



The Launch Rack

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National Association of Rocketry Section No. 439
New Jersey's Oldest Model Rocket Club

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April 1st, 2017



THE CLUB PRESIDENT MUST SOMETIMES WEAR MANY HATS AND FACES

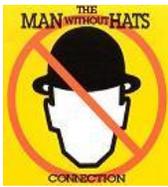
Here are just a Few of Them

UH-OH...
It's the April Issue



President's Message

Arnie Klein



I've had a lot of work to do and I've got a lot of work to do in the future! Some of this causes me to put on a "happy face" or wear a different, particular hat just to accomplish the job. Its pretty tough having to figure out which "Arnie" will be called on next, being your President. Thankfully, I have accomplished that by relying on the theme Dr. Bob presents in each Launch Rack. By now you've seen how the Editors morph my picture in each

issue So far, I have endured the slings and arrows by donning such personas as:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| WorldChampArnie | ArnieSagan |
| ArnieArmstrong | ArnieClinton / HillaryKlien |
| TheAnswerIsAliensArnie | HonestAbeArnie |
| TerminatorArnie | BahHumbugArnieTrump |
| ArnieChristy | ArnieObama |
| GandolfArnie | CommandoKlien |
| KatInTheHatArnie | KanamitKlien |
| ChristmasTreeArnie | JasonArnie |
| MardigraArnie | GrandPoobahArnie |
| UncleSamArnie | 4thOfJulyArnie |
| KimJungArnie | Tam-O-Arnie |
| BenevolentKingArnold | SantaKlien |
| PunkinHeadArnie | LeprechaunArnie |
| Arnie the Grinch | President Elect Arnie Trump |

And now, this issue, I am immortalized as the beloved "Mr. Klock"..... Uggggghhh..... and I'm sure there are so many more to come!

-Arnie



Dr. "It's the Trooth" Bob Kreutz

IF it'll FIT - I'll Print IT!

If not, I'll probably print it anyway...



Yeah, yeah....

You know, there are a lot of nasty things in this issue. Stuff like subtle opinions, overt opinions, my opinions, blatant plagiarism and a general lack of concern for political correctness (nothing new?) So you thought I'd change something? Naaaa. Its just that they will all be a little more obvious this time. Its an angry world out there folks and this country and NJ state is no different. Our society is fractured and divided because we all drink Kool-Aide laced with propaganda from every extremist nut job out there. Time to stop listening to Twitter my friends, or we will all become the cynical bastards we abhor. Some of you have probably already turned sour. So, on that note, get your arse out to the field and fly a few with your friends. There's no substitute for actually partaking in life and doing what you enjoy. Think I might take that advice, myself. I've gotten way too caught up in what's happening, instead of making it happen.

In this issue, as a special interest article for the growing number of International Subscribers, we bring you a report on the new FAI World Championship video, which by the printing of this issue, should be available on you tube. Read the Launch Rack then go view the video you hear me? Then there's



the usual crop of literary genius you usually expect during the month of April. Along with it we bring you the common club columns and some additional articles that have beaten the National Enquirer to



punch. Yeah, yeah, yeah, Happy April Fools to you too, or whatever!

Countdown!

2017

Please **Note:** All Launch Dates are **SATURDAY** *Except* where noted.



- Jan 28 – Sport Launch (Festival of the New Moon Launch)
- Feb 25 – Sport Launch (Eve of the Annular Solar Eclipse Launch)
- Mar 25 – Sport Launch (Launch of the Vernal Equinox)
- Apr 2 [SUNDAY] – Sport Launch (Pre-Jovian Opposition Launch)
- May 20 – Sport Launch (Great Mercurial Elongation Launch)
- Jun 25 [SUNDAY] – Sport Launch (Aestival Solstice Launch)
- July 22 – Sport Launch (Delta Aquarian Meteoric Launch)
- Aug 26 – Sport Launch (Thanks for the Eclipse! Launch)
- Sept 23 – Sport Launch (Launch of the Autumnal Equinox)
- Oct 28 – Sport Launch (Orion's Annual Meteoric Launch)
- Nov 25 – Sport Launch (Launch THIS You Turkeys! Launch)
- Dec 30 – Sport Launch (Grand Hibernial Solstice Launch)

2017 Schedule has been released! Bob Z's has confirmed with North Branch Park. Our WebMaster Rob Nee says: Check the GSSS Website! If you go to the launch dates page on the new website there is more info. You can add calendar subscriptions to most phones and Google Calendar. If the launch dates change they show up on your phone or in Outlook automatically!

