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### Dallas Area Rocket Society ("DARS")

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## SHROUDLINES

A Dallas Area Rocket Society Production

# SHROUDLINES

A Newsletter of the Dallas Area Rocket Society



DARS  
NAR Section #308  
Apr/Jun  
2005

Volume 14, Issue 2

## Dallas Area Rocket Society ("DARS")

Special Edition—Jim Turner Memorial Day Launch  
By James Gartrell



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

### Special points of interest:

- This entire issue is devoted to the Jim Turner Memorial Day Launch. Check out the pictorial on page six and see if you can find your rocket. The whole page is a "wall" of rockets, courtesy of Bill Gee's photo-taking abilities. Thanks, Bill!! If you don't find your rocket there, I'm sorry. Send me a photo and article about your rocket, though, and I'll be sure to get it into the next issue!
- I put a special Editor's Note on page seven I'd like you to read.
- The DARS events calendar for 2005 is provided again. Make plans to be at the next Outreach, Launch or other event. Your assistance at the outreach events is really appreciated. I know it takes a lot to find time to get out to an event, but George could really use the help. Aim High! Pay Forward!

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Well, the DARS Jim Turner Memorial Day launch finally happened. Not for lack of trying before, just rained out time and again. Pelham Swift was launch director and he'd taken great pains to advertise the launch and do everything in his power to make it one of the most spectacular DARS launches ever. Unfortunately, it was almost rained out again. Technically, I guess it did get rained out, at least for one day. Officially, Saturday was canceled, although I heard several folks managed to launch that day.

Blake, my grandson, and I had intended to get out to the field early on Saturday so we could help set up. I had talked to Don

Magness and Royce Frankum earlier in the week and we were planning to meet there. Unfortunately, I overslept and we didn't get on the road until almost 9 am. We were in Hillsboro coming down IH-35 and saw the long line of thick dark clouds over Waco, so Blake suggested we contact Royce and see what the field conditions were. Royce, Don and Pelham Swift were parked outside the gate to the field and about to turn around and head back to the Dallas area. Royce reported that the field was soaked and it looked like the rain was there to stay awhile. Well, that confirmed what Blake and I were seeing, so we turned around and headed back home. I

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McGregor Field, Sunday, May 29, 2005. Photo by Bill Gee.

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was really bummed. There went my plans for this newsletter issue. I had planned to devote it to the JTM launch, interviewing folks for their stories about Jim. Oh well, I thought, next year AGAIN!! But then....

The next morning I awoke about 9 am and decided to check out the DARS website to see if Sunday was a go. The same message was there from Saturday: Saturday canceled, but check back for announcements about Sunday. Hmm. I decided to go to the DARS General Yahoo group and see what messages were there. Wow! Folks launched on Saturday and Sunday was a go. Woohoo!! A few die-hards waited out the rain on Saturday and called Pelham to let him know the rain had stopped and the field was flyable. Pelham had almost gotten home and turned around and went back. I woke Blake up and asked if he wanted to still go. He said, "Yeah!" So, we quickly got ready and headed to the field. The sky still showed a few threats of rain here and

there, but we continued, arriving at the field a little after 1 pm. The range was in full swing, but not as many people were there as I was expecting. I pulled up behind the Squirrel-Works tent and got out to say hello to Don & Terri.

Don was prepping his Gremlin to fly on one of Apogee's E6-8 motors. If you haven't seen a small rocket flying on one of these motors, you missed a lot. I bet Jim would have loved watching the flight. I talked with Marlin Philyaw later and he told me that Jim watched every flight, high power or not. Don really wasn't expecting to see the rocket again since RockSim predicted a 3200-foot flight. I could still hear it boosting even after it left my sight. That motor gives one very long boost! Suzy Sprague was able to track it though (she must have the best eyes in the club!!) and Don and I went to recover it probably less than 100 yards from the launch pad. When we got back, Terri gave me one of their newest rockets, a small rocket called The

Imp, and one of their new catalogs made up to give away during the launch. Woohoo!! It was already a great day and we had just gotten started.

