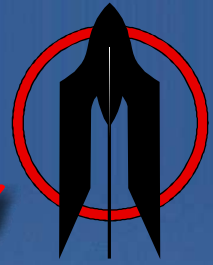


# TRIPOLI GERLACH

Research Rocketry



July, 2011

TRIPOLI PREFECTURE # 138

Vol 01 No 04



[WWW.TRIPOLIGERLACH.ORG](http://WWW.TRIPOLIGERLACH.ORG)

# TRIPOLI GERLACH

Research Rocketry  
TRIPOLI PREFECTURE #138



July 2011

Vol. 01 No. 04

**PUBLISHED EXCLUSIVELY FOR  
THE MEMBERS OF TRIPOLI GERLACH**  
All Content Copyright© 2011 by TRIPOLI GERLACH

Tripoli Gerlach was founded as a National Prefecture under the Tripoli Rocketry Association, Inc. Devoted to Research Rocketry and the Black Rock Desert area of Nevada, we welcome all qualified Tripoli Members having a Level 2 certification or higher.

Our Executive Officers are;

Tom Blazanin (003)  
Prefect  
Valencia, PA  
[shadow@pghmail.com](mailto:shadow@pghmail.com)

Dave Rose (7126)  
Secretary/ Treasurer  
N. Huntingdon, PA  
[drose191@comcast.net](mailto:drose191@comcast.net)

Deb Koloms (9021)  
V.Prefect/Event Coordinator  
Watertown, NY  
[rktdoc@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:rktdoc@twcnny.rr.com)

If you have anything to contribute in the way of information, articles, photos or whatever, please send them to Tripoli Gerlach Headquarters. Visit our

[WWW.TRIPOLIGERLACH.ORG](http://WWW.TRIPOLIGERLACH.ORG)

## ON THE COVER

Chris Pearson at BALLS with his Scratch Built Katana EX-treme proto-type using a 3" NASSA L-1100 Yellow. The 32lb rocket reached 5,400 feet.

You can visit Chris' shop in Ohio on Page 7.

## NEW MEMBERS

Here it is six month after formation and we've attracted several serious Research Rocketry people. Tripoli Gerlach is well on its way and there's no turning back now.

New Member

Rich Hagensick (8111)  
Prairie du Chein, WI

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

Tripoli Gerlach will have a sit down social Spaghetti Dinner at its upcoming Members Meeting, September 30th. Price is FREE to all attending Tripoli Gerlach Members. However it is important you notify us of your intention to attend so we can give Skeezy a headcount.

**PLEASE RESPOND BY SEPTEMBER 3RD!**



## BY-LAWS REVIEW

The Tripoli Gerlach By-Laws are posted on our WebSite. As of right now it is a document in progress, meaning while we use it as our base, it is up for alterations and acceptance.

An altered copy of this document has been E-Mailed to all Tripoli Gerlach members for review of thusfar submitted alterations.

Please take the time to review this document. Any and all items you see of question send to the Prefect. This is most easily done by E-Mail.

Again please review and respond if you have anything to input.

At the Annual Meeting on September 30th we will review it and vote to ratify. Once approved by the membership it will be entered into our official documents as the solid base we will operate by. Until then it is open to modifications, additions and deletions.

## BALLS UPDATE

BALLS 20 draws near. Mark is now accepting BALLS Registrations. Remember everyone, even spectators, must register to be at BALLS. This is not really AHPRA's doing but the BLM, who as we know is there to check it.

The BALLS Registration Form can be found on-line on their WebSite at [www.balls20.com](http://www.balls20.com). Click REGISTRATION and download the form. Then send it in immediately to Mark so the world can see your name on the WHO'S COMING Page!



## HAMSTER DANCE

Currently there are 16 people who have contacted the Event Committee regarding their attendance at HAMSTER DANCE. No registrations have been received yet but these 16 people are positively building to attend.

An additional 10 people have contacted us but their inquiries sort of classify them as wannabes'. It is highly unlikely they will show up. And we can't even guess at those who will just register at the last minute.

All equipment for the launch is ready and Registrations are open at this time. Remember no Registrations on site and no T-Shirts will be sold on site.