NEW URL --> <http://www.gsss.club/launches.php>

RE:ENLISTMENTS

**>>WELCOME<< ((BACK))
ONE & ALL FOR 2017!!!**

With deepest apologies to our newest member: Richard Schenck, Jr., that his name must appear in the April Edition.



WANTED!!!
Older Estes Motors
Diamond/Pink/Cobra Packs
Designated:
1/2A3-4T A3-4T A10-0T B14-0 C6-7
CAN YOU HELP?
(For Test Launches Not Collecting)
(Single Motors Acceptable)

Please Contact: Dr. Bob Kreutz
orbitboybob@comcast.net



THE SOAPBOX

STAND UP AND SHOUT!

Shout, shout, let it all out

These are the things I can do without
Come on, I'm talking to you, come on...

Here you can say what you want: So SOUND OFF GSSSS – right here on anything you would like! May similar minds come together - or secret plans be revealed...

Does the PINK BOOK = NAR OBAMACARE? SQS: THE NAR'S TRUMPCARE

(portions blatantly plagiarized, but I admit it, have fun...)

Where are all the youth and the future of our organization? Now this sounds very much like the trials and tribulations faced by NAR competition these days. They're out there – but they've gone the way of TARC. We're not saying TARC is the answer, just that TARC is where the tech-savy-teen rocketeers seem to be congregating, along with Comicon, Robowars and Pokemon GO! . So, along comes SQS. And SQS is supposed to make "getting into competition" easier. It is a program simplified to attract youth and young adults back into everyday competition. And these youths will be the new blood and currency. Sounds like a defunct Federal program to me...

Let's actually equate sqs to obamacare. Someone said "Here is an entity no one who has to use it wants to (except the desperate few), rewards those who aren't contributing (or who aren't Americans) for "free" and is an elephant left over from the last administration that is so large it can't be cared for or fed appropriately." Basic Funding for Obamacare had always been dependent on large numbers of young twenty-somethings buying in to the reduced rate healthcare – but that never came to fruition, despite the hype. The program is in deep doo-doo and projected to collapse under the weight of its own financial failings. Maybe it was the website crashes that turned off these tech-savy youth of this country, Idunno... Whatever the reasons, scrapping Obamacare is inevitable.

So, should this be the answer regarding NAR Competition?

Could "the only solution (be) to shoot it in the head and bury it, start up the old way and make adjustments learned from the elephant."? Or TARC?

These days, I guess "to be attractive" means making competition something more than just being the winner (Whaaa?) Publicity! Big announcements to the Associated Press (now that the only ones that can ask the President questions is Fox News) and HUGE Facebook coverage! Cash Prizes so winners can buy more Tech! Travel and Expenses so its free to attend (don't worry, the Rich [make that Senior Competitors and Sponsors] will pay their fair share and everyone's way there.) Today it seems, EVERYTHING must be taken care of for these poor little things, otherwise they will prefer to watch you launch your rocket on their phone rather than actually having to go outside and do it with you (exception: Pokemon GO!) They now need counseling for when they lose, (or their candidate) and a trophy for "participating" because winning just doesn't matter anymore. You have to wonder where this plastic bubble thinking is coming from, because obviously this is what they are being TAUGHT (hint, hint...) Idunno, but the facts reveal 39 out of 40 History Professors today are registered demo(n)crats. It's a little better in the English Department, only 13 out of 14. Statistically, it seems educators may be just a little unbalanced if you ask me...

"But, what about the children?"

Well, what about them?

"The Children Are Our Future" Yes, they are - just not this generation.

Here's an idea: Don't change a thing. If these kids are too stupid or lazy to "get involved" all by their little selves...

We don't need them. We don't Want them.

This is a generational problem, not the NARs. The "NAR" didn't do anything wrong. The generation that grew up in a bubble rewarding participation instead of winners, having expectations that they belong on the podium just because they showed up is what is wrong with an entitlement mentality. This generation doesn't live in an artificial bubble – it's a carbuncle that needs to be lanced. It comes from their isolation from being challenged. Of knowing what a challenge really is. Others do not challenge us. We either bypass a challenge or accept it. When we accept it – it becomes our own. It is not that we were challenged by some external force, but we accept to challenge ourselves to perform to attain a particular level – a goal we wish to achieve. It is not the NARs duty to challenger them, either – they must want to challenge themselves. The "Challenge" is to learn, to do better, to innovate and ultimately the challenge is to "succeed." This is what they do not comprehend – they expect goals and outcomes to be given to them - because they are *entitled* to it.

