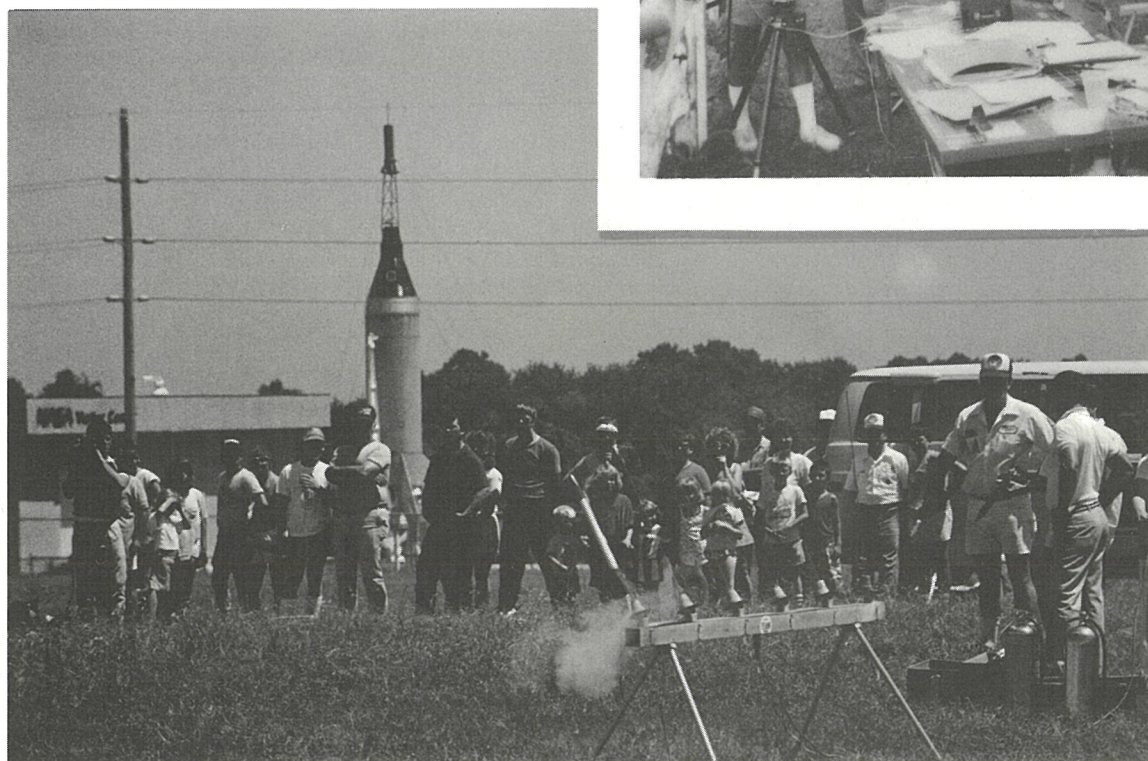




### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Reports on GSSS-4,  
Goddard Space Flight Center,  
and Wallops Island Trip.

### A SHORT HISTORY OF NARTREK



# LAUNCH RACK

"ALIS VOLAT PROPRIIS"

VOL. V, ISSUE 38

SEPTEMBER 1987

Jack Sarhage, Editor  
875 River Road  
Piscataway, NJ 08854

The LAUNCH RACK is the official publication of the Garden State Space Modeling Society (Section 439 of the National Association of Rocketry) and is published monthly (except for combined issues May/June and July/August) for the enlightenment and entertainment of the membership.

Others interested in receiving this publication may do so for the yearly subscription rate of \$3.00. Please send this fee to the editor.

The Editor invites and encourages all to submit articles, photographs, plans, etc. to be included.

The deadline for material to be published in the next issue is September 29, 1987.

## Your Status:

- ( ) Your subscription ends with this issue.
- ( ) If and "X" appears in this space it is time to think about renewing your GSSS membership. It expires on \_\_\_\_\_



## Editor's CLIPPINGS

"Thinking is the hardest work there is, which is why so few choose to engage in it."

HENRY FORD

Obviously Mr. Ford wasn't referring to model rocketeers. This is probably due to the fact that they did not exist in his day.

This lead-in definitely does not apply to members or officers of GSSS because as you will see it took lots of thinking, and work to pull off the activities written about in this month's issue.

