

Launch Report

Date: Sunday, April 26, 2009

Location: Ash Grove Launch Field

Time: 10 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Waiver: 16,000 MSL

Weather: Mostly Cloudy, Warm, Winds SSW 9-25 mph, 80 degrees

Media Coverage: none

Vendors: Balsa Machining Service (Bill Saindon)

Fliers: 6 Total – Members (4): Vic Barlow, Randy Milliken, Carl Kruger, Brian Perry.

Visitors (2): Thomas Feldman (Purdue University), Paul Wolak

Flights:

Motors Burned:

Impulse Class	Number Flown
A	
B	
C	1
D	4 (cluster)
E	1
F	
G	3 (2 airstarts)
H	1
I	2
J	2
K	
L	
M	

Despite the forecasted high winds, several flyers and some spectators were in attendance. Special thanks to my colleagues, Kyle Lutes, Ray Hansen, and Rick Mislan (and daughters) for coming out to watch the launch. Bill Saindon from Balsa Machining Service from Lemont Illinois showed up with his trailer and hopefully will be back for future launches. **Brian Perry** flew his Horizon on an I 245-G for a very nice flight. Visitor **Thomas “what rocket hunter?” Feldman** (an Aero & Astro major at Purdue) made his second attempt at a Level 1 certification flight on his Hawk Mountain Wildman named “Tex”. He flew an I 435T which left the pad in a hurry and was not affected by the winds until the parachute ejected slightly before apogee, which had been *estimated* at 2,670 feet. It would be fair to say that his rocket drifted all the way into the next

county, disappearing behind the tree line to the northeast. While Tom, (Prefect) Gus Piepenburg, and Brian Perry spent the next several hours searching the woods, the launch continued. Visitor **Paul Wolak** flew his LOC "Brutus" on an I 211 to about 3,000 feet with an easy recovery for a very nice flight. Later, he launched his LOC Magnum on a J 450 and air started two (2) outboard G 64's for a spectacular flight. **Randy Milliken** had three flights: his "Gold Saucer" on a G46 Tamed Tiger, the flying Mountain Dew bottle "Just Dew It" on a D12-5, and his PML "Phobos" on a Loki H100 Spitfire (skidmark) which was very cool going up spitting black smoke and sparks, but failed to eject a parachute and suffered major damage. **Carl Kruger** had a nice flight; his Fatboy flew very nicely on a C6-3. **Vic Barlow** flew his Wildman on a J-350W he borrowed from Doug "**Hollywood**" Jackson for a very nice flight. The Wildman deployed a parachute at about 2,500 feet and was quickly recovered. Vic and Rudy Rutan flew their Barracuda (won in a raffle 2 years ago at Midwest Power) on a cluster of four (4) D12-6's. All four motor ignited, the rocket flew straight and got respectable altitude, but the parachute tangled and the rocket sustained some damage. By about 1:45 pm the winds had increased to above a safe speed and officers and volunteers (THANK YOU VERY MUCH!) took down the range.

After everything was packed up, Gus, Brian, Carl, and Vic drove over to help Tom search for his missing rocket. After searching the woods, ravines and fields for another hour or so, **Gus "I'm really good at finding missing rockets" Piepenburg** found Tom's rocket, on the ground, undamaged. The group drove back to the launch field where Gus signed Tom's Level 1 paperwork, Tripoli Indiana certified its first (of many, we hope) flyers, and a small celebration ensued. Vic presented Tom with a chilled bottle of expensive, foreign champagne (which had a remarkable resemblance to a mildly warm bottle of Ice Mountain water) and Brian Perry presented Tom with a most important flight accessory – an emergency beeper keychain, which Tom will be using on all future flights – right Tom? The G-Wiz reported an actual flight altitude of 3,153 feet.

Everyone came home, tired, windblown, happy, and sunburned – **a great launch on a good day at THE BEST LAUNCH FIELD IN INDIANA**. Pictures will be posted soon – IF ANYONE HAS ANY PICTURES OF THE LAUNCH TO SHARE, PLEASE E-MAIL THEM TO US – THANK YOU. The next launch is scheduled for May 20 at Purdy Sod Farm – **Class 1 rockets only**. (Up to 3.3 pounds and 125 grams of propellant – almost all H motors are ok – so Level 1 certifications ARE permitted).