So, do not change the framework for the sake of youth who will not support you later due to their own ineptness. Continue the framework and realize, like the economy, there will be some times of shortfall. This is it. While the generation NAR is so desperately pursuing as "the future" and assuming they will conform to the old framework of "organizational support" is simply unlikely - other generations must fill the void during the slim times. Revel and regale in the seniors and their wealth of knowledge – save that! Write it down, create an archive of information so that as they retire, this wealth they created will be available and pass on – to the next generation that realizes being taken care of is not what they want. Those who realize being able to do it themselves by personal challenge is the true way to create "the future." That was only what the first generation of rocketeers had – a dream. This present generation of ObamaYouth have only fantasies and in the end we will have to take care of them and their expectations until they pass, as well. Forget them – let's move on and see what the next set of candidates are capable of. Don't change a thing – hunker down, and wait them out. Their own failings will be their undoing. The NAR may have to become smaller – but better – like a specialized fighting force.

Disclaimer: "The SOAPBOX: Stand Up and Shout," "The Editor's Pad," "Rocket eMail" and "President's Message" are instruments of personal opinion and expression. The Launch Rack and the GSSS Board neither support nor oppose the opinions expressed in these columns and wash their hands of these affairs... [-RTK, AsstEd & Beast of Burden]



GSSS MEMBERS

Please be advised that Club Renewals Began November 1st!

Go to :

<http://www.gsss.club/joinform.php>

To Renew On-Line

The proper renewal form for those who still feel the need to use personal checks is only available on the website



Messages Channeled through the Oui-GSSS Board

The GSSS BOARD will discuss matters that relate to the Club and affect the membership. A synopsis and the results of any votes will be presented here.

...Or "Stuff We've Heard That's Been Floating Around In Empty Space"

- March 19th
- April 16th
- May 21st
- June 18th
- July 16th
- August 20th
- September 17th
- October 15th
- November 19th
- December 17th

SoJARS 2017 Launch Schedule



Website: <http://www.sojars.org/>

NARAM-59 Competition Events Announced



NARAM-59 will be held as part of "Rocketry Festival 2017" and is scheduled for July 29 (Saturday) through August 4th (Friday), 2017. Contest Director for NARAM-59 will be Robert Alway. An FAI World Cup event is

also planned, along with high power and other fun events.

Launch site will be Muskegon, Michigan Wastewater treatment facility, at the same site as NARAM-54 (home of the "Big-Icky!").

NARAM "Festival" Hotel is:

Crowne Plaza Grand Rapids
5700 28th Street SE

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546

Make your hotel reservation using this link:

<https://aws.passkey.com/go/NARAM59>

EVENTS

- Open Spot Landing
- C Altitude (Tracked)
- B Super-roc Altitude (Altimeter)
- C Payload Altitude (Altimeter)
- B Eggloft Altitude (Tracked)
- G Helicopter Duration (C and Team Divisions)
- D Helicopter Duration (A and B Divisions)
- C Flex-Wing Duration
- Scale
- Concept Scale
- Research and Development
- FAI World Cup
- US Team Selection

NARAM NOTES: Optically Tracked altitude events will most likely be tracked to ejection, use of tracking powder advised.

Only commercially available altimeters approved by the NAR Contest Board and publicly announced as approved at least 60 days before any contest where they are used may be used in competition. These altimeters may not be altered or modified in any manner, including use of power sources which are outside the voltage range published by the altimeter manufacturer.

An altimeter must meet the following requirements to be approved by the Contest Board: Uses barometric measurement techniques to record relative flight apogee altitude above launch pad altitude. Resolution of 2 meters or better in readout. Accuracy 2 percent of recorded altitude or 2 meters, whichever is greater. Sampling rate of 10 per second or greater. Audio or visual readout directly from the altimeter. Capable of being automatically or manually placed in a state of readiness to record new flight data. This state must be audibly or visibly verifiable.

See Appendix G of the Sporting Code for a list of current contest certified altimeters

NARHAMS REGIONAL



ECRM-44

**ECRM will be held on June 17-18, 2017 at
the Old National Park, Mount Airy, MD.**

Events

1/2A Streamer Duration

B Eggloft Duration

Open Spot Landing

Random Duration

Classic Model

1/2A Rocket Glider Duration

**Received info about Jackson Hobby - GSSS Discounts
Subject: (Club Member Discounts)**

Please let your members know by putting in your newsletter and putting on your web page, to show their club cards so they can get 10 % off non net rocket items. Please ask store personnel for details. If they don't show their club cards we don't know if they're in a club or not.

