



**NIRA
SURVIVES
NARAM!**



**VOL. THREE, NO. FIVE
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1980**

THE LEADING EDGE

ANNUAL LABOR DAY LAUNCH

A LITTLE REMINDER

BRING YOUR FAMILY, YOUR FRIENDS, THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU ON THE BUS AND OTHER RANDOM STRANGERS TO GLEN ELLYN'S NEWTON (SOUTH) PARK SEPTEMBER 1 AT 2:00 PM. FOR NIRA'S 17th ANNUAL LABOR DAY LAUNCH---THE OLDEST MODEL ROCKET LAUNCH IN THE MIDWEST.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR BEST ROCKETS!!

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MINUS
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THE FIRST WORD

I want to thank everyone who has helped to make this newsletter work: Mark Bundick, George Riebesehl, Pat Peterson, Mark Schmidt and Bob Kaplow. These people are the one's who have made this newsletter possible, but they are not the only members of NIRA. A newsletter is suppose to reflect the club publishing the newsletter by its contents. Well I haven't heard from you, how about a contribution to your newsletter? A plan for a model you've designed or an article reviewing a new kit, a model rocket event or explaining something in which you feel knowledgeable are good things to write about. Looking though past issue's may give you a few ideas. Even if you don't write or draw anything I want to know what you think of the Leading Edge and what you would like to see in its pages.

At ETR-10 NIRA picked up 2100 points, not to bad at all! There is now talk of trying for the National Championship, an admirable goal, to this end a passle of us are going to Shooting Star in Wisc. the Labor Day weekend. Our goal is to win at least 2000 points, if we do we might have a chance at the little red banner. Wish us luck!!

Ric Gaff

LABOR DAY LAUNCH Sep. 1
Annual club launch at Newton Park 2:00 PM
MONTHLY NIRA MEETING Sep. 5
Glen Ellyn Civic Center 7:30 PM
MONTHLY CLUB LAUNCH Sep. 21
Ackerman Park 3:00 PM- 6:00
Hope to see you all there, this may be the last time to fly before winter.
MONTHLY NIRA MEETING Oct. 3
Glen Ellyn Civic Center 7:30 PM



Model of the month WINNER



Model of the month winner for August is Matt Harris and his Estes Excalibur. Congratulations Matt!!

Enter the model of the month contest and your picture could be here... unless your hopelessly homely (like Gaff!) in which case we'll use a stand-in.

COVER PHOTO CAPTIONS

(top to bottom)

Those wild and crazy Zenith people made NARAM into a side-splitting good time. Shown (L to R) Todd Schwein, Chadmaster Tom Beach, John Beach

A super Taurus lifts off with a roar! Just one of many sport flights made during NARAM.

Ordinarily preping a model does not mean building it on the range. George is shown building a model for a second flight after his first one flew away.

Phil Barnes's Radio/Control Boost/Glider lifts off proving once again who is master of the R/C B/G.

NIRA

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SEPT/NOV/OCTOBER 1980

The Leading Edge is published bimonthly by and for the members of the Northern Illinois Rocket Association (NIRA), section 117 of the National Association of Rocketry and is dedicated to the idea that Model Rocketry is fun.

Articles, plans, newsletters and other items of interest should be sent to the editor: Ric Gaff, 331 third St., Northfield, Ill., 60093.

CONTRIBUTORS: George Riebesehl Jr., Ric Gaff

All NIRA members are encouraged to give the editor their suggestions for articles and plans. Contributions are encouraged! We are trying to keep NIRA members informed about club and member activities, so we would like to hear from you.

NIRA SURVIVES



by George Riebesehl Jr.

On the morning of August 2nd, four NIRA members travelled to a distant galaxy known as East Lansing. Their purpose: to capture top honors at the 22nd national model rocket championships.

The four NIRA members, Bob (hit the hyper drive) Kaplow, Mark(wabbit) Bundick, Ric(bad joke) Gaff, and George(soon to be jedi) Riebesehl were joined by a NARAM veteran Tom(soon to be NIRA member) Pastrick. After a long journey we finally arrived at our destination; Michigan State University. The dorm that we were to spend the next week in looked like something out of an old horror film. Ivy covered walls and frequent thunder showers gave an erie effect.

After unpacking and meeting old friends, we soon learned that the contestants packets, along with about everything else, was "lost in transit". We also learned that the demo launch held by the manufacturers was postponed until wednesday. This gave us a whole day and a half to get aquanted with MSU. We soon found the student union building where there were pinball games, bowling alleys, pool tables, ect. It quickly became apparent that Tom Pastrick was the master of the union building as he beat almost everybody in air hocky and bowling.

