

Earthrise



The official newsletter of the Canadian Association of Rocketry
Le bulletin officiel de l'Association canadienne de fuséonautique

Volume 10 Issue / numéro 2

While 2020 was interesting, I can say that the first half of 2021 has proven to be exciting as well. As we move through the uncertainty of the pandemic, we can now see a path to normalcy, and many regions are now entering reopening plans. All of you, like myself, must be excited to launch and participate in this great hobby of ours.

There are launches planned for summer and fall in several regions and I encourage all of you to avail yourselves of those opportunities. A launch is a great way to meet up with the fine people that are part of our association, and also gives people a chance to become more involved in all that is necessary to hold a launch.

Often, there is a core group of people that end up doing the heavy lifting with organizing a launch, and the many activities at the launch be it RSO, RI's, or LCO. Not to mention registration or booking the all-important porta-potties. We are a small group of dedicated people, but we can always use more help in launch activities, local club organization, and at the CAR/ACF. If you are interested in learning more about how to help, reach out to your local leadership, or send a message to myself.

Any and all help is appreciated!

L'année 2020 a été intéressante, mais je peux dire que la première moitié de 2021 a également été excitante. Au milieu de l'incertitude reliée à la pandémie, nous commençons à voir un chemin menant vers une vie normale, et beaucoup de régions débutent l'activation de plans de réouverture. Tout comme moi, vous êtes sûrement excités de faire des lancements et de participer à notre passe-temps.

Il y a des lancements de prévus durant l'été et l'automne dans plusieurs régions et je vous encourage tous à prendre avantage de ces opportunités. Un jour de lancement est une très bonne façon de rencontrer d'autres membres de notre association, et donne une chance à tout le monde d'augmenter leur implication dans les activités nécessaires à l'organisation d'un lancement.

Souvent, il y a un noyau de gens qui font le gros de l'organisation d'un lancement, ainsi que les activités le jour-même, comme les RSO, RI, et LCOs. N'oublions pas les réservations des toilettes portatives, si appréciées une fois sur place. Nous sommes un petit groupe de gens dédiés, mais nous pouvons toujours utiliser des volontaires additionnels durant les lancements, dans les clubs locaux, et à CAR/ACF. Si vous êtes intéressés à apprendre comment nous aider, contacter l'exécutif de vos clubs locaux, ou envoyez-moi un message.

Toutes les offres d'aide seront grandement appréciées!

Cover Photo:

Bruce Aleman's Estes Red Flare lifts off on a D12-5 just before the rainstorm at Rock Lake 22.

La fusée Estes Red Flare de Bruce Aleman décolle avec un D12-5 juste avant l'orage à Rock Lake 22.

From the Editor

Bruce Aleman

Greetings to all of my fellow CAR/ACF rocketeers! I hope this issue finds you doing well and finding a place and time to launch some rockets! This issue will report on some flight activity from early this season, although it is certainly less than normal due to Covid restraints and fire bans in the West.

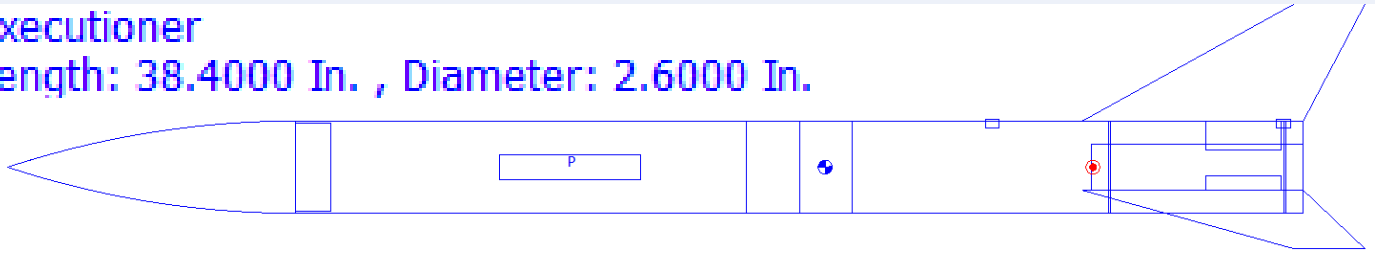
If you end up with a restricted launch season again, don't give up hope! Read the article on launch cinematography and consider how to implement in a current build or plan for a future rocket. Have a great aerial photo you'd like to share? Consider passing it on for a future Earthrise issue. Even a single photo to share is appreciated by the editor!

I hope some of you will take me up on the Editor's Challenge rocket flight. My rocket has been built and undergone a couple test flights, I hope to be able to share my altitude and time in the fall issue of Earthrise, your goal is to beat that time before I post it. The winner will be announced after the entire season is over.

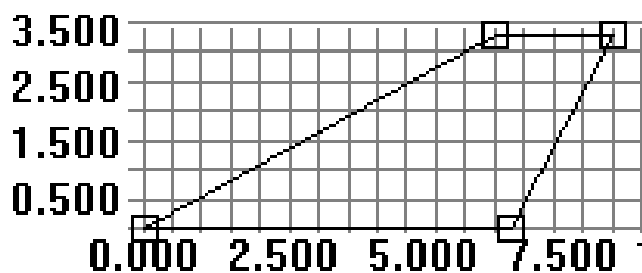
The rocket is an Estes Executioner, or a scratchbuilt kit with identical dimensions. You may make any modifications you like, but the outside dimensions must remain the same. You must fly the rocket on an E, F or G class motor. The minimum altitude achieved must be 850' and the winning rocket is the one with the shortest amount of time from liftoff, to 850' or above, and landing safely under a controlled descent as per the CAR/ACF safety code. To enter the contest you must have a picture of the rocket, and some method of reporting the altitude achieved and the time to a safe landing. A photo of an altimeter report or a note signed by another CAR/ACF member who witnessed a "beep report" from the altimeter is acceptable. Send your entries to the [Earthrise editor](#). The final submission deadline is 31 December 2021. May the best win! Prizes to be announced!

Executioner

Length: 38.4000 In. , Diameter: 2.6000 In.



[Click for Rocksim File](#)



De l'éditeur

Bruce Aleman

Salutations à tous nos fuséonaves de CAR/ACF! J'espère que vous êtes tous enthousiastes et que vous avez du temps et des sites pour lancer des fusées! Dans ce numéro, nous parlerons des lancements du début de la saison, même si ceux-ci ont été réduits à cause des restrictions Covid et des interdictions de feux dans l'Ouest.

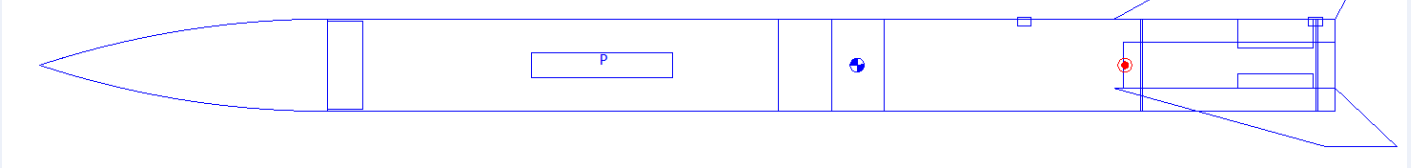
Si notre saison est réduite cette année, ne désespérez pas! Lisez l'article sur la cinématographie en vol et pensez à mettre en oeuvre une caméra dans une fusée future. Avez-vous une bonne photo aérienne à partager? Faites-la publier dans un numéro de Earthrise. Même une seule photo sera apprécié par l'éditeur!

J'espère que certains d'entre vous participeront au Challenge de l'Editeur. Ma fusée est déjà construite et a fait une couple de vols de tests, j'espère pouvoir publier mes meilleurs chiffres (altitude et temps de vol) dans le numéro de l'automne, votre but est de faire mieux avant que mes chiffres soient publiés. Le gagnant sera annoncé à la fin de la saison.

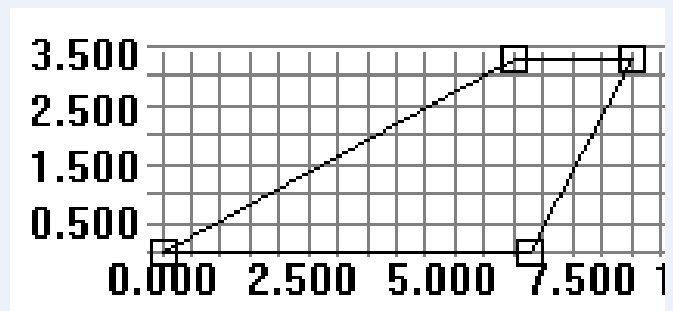
Le sujet du concours est la fusée Estes Executioner, ou votre version "maison" construite avec des dimensions identiques. Vous pouvez modifier le kit à volonté, mais les dimensions extérieures doivent rester les mêmes. Vous devez faire voler la fusée avec un moteur de catégorie E, F, ou G. L'altitude minimum à atteindre est 850 pieds, et la fusée gagnante est celle qui atteint 850 pieds ou plus dans le temps le plus court, en se posant sécuritairement dans une descente contrôlée tel que stipulé dans les règlements de CAR/ACF. Pour participer au concours, vous devez avoir une photo de la fusée, et une méthode pour documenter l'altitude atteinte et le temps nécessaire. Une photo d'un rapport d'altimètre ou un document signé par un autre membre de CAR/ACF qui a été témoin du "rapport audio" de l'altimètre est acceptable. Envoyer vos participations à [l'éditeur de EarthRise](#). La date limite pour participer est le 31 décembre 2021. Que le meilleur gagne! Les prix seront annoncés ultérieurement!

Executioner

Length: 38.4000 In. , Diameter: 2.6000 In.



[Click for Rocksim File](#)



North Coast Rocketry is proud to release the Adrel DeployMax™, the smallest, lightest single event altimeter that you can buy! Now, you can use the tried and true Adrel altimeter algorithms to not only record peak altitudes, but to trigger recovery system deployment as well. This tiny system can easily fit in a 1/2" diameter tube, depending on the igniter battery selected.

For years, the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI) has used Adrel altimeters for world championships. These units are examples of incredible engineering, both in hardware and software.

