

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NORTHERN ILLINOIS ROCKETRY ASSOCIATION
1985, 1986 AND 1987
NAR NATIONAL SECTION CHAMPIONS

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 1

T MINUS ONE

MONTHLY MEETING

January 8, 1988, at the Glen Ellyn Civic Center, 7:30 PM. We will elect officers for 1988 and will hear a talk by Doug McMillan about scaling kits. Bring your Cat in the Hat rockets!

UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

February 5, 1988
March 4, 1988
April 1, 1988
(no kidding folks!)

In February Bob Kaplow will speak about hi-tech construction materials.

NIRA'S CLASSIFIED ADS

LATHE FOR SALE

Quality Sears Craftsman Lathe, 1/2 HP Motor and Table. Swing up to 12" diameters, 36" long. Three motor speeds available. Excellent condition; used only a couple of times. Ideal for HPR use or regular woodworking. Will deliver locally; beyond Chicagoland means you pay the freight. \$100 or best offer.

Contact:

Mark B. Bundick
1523 Cleveland Street
Evanston, IL 60202
312-475-5048

***** ----- *****

CHEAP IBM PC HARD DISK

Slightly flaky Seagate 225 20 Mb hard disk drive and Western Digital Controller.

Usable if you take frequent backups or if you just need a good, inexpensive controller. Both are yours as is for only \$25.

Contact: Mark B. Bundick

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BEYOND MOM'S CHUTES

High quality ripstop nylon chutes 36" diameter. Sewn nylon lines end in a high strength nylon loop. These chutes won't come apart on you, no matter how hard you try! Great for the new Dual Eggloft event, old Estes Maxi-Brutes, HPR work or other large sport models. Quantities are limited, so order today. Yours for \$5 each plus shipping and handling.

Contact:

Aw Chute
c/o Barbara A. Bundick

***** ----- *****

FOR SALE

Mueller 34C Micro Clips
**** Solid Copper ****

8 for \$1.00! Less than what our favorite big rocket company charges for two of lesser quality. About the same price as your local electronics store charges for junk. Include an SASE (1 oz. per set, any excess postage returned), to address below.

Collector's Engines

for Sale (NOT FOR FLYING)

Estes engines in unopened mailing tubes. These are late 60's to early 70's vintage with Astron ignitors.

1/4A 3-2	3/\$3.00
1/4A 3-2S	3/\$3.00
1/4A 3-4	3/\$3.00
A8-5	3/\$3.25
B3.-7	3/\$3.50

A few other sizes are available.

Composite Dynamics Pro-Jets; loose motors, no ignitors.

E20-4, 7, 10	\$4.00 each
F40-6, 9, 15	\$6.00 each
F45-4, 8, 12	\$7.00 each

Quantities limited! Engine shipping charges and insurance not included. Make checks payable to Bob Kaplow. To order clips or for shipping info on engines write: KGB Aerospace, 1628 Waterford Lane, Palatine TWP, IL 60074.

KAPLOW'S KITTY BOUTIQUE
(for all your cat's rocketry needs)
Promotes the following
new contest events:



**MOUSE LOFT ALTITUDE
MOUSE LOFT DURATION
CONTEST BOARD
—TAKE NOTE!**

MODEL OF THE MONTH

November

December

THE LEADING EDGE

is published bi-monthly by and for members of the Northern Illinois Rocketry Association, NIRA, NAR Section #117, and is dedicated to the idea that Model Rocketry is FUN! Membership dues are \$3.00 per year and include a six issue subscription to the Leading Edge. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$5.00 per six issues. All membership applications and subscriptions should be sent to Bob Kaplow, 1628 Waterford Lane, Palatine, IL 60074. Articles, plans, other newsletters, and news items of interest should be sent to Barb Bundick, Editor, 1523 Cleveland Street, Evanston, IL 60202. Any material in the Leading Edge may be reprinted if proper credit is given.

