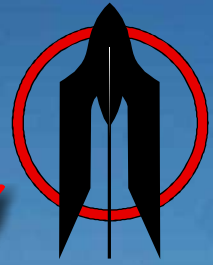


# TRIPOLI GERLACH

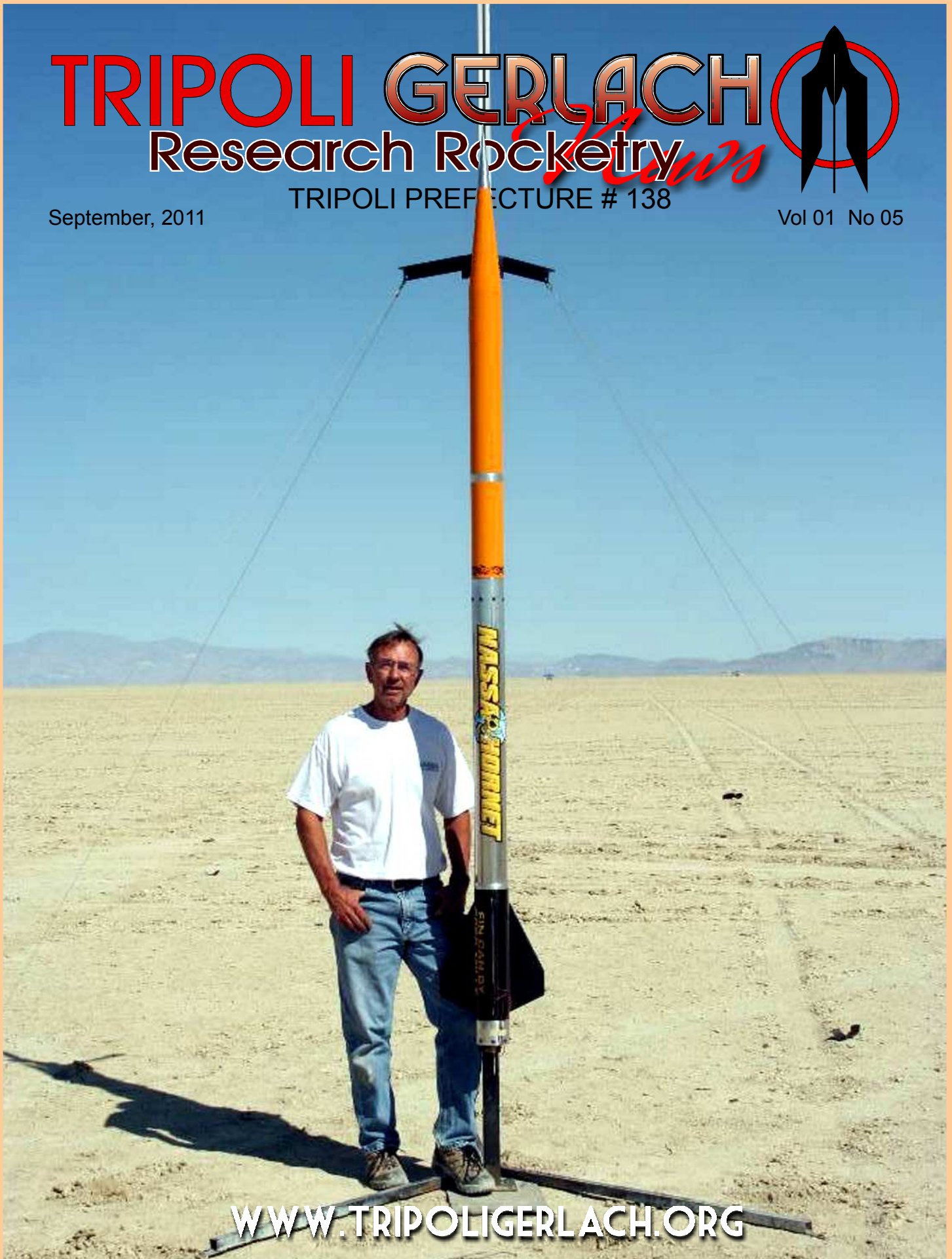
## Research Rocketry



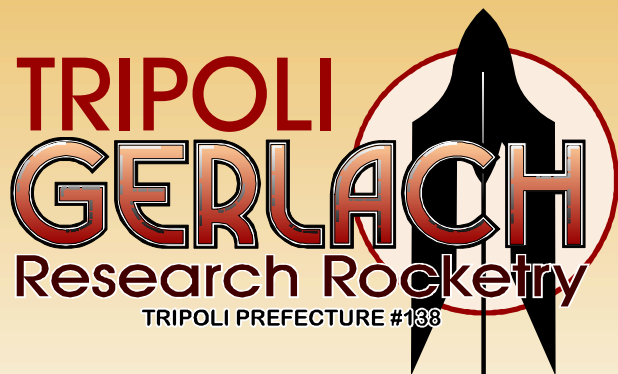
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Vol 01 No 05