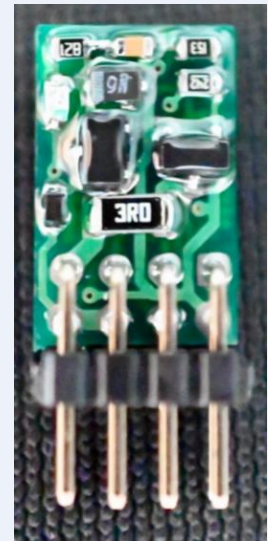
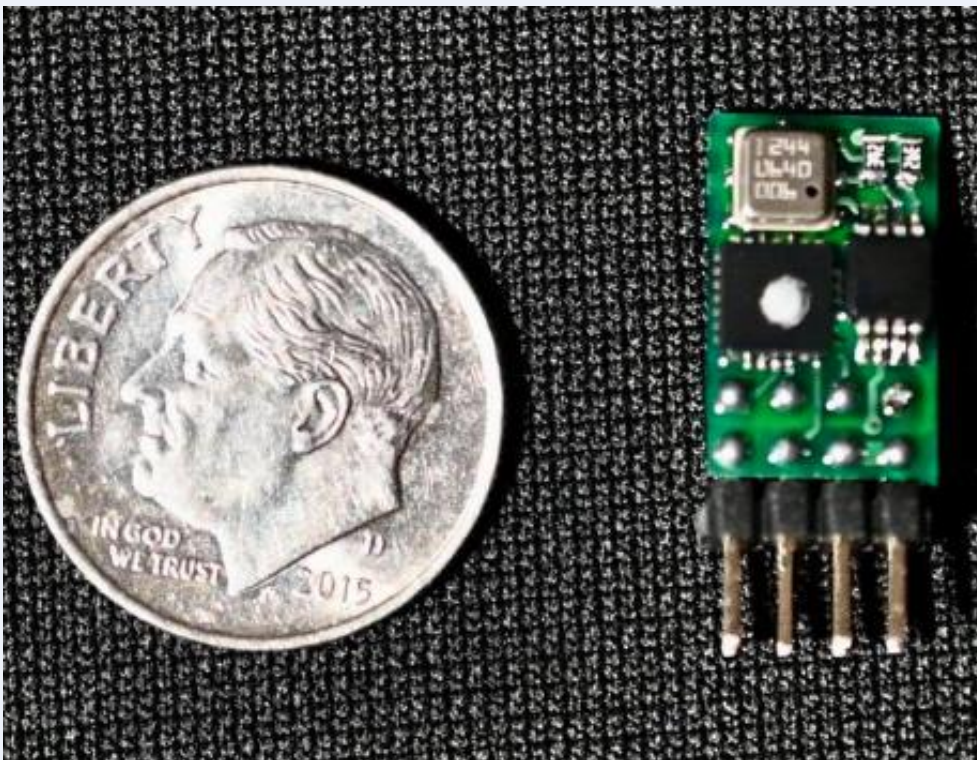
The Adrel DeployMax altimeter™ is National Association of Rocketry (NAR) certified for competition flights and record attempts. It is designed and manufactured by Adrel Electronics in Krakow, Poland.

In addition to measuring the maximum flight altitude to the required precision, the Adrel MaxAlt altimeter stores altitude measurement results for the entire flight, allowing for a complete review of the flight. The altimeter's small size (8.5mm x 20mm x 5mm/0.335" x 0.79" x 0.16") and weight (0.6g/ 0.021 oz.) allow for its inclusion in all types of contest rockets.

The DeployMax deployment altitudes are user programmable from 100% (peak) to a 50m minimum altitude.

The Adrel DeployMax is for advanced modelers only, and lists for \$119.99.

Available exclusively from www.northcoastrocketry.com.



North Coast Rocketry est fière de présenter le Adrel DeployMax™, le plus petit et le plus léger altimètre (à événement unique) du marché!

Maintenant, vous pouvez utiliser les algorithmes d'altimètre réputés de Adrel pour enregistrer vos apogées, et également pour déclencher le déploiement du système de récupération. Ce système peut s'installer, selon la pile choisie, dans un tube de 1/2" de diamètre.

Depuis des années, la Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) utilise les altimètres Adrel pour les championnats mondiaux. Ces modèles sont d'une ingénierie superbe, du point de vue matériel et logiciel.

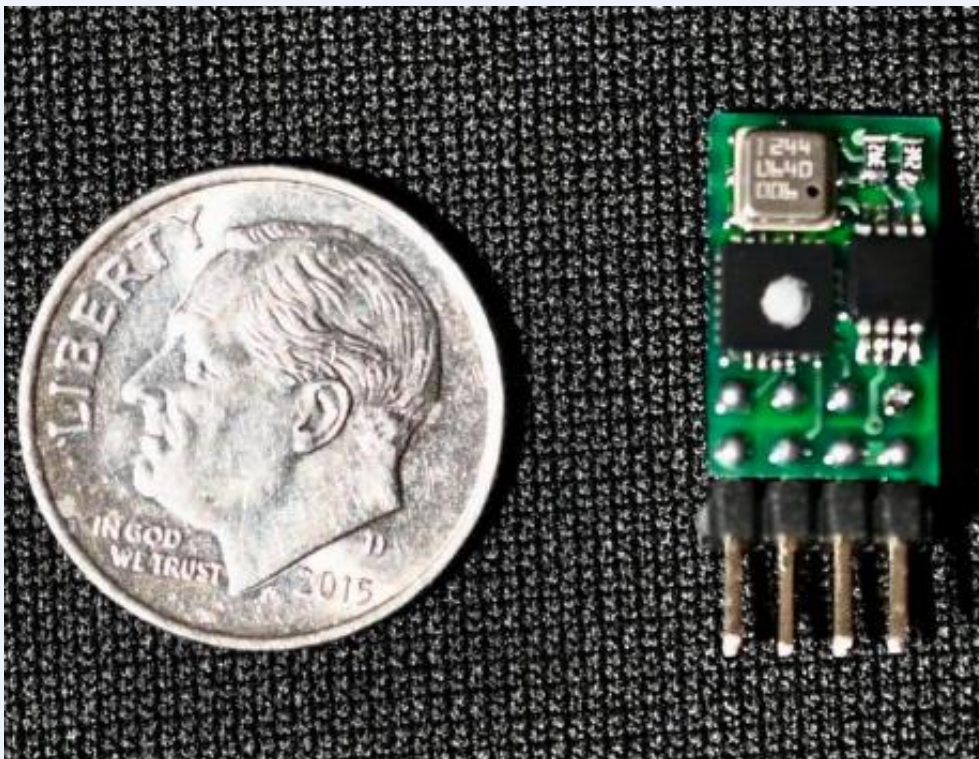
L'altimètre Adrel DeployMax™ est certifié par la National Association of Rocketry (NAR) pour les vols de compétition et les tentatives de records. Il est conçu par Adrel Electronics de Cracovie en Pologne.

En plus de mesurer l'altitude d'apogée avec la précision requise, l'altimètre Adrel MaxAlt enregistre les mesures d'altitude du vol complet, pour une meilleure analyse. La petite taille de l'altimètre (8.5mm x 20mm x 5mm/0.335" x 0.79" x 0.16") et son poids (0.6g/ 0.021 oz.) permettent de l'inclure dans tous les types de fusées de compétition.

L'altitude de déploiement du DeployMax™ est configurable par l'utilisateur, allant de 100% (apogée) à une altitude minimum de 50m.

L'Adrel DeployMax™ est réservé aux fuséistes expérimentés, au prix de \$119.99.

Disponible en exclusivité sur www.northcoastrocketry.com.



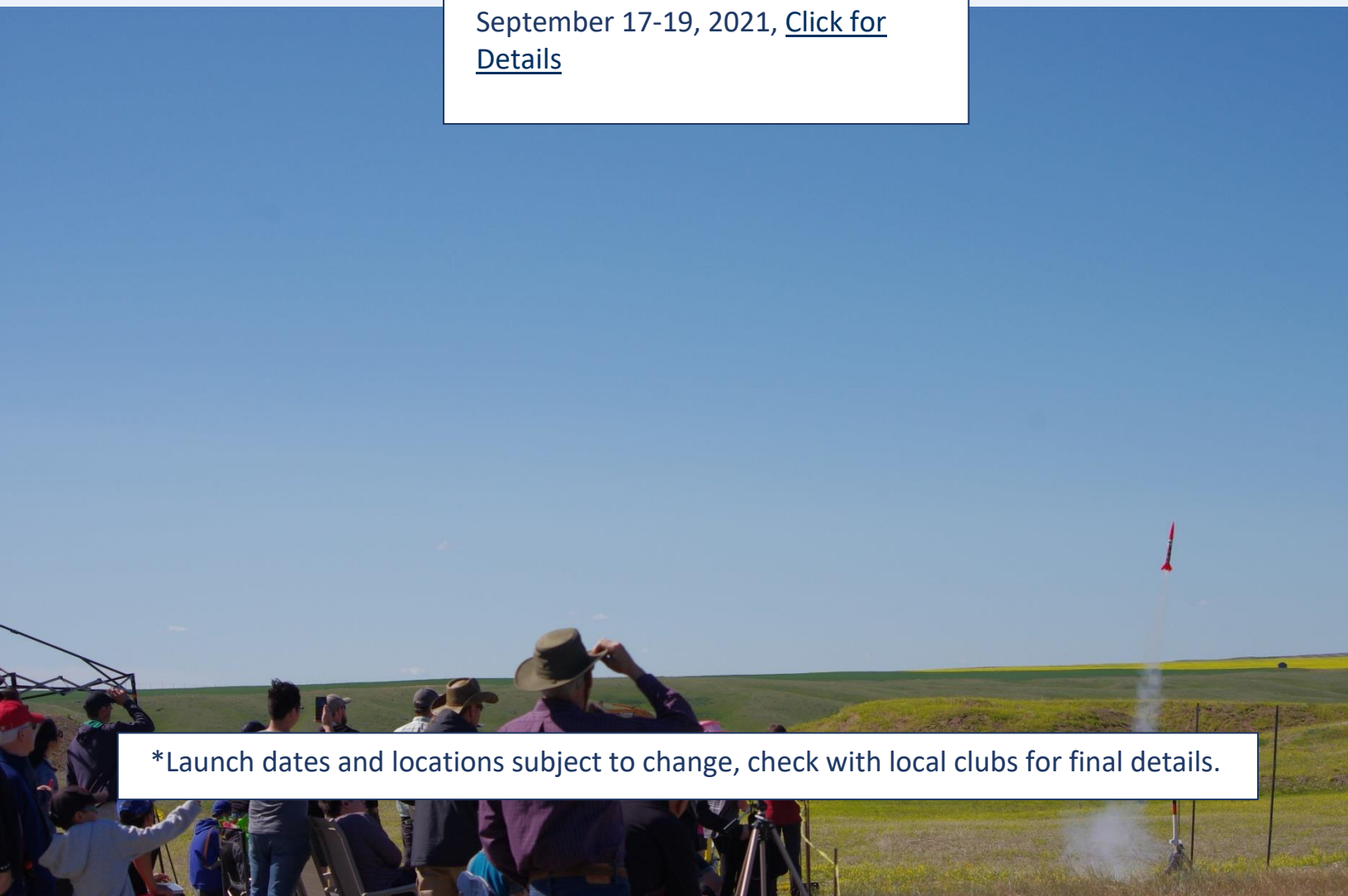


1. LRA Club Launch

(Lethbridge Rocketry Association):
August 14, 2021, [Click for Details](#)

2. Sullivan Lake

(Calgary Rocketry Association):
September 17-19, 2021, [Click for Details](#)



*Launch dates and locations subject to change, check with local clubs for final details.