John Dyer's tent was next to theirs and he had some of his kits for sale on their table. Even Dennis McClain-Furmanski had a couple of rockets for sale on the table. I don't know of too many rocket vendors that are willing to let someone else sell rockets on their table. Knowing Don and Terri, they probably didn't even take a cut from the sales. Great folks, lots of rockets, and all gathering together for a very special reason: to honor a person respected by everyone with whom I've talked. Really, though, I talked with Scott and Nettie Hunsicker and Suzy Sprague and they reminded me that the annual DARS Memorial Launch has always been

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Bottom right—That's one heck of a camera Bill Gee's got. I know the E-6 is a slow burn, but in Don's Gremlin it wasn't that slow. Great photo, Bill.



Above—Left to right, Terri and Don Magness and Nettie Hunsicker talk rockets and enjoy one another's company and the shade. ;-) Photo by James Gartrell.



### Dallas Area Rocket Society

-- NAR Section #308

Currently expires:	_____
Renewal through:	_____
Email to Secretary:	_____ card sent: _____
Date processed:	_____

### Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

New Membership OR  Renewal

OR  Single Membership (\$10/yr) (Make checks payable to DARS)

Family Membership (\$15/yr) List family names: \_\_\_\_\_

Member of: NAR # \_\_\_\_\_ or / and TRIPOLI # \_\_\_\_\_

Certification Level: 0 1 2 3 (circle one)

Certification Level: 0 1 2 3 (circle one)

DARS event notification by: \_\_\_\_\_ OR phone call at this number \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail at address below

(please print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: DARS Membership, c/o Suzy Sprague, 1104 Ellard Dr., Hickory Creek, Texas 76210-3900

For additional information contact Suzy at 940-321-2132 or 940-497-7009

DARSAPP.doc revised September 2004



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. Fill out and send the application, above, to join or renew your membership.

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

Meetings are held in Plano, TX at:

Plano Late Night Bingo  
1805 Ave K (18th and K St.)  
Plano, TX 75074

Exit off Hwy 75 to East Plano Parkway (just north of George Bush Turnpike—Hwy 190) and go east, turn left on K St., and turn right into the shopping center just north of 18th St.