## HUGHESNET OPERATIONAL

HughesNet Satellite Internet Service is up and running in Gerlach. Originally a Ken Biba project to get Skeekey her own internet service, after two years in the works, it is now running. Hopes of good internet service in the motel rooms is dashed though.

Gary Rosenfield, of AeroTech, has supplied the system with a WiFi box but service is only available in Bruno's Bar and restaurant - and Skeekey's house!

The CAT5 system in the motel is still under question. Visitors must rely on the crappy Burning Man system or the BLM WiFi. But maybe we can get the HughsNet. Time will tell!

## TREK TO THE NEEDLES



On schedule for September 2011 is the exploration of the the Needles area at the north end of Pyramid Lake. We'll be led into this private Paiute country by our friends Norm and Oscar. This truly Bad Lands Area, with its own geyser, is forbidden to anyone other than members of the Paiute Nation so plan on joining us. This may be a once in a lifetime trek. Everyone is welcome to join us. Our schedule of Black Rock Desert romping will be posted in the next issue of *TRIPOLI GERLACH NEWS*. Watch for it.

# WHAT A DIFFERENCE 60 YEARS MAKES

While doing research for Gerlach News stuff, I came across an archive for an old desert magazine. It lists several articles published back in the 40's & 50's. Several were of the Black Rock area. One in particular was a record of a husband and wife pair of desert groupies. Written in 1951 I became very entranced as I read it. They recorded their trek from Gerlach back to Gerlach over pure dirt roads except for the main road in Gerlach and the paved road in California on their return back to Gerlach.

Their trip was the exact trek members of Tripoli Gerlach did in 2010 North past the Petrified Forest, West on Lost Creek Road through Hell's Gate, then South at Duck Lake on 447 (the cattle drive) back to Gerlach. We did the 150+ mile trek, mostly on dirt road, in several hours. It took them two days, and they had no air conditioning.

Their tale began after getting gas and water at the only gas station forever in the "quaint" little town of Gerlach. Bruno had to be around 27 at the time and probably just another person trying to survive. We know he didn't own the gas station nor the store, and his Country Club was a dirt lot! Grabbing some sandwiches and supplies at the "store" in Gerlach they headed north commenting about the vast dry lake bed on their right that went on forever and ever. Intrigued they actually took time to drive out on the perfectly flat dry lake to see what it was like before heading back to the dirt road.



The Dry Lake in a 1948 Merc, no air, windows down!

Their first stop (for a sandwich already) was at what they thought was a mining site oven because of its conical shape; they saw smoke. They trekked their way through the marsh lands to find what was then known as the Gerlach-Leadville Fountain. Beautiful colors of yellow, green, maroon and black were lost on their

& white film.

What they discovered was not Fly Geysir, rather what is called Old Man Geysir. Fly Geysir did not exist in 1951. Old Man Geysir, or the Gerlach -



Old Man Geysir in its younger days

Leadville Fountain was created in 1919 under similar circumstances as Fly Geysir by a cattleman drilling for cold water and finding hot water. Fly Geysir was created in 1964 by someone drilling for hot water and finding warm. Both wells were capped and abandoned and eventually formed the geysers.

Old Man Geysir stands in the meadow north of Fly Geysir. In 1956 someone shot at it and it stopped flowing. It has since begun to trickle from the very top once again, but is now dwarfed by the more spectacular Fly Geysir.



Leadville 60 years ago.  
Maybe the cliff is still there.

Getting back on the road heading north they searched for an abandoned mining town called Leadville. This was one of our destinations abandoned because we were told there is nothing there. They were told the same thing but what they found was a small ghost town.

Several buildings remained and the ground was covered with abandoned signs of early mining life. Maybe we should reconsider going to Leadville on one of our next explorations. After 60 years something might still be there. Even just to see the cliffs shown in the photo would prove worthwhile

Again back on the unpaved road north they soon came across our Petrified Forest on the left. According to them large stone logs lay everywhere and rock stumps jutted upward. Ideal specimens lay free for the grabbing



and they had trouble deciding which were the best keepers.

Today it presents slim pickings but still we enjoy visiting there.

Recognize these trees? They're now caged with wire fence and welded poles.

