

The Launch Rack

Newsletter of the Garden State Spacemodeling Society
Section 439 of the National Association of Rocketry

Special Edition

Summer 2006

Greetings!

You are holding this because you are a member, or were, of the Garden State Spacemodeling Society.

You are holding this because we hope that those of you that are members will help us to grow and those that were past members will return to the fold.

You are holding this because we would like to see the section/club be more active than it has been in last few years. We have a very interesting history.

You are holding this because our history should be celebrated and we have a chance to do that. GSSS will be 25 years old in 2007.

You are holding this because we want your help in celebrating this milestone and for your ideas on how to do it.

Some ideas that have already been talked about are having a dinner in March, the actual month our charter became official. Monthly competitions starting in August of this year; one or two events each month. These would be practice sessions and then go to NARAM in 2007 as a group. Depending upon where it will be held we could charter a bus and go together. T-shirts with the GSSS logo.

You get the idea. Now we are asking for your two cents worth or even a dollars worth.

So, start thinking of ways to celebrate. Tell any of the board members (see list below) at the launches or e-mail me at jacknmel@optonline.net. You may also write to Jack Sarhage, 24 Canterbury Court, Piscataway, NJ 08854.

You are holding this because we are reviving the newsletter. It will be issued quarterly this year and then return to its bi-monthly schedule. So we need your articles, plans, photos, etc.

Let's celebrate GSSS!



This photo was taken at North Branch Park on a cold 1980's winter day. "Younger" GSSS members that can be identified are Manuel Mejia, Jr., (not sure who the next two are) Carl Cufone, Ted Rebetje, and our ever present photographer Steve Pantuck. Do you remember this day?

GSSS Historical Trivia

There have been many changes and accomplishments during the last 25 years. Many you may not be aware of. Following are some questions on the history of Section 439.



1. When formed in 1982, what was Section 439's original name?
2. In order to become an official NAR section you had to have a least five members. Can you name the original five?
3. The first issue of the newsletter was published May/June 1982. It was not called

The Launch Rack. Do you know what it was named?.

4. It became *The Launch Rack* in what year?
5. Section 439 became The Garden State Spacemodeling Society in what year?

Look for the answers elsewhere in this edition.



The Board of Directors

This is the Board of Directors for GSSS:

Bob Zabriskie – Section Advisor
3 Peachtree Road
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
e-mail: openwheelman1@verizon.net

Jack Sarhage – President
24 Canterbury Court
Piscataway, NJ 08854-6206
e-mail: jacknmel@optonline.net

Steve Pantuck – Vice President
410 Lewelen Circle
Englewood, NJ 07631-2021
e-mail:

Bob Gill – Vice President
22 Califon Drive
Colonia, NJ 07067
e-mail:

Arnold Klein – Secretary/Treasurer
2 Oneida Avenue
Rockaway, NJ 07866
e-mail: arklein@pica.army.mil

The Launch Rack

the official publication of the Garden State Spacemodeling Society and is published for the enlightenment and entertainment of our members.

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Submissions for publication are encouraged.

Countdown (calendar of events) 5-4-3-2-1

June 24 – Sport Launch at North Branch Park
July 29 – Sport Launch at North Branch Park
Aug 26 – Sport Launch at North Branch Park
Sept 30 – Sport Launch at North Branch Park
Oct. 28 – Sport Launch at North Branch Park
Nov. 25 – Sport Launch at North Branch Park
Dec. 23 – Sport Launch at North Branch Park
(Dates are subject to change.)

Note: Starting with the August launch an official competition event will be included. These will be based upon those that will be flown at NARAM-49.

May Section Launch

Though windy there were some very nice flights. Steve Pantuck was the first to arrive at North Branch and then Arnie Klein with the launch equipment (Be sure to thank these guys. They are the ones that set things up and take it down so you can enjoy your flying day.)