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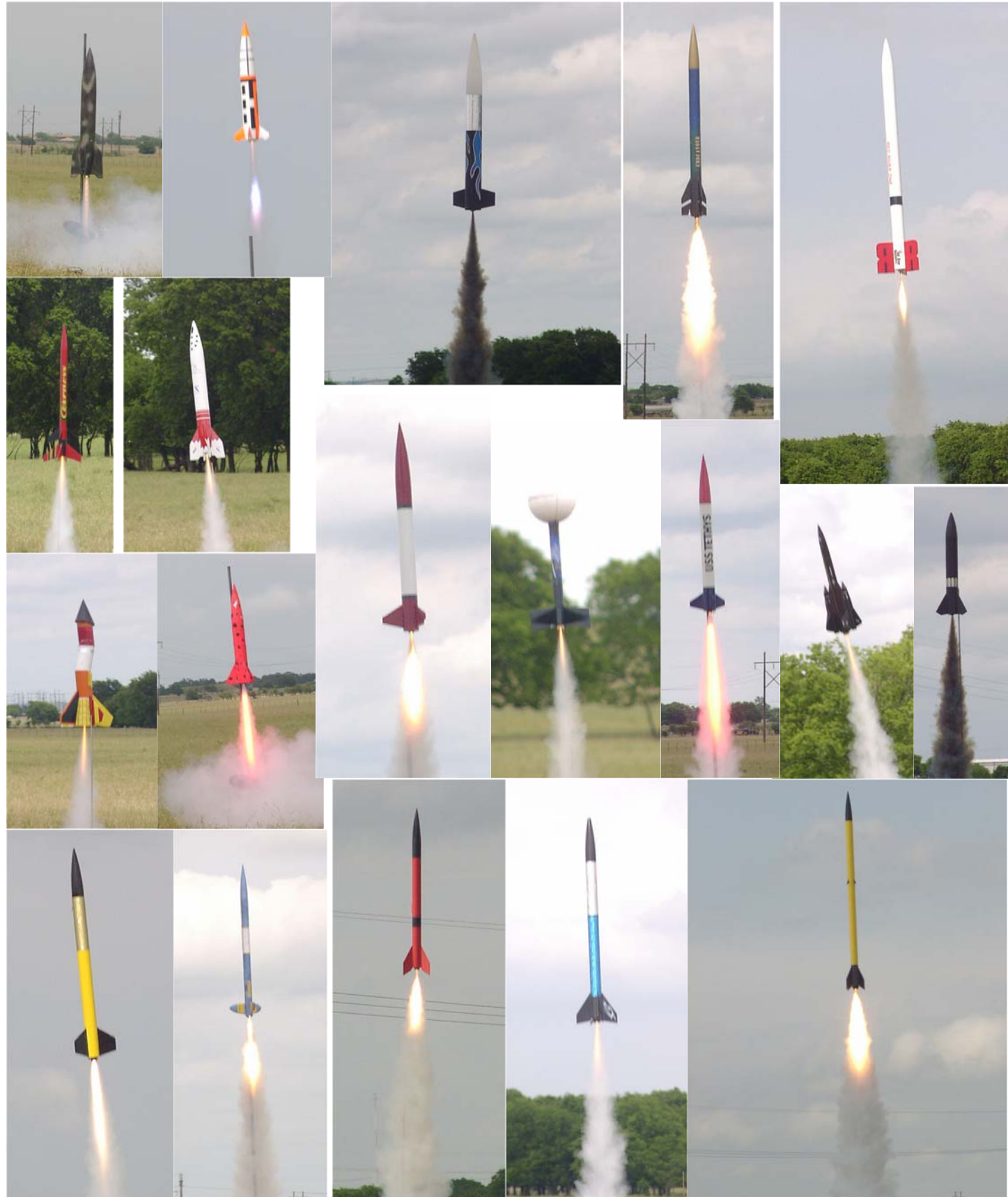
### NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:

Neil Tarasoff isn't printing the newsletter anymore. He's moved on from Kinko's to devote more time to selling real estate. If you're in the need for a home, check one of the immediate back issues for his card. It's located in this same spot. Also, next time you see him, please give him a big Texas "Thank you, Neil!" Our president, Rags Fehrenbach, now prints the newsletter at Kinko's for us. So, be sure to say thanks to him, as well. Check out Kinko's, too!



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

### Jim Turner Memorial Day Launch Photos Photos By Bill Gee



*(Continued from page 2)*

there to remember a memorial list that is getting longer with each passing year. So, please remember these rocketeers who have also passed on, and say a prayer for their families: Phillip Gargas (lost in Vietnam); Terry Wilson; Carl Feldhaus (first president of DARS); Ellen Chance; Larry Crump; Tom Lanier; Beth Sapp (a truly spectacular woman); Ron DeJulius; and Russell Mims.

Anyway, after watching a few rockets launch and talking to a few friends, I decided I'd better get my newsletter hat on and go ask folks what they knew about Jim Turner.

Charles Barnett said he didn't know Jim that well, mostly from just talking with him at the launches, but he certainly knew that Jim always had time to spend with anyone that wanted to know something. Charles, like most everyone else bought several motors from Jim and loved his ignitors.

Bottom left—Royce Frankum shows off some of his latest models. Note the old Scrambler and Mars Lander (yep, they're original). The red, white and black-striped rocket, a LOC EZI, I think, was brought out for a test flight before using for his Cert 2 at a later date. He's trying to talk Don Magness into building his own Cert 2 rocket so they can cert together (they both got their Cert 1 on the same day).

Bottom right—Marlin Philyaw poses with a minimum diameter high power rocket he was prepping. Cool rocket, nice guy!