In Search of Incredible: Cinematography in Rocketry

By Layne C. Pelechytik

Introduction



Figure 1 Looking down at the flight line as an Estes Pro Series II Partizon screams skyward.

“When once you’ve tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been, and there you will always long to return.” - Leonardo da Vinci

I think the ultimate thrill in our rocketry hobby is to “ride” aboard our rocketry creations into the sky like an astronaut. While we obviously can’t do that in real life, the next best thing is to experience that flight via an on-board video camera. But how does one get started? What needs to be looked at and considered? What are the best options out there?

This article just documents my experiences with many different kinds of video cameras. I don’t claim to be the all-knowledgeable person on this subject. It is my hope however that you’ll be able to use my experiences in your own rocketry endeavors and to further build upon what’s already been done. So, without further ado, let’s get started!

AstroCam 110/RTF

My passion for aerial photography and videography first began with the Estes AstroCam 110 and later on with an AstroCam RTF. Many of you will remember this rocket kit from yesteryear. Truly a remarkable technology for its time, the AstroCam was a still photography camera incorporated as a payload into a nose cone that fit BT-56 airframe tubes, namely the included Delta II launch vehicle. The camera itself took 110 film (ASA 200 or ASA 400 depending on which model), was forward facing, and snapped a single photo per flight. What the rocket took a picture of depended on the rocket engine delay used; a C6-5 would take an angled downward shot while a C6-7 produced a photo looking straight down from the sky. Developed photos were no larger than a 5” x 7” (13cm x 18cm) size and were definitely grainy by today’s standards. But it was still photos from way up in the blue yonder that mesmerized me into this aspect of the hobby.

NEW! **ESTES ASTROCAM 110**
Aerial Camera with Delta II Launch Vehicle™
Available April 15, 1979

Camera Specifications:
Length: 6.5" (16.5 cm)
Diameter: 1.39" (35.3 mm)
Weight: 1.36 oz. (38.5 g)
(Without Film)
Weight: 1.76 oz. (50 g)
(With Film)

Experience the thrill and excitement of taking incredible color aerial photographs from hundreds of feet in the sky. As your rocket reaches apogee and begins its descent to Earth, the ejection charge of your rocket engine trips the AstroCam 110's 1/1000th sec. shutter and "snap" . . . you have just taken a dramatic aerial photograph from far above. The "new" AstroCam 110 uses high speed Kodak Kodacolor 110 color print film, ASA 400, or equivalent. (Not Included.)

Special features include easy, quick-assembly, high quality acrylic lens, molded plastic housing, glass first surface mirror, and high performance aerodynamic design for minimum drag and maximum altitude. Simple to operate and shoots one, crisp, full color 110 photo per flight.

Delta II launch vehicle features specially designed, pre-colored plastic fin-unit for consistently smooth and stable flights. Plus white body tube, quick-release engine mount and great looking, two-color kit decals with dual roll patterns. No painting required! Returns to Earth via 12" dia. canopy parachute. Ship. wt. 14 oz.

Specifications - Camera with Launch Vehicle: Cat. No. 1327
Length: 19.1" (48.5 cm)
Diameter: 1.39" (35.3 mm)
Fin Span: 4.75" (12.0 cm)
Weight: 3.75 oz. (106.3 g)

*(The AstroCam 110 requires Delta II Launch Vehicle with special stabilizing fin-unit for best photo results. Camera and launch vehicle are not sold separately. Other launch vehicles are **not** recommended.)*
(Launch System, engines, glue, and film are not included.)

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Introducing The Sensational ASTROCAM 110 Aerial Camera,
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No. 791P **50¢**

"Takes dramatic 110 color photos from hundreds of feet in the sky!"

Simulated photo showing typical field of view. Quality may vary due to atmospheric or climatic conditions. Courtesy of USAFA.

Figure 2 The Original Estes AstroCam 110

It wasn't until I discovered Vern Knowles rocketry website that I discovered aerial videography to be possible and within a person's reach.

CVS/Pure Digital Camcorder

My first venture in aerial videography began when I came across a 2008 article on Rocketry Planet entitled "Building an Inexpensive Onboard Video System" by Max Praglin of RocketChutes.com. He outlined the use of an inexpensive one-time use digital video camcorder made by Pure Digital and marketed by CVS Pharmacies in the United States.



Figure 3 The CVS/Pure Digital One-Time Use Digital Camcorder

An obvious problem from the beginning was that we don't have any CVS Pharmacies in Canada. However, I was able to make a family trip to Nevada, USA where I was able to find and procure a couple of CVS One-Time Use Digital Video Camcorders for \$29.99 USD each at the time. The second problem was extracting the videos from the camcorders. These camcorders were designed to be sent back to CVS Pharmacies for processing and have the videos put on a DVD for an additional \$12.99 USD. There actually was no user-friendly way of downloading the videos at all—that was until I discovered CameraHacking.com. This was a website dedicated to hacking the CVS/Pure Digital camcorder and making it useable to the general public. After downloading the correct software and installing it, I was finally able to tap into and access the videos on my camcorders. We finally had a working system!

Now the camcorder itself was inexpensive which was awesome compared to its contemporary counterparts at the time. It could easily be held in one hand and was really built for one hand operation. It recorded somewhat decent videos at 384 x 288p at 30 frames-per-second, not the best resolution by today's standards, but was acceptable at the time. It featured an offset camera lens and microphone, had a preview screen and speaker on the back plus buttons for power, playback, record, and delete. The internal memory could hold any combination of video footage up to 20 minutes in total. Plus, the camcorder could fit snugly inside a BT-80/66mm airframe tube. This opened up all kinds of possibilities for video flights!



Figure 4 The backside of the CVS Camcorder shows the many features including a playback screen.

For a launch vehicle for the CVS camcorder, I decided to build a clone of a North Coast Rocketry by Estes Eliminator. Being a 3-inch (75mm) diameter rocket, I would have to construct some sort of payload bay that could house the camcorder into a 66mm airframe tube as the 3-inch was too big. So, I spliced the main airframe tube in half to have a forward payload section which enabled me to keep the length dimensions exactly the same for the Eliminator. Inside the payload bay, I created two offset centering rings to allow one side of the 66mm airframe tube to touch the inside wall of the 75mm airframe tube. Then an open window was cut into the airframe where the walls of the two tubes met so the lens could look out of the rocket. Once the camcorder was put in, it was sandwiched tightly between a lower and upper bulkhead to seal the compartment and keep the camcorder from moving around.

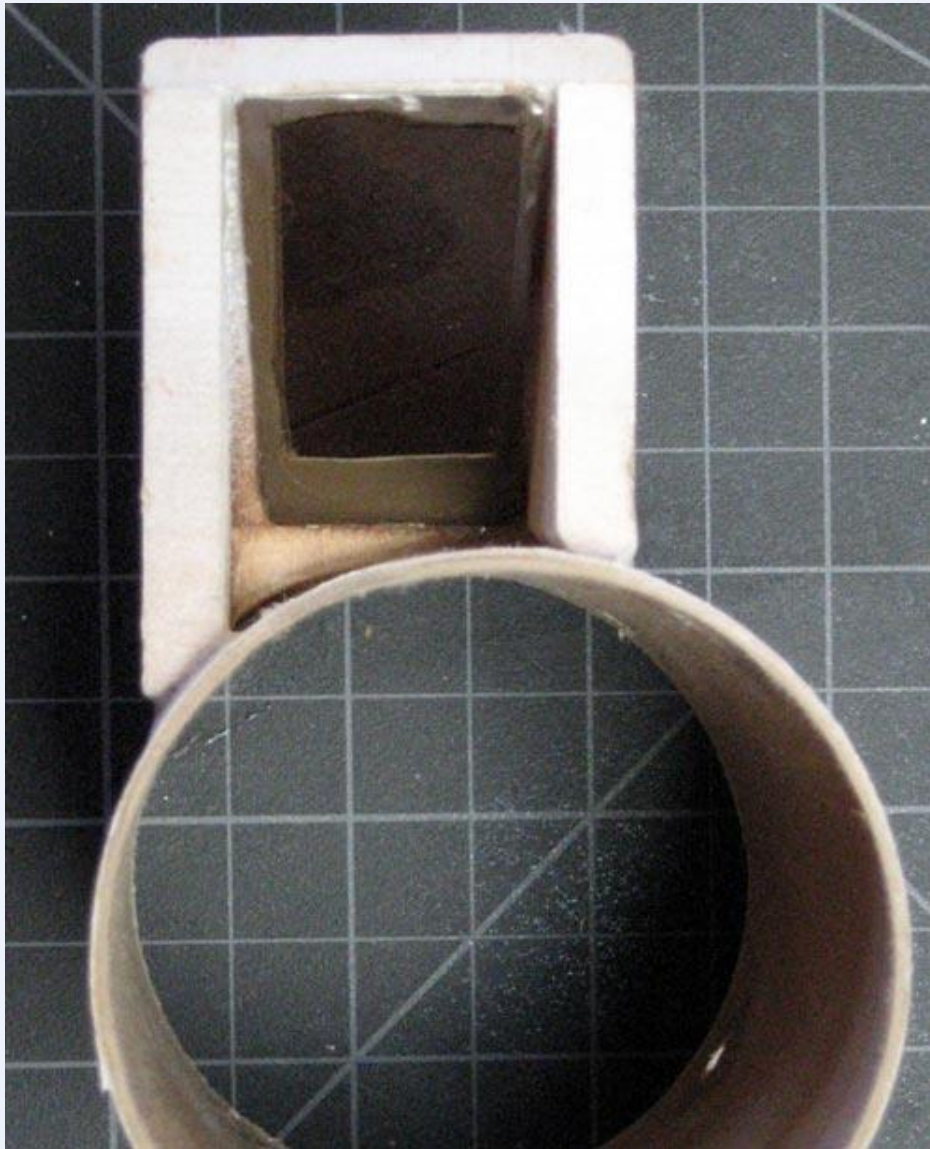


Figure 5 Offset mirror housing.