Jack Sarhage was there to launch an Estes' *BLU-97B Cluster Bomb*. "Using four year old rocket engines there were two successful launches. The first was with a B4-2. It was decided that due to the weight of the rocket a C would be much better. This rocket has four "bombs" that return on streamers which were recovered after each flight. There were bets he would not find them.

Arnie flew his "found rocket" that for a few minutes we thought was lost having landed near some power lines, but as luck would have it the wind knocked it down. He also launched a triangle that had suffered a cato.

Tom Whymark and grandson's arrived with several nice rockets.

Another gentleman, sorry I never got his name, flew some very nice rockets. The paint job on them is fantastic. It is said that he wet sand them many times between coats of paint.

Though windy it was a very enjoyable day. Hope to see you at the next launch.

Plans: the plans shown on the next page are printed with the permission of Peter Always and are from his book, *Peter's Little Book of Goofy Rocket Plans*. "ZubeneIgenubi means "The Southern Claw." Thank you, Peter.

Zubeneigenubi

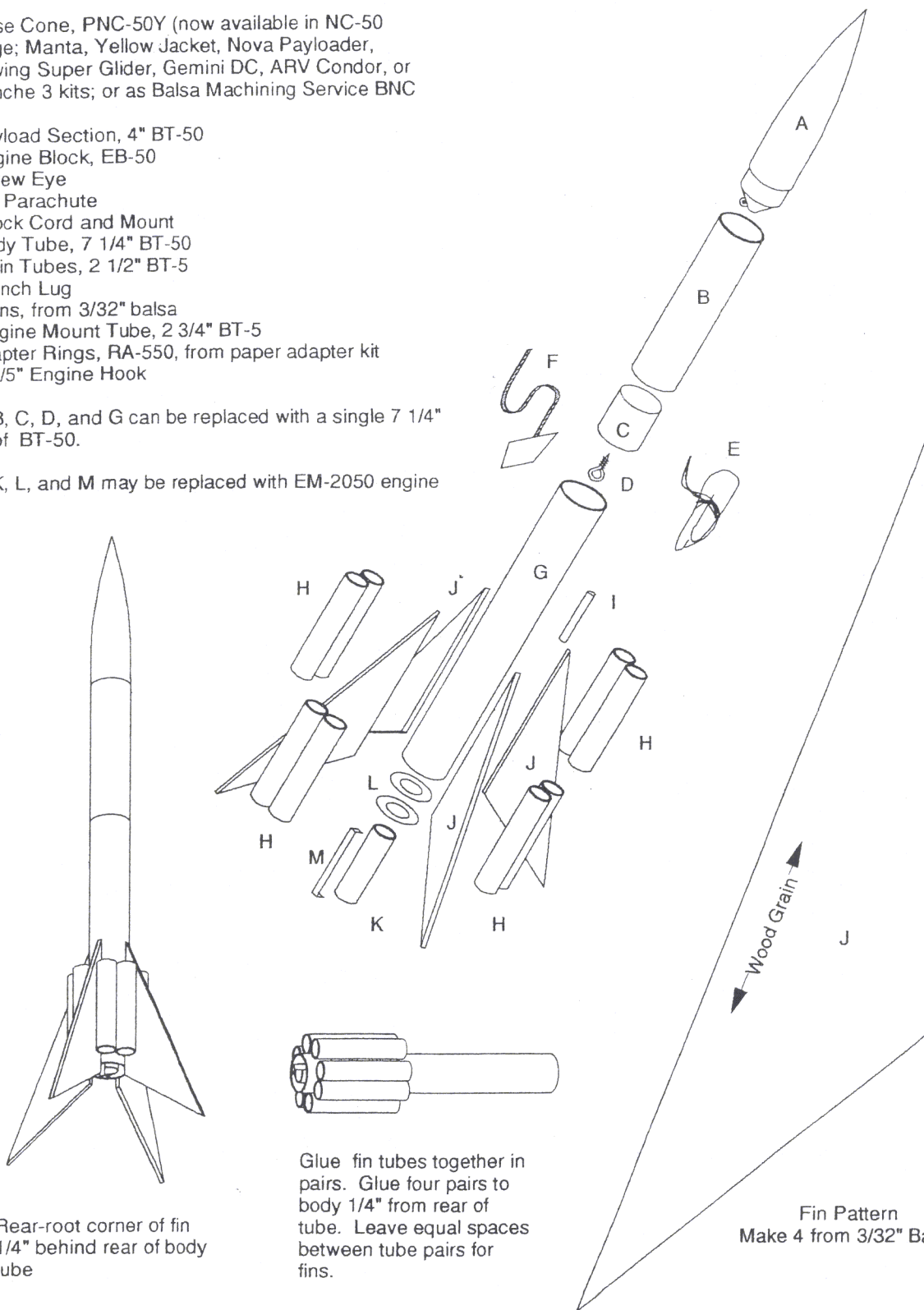
(THE SMOOTH-FACE CLAW)