I spoke next with Marlin Philyaw. If you don't recognize Marlin's name, you certainly will recognize the fan blade rocket he flies. I know I'll never forget the first time I saw him launch it. What a sight! I don't know what Marlin's occupation is, but I'll bet he'd make one heck of an engineer. He had flown the rocket a few times using Jim's motors and ignitors, and even had a Trailing Edge Technologies decal on the rocket. He told Jim he wouldn't hold him responsible if anything went wrong. ;-)

I asked Marlin if he had any funny stories about Jim he could share. He pondered a moment about that and told me a story about the first time he went out to Jim's place. He happened to be nearby and wanted to talk with him about some motors he wanted for an upcoming launch, so he called Jim from the donut shop. Well, Jim gave him the directions and told him to come on in the gate up to the house. Much to his surprise when he got there and came through the gate, there

was a whole pack of dogs coming at him from one side and a big swimming pool on the other side. Turns out, water and dogs are two things Marlin wants nothing to do with, but here he found himself faced with the dilemma of jumping into the pool to avoid the dogs or face them head on. Luckily, Jim came out the door and called off the dogs before he had to make that decision. Whew! Now, Marlin doesn't know it but I talked with Suzy Sprague later and was telling her about Marlin's story. Well, she remembered that event and told me I should note that that pack of dogs were dachshunds. Ha! Marlin didn't mention that. ;-)

I didn't feel nearly as bad for him then. I know he had a big heart for Jim, though. Just before I walked on down the flight line to talk to someone else he stopped me and told me that Jim was just a great guy. He loved rockets and always watched every flight.

I talked with John Dyer next, and I

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could see it was pretty tough for John to talk about Jim. He'd tried to fly one of his rockets earlier using an Aerotech ignitor, but it just wouldn't ignite the motor. So, he finally used one of his prized "Fire-in-the-Hole" ignitors and got ignition immediately. He said he felt like Jim was there watching. He gave John advice about which motor to use for his Level 2 certification flight, a J275. John noted that Jim was always willing to give advice and always willing to help.

Suzy Sprague said Jim named the Pink Lady motor for her pink rocket, an Initiator decorated with pink hearts. Jim was the first person to introduce her to pyro by giving her a cake of it to light. Woowee!

Jack Sprague had a lot of good memories, too. One day they went to Atlas Fireworks on the 4th of July. The folks there were tossing little stars into the water and they'd pop with lots of little sparkles. Well, that

wasn't Jim's idea of excitement, so he filled a film canister with something and threw it into the water. It bobbed to the surface and exploded with the loudest bang Jack had ever heard. The neighbors complained about all the loud bangs coming from the Atlas property for a long time after that.

Rich Krol was one of the few that braved the weather and made it out to fly, too. One good thing about the day was that the lines to fly were really short. Rich said he bought motors from Jim all the time, and his ignitors were the best around. He remembered the time he was going for his Level 2 certification when motors were getting pretty scarce. He called Jim a couple of months in advance to let him know what motor he wanted and why. When it came time for him to fly, Jim had his motor waiting for him. Rich is still planning to try for his Level 3 certification, but just hasn't made it yet.

Bob Wilson was out to fly too. He

was pretty easy to spot, standing out next to his vintage El Camino. I went over to talk. First thing he said about Jim was, "Great guy!" He had met Jim in rocketry but also assisted when he was doing pyrotechnics at 4th of July events in Corsicana and Frisco. Jim got around. As with everyone I talked with, Bob loved his ignitors. Jim even made him a couple of small specialty ignitors for contests. Best thing about them, Bob noted, was that they gave him a little edge in contests—he didn't have to go back to the pads because of failed ignitors! Bob was glad Jim started Trailing Edge Technologies because he sure bought a lot of motors from him. He bought so many, that when motors got really scarce after the Aerotech fire, Bob donated some back to Jim so others would be able to fly.