The activities and events will not be elaborated on in this column. We have them fully covered in the Section News.

We I wanted to include this month is a little history of, and an invitation to get active in the NARTREK Program of the NAR.

## A LITTLE HISTORY

At PITTCON 12 (March 1977), NAR Board of Trustee members met and voted to ".....investigate the possibility of developing a skills program which would give NAR members an opportunity to increase their overall rocketry aptitude....."

Later, that same year Harry Stine and the Pacific Region Committee began preparing what would become NARTREK; National Association of Rocketry Training of Rocketeers for Experience and Knowledge. It would also be the Pacific

Regions responsibility to experiment with the skill advancement program and "if successful, would be expanded into a national program."

It must have been a success because by January 1, 1978 all NAR members were invited to participate. From the very beginning you were invited to "wear the NARTREK Gold."

Eighteen days later John Welsch from Killdeer, ND became the first to complete the Bronze Achievement Level, and by July of 1978 he had the Silver and Gold patches as well.

Chas Russell was the first to chair the NARTREK Program. Many followed Chas, but I don't think that as much effort has been put into its success and growth as there has been by the present leader of the program Lawrence Bercini.

Lawrence spends much time and and energy in developing new challenges and promoting the NARTREK Program.

NARTREK is for everyone (you must be an NAR member) interested in increasing their knowledge of our hobby/sport and in doing so have more fun and become better rocketeers at the same time.

NARTREK is not hard. It isn't easy either. It is within the reach of anyone who has built a model rocket though. In the Bronze and Silver Levels you use kits available in any hobby shop.

For instance, in the Bronze Level the requirements are:

1. 60-second parachute duration flight with kit model.
2. 30-second streamer duration flight with kit model.
3. Two-stage flight with kit model.
4. Large model (D motor or larger) flight with kit model.

## AN INVITATION TO JOIN

Because I feel that you will enjoy model rocketry more than you do now I join the NAR and the NARTREK Committee in inviting you to join.

Sit down TODAY and write:

Lawrence Bercini  
6033 N. Sheridan Rd. No. 33J  
Chicago, IL 60660-3013

Lawrence will send you a nicely done brochure telling you all about the program and the many different achievement levels to challenge you.

NARTREK is fun. Go for it and you will be glad you did. Wear the NARTREK Gold as a sign of your enjoyment of model rocketry.

OUR COVER: The top photo shows members of GSSS attending the contest at Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. Standing Left to right, Jude, Manuel, Dr. Bob, Ted and Ye Ole Editor. Kneeling is Greg on the left and then Our Prez Bob Z and Bruce. Not in the photo is camera shy Paul Stager. (Photo taken by Lorraine Sarhage)

The small photor is of the ABC-TV camera crew setting up a shot of Tommy Noto at the launch control panel.

The bottom photo is of the crown and club members Bob Z. at the launch rack. You can make out Arnie Klein in the back ground new the van. (Photo by Bruce Canino)



## ABC-TV AND GSSS PERFECT TOGETHER

The haze hung over North Branch Park like a veil of soggy socks as GSSS-4 began the morning of July 11th and continued throughout the day as the temperature rose along with the humidity (90-95%).

Launch attendance by GSSS standards wasn't up to par. Entrees in a section meet were also down. Only five out of twelve members present flew contest flights. This left lots of time for sport flights for members and guests not competing. The slow pace worked to the camera crews benefit, too.

Camera crew? What camera crew? Why the one from ABC-TV. That is right ABC-TV. On the Monday before the contest I received a call from Bev Aaron, a producer of "Prime Time" on ABC-TV Channel 6 in Philadelphia. He said he wanted to do a show on model rockets and asked if we could help. Assuring him we could, Mr. Aaron said that he, and a camera crew would attend the meet to shoot footage of rockets and rocketeers.

Bev, Lou (on camera) and Lisa (on sound) spent about five hours with us. Lou, as it turns out is a model rocketeer himself so knew what to look for and where to look. It was great working with them as they are good people.

The show will appear on March 19th of next year....so watch for it. Members in south Jersey with VCR's are requested to make a tape for the club's library and use.

In addition to all this action we did hold a contest and as the sun sank and the smoke cleared the "TNT Team" (a.k.a Carl Cufone and Bob Zabriskie) not only had won all the marbles, but the bag they came in.

