



AERONAUT

The Newsletter for the Association of
Experimental Rocketry of the Pacific
Tripoli Rocketry Association, Inc.
Prefecture No. 23

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Acting 1st Commish's Comments

By William Walby, Acting 1st Commissioner

First I would like to thank Jerry for his hard work during his shortened tenure as AEROPAC Prefect, and to wish him well in getting his "house" in order so that he may re-join us on the Playa in the near future. Jerry, your presence will be missed!

Now, down to business. I would like to give you all a bit of explanation on this year's FAA waiver status. Most of you have noticed that the ceilings for this year's launches are considerably lower than in previous years. Most of that is due to the FAA now requiring that all requests for rocket launch waivers be reviewed by the main Washington DC FAA office. We thought that by requesting more reasonable ceilings for the first two launches that it would streamline our application review and ensure that we would have a waiver in place for this year's launches in time for MUDROC. We don't know if this strategy worked, but we did get our waivers in time for this flying season. (A copy of the actual altitudes given us can be seen herein or a full copy may be requested from any of the Board members if you wish to see it.)

Unfortunately the FAA added some new "Special Provisions" to our waiver this year. The main one is as follows: "#5. AERO-PAC shall request from the Salt Lake ARTCC no sooner than 30 minutes prior to launch, at the number above, specific approval for each launch *or window for launches* above 35,000 feet MSL. The request shall include at the least: how many rockets to be launched, time estimated for launch and recovery, and altitudes requested."

So, this provision requires us to notify the FAA about the number and estimated altitudes of ALL flights above 35,000 ft MSL (the playa is about 3900 ft MSL) no more than 30 minutes prior to the start of our "launch window". That

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NOTE: Haulers Needed for AERONAUT!!

We need volunteers to haul two sets of potties and the equipment trailer to the launch site. Tom Rouse is bringing his family to Aeronaut and will not be able to tow the equipment trailer. You can haul one-way or both (from Sparks) and earn \$50 each way. If we do not get volunteers to haul the potties and trailer we will not have a launch. Please help out your fellow rocketeers. Contact Tom Rouse if you can haul one of these items. Call Tom @408-997-9586 or email dadio1@flashcom.net

1999 Event Schedule

July 24-25	Aeronaut
Aug 29	Member Meeting
Sep 11-12	Black Rock 11
Sep 13	Black Rock EX 2
Oct 2-3	Hayburner 9 (Paso Robles)
Dec 4	Member Meeting

AERO-PAC/BLM Black Rock Work Party

We have tentatively set the date of the BLM volunteer work party for the 9th of September (the Thursday before Blackrock XI). We will be driving around putting up signs designating Wilderness Study Areas. If you would like to extend your vacation by a day and help out with the work project, please contact me for details. AERO-PAC has a volunteer's agreement with the BLM and this is our chance to fulfill our offer to help out. Email: william@aeropac.org or call 916-739-0404. Hope to see you there.

Commish's Comments, Continued

means if any of you are planning to launch to higher than 31,000 AGL during the September launches, you need to send me a copy of the your flight simulation and the day on which you plan to launch, no later than 1 week prior to the launch. We have NO high altitude windows for the Aeronaut launch in July.

I realize that this crimps our "usual" high altitude capability, but for this year we will just have to do our best to comply. The Board is already looking into a better solution to deal with these new special provisions. We'll do our best to come up with something we can all feel good about.

I will serve out the remainder of this year as "Acting Prefect". If you the Members are pleased with my effort, I will run for Prefect/1st Commissioner for next year. The Treasurer's duties will be taken over by Rich Amstadter with Chris McDougall as his "official" assistant. I would also like to encourage anyone who would like to run for any Board position to get involved now. Volunteer to help out the person now in that position to see if you like it. You will then learn a bit and if you are elected, you will not be starting from ground zero.

I want to make sure that AERO-PAC launches will continue for a very long time, and are most of all FUN for everybody!! But we need your help to do this. Volunteer to haul the Porta-Potties or the equipment trailer. Sign up for Launch Duty. Come out early to help us set up, or pitch in at the end to help put away the equipment. All these things are necessary to hold a successful launch and will earn you a "Gold Card" and or payment for gas if you haul the pots or trailer. Do your part and it will allow everyone to have a good time. Also, this is YOUR club, so let the Board know the direction you would like to see the club go in.