Opposite of the AstroCam, I wanted a rearward-facing view for launch footage. In addition, the camcorder's offset lens would create a challenge on how to do that in practice. Max Praglin's article had an ingenious solution to the problem. As you can see in the photo, he came up with an offset mirror housing that answered both challenges. I constructed the housing for the Eliminator out of 5-ply plywood. For the mirror, the article suggested the use of a hard drive platter. I had a hard time believing it could actually be used as a mirror until I opened up an old hard drive. The platter itself was clean, completely reflective like a silver mirror, and made of metal so it wasn't likely to ever crack if there ever was to be a hard recovery. After using a Dremel to cut out a rectangular section of platter, I epoxied it inside the housing. Once the mirror housing was epoxied and filleted onto the rocket, it was time to check the results of how everything lined up. To my amazement, the camcorder's view was perfect; looking aft down the side of the rocket in an unobstructed view.

The first flight of the CVS/Pure Digital camcorder occurred as a demonstration launch. For the finale at a youth rocketry program for a summer camp, I decided to demo the Eliminator as an example of where advanced model rocketry could go should any of the participants decide to continue on. I loaded the rocket with an AeroTech RMS G64-7W which I assembled in advance. After all the mid-power rockets had flown, it was my turn to fly. I placed the rocket on the launch pad, then proceeded to ready the camera and payload bay. I had to make sure everything was just right as there was no second chances. The lens was properly lined up to the mirror housing, the camera was turned on and recording activated, it was secured between the bulkheads and finally the nose cone was screwed into place. We were ready for launch.



Figure 6 This author loading the Eliminator onto the launch pad. Note the oversized camera hood.

When the launch button was pressed, the Eliminator screamed skyward on a trail of white smoke and flame. I had all in attendance wave at the rocket as it launched in hopes it would catch anyone of us on the ground. She reached apogee then turned back towards the earth. The parachute didn't deploy! We all watched as the video camera rocket sailed from the sky and plunged back into the ground in the ballistic recovery zone. I feared the worst. The rocket was embedded 4 inches deep into the dirt, destroyed. Upon opening the payload bay, I discovered the rear screen on the camcorder was cracked beyond repair. However, the rest of the camcorder was intact, and found to still be usable! Unfortunately, no recording of this flight was able to be retrieved from its memory. (As it ended up, I had accidentally touched the delay element on the RMS motor with my Vaseline covered fingers, which was enough to prevent the delay and hence the ejection charge from working.)

The loss of the Eliminator kept me from doing anything more in video rocketry with the CVS video camcorders. But it was then when I discovered there were much better options available.

BoosterVision GearCam HD-DVR-RM

In my online searches, I came across Art Upton's website BoosterVision.com. At the time, he sold an amazing array of several devices that could take live video footage from a rocket in flight and transmit it back to the ground in real time. With each one of his products, he had sample videos you could watch and see the quality of his products. I was fascinated!

However, I did not want to incur the expense of an entire video transmission and receiver setup. Fortunately, I came across the GearCam models of self-recording video cameras, also made by BoosterVision. In particular, the GearCam HD-DVR-RM caught my attention. The High Definition - Digital Video Recorder - Real Modular was a self-recording unit that looked like a small utility flashlight and could be securely strapped onto any rocket with black electrical tape. For memory, a micro SDHC memory card from 2Gb to 16Gb could be used. The resolution was a huge step up from anything that I had used before; the standard options were a mind-blowing video image size (at the time) of 1280 x 720 @ 30 frames-per-second. An option was also available to boost that to an unheard of 1600 x 1200 video image size, but with a loss of FPS down to 15 only. Other options include the ability of whether or not to cycle record and the ability to have or have not a visual timestamp in the videos. A unique feature was the microphone; it was extremely sensitive to picking up sounds, but could easily be muffled with black electrical tape. The casing was also water-resistant due to the inclusion of o-rings inside of both caps. The GearCam itself records videos in AVI format. It is still an impressive unit to this very day. I believe I invested around \$99.00 USD in it at the time.



Figure 7 The BoosterVision GearCam HD-DVR-RM

Launch footage was spectacular and beyond anything in my experience up to that time. My first flights were mid-power and high-power, respectively, at Lethbridge Rocketry's Rock Lake High-Power Launches in both 2013 (Rock Lake 15) and 2014 (Rock Lake 16). You can see great photo quality and HD detail in these still photos taken directly from the video footage. Check out these links for actual motion picture footage from these exciting launches:

AeroTech G80T flight: <http://vimeo.com/385627902>

AeroTech H220T flight: <http://vimeo.com/385627618>

AeroTech I200W flight: <http://vimeo.com/379599626>

AeroTech J570W flight: <http://vimeo.com/379602088>

The drawbacks to the GearCam were its size and mass. It definitely was a prominent protrusion from the airframe tube. The shape was not very aerodynamic and it could not be mounted as a standalone fixture on any rocket; it had to be taped on with electrical tape. Even in Rocksim, I had to simulate the GearCam as a solid, oversized launch lug to account for the extra drag it would produce. It was limited on the size of SD-cards I could use in it, while it was capable of producing very large video files at its available resolutions.



Figure 8 The GearCam has a water-resistant case and can take up to a 16Gb micro SDHC card.

Still, the GearCam HD-DVR-RM was, in my opinion, a great purchase and certainly introduced me to possibilities that were inexpensive for capturing on-board cinematography. However, miniaturization of camera components was well under development.

808 Car Keys Micro-Camera

When Apogee Components soon began offering a micro video camera for purchase on their website, it certainly got my attention. The standard 808 Car Keys Micro-Camera as it was known was a remarkable technology. It has the uncanny ability to house a still picture and video camera inside of what appears to be a typical lookalike automobile keyless entry fob unit. This of course has many applications outside of rocketry, including a spy camera of sorts. Who's going to expect that someone casually holding a set of car keys to be secretly recording them? Outside of that, the smaller more compact size of the unit makes it very attractive to rocketry applications.

When doing a Google search, many different models of 808 Car Keys Micro-Cameras show up. As in terms of a model number that this particular version of an 808 is, I don't actually know. It seemingly lines up with the specifications for a #3 model, but that is simply conjecture. I do know that this version is one of the first types of 808 models produced at the time.

The standard 808, as I'll refer to it, does an impressive performance for video recording back in its day. Video resolution is 640 x 480p and records at a rate of 30 frames-per-second. While this version does not produce HD imaging, it is a better choice over the CVS/Pure Digital Camcorder. The 808 will take up to a 16Gb micro SD-card and produces videos in AVI format. They currently retail at Apogee Components for \$43.00 USD and can be found at: <https://www.apogeerockets.com/Electronics-Payloads/Cameras/808-Keychain-Camera>



Figure 9 The original, standard 808 Car Keys Micro-Camera

When I was using these standard 808 video cameras, I simply taped them onto the side of a rocket using either masking tape or black electrical tape. Taping these down was more challenging than the GearCam, since the functional power and start/stop record buttons could easily be covered up by the tape. It always took some ingenuity and sometimes some careful cutting with an x-acto blade to ensure the buttons were indeed clear of tape. Fast forward to today where 3-D printed conformal aerodynamic camera shrouds are now available and can be used for superior video camera mounting. These shrouds can either be epoxied to the rocket or screwed in (which can make them removeable and can be moved from one rocket to the next). Check out Additive Aerospace at: <https://www.additiveaerospace.com/collections/video-camera-shrouds/products/808-3-camera-shroud>

Here is a video sample of a standard 808 Car Keys Micro-Camera. This was the flight of a Dynastar Snarky on an AeroTech E15W. Although a shroud was used to house the video camera, the shroud was taped on with masking tape to the rocket. What's impressive is that you can hear the applause of the crowd after the recovery system successfully deploys. Check it out at: <http://vimeo.com/manage/videos/157849956>

The drawbacks of the standard 808 are few. The resolution isn't HD quality by any means, but the price point makes it an attractive starter into aerial cinematography. The smaller size and lighter weight can make it mountable on smaller rockets even without using a camera shroud. The timestamp in the videos can be both a blessing and a curse, however you look at it. Unfortunately, there is no known way to remove the timestamps from this particular model of the 808. In my opinion, for someone new venturing into video rocketry, this is definitely a good place to start.

What could make this size of video camera even more perfect? If it only came in HD. Well, the story gets even better!

To be continued...

A la Recherche d'une Cinématographie Incroyable en Fuséonautique

par Layne C. Pelechtyk

Introduction



Figure 10 Une vue du site de lancement pendant l'ascension d'une Estes Pro Series II.

“Une fois que vous aurez goûté au vol, vous marcherez à jamais les yeux tournés vers le ciel, car c’est là que vous êtes allés, et c’est là que toujours vous désirerez ardemment retourner.” - Léonard de Vinci

Je pense que le fantôme ultime en fuséonautique est de monter à bord de nos créations et de s’envoler, comme un astronaute. Vu que ce n’est pas possible en réel, notre meilleure alternative est de pouvoir filmer le vol à l’aide d’une caméra vidéo embarquée. Mais par où commencer? Que faut-il prévoir et considérer?

Quelles sont les meilleures options disponibles?

Dans cet article, je ne fait que documenter mes expériences personnelles avec plusieurs types de caméras video. Je ne suis pas un expert sur le sujet. J'espère quand même que ces expériences vous seront quand même utiles dans vos propres projets de fusées et que vous pourrez capitaliser sur mon apprentissage. Mais, sans plus attendre, commençons notre survol!