Jackson Hobby Shop
2275 W. Countyline Rd.
Bennetts Mills Plaza
Jackson, NJ 08527

732-364-3334

www.jacksonhobby.com

Tues. Wed. Thurs. Fri. 11-6

Sat. 11-5

BE SURE TO PRESENT YOUR GSSS CLUB CARD!

THE BLOOD OF PATRIOTISM

ROCKETEERS BLEED RED TOO



It was recently released through Wiki Leaks that Russian Hacking of DNC computers, (hell-ooo, ever hear of a firewall or McAfee?) included Menendez, Schumer and the former Senator Lautenberg's old Win98 computer as well, which evidently was left on-line after his passing. It was revealed their efforts failed to see beyond their own personal political interests and the fact that the then recent 9-11 attacks actually unified the people of this nation under one banner. In the attempt to capitalize on the fears generated by 9-11, the Senators apparently conspired to brainwash their constituents into believing that rocket motors "explode" and would "Allow would-be terrorists the ability to amass large quantities of explosives." WTF?

And Lautenberg, who came back from the grave to tell us that, apparently voted while he was here, along with a number of those in the subset of our society known as NewMexAmericans.

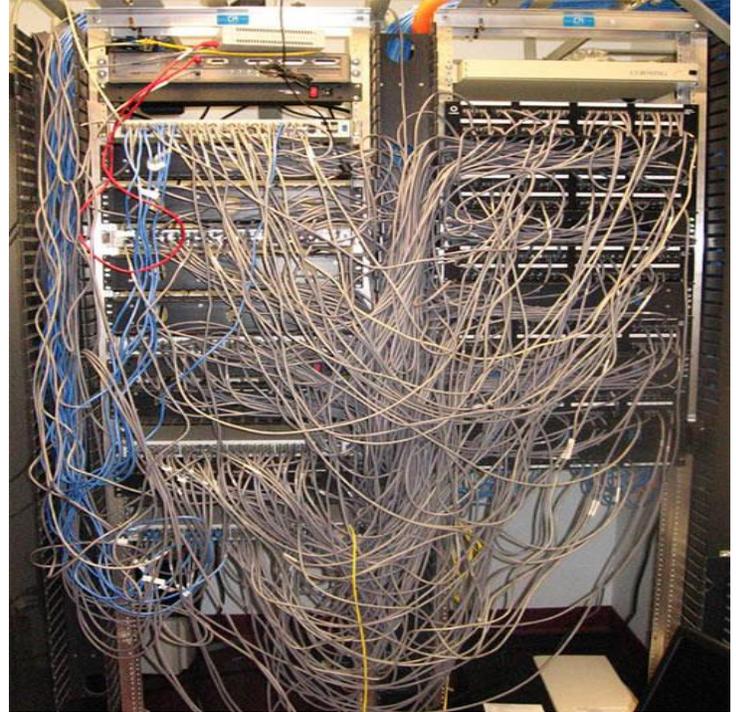
With all the division and internal tensions the US is presently facing, the call has gone out for all citizens to end this stupidity and unify under the standard of red, white and blue (the flag, you dummy). The great debate over what "nationalism" means will surely be filled by the closing passage of President Donald Trump's inaugural speech:

"A new national pride will stir ourselves, lift our sights and heal our divisions. It's time to remember that old wisdom our soldiers will never forget, that whether we are black or brown or white, we all bleed the same red blood of patriots."



The debate as to whether Rocketeers are terrorists or patriots, that was initiated by these well known Democratic-Fascist Senators will be put to rest here. I submit now, Exhibit "A". An example of a painful but well intentioned effort (which has not healed yet) to prove that as rocketeers, we do indeed bleed the same red blood of patriots. Maybe a little redder in color than some, at least redder than the urine-yellow color we would get from Schumer or Menendez.