Parts list:

- A: Nose Cone, PNC-50Y (now available in NC-50 package; Manta, Yellow Jacket, Nova Payloader, Transwing Super Glider, Gemini DC, ARV Condor, or Comanche 3 kits; or as Balsa Machining Service BNC 50Y.)
- B: Payload Section, 4" BT-50
- C: Engine Block, EB-50
- D: Screw Eye
- E: 12" Parachute
- F: Shock Cord and Mount
- G: Body Tube, 7 1/4" BT-50
- H: 8 Fin Tubes, 2 1/2" BT-5
- I: Launch Lug
- J: 4 Fins, from 3/32" balsa
- K: Engine Mount Tube, 2 3/4" BT-5
- L: Adapter Rings, RA-550, from paper adapter kit
- M: 1 3/5" Engine Hook

Parts B, C, D, and G can be replaced with a single 7 1/4" piece of BT-50.

Parts K, L, and M may be replaced with EM-2050 engine mount.



Rear-root corner of fin 1/4" behind rear of body tube

Glue fin tubes together in pairs. Glue four pairs to body 1/4" from rear of tube. Leave equal spaces between tube pairs for fins.

Fin Pattern
Make 4 from 3/32" Balsa

GSSS Historical Trivia...the answers

1. The Bergen County Model Rocket Society.
2. John Lyons, Chris Rendenna, Richard Stukhart, Rod Leinberger, and Jack Sarhage.
3. It was "MA=ma" after Newton's third law.
4. January 1983. The idea behind the name is that just as the launch rack holds the rocket stable its newsletter should do the same between activities.
5. 1985. By this time we were the only club in New Jersey and had members from all over the state.

Stay tuned for more Historical Trivia in future issues.

FUN TEST AT AUGUST LAUNCH "FLYING SAUCER SPOT LANDING"

Bring your flying saucer to the August 26th launch and see if you can land it nearer the target than anyone else.

No, you won't get any NAR Contest Points, but you will have some fun. You can use any flying saucer model with any approved engine(s).

In September we will have another mini competition. The event will be announced at the August launch and on the web site. Maybe we will make it an official one so that as NAR members you can earn those points.

Come on out and support GSSS.

The next issue of *The Launch Rack* will appear around September 23rd (Autumn issue). If you have something you want included send it to me or bring it to one of the launches.

Something to Ponder.

"Never believe anything in politics until it has been officially denied." *Otto von Bismark*

"A risk is a chance you take; if it fails you can recover. A gamble is a chance taken; if it fails, recovery is impossible." *Erwin Rommel*



This is the Rockwell Trophy awarded annually by NAR's LAC Committee for the Section Newsletter voted as the best of the year. Do you know in what year our newsletter *The Launch Rack* won this award? Do you know who the editor was?



This was taken at the January 25, 1987 launch after the *Challenger* loss a year earlier. Each GSSS member was invited to bring their shuttle model to launch in memory of the crew. How many of these folks do you recognize? Many are still members.