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**NEWSLETTER OF THE
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THAT CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

by Jedi George

This year's World Model Rocket Championships were held September 7-15 in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. The US posted with a 12 member team the promised to be one of the best. But the final results were quite surprising.

THE SLAVISA

The US Team was the first on the scene. We stumbled into our small double rooms in the Hotel Slavisa on September 4. This gave us plenty of time to take in the sights and scope out the field. The food was good and the accommodations cramped but comfortable. No one got sick. The field was a nightmare. A small grass runway aerodrome surrounded by corn and a huge garbage dump. The weather was perfect everyday; sunny with temperature in the 80's and light winds.



View from Hotel Slavisa.

RECOVERY NIGHTMARE

A PD and A SD were the first events. Special micro composite engines and super-light fiberglass tubes made the US look competitive. Ken Mizoi led the US PD team, maxing through Round 5. Ken tied

for third, a four way tie, when he lost all his models. Recovery was well done with walkie talkies and a crew of people a mile downwind. Chuck Weiss failed to max in the first and third rounds and finished 27th. Chuck's first flight thermalized out of sight before a max, with the timers refusing to use binoculars. Dan Winings DQ'ed his first and third flights and finished last in 34th place.

SD was even more disappointing. No US Team member maxed out for the first three rounds. Frank McMullin did the best, finishing in 16th place. Art Rose and Harry Rose finished 17th and 19th respectively.



Opening Ceremony.



Ken Mizoi excites the fans.



Yugoslav kids swarm U.S. Team at opening Ceremonies.



U.S. Team at Opening Ceremony.

NEVER TRUST A MILITARY TRACKER

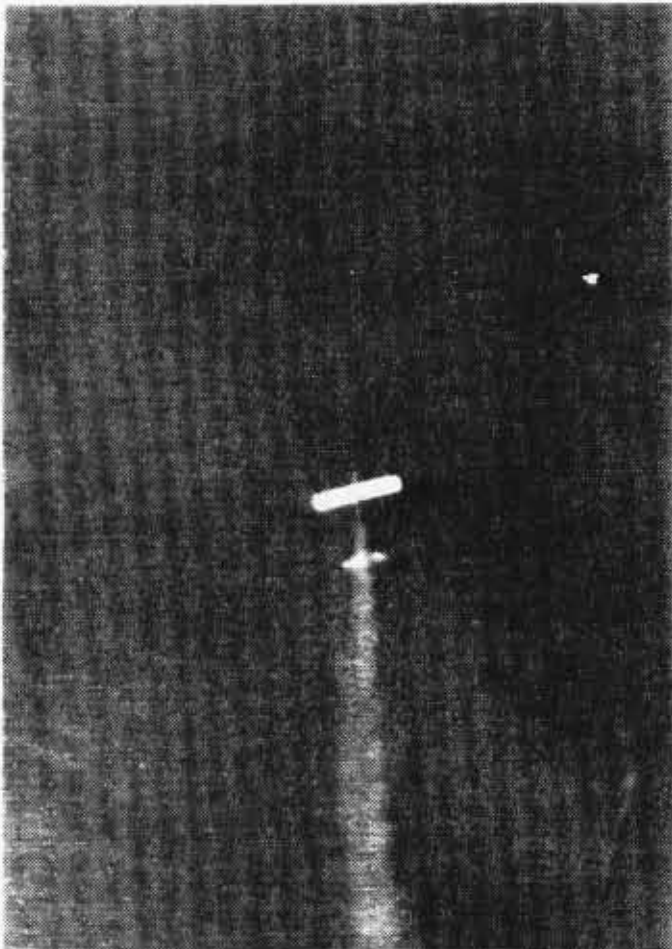
A Altitude and B Boost glide were next. Yugoslavian military trackers were used with dubious results. The Yugoslavians finished 1-2-3 with the winning flight going 948 meters. Matt Steele finished 4th for the best US placing. Jeff Vincent and Chuck Weiss were 8th and 9th. This was good enough to win the US a Team Silver Medal.

