

MTMA FLYER



Official Newsletter of the Mantua Township Missile Agency, NAR Section 606, Aurora, Ohio

MTMA Loses One Launch Site but Gains Another

By Mark Recktenwald

When God Closes a Door...

On March 25, 2008, we were informed by our contact at the Summit Agricultural Society (sponsor of the Summit County Fair and manager of the Summit County Fairgrounds) that "County of Summit" (owner of the fairgrounds land) had sold a very large parcel of land to "Metro Parks, Serving Summit County". That parcel included the area where we parked and launched from, the weeds to the north and northeast, the woods to the south, and the woods to the north of the Fairgrounds—a total of nearly 300 acres. In addition, the County sold a "Conservation Easement" to Metro Parks for the Weaver School land, the soccer fields, the Fairgrounds, and the retirement home to the far north. (The Corsair Model Aircraft Club's radio controlled aircraft field was included in the Fairgrounds portion).

Some of the MTMA officers have previous experience with Metro Parks, as we unsuccessfully attempted to obtain permission to launch from a piece of Metro Parks land in Twinsburg a few years ago. From this experience, we knew that the

Metro Parks Rules and Regulations prohibit model rockets, radio controlled planes, and a whole host of other "motorized" items. Also included in their Rules and Regulations is a provision for the Metro Parks Director-Secretary to waive these regulations through a "Special-Use Permit" that can be applied for. In an attempt to bolster our application for a Special-Use Permit this time, we arranged an on-site meeting with the area manager of the Munroe Falls Metro Park (the park that the Fairgrounds land was merged into) and placed phone calls to the Metro Parks Director-Secretary, Mr. Keith Shy. Our application included a narrative describing our community outreach activities with Scouts, TARC, etc.; the educational aspects of rocketry; and our stewardship of the land demonstrated by the fact that we always left the field with more trash than we generated. Our application also included a Certificate of Liability Insurance provided by NAR. After learning that our application was denied, we immediately filed an appeal. In the appeal we directly responded to each item cited as grounds for the initial denial—to no avail as our appeal was denied as well.

After nine years of flying at the Fairgrounds with no personal injury or property damage, and hundreds of Scouts and TARC team members helped, we get the boot. Metro Parks, Serving who?



...He Opens a Window.

On April 1, 2008 (no joke!) MTMA member Robert Ferrante informed us of a large vacant field on Bartlett Road in Aurora that is owned by the City of Aurora. It seems that Mr. Ray Harmon, a philanthropic farmer who was a descendant of one of the town fathers, left this land to the City in his will. This land was only being used as a contract hay field with designs of possible contract farming in the future. MTMA officers met with the City of Aurora Director of Parks and Recreation Mr. James Kraus on April 23, 2008. Mr. Kraus was very open to the idea of our use of the field and the benefit it would bring to residents of the City. Our use would be shared with a group of radio control aircraft fliers, the Flying Aces of Aurora. We prepared a formal written request to the Parks and Recreation Board for use of the Ray Harmon farm property. On May 1, MTMA officers made a presentation to the Board including the written request and photographs from previous MTMA launches. Representatives of the Flying Aces of Aurora made a separate presentation at the same meeting. Both groups discussed our willingness to share the field and the shared interest in both hobbies by some of our members. We

were very well received by the Board who expressed a small degree of concern, but a greater degree of interest and enthusiasm. Once convinced of our adherence to a Safety Code and backed by the NAR insurance, the Board was willing to accept our use, but they didn't have enough members on hand for a quorum. We returned for the next Board meeting on June 5 and received unanimous approval. The approval was sent to the Law Director's office to draft an agreement, which we received on July 21, signed and returned. On July 23 the agreement was signed by Aurora Mayor Lynn E. McGill.

A schedule for the remainder of 2008 was agreed to between MTMA and the Flying Aces of Aurora, and on August 3, 2008, our flying calendar was approved. August 9, 2008 will long be remembered by the fliers on hand that day for the wonderful weather we had and the almost unbelievable degree of preparation at the field on the City's part. What a great field and wonderful owner we are dealing with. They constructed a gravel driveway and a parking lot; prepared a range-head by closely-mowing the grass in an area off the parking lot; mowed a pathway from the parking lot to the range-head; provided a porta-potty; and even plowed the snow for us before the Turkey Shoot launch.

