

SHROUDLINES

A Dallas Area Rocket Society Production



Member of the
National
Association of
Rockey

Section #308



March/April 2016
Volume 25, Issue 2

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That's all folks... Thanks Frisco, we had a good run!
Photo by Lot Burdick.

Ignition!

By Gary Briggs

Well, we knew this would happen sooner or later. Of course we all hoped for later but feared it would be sooner. On April 23, 2016 DARS held what is very likely to be the last launch on the Frisco field at the corner of Honey Grove and Panther Creek. It was a “Snap” launch, basically a non-regularly scheduled launch announced on the web site, primarily to support the McKinney TARC team and help them prepare for their trip to the National TARC event in Virginia, next month. Snap launches were something the Frisco field supported well as its close proximity and established processes made it familiar to set up and execute.

A few other members came out to support the team and get in some flying time of their own. Sadly, I missed it, and wasn't even aware of the events of the day until George Sprague forwarded me an email from Suzy. It told the tale of showing up at the field and seeing a fencing crew wrapping the field in steel. They were good enough to let everyone fly as they finished up their work. And with that, 9 years and thousands of flights comes to an end in Frisco.. It ended on a high note of a beautiful day and supporting a local TARC team who qualified on the field to compete in a NAR national championship.

But what a legacy the Frisco field has! Thousands of kids flew their first rocket there and got that initial

rush that hooked all of us at one time or another. Many young and old(er), saw their first “big” rocket fly on a G motor, and decided to see if they could build something that could use that amazing combination of sound, smoke, and fire. Several more learned to compete in various rocket events including NAR completion, TARC, and, of course The Fall Classic. And for many others, the field was just a great place to gather with friends and fly some rockets, in a relaxed and casual atmosphere, without the concerns of travel or significant logistics.

I have so many favorite memories of Frisco, it is hard to narrow them down to just a few, but I will try to keep it brief. Near the top of the list would be The Screaming Spotted Eggs of Death contest launch, March 23, 2013. That one is known for being a great NAR competition event, but probably more notable for getting trapped on the field by a rapidly developing rain storm. The instant mud was as slick as grease. Getting everyone off the field was quite an adventure and we were all soaked to the bone. You can see the story [here](#).

Next up would probably be the 2013 [Fall Classic No. 9—The Sci Fi Spectacular](#). That one was the most heavily attended and competed event of all the Fall Classics, to date. It was fun for me since my daughter, Alyssa, and I competed against each other in the Sci-Fi category and there

were tons of great rockets and great flights. The party was so big that [Google Earth](#) even came and took a picture of it!

My all time favorite flight in Frisco is easy. It came at The Fall Classic No. 8 DARS Salute to the Rockets of NASA. The flight of the day was John Lee's NASA Aeroshell on 12 C motors. It was another great Classic and that flight really capped the entire event.

My last launch at Frisco was another snap launch to support the TARC teams final qualification flights in March. It was the event that McKinney HS qualified for Nationals at. I flew a few rockets including my Art Appliewhite Cross Fire, which was a Fall Classic prize, and Bob Wilson's Aerotech IQSY Tomahawk. I think there is a full circle idea in there somewhere. It was a great set of flights to remember Frisco by.

This month's publications is largely a celebration of Frisco through pictures. Bill Gee remembers Frisco in his 19th “Something”. Next up is a compilation of emails and pictures from the last launch, by Jack, Suzy, Stephen Pierce, and Frank DiCosimo, George Sprague covers a bit more on the Jolly Logic Chute Release. From there its all pictures and memories. There is no way to get all the good memories in, but hopefully it is a good sample...

Bill's Something #19 - The End of an Era

By Bill Gee

Well, it was not technically an era, but it had been a pretty long time for the rocketry world.

You have probably heard by now that the Frisco field has been encircled by a fence as the city finally starts to develop the park.

We began flying there just over nine years ago. The saga was the result of Tim Sapp asking the city whether they had any land suitable for us to use. Thank you, Tim, you did good. Really good.

We originally thought that we would get only a few seasons out of the site, but the economy went sour the year after, putting the construction industry in suspended animation and turning those few years into almost a decade. As building resumed its previously frantic pace and Panther Creek Parkway got paved and widened, it became increasingly obvious that the party was ending sooner rather than later.

Through a time period when our high-power sites seemed to continuously come and go, the Frisco field remained a constant. I'll leave it up to John Dyer or Stuart Powley to verify, but it may have been the longest lasting regular flying site in club history. The field was sometimes muddy, but it drained reasonably well and was often usable mere days after a good rain. We built up a

safety record to the point that the city and county authorities left it up to us to decide whether to fly even during periods of active outdoor burning bans. As can be expected, the trees along the southern and eastern edges of the field claimed their tribute, but we were able to get quite a few back from their ravenous clutches.

