



January/February 2002

VOLUME 9 NUMBER 1

Winter Meeting Schedule :
 Tuesday January 8th, Tuesday February 5th, and Tuesday March 5th. Each meeting will start at 7:00 PM at the La Vista Community Center.

2002 Events Calendar
 Coming next issue!

TRIPOLI NEBRASKA WEB PAGE
www.tripoli.org/tra_ne/nebraska.htm

THOR WEB PAGE
www.tripoli.org/tra_ne/THOR/thor.html

*****ATTENTION*****

Most members' membership dues are due this month. Either pay Larry your dues at the January or February meeting or mail a check (write it for "The Heartland Organization of Rocketry" or just "THOR") to the address on the back of the newsletter.

Rocketman Central

By Richard Burney, Secretary and Newsletter Editor
 THOR# 8, NAR# 69543, TRA# 6140

Happy New Year!...

And a late Merry Christmas, too! Since I got a bit of a jump on throwing this newsletter together, you may notice a few more changes. I did promise at the beginning of 2001 that there would be some changes in

the upcoming year... it's just that most of them got implemented at the end of the year!

After having rocketry activities being effected both locally and nationally by the events of September 11th, not to mention the AeroTech fire on October 15th, October and November both ended up being two good months for flying. Below are some pictures that I took at those launches.

La Vista Sports Complex 10/21/01...

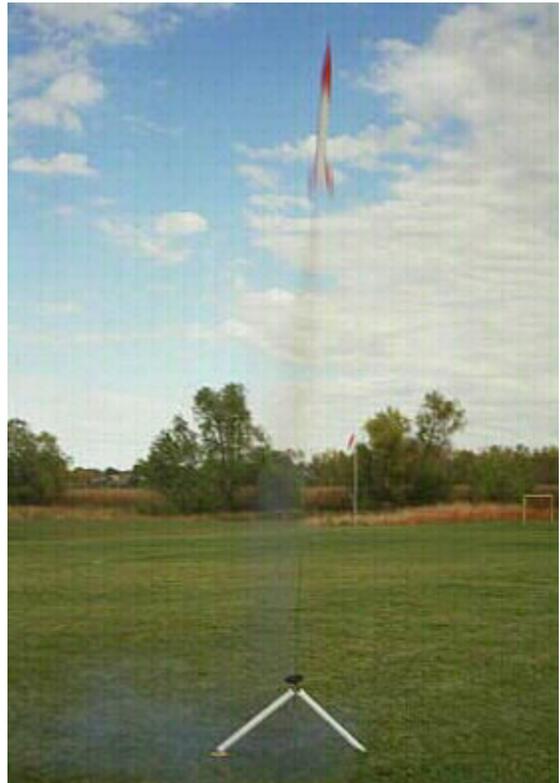
Officially, there was no special launch slated for this day, but since the weather was forecasted to be very nice (70's and very little wind), the chances of having a nice day like this again this late in the year are slim, and this was one of those Sunday's that I am up in town, I emailed everybody in the group about getting together for some sport flying. Soon after I arrived at noon on Sunday the 21st, Kevin Rich and his family showed up to do some flying with me. Kevin Trojanowski had planned to come out to do some flying, too, but I guess he got too lazy.;) The rest of you guys missed a fun day of flying!;



I had just recently bought a set of Estes E9's and decided to test one out on my Shadow.



A slow, but yet vertical takeoff. Some models that have marginal flights on motors like the D12-3, may want to steer clear of the low thrusting E9... my Shadow suffered a bad zipper after the 4 second delay ended up being way too much.



The F39 definitely has some kick!

Pickrell, NE High Power Launch 10/27/01...

Since the September launch was canned, quite a few of our active members, along with a few new faces, came out to take advantage of the last launch at Pickrell for the year. The day started chilly in the 20's but the bright sunshine quickly warmed things up into the upper 50's/lower 60's. It was typically a bit breezy (about 10 to 15 miles-per-hour) through out the day, but it was nothing us Nebraskans aren't use too.



