

## SPAAR LAUNCHES

**November 5, 2006, SPAARSPAM-17:** SPAAR held it's annual tailgate-style picnic and launch on November 5, due to the cancellation of the October launch. As usual, the food was plentiful and good, and there were a lot of flyers in attendance. By the time we were done, 44 flights had been made, and at least that many hotdogs eaten. More on the food later.

As for the rockets [oh yea, the rockets!] none other than our own Webmaster, Tony Rossi, made his post-nuptial comeback and flew some rockets that he'd dug out of storage. In case you don't know, Tony was married and moved in to a new house since the last time we saw him at a launch. Congratulations, Tony!!! Tony even brought his lovely bride Kelly with him. After her first SPAAR experience, we hope it won't be her last!

Among the more memorable flights was Larry Gerlach's *Big Bertha* on a C6-7. The flight itself was normal for a Bertha, but it was the model's 498<sup>th</sup> flight. We think. Rick Hackman launched his usual assortment of "exciting" models, and Timmy Beaver even got into the act with a SEMROC *Bat Rok* on an A8-3.

Some new members were there, too, like Ashton and Garret Era. Michael Adams also flew some of his beautiful models, including an upscale *Big Hornet*.

Now for the food. Let's see.....there were hot dogs, with and without kraut; cornbread muffins, ranch beans, chili, hamburgers, chips, dip, brownies, cookies, this, that, and the other thing....enough to say that if you left hungry, it was your own fault!

**November 24, 2006, the Turkey Day + 1 "Secret Launch":** Another SPAAR tradition - flying rockets as a way of working off all of that turkey eaten the day before. The weather was actually pretty nice to fly rockets - but the launch area was a sea of mud from the soaking rain the day before. Did that stop us? Nah.

Glenn Feveryear set out to use up some old Apogee contest motors, so he flew two C10's in a clone of the old CMR *Paratrooper*. Got it back the first time, but not the second. Dave Pinkerton showed up and had a blast with his Estes *Canadian Arrow*, *Blue Ninja*, and *Screamin' Mimi*, as well as a Thrustline *Gyroc*, a clone of the old Estes kit. Mark Beaver got a very nice flight out of his LOC *Graduator* on an F39 reload, and Dale Greene had an equally excellent flight with his *Big Brute* G64-7 reload. The same cannot be said for his SEMROC *SLS Hustler*. Dale did a great job finishing the model, but the Aerotech E15 huffed and chuffed on the pad, signaling bad times ahead. The model nosed in, but the soft ground kept damage from being worse. Being a real Steely Eyed Missile Man, Dale stated that the model would fly again.

A guest from the York area joined us, Jay Lanzino. Jay was doing some work on his son's science fair project with an Estes *Max Trak* - and where was the younger Lanzino? Home in bed, of course! Turns out that Jay is a rocketeer from way back, having even attended NARAM-13 in

Aberdeen MD in 1970. Hmmmm.....do we suspect another BAR returning to the fold? Stay tuned.

**December 3, 2006:** Well, Old Man Winter finally caught up with us. It was a day of brilliant sunshine and calm winds, but as the day went on, and the sun went behind some late-arriving clouds.....well, it got darn cold!!! Still, several knuckleheads, uh, I mean brave flyers, showed up to make 24 flights.

Mike Brubaker flew an absolutely gorgeous scratch built *Black Brant VB* on a G64-10RMS. I did not witness the actual flight, but from what I caught later the flight involved timed ejection, electronic gizmos and who knows what else. [Hey Mike, how's about a story for the newsletter?!?]

Tom Aument made the PP&L "Ten Most Wanted" list by hanging a model on a power line. PP&L was called, and a crew responded, and from what Tom related, they weren't too happy about being disturbed from doing nothing on a Sunday. Tom is expecting a bill for Christmas.

Dave Pinkerton braved the chill, but was greeted by "Mr. D12 CATO". Hopefully his *Screamin' Mimi* can be repaired to fly another day. George Beaver couldn't get a parachute to deploy to save his life.

Some out-of-the area guests were there to meet up with Ken Allen of Performance Hobbies, and took advantage of the weather to make some very nice flights. Harry Lamourt from New Jersey flew some nice Estes models like the *Bullpup 12D* and *Patriot*, and Ted Chetnok made several flights with a camera payload on a scratch built model. Shane Bayak and his father from the Easton area flew a two-finned model called, well, *Two Fin* that featured.....well, two fins with tabs to induce spin to stabilize the model. It worked great!

So ended the SPAAR 2006 flying season. We look forward to more in 2007!