At the able hands of Gary Briggs, the DARS Classic brought spectacular displays and some of our highest attendance numbers at the field. It will have to find a new home someday.

Though we had a tendency to pick events which required more space to fly, competitions brought people from out-of-town even as interest in contest flying was waning nationwide. Sam Barone became known for flying away a contest bird only to return with it an hour later. I once lofted an egg with an E12 and was able to find it for a qualification and a place. Some interesting and entertaining converted plastic models were "flown" over the years. The farmland to the north of Panther Creek Parkway provided ample recovery space when the wind came out of the south.

Many TARC teams made their qualification flights on this field. There was an episode of a reality television show taped on the site.

We even managed to get captured on a satellite photograph while holding a launch; a part of a single day out of a month, what are the odds of that?

It was a great run, but it is now history. Thank you, City of Frisco, for the access and for your trust in us.

So the search for a new close-in model rocket field is on in a big way. Something of at least the equivalent size would be nice, approximately a quarter mile by a half. But we would welcome a place where we can regularly fly the Mighty D. If you have always wanted a launch close to home, this is your chance to help make it happen. The bounty program is back on; if you have any leads, please contact a club officer.

If you would like to discuss this further, post your comments to the DARS-General Yahoo group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DARS-General> where I like to hang around.

Contest Commercial

DARSTAR XI on HOLD until a location can be determined —May 28, 29

- Plastic Model Conversion
- 4 A Cluster Altitude (altimeter)
- A Boost GLide
- A Helo Duration

The Last Launch

By Various Contributors

Editors note: What follows is a compilation of materials from various sources that documents the events of the last launch on the Frisco field, April 23, 2016.

Well.....we had a snap launch yesterday for the McKinney High TARC team. This was all scheduled for about 10am. We arrived the usual time to set up to discover a chain link fence all around the field! There was a small section that hadn't been finished yet....we drove up to the usual spot. After Jack walked the field...discovered the only places to get out of the field were further north....but, not for a little car. We got off the field!

The TARC team showed up.....put equipment in the back of one of the team's trucks. Went out and flew their rocket. We also had a few others show up. Al decided to go home and not try. But, we had a few walk out to the field with a couple of rockets. While we were there.....the crew put up a lower "critter" fence. This closed up the section that we had previously driven up on. We finished flying. Got off the field. The crew started working on closing up the rest of the chain link fence. .

Steve Pierce and Frank Dicosimo had the final flights for the Frisco field.

We never had a call from the Parks and Rec Dept previous to getting out there. Jack put in a call while we were out there. But, never heard back from them.

So, that's the update on the field.....we had a good run!

~Suzy



The last G motor flight in Frisco was Frank Dicosimo's 6 Million Dollar Man BTRS rocket on a G77. Photo by Joe Boclair

Sat.Apr.23 was a good day to fly. But it was the last day that the DARS could launch from its 8 year-old Frsico field.

When we arrived at 9:30am to set up, we found a construction crew installing a chain-link fence surrounding the property. By the time we were finished with the TARC practice, the fence was completed.

We had a few die-hard club members stay and fly the last few models from the field. Big and small. [Frank DiCosmo flew his plastic-toy conversion "6-Million-Dollar/Steve-Austin" on a G77. And the Steve Pierce family flew their Big-Bertha-Barbie on a C motor, as the very last flight.]

As always, a good/safe time was enjoyed. [Now, lets double our efforts and find a new site,](#) to continue to offer this rocket hobby to our communities. And BTW, for our own ability to enjoy rocketry in the future. Fly'em Safe ([somewhere new!](#))

--Jack



The last flight was well documented. Here is Frank DiCosimo's picture and to the right is Steve Pierce's.



The Big Bertha was built by Steve's daughter Stephie in 1989. Steve's granddaughter, Kaelyn now lays claim to Aunt Stephie's Big Bertha Barbie rocket. The first flight of this rocket was in 1989.

Editors note: Considering all the young rocketeers that launched their first rocket on the Frisco field, it seems really fitting that it ended this way. Even better that it was an old rocket, classic design, passed down through generations. Our challenge now is to find a field to continue that legacy.

Frisco Memories
By Everyone in DARS

“Locally, there’s some really hot news. DARS has acquired a new rocket field, thanks to the efforts of Tim Sapp and others. It is located in Frisco and is a really nice G-capable field. This field will be excellent for handling outreaches! The details of the field can be located on the DARS website”.

