

**TRIPOLI** CENTRAL CALIFORNIA  
*Central Valley Rocket News*

Serving California's Central Valley Chapter of the Tripoli Rocketry Association - June 2006

**CAMP COUNTRY  
JAMBOREE**

**Cancer Camp**

**June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006**



# Camp Country Jamboree Presented by The Optimist Club of Porterville.



Jim Abrames, Jim Norton, Ben Sandoval, Brian Dalby and myself [Jack Garibaldi] headed on up to Springville, California to River-Ridge Ranch. We were greeted by the owner of the ranch, Gary Aspel, to find us (TCC) a nice spot to set up the range.

Our first impression was that it was a forest and we were never going to see any of our rockets again. We were told to follow the owner across the creek and the water shouldn't be too deep but to keep your speed up, so you won't get stuck. Now, I am really thinking "Get out of town buddy, I have my trailer full of everything and I am now going four wheeling?" Well, we all made it across this running creek that was only 4 to 6 inches deep and were headed toward a pasture clearing (valley) in between two mountains.

When we arrived at this location they had just flooded it recently. Whether [it was] to keep it growing or not to start a grass fire, I am not sure about that one and really didn't want to know at this point. The owner said, "Pick a spot and do what you do." We had a quick group talk on where we were going to set up and then Jim Abrames took charge and started setting up a nice little range. We all just followed the leader.



We set up the two 4-pad Estes stuff and a couple of home brew pads for the bigger stuff. After we set everything up it really looked good and we were now all getting back into "firing rocket mode". They had originally told us to be there at noon, and then we were told we could go after the R/C guys do there thing at 2:00.

We had some time to prep a bunch of rockets before everyone started to show up and we worked a deal with the R/C guys that we would alternate. I have to point out that when they were setting up, one of their guys got stuck in the marsh we were in and that gave us more time to prep. The deal was...They would fly some planes and then we would launch, then while we were prepping the next group, they would fly.



Jay, from the R/C group, gave the kids a little R/C 101 class and then started to fly their stuff. Well, due to the ruff terrain, they flew two airplanes and then crash landed them. TCC was up and all of us gave a little rocketry 101 class with flight profile posters, a 5.5" FATMAN rocket, a 1/2A motor and a M1419 Dr. Rocket casing to show the motor ranges. After that, we blasted off about a dozen or more the first round, then they flew two more and crash landed them.



Jay, their R/C Captain, came to me and said that they are done because... "They don't have any more planes." He had his head down and his crew was packing up. We were now the only entertainment for the next couple of hours.



Our crew really fired up at this point and started loading rockets as fast as we could. I also asked for any and all participation from the kids for loading, packing, launching, and recovery. It was decided to keep things moving and that they wanted to do all of the recovery. We were now so happy that we could launch our butt's off and didn't have to chase one rocket.

We started off with some A's, B's, and C's, then the kids, camp counselors, and parents were

really starting to line up at our RSO table for the recovery line. How's that? We had a Recovery Line and were assigning rockets to kids to go get. After about 30 minutes we had launched well over 20 flights and there were kids scattered on the hill sides in every direction.



We now had to step it up and moved into the D's, E's, and F's. Jim A. cranked something up on an E-18 white lighting reload that woke everyone up in a hurry. Then we blasted Brian's V2 on a E or F, Ben was doing two stage Mongoose stuff and Jim N. was whipping out the Fliskits Deuces Wild. We made sure both motors lit for a crowd pleaser.



They were all “machines”, just loading and flying. So, I am getting way too pumped up, and loaded up an old NCR kit with a cluster of 3 E-9's. I look over and Jim A. has the Bob's Big Boy rocket out looking for a motor for it. I threw him some older monster F101. Then he asked me for some black powder because he wanted to beef up the ejection charge. Well, let's just say that Bob's Big Boy's head came down by itself.



As we were winding down I pulled out the old Porta-Potty rocket for a Grand Finale on a G40. It was not stable and did 50 loops off to one side, along with some other crashes we had. That kind of cheered the crowd, to let them know we all make a few mistakes now and then.



It was a total success and everyone had a great time. To Jim, Ben, Jim, and Brian I thank you guys for a great day of rocketry.



All of the kids were now excited because they all received a rocket and some motors that the camp director bought from Andy, at a greatly reduced priced, and some were donated. We had over 50 flights and all were recovered except 1. It was in them hills somewhere and it was only appropriate to leave it behind.

Sorry for the long winded version but I had to get some details out on a fabulous day for a group of kids that have 2 strikes against them to start there day off. There was one little boy who was given 6 to 12 weeks to live. I almost started to cry as I asked him if he would like to go get one of my rockets. I felt like I should be doing something for him, but I was, because he wanted to go get the big one by himself.

It was a very happy day for those kids, that just didn't seem to be enough, but really was.

Thanks again to everyone!

Tripoli Central California  
President  
Jack Garibaldi  
TRA# 9959  
NAR#82971  
[JackGaribaldi@msn.com](mailto:JackGaribaldi@msn.com)

## CAMP COUNTRY JAMBOREE


Since the theme was "Space the Final Frontier" we'll begin this appropriately.