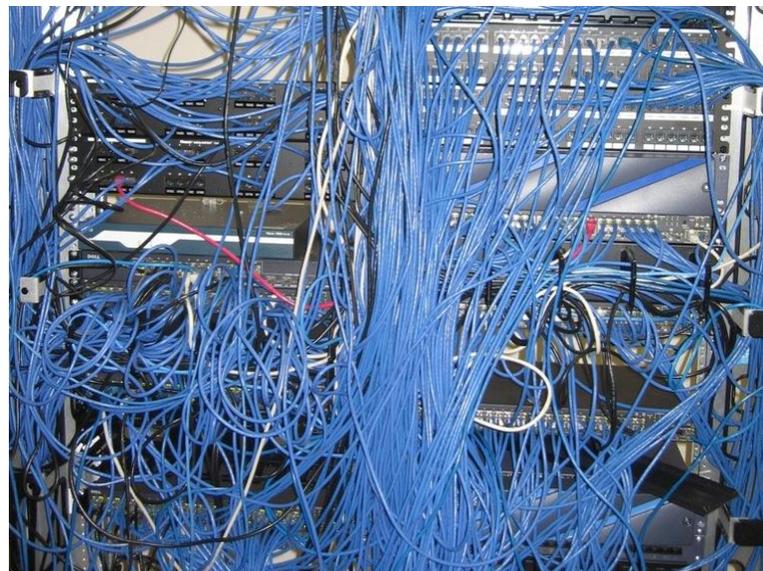
HEY GSSSI! We Want To:
Get Connected!



WE NEED YOUR HEEEEELP!!!

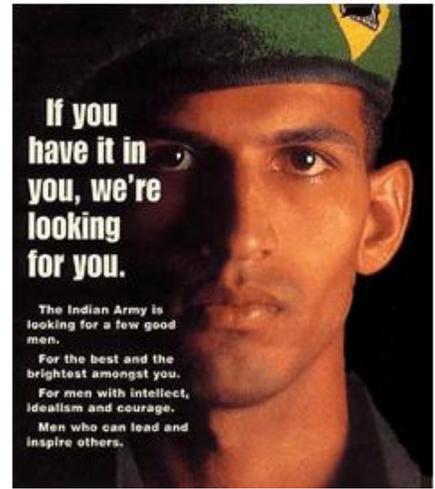
ARE THERE ANY SUBSCRIBERS OUT THERE THAT FREQUENT MULTIPLE MR FORUMS / NASA OR SPACE RELATED SITES? I WOULD LIKE TO GET A LIST OF YOUR FAVORITES AND FREQUENTS OR ANY REPORTS / UPDATES THEY MAY SEND OUT. PLEASE CONTACT DR. BOB

AT: orbitboybob@comcast.net



LET'S GET CONNECTED!

“We’re Looking For A Few Good Men”



We have not previously broken the code in our ability to explain to kids for whom TARC is a team-centric, school-supported, nationally-credible/industry & NASA-endorsed STEM educational operation with large glamorous prizes for the winners (free trip to Paris or London, huge amounts of cash) - just what the greater benefits of US Team competition really are...

Why should you get into what appears to be an individual-centric, not-clearly-STEM, obscure hobby activity that costs you thousands of dollars with a tiny probability of getting some kind of medal at the end, received in the darkness in some remote East European field? If you can find value in this proposition, the US Junior World Spacemodeling Team has a spot for YOU!



Certainty of death, *small* chance of success...

... What are we waiting for?

-- Gimli the Dwarf



JOIN THE US JUNIOR TEAM!

Because, the Real "Challenge" is what YOU make it!

THE 2016 WORLD SPACEMODELING CHAMPIONSHIP, *Malappropriately...*

It was 2 Loong Years in the making! But the highly anticipated sequel to James Daffy's DVD movie "2014 FAI World Championships: THE MOVIE!" is official: "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World Championship-2016" and it is ready to be released on YouTube. We are not allowed to discuss the plot line here, but as a Launch Rack EXCLUSIVE, we can present the Playlist and the rumored cast of characters in this, the newest Daffy production... And Ahhh, the power of one or two little letters – huh?

Sneak Peek : It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World Championship-2016 (see it on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxdoJJzrUP4&t=7s>) Ctrl/Click: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxdoJJzrUP4&t=7s>

[Disclaimer: Due to the somewhat malapropiateness you will find in this article / announcement, the authoor requests no retribution be taken out on him or Ye Grand Old Editor of the Launch Rack at this time. You may consider both personas-non-gratis and ostracize them if you wish, which is the fear we've had all along. (yeah right...) Regardless of that possibility our credo remains the immortal words of the legendary Mad Magazine cover-boy, Alfred E. Newman: "What - Me Worry?"]