On sunday the range was open for test flights. Charlie Sykos showed everybody why he is on the internats team as he consistantly flew A engine streamer models with over 2 minute times. One flight was timed at over 5 minutes. Tracing paper streamers makes the difference. Bunny flew his Millenium Falcon into a tree where it was recovered by Mike (I can climb any tree) Sykos.

Bob Kaplow taking the Pink Book Lawyers ba exam by protesting his IQ in Superroc.

NARAM-22

SORRY, I RAN OUT OF RUB-BANDS

On monday the official flying got started. The events were C-PD and D-SD. Nobody from NIRA placed, but these events were still interesting. A large number of C-PD models went unstable. Quite suprising for a NARAM.

E- payload and A-superroc (later known as stupid roc) altitude events were flown on tuesday. Bob Kaplow put two payload models into orbit. Bob's superroc model was later DQ'd because he used a booster engine. Many protests were filed and many headaches were gained by bunny due to the superroc rules. George managed to take a fourth in superroc.

The only event flown on wednesday was B-HD. Again no NIRA members placed. The planetarium show was enjoyed later that night.

Bunny with his devastated R/G bought much agricultural real estate.



Ric Gaff with his place losing 2.5 inch parachute. One of many "jokes" to buy the farm.

Thursday was to be the big day. 1/4 A-B/G and C-R/G were the events. Bunny had problems with his R/G all week, shredding it twice. Bunny still managed to do well in both events. Ric's models were just not up to par and did not do well enough to place. George bought the farm in both events and added to his growing number of DQ's.

D-eggloft and scale was flown friday. NIRA once again bought the farm in eggloft but George placed first in scale with a D-Region Tom ahawk. George also placed first in research and development with his chad R/C which appeared in the Leading Edge. Bunny's tracking report managed a fourth.

The awards banquet was a disappointment as the Leading Edge wasn't even mentioned for the newsletter award. George was national champ but went home empty handed as the trophies and medels were "lost in transit". Overall NARAM was a fun event and hopefully more NIRA members will join us next year in Center valley, PA.

Bob Kaplow with his 17 foot Superroc, flew well but later DQ for using a booster engine.

Mic Gaff measures Dave Wolf for the Superroc event unfortunately Dave was a tad over the weight limit.



Phil Barnes and his impressive R/C B/G. Glider is shown here after buying the farm but turned in some good flights later in the week.



Dave Wolf prepares to fly 1/4A B/G while his brother Dan makes fun of it.

George with his Chad staged "E" Payload model. Model bought much farm.



SALROC of MAR was the Salamonie Rocket Club of Warren Ind.'s first attempt at hosting a regional. Unfortunately only 8 people posted, making it into an open meet, none the less we managed to enjoy ourselves.

I arrived a little late Saturday morning and found Tom Hoelle, Tim Vaccaro and Rich Cardillo had already arrived, ready to fly, but everyone was waiting hoping that enough people would post. We stood around and shot the breeze for awhile, hoping for the best, but soon decided it was best to start flying..

The meet was run in a quiet and orderly fashion, six launch pads made it very easy to fly. The field was not the largest field I've ever flown on, but was sufficient for most of the events. The only really annoying problems with the field were the incredibly thick woods down range and several cornfields, it is impossible to find anything in a cornfield!

All-in-all it was a fun meet, no hassles or troubles, everyone was in good spirits. Howard Penrod also stated that despite the small turnout he is not discouraged and plans to do it again next year.

I'm going to be there.

SALROC OF



Sport Scale judges Tom Hoelle and Tim Vaccaro check Rich Cardillo's impressive Hawk model.

Rich Cardillo with his F-powered mini-umunga, great flight even greater prang.



July 5-6 1980

MAR

by Ric Gaff

FIRST PLACE 342 points Rich Cardillo
2nd A SD-68, 1st D Egg Dur.-37, 2nd
A R/G-31, 1st C PD-194, 1st Sport Scale-
Hawk missile.

SECOND PLACE 290 points Ric Gaff
1st A SD-93, 1st A R/G-48, 3rd C SD-74,
2nd 1/2A SD-31, 2nd Sport Scale- V2.

THIRD PLACE 198 points Tim Vaccaro
3rd A SD-57, 2nd C SD-80, 1st 1/2A SD-36,
1st A PD-45, 2nd C PD-148.

FOURTH PLACE 114 points Tom Hoelle
3rd A SD-57, 1st 1/2A SD-36, 2nd A PD-8,
4th C PD-95.

Trophies for the best three overall and
ribbons were awarded.