Once upon a time just a short time ago, they had a camp in a nearby galaxy called "River Ridge Ranch". The inhabitants once a year had a camp to entertain youths with a condition called cancer. Although no one knew who had it or not, there was only one thing on everyone's mind, having a Good Time. Everyone in attendance was smiling with anticipation at the upcoming show.

Some local Rocketeers were going to put on a Rocket Show, explaining and demonstrating how Rockets actually worked.

The Rocketeers were from a group called "Tripoli Central California", from a galaxy next to theirs. First there was an introduction to Rocketry by Jack G., who explained the basic principles of how rockets worked. He told them of the first rockets to go into space by the Russians, then how the United States put the first man on the moon. He then went on to discuss some of the finer points of how rockets worked. What nose cones do, how thrust works along with how fins guide a rocket. Also what effect gravity has on a rocket or any object for that matter.

He then went into what types of motors and the sizes they come in. He told them of small A types all the way up to M types. Showed them the difference between a single use motor and a reloadable type. All the while he was doing this he had a trusty bunch of fellow Rocketeers holding banners and rockets that showed them what he was actually talking about. But next came the fun part, they were all ready to fly rockets.




Since everything was set-up in advance there would be no waiting for the anxious crowd. As this was a practical demonstration, all camp attendee's were afforded the opportunity to retrieve a rocket if they so chose to. All in attendance took them up on their offer; several chose to have a try at it several times. The Rocketeers were only too happy to accommodate the happy campers. But some were not to be easy retrievals, some went this way and that way. Some even went up in 1 piece and came down in several pieces. Several went to the side of a hill, almost a ¼ mile away on the other side of a barbed wire fence. Others went into a nearby cow pasture. Most of the grass was rather tall, 1 foot tall at times. Several rockets were even retrieved 1 piece at a time, which might not have been planned. This would not deter the energetic campers who would retrieve all but 1 rocket, which hung in a tree.

All in all there were in excess of 50 flights, most of which were successful. Some were not so successful, but that was also part of the demonstration and excitement. At the end of the day everyone was happy and tired. It was a great demonstration with a way of participation from all who wanted to lend a hand.

At the end of the presentation Camp director Dave P. had several things to say to the visitors. "I thought it would be a small show since we only had a small area. Man you guys really put on a show". He was also surprised on how many rockets were launched, and the size of some of them as well. In parting many thanks were exchanged with smiles on everyone's faces. The visitors were given commemorative shirts to signify they attended the once a year event.

That's All Folks,  
Ben Sandoval

A photograph of a field with scientific equipment. A person in a white shirt and blue shorts stands on the left. The field is filled with tall grass and several metal frames with sensors or cameras. In the background, there are trees and hills under a clear sky.

**Tripoli Central California was represented by...**

**Jim Abrames**

**Brian Dalby**

**Jack Garibaldi**

**Jim Norton**

**Ben Sandoval**

A photograph of a group of people sitting in a field. They are seated in black plastic chairs, facing a man who is standing and presenting. The man is wearing a white shirt and a hat. In the background, there are trees and hills. A white car is parked under a canopy on the left.

**All Photos by Jim Norton and Jack Garibaldi**









*Optimist Club of Porterville*  
225 South Westwood  
Porterville, CA 93257

Club #14678  
Tax Exempt #94-2676266

Mr. Jack Garibaldi, President  
*Tripoli Central California*  
9033 Rieti Lane  
Stockton, CA 95212

Dear Jack:

I don't know where to start thanking you! Our "Camp Country Jamboree" Cancer Camp above Springville last week was blessed in so many ways by the participation of you and *Tripoli Central California!*

The kids were still buzzing about the rockets the next day! I overheard a group of boys talking after breakfast the next morning and I was hearing stuff like, "Man, the coolest one was that one that went so high, it was out of sight!" and, "No, that black one that went crooked and then blew up was the neatest one!" to "Well, how about that 'outhouse' one?!". Each one of them had their favorite. It was obvious that they enjoyed the whole affair, because they were even bragging about how many they had retrieved (at Friday night's campfire, I made a "fuss" over the Camp Counselor and the camper that tripped way up that hill and then made the valiant, but unsuccessful effort to get that one that got stuck way up in the tree).

Speaking personally, I can't get over how patient and friendly everyone in your group is. From my first encounter with you (via email) through my attendance at the April lunch and then "Dairy Aire", I have been made to feel like I have known you guys for twenty years! My eyes have been opened to a whole new and amazing pursuit, and (believe it or not!) I am learning some cool new things! I didn't get to launch either my "Optimist Rocket" or my "Blue Ninja" at camp, because they were not ready (right there before the "tsunami" of camp hit me, I just ran dead out of time!). I can assure you, though, that you will see me and that little guy, Jeremy (who I take to Cub Scouts), with our rockets in-hand at a future launch.

Jack, please be so kind as to pass along our gratitude to everyone involved! With the distances involved, just getting everyone and their equipment to the camp required quite an effort on their part and I assure you it did not go unnoticed. Your demonstration for the kids came off as very polished and professional and it was apparent that all of you are indeed passionate about rocketry. We will meet again, my friend!

Sincerely,

  
David Prestige,  
Camp Director