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



September 2011 Vol. 01 No. 05

**PUBLISHED EXCLUSIVELY FOR  
THE MEMBERS OF TRIPOLI GERLACH**  
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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;

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Prefect  
Valencia, PA  
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If you have anything to contribute in the way of information, articles, photos or whatever, please send them to Tripoli Gerlach Headquarters. Visit our WebSite on-line at;

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

### ON THE COVER

TLes Derkovitz with his NASSA HORNET at BALLS 19, 2010. You can visit Les' WorkShop on page7.

## NEW MEMBERS

With our 1st Annual Meeting a few weeks away we've picked up more members. Our membership continues to grow and we now sit at 23 very serious rocketry people from around the country. Just about everyone is a veteran of BALLS and the Black Rock Desert!

Welcome Aboard:

Ron Freiheit (6517)  
Owatonna, MN  
[freiheit@myclearwave.net](mailto:freiheit@myclearwave.net)

Michael Leenellett (12862)  
Maineville, OH  
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Andy Limper (5340)  
Rochester, MN  
[Limper.andrew@mayo.edu](mailto:Limper.andrew@mayo.edu)

## NEW MERCHANDISE

We have added new merchandise to our list of fund raising items available on our WebSite. In addition to our Prefecture T-Shirts and Decals, we now have standard Ceramic Mugs, Thermos Mugs and License Plates.



New this month, and just in time to order for HAMSTER DANCE & BALLS, are our Tripoli Gerlach Sweat Shirts. Like the T's they're available in Sand or Chocolate. Get them on our WebSite!



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## TREK WEAR

Those members and friends interested in Trekking with us in September should be aware of some fundamental things when we venture forth. The first is bring water. We run with a cooler or two in the vehicles but make sure you take along a canteen or at least a personal plastic water bottle. You will need it.

Second take something to eat. We are out all day and a snack comes in handy. Don't take a meal just something to keep the grumbling down. With all the things we do the day goes by rather fast and we always like to be back for dinner.

While the weather is usually warm, in fact sometimes hot, do not wear shorts. Brush thorns, jiggers, bugs and rocks seem to be everywhere. Hear us now, believe us later – do not wear shorts.

Wear a hat, preferably a wide brim hat similar to a cowboy hat. Your head can get sunburn through your hair. Also take along sunglasses!

Very important WEAR BOOTS. Do not go in sneakers or even street shoes. A good pair of work boots or hiking boots is a must AND wear tall socks. Don't wear the

little ankle types. Experience has taught us; protect the lower extremities.

Never wander off on your own. Stay with the group, never farther than visual or calling distance. You could regret it.

Most important remember there are no Rest Rooms so plan accordingly. - Well, there is a Ladies Rest Room in Painted Canyon, if the wind hasn't blown it away!

## HAMSTER DANCE DEADLINE

Deadline is here and now. HAMSTER DANCE has several people making motors and projects and the time is here to register.

IF you are planning to participate at HAMSTER DANCE you MUST register. Tripoli Gerlach members fly for free however you still need to register. No registration NO flying. There is NO registration on the site.

If you would like a HAMSTER DANCE T-Shirt you need to fill out the Registration Form and pay for the shirt.

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# 2011 TREK SCHEDULE

*THIS SCHEDULE IS TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

For 2011 members will be exploring an area not seen by many people in a long long time, and even then only few have see it. In addition we will revisit some places found of interest in the past. We also have our one day HAMSTER DANCE Launch and three days of BALLS so we should have a full schedule of activities for those members coming out early. Remember friends are always welcome to join us. If you're not into exploring the desert there is always sitting out front of Bruno's watching the trains go by.