This is a beautiful field measuring about 2500 feet east-to-west and 1000 feet north-to-south. There is a large area of rocket-eating trees to the north and a number of single-family homes across Bartlett Road to the south. Rockets are limited to Class 1—Model Rockets with routine flights under 1,000 feet AGL and

careful use up to one-half mile dependent upon wind speed and direction and the judgment of the RSO and LCO. A printed simulation is required for any flight of rockets over one pound that are estimated to reach over 1,000 per the Rocketry Online Waiver Table or the Aerotech Nomograms (2007, Dr. Andreas Mueller).

For more information, aerial photos and directions to the Harmon Flying Field, see the web page at:
<http://www.mtmarocketry.com/rhf.htm>

We are all looking forward to a long and friendly relationship with a public organization who knows what it means to SERVE someone!



Ted Schaetzle's Thunderbird Ready for Launch at March Madness Open Meet

Annual Meeting Highlights

By Mike Nowak

Well, the weather played tricks on us this year, as our regularly scheduled Annual Meeting was postponed from January 10 until February 7. Although we faced the challenges of losing our flying field, much of the information about the club was favorable. Membership was up about 19% from the year before. We now have about 24 paid member families and about 40 active members. Activity on our Yahoo group was the most since 2002. Our website activity increased, and as a result of a meeting decision our website name will change to www.mtmarocketry.org.

The safety upgrades put in place in 2008 appeared to be affective, and the importance of the RSO was reinforced. Ground support equipment appears to be in good shape. During the winter, the club acquired two tracking theodolites. They are the classic Centuri models used by SNOAR in the 1970's. Mike Wagner graciously donated them to our club.

A rather robust flying schedule was planned for 2009. Included were a 10th anniversary club launch and night launch at Pichan's. Four sanctioned NAR meets (three open and one regional) were planned for the spring as well. All of these are documented in our Launch Windows.

The 2008 slate of officers were re-elected for 2009. They include Bruce Levison, president, Mark Recktenwald, vice president and senior advisor, Dan Cutlip, treasurer, and Mike Nowak, secretary.

We decided to work with the Aurora Flying Aces to purchase a plaque of appreciation

to present to Jim Kraus, Director of Aurora Parks and Recreation. We also discussed and will further research the possibility of incorporation as a non-profit organization. It was decided that work would proceed on a high power launch controller and research into tree recovery systems would continue. As the meeting concluded, members left optimistic to see what 2009 would bring.

March Madness Open Meet

By Mike Nowak

As mentioned, MTMA decided to host several NAR sanctioned meets as part of our spring launch calendar. The first scheduled meet was the March Madness Open Meet, so named because one must be crazy to fly competition models in northeast Ohio in March. As the day of the meet became close, it appeared that weather would not favor us, with winds, rain, and possibly snow were forecast. This changed dramatically at the last minute, and Saturday dawned with a crystal clear blue sky and no wind. Arriving at the field, it was noted to be in excellent condition with little mud to worry about. One could not have asked for much more.

After a brief contestant's meeting, the flights began. One of the first models to fly was Ted Schaetzle's C SD entry. It deployed a large streamer perfectly at apogee, and decided to ride the winds aloft. Timers lost sight after over three minutes in the air. This would prove to be the longest flight of the day. Ted then flew his A Superroc. There were only three entries and his was the only minimal diameter (13mm) design. The model boosted arrow straight and deployed a chute at apex. Unfortunately,



A Rack of Sport Scale Models Ready to Fly

the flight was disqualified for ejecting its engine. Ted got it ready to fly again, only to have it inexplicably fly unstable and crash. Mark Recktenwald and the Jedi Knights both flew 18mm diameter models. Mark opted for maximum length. Usually, Mark's strategy would produce a winner, but the Jedi Knight's was able to stay up longer, leading to a higher total score. C Streamer Duration models were flown throughout the day, and as the sky became overcast around noon, following the high performance models became difficult. Most models flown were larger than minimal diameter, designed to be seen and recovered. This worked well for the Jedi Knight Team, whose flight remained airborne for over a minute yet landed on the field. Mark Recktenwald's initial flight was lost after a few seconds, after which everyone lost sight of the model. Fortunately, Mark found it, almost by accident at the end of the day to add another qualified flight to his total. B Eggloft Duration was entertaining. Samantha and Savannah Ferrante, who happen to be identical twins, both flew Quest Couriers, finished identically. The only difference between them is that