B BG was disappointing with the tri-fold US canard flexies experiencing reliability problems. No US Team member maxed out. George Gassaway took 11th; Harry Rose; 16th; Art Rose; 21st.

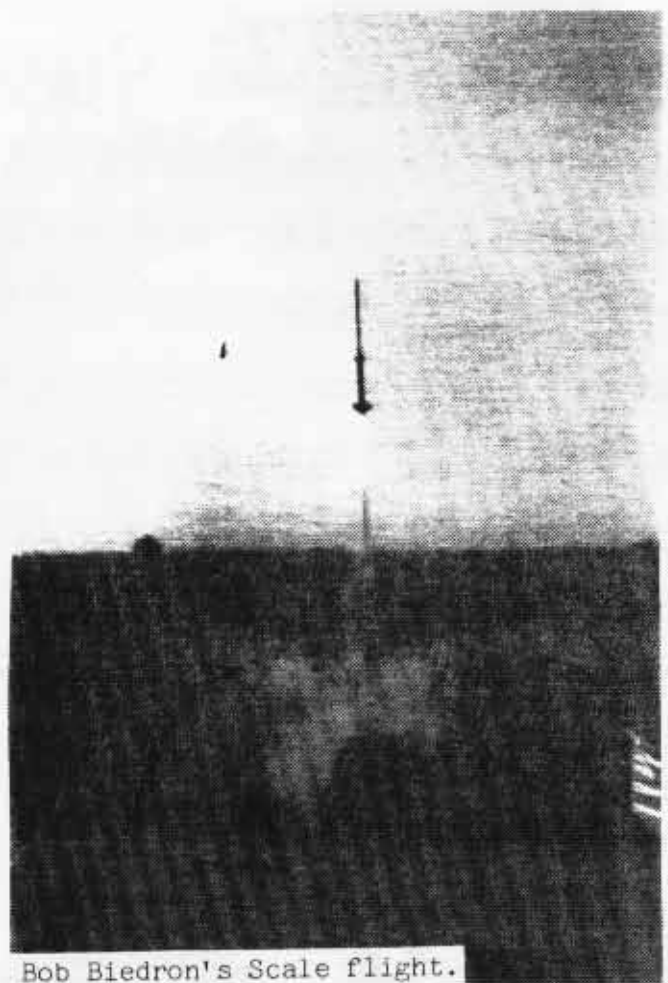
I really can't comment too much on the type of models flown on these first two days, since I was about a mile downwind in the garbage dump recovering. A great way to spend a European vacation!

CAN I COME IN FROM THE DUMP NOW?

After a day of rest, Scale Altitude and E RC RG were flown. Bad luck plagued the Scale Altitude Team. Returning World Champ Art Rose finished on top in static points, but scored a zero on his flights to finish 20th. Jeff Vincent finished right behind in 21st, while Dan Winings and Matt Steele took 23rd and 24th. Unstable models, failure to ignite



A Russian E radio control rocket glider.



Bob Biedron's Scale flight.

the upper stage and lost fins were just some of the problems the US Team had. Again, the event was more of an altitude event than a craftsmanship event, with winning flights going over 740 meters.

E RC RG was flown for the first time as an official FAI event, and other countries were well prepared. Phil Barnes, a two time World Champion in the event, shocked the US Team by failing to find lift and landing short of a max in the second and third rounds. George Gassaway ("Big George") and George

Riebesehl ("Little George") maxed the first three rounds with relative ease. But so did six other competitors.

George and George maxed again in the 4th round, and entered Round 5 with five competitors remaining. Jedi used all the power of the Force and landed short in this 9 minute round, with a 5 minute score, missing 4th place by 16 seconds. Round 6 was flown with Gassaway, a Russian and Bulgarian the only remaining flyers. They all stretched out the 10 minute max, just as the

sun set. The final round was flown the next morning, with all three launching almost the same time. In the early morning dead air, Gassaway couldn't find lift and landed at 525 seconds. The Russian won as the Bulgarian came down at 540 seconds. But the US Team did well enough to earn a Team Silver Medal, just 28 seconds short of the Gold.