## September 25th

### Sunday

Breakfast at Bruno's then off to check out the last day of AeroPac's activities on the Lake Bed. Socializing with other rocket people then off to find and explore the remains of an old mining town called Leadville on the Westside of the Black Rock Playa.

We'll have a possible trip to the Petrified Forest if we have any first-timers with us. Most members attending will have traveled cross country so this day will end early (maybe) with plenty of rest time in town.



PETRIFIED WOOD

## September 26

### Monday

A sunrise breakfast at Bruno's and we're off! We will trek up to the Duck Lake area hopefully with Chuck Duffy as our guide, to search for Indian arrowheads and tools. Chuck is an avid collector of Prehistoric Indian relics as well as an ardent big game hunter traveling all over the southwest area.

Perhaps we'll run into another cattle drive up the paved highway. Then we may head up to Devil's Gate for some



DEVIL'S GATE

more exploring, or head into California for a visit to a neat little nothing town called Eagleville. Since we're so close, a jaunt up to the Oregon border to see Goose Lake, a really really big one, and the "Welcome To Oregon" sign could be in order.

Then to end the day a nice drive back to Gerlach for a visit to Planet X and dinner at Bruno's

## September 27th

### Tuesday

A busy day starting with breakfast at Bruno's. We will be exploring the East side of the Black Rock area. There are several Hot Springs heading out toward the Sulphur area and Pulpit Rock. We will search for MacFarlane Hot Spring as well as visit the "town" of Jungo. The Sawtooth Mining area is on the list as we head for the Silver Camel Mining area. We plan to explore more of



WORKIN' IN THE GOLD MINE

TRIPOLI GERLACH NEWS

what's been left behind as well as going down into a few mines we've deemed "safe". No old mine is really "safe". We've set out some exploring of certain tunnels to see if they exit where we have concluded with topside wandering. Bring lights, cameras and water - maybe a rope too.

After the Silver Camel exploring we'll head down to the Crackashowen Temple for our annual Pow Wow. A quick stop at Area 67/8 to map out HAMSTER DANCE and a jaunt up FishBack Mountain will end our day. Then it's back to town for dinner and relaxation.



INDIAN MUSEUM IN NIXON

### September 28 Wednesday

After breakfast at (where else?) Bruno's we will head south to the Town of Nixon and meet up with Norm Waller and Ben Aleck, two members of the Paiute Nation, at the Indian Museum. Ben is setting up a presentation on the Indian history in the Lake Lahontan (Pyramid Lake) area. Norm's cousin is practicing to become an Indian Medicine Women and she will escort us in our trek through the Needles Area telling us Indian lore and ways.



THE NEEDLES GEYSER

After the Needles venture we'll head to the opposite side of the lake to Pyramid Rock, home of the giant meat eating spiders and spend a visit with the Great Stone Mother. This is always a relaxing time near the water and away from the extreme opposite of Black Rock.



GREAT STONE MOTHER

Days end will see us in Fernley and the Black Bear Restaurant for our annual Explorer's Dinner. Then it's a 100 mile trek back to Gerlach and Rocket People Socializing.

### September 29 Thursday

Again breakfast at Bruno's then a Rocket Social BS session as we wait for Mark & Robin to decide when to head out to the Playa. We'll help the guys of AHPRA set up the BALLS Range. Once BALLS is set then its off to the HAMSTER DANCE at Area 67/8.

### September 30 Friday BALLS 20 BEGINS



AERIAL VIEW OF THE NEEDLES AREA



With the BALLS launch coming up at the end of September we are all working to prepare ourselves for three days of High Power fun. Four days counting HAMSTER DANCE and a whole week for the Trekkers in us.

It's curious to see the BALLS turn out this year with LDRS just weeks before. But it doesn't really matter though as true hardcore Research People know where the action will be.

The AHPRA guys have their ducks in order, as usual, and BALLS Registration is open and running. Get your name on the BALLS Who's Coming List if you already haven't.

HAMSTER DANCE is moving along. The Waiver is approved to 20,000 ft AGL, more than we'll use! So far we have a lot of talk about those people planning to participate but no one has registered yet. There is no registration at the site. And remember Tripoli Gerlach members fly free.

Our First Annual Members Meeting will take place in Bruno's back speak easy room on Friday September 30 at 7pm. Members attending will have a free Spaghetti Dinner however you must notify Tom that you will be there. A good list is already made but does it include you? If you haven't already signed up contact Tom to make sure.