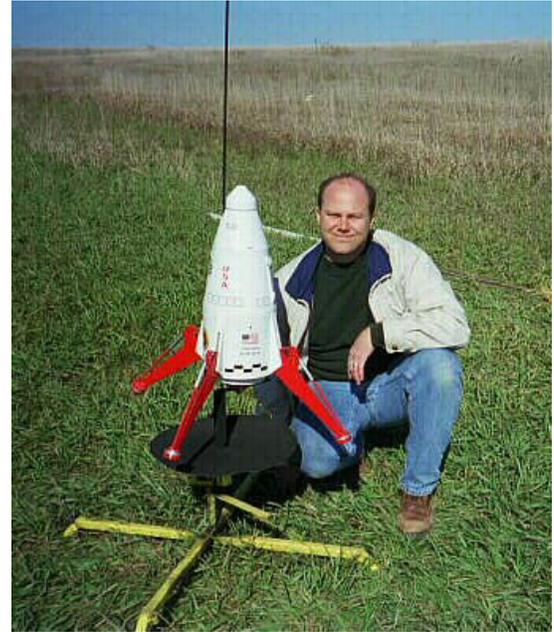
Kevin Rich with his Aerotech Initiator powered by by an F39 24mm reload.



Jason Burton and Greg Rothman with Greg's Level 2 attempt. Powered by a J350, Greg's rocket had a magnetic apogee censor for main deployment and two tracking transmitters (one belonging to the club and one belonging to him).



The flight of Greg's rocket was picture perfect. But due to the winds, the rocket drifted out of sight, and Greg was unable to find the rocket or pick up the transmitters' signals. Ouch!☹



Kevin Trojanowski with his 2X upscale of the old Estes Mars Lander powered by an I357.

Breda, IA High Power Launch 11/17/01...

Though over halfway into the month of November and just a few days before Thanksgiving, the last launch of the year turned out to be a very nice day... in fact it was about 10 degrees warmer and the wind conditions were more favorable than at the launch at Pickrell just a few weeks earlier! It was a great day to end the flying season with.



From left to right: Vicki Rich, Devin Rich, Kevin Rich, Kevin Trokanowski, and Denis Gilbert.



Mark Havel with his PML Aerial.



Jeff Thomas with his Rocketman Enterprises Praying Mantis powered by an I284.



Jeff's Mantis streaks into the sky.



The low power pads are loaded up.



Denis Gilbert and his PML Mini BBX.



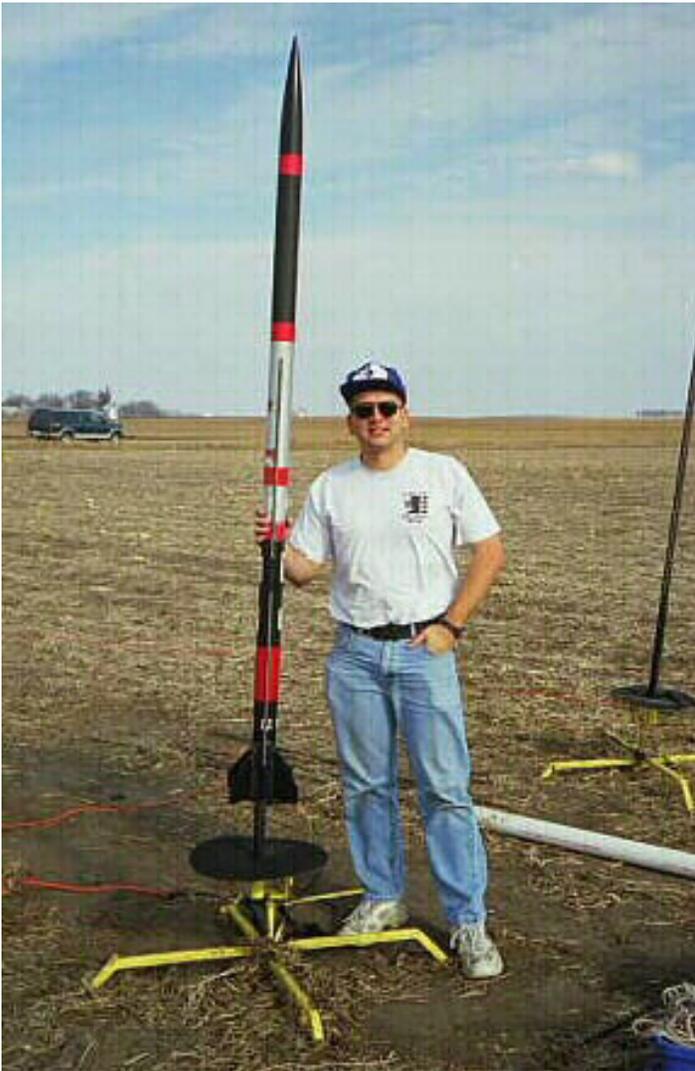
Scott Weihe with his PML Explorer.