From the 2007 Jan/Feb issue of Shroudlines. James Gartrell is announcing the Frisco field. The pictures on the next 2 pages are from the earliest documented launch in March 2007. Photos are by James Gartrell and unknown.





There were 7 Fall Classic's held on the Frisco field, starting in 2008. Here's a few of the memories from those events.











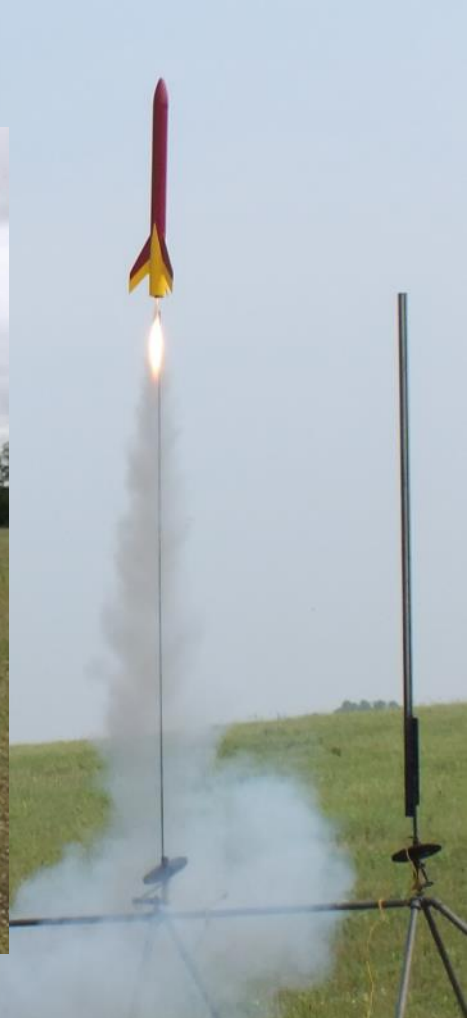
Thanks to all who kept us flying



Great NAR contests held at the Frisco field

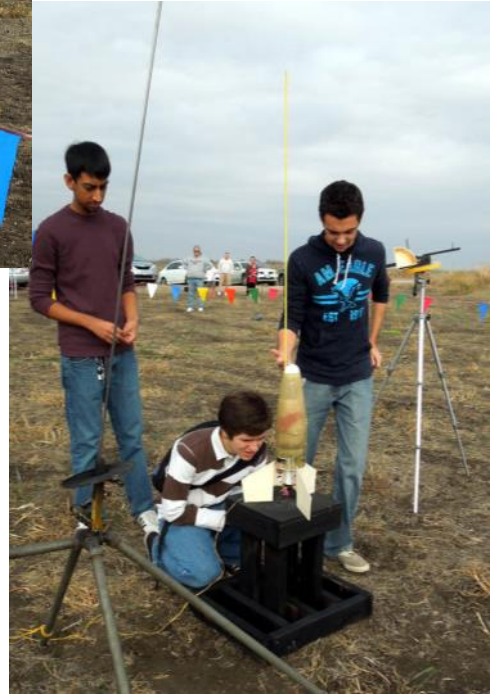


There were too many great pictures of rockets to cover here. Check out darsrocketrypics.shutterfly.com for many more



Many kids got their start on the Frisco field





A small sample of the TARC teams that used the Frisco field



When things didn't go as planned



Jolly Logic's Chute Release—Part 2

By George "The Other" Sprague

In the previous edition of Shroudlines I wrote about this neat little toy manufactured by Jolly Logic – the Chute Release. A small altimeter device that holds a folded parachute in place until the rocket reaches the set altitude and then releases the parachute – great for shortening walks!

I have flown this successfully several times and have a few tips for attaching the parachute to the device and also using a much larger parachute, as in one that may be used in a high power rocket.

To begin with, I have found that folding the parachute in the comfort of home, the night before the launch, is best. No wind or elements to contend with! Once the parachute is folded correctly for use with the Chute Release, I wrap a rubber band on each end of the 'chute. This allows me to attach the 'chute to the device without having to be concerned about the 'chute unpacking itself while wrapping the hold down elastic/pin around it. Once in place I remove the rubber bands, and we are good to go. Leaving the 'chute wrapped with the rubber bands over



night also helps compress the 'chute a little bit, making it easier to attach it to the Chute Release.

