

Balls-25 Launch Report

Because of medical issues, I didn't make it out to Hamster Dance or Balls this year. The photos shown are taken from photo albums posted on Facebook. When possible I have put captions with the photos.



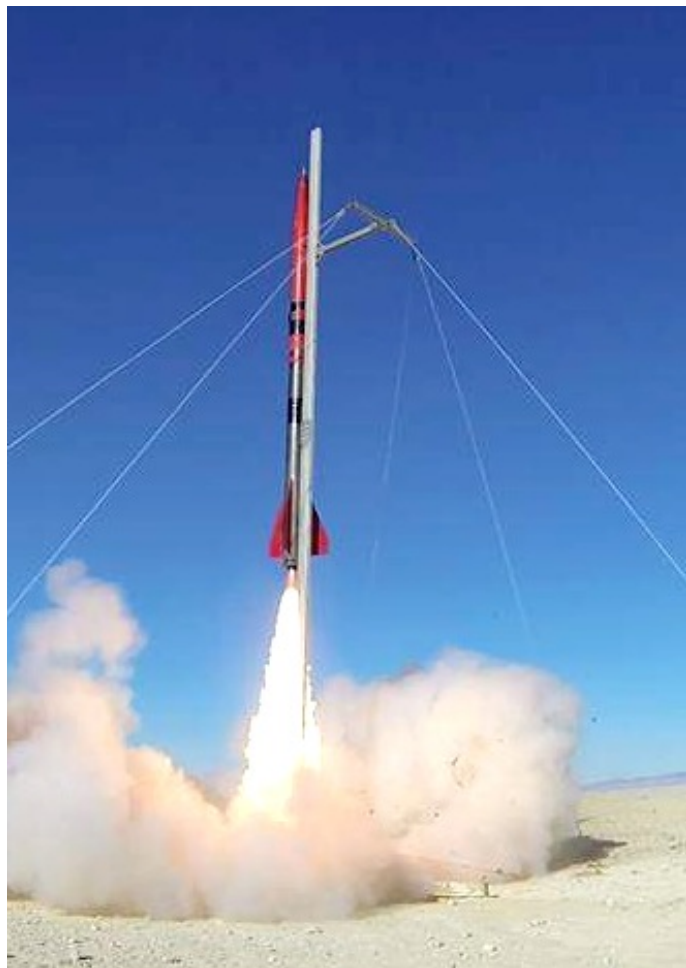
This was the "Gila Monster", this year's beer loft rocket built by Phoenix High Power Rocketry. Flown with a cluster of seven motors, the flight and recovery were successful. The beer keg was tapped where the rocket landed and much beer was consumed.





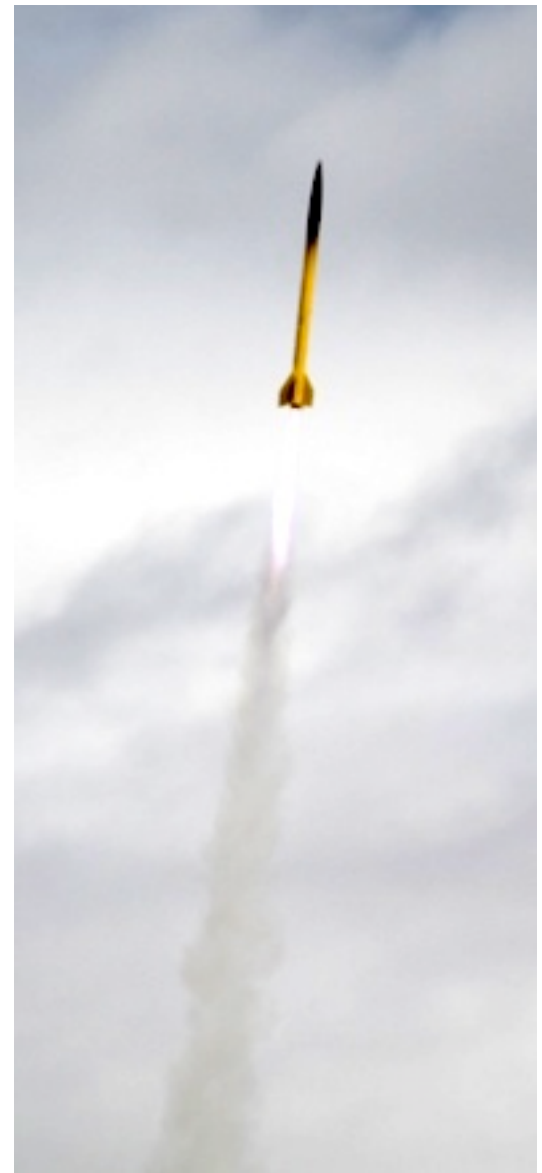
Roberto Müller (below) made the trip from Argentina to do his Level 1 and 2 Certification flights with this LOC/Precision EZI-65 done up to resemble one of his SLM Proteus IV kits. The Proteus in flight (right). Recovery on the playa (below left) after a flight to 4300 feet on an Aerotech J270.