AstroCam 110/RTF

Ma passion pour la photo et vidéo aérienne a commencé avec le kit Estes AstroCam 110, et plus tard avec le kit AstroCam RTF. Beaucoup d'entre vous se rappellent de cette fusée en kit du bon vieux temps. L'AstroCam (une merveille technologique pour l'époque) était un appareil photo installable dans une ogive de fusée compatible avec les tubes BT-56, dans ce cas ci le lanceur Delta II inclus dans le kit. L'appareil photo acceptait du film de type 110 (200 ASA ou 400 ASA dépendant du modèle), pointait vers l'avant, et prenait une photo par vol. Le type de photo dépendait du délai de charge d'éjection du moteur utilisé; un moteur C6-5 donnait une photo pointant vers le sol avec un angle, tandis qu'un moteur C6-7 produisait une photo pointant plus verticalement vers le sol. Une fois développé, les photos étaient au format 5" x 7" (13cm x 18cm) et leur résolution n'était pas très bonne, par rapport à aujourd'hui. Mais c'était quand même des photos prises à partir du ciel qui m'ont fasciné et attiré vers cette partie de notre passe-temps.

NEW! ESTES ASTROCAM 110
Aerial Camera with Delta II Launch Vehicle™
Available April 15, 1979

Camera Specifications:
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(Without Film)
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Delta II launch vehicle features specially designed, pre-colored plastic fin-unit for consistently smooth and stable flights. Plus white body tube, quick-release engine mount and great looking, two-color kit decals with dual roll patterns. No painting required! Returns to Earth via 12" dia. canopy parachute. Ship. wt. 14 oz.

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Fin Span: 4.75" (12.0 cm)
Weight: 3.75 oz. (106.3 g)

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(The AstroCam 110 requires Delta II Launch Vehicle with special stabilizing fin-unit for best photo results. Camera and launch vehicle are not sold separately. Other launch vehicles are not recommended.)
(Launch System, engine, glue, and film are not included.)

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Simulated photo showing typical field of view. Quality may vary due to atmospheric or climatic conditions. Courtesy of USAPA.

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"Takes dramatic 110 color photos from hundreds of feet in the sky!"

Figure 11 Le Kit Original Estes AstroCam 110

Ce n'est que beaucoup plus tard, grâce au site web de fuséonautique de Vern Knowles, que j'ai découvert que filmer des vidéos à partir d'une fusée en vol était possible et accessible aux amateurs.

L'enregistreur vidéo de CVS/Pure Digital

Ma première aventure en cinématographie embarquée commença avec la lecture d'un article de 2008 de Max Praglin (de RocketChutes.com) dans Rocketry Planet intitulé "*Building an Inexpensive Onboard Video System*". Dans cet article, il décrivait l'utilisation d'un système d'enregistreur vidéo à usage unique fait par Pure Digital et vendu dans les pharmacies CVS aux Etats-Unis.



Figure 12 L'enregistreur vidéo à usage unique de CVS/Pure Digital

Pour commencer, le problème évident était que nous n'avons pas de pharmacies CVS au Canada. Mais, il s'est adonné que ma famille a fait un voyage au Nevada, ce ce qui m'a permis d'acheter deux caméras CVS/Pure Digital pour US\$ 29.99 à l'époque. Le deuxième problème était de récupérer les vidéos sauvegardées dans les caméras. A l'origine, ces appareils sont conçus pour être renvoyés aux pharmacies CVS, qui font la transcription des vidéos sur DVD pour US\$ 12.99 de plus. Il n'y avait pas de façon d'extraire les vidéos soi-même, jusqu'à ce que je découvre CameraHacking.com, un site web dédié au piratage des caméras CVS/Pure Digital pour les rendre utilisables par le public. Après avoir téléchargé et installé le bon logiciel, j'ai finalement pu accéder aux vidéos sauvegardés dans les caméras. Enfin un système utilisable!

Donc, la caméra elle-même n'était pas dispendieuse, ce qui était fantastique à l'époque. Elle était conçue pour être utilisée à une main. Les vidéos étaient d'une qualité acceptable pour l'époque, 384 x 288 avec 30 images/seconde. Ce modèle avait un objectif de caméra décalé, un microphone, un écran de prévisualisation avec haut-parleur, et des boutons pour allumer/éteindre l'appareil, enregistrer, re-jouer, et effacer. La mémoire interne pouvait contenir jusqu'à 20 minutes de vidéo. Et le tout pouvait s'insérer tout juste dans un tube de fusée de type BT-80/66mm. Tout cela ouvrait toutes sortes de possibilités pour filmer des vols!



Figure 13 Vue arrière de l'enregistreur vidéo CVS Pure Digital montrant les fonctionnalités, incluant l'écran de visualisation.

Devant choisir une fusée adaptée pour l'enregistreur vidéo CVS, j'ai décidé de construire une copie du kit Eliminator de Estes (originellement conçu par North Coast Rocketry). Vu que c'est une fusée de 3 pouces (75mm) de diamètre (un peu trop gros), j'ai construit une baie avionique basée sur un tube de 66mm. Donc, j'ai coupé le tube principal en deux pour avoir une section avionique à l'avant et préserver une longueur totale identique au kit Eliminator standard. Dans la baie avionique, j'ai créé deux anneaux de centrage décalés permettant d'installer un tube de 66mm à l'intérieur du tube de 75mm, les deux tubes se touchant sur un côté. Ensuite, j'ai découpé une fenêtre dans les deux tubes, alignée sur le point de contact, pour que la lentille de la caméra puisse voir à l'extérieur de la fusée. Une fois l'enregistreur vidéo installé, il était coincé entre deux cloisons, à la fois pour sceller le compartiment et empêcher l'enregistreur de bouger.

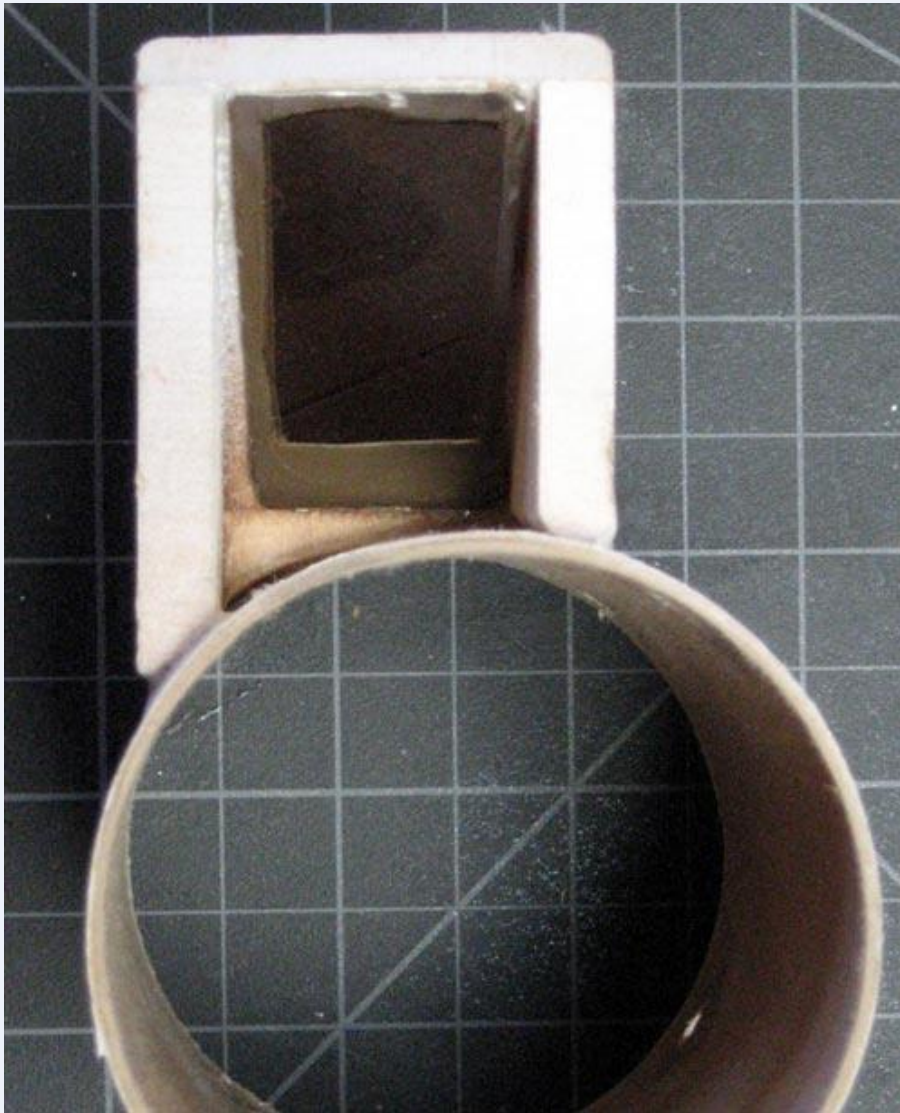


Figure 14 Montage avec miroir décalé.

Au contraire de ma fusée avec AstroCam, je voulais une vue arrière pour la vidéo de lancement. Evidemment, l'objectif décalé de l'enregistreur allait poser des difficultés. L'article de Max Praglin proposait une solution ingénieuse au problème. Comme vous pouvez voir sur la photo, il avait conçu un logement pour un miroir décalé aligné sur l'objectif. Tenant compte des dimensions de mon kit Eliminator, j'ai construit ce logement avec du contreplaqué à 5 couches. Pour le miroir, l'article suggérait d'utiliser un morceau de plateau de disque dur. Je n'y croyais guère, jusqu'à ce que j'ouvre un vieux disque dur pour vérifier. Le plateau était effectivement très propre, et réfléchissait comme un miroir argenté. De plus, il était fait de métal, donc probablement capable de survivre à l'écrasement d'une fusée. J'ai donc utilisé un Dremel pour découper une section rectangulaire du plateau, et je l'ai collé à l'époxy dans le logement. Une fois le logement du miroir collé et fileté sur la fusée, j'ai pu vérifier l'alignement. A ma grande surprise, la vue depuis l'enregistreur était parfaite, avec une vue dégagée le long du côté de la fusée.

Le vol inaugural de l'enregistreur CVS/Pure Digital fut un vol de démonstration. Pour le dernier jour d'un programme de fuséonautique pour jeunes dans un camp d'été, j'ai décidé de présenter l'Eliminator comme un exemple de ce qu'on pouvait faire à un niveau avancé, pour les participants intéressés à continuer. J'ai chargé la fusée avec un moteur AeroTech RMS G64-7W que j'avais préparé à l'avance. Après les vols de toutes les fusées de moyenne puissance, c'était à mon tour de voler. J'ai installé la fusée sur la rampe de lancement, et j'ai installé la caméra dans la baie avionique. Vu l'importance de l'occasion, j'ai tout vérifié. L'objectif était bien aligné avec le logement du miroir, la caméra était en marche et l'enregistrement démarré, le tout était sécurisé entre les cloisons, et l'ogive de la fusée était vissée en place. Tout était prêt pour le lancement.