Enough of the "soap box." See you all at Aeronaut!

Microsoft Does Rockets

By Mike Pearson

> BUT YAH — Inquiring RMR'ers wanna know — "Did
> Bill Gates ever launch model rockets as a wee lad,
> and does he wanna diversify by buying Estes?" <Gulp!>

My gawd, NO!!!!

We'd all have to install "Engine 99", and, with the extra long delays that M\$ is known for, our rockets would crash often, with no way of determining what went wrong. Calls for support would result in advice to "relaunch".

Launch controllers that launched rockets at random, whether or not they are attached to the particular pad that you are working. Many rockets would not launch; they would appear "frozen" on the pad. You would have to press at least three buttons on the launch controller to "unfreeze" it. Reinstalling the motor would sometimes help.

Countdowns would have to change a little bit..."The sky is

clear; the range is clear. Launching in...4.999999875, 3.9999998989, 3.000000021, 2.000000004, 1.000000001, LAUNCH!"

Contests would be much easier, since there would only be one motor widely available, and pretty much everyone would use it, except for serious competitors, who would go out and find some decent motors from Apogee or another small manufacturer that *would* have a variety of power ratings and delays. These would not, however, be able to be launched from any M\$-compliant launch pads.

Mirrors would become mandatory on all blast deflectors. When they talk about "smoke and mirrors", they *mean* it!

M\$ would eventually buy or drive out of business all of the smaller manufacturers, claim that everything is now "standardized", triple the prices for component parts, then decide that everyone really needs to fly helium balloons instead of rockets.



Bill Colburn Hard at Work (*B. Fortune*)

Mojave Desert High Power

Contact Karl Bauman for all your high power motor needs. Pre-order and your motors will be delivered at BlackRock. Call Karl today at: (805)728-9778 to get your order in time for Aeronaut.

Minutes of May 29 Meeting

Jerry Vaughn announced his decision to step down as Aeropac's Prefect in order to devote his full attention to expanding his business.

William Walby reported \$4,000 in the Aeropac account. 75 members have renewed their memberships, and 15 - 20 on site registrations are expected.

Flight Cards will be posted on Aeropac's web site for members to download and complete prior to the launch. Thanks to Chris Harwell for this suggestion. More CGI forms on the Aeropac www site were discussed, including signups for special events like the BBQ (see below), Porta-Potty transport and launch attendance.

Tom Rouse proposed increasing payment for Porta-Potty hauling from \$25 to \$50 each way. Approved by board, ratified at member's meeting.

Arnaldo Roldan-Suarez reported all permit applications are on track and he is waiting for final approval from the FAA.

For MudRock, the rendezvous time at Brunos will be moved up to 11:00 to allow a little extra time for set-up and equipment check. Playa conditions as of the meeting date were reported

to be good. Karl Arnett has overhauled the PA system; one gel cell needs to be replaced. William proposed buying 3 additional 3/8" rods and 12 cans of spray chalk. Also on the list for MudRock are: duct tape, weather stripping and brooms to control dust in the equipment trailer, and two rakes to restore the launch pad area per the BLM "Leave No Trace" policy.

The BLM and Friends of Black Rock will host a meeting at the Gerlach Community Center on Friday evening. The meeting will focus on the impact of 130,000 visitors yearly to the area, and how Aeropac members can help preserve the values that make the Playa such a valuable asset to us. For more information, check <<http://www.blackrockfriends.org/>>.

In other business, William proposed a catered BBQ at the September launch; he will obtain quotes from firms in Reno. Jerry suggested an on-site dumpster in September, and will research the subject. The club will modify one or more Pro-Rails to be used directly with our launch pads - we'll press Mike Vaughn into service for this one.

Respectfully submitted,

Randolph Mitchell



Mudroc Rangehead, once the gang made it out on the lakebed. (B. Fortune)

Contact The Board

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John Coker and his fleet
at Mudroc (*B. Fortune*).