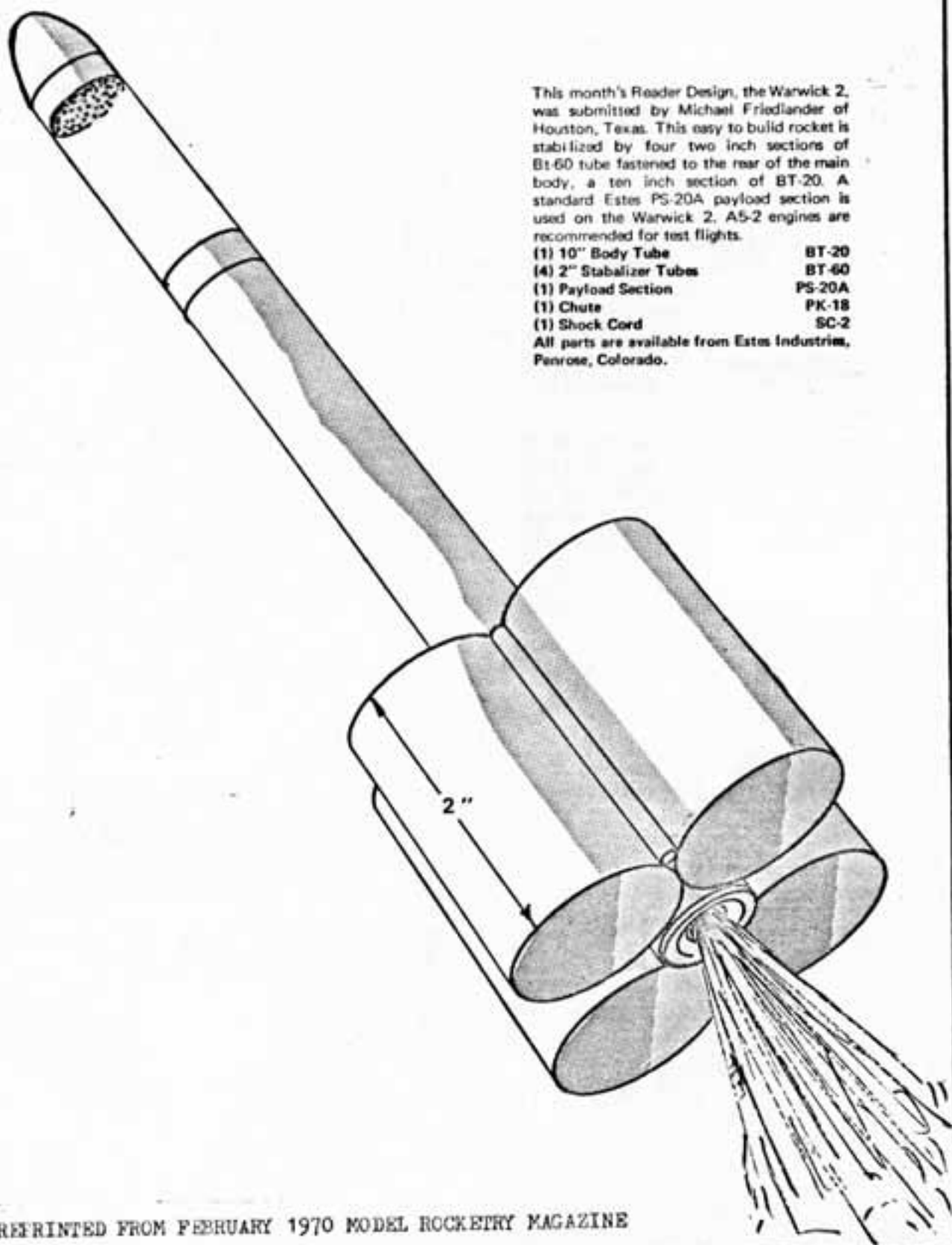
Oh, by the way, I flew as an independent
not as a NIRA member.

Reader Design Page

This month's Reader Design, the Warwick 2, was submitted by Michael Friedlander of Houston, Texas. This easy to build rocket is stabilized by four two inch sections of BT-60 tube fastened to the rear of the main body, a ten inch section of BT-20. A standard Estes PS-20A payload section is used on the Warwick 2. A5-2 engines are recommended for test flights.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| (1) 10" Body Tube | BT-20 |
| (4) 2" Stabilizer Tubes | BT-60 |
| (1) Payload Section | PS-20A |
| (1) Chute | PK-18 |
| (1) Shock Cord | SC-2 |

All parts are available from Estes Industries, Penrose, Colorado.



REPRINTED FROM FEBRUARY 1970 MODEL ROCKETRY MAGAZINE



Mark Schmitt launches his impressive Saturn-V...sans clear plastic fins.



