

NSWRA Newsletter



New South Wales Rocketry Association Inc.

Jan - Feb 2018

Welcome to launching in 2018!

It's great to see so many people back at the start of the year, along with some new (and not-so-new) members. Accordingly, we will be adding another launch pad and more of the smaller rods to help accommodate the number of rockets being launched. The extra pad will be placed at a further distance to better suit the larger rockets and motors.

Mullaley Launch weekend 5th - 6th May

If you have not already done so, please advise us if you intend coming to this launch so we have an idea of numbers and can keep you informed.

Please also let us know if you are planning to use a sparky motor (& what size), and if you will be attempting a HPR certification. David Head, the certifying officer for AMRS, will be attending.

The normal flight ceiling is 8000 ft, but for this weekend we are looking at applying for an extension to this. Higher altitude flights can only occur at specified times. If you expect your rocket to exceed 8000 ft, you will need to provide us with all the details ASAP so we can supply the information to the authorities.

Make sure you purchase your motors well beforehand. If you are buying from Australian Rocketry, one of our members will be travelling to Queensland in April, and has generously offered to collect orders in person if circumstances allow.

Streamer Duration Contest Announced

At the February launch day, David H launched a scratch-built lightweight rocket on an "A" motor as a demonstration for a new contest event. This competition will be on-going, so flights can occur at any NSWRA launch, and results will be recorded. At the end of the year, a prize will be awarded for the rocket with the longest recorded flight duration.

Contest details: The aim of this competition is to keep your rocket in the air for as long as possible using a single certified "A" motor with recovery by a single streamer.

Type of Rocket: Any design - no limits.

Type of Streamer: A single streamer of any size or material, which must be attached only at one end by a single shock cord (ie no looped streamers)

Rules: You must advise the RSO and LCO that it is a competition entry. They will act as judges of the competition.

Timing will start at first movement of the rocket after ignition and will stop as soon as any part of the rocket touches the ground (or anything on the ground ie a tree), or the rocket can no longer be seen. While we want all our rockets to be retrieved so they can be flown again, the loss of a rocket does not disqualify the attempt.

The judges' decision is final and not subject to appeal.

Note: The flight duration is the only determining factor in this competition. It is up to you whether you use a thin rocket that can go very high but only hold a small streamer, or a "fat" rocket that won't go as high but can hold a large streamer. There will be a point where an ideal solution can be found. It is up to you to find it. Good luck!

Macquarie University Astronomy Open Night

NSWRA is planning to have a stand again at this event, to be held on Saturday 19th May, 6:30pm to 10:00pm.

This night is a good opportunity for us to promote rocketry and the club to the general public.

This is a fun night, and we would like to see a few more members attend. You will get free entry as an exhibitor, and will have time to look around and not have to be on the stand the whole time.

Upcoming Events

All launches are at Whalan Reserve unless otherwise noted

March

31 Launch Day

April

28 Launch Day

May

5-6 Mullaley weekend

19 Macquarie Uni AON

26 Launch Day

Launch Day 27th January

Number of launches: 36

What a great start to 2018! As to be expected for January, it was a hot day, with light to moderate winds.

Rhys was first off the pads, taking advantage of the calmer conditions in the morning, to launch his “Kookaburra 5B” on a G40 motor.

Two more rockets were launched on G motors – Jeff’s “Leo II” and Norman’s “Surreal”, both on G64’s. “Leo II” had a perfect flight, but Norman’s rocket was a little wayward.

The saucers of David H and David C had nice flights on F24 and C6 motors respectively. David C also launched his rocket made from a can of Pringles “Sour Cream & Onion” on a D12-3.

New members joining us today were Rachel with her son, Laurence (junior), Sam (senior), Toby (senior), and Jason M (senior) – Welcome! Some very nice flights on a range of motors

Also welcome back to David B after a brief absence.

Sam’s impressive Space X “Falcon 9” had 2 great flights, first on a D12 motor and then on an E12-6. Unfortunately, it suffered from a CATO on its last flight, again on an E12. Those large black powder motors can be temperamental. We all feel your pain, Sam.



Sam’s “Falcon 9”

Launch Day 24th February

Number of launches: 30



Josh’s “Dominator” lifts off on a D12-3 motor

The first rocket launched today was Paul Katz’s “Techno” on an SCR C6-3 motor. This rocket was a first for the club, being fully 3D printed. Accordingly, it was a bit too heavy for the SCR motor. It was successfully launched later on an Estes C6 motor.

David H launched his “Big Red Saucer” on an F12 motor for a slow, relaxed flight, and at the other end of the scale, his “Hot Point” on an E75 motor – blink and you’ll miss it! He also launched his scratch-built “FAI-27-A” on an A3 motor, as a demonstration of a competition rocket. This had an amazingly long flight duration, but used a parachute for recovery. As the competition we have introduced will require streamer recovery, the contest is wide open.

Rhys had a perfect flight of his “Kookaburra Mini 5” using a cluster of a central E9 and two C6 motors.

George flew his Axion G6 water rocket at 120psi and 200psi – flawlessly as usual. Jaxon, a visitor, launched his Falcon 9, which he’d named “Project Marie”, on a D12-5, but unfortunately the nosecone separated.

Other nice flights included Laurence’s “Farside” and “Sky Dart” rockets, Josh Bevitt’s “Dominator” on a D12-3, Phill’s “Mirrabooka” on C6 motors, Jay, Megan, Zachary and Michael (visitors) with their rockets, Patrick’s “T1” on an F15, and Jason B & family with plenty of rockets

One of the highlights today for a lot of attendees was seeing David B’s half-scale “Patriot” – a great opportunity for photos with a big rocket. Thank you, David.

