



Member - National Association  
of Rocketry ("NAR").

Special points of interest:

- "Ignition!"
- A Scout project lives again!
- Bill Gee's Third "Something"
- The Contest Corner
- Range Box Tips from "The Other" Sprague...George, that is...
- NARAM photos by Bill!
- Contribute to this newsletter!

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### Ignition! By J. Stuart Powley



*John Dyer assists Vern and Gleda Estes at the last NARAM. See what you get when you go to nationals? Bill Gee took this really cool picture...*

Welcome, campers! This issue of Shroudlines is really special! We have articles from three members that cover all sorts of cool rocket related stuff! Plus, we have plenty of cool never before seen pictures!

First out of the gate we have Jeff and Lane Duncan's account of resurrecting a 36 year old model to get back into the hobby! The story really illustrates what its like to come back to the hobby after many years, We are very glad to have them, too!

Next we have the third installment of Bill's Something. This time he discusses how to keep all of those parts together up in the sky. Its good advice for all of us!

Then we have George Sprague's take on just what should actually go in a range box. Despite the name, a range is usually not necessary. However, there are all kinds of other bits that really come in handy on the field.

We also have a rundown on our upcoming contests. Pick something you might want to fly and go for it!!

Finally, we have Bill Gee's NARAM pictures from this past year. He actually has a lot more than these, but these are my personal favorites.

What's really special about this issue is that I didn't have to write any "filler" material! I would like to say thank you to all of our contributors this issue. If you would like to contribute too, just see page 11!. Fly 'em safe and high!

## A Scout Project Reborn

By Jeff and Lane Duncan

*Editor: I got this email from Jeff and Lane Duncan and the text was just too good not to share. Also, there are good pictures too!*

I wanted to thank everyone involved with the DARS Rocket Launch in Frisco on Saturday 11/17! My son and I had been wanting to attend a launch this year, and were finally able to do so. I must say we were treated to a great time! This was our first attendance with the DARS group, and everyone was extremely kind and helpful with our rookie flight.

I decided to dust off an old Cub Scout rocket, which I had last flown with my mom in 1976, at a Bokhoma District Cub Scout Rocket Derby. We replaced the old engine and layered another coat of glue on the fins, loaded a fresh wadding pack and were ready to go. My son, Lane, had also assembled his own rocket and we brought along a few engines with hopes to possibly let him fly with the group.

We loaded his with an 'A' engine first, for a short flight, then worked our way up to a 'C' engine for a couple of flights. I will say that I was a little reluctant to launch my antique rocket, but the excitement soon took over and I turned the keys over to Lane.

He was somewhat nervous as well, as we both were trying not to think about the possible loss of my childhood project after all of these years. But, we could not resist the temptation to let the little rocket fly again! So, with the assistance of

the DARS launch crew, Lane wired our rocket to the 'Yellow #1' launch pad, performed his circuit test, and then launched the rocket into the blue skies of Frisco! My Cub Scout rocket project was alive once again, and airborne after a 36 year retirement.

It was soon apparent that we were going to have a successful recovery of the rocket, so I could breathe a sigh of relief, and for a few moments felt like a kid again! Lane was super excited, and we could not stop smiling the rest of the day!

We look forward to joining and participating in more DARS events in the future, and would like to thank you all again for making such events possible.

*Below: Lane Duncan prepares to launch Jeff's Cub Scout project from 1976!*







*Left: Nervousness and excitement mix as Lane prepares to head to launch pad "Yellow #1"*

*Below: Leads attached, circuit tested, fingers crossed.*







*Above: Back in flight after 36 years!*



*Left: Enjoying a great day in Frisco with DARS!*

## Bill's Something #3

By Bill Gee

Things sometimes do not stay together when the ejection charge goes off. Spectators yell, "Separation," as the rocket body falls free and the nose cone sails away under the now oversized parachute. Or both the body and nose falls while the parachute floats limply with no weight to keep it open.

A common and unexpected cause of these failures is easily circumvented. That little ring or loop molded into the base of many nose cones is the weak link in the recovery system. A sudden jerk of a parachute opening after the ejection charge misses the exact moment of apogee breaks that little bit of plastic, allowing the shock cord and even the parachute to escape.