George Riebesehl Jr. and his latest RC B/G.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS ROCKET ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP/ SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Please fill in completely, print or type

NAME _____ DATE ____/____/19

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NAR NUMBER _____ EXPIRES _____ AMA NUMBER _____

(1) How long have you been involved in Model Rocketry? _____

(2) List your favorite type(s) of rockets. _____

(3) How did you first learn about NIRA? _____

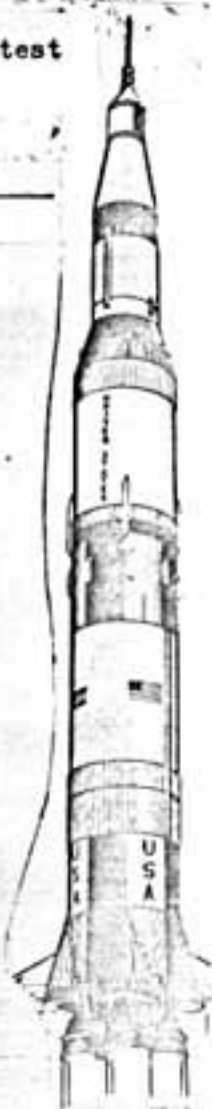
(4) List any other interests besides Model Rocketry. _____

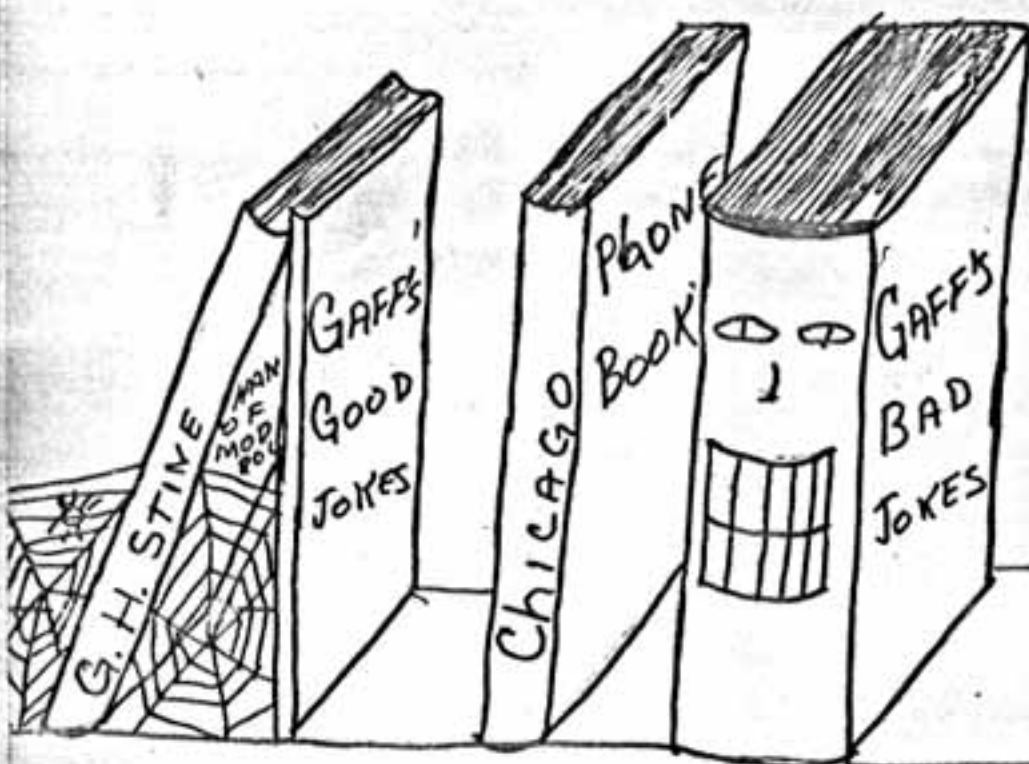
Membership in NIRA- \$3.00 per year (includes subscription to Leading Edge)

OR

Subscription to Leading Edge along (6 issues)- \$2.00

Please make checks payable to the Northern Illinois Rocket Association





Hiya, Hiya, Hiya,
I'm HERE TO TELL
YOU ABOUT A GREAT
HOBBY STORE-
GLEN ELLYN TOY
AND CARD SHOP
476 MAIN ST in
GLEN ELLYN, NATCH.
A REAL NICE PLACE.

OH, by THE WAY, A FEW
FRIENDS ARE THROWING
GAFF A "NECKTIE PARTY"
YOU'RE ALL INVITED.

Richard Gaff
331 3rd St., Sunset Park
Northfield, Ill. 60093

First Class