The Gerlach School K-12 project rocket (above). The parts were donated by Chris Pearson, it was build by Dave Rose and painted by Tom Blazanin. The 76mm L879 motor was also built by Dave Rose. The rocket sim'ed out to 13,000 ft. with a Mach 1.5 flight but shredded at 3000 ft. (right). I guess there are limits to what you can build with paper when you exceed Mach. The school class is shown below with the rocket before flight.





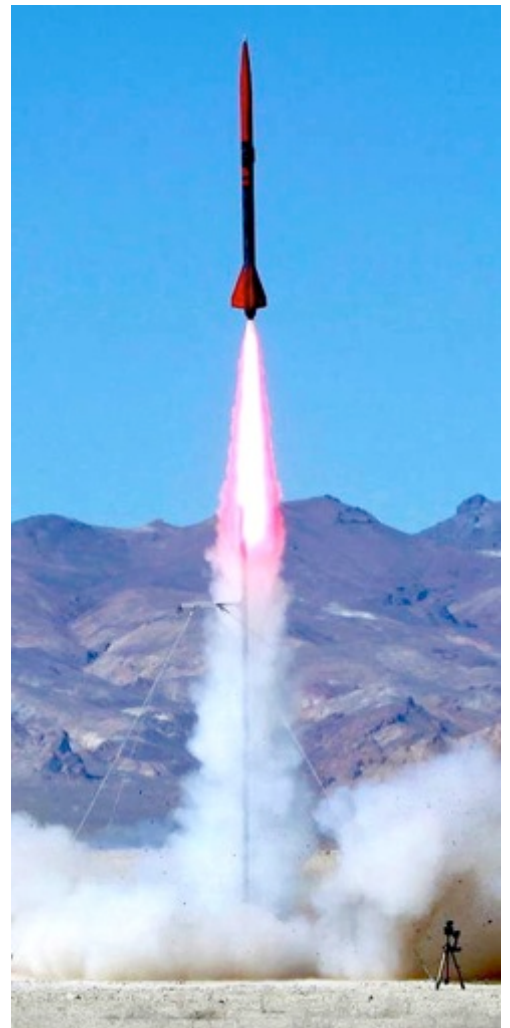


The team of Jim Jarvis and Stu Barrett flew a two-stage altitude attempt, which was expected to hit 220,000 ft. (right). Jim Jarvis built the first stage, which flew perfectly and was recovered. The second stage was built by Stu Barrett. Staging was good but the rocket shredded at 40,000 ft. while traveling at Mach 3.9. The Kate unit relayed the flight info and was recovered.





The ROCKETS Magazine Project, "Black Sheep" (left) was launched successfully on 9-24-16. Unfortunately, the 28' Main Parachute unexpectedly deployed at apogee (40,000 ft.) and the rocket drifted off into the wilderness to the southeast of the launch site. It has yet to be found.





Still frame from the video of [Kip Daugirdas's](#) 145,000 ft. altitude flight.



Gary Dickinson's "Unfinished Business" (left) on its way to 34,000 ft. and Mach 2.6.

Joe Grubb and "Shape Shifter" (right). This flight went 600 mph to 9300 ft. on an Aerotech M1550R. Recovered 600 yards away with no damage.





Eric Smedstad (left) with his two-stage rocket on the pad. First stage (right) was recovered perfectly. The second stage lost 2 of its 3 fins but still made it to 80,000 ft.!



Randy Marek (left) poses with his rocket on Eric Smedstad's launcher prior to its 14,000 ft. flight.





Bill Gack's 11.5 inch V2 going up on a white propellant Research N1960 motor (above left). Touchdown on the playa after a perfect flight (above).