½A SD: TNT, 55.32 for 2 flights, George Vrattow with 32.91 and Mark Casella 31.89

½A PD: Again, first place was taken by the TNT Team with 254.00. Their best flight was one of 158.62. Mark Cassella was second with 74.25 and George Vrattos third with 59.07.



½A IB/G: TNT flew (?) into first with a total of 42.33 for three flights. Mark Casella was second with 27.76.

The only other event flown was A HD where TNT twirled their way into first with a total of 33.38. Jude Mikolajczki the only other entrant DQ'd his flight.

Competition points were awarded as follows: TNT 310, Mark Casella 122, George Vrattos 50, Jude Mikolajczki 24 and Jack Sarhage 10.



CHANNEL 6's STUDIO ON WHEELS.

### GSFC MODEL ROCKET CONTEST

The seventh annual model rocket contest held at Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland, commemorating the 18th anniversary of the Apollo Moon landing and the 26th anniversary of America's first manned space flight, is now history. This year there were 120 participants, over 480 model rocket flights and a audience of over 1,300.

The events 1/2A Streamer Duration and 1/2A Streamer Spot Landing, are easy as are the rules (18mm engines only, standard rocket kits or published designs and streamer must have a ratio of 1 to 10). There is no fee and usually the first 100 entrants receive a special gift. This year is was a package of 1/2A engines and a book "Spinoff 1986".

This was the second year that members of GSSS attended. Members attending were Bob Zabriskie, Dr. Bob Kreutz, Manuel Mejia, Jr., Jude Mikolajczki, Glen Phillips, Paul Stager, Greg Zsidisin, Bruce Canino, Ted Rebetje, Ye Ole Editor and his wife Lorraine.

Five members competed. Three finished in the top 10 out of 63 entrees in the Senior Division in streamer duration. Bob Zabriskie finished in first place with 17.7 seconds. Following in second place just .6 of a second behind was Dr. Bob with 17.1 seconds. Tied in eighth place was Jack Sarhage with 13.4 seconds.

In the Spot Landing event we managed to have two members in the top 10. Dr. Bob was 32.1 feet from the bulls-eye and Jack Sarhage was ninth at 45.7 feet. The "bulls-eye" was a full size ARCAS sounding rocket.

Again it was unfortunate that we did not have any of our Junior members attend. This well definitely have to be worked on for next year.

It was worth the trip. Everyone enjoyed the day. It was hot, but the humidity was lower than last year.

The museum at the Visitor's Center, site of this event, has added several new exhibits and new films in the auditorium. I won't go into details because this will be the subject of one of Bruce Canino's reviews in a future issue.

Sponsors of this contest were National Space Society (ex-L-5 Society), American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, NASA Alumni League, NASA/Goddard Visitor Center and local NAR Sections. Prizes were donated by these sponsors and Estes Industries.

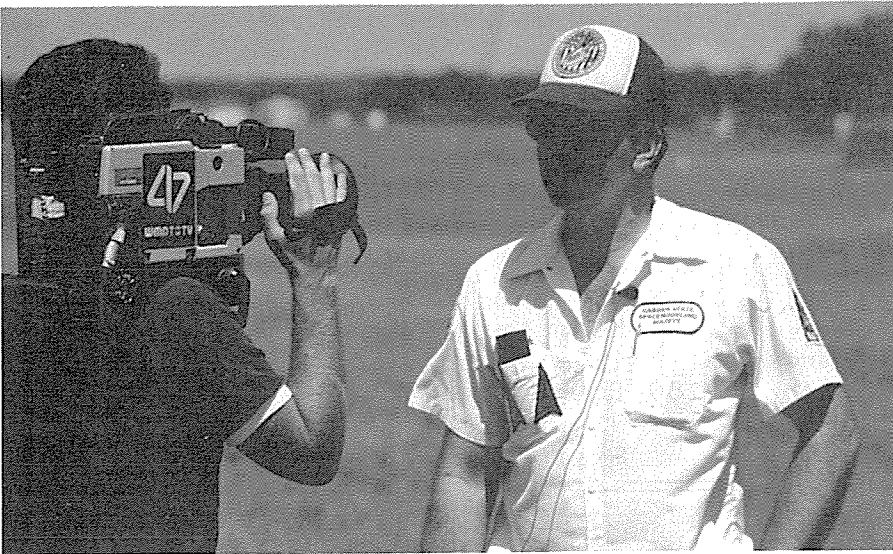
Special thanks to Robert Sclater, Manager of Goddard Visitor and Contest Director, Don Carson, RSO, Jon Rains the Master of Ceremonies and Firing Officer, Ed Pearson, Chief Timing Officer for making everything run so smooth and making our members welcome.