Their trip again drove north to Lost

Creek Road. This is the T where we turned West heading for California. They say their drive was uneventful save for the occasional rock formations. Then they came across a green oasis with cotton wood and aspen trees and some wild rose bushes. A babbling brook worked its way through the small forest refuge where they stopped to eat and refill their water cans from the clear cold creek.

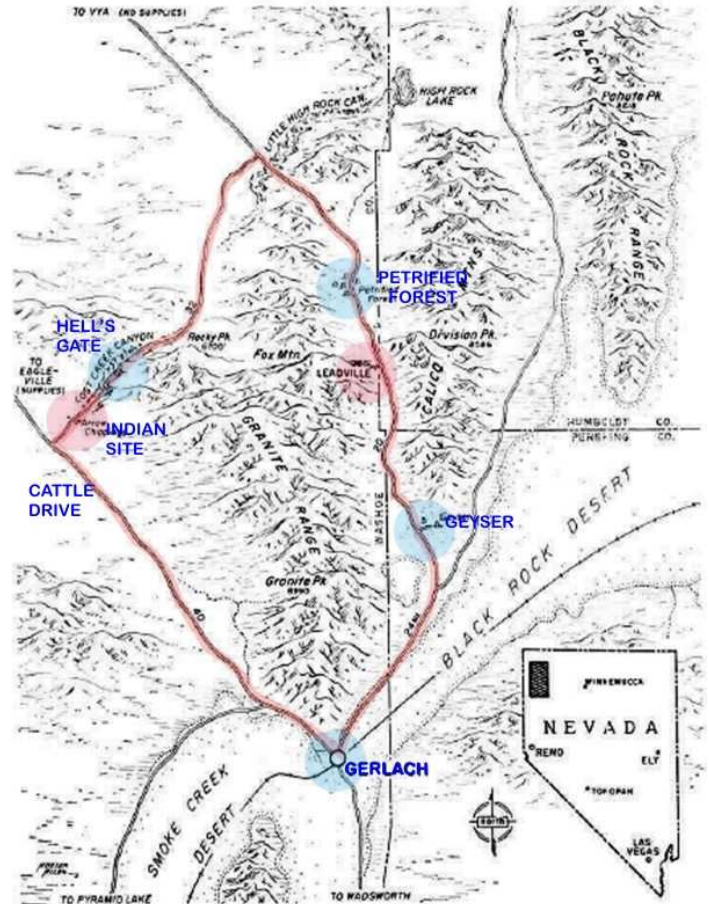
This was Devil's Gate but apparently not called that in 1951. They did mention two high shear rock cliffs that straddled both sides of the road. - Cliffs? More like two giant rocks to us!

After dinner they moved westward again figuring they only had a bout 20 miles till they hit the paved road. But about half way there they spotted a bed of agate and jasper off to the one side of the road. The ground was strewn with sharp and jagged pieces of rock and they soon figured out this must have been an old Indian work site. Arrow and spear heads could be found sifting through all of the rock chippings.

When Chuck Duffy, desert authority and big game

hunter in Gerlach, informed us about possibly finding Indian arrowheads up near Duck Lake he must have meant this place. We took him literal for Duck Lake itself, which we passed on the right, just before meeting the cattle drive.

Our next venture out in this area should have us considering looking for Leadville and most important, the agate jasper Indian area they described.



This map traces their route, which we duplicated several times now. Our stops are in blue. Maybe in 2011 we can add the two red spots to our adventures. Who knows what we'll bring back.

# Roger's Aeroscience RAS Aero Simulation Software

The RAS Aero aerodynamic prediction methods are the most accurate available for model, high power, and amateur rockets, and are of equivalent accuracy to professional engineering method aerodynamic analysis codes used for missiles, sounding rockets, and space launch vehicles. Best of all it's FREE!

[WWW.RAS AERO.COM](http://WWW.RAS AERO.COM)

# BALLS PROJECTS

**Dave Rose's** Pulp Friction was a 4-inch rocket built for Balls 17 to fly on a NASSA 3-inch X 36-inch M2000 Slow propellant motor. The rocket used an aluminum boat tail/ motor retainer custom built by Eric Haberman. At BALLS 17 the motor performed flawlessly, taking the rocket to 17,400 feet, but even though the main parachute never deployed and while slowed by the drogue chute, the booster section cracked at the point of the forward centering ring contacted the airframe.