Savannah's model deployed both parachutes for a first place time of 14 seconds, while the lack of one chute deployment kept Samantha in second place with 8 seconds. C Division had a nice flight by Bob Ferrante who used a 32" reinforced Mylar parachute to keep his model up 40 seconds. Team Jedi used a 24" nylon parachute for a 22 second flight. Sport Scale was courteously judged by Bob Ferrante. It was a display of a high level of skill and craftsmanship, with multiple good models entered and close point totals. Lee Hamer's very nicely done V-2, in Peenemunde paint scheme, edged out Mark Recktenwald's beautiful D Region Tomahawk. Cheryl Cziryak-Hamer's Zenit was a very clean model that flew very well. Ted Schaetzle's Thunderbird was a complex prototype with great workmanship, but suffered from limited documentation. Team division had two Sandia Sandhawks. Rachel Nowak (whose models were proxy flown by her brother Nick) placed first in A Division. Mark Recktenwald placed first in C Division, and the Jedi Knight Team won Team Division. MTMA also outscored Skybusters. At the end of the day, everyone seemed to have fun and were looking forward to our Egg-Stream Open Meet in April.

A Superroc Duration

C/T Division

1 Jedi Knight Team	3315pts
2 Mark Recktenwald	2924pts

B Eggloft Duration

A Division

1 Savannah Ferrante	14 sec
1 Rachel Nowak	14 sec
2 Samantha Ferrante	8 sec

C Division		
1 Robert Ferrante		40 sec
2 Cheryl Cziryak-Hamer		5 sec
3 Mark Recktenwald		5 sec

T Division		
1 Jedi Knight Team	22 sec	
2 Team Snuggie	11 sec	

C Streamer Duration

A Division		
1 Rachel Nowak	43 sec	
2 Hannah Cziryak	29 sec	

C Division		
1 Ted Schaetzle	235 sec	
2 Cheryl Cziryak-Hamer	80 sec	
3 Mark Recktenwald	71 sec	
4 Lee Hamer	64 sec	

Sport Scale

C Division		
1 Lee Hamer	857 pts	
2 Mark Recktenwald	846 pts	
3 Cheryl Cziryak-Hamer	808 pts	
4 Ted Schaetzle	718 pts	

T Division		
1 Jedi Knights	844 pts	
2 Team Snuggie	770 pts	

Meet Champions

A Division		
1 Rachel Nowak	MTMA	540
2 Samantha Ferrante	MTMA	340
3 Savannah Ferrante	MTMA	204
4 Hannah Cziryak	Skybusters	120

C Division		
1 Mark Recktenwald	MTMA	680
2 Cheryl Cziryak-Hamer	Skybusters	484
3 Lee Hamer	Skybusters	440
4 Robert Ferrante	MTMA	340
5 Ted Schaetzle	MTMA	280

T Division		
1 Jedi Knight Team	MTMA	1200
2 Team Snuggie	MTMA	564

Sections		
MTMA	4148	
Skybusters	1044	

2009 Launch Windows

March 14	Launch	Ray Harmon Field
March 28	March Madness Open Meet	Ray Harmon Field
April 4	Launch	Ray Harmon Field
April 18	Egg-Stream Open Meet	Ray Harmon Field
May 2-3	GLRM-R IX	Amherst, Ohio
May 16	10 th Anniversary Launch	Pichan's Sod Farm
May 30	NARAM Prep Open Meet	Ray Harmon Field
June 13	Ray Harmon Regional Meet	Ray Harmon Field
June 27	Launch	Ray Harmon Field
July 11	Night Launch	Pichan's Sod Farm
July 18	Launch	Pichan's Sod Farm
August 1	Launch	Ray Harmon Field
August 10-14	NARAM-51	Johnstown, PA
August 15	Launch	Ray Harmon Field
August 29	Launch	Ray Harmon Field
September 12	Launch	Ray Harmon Field
September 26	Launch	Ray Harmon Field
October 10	Launch	Ray Harmon Field
November 24	Launch	Ray Harmon Field
October 31	Launch	Ray Harmon Field
November 14	Launch	Ray Harmon Field
November 27	Annual Turkey Shoot	Ray Harmon Field
December 12	Launch	Ray Harmon Field
Jan 9, 2010	Section Annual Meeting	Twinsburg Library

"To get the most up to date launch information (including rainout dates), check our website or subscribe to our Yahoo Group and receive instant email updates."

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