

December 2014 Launch Report

The Research launch originally scheduled for December 20th had to be cancelled at the last minute because of problems with an old landlord. The field owner offered us the use of another of his fields to the south of the current one, and even though we could not hold a Research launch, or even a high-power launch because we didn't have a waiver, an impromptu Class 1 launch was held just to try the field out. Andrew Kleinhenz, Jim Seibyl and Chris Pearson showed up to fly some model rockets in freezing temps on a dry field with virtually no wind, which was a welcome change from the high winds experienced at the last two launches in October.



Andrew launched a scratch built 2.5" diameter rocket two times (left). The first flight was on a G64-W, which took it to just over 1200 feet. The second flight was on a G80-T, which lifted it to 1668 feet.

Andrew also flew a slightly modified Estes Pro-Series 2 twice on G40-W's, which took it to a high altitude. All flights landed within 100 feet of the launch pad.

Andrew then launched another scratch built 2.5" diameter rocket (right) on an H128-W with dual deployment, which flew to 1801 feet and landed only 50 feet from the pad after a straight up flight.





Andrew and Jim Seibyl both brought Estes D-Region Tomahawks to fly. Andrew flew his on a F24-W and Jim flew his rocket with a decidedly un-scale paint job on a F44-W. Both flights landed near the pad.

Jim flew his restored Estes “Leviathan” (right) called “Red Star Rising” on a F44-W. The rocket had just recently been rebuilt after hanging for 6 weeks in a tree.



Jim appears baffled by the name of the Estes “beater” kit he brought to fly, the “Trajectory” (left). He flew it on a G80-T, after being talked out of flying it on an H motor.

We discovered that the cloud ceiling had dropped from the predicted 6000 feet to about 2500 feet when his rocket went through the cloud deck and reappeared under canopy sometime later. Jim also flew an Estes "Argent" on a G74-W, and a scratch built 4" diameter 4-fin rocket called the "Phunqued Up" on a H115 Dark Matter motor.



Chris Pearson flew a LOC/Precision "Cool-Spool" (left) on an Aerotech/Estes G80-7. Known to be hard to ignite, the last one of these motors that he flew took three tries to get it ignited. Surprising, it ignited with the first attempt, but not without a hard chuff that blew it a foot up the rod before ignition and lift-off.

Chris also flew a Sirius Rocketry "Interrogator" (right). He purchased the one that they called "mid-power". However, to his surprise, Sirius' idea of mid-power is D12's! It has a 24mm motor mount but all the parts are model rocket grade and it comes with balsawood fins!

He relates, "I had to go to Hobby Town and buy some D12-5 motors. This was very traumatic for me, as I have not built and flown an actual Estes-type model rocket since the late 70's, and it's been more than 25 years since I flew anything smaller than a F motor."

The rocket flew well, straight up and landed a short distance from the launch pad. He was happy that the black powder D motor didn't blow up.