Liftoff on an H180.



Another impressive flight from Jeff, this time a LOC Magnum powered by an I435.



Hey, I wonder who that could be? Richard Burney is ready to fly Final Fantasy VII on an I211.

A Special Thanks...

After having served as the Prefect for the Tripoli Nebraska Prefecture for the last five years, Mark Uhlenkamp recently stepped down from the position. I want to thank Mark for all that he has done for us which has included working with the FAA to set up the waivers for all of our high power launches, getting access for us to a very excellent site for high power flying just north of Carroll, IA (and letting us use his property too on several occasions), and for letting us store our high power motors in his magazine. Again, thanks Mark. ☺

Rocket Enthusiast Preps For Manned Flight After Test

November 23, 2001 Posted: 12:32 PM EST (1732 GMT)
By Richard Stenger
CNN Sci-Tech

(CNN) -- After sending a prototype a mile into the sky on Thursday, an amateur rocket builder said he expects to win a \$10 million prize to launch the first private astronaut team into space.

The rocket soared during the morning flight to 5,000 feet (1,520 meters) over a mud flat expanse near Manchester in Northwest England early in the morning.

Known as Nova, the reusable launch vehicle landed with the assistance of two parachutes. Many parts were recovered intact, according to Nova designer Steven Bennett. They will be refurbished and the 33-foot (11-meter) rocket will fly again within months.

There were some minor glitches. A third parachute became tangled and the 1,643-lb (740-kilogram) rocket was supposed to reach 6,000 feet. But overall Bennett was pleased with the test, which had been postponed after the September 11 terror attacks in the United States.

"It went very well. It was a real good flight," said Bennett. "We got pieces back so we're happy. We're going to launch it again."

Bennett, an engineering professor at the University of Salford, expects to ride one of his rockets in 2002. The founder of Starchasers Industries, which builds his prototypes, Bennett has already overseen a dozen test flights in his quest for the X-prize.



Artist concept of the rocket Steven Bennett hopes to ride into space.

The U.S.-based contest will handsomely reward the first team to send and return a three-person crew safely into suborbital flight, about 63 miles high (101 kilometers), in the same vehicle twice within two weeks.

To help raise funds, Bennett is selling seats for his ambitious project. The price could reach as high as \$650,000 (US). For those with smaller travel budgets, the enterprising rocket man offers a lottery. One lucky winner can join the sky-high odyssey for a fraction of the cost.

The task is certainly a daunting one, especially considering it must be done without the assistance of governments. What does his spouse think of the idea of Bennett cavorting on the edge of space?

"My wife doesn't think I'm crazy. She wants to go," he said.

THOR Meeting Minutes: November/December

Compiled by Richard Burney, Secretary

THOR Meeting Minutes 11/6/01

Attendance: Richard Burney, Jeff Moon, Candy Davis, Jacob Davis, Arley Davis, Shaun Landgraf, Jeff Dell, Jeff Kelly, Jon Damme, Greg Rothman, Tony Cochran, Larry Drake, Kevin Trojanowski, Kevin Rich, Devin Rich, Tyson Christiansen, Kathy McGinnis, and Mark Uhlenkamp.

Meeting starts at 19:30.

Shaun Landgraf, Jeff Dell, and Jeff Kelly are introduced.

Tony Cochran was back in Omaha for a few days because of work at Offutt AFB and thus was able to drop in for the meeting.

Bruce ends up missing the meeting due to being called into work at the very last minute. Unfortunately, Bruce had all the November/December newsletters with him, so nobody got a newsletter at the meeting. (*Editor's note: if you still haven't received the November/December newsletter, either email or call me.*)

Some of us THOR members with LEUP's (Low Explosive User Permit) had received a call from Richard Lake of the BATF in order to meet with us individually. The BATF has been checking up with permit holders in the months after the terrorists attacks on September 11th.

The porta potty was not at the launch at Pickrell last weekend for some reason.

Larry had cleared the Lincoln HobbyTown of all their remaining high power AeroTech motors. Larry sold most of the motors at the Pickrell launch.

Mike Collins has some 29mm and 38mm motors left for sale. (*Editor's note: Mike was at the November 17th launch at Breda with much of his remaining inventory for sale.*)

Larry turned 49 today (Happy Birthday, Larry!).