A simple and free solution is to attach the parachute to the shock cord instead of the loop on the nose cone. That small change provides for a more solid connection between the two strongest forces: the drag of the parachute and the weight of the rocket body. If the nose cone loop should still break, only the cone itself is in jeopardy.

I avoid even that small risk by drilling a small hole into the base of my nose cones and threading a piece of Kevlar cord through that hole and out the big hole in the center of the cone twice, then tying it in place. I never trust that molded ring or loop.

Surprisingly, this problem and its

remedy scales up from the smallest models right up into high power.

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> or Ye Old Rocket Forum at <http://oldrocketforum.com> where I like to hang around.

### Contest Corner!!!

We have a couple of contests coming up! First we have **Screaming Spotted Eggs of Death**. Now, originally this was going to be called **Streaming Spotted Eggs** (for the three events; Streamer Duration, Spot Landing, and Egg Lofting) but the name...uh...evolved... Anyway, here are the particulars:

Name: **Screaming Spotted Eggs of Death**

Type: Local

Date: March 9th 2013 (Rain Day, March 16, 2013)

Time: 10:00-5:00

Place: Frisco

Events: A Streamer Duration

C Dual Egg Loft Duration

Open Class Spot Landing

Next we have our long running regional, Tex-Regional! Just kidding. Actually, it's **DARSTAR IX** (Dallas Area Rocket Society Texas Area Regional 9). The name for this one came from the cult sci-fi classic Dark Star. ("Let there be light...") and has been around for longer than the nine events would suggest. It's just that there were a few years when it didn't happen. Anyway, the particulars on it are:

Name: **DARSTAR IX**

Type: Regional

Date: May 11-12 2013 (Rain Day May 18-19, 2013)

Time: 10:00-5:00 both days

Place: Frisco

Events: C Dual Egg Loft Altitude with altimeter

Sport Scale

C Streamer Duration

A Helicopter Duration

To pre register go to:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/org/447254015?s=2237467>

All rules can be found at:

<http://www.nar.org/pinkbook/>

Hope to see you all there!

## Re-Visiting The Range Box

By George "The Other" Sprague

DARS launches attract fliers of all ages, and fliers with different levels of experience. Novices and least experienced fliers often ask veteran fliers "Do you happen to have (insert this or that motor, masking tape etc.). At the November 2012 DARS monthly launch I had one parent who's child is new to rocketry comment "You guys sure carry a lot of stuff in your range kits."

Yes, we do. And for good reason – we like to be prepared for just about any eventuality. So lets take a look at what sort of "stuff" is found in our range boxes.

First, the box itself. Most use fishing tackle boxes, some use tool boxes.

Now to the contents.

Rocket motors: organized in compartments in the box, or in plastic bags labeled with what type motors are in them.

Labels! Important little items that help us find things quickly..

Igniters: the colored coded plugs can be organized in compartments or small boxes. Two suggestions – have a list of what color plug goes with what motor, and carry some extra igniters with you when launching – if the ignited fails at the pad you won't have to walk all the way back to your range box to get another one.

Extra shock cord material.

Wood glue, CA (Cyanoacrylate) and CA accelerant.

Scissors, pocket knife, screw drivers (Phillips and flat head), needle nose pliers, or a multi tool. Or both!

Baby powder – acts as a dry lubricant on plastic parachutes. Storing parachutes in plastic baggies with baby powder in the bags works great. Label the bags to show size of parachute.

Recovery wadding – if you have an open package you can store in

a plastic baggie; will stay dry and last longer.

Scotch tape and masking tape.

Sand paper, scotch bright pads, paper towels. (Launch rods and igniter clips get cruddy after an hour or so of launching, good to clean them up prior to setting your rocket up for flight.)

This is not by any means a complete list, fliers will have all sorts of other odds and ends that they need for their flight preparation and repairs. Hopefully, those of you who are new to this unique hobby will use this as a starting point for YOUR range box, and then you will be prepared to get those rockets ready and waste no time doing so, for you have the right tools and supplies readily available!



**Pictures by Bill!**  
By Bill Gee

All of these were given to me by Bill Gee after his trip to NARAM last year. There are actually tons more great shots, but these are some of my personal favorites. I don't know much about them, but I hope you enjoy them!