R/C SCALE

Scale was the final event, with the Russians dominating with incredible radio controlled multi-stage perfect Soyuz

models. They finished 1, 2 and 4 while the Czechs took 3, 5 and 6. Bob Biedron, the only US competitor, took 19th with his very nice Nike-Tomahawk.

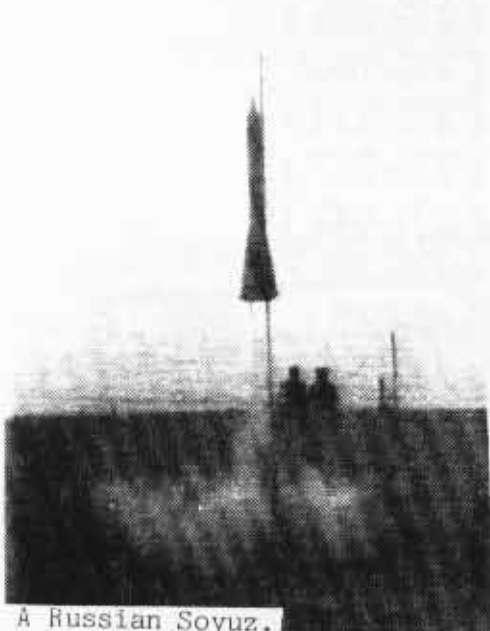
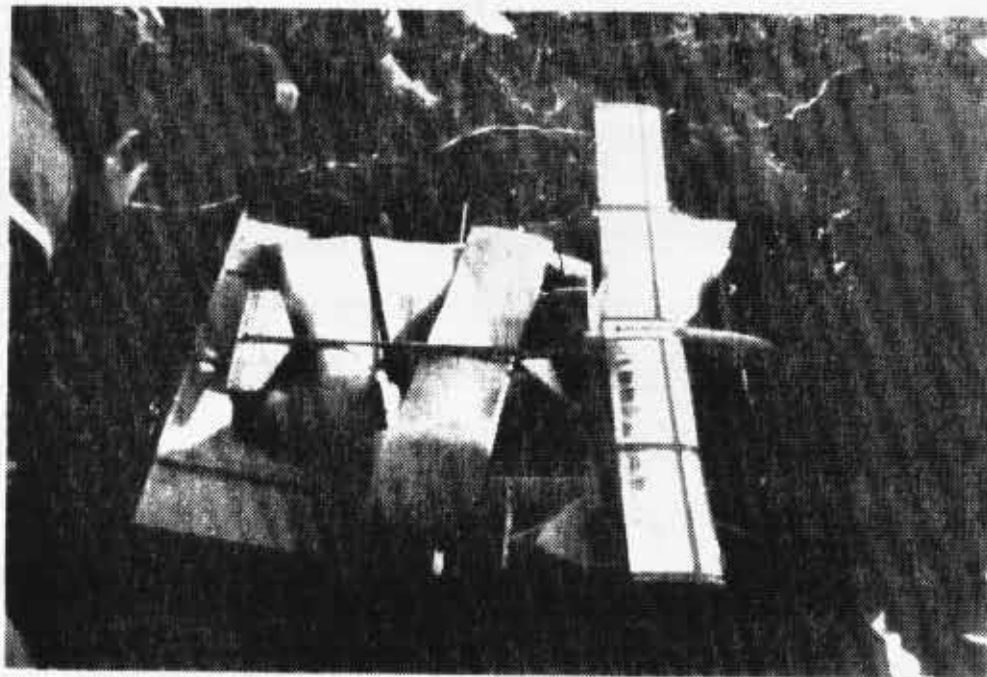
'PREMIUM PIVO, PLEASE'

The awards were quite nice, with individual and team medals. Team places were also given a lead crystal cup. Many Premium Pivos, Yugoslavia's best beer, were drunk at the banquet and afterwards.