Figure 15 L'auteur installant la fusée Eliminator sur la rampe de lancement. Notez le logement pour le miroir.

Dès que le bouton de mise à feu fut activé, la fusée Eliminator fonça vers le ciel dans un jet de flammes et de fumée blanche. J'ai demandé à tout le monde de faire des grand signes en espérant que l'enregistreur en capturerait une partie. Une fois à son apogée, la fusée s'est mise à redescendre. Le parachute ne s'est pas déployé! Nous avons tous regardé la fusée plonger vers le sol à vive allure. Je craignais le pire. La fusée s'était enfoncée de 4 pouces dans le sol, détruite. Quand j'ai ouvert la baie avionique, j'ai découvert que l'écran arrière de l'enregistreur était fracturé. Toutefois, le reste de l'enregistreur était intact, et toujours utilisable! Hélas, je n'ai pas pu récupérer la vidéo de ce vol dans la mémoire. (Après analyse, j'avais accidentellement touché le contrôle de délai du moteur RMS avec mes doigts couverts de Vaseline, ce qui a suffi à empêcher la charge d'éjection de fonctionner).

La perte de la fusée Eliminator m'a empêché de faire d'autres expériences avec les enregistreurs CVS Pure Digital. Mais c'est alors que j'ai découvert que de meilleures options étaient disponibles.

BoosterVision GearCam HD-DVR-RM

Sur l'Internet, je suis éventuellement tombé sur le site de Art Upton, BoosterVision.com. A l'époque, il vendait plusieurs appareils fantastiques qui pouvait s'installer dans une fusée, filmer en vol, et transmettre la vidéo en temps réel à un récepteur au sol. Sur son site Internet, pour chaque produit, il avait des exemples de vidéos pour que les clients puissent apprécier la qualité de ses produits. J'étais fasciné!

Toutefois, je ne voulais pas engager de telles dépenses pour une configuration de transmission et réception de vidéo. Heureusement, j'ai ensuite découvert les modèles GearCam d'enregistreurs vidéo, fabriqués également par BoosterVision. Le modèle GearCam HD-DVR-RM m'a particulièrement intéressé. Ce modèle (dont les initiales signifie Enregistreur Vidéo Digital Haute Définition Modulaire) ressemblait à une petite lampe de poche et pouvait être fixé à une fusée avec du ruban électrique. Le modèle prenait une carte microSDHC de 2Go à 16Go. La résolution obtenue était la meilleure que j'avait vue pour ce type d'équipement, 1280 x 720 pixels à 30 images/seconde, en standard. Il était même possible d'obtenir 1600 x 1200 pixels si on ralentissait à 15 images/seconde, de filmer en boucle ou d'ajouter un indicateur de date et heure sur les vidéos. L'enregistreur comportait un microphone ultra sensible, mais ce problème pouvait facilement être corrigé en couvrant le microphone avec du ruban électrique. De plus, ce modèle était résistant à l'eau grâce aux joints toriques aux deux bouts. Le GearCam enregistre au format AVI, et c'est toujours un modèle impressionnant. Je pense l'avoir acheté pour US\$ 99.00 à l'époque.



Figure 16 Le GearCam HD-DVR-RM de BoosterVision

Les vidéos de lancement étaient spectaculaires et au-delà de tout ce que j'avais vu auparavant. Mes premiers vols avec ce modèle ont été faits avec des fusées de moyenne et haute puissance, aux lancements Rock Lake 15 (en 2013) et Rock Lake 16 (en 2014) organisés par Lethbridge Rocketry. Voyez par vous-mêmes la qualité obtenue dans ces vidéos de lancement:

AeroTech G80T flight: <http://vimeo.com/385627902>

AeroTech H220T flight: <http://vimeo.com/385627618>

AeroTech I200W flight: <http://vimeo.com/379599626>

AeroTech J570W flight: <http://vimeo.com/379602088>

Les points faibles du GearCam sont sa taille et sa masse, bien sûr. L'installation crée une grosse bosse sur le tube de la fusée. Ce n'est pas très aérodynamique, et ce modèle ne peut pas vraiment être monté sur une fusée, il doit être fixé avec du ruban électrique. Même avec RockSim, j'ai dû simuler le GearCam comme un gros bouton de lancement pour prendre en compte la traînée produite. La taille des cartes SD utilisables étaient limitée, même si l'enregistreur pouvait produire de gros fichiers vidéo aux résolutions disponibles.



Figure 17 Le GearCam est résistant à l'eau et peut accepter une carte micro SDHC de 16Go.

Tout de même, le GearCam HD-DVR-RM était, selon moi, un très bon achat et m'a initié à des méthodes économiques de capture vidéo en vol. Pendant ce temps, la miniaturisation des composants de caméras se continuait dans l'industrie.

808 Car Keys Micro-Camera

Quand Apogee Components commença à offrir des micro-caméras vidéo sur leur site, cela m'a vraiment intéressé! Le modèle 808 Car Keys Micro-Camera est une technologie très intéressante. C'est un équipement capable de prendre des photos ou des vidéos, dans un boîtier qui ressemble à un porte-clés électronique de voiture. Evidemment, il peut aussi être utilisé comme une caméra espion. Qui s'attend à ce que quelqu'un qui tient ses clés de voiture soit en train de vous filmer? Ce qui est important pour la fuséonautique, c'est que ce modèle d'enregistreur est léger et très compact.

Quand on fait une recherche sur Google, on peut trouver plusieurs modèles tous appelés "808 Car Keys Micro-Camera". En terme de quel modèle exact est vendu chez Apogee Components, je ne le sais pas vraiment. A première vue, cela pourrait être un modèle #3, mais c'est juste une hypothèse. Ce que je sais, c'est que c'est un des premiers modèles 808 qui ont été produits à l'époque.

Le modèle 808 "standard", faute d'une meilleure nomenclature, a des spécifications impressionnantes pour l'époque, une résolution vidéo de 640 x 480 pixels et 30 images/seconde. Même si la vidéo HD n'est pas possible, c'est un modèle supérieur à l'enregistreur vidéo CVS/Pure Digital. Le modèle 808 accepte une carte micro-SD jusqu'à 16Go et produit des vidéos au format AVI. On peut les acheter chez Apogee Components pour US\$43.00:

<https://www.apogeerockets.com/Electronics-Payloads/Cameras/808-Keychain-Camera>



Figure 18 La version originale de l'enregistreur vidéo "808 Car Keys Micro-Camera"

Quand j'utilisais ces enregistreurs modèle 808 standard, je les collais tout simplement sur le côté de la fusée avec du ruban électrique. Il fallait être plus délicat avec le ruban qu'avec le GearCam, histoire de ne pas couvrir les différents boutons avec le ruban. Cela peut demander un peu de chirurgie avec un X-acto pour s'assurer que les boutons restent libres. De nos jours, on peut acheter des protecteurs de caméras aérodynamiques (imprimés en 3D) spécialement conçus pour monter une caméra de ce genre sur une fusée. Ces protecteurs peuvent être collés ou vissés sur une fusée (ce qui permet de les déplacer d'une fusée à une autre). Consultez le lien suivant pour voir les produits de Additive Aerospace:

<https://www.additiveaerospace.com/collections/video-camera-shrouds/products/808-3-camera-shroud>

Voici un vidéo capturé par un modèle standard 808 Car Keys Micro-Camera. C'était le vol d'une fusée Dynastar Snarky avec un moteur AeroTech E15W. J'ai utilisé un protecteur pour l'installation, mais ce protecteur est simplement attaché à la fusée avec du ruban à masquer. Ce qui est impressionnant, c'est qu'on peut entendre les applaudissements de la foule quand le système de récupération se déploie avec succès. Disponible à:
<http://vimeo.com/manage/videos/157849956>

Le modèle 808 standard n'a pas beaucoup de points faibles. Il ne produit pas de vidéos Haute Définition, c'est clair, mais il est économique, c'est donc un bon point de départ pour la vidéo en vol. Sa petite taille et son faible poids le rend compatible avec des fusées plus petites. Le marquage des vidéos avec la date et l'heure ne peut pas être désactivé. On peut considérer cette fonctionnalité comme un avantage ou pas, c'est une question de point de vue. A ma connaissance, pour quelqu'un qui commence en vidéo de fuséonautique, c'est un bon point de départ.

Qu'est-ce qui améliorerait encore cet enregistreur vidéo? L'enregistrement en Haute Définition. Et bien, nous allons en parler au prochain numéro!

à suivre...

LRA Club Launch – May 15

Bruce Aleman

The Lethbridge Rocketry Association held a small launch on May 15. Frustrated by the Covid restrictions limiting our outdoor event to 5 people, we decided to hold the launch anyways. With two of our local members unable to attend, that left the LRA presence to Tim Rempel and myself. With the previous two scheduled launches in AB having been cancelled already, I knew there would be considerable interest if we made the launch open to others. I was tossing around a lottery system in my mind, followed quickly by a fundraising idea, when we decided to invite the three AB fliers who had inquired about our launch. With that system in place we were joined by Dale Madu, John Glasswick, and Jason Rodney.

The launch site at our location is prairie grass, and our launch presence is always determined by the local fire chief's willingness to give us a fire permit. With the grass just turning green for the spring season, we timed it perfect and were given permission to launch. The last element we needed in our favour was the weather, and it cooperated too. Beautiful clear skies for most of the day and a low breeze made for fabulous flying conditions. In retrospect, we are glad we held the launch because our 3 day launch in June was cancelled due to severe fire risk. Below are a number of pictures and videos from the launch. Enjoy!

Bruce Aleman's "Editor's Challenge" rocket goes for a test flight on a G61. (Left and Center)

John Glasswick's scratchbuilt Soyuz rocket launches on a Redline G, stabilized perfectly by the booster segments!





Tim Rempel and Dale Madu monitor the liftoff of a G powered rocket. (Top)

Jason Rodney's 4" Zeus on it's maiden flight (Bottom Left) [CLICK FOR VIDEO](#). Dale Madu's *Airforce* (bottom center). Tim Rempel's *Endeavour* (bottom right).



I-223 Skid



Dominic Paquet (pictured with his Tomahawk – top left) captured some great images of his rockets at the pad.

Above: Tomahawk on an I223 Skid.

Center left and bottom: Bullpup on an H123 Skid, and an H87 Imax.

Center Right: Mini BBX on an H226 Skid.