The AeroTech fire is discussed. (*Editor's note: see the November/December newsletter for more details.*)

Motion made, and subsequently passed, by Arley Davis to reschedule the egglofter contest for this Sunday the 11th.

Star Realm is closing shop by January 1st. A lot of their stuff, including rockets, is on sale at 50% off. (*Editor's*

note: Star Realm, when it was in La Vista, was where I got my first model rocket kit in May 1985).

The high power launch at Breda, IA on the 17th is still on schedule.

The Christmas party will be at Larry Drake's house on December 7th. (*Editor's note: latter moved to Denis Gilbert's house.*)

The nominees for the December election are presented: President – Bruce Lee, Vice President – Arley Davis, Secretary – Richard Burney, Treasurer – Larry Drake, Tripoli Nebraska Prefect – Kevin Trojanowski, NAR Section Leader – Arley Davis. Mark Uhlenkamp is stepping down as the Prefect for Tripoli Nebraska. Rich Burney will remain as newsletter editor.

Jeff Kelly talks about his Level 2 project. Other THOR members share with Jeff advise on fiberglassing.



Arley shows the progress he has made on repairing his PML Pterodactyl, which was severely damaged by a motor cato at AIRFest a few months ago.

Arley shows some of the discounted rockets and stuff that he bought that were on sale at HobbyTown. Arley also shows the progress he has made on repairing his PML Pterodactyl.

Jeff Moon talks about an article that appeared in the Smithsonian's *Air and Space* magazine (*Project Pluto*) about a nuclear-powered, nuclear-armed cruise missile. To see the article online, go to www.merkle.com/pluto/pluto.html.

Kevin Rich mentions that Hobby Lobby is now selling AeroTech motors and kits.

Kevin Trojanowski shows his Rattworks K260 hybrid casing and related components. Also passes around his copy of Extreme Rocketry's DVD of LDRS XX.

Meeting adjourned at 20:45.

THOR Meeting Minutes 12/4/01

Attendance: Richard Burney, Jeff Moon, Arley Davis, Jacob Davis, Candy Davis, Shaun Landgraf, Greg Rothman, Kevin Rich, Kathy McGinnis, Kevin Trojanowski, Andy Bronfein (Blackhawk R&D), Jon Damme, Doug Deden, Denis Gilbert, Larry Drake, and Bruce Lee.

Meeting starts at 19:15.

Andy Bronfein of Blackhawk R&D is introduced. Andy is in the process of moving from the west coast to the east coast and had found out about our meeting from one or more of our members online.

The BATF is finishing up interviewing permit holders between now and December 31st. All THOR members with LEUP's have had their interviews.

AeroTech hopes to have some motors available again by the time Springfest (held outside of Las Vegas) rolls around. Most of AeroTech's popular motors, possibly including M's, may be available by the time LDRS XXI takes place next summer.

Ky Michaelson's Super Bowl party slated to be held in February (the Super Bowl was moved to a February date in the aftermath of September 11th).

The next flight attempt for Ky's CSXT will probably be next summer.

A rocket luge by Ky reached a record speed of 124 miles-per-hour recently.

Steve Bennet flew his X Prize proof of concept vehicle on a cluster of 17 M's (!!!) to an altitude of 5,000 feet in November. He will be a passenger in it on it's next flight! (*Editor's note: see the accompanying CNN article*).

The Bureau of Land Management has been harassing rocketeers who have been flying from desert sites in California.

Larry still has AeroTech motors to sell off for those who are interested.

No treasurer's report for this meeting.

Denis Gilbert says that the new version of Rocket Silo would be online sometime in January.

Kevin Trojanowski has the new Apogee 1/70th scale Saturn V. It is on sale at Apogee's website (<http://www.apogeerockets.com/saturn5.asp>) for \$225. The 1/70th scale Saturn IB should be available in four months.

Kevin Rich has some of the new blacksky Pro38 reload casings. The Pro38 reloads are designed to have their delay lengths easily modified with a special cutter that

blacksky includes. (*Editor's note: AeroTech doesn't officially endorse people modifying the delays on their reload kits*).

Jerry Kolb has left Public Missiles Limited. Jerry, along with Frank Uroda, founded PML back in the early 1990's.