Gerry Gregorek deserves recognition for all his efforts in managing the US Team and dealing with all the confusion, late night manager meetings and general complaining. Thanks also to Howard Kuhn for his continuing work with the FAI.



U.S. Rocket Glide Team.



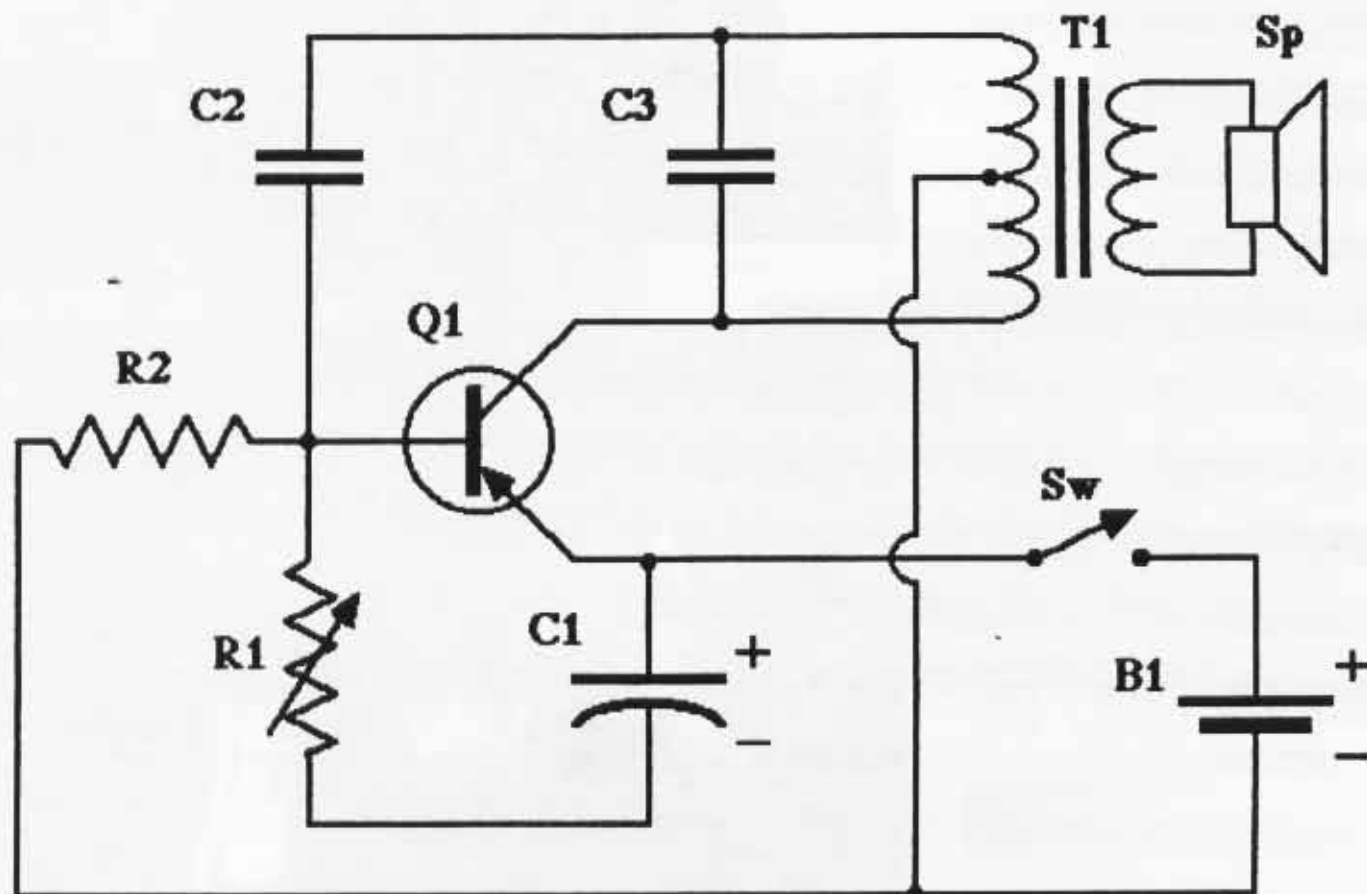
A Russian Soyuz.