Watch the countdown column in this publications for the date of the next contest. We have been informed that Goddard is planning a February Contest due to the large success of this contest.

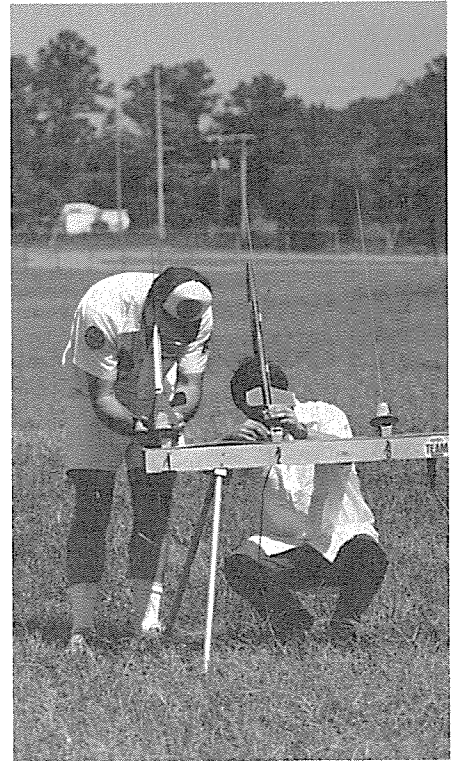


A UNIQUE SPOT LANDING TARGET...  
A REAL FULL SIZE ARCAS SOUNDING  
ROCKET. Photo by Manuel Mejia, Jr.

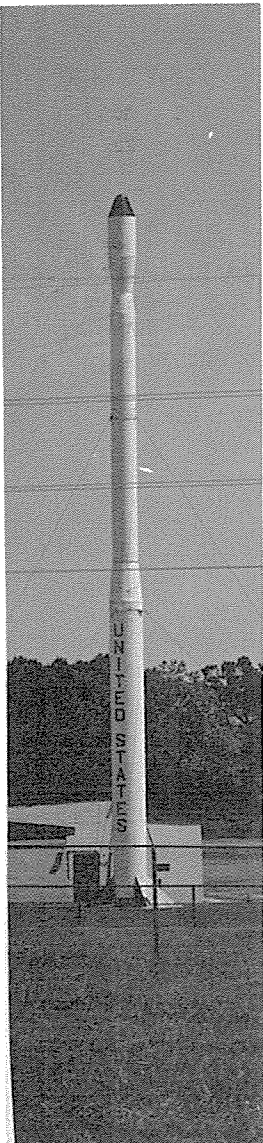
All Photos this page  
by BRUCE CANINO.



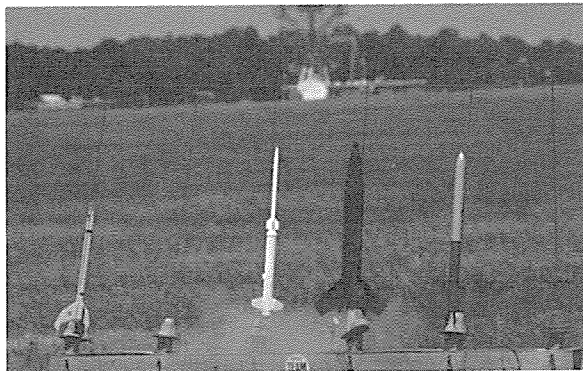
Bob Zabriskie on camera...again. If he gets much more air time he will have to join the Screen Guild.



Bob Z hooks up. (Above)  
(Left) Nike-Ajax lifts  
off from Wallops Island.



An LTV Scout.



The Visitor Center at Wallops Island. The Rocket is a Little Joe with a Mercury capsule on top. You can read more about this on page 6.