For a much larger parachute, one needs to make the hold down elastic longer. By adding a loop of Kevlar cord (I am using 500 lb cord, thick enough so it doesn't cut into the elastic) to the elastic, then attaching the cord to the device, one can fit the elastic over the larger parachute. Measure the loop of Kevlar cord carefully, as the 'chute must be held tightly against the device for proper release. Ground test – the device allows you to do this!



I have enjoyed not having to walk as far as I used when flying my mid power rockets, and its neat watching the Chute Release in action!

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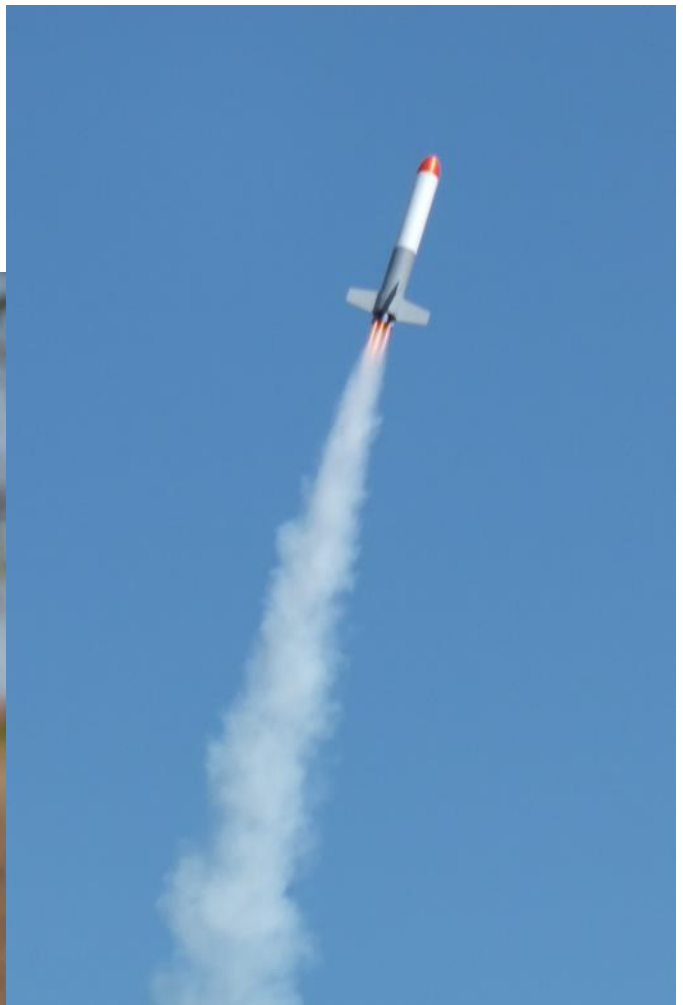
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Parting Shots

Photos by Various Artists





All pictures by Jacob Mehr except lower right by Briggs



Here are a couple of shots from Frank Dicosimo’s rocket high above the Frisco field circa 2012

How to Contribute to Shroudlines



We all share a love for the rocketry hobby and all have different experiences and expertise to share. You don’t have to be a Pulitzer Prize winner to write for this publication. Anyone can do it!

Submissions can be in the form of plain text files, emails, or MS Word documents. Pictures can be of most any format, but .jpg files are generally the norm. Keep the content family friendly and free of political discussion; just rocketry.

We publish every 2 months so we need your content submitted by the 15th of an even numbered month (i.e. February 15, April 15, June 15, etc.). You can submit via the contacts page on dars.org or direct to the editor at garyb2643@att.net.

DARS Officers

President	Jack Sprague
Vice President	Sam Barone
Treasurer	Suzie Sprague
Secretary	Bill Gee
NAR Senior Advisor	Chuck Crabb

Upcoming Events

5/7	Business Meeting—Coppell
5/21	Monthly Launch—Gunter
5/28-29	DARSTAR XI Contest—Gunter/TBD
6/4	Business Meeting—Coppell
6/18	Monthly Launch—TBD

The Dallas Area Rocket Society is a non-profit chartered section of the National Association of Rocketry (“NAR”). Its purpose is to promote the hobby of consumer rocketry in the Dallas/Ft. Worth metropolitan area.

Membership in DARS is open to all interested persons. Membership in NAR is encouraged, but not required. Annual dues are \$10.00 for individuals and \$15.00 for families. The entire family, including children, are welcomed to the meetings. Go to the website, fill out and send in an [application](#), to join or renew your membership.

The club normally meets on the first Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m. and the current meeting location is in Coppell, just off the Sam Rayburn toll way and Denton Tap Road.

Visit the DARS website for the meeting location: www.dars.org