

# April Launch Report

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For those of you who missed the Middlefield launch on April 19<sup>th</sup>, all I can say is that you're not going to get conditions much better than what we had. Clear, sunny skies, a dry field, mild winds and temps in the low 50's made it a great day to fly rockets.

Unfortunately only five NOTRA members took advantage of the superb conditions, even though the Skybusters and MTMA members were, as always, invited. Andrew once again provided the hospitality with a garage to prep and provided coffee for us who arrived early, and Cheryl baked cookies for us.



Steve Eves and Dan Vento were first-time fliers on the field, and they joined Andrew Kleinhenz, Chris Pearson and Dave Sears. Andrew's friends Brett Rolan and Jamin Miller were on hand to spectate.

Andrew and Dan flew commercial motors while Chris, Dave and Steve flew Research motors.

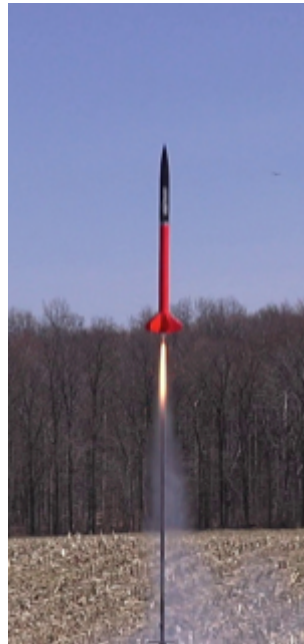
Because of the winds, we were able to place the launcher due east of the house, making the trek to the pad relatively short compared to prior launches. With one exception, all of the rockets landed just a couple hundred feet from the pad.

Dan Vento flew his dual deploy Wildman Junior on a H150 and an old NCR Phantom 4000 (shown at left) on a H175.

Andrew Kleinhenz flew his rocket called Zorba, a 5.5" diameter rocket that is 6.5 feet tall with an AT J540-R which flew to 2730 feet (right).

His second rocket was simply called The Green One, flown on an AT G80-T (far right). Even with apogee deployment the rocket landed close to the launcher.



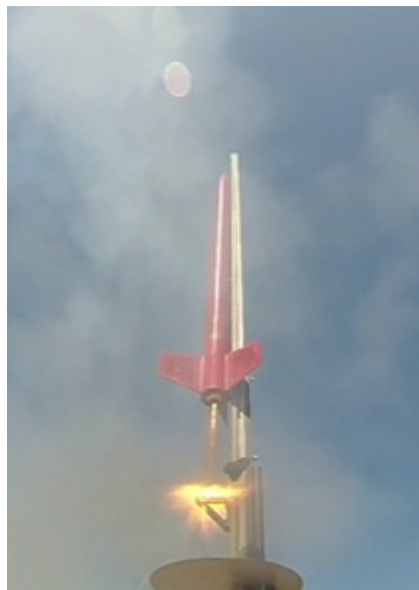


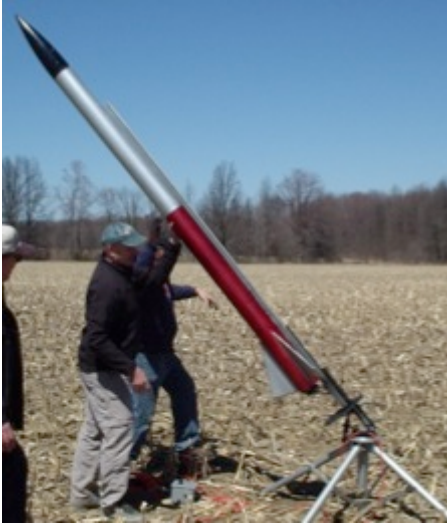
Chris Pearson flew his 4" Katana EX signed by Burt Rutan once again on a Research 54mm K350 using NASSA K2 Slow propellant (left). The almost four second burn and weather cocking took the rocket to over 3000 feet and well into the next field past the tree line which made for the longest walk to recover a rocket at the launch.

Steve Eves brought out a bunch of vintage LOC kits and flew them on Research motors, including a Hi-Tech H45 (center) shown lifting off on a 38mm I300 in a dramatic take-off video frame grab provided by Jamin Miller. Moments later the nozzle blew out but the rocket recovered safely.

At far right is Steve with his modified Magnum flown with a Research 54mm J528 that flew to 2400 feet.

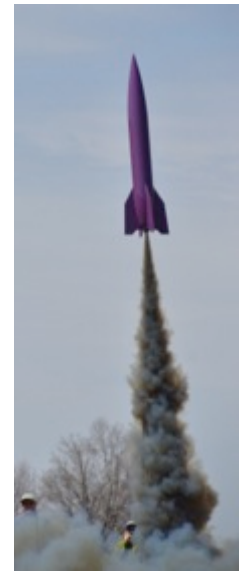
Steve also flew a black Mad Dog rocket with a long 6-grain red propellant 38mm J550 that flew to 1400 feet.





After having rain destroy his tree-bound Hyper-LOC at the November launch, Dave Sears brought out his Big-Nuke 3M (far left) which was built for his L3 project and flew it on a 54mm Research K790 using a White Lightning clone propellant. At ignition the motor end-burned for about 10 seconds before lifting off to 1650 feet (center). Dave estimates he lost 1000 feet in altitude while the motor burned propellant on the pad, melting the rail stop in the process.

The weekend before, MTMA had a commercial launch at the field. Chris Pearson attended and flew the purple 5.5" LOC V-2 that he acquired from the estate of the late Frank Weisheimer of Columbus (right). It was flown on a CTI I289 Smoky Sam motor and despite the high winds, landed closest to the pad (far right). Chris intends to repaint the rocket with a more military looking paint scheme sometime in the future. Frank was very "old school" when it came to building rockets, as the V-2 was equipped with a 1/2" launch lug instead of rail guides.



Photos by Brett Rolan and Jamin Miller