

Oregon Rocketry July Meeting Minutes

Giovanni's Restaurant, August 5, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by Gary Goncher.

Officers present: Gary Goncher and Tim Ryerse.

Desert Heat Launch Report

A total of 275 flights were flown at Desert Heat, just shy of the 290 flights at Summer Skies in June. Flights broke down to 112 low power flights (mostly Saturday), 51 mid-power flights, and 109 high power flights. The weather was excellent (low 80s), calm in the morning and a bit breezy in the afternoon, and the flight line was about as full as we have ever had at Brothers. There were a total of three L-1 certs, four L-2 certs, and two L-3 certs.

Upcoming Launches

Wilsonville 8/8

Brothers Desert Extreme 8/13-15, Research only, TRA level 2 and above

Brothers Sage Extreme 9/3-6, Fri. & Sat. commercial, Sun. & Mon. research

Sheridan Fillible's Folly 9/10-12, Fri. for members only, Sat. & Sun. public invited

PA System Upgrade

The PA System worked much better at the July launch than at the June launch due to better placement of the two large horns. However, it is clear that additional speakers will be necessary to cover the very long flight lines we have come to expect and both Brothers and Sheridan launches. There have been some good suggestions from some audio experts on the e-mail list – keep the comments coming. The most practical suggestion so far appears to be adding additional horns to the two that we have currently, at longer distances from the LCO. Further discussion will be entertained at the next meeting.

Fire Safety at Launches

There was a brief discussion of fire safety and placement of the pads at the Brothers launch site. We have had a moratorium on sparky motor launches while the club figures out what is necessary to prevent sage fires at Brothers. It appears that additional clearing around the high power pads will be necessary to provide a safe buffer zone, especially behind the current high power pads. A check will be made with the Brothers40 property owners to determine the feasibility of doing this. A straw ballot was taken of those willing to help with a sage-clearing party at the October launch, and about 10 hands were raised. John Lyngdal pointed out that NAR grants are available for fire-fighting equipment, and also for PA systems to enhance launch safety.

Fin Flutter Presentation

Until last month, I thought that fin flutter was a phenomenon associated only with flights that exceed mach. It turns out that this was a misconception – fin flutter can be observed at velocities substantially less than mach, as I discovered at the Desert Heat launch. My Quantum Leap sustainer broke all four fins about 4 seconds into the second stage burn at about 0.8 mach. I presented some data from the flight, and information on how to predict

the velocity at which fin flutter will occur based on fin shape, material, and thickness. Information on software available for these calculations will be posted to the OROC mail list.

Treasurer's Report

Yvonne Moscoe was not present at the July meeting, so there was no update on club finances. A total of \$360 was received at the July launch from new memberships, daily launch fees, and hat and shirt sales.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Gary Goncher, Oregon Rocketry Secretary

Please send any additions or corrections to the minutes to ggoncher@verizon.net