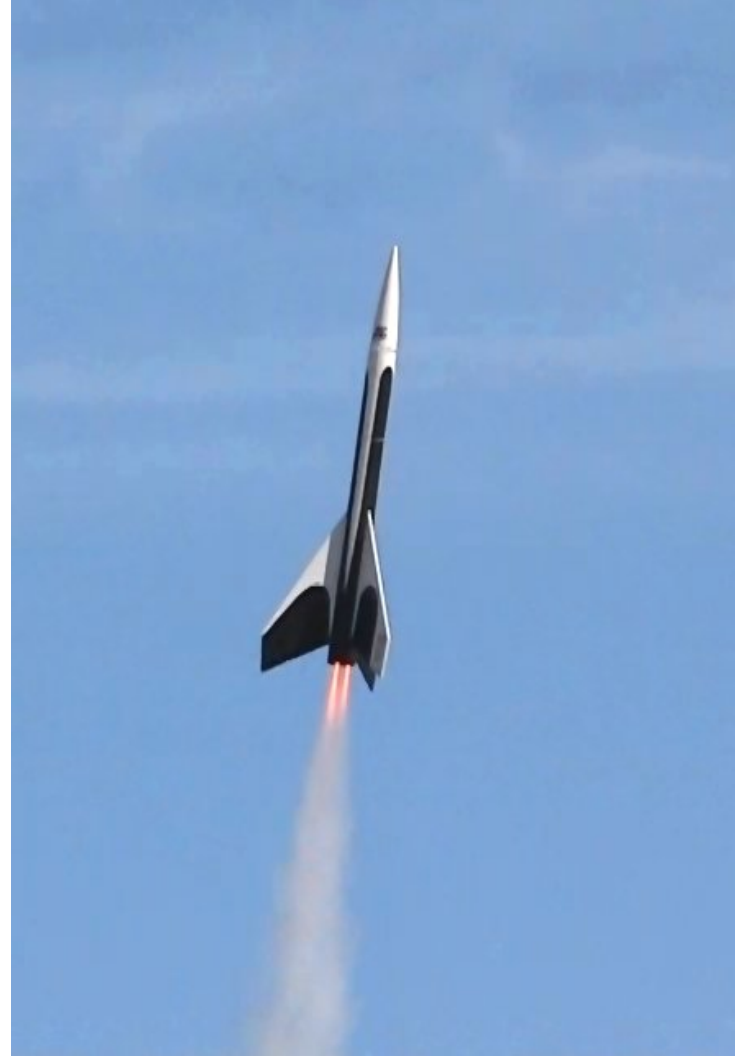


Bill Gee also got this great shot of a Bandit heading skyward!



Mr. Turner's Red River Merlin screams off the pad!

Bill Gee



Gary Briggs' Black Widow upscale shows why clusters are so darn cool!

Richard Benavides



Left: Phil Anderson and his giant upscale Saturn V that took both upscale and Best in Show!

Right: Stuart Powley's Southern Fried Interceptor upscale.





The DARS Fall Classic VI Winners with their prizes!



Some people got downright giddy when they won!

We have a ton more pictures, and I promise they will find their way in here in the upcoming months! Thanks to everyone who sent these to me!
J.S.P.

Stuart Powley's TWA Moonliner in flight.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!!!

I want to take this time to thank everyone for giving me tons of stuff for this (and the next) newsletter! Hey, begging works!

You are all very much appreciated! Still, we need more! Therefore, if you have any kind of article, picture, cartoon, rambling, etc., just send it to stu29573@yahoo.com. I usually work best with Word documents, and JPEG files, but I can make just about anything work if I have to. I can also handle stuff that is written down, but that means I have to type and that can be a bit touch and go... But I'll take it anyway!

You can also give me things at the meetings (which I almost never miss...almost), and I promise to try my best not to lose them. I can return stuff at the next meeting if need be.

As I have said many times in the past, I really want this newsletter to be by the club and for the club. You guys can think up much better stuff than I can (as is evidenced by the articles we've been getting lately). So, stop just thinking about maybe writing something and actually do it! You'll be glad you did! (as will everyone who reads it!)



DARS Officers

President	Jack Sprague
Vice President	John Dyer
Treasurer	Suzie Sprague
Secretary	Bill Gee
NAR Senior Advisor	Sam Barone

DARS

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. Go to the website and fill out and send an application to join or renew your membership.

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

Visit the DARS website for the meeting location: www.dars.org



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

Vendor Links (* DARS member discount—confirm before ordering)

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