THE NOR Hierarchy



BILLY BOB THORTON

As:

Trap Harbor



THE CLINTONS

As:

Mr. & Mrs. John Landlord & their daughter Ellie



DUSTIN HOFFMAN

As:

Sir Gregor Dislobokov
"The Babysitter"

STARRING for THE US TEAM in alphabetical order :



ADRIEN BRODY

As:

Dandy Wingner S4



DAVID CARUSO

As:

KY Johnson S8



TIM CURRY

As:

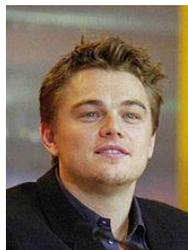
Gym Killer S3 & S5



THE CRYSTALS

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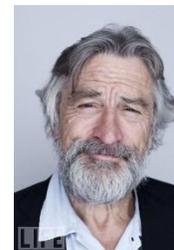
Stove & Egga Krystal S1 & S5 / S2P



LEONARDO DICAPRIO

As:

Koock Huzcek S6



ROBERT DE NIRO

As:

Jorge Nassaway S8 & S9



ANDY GRIFFITH

As:

Gaybo Morsh S6



NEIL HARRIS

As:

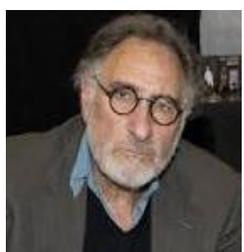
Chris Didwell S9



SIMON HELBERG

As:

Matte Nobags Bark S8



JUDD HIRSCH

As:

Mike Lojak S7



BEN KINGSLEY

As:

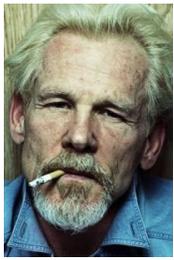
Matte Stale S1 & S5



MIKE MOTHERSBAUGH

As:

DevO O'Brian S4 & S6



**NICK
NOLTE**

As:
**Dr. Boob Krutz
S1 & S5**



**BERNIE
SANDERS**

As:
**Chris Shenanigan
S4 & S7**



**JACOB
SULLIVAN**

(The PA Rapist/Murderer)
As:
**James Daffy
S3 & S7**



**STAN
TUCCI**

As:
**StevO Humphries
S3 & S9**



**"OLE ODD"
PEARSON**

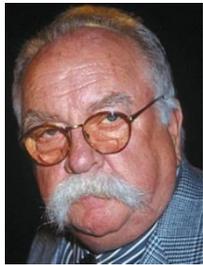
As:
**Himself,
The FBI Jurist**



Guest Appearance by:
JOHN TRAVOLTA

As:
**Jon Han Soloberg
The Father of Modern Rocketry**

And CO-STARRING for The Brits of Team UK:



**WILFORD
BRIMLEY**

As:
**Supporter
Dave Tantrum**



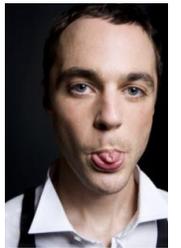
MACHETE!

As:
**UK Team Manager
John Ellipse**



**NEAL
MCDONOUGH**

As:
**Team Captain
John Vacumb**



**JIM
PARSONS**

As:
Rigel Bathe



**DANIEL
RADCLIFFE**

As:
Tremor Teabrook



**ELIJAH
WOOD**

As:
**Jonathan
Vacumb**

WITH....



**ROBERT
ENGLUND**

As:
**The FBI Scale Judge
Ski Lodge**



SEAN ASTIN

As:
**WSMC Contest
Director
Michael
RoboCon**



**SALMA
HAYEK**

As:
**The "Spanish Flyer"
Estes
Arouras-Johnson**



JACK BLACK

As:
**Adrel Altimeters
Bgg Szwd**



KIT HARINGTON

As:
**S1/S5 Data Download
Lttl Szwd**



STEVE-O GLOVER

Aas:
**Ultra Motor Supplier
Maddog Cipcic**

.....and many more - too numerous to name here!

This is a classic you don't want to MISSile OUT ON!

With THIS Cast of Characters – It was a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World Spacemodeling Championship!

JAMES SEZ:



In this issue: James reports on Current S5 Scale Altitude World Champion, Matt Stale's flight profile at the 2016 World Championship

"THE DAFFY REPORT"

BY: JAMES DAFFY



Matt Stale during his New York Times interview planned and accomplished. We should bring home the Gold Medal, and we just hope we can taste some the biscuits, too.

But just how did he do it? How does Matt get to the top step of the podium? Hmm?