Jeff Moon recently acquired some photo copier drums. They are about four inches in diameter and made of aluminum. Jeff is planning on building a rocket out of these tubes. Jeff also reports that the cheap digital camera that Larry Drake presented at a meeting a number of months back is currently on sale at Walmart for \$50.

Rich Burney shows his work in progress on his Ground Zero Air-Oh. Rich passes around the latest issue of *Extreme Rocketry*. Rich also passes around pictures that he took at the last several high and low power launches.

Bruce is in the process of finishing up the contract for the rocketry TV show that he has become involved with (it is being produced by the guys who produce *Battlebots* and *Maximum Exposure*).

Bruce is in the process of getting a divorce and is moving. Bruce's new address is 11209 Jones St. His phone number and email addresses will remain the same.

The THOR Christmas party will now be at Denis Gilbert's house. Directions are passed around (the map is up on the THOR website, too).

Rich mentions that his *Macross Plus* rocket will be appearing in a TV commercial for the Brentwood Square (HobbyTown has a few spots in the commercial) on Channel 7. The commercial will run a number of times between December 7th and December 25th. The spot in particular shows John Carroll, HobbyTown manager, walking out the store's door with my rocket in hand.

Motion made, and subsequently passed, to elect/reelect THOR officers as announced in November. The only officer change was the election of Kevin Trojanowski to the position of Prefect for Tripoli Nebraska. Mark Uhlenkamp had announced that he was stepping down last month.

Since an AeroTech N2000 motor may not be available for the *Nebraska Heat's* planned flight next year at LDRS XXI, *Nebraska Heat* may be flown with an experimental M or N motor instead.

Meeting adjourned at 21:10.

CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - Bruce Lee

Phone Number: (402) 691-8420

E-mail: bruce.lee@tripoli.org

VICE PRESIDENT - Arley Davis

Phone Number: (402) 346-7566

E-mail: arleydavis@uswest.net

TREASURER - Larry Drake

Phone Number: (402) 895-1583

E-mail: LarryDrake@tconl.com

SECRETARY - Richard Burney

Phone Number: (402) 269-3716

E-mail: rcburney1@yahoo.com

Or rb60527@alltel.net

TRIPOLI NEBRASKA PREFECT - Kevin Trojanowski

Phone Number: (402) 292-4101

E-mail: troj@home.com

NAR SECTION #562 Leader - Arley Davis

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - Richard Burney

What is THOR?

The Heartland Organization of Rocketry (THOR) is both an officially sanctioned prefecture of the Tripoli Rocketry Association (Tripoli Nebraska #46) and is an officially sanctioned Section (#562) of the National Association of Rocketry. THOR conducts low through high power model rocket activities through out the year. THOR strictly adheres to the safety guidelines that have been established by the NAR and Tripoli.

When and where does THOR meet?

Meetings are usually held the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM (different days or times will be announced in advance) at the **La Vista Community Center at 8116 Parkview St., La Vista, NE** (turn east at the Sinclair Gas Station on 84th St.). Visitors are welcome to attend.

For additional information...

For club launch times, launch locations, or for those with additional questions call THOR at (402) 896-2069 (there is a voice mail option at the end of the message). Interested parties may also write their inquiries to the address to the right and are also welcome to contact any of THOR's officers.

THOR Membership Application

Personal Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Hobby Information

How long have you been in model rocketry: _____

Do you belong to a national rocketry organization (enter your number to the applicable organization):

NAR# _____ TRA# _____ NERO# _____

Are you certified for high power rocketry (check mark your applicable TRA or NAR Certification Level):

Level 1 _____ Level 2 _____ Level 3 _____

Membership Rates

$\frac{1}{2}$ year memberships will divide by 2 and add \$1. Write your check payable to "The Heartland Organization of Rocketry" or "THOR". Mail it to the below address or pay at the next meeting.

Family Membership - \$36

Senior Membership- 18 and over - \$24

Junior Membership - Under 18 - \$12

Correspondence Membership - \$10

(Members over 50 miles from Omaha)

Newsletter Only (6 issues a year) - \$6

I agree to comply with THOR's policies as pertains to the safety Guidelines set forth by the NAR and Tripoli. Failure to do so is grounds for expulsion.

Signature: _____

Dated: _____

**The Heartland Organization of Rocketry
6211 South 141st St.
Omaha, NE 68137**

**Membership in the Heartland Organization of
Rocketry is open to all interested parties.**