## SECTION NEWS continued.....

### The Wallops Island Field Trip

By Bruce Canino

The GSSS members who went on the Wallops Island field trip could have taken a page from the Boy Scouts Handbook, the page that said "BE PREPARED" Present for the trip was Bob Zibriskie, Arnie Klein, Jude Mikolajczyk, and yours truly. The trip started out fine leaving late Friday afternoon, a nice and bright sunny day with promises of a nice day on Saturday, what we didn't know, was the horrors that awaited us in Virginia. We arrived near the sight after a pleasant ride down and started looking for a hotel room, we didn't have a reservation but hey, how hard would it be to find a room. We found out after a hour of looking, as all the places were full up and it looked like the nearest available room was back in NJ. Now its midnight with no room and no hope for a room. It looked dark and it was suggested we abort, but I guess we were to stubborn to do so. Eventually we found a camp sight on Chincoteague Island around 1 AM. No problem we thought, just lay out in the van and fall asleep. When we exited to van to rearrange the stuff in it so we could sleep we were immediately attack by thousand of blood sucking mosquitoes. Quickly we retreated to the van and killed most of the bugs that follow us back in. So we settled down for sleep, or so we thought so, only to find out how hot a van get with the windows rolled up. Every time we crack a window to let some air in, a hundred more bugs would get in the van. Needless to say, not much sleep was had. The next day was better as when we got off the island we left the bugs behind. We had a pleasant tour of the Wallops Visitor Center and prepare our rockets for flight. It was a bright sunny day with a constant wind. The center staff gave some commentary on rocketry and lunch a few racks of rockets, then they opened up the racks to others. Bob launch a few rocket, he lost some, due to being crunched in the van during our attempt at sleep, and a good astro-cam flight (I hope he got a shot of the visitors center from the air). Arnie launch his collect of florescence orange (his trademark) rockets. Jude had some nice cluster flight with a three engine cluster of has own designed and a two engine Cub Scout rocket mutation. I got so wound up in taking pictures I forgot to fly anything. About 50 rockets were launch that day and not a one was lost, this was a large flying sight.

A local TV station filmed the event for the news and Bob Zibriskie got a on the air interview. (GSSS makes it on television again!). We pack up and headed home, promising to return next year, in the off season and this time with a reservation.

## WELCOMB TO THESE NEW MEMBERS

6

I hope you will join me in a big HOWDY to our new members. When you see them at a launch make them welcome.

178 Francis Koempel  
179 James R. Koempel  
68 Orchard Street  
Keansburg, NJ 07734

180 Robert DeRosa  
91 Robinson Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10312

### The Wallops Island Visitors Center

By Bruce Canino

The Wallops Flight Facility of the Goddard Space Flight Center is situated on 6,000 acres of Wallops Island. The Wallops Center has launched thousands of research vehicles since it was started in 1945. Launched from here are rockets from the small Super Loki meteorological rockets to the Scout that can orbit small payloads. The Center also does much work with aeronautical research and also manages the NASA Balloon Program. I remember Wallops for launching the sounding rockets that released barium gas into the upper atmosphere and created a northern lights effect.

Located around the visitors center are many sounding rockets. They have a Nike-Cajun and a Javelin and a few that I could not identified. Also there is a Scout and the only display I have seen of a Little Joe with a Mercury Capsule. The visitors center itself is small, maybe the smallest of all I have been to yet, but they have quite a few nice displays and the center runs movies almost continually during the day. The center has only a few vending machines for refreshments, so bring a lunch with you and eat it at the picnic benches at the center. Like just about every place else, there is a souvenir shop, but here the prices are reasonable. (At least I thought so) If you want to take pictures at the center, bring your own film because it is not sold at the souvenir store. (How odd)

The Wallops Island Visitors Center is open five days a week, Thursday through Monday, from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. The Visitors Center is located on Route 175 about six miles from Route 13 and about six miles from Chincoteague. Admission is FREE. For more information call (804) 824-3411, ext 584 or 298. They also hold a model rocket launch the first and third Saturday of the month.



181 Steven Pinkham  
705 Southview Terr., North  
Middletown, NJ 07748

182 William Jennings  
433 Springfield Avenue  
Summit, NJ 07901

### LETS SAY SO LONG TO A MEMBER

Lots and lots of GSSS members (actually lots of NAR and rocketeers in general) know Manuel Mejia, Jr.

It is sad to say that we lost Manuel to Florida.