*You can never have too many V-2's*



*The ever popular flying lighthouse!*

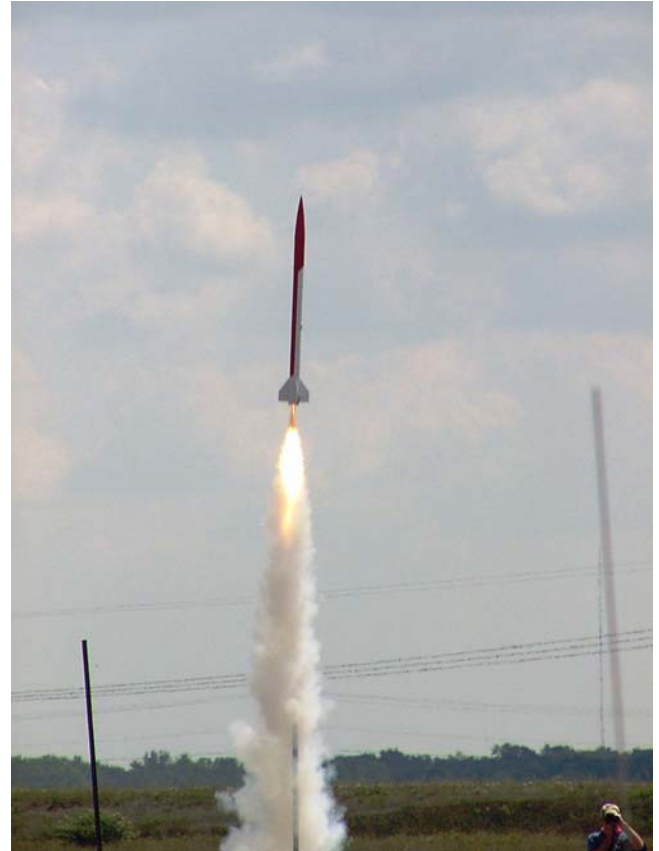


*A truly cool glider launch*



*Something really sharp takes off...*





*An ARCAS with an attitude...*

*Another cool scale bird. You just gotta love these!*



*Vern and Gleda sign in their models*



*I don't know why, but this shot of Vern and Gleda reminds me of one of those 1960's Estes postcards. Very cool, Bill!*



## How to Contribute to Shroudlines

And now for the “last page begging part” of our publication. As I have made clear in the past, without you, we have no newsletter. We all have differing interests and areas of expertise, and that is exactly what this newsletter needs!

Once again, I'd like to thank all of those who have contributed material so far. You are very much appreciated! Still, we need more! Therefore, if you have any kind of article, picture, cartoon, rambling, etc., just send it to [stu29573@yahoo.com](mailto:stu29573@yahoo.com). I usually work best with Word documents, and JPEG files, but I can make just about anything work if I have to. I can also handle stuff that is written down, but that means I have to type and that can be a bit touch and go... But I'll take it anyway!

You can also give me things at the meetings (which I almost never miss...almost), and I promise to try my best not to lose them. I can return stuff at the next meeting if need be.

As I have said many times in the past, I really want this newsletter to be by the club and for the club. You guys can think up much better stuff than I can (as is evidenced by the articles we've been getting lately). So, stop just thinking about maybe writing something and actually do it! You'll be glad you did! (as will everyone who reads it!)



## DARS Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Jack Sprague</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Dave Shultz</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Suzie Sprague</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Bill Gee</b>
<b>NAR Senior Advisor</b>	<b>Sam Barone</b>

# DARS

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 and fill out and send an application to join or renew your membership.

The club normally meets on the first Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m.

Visit the DARS website for the meeting location: [www.dars.org](http://www.dars.org)



Stay connected! All of us will reach greater heights with your attendance at the club meetings.

Vendor Links (\* DARS member discount—confirm before ordering)

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[Apogee Components](#)

[BMI Hobbies \(\\* 10%\)](#)

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[Roadrunner Rocketry](#)

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[RC Zone \(\\*10%\)](#)

[Aerotech Consumer Aerospace](#)

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[Dr. Zooch Rockets](#)

[FlisKits, Inc.](#)

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*Dallas Area Rocket Society*  
(“DARS”)

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

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