My final interview ended with Jim Parker. Jim is Blake's hero! Every launch we go to, Blake looks to see if he's there. He doesn't consider it a

Bottom left—This is a shot of one of the busiest times at the launch line. Bob Wilson may be at the back of the line, but I wish you could see the big smile on his face. Nice rocket, Bob! On the right, Royce stands with his rocket propped against the flags, with Blake behind him. See page 6 for a picture of the launch of the big blue/silver/white rocket. Photo by James Gartrell.

Bottom right—This is a nice shot of Jack Sprague's "Champagne Glass" rocket. Just goes to show that rocketeers can use anything to make a rocket. I've seen this rocket fly before, but something went wrong on this particular flight. Just about the time it cleared the launch rod, it went almost horizontal and zoomed over the flight line and lawn dartsed maybe a couple hundred feet away in the field. Photo by Bill Gee.



"good" launch unless he sees Jim there. Jim does have some pretty spectacular flights, as he did on this day. Blake was happy! Anyway, I asked Jim to reflect back on his experiences with Jim (Hmm, two Jim's makes this difficult. I'll refer to them as JT and JP). JP recalled one day after the Aerotech fire when he was preparing for his Level 3 certification. Not thinking about the resulting motor shortage, it was the day of his cert flight when he called JT for an M-motor. JT answered the phone with, "Rocket Motor Express!" JP said Jim was out of breath from running back and forth to answer all the phone calls for motors. Jim still managed to have the M-motor for JP on the day of the launch. "Nice guy!" JP recalled. "I'm pretty sure I only bought motors from JT."

Obviously, Jim Turner is someone a lot of folks miss. I didn't really know him, although I did buy several of his smaller ignitors from him for my cluster flights. Seems like everyone depended on Jim for ignitors, even if they got motors from someplace else. Also, everyone I talked with mentioned what a nice guy Jim was. Even though the turn-out for the launch was pretty low, I think Jim would have been proud of the folks that braved the chance for bad weather and came out to fly in his honor. On page six are several photos taken by Bill Gee during the launch. You can be sure that a number of the rockets were launched with Jim Turner ignitors. Enjoy the photo show, and again, remember to say a prayer for the families of everyone on DARS'

Photo below—Jim Turner with his "big" hat he picked up at a Peruvian Indian market. Behind him are a couple of his rockets: Duck Hunter and Grandson of Little Blue Pill. Photo by James Gartrell.



### DARS Events By James Gartrell

Let me know if you have a rocket-related event planned and I'll try to get it into the next newsletter. As the year goes by, I have more and more room to post that kind of information here. :-)

Besides the many events I noted here in the last newsletter, there were probably just as many events that happened but weren't noted here. At the last DARS meeting, several people again filled in club members about outreach events they had attended that weren't scheduled. Don't be bashful!! Let me know what's happening. One event I was made aware of recently but not in time to get into the newsletter until after the event was the recent marriage of Jay and Teresa Bennett. Congratulations!!

Don't forget to volunteer for an Outreach event. Your help is always needed!

### DARS OUTREACH SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
7/30, 9 am - ?	Skyline High School- Launch rockets from Frontiers of Flight build session	George Sprague
8/13, 10:30 am - ?	Vandergriff Park Arlington Scout Launch	George Sprague
9/17, 9 am - Noon	Cross F Ranch McKinney Scout Launch	George Sprague

### DARS LAUNCH SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
8/27-28	NTHP 27—Windom Due to the rain-out (partial) of the Memorial Day launch, this will also be in honor of Jim Turner.	Pelham Swift
9/24-25	Sport Launch—Windom	Doug Sams
10/15-16	Shoot for the Stars Sport Launch—Windom	Don Magness
11/12-13	Turkey Shoot Sport Launch—Windom	Annie Scheidemantle

### OTHER DARS EVENTS SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
1st Sat. of each month, 1pm-?	DARS Club Meetings	Rags Fehrenbach
? Usually the Sunday before a launch	Refurbish equipment	Jack Sprague
12/10, ?	DARS Potluck Lunch	Rags Fehrenbach