

# The Launch Rack

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

Vol. 25, No. 1

February 2007

## First Launch of 2007 a Success

It was a brisk 22° F on the morning of January 27, but a dozen or more folks showed up for the first sport launch of 2007. What do people wear to a launch on a day like this?



Photo by Jack Sarhage

**Steve Pantuck** (on the left) and **Arnie Klein** (on the right) arrive at North Branch Park to set up the equipment for the launch. As you can see they are dressed for it.

This launch was the first of our 25<sup>th</sup> year as a club and section of the National Association of Rocketry. It was also our annual Space Memorial Launch. Each year since the loss of the shuttle “Challenger” in 1986 a launch is held to remember those astronauts that have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and its space program.

This year 17 rockets were built by club members. Each one was named for one of our lost astronauts and then launched to honor and remember them.

At Noon, GSSS President **Jack Sarhage** read the names and then **Arnie Klein** at the launch controller

launched each rocket. All lifted off successfully and were recovered. The builders of the rockets were then allowed to take them home.



Photo by Steve Pantuck

GSSS President with the first rack of the memorial rockets.

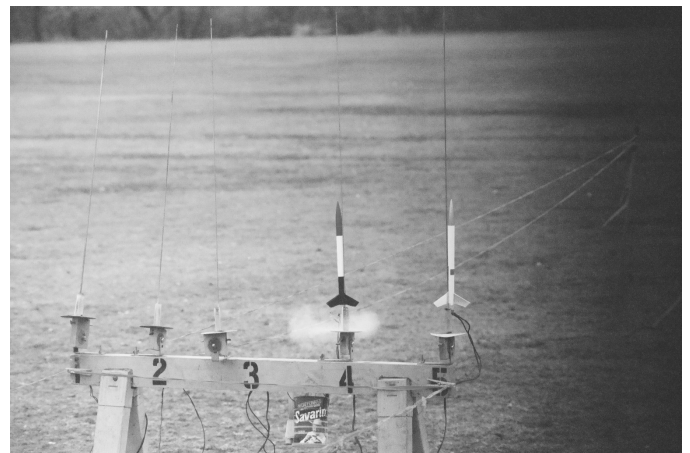


Photo by Steve Pantuck

Lift off of one of the memorial rockets. This one was named for *Kalpana Chawla* and built by GSSS Section Advisor **Bob Zabriskie**. Ye Ole Editor

remember this one because he had painted it red, white and blue.



Photo by Jack Sarhage



Photo by Steve Pantuck

A big THANK you goes out to all of you that came out on this very cold day. Thank you to all of you that built rockets for the memorial launch.

As you will see from some of the attachments to this there are many special events planned for this year of celebration. It is hope that you will also take part in them as well.

At the beginning of this report you saw two bundled up guys that in spite of the cold came out to set up the

equipment so you can enjoy flying your rockets. I urge you to give them your personal thanks and came out and help them.

## Open House

All those that did attend the Open House on December 30<sup>th</sup> also deserve a thank you. Thank you also for the refreshments you brought along with you. This was the first Open House held in some time but, it won't be the last. So mark December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007 on your calendar, NOW!!!

## February Sport Launch

The next sport launch will be held on February 24<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting. As part of our year long celebration we will hold a Fun Test. The event will be Ping-Pong Ball Duration.

You may use any model rocket capable of holding a standard ping-pong ball inside of it. We will provide the ping-pong ball with streamer attached. Using a C size engine the rocket will be launched. The flight will be timed from the moment the rocket lifts off until the ping-pong ball touches the ground. Flyer with the longest duration wins.

Picture of the "trophy" appeared in the last issue.

We will hold a Section Meeting at this launch starting at Noon. It should last approximately 45 minutes during which time all launches will be on hold.

## March Sport Launch and Silver Anniversary Local

At this launch the section will hold its Silver Anniversary Local. This is an officially sanctioned NAR contest (1008-07L) and you must be a member to compete.

See the enclosed flyer for events to be flown. We have invited other sections in the area to participate in this event. So we need a good turn out of club members to make this a success.

## New Newsletter Schedule

This is the first of what we hope will be six issues of the newsletter for this year. This one is dated February. Others are April, June, August, October and December.

As always you are invited and encouraged to help with the publication by sending in articles, plans and photos for use. I know that other people besides Ye Ole Editor and Steve have cameras because I see them at the launches.

## Your Knowledge of Space

Question: Who was the first woman in space?

Answer: Valentina Tereshkova