There's a good chance it's the F1B Wakefield Rubber Motor Winder for one. Matt counts the number of twists to the 200 grams of rubber between him and the motor while it is mounted in the piston horizontally. He notes the number of revolutions until the motor pops out of the



Here's Matt testing engine fit in his "superroc piston." Matt prefers his lederhosen over the classic US uniform - to catch the motor with his knees.

piston - and he has become quite adept at catching the little bugger between his knees when it does. The twist count gives Matt a good idea of how much its going to take to pop that cork and separate the model from the piston.



Matt's new and innovative piston technology has resulted in some surprising side effects. His floating head piston tends to launch itself along with the model! Of course, this requires the piston to deploy a streamer for safe recovery. Matt said he has no intentions of spearing some poor priest with a lightning rod javelin like in the Exorcist. So an appropriately sized streamer is an absolute must, especially if the piston altimeter returns altitudes in the neighborhood of 150 meters. All he would need is a set of fins for some NAR competitions - but this IS the WSMC!!!

But Matt's unique armamentarium is only a part of what makes up the multi-faceted US Team Fortress (Red) composite. Each member has their own set of unique abilities and equipment such that without any one individual member, would be like playing the game without your 1st Baseman.



Matt's solution to a vexing problem

James Duffy is a World Class Spacemodeler and former FAI World Championship Medal holder. His unique perspectives on problems and techniques always make for interesting reading.



The 2016 US TEAM Fortress-Red embodies many contrasting personalities, unique armamentarium and an eclectic array of unique talents and abilities. For the 2016 Team - it was a winning combination!

MAYBE THE **RUSSIANS** DID IT?

And Here's How In Pictures - an expanded "Parting Shots" Story that didn't fit on our back page!

Could BE!!! After all, the Russians are responsible for hacking the DNC emails and they had all the security they needed - right? SpaceX said its investigation of the explosion found that an unidentified flying object entered the area of Complex 40 (SLC-40) undetected and apparently disrupted the second-stage liquid oxygen tank on their Falcon 9 rocket. The explosive attack at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station destroyed the Amos-6 satellite that was to help Facebook Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg bring high-speed internet access to remote parts of Africa. SpaceX said that it pored through 3,000 channels of video and telemetry data that spanned just 93 milliseconds from the first sign of trouble to the explosion. The company believes the attack targeted the Israeli owned Spacecom satellite due to Zuckerman's plans for world domination.



With the nation literally split down the middle, the media setting what should be the government's agenda and a general lack of trust for our idiot representatives in Washington, we have all gravitated towards the opinions and politics of celebrities and rock musicians. So, why not professional athletes?

Kyrie Irving, graduate (I believe) of Duke University, Point Guard for the Cleveland Cavaliers, has given his scientific opinion in what will certainly be the newest paradigm shift, already supported by most Ohioans. It is actually a return to more simple minded days...

Kyrie Irving claims the Earth is actually flat, and Draymond Green responds



Well, maybe things are still a little up-side-down for Kyrie, after all, he was born in Australia, where everything is up-side-down and women glow and men plunder. Can't you hear, can't you hear the thundah?

There's a lot to unpack here, and every bit is enough to make your head spin.

It all started on Friday, when

Reddit pointed out Kyrie Irving believes the Earth is flat. You know, as one does.

That claim comes courtesy of an appearance from Irving on Channing Frye's and Richard Jefferson's podcast, because apparently Jefferson is trying to conquer all media. During their discussion, Irving earnestly, incorrectly, and bafflingly states the Earth is not a sphere. Via ESPN.com:

"This is not even a conspiracy theory," Irving said. "The Earth is flat. The Earth is flat. It's right in front of our faces. I'm telling you, it's right in front of our faces. They lie to us."

On Friday night at the NBA's All-Star festivities in New Orleans, ESPN's Arash Markazi caught up with Irving ... who doubled down on his claims.

"I think people should do their own research, man," Irving told ESPN. "Hopefully they'll either back my belief or they'll throw it in the water. But I think it's interesting for people to find out on their own."

"I've seen a lot of things that my educational system has said that was real that turned out to be completely fake. I don't mind going against the grain in terms of my thoughts."

I won't try to defend Irving's claims. He's flat-out wrong, and as a role model, voicing this view is kind of dangerous. There are kids out there listening to this nonsense who are going to parrot it at school and at home.