At the meeting we will ratify our By-Laws. A copy has been sent out with changes submitted by members. Please be sure to review it and be ready to vote. Any thing you see amiss with the new version, again contact TOM with your input.

New Officers will be placed for 2012. These will be nominated and voted on at the meeting. "New" Officers will take seat January 2012.

The meeting should not take all that long and will not be very business like. Just enough to cover a few bases and get back to the rocket world.

We've been approached by several outsiders about visiting Fly Geyser. While it is not on our plans for this year we still have requests. One of the biggest influences was our last article on the Geyser with all of us in the scene. - Nice Picture! Anyway, we might look at a Trek over to the geyser Sunday afternoon after the range is cleared up. We can still be back in town in time for dinner and last night socializing. Please keep this low key as we can't abuse our privilege with masses of tag alongs.

**Membership in TRIPOLI GERLACH is open. If you plan to attend BALLS and wish to join in with us you are more than welcome. Our Membership Meeting and Spaghetti Dinner holds a September 3rd deadline. Visit our WebSite for an Application Form.**

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# LET'S VISIT LES DERKOVITZ

Les Derkovitz lives in Pioche, Nevada. He is a Tripoli Gerlach Founding Member as well as one of the original NASSA Members. His activities in High Power Rocketry go back to the early Lucerne Days when he'd travel every month to Lucerne from his then home in Las Vegas. Les moved to Pioche after retiring as a Vocational Teacher.

Also one of the founding members of Tripoli Vegas, Les got involved in Research Rocketry while researching motor making technology with other Tripoli Vegas members who then formed NASSA, Nevada AeroSpace Science Associates.



Les with one of his NASSA HORNET Series Rockets At Black Rock



An essential part of Les' shop is his Grizzly Lathe



The actual fabricating area is opposite the Lathe wall



The Propellant Mixing Area is compact, clean and ready

Les is well versed in all aspects of Research Rocketry. Working out of a small shop at home he is completely self contained and able to handle any situation that may arise. Particularly interested in motor making he keeps a clean well organized shop. Using both a Kitchen Aid and a Hobart he has become a master propellant tech.

Though he denies it, Les is a perfectionist. Seeing the quality and finish of his rockets proves this. A rather quite guy he is always ready to help anyone who asks.

While actual flying has been reduced due to his attention to details in motor making and rocket building, he will always be found at the BALLS launches at Black Rock. And this year will see him at HAMSTER DANCE!

# SHOP TOOLS

## DRILL PRESS:

A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, denting the freshly painted project which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

## WIRE WHEEL:

Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints and hard earned calluses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say, 'Oh shit'

## CIRCULAR SAW:

A portable cutting tool used to make studs too short.

## PLIERS:

Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood blisters.

## BELT SANDER:

An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

## HACKSAW:

One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

## WISE GRIPS:

Generally used after pliers to completely round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

## OXYACETYLENE TORCH:

Used almost entirely for lighting various flammable objects in your shop on fire. Also handy for igniting the grease inside the wheel hub out of which you want to remove a bearing race.

## TABLE SAW:

A large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles for testing wall integrity.

## HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK:

Used for lowering an automobile to the ground after you have installed your new brake shoes, trapping the jack handle firmly under the bumper.

## BAND SAW:

A large stationary power saw primarily used by most shops to cut good aluminum sheet into smaller pieces that more easily fit into the trash can after you cut on the inside of the line instead of the outside edge.

## TWO TON ENGINE HOIST:

A tool for testing the maximum tensile strength of everything you forgot to disconnect.

## PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER:

Normally used to stab the vacuum seals under lids or for opening old style paper and tin oil cans and splashing oil on your shirt; can also be used, as the name implies, to strip out Phillips screw heads.

## STRAIGHT SCREWDRIVER:

A tool for opening paint cans. Sometimes used to convert common slotted screws into non removable screws and butchering your palms.

## PRY BAR:

A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you needed to remove in order to replace a 50 cent part.

## HOSE CUTTER:

A tool used to make hoses too short.

## HAMMER:

Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive parts adjacent the object we are trying to hit.

## UTILITY KNIFE:

Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to your front door. Works particularly well on contents such as seats, vinyl records, liquids in plastic bottles, collector magazines, refund checks, and rubber or plastic parts. Especially useful for slicing work clothes, but only while in use.

