



Range Head

David Raimondi, President, LUNAR #1221, NAR #82676

The month of July was packed with two great celebration events for the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Lunar Landing. The Moonfest at NASA Ames brought an estimated 1500 people to the LUNAR range to enjoy the rocket launch. The Splashdown celebration on the USS Hornet also drew huge crowds. We were kept busy answering all sorts of questions about rocketry, the lunar landings, and space flight. We had help from several members of the AeroPac and Tripoli Central California rocket clubs who displayed their impressive high power Saturn V, Mercury Redstone and Ares I rockets.

The fall line-up of activities is coming up quick. October 10th and 11th, is the Boy Scouts Rocket Jamboree at Camp Parks in Livermore. This is the 10th anniversary of this launch and the Boy Scouts plan to launch 100 model rockets at a time! This is a great event and The Scout Masters need our help to have a great launch. Mark your calendars now and come help the Scouts and enjoy the fun!

The LUNAR BoD meeting was held on August 20th. One of the main topics was future crowd control at NASA Ames. LUNAR was prepared for somewhat larger crowds at Moonfest, but not the 1500 people we had. NASA Ames was thrilled to have LUNAR participate at the event and we should be prepared for the next time. The huge crowd left us very short handed when the people trying to run the launch had to also work crowd control. Several suggestions were mentioned that we act upon to be better prepared for the next time.

I have been working closer with the Ames Education Directorate for cooperative outreach events. The first one is with the Boys / Girls Club of the Peninsula. This will most likely involve a build session and flying the rockets at a launch. Other possibilities include robotics events such as CanSats and other rocketry related activities.

Upcoming events: The next club launch at NASA Ames is on September 19th from 0900 until 1300. Please help out by volunteering for a shift. The contest that was scheduled for this launch has been canceled, however. Also, the Club meeting has been moved to September 24. Tom Desmarais will lead a build session and asks that you bring any spare rocket parts you have at home to augment and personalize your rocket.

I hope to see you at the Range Head soon.

Dave

BSA Rocket Jamboree – October 10 & 11

Jack Hagerty, LUNAR #2, NAR #55105

It's hard to believe that it's been 10 years since we started helping out Mike Gentile and his Boy Scout Rocket Jamboree!

Since its humble beginnings as part of our regular October launch, it has grown into a premier 2-day event flown from Camp Parks. It includes the most impressive array of launch equipment I have ever seen at any event (and I'm including the nationals). Nowhere else that I know of has a 100 rocket launch setup with 10 racks of 10 rockets each! Last year the pads were ready, but the controller wasn't so LUNAR stepped in with our own console and the launch crew dragged the launch cables between the racks in what has been called "the world's largest rotary switch" :-)

The controller is all ready to go this year so it should be a sight to see in operation. The dates are October 10 & 11 with the first day dedicated to Boy Scouts flying mid-power models (in the past they were Mustangs on "F" motors), working on their "Space Exploration" merit badge, HP demos and night launches. The second day is for the Cub Scouts who show up en masse to fly their projects. Mike has sent a list of things that LUNAR can help out with:

- Asst. LCO – 3; herd kids to assigned launch pads in launch order.
- RSO – 6; safety checks, motor & igniter installs.
- Repair Center – 2
- Video photographer – 2 w/ disk or hard drive cameras; video event for Boys Life article.
- High power demo flights – 10+; whoever wants to fly.

Also, to help with the completion rate of the merit badge, they are planning a mass build and help session. Mike says they have reserved a room in the BSA building in San Leandro on September 28th (that's a Monday) to do the pre-launch build session. Mike says that if we could supply with a half dozen volunteers to help out with the build, that would be great. The address of the BSA building is 1001 Davis street, San Leandro. The session starts at 7 PM. The boys have been told to bring all of their own building tools and materials but, as Mike said, "You know that 10% of them will show up with just a smile" so if you're thinking of helping out, it might be a good idea to bring your own range kit. This will be just basic assembly, no painting.

Any help is appreciated. If you can be there, contact Mike directly at: smmike@comcast.net, or by phone: Home: 510-537-6135, Cell: 510-461-0863