Manuel was a very active member. Active to an extreme if would be said by some. He let you know what he liked and what he did not. He attended launches and contests. He also drove an hour just to come to the Open Board Meetings to keep the Board on their toes. Manuel believed it more important than just being a name on a roster.

We will miss you Manuel. Florida is very lucky to get you. If you are not snapped up by a section there...well there isn't much hope for model rocketry in that state.

Manuel's new address is:

Manuel Mejia, Jr.  
2512 West Nassau Street  
Tampa, FL 33607

Telephone 813-874-7641

We all wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors.

### ELECTIONS, ELECTIONS, ELECTIONS

Just a reminder that October is not that far away. October is the month that your nominations for club officers are due.

The ballot will appear in the November issued of the LAUNCH RACK and the new officers will be announced at the annual Holiday Get-together in December.

You must elect a President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer.

### IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

The results of JOISEE-3 and Greg Zsidisin's plans for his "CINEROCKET No. 3" H.L.V. for cluster of 3 D's or 3 E's.

J & M

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FRED MOGLIA

COUNTDOWN (5-4-3-2-1) a Calendar of Events.....

### SEPTEMBER

26-27 JOISEE-III (Regional Meet)  
Venue: North Branch Park  
Events: 1/2A Int'l Parachute  
Duration; 1/2A Helicopter  
Duration; 1/2A Streamer Duration; A Boost-Glider (No flex wing gliders); B Super-roc  
Duration; Sport Scale and Plastic Model Conversion.  
Contest Director: Dr. Bob Kreutz.

29 - Open Board Meeting. 7:15 PM  
JFK Library, Hoes Lane, Piscataway.

### OCTOBER

10-11 NEMROC-III Model Rocket Convention sponsored by The Goddard Society and CMASS Sections. Contact: Jim Flis, 6 Thorton St., Merrimack, NH 03054

25 - Sports Launch. North Branch Park. Bridgewater Township first flight 9:00 AM

27 - Open Board Meeting. 7:15 PM at JFK Library, Hoes Lane. Nominations for club officers due.

on right. Monthly meetings from 7 to 9 pm.  
Hoes Lane; follow 1 mi.+ to John F. Kennedy Library  
Centennial Ave., follow 1 mi.+ and make right onto  
(River Road). Take jughandle at first light onto  
Follow signs for Rutgers Stadium onto Temp. Rte. 18  
Take Route 287 to exit for Route 18, Piscataway.

### MEETINGS

202/206 South to Circle  
Rt. 78 or Rt. 80 East to 287 South to Exit 13,  
FROM WEST  
287 North to Exit 13, 202/206 South to Circle  
FROM EAST  
202 North to Milltown Rd.; or 206 North to Circle  
FROM SOUTH  
202/206 South to Circle  
NJ Turnpike South to Exit 10, 287 North to Exit 13,  
FROM NORTH  
path to open field. Monthly launches from 10-4.  
left after firehouse and 4H Center on right; follow  
Tops", to right turn onto Milltown Road. Make first  
State Div., under railroad trestle marked "4H is  
2 miles, past Ortho Pharmaceutical and RCA Solid  
Somerville. Follow 202 South from the circle for  
junction of NJ Routes 22, 28, 202, and 206, near  
North Branch Park is very near the traffic circle

### LAUNCHES

### DIRECTIONS TO GSSS EVENTS

### GSSS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you an NAR member? \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, provide NAR number. \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership Category (Check One)  
( ) Junior (Under 16) ..... \$4.00  
( ) Leader (16 through 20) ..... \$6.00  
( ) Senior (21 or over) ..... \$9.00  
This is a (renewal) \_\_\_\_\_ (new) \_\_\_\_\_ application.  
I pledge to abide by the NAR/HIA Safety Code in  
all my non-professional rocketry activities.  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Send this application along with check for dues to:  
Karl Zabriske, GSSS Secretary/Treasurer  
123 Duer Street  
North Plainfield, NJ, 07060

GARDEN STATE SPACEMODELING  
SOCIETY -- NAR SECTION #439  
c/o Jack Sarhage  
875 River Road  
Piscataway, NJ 08854-5549



TO:

NOVAAR FREE PRESS  
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Arlington VA 22204

c/o Brian Robinson  
6600 Wakefield Ct.  
McLean, Va.  
22101

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