

NSWRA Newsletter



New South Wales Rocketry Association Inc.

July-August 2014



NEW LAUNCH SITE !

Thanks to a dedicated effort by Norman, we are pleased to announce that we now have a fantastic site at Mullaley, near Gunnedah, approximately 5½ hours drive from Sydney. We are in the process of getting approval from CASA to launch high power rockets here.

Expected maximum launch altitude is 8000 feet! Windows may be available for higher altitude flights.

Norman and David C visited the site on 19th -20th July and can confirm that the site is excellent – large, open space with no trees - and the landowners are wonderful hosts.

Launches here will not be open to the public – it will only be for club members and invited guests.

Our first club launch at this site is planned for Sunday 5th and Monday 6th October (this is the October long weekend)

Test flight at the new Mullaley launch site
- David C's "Ganymede" on a G38 motor

Launch Day 26th July

Washed out

Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting was held on 26th July at the Rooty Hill R.S.L.

The new committee is:

President	Tim B.
Vice-President	Geoff M.
Secretary	Norman Mc.
Assistant Secretary	George K.
Treasurer	David H.
Senior Advisor	David C.
Committee Member	Spencer A.

Thanks go to those who are prepared to take on these responsibilities.

Key topics discussed at the AGM:

It was agreed that all memberships would now fall due on 30th June each year. Members must ensure that they renew **before** this date in order to remain financial. Reminder emails will be sent to members.

In the transition period, members will need to pay a pro rata amount when they renew, to cover them up to 30/6/2015.

In addition to "full membership", NSWRA has a large number of different membership classifications. It was agreed that these would be reviewed with the intention to rationalise. Fee adjustments would be made accordingly.

Gate at Whalan Reserve

The gate near the radio control car track will be unlocked by a committee member, but in most instances should remain closed. If the gate is closed when you arrive, please close the gate again after you've driven through. If you find the gate already open because other users of the area (eg footballers or cricketers) are present, leave it open.

Launch Day 10th August

Number of launches: 18

A light northerly wind made for some nice launches today.

One of our visitors made the most of the conditions, launching his 2 scratch-built rockets “Eagle One” and “Eagle Two” on D12-5 motors, for a total of 8 successful flights.

Tim’s “Blackstar Voyager” made its reappearance after being repaired and had a great flight on an E15.

Spencer’s successful first flight, “Dunno” on a B6, was enough to convince him to aim higher. His X-Wing on a C6 had a realistic flight – the chute not deploying made it look like a simulated “landing” on the Death Star. Undeterred, his “Heatseeker” on a C6 also looked like the genuine article, heading towards the safe recovery area to the south.

David C’s scale “Phoenix” managed to get off the pad on a D12 for a low altitude flight. Despite a good recovery, it cracked 2 fins on landing – not unusual for this model – but easily repaired.

The flights of George’s water rockets were again impeccable. Not to be outdone by his dad, Paul’s “Black Thunder” had a nice flight on a C6.



Launch Day 30th August

Washed out

Two Competition Days Announced

We’ll be holding an altitude-duration competition on Saturday 27th September. The target altitude is 400ft. Altitudes achieved will be measured using one of the club’s “AltimeterOne” altimeters. 1 point is scored for every second of flight duration, with 1 point being deducted for every foot away from the target altitude. The winner will be the rocket with the highest (or least negative) score. Thanks to Tim, there are 2 fantastic prizes up for grabs - a Fisher Space Pen (with NASA logo) from the Kennedy Space Center and an 808 keychain video camera with 8GB Micro SD Card.



The second competition is an egg-loft duration, to be held on Saturday 29th November. This should allow members enough time to make a suitable rocket. The winner will be the rocket with the longest flight duration, adjusted by a factor according to the size of the motor. A cracked or broken egg results in disqualification. 2 prizes, again generously donated by Tim, are a Space Shuttle Mission Commemorative Patch Set from the Kennedy Space Center and a Yato Diamond Riffler File Set – a handy set of tools for your next project.



And if you don’t want to enter because you don’t think you’ll be competitive, please consider that a flight duration of just 6 seconds was enough to win the last time we held an egg-loft competition!

Reminder – membership fees

This is a reminder that only financial members are permitted to launch.

Members due to renew between now and next June will pay an adjusted amount to cover them to 30th June 2015.

Open Day at Siding Spring Observatory – Saturday 4th October

For one day of the year, Siding Spring Observatory (near Coonabarabran) opens its telescopes to the public. It's your chance to take a closer look at the operations of Australia's largest optical telescope site.

This year's Open Day is momentous as they celebrate the 50th year of their oldest telescope, the 40th year of the AAT and 30th year of the ANU's premier telescope.

More details are here: <http://www.visitnsw.com/events/open-day-at-siding-spring-observatory>

NSWRA has been invited to display and to possibly conduct some small launches. They have suggested that we could use this event to see if anyone in the area has an area available to launch the larger rockets.

Several of the committee will be attending, and the launch at nearby Mullaley has been scheduled to coincide with the event. If you would like to be a part of this, please let us know as soon as possible. All are welcome.

Upcoming Events

All launches are at Whalan Reserve unless otherwise noted

September

- 14 Launch Day
- 27 Launch Day. Altitude duration competition

October

- 4 Siding Spring Observatory Open Day
- 5-6 Launch at **Mullaley**
- 12 Launch Day
- 25 Launch Day

November

- 9 Launch Day
- 29 Launch Day. Egg-loft duration competition