Stephane Belanger's Formula 75 launches on an Aerotech Metalstorm J motor. (above)

Sylvain Gagnon preps his *Big One* at the pad for a flight on a K. (below)





Philippe-Alexandre Labbé flies his *Ta + Vite* rocket on a CTI 75mm K1085 White Thunder.
[CLICK HERE](#) for a link to a past article on his very unique avionics bay design.



Wireless Launch System – Alberta Style

David Buhler

Here is a little article on the Wireless Launch System Alberta clubs are using.



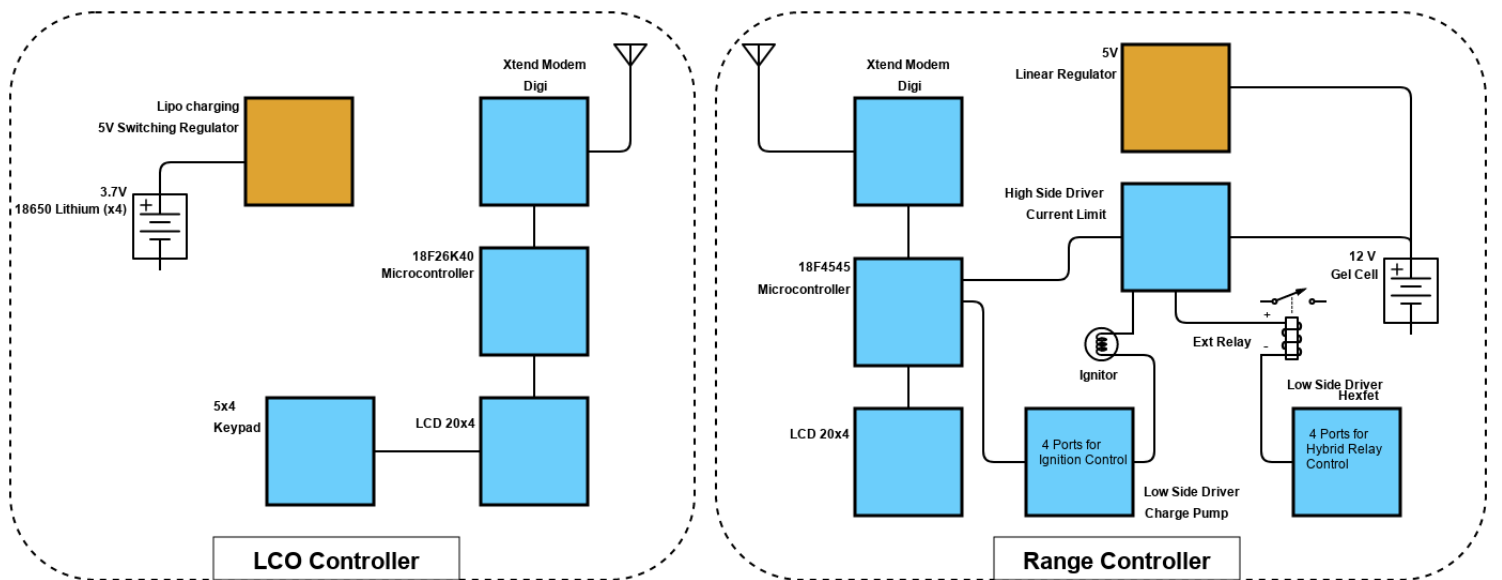
Around 2006-2007 came the tipping point, we all complained about running the wires for our mid 90's built Range Controller. The running out of the wires was easy, we were motivated and had lots of people to help, it was reeling the cables in after the launch, sometimes 500 meters of cable, always 50m, 60m, and 100m, covered in dust, mud, and other grassland waste products and waaay fewer flyers. During these cleanup sessions, the idea started forming; what if we did not have wires? At the time there were quite a few people concerned about using RF (radio frequency) to launch rockets, and for good reason, past attempts by some using garage door openers and other low power devices did not make one comfortable pushing a button and then walking closer and closer to launch it. Serious thought had to go into the design. Calgary Rocketry gathered a few knowledgeable folks to contribute to this project; Ken Baldwin, Colin Fitzgerald, Ian Stephens, Graydon Tranquilla and the late Ron Veale.

The design guiding goals; multi ports, multi-Range Controller, easy to read display, use an encryption scheme, two-way communications, command confirmations and measure local pad parameters such as battery voltage, temps, and continuity. There are layers of security here, encryption is one, data receive acknowledge, response with received data, LC confirms data, any corruption along this multi transmission path will abort launch. Lots of additional ideas such as GPS for easy location of the controller, hybrid control, bottle N2O weight and more.

Figure 19 -WLS Range Control

Now the real work began, putting ideas into reality.

It was at this point the detailed design started. My background is electronics, I started doing electronics when I was 8, well I took electronics apart, fascinated with how all those components did what they did to create sound, light, and sometimes smelly smoke. Later, I was lucky to be on the cusp of the personal computer revolution when I was doing my electronics training and the world of logic enveloped me.



Wireless Launch System Block Flow

The block flow diagram is simple. On the display side simple 20 character wide by 4 lines transflexive display is used. It is a challenge to display a lot of information on that amount of space. Transflexive displays are easily viewable in sunlight.

The radios are commercial products designed for long range use, very flexible and used a lot in Scada systems. The radio in the older Calgary and Lethbridge systems is the Gigi Xtend type which is licensed by Industry Canada for use in Canada, operating in the 900 MHz band using digital frequency hopping spread spectrum techniques. The radio meets and exceeds the design spec to provide 2 km of reliable RF Range. Running at 1 watt they are good for 20Km LOS with proper antenna and height. Do we need 1 watt, no but putting antennas up higher and adding higher gain antennas add to range setup and we wanted simplicity. When testing the system design with the prototype controllers, variable range power was part of the system but more that 50% of the time the radios were running greater that 100mW to maintain a minimum -90dB signal level at 100 meters with 2.1 dbi antennas. Adding a yagi to the LCO controller reduced the needed power. Antennas closer to the ground are subject to lensing effects which reduces the effective range and as we add distance to the system the losses become greater. The system has been used up to 1.5 km apart with no issues.

All transmissions undergo validation of packets along with a response back to issuing radio a good/no good response. Because of FHSS techniques, interference is minimized by user adjustable channels. The chance that a rogue signal will trigger an ignition is virtually impossible. The API features of these radios are used to simplify the data framing, acknowledgements, and data filtering. Like the multiple transmission layers in computer networking.



Power for the LCO controller is a boost type regulator that includes Li-ion charging, so no over-charge or over-discharge. Four 18650 Li-ion batteries are used to provide 10 AH of power which is good for a weekend of launching. On the Range Controller side, we are using standard SLA 7.0 AH batteries which also last the weekend. These are charged either in place with the system via solar, 120VAC charger or swapped out.

I chose the Microchip platform to build the prototypes; using some development boards with the basics, power, crystal, and room to play. My experience with microcontrollers taught me that some had power up concerns with ports not in known conditions, my first thought was how to safe the firing circuit. I used a design from the wired launch system that used a two-button approach, one to provide +12 volts and one to switch the relay to ground; high side and low side power control. Next was to add some glitch protection to the low side control, I used a charge pump circuit to turn on the power HEXFET, yes FETs no arcing relays. Normally a microcontroller is connected directly to the FET and any high level from the controller turns the FET on (single pulse), with a charge pump circuit it requires many pulses to build up the voltage level to turn on the FET, a single and even a few pulses will not. Now I have another safety circuit. BTW controllers have

come along way and most have an internal power up timer to keep ports off during this period.



Hardware firing circuit utilizes a controllable high side FET driver that, on command, supply 12 volts to the ignition circuits. This is the first step in a two-step process to ignition. Applying this first step allows for continuity checking. To initiate ignition, a low side FET via the charge pump also must be engaged to allow for current flow. This safety feature is required to accommodate controller power down/power up situations. The prototype and subsequent configurations control 8 ports, 4 for ignition with the other 4 dedicated for hybrid solenoids relays (Fill, Dump, O2 and Aux).

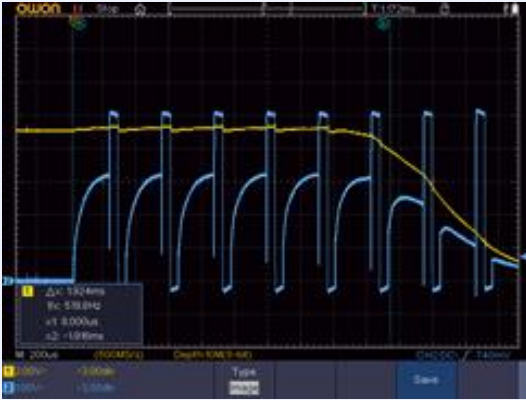


Figure 20 Charge Pump in Action

Figure 2 shows the charge pump circuit in action. The yellow line is one side of the ignitor being pulled low with the blue lines the pulses out from the microcontroller. The time for the voltage to start dropping is 2 ms with 6 pulses. This is to just start to turn on the FET.

Figure 3 shows the gate (on/off control for the FET) voltage. The yellow line gradually rising turns on the FET more and more. Note the pulses continue for the duration of the ignition cycle and the gate voltage goes higher and higher above the 5 volt source voltage. The result is the FET keeps getting lower resistance allowing more current to conduct through the ignitor. (figure 3 and 4 time scales are not the same)

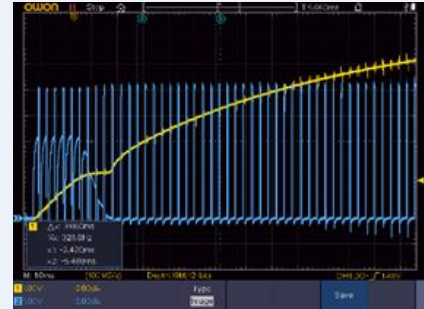


Figure 21 Gate Voltage and Pulses

Looking at Figure 4, this is the battery voltage to current flow. The blue line is the low side of the ignitor being pulled low (~12V to ground) to allow for current flow. Peak flow of ~5 amps takes 28 ms, for a 2 ohm load. For an electric match, 400 mA flow happens in 8 ms. I am using a programable electronic load which may not emulate real life conditions of various ignition devices. Peak flow through the system is 9 amps (0.1 ohms). The high side driver current limits so not to lower the battery voltage enough to cause a system reset.