And therein lies the crux of the issue for my bleeding heart — the people really affected by Irving's comments are the parents and the teachers of those hypothetical children of strawmen.

This could even offer a teachable moment in the best of circumstances. Irving's urging people to think critically, and you can show your kids how they themselves can easily disprove this ridiculous notion we put to bed hundreds of years ago.

Unfortunately, given the overburdened state of education in a growing segment of the country, that's probably a pipe dream. Dammit, Kyrie. Think of the children!

Then there's **Draymond Green**, of the Golden State Warriors, who decided to keep this conversation going with his answer at All-Star practice on Saturday. Surely we could trust Green to turn this into a Cavs/Warriors thing and poke at Irving's (apparent and supposed) ignorance — except he didn't take the bait for trash talk, instead supporting Irving's right to his opinion.



Uh oh: Draymond is a Flat Earth/Kyrie Truther. And they call these guys "All Stars..."

UPDATE : Irving was asked about his stance yet again on Saturday, and he gave a non-answer about the state of the news media which might indicate he was trolling in the first place — or might not. I'm not sure anymore.

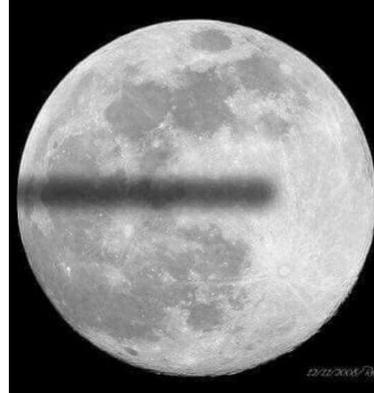
Any mere mortal can validate our planet's shape with basic household items like lamps, rulers and soccer balls. So without further ado, here are seven ways that B.o.B, Miss Tequila or any round-Earth denier can convince themselves that the Earth is indeed round.

Experiment 1: Watch a lunar eclipse

Things you'll need: functioning eyes, the moon.

Every now and again, the Earth passes between the moon and the sun, completely blocking its light and casting a shadow across the moon called a lunar eclipse. If you look closely while this happens, you would notice that the Earth's shadow creeps

Lunar Eclipse Photo 04/1/2016



across our view of the moon.

You might respond, "You've shown the Earth is round, but couldn't it be round, but still flat — a flat disc?" The Flat Earth Society does admit that the moon, the sun and other planets are indeed spherical, but claim that the "Earth is not a planet," and unlike other celestial bodies, is flat.

Hmmm. Well, maybe Kyrie was right all along....

Parting Shots - (or) - "Whasuup" in Space?

SpaceX says it will fly 2 people to moon next year

By MARCIA DUN-DUN-DUNN, AP / Sat Apr 1, 2017 4:47 pm



CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — SpaceX says it will fly two people to the moon next year.

Company chief Elon Musk announced the surprising news Apr 1st. Two people, friends who apparently know one another quite intimately, approached SpaceX about sending them on a weeklong flight just beyond the moon. The champagne is included. Musk won't identify the pair or the price tag. He says that the duo have

already deposited a "significant" amount through PayPal via Amazon.com.

Musk says SpaceX is on track to launch astronauts to the International Space Station for NASA in mid-2018. This moon mission would follow about six months later, using a Dragon crew capsule and a Falcon heavy rocket.

Musk says the moon mission is designed to be autonomous — unless something goes wrong, again. SpaceX says the passengers would fly to the moon, but won't land on it. It is unknown at this time, if they plan to return.

The Launch Rack
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The Launch Rack
LAC Newsletter Award Recipient-2016
Volume 35, Number 3
Issue 201
April 1st, 2017

Ahhh, We begin again on our yearly span of "issues" covering the "issues" important to the GSSS Membership. Some readers still consider this adventure in periodical literature to be trash, so if you want to plunk down your \$10 and use it to line your spray painting booth, we welcome the opportunity to serve...

The Launch Rack is the official publication of the Garden State Spacemodeling Society and is published for the enlightenment and entertainment of the membership. It is published bi-monthly (or more frequently) and is read by the NAR President AND the LAC Newsletter Award Committee – so you're in good company!. (So Far!!!)

You are invited to send your articles, photos, letters, valuables and hard earned cash to the editor for his enlightenment, entertainment, and eventual publication. This periodical is by and for the membership.

Articles appearing here may be used by others provided credit is given to the author and this newsletter.

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This Box NOT Checked...

You're Good!

So this is Not your last Issue

Issue 201 Submission Deadline: 4-15-17