It did make an interesting landing as shown here.



The project was repaired and repainted in a new paint scheme with the conical nosecone being replaced with a Performance Rocketry filament wound Von Karman nosecone, complete with aluminum tip.

The rocket was renamed RISING SUN with Dave creating some interesting vinyl graphics for it.

Dave's original idea was to fly it at Balls 20 on a 98mm N3300 red propellant motor, but realized recently that the repair performed used a coupler, which prevents the 42-inch motor casing from going completely into the booster. Current plans, time permitting, will be to build a new booster that will allow the larger motor to fit properly.



# LET'S VISIT CHRIS PEARSON

*This begins a series of articles visiting Tripoli Gerlach Members WorkShops. This is where they create the stuff we dream of. This first visit covers member Chris Pearson in Highland Height, Ohio, just a little East of Cleveland.*

Chris Pearson has a long history of rocket activity dating back to the days before just about everyone we know even thought of doing rockets.

Chris is the creator of LDRS, Tripoli's National Launch and Members General Assembly. He is also past owner of North Coast Rocketry, one of the first Rocket Companies addressing High Power Rocketry producing large rocket kits and composite motors to propel them.

Chris, a known clean fanatic, works out of his basement and garage keeping everything immaculate at all times. With plenty of room everything is kept organized in specific areas and work does not cross over.



Chris stands in front of his Propellant Mixing area



The Main area is wall to wall storage and open work space



Work table and complete Propellant area. Shell reloads are far right



Rocket storage. Can you guess his flying colors?



All "dirty" work is done out in the garage on mobile equipment.

# THE CLOWN MOTEL

Sitting around the launch pad in Bruno's we've all heard Mark and Robin's humorous tales of horror and disbelief of their stay, while driving up from Pheonix to Gerlach, at the Clown Motel in Tonopah, Nevada. Well the place does exist as the photos show.



Mark and Robin apparently are not the only one's creeped by this place. Several people have written questionable reviews of their stay at the Clown Motel and their stories run the same as our guys.

In reality it is a normal Motel just over run with the Clown motif! It's amazing how many people are afraid of Clowns.



## DECALS AVAILABLE

Tripoli Gerlach has added Vinyl Decals to our list of merchandise. Available in 4" and 6" versions they will go great on rockes, cars and just about anything. Visit our WebSite to order .



Looking For TRIPOLI Apparel & Merchandise  
VISIT

## THE TRIPOLI STORE

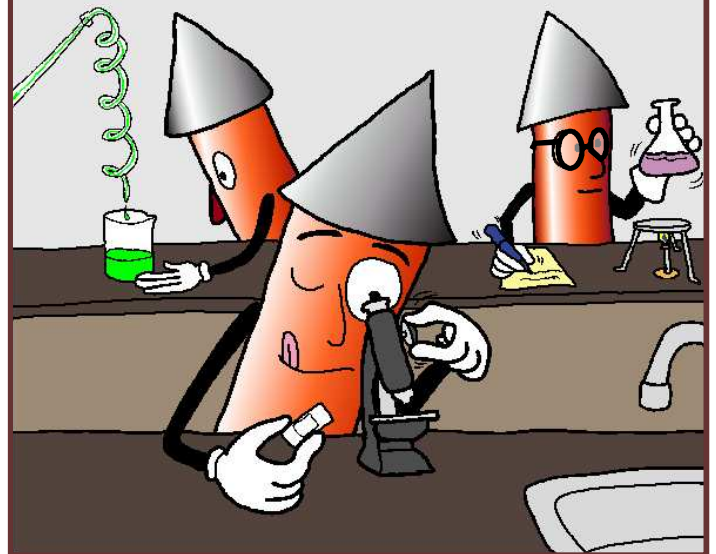
Shirts • Jackets • Hats • Mugs  
Clocks • Logos • License Plates & More



VISIT US ON-LINE

[www.thetripolistore.com](http://www.thetripolistore.com)

## ROCKET SCIENCE



## TRIPOLI GERLACH

748 Galloway Drive  
Valencia, PA 16059

[www.tripoligerlach.org](http://www.tripoligerlach.org)