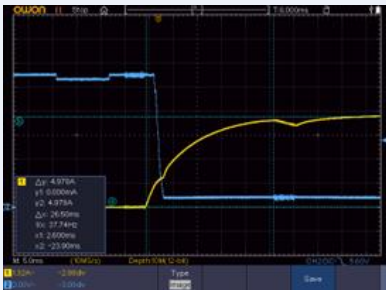


Figure 22 Voltage vs Current Flow

For the less electronics minded a FET is a field effect transistor, ok not much better? Think of it as a switch with one terminal controlling the on and off. FETs or in this case a HEXFET, multiple FETs in one transistor, has ultra low ON resistance and extremely high OFF resistance, so it is a good replacements for relays.

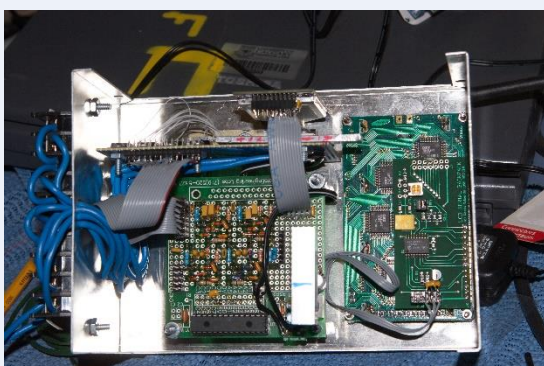


Figure 24 -Original prototype Range Control Innards

The Wireless Launch System is designed to accommodate multiple Range controllers. Each has the ability to disable ports to match the number of pads at the controller location. The Range controller has four ignition ports but at our typical launches we use one to three pads at the different pad locations so the 4th, 3rd and even 2nd port can be disabled to maintain numbering consistency on the LCO and Range Controllers with pad sign numbers.



Figure 23 -LCO Controller

The system is self-healing during operation, if either a Range Controller or the Launch Controller is powered down, each Controller, on the other's power up, will inform previous status (pad numbering, ports active). If in a multi-Range Controller configuration both a Range Controller and Launch Control Controller power down, the Range will need to be re-setup. Future code revisions could add the ability to remember last active state but as with any additions one must flush out the unintended consequences.

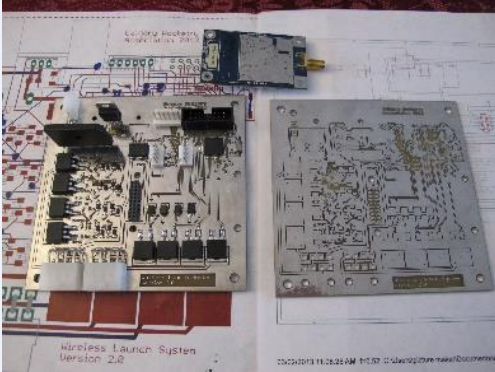


Figure 25 Version 2 Range Control Boards

Hybrid Control is done a bit differently. It is accessed via a menu which puts the LCO controller into a dedicated mode with dedicated keypad buttons. Three of the functions, Fill, O2 and Dump toggle the output, press to turn on press again to turn off. This allows some freedom when filling large tanks, the display indicates the status of each port. The Aux port is attached to the ignition device and is on while pressed, to allow for slow starting hybrids. Once the Aux button is released all ports are turned off since most attention is now on the rising rocket. The hybrid ports do not use the charge pump strategy but do use HIGH and LOW power control. The hybrid ports from the Range controller are designed to run relays which run the solenoids for the tank valves.

I have several old CATV (cable TV) amplifier boxes that are used to house the controller board, while larger than needed, they offered a nice, rugged enclosure, are quite water resistant and the big one, free. My CNC mill was used to alter the front and back for the various cut-outs.

System Setup:

The process for setting up the WLS system is simple, turn on the LCO Controller and it starts the "Who's out there?" beacons. Turn on the Range Controllers starting with the lowest pads and work your way up. Once the Range Controller is turned on it will respond to the "Who's out there?" with capabilities and number of ports, etc. The LCO controller then assigns the appropriate pad number range to the box and that unit is now effectively paired with the LCO Controller. If a new range controller responds the LCO controller assigns the next set of pad numbers to the new box. The LCO controller can then disable ports (or enable) as appropriate.



The Range Controller has one rotary/select knob that allows for continuity checking, entry into the menu system and local control of hybrid relays when setting up the hybrid GSE.

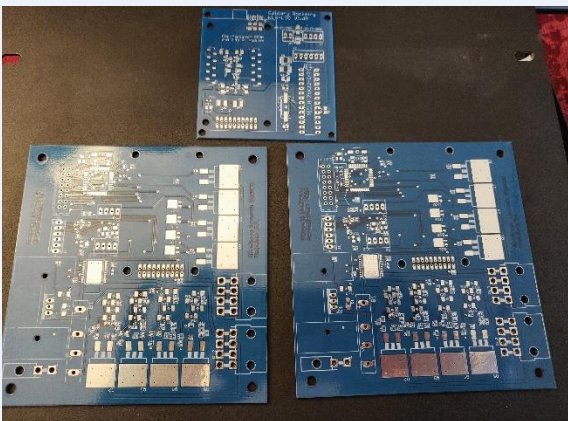
New work

The Digi Xtend radios were the best available at the time and ran 5 volts, like the rest of the system. The current design is over 10 years old. The system has not had any failures over this period, so we are still using the original radios from when Digi was Maxstream. But as with everything, change is inevitable. The new Xtend compatible replacement radios run 3.3 V as with many new devices on the market. A solution was needed when the Edmonton club wanted a new system and choose to go with this design. A new board with local 3.3V power and logic level conversion was created to provide drop-in replacement, old with new.



More new, playing with load cells to weigh N2O bottles so there is a way to monitor how much is in the rocket (indirectly). Original design was to just run a 0-12 V signal for that, but it is better to do all the processing close to the load cell and just serial the data back to the range box. Still playing.

Figure 26 Replacement Xtend Radio Board





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What is CAR/ACF?



CAR/ACF Mission

The Canadian Association of Rocketry is a world-class association of rocketeers organized for the purpose of promotion, development, education and advancement of amateur aerospace activities. The Association provides access, leadership, organization, competition, communication, protection, representation, recognition, education and scientific/technical development for its members.

CAR/ACF Vision

We, the members of the Canadian Association of Rocketry are the pathway to the future of amateur aerospace and are committed to making rocketry the foremost sport/hobby/activity in the world. This vision is accomplished through:

- A dedication to safety and responsibility
- Partnerships with its valued associates, the aerospace industry and government
- Development of programs that meet or exceed Canadian government regulatory requirements
- A process of continuous improvement
- A commitment to leadership, quality, education and scientific/technical development
- A safe, responsible and enjoyable aerospace development environment.

More about CAR/ACF

- CAR/ACF was established in 1965
- CAR/ACF is a self-supporting, non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to promote development of Amateur Aerospace as a recognized sport and worthwhile amateur activity.
- CAR/ACF is an organization open to anyone interested in legal and responsible rocketry.
- CAR/ACF is the official national body for amateur aerospace in Canada.
- CAR/ACF is a chartering organization for model rocket clubs across the country. CAR offers its' chartered clubs contest sanction and assistance in getting and keeping flying sites.
- CAR/ACF is the voice of its' membership, providing liaison and certification programs with Transport Canada, Natural Resources Canada (Explosives Regulatory Division), and other government agencies through our national headquarters in Calgary, Alberta. CAR also works with local governments, zoning boards and parks departments to promote the interests of local chartered clubs.
- CAR/ACF is the principal stakeholder representing Non-military, Non-commercial aerospace on the Transport Canada Canadian Aviation Regulatory Advisory Council (CARAC) which is responsible for maintaining and developing the Canadian Aviation Regulations (CARs).
- CAR/ACF is a Rocketry Association whose rules and regulations as formally acceptable to the Minister of Transport.



Qu'est-ce que l'ACF?



Mission de l'ACF

L'Association canadienne de fuséonautique est une association de classe mondiale organisée dans le but de promouvoir, développer, éduquer et faire progresser les activités aérospatiales amateurs. L'association fournit accès, direction, organisation, concurrence, communication, protection, représentation, reconnaissance, éducation et développement scientifique / technique à ses membres.

Vision de l'ACF

Nous, les membres de l'Association canadienne de fuséonautique, sommes la voie de l'avenir de l'aéronautique amateur et nous nous engageons à faire de la fusée le sport / loisir / activité la plus importante au monde. Cette vision est réalisée à travers:

- Un dévouement à la sécurité et à la responsabilité
- Des partenariats avec ses précieux collaborateurs, l'industrie aérospatiale et le gouvernement
- Un développement de programmes qui respectent ou dépassent les exigences réglementaires du gouvernement Canadien
- Un processus d'amélioration continue
- Un engagement envers la direction, la qualité, l'éducation et le développement scientifique / technique

En savoir plus sur l'ACF

- L'ACF fut établie en 1965.
- L'ACF est une organisation autonome à but non lucratif dont le seul objectif est de promouvoir le développement de l'aéronautique amateur en tant que sport reconnu et en tant qu'activité amateur valable.
- L'ACF est une organisation ouverte à toute personne intéressée par les fusées légales et responsables.
- L'ACF est l'organisme national officiel de l'aérospatial amateur au Canada.
- L'ACF est une organisation membre de clubs de fusées miniatures à travers le pays. L'ACF offre à ses clubs affiliés sanction et assistance pour obtenir et conserver des sites de vol.
- L'ACF est la voix de ses membres et fournit des programmes de liaison et de certification avec Transports Canada, Ressources naturelles Canada (Division de la réglementation des explosifs) et d'autres agences gouvernementales via son siège national à Calgary, en Alberta. L'ACF collabore également avec les administrations locales, les conseils de zonage et les départements des parcs pour promouvoir les intérêts des clubs à charte locaux.
- L'ACF est le principal intervenant représentant l'aérospatiale non-militaire et non-commerciale au sein du Conseil consultatif de la réglementation de l'aviation canadienne (CCRAC) de Transports Canada, qui est chargé de maintenir et d'élaborer le Règlement de l'aviation canadienne (DORS/96-433).
- L'ACF est une association de fusée dont les règles et règlements ont été officiellement acceptés par le ministère des Transports.



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Rear Photo/photo de résumé: Dominic Paquet's Cool Spool lifts off on a G40 at Fusée-Fêtes 2021. La fusée Cool Spool de Dominic Paquet décolle avec un moteur G40 à Fusée Fêtes 2021

Earthrise Translator: Marc Chatel