Jedi and Gassaway at czech-in.

Beakmitter

by Tom Beach
(Article by Bunny)



- C1 220 μ F electrolytic capacitor
- C2 0.022 μ F capacitor
- C3 0.047 μ F capacitor
- R1 5K potentiometer
- R2 47K resistor
- Q1 Germanium PNP Transistor 2N1305
- Sp 8 Ω speaker
- T1 Mini audio transformer
- Sw Switch, normally open
- B1 1.5 Volt battery

- Radio Shack No.
- (272-956)
 - (272-1066)
 - (272-134)
 - (271-217)
 - (271-042)
 - (276-2007)
 - (40-245)
 - (273-1380)

Are you tired of all those mundane launcher plans with buzzers, countdown displays and continuity checkers? Don't you want something electronic to improve your contest performance?

Then you are ready to introduce some psionic control into your flying. Psionic controls use your thoughts, i.e telepathy, to induce a rocket to do what you want. A thorough explanation of psionic systems can be found in the April 1970 Model Rocketry magazine.

The Beakmitter works by

amplifying your thoughts and transmitting them to the model. It first appeared at Shooting Star and helped Tom Beach place in D BG with a single channel Beaker model. Just prior to ignition, he turned on the Beakmitter, and played it again during the glide phase. Finishing second to Uncle Al Nienast wasn't too shabby, and obviously the Beakmitter helped.

Building one shouldn't tax anyone with some soldering experience. Just be careful not to fry the transistor. You might

want to splurge for a Radio Shack box to put everything in, but any old box, including one built from scrap sheet plastic should work just fine.

For those of you who insist on knowing the "true" function of the Beakmitter, the thing just introduces a little levity on a model rocket range, something we's all do well to start the new year with. Thanks to the Beach Boys, Tom and John, for a cleverly insane idea!

BALLOT FOR NIRA OFFICER ELECTIONS

President

() Lawrence Bercini

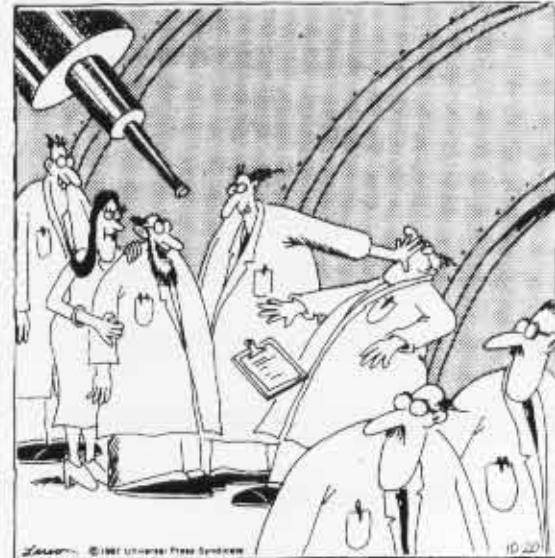
Vice-President

() Richard Gaff

Secretary/Treasurer

() Robert Kaplow

THE FAR SIDE



All day long, a tough gang of astrophysicists would monopolize the telescope and intimidate the other researchers.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM





YAKOV SMIRNOFF

HERE IN SUNNY
YUGOSLAVIA FOR THE
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS.

A great field and great
facilities, eh? But no
hobby shops! Now in
America you can go to the
Glen Ellyn Toy and Card Shop.

WHAT A COUNTRY!

Яков
Смирнофф

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