

CLEANING SESSION – 9/18/11

In Attendance: Dave Brunsting, Larry Koskie, Michael Adams and Derrick Adams

With only four club members in attendance, we didn't get a lot of extra stuff done for the club equipment. But regardless, everything is pretty much ready to go for the flying season. Here is a summary of what was completed:



- Holes drilled in the legs on the opposite end of where they are now. These additional holes will allow us to set up our mid/high powered pads so they stand up a little higher and we can secure them with the cotter-pins. These pads can handle quite a load in this configuration. Larry flew his 20 pound 2 stage K to K rocket last year on one of the pads set up like that. Now with the holes drilled in the other end of the legs, we can set the pads down low or up about 18" off the ground. We have Larry to thank for this idea and Michael for use of his drill press in this operation.



Michael drilling out the new holes

- Cleaned out the trailer. Derrick and I (Dave) pulled all of the boxes out of the trailer and Derrick swept all the Three Oaks topsoil out.

-
- Cleaned all of the rails and rods. Several of the rods had some kinked ends and Derrick went to town cutting off the ends (only making them 6 to 8 inches shorter) so now all rods should be usable. We need to be sure to remember to put the PAINTED ends of the rods in the pads.

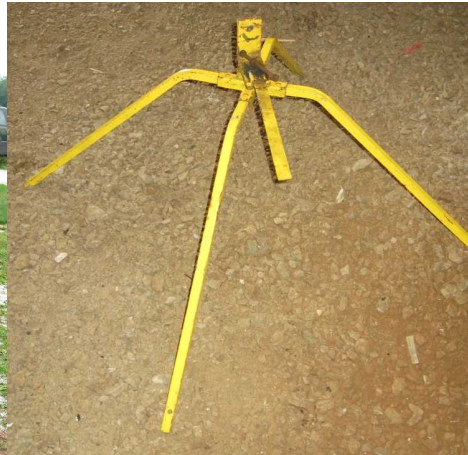


All the legs with the new cotter pin holes drilled in them.

- By far the most important task of the day was consuming a large portion of the chili prepared by our master chef Michael Adams diligently prepared with venison, mushrooms, peppers and all sorts of goodies.



Larry is...um...not sure what he's doing.



Now our pads can be set up and secured in this position.



Trailer's clean!

There are still some things that need to be done...

- Rocket bucket rockets need some attention. They will be repaired and outfitted with streamers and the hopelessly tangled parachutes removed. If anyone wants to, donations for motors to the Rocket Bucket would be appreciated. 18mm A through C size and even D12-5's would be a welcome addition to the bucket. We could also stand to get a lot more igniters. There are probably enough rockets at the moment but we will happily take donations of smaller Estes sized rockets.
- Michael is going to get all of the batteries straightened out. Some of the older batteries are not taking a charge and we have some new batteries (thanks Randy Milliken) that need to be outfitted with new connectors.
- This is the item I forgot. I know there is something else...I just don't remember what it was...

Finally, before wandering home I took a detour to drive by our flying field and found some of the best news we could possibly expect to have, it's been planted with soybeans! This means it will be far easier to walk around the field and much less muddy than years when we've had corn. I will be in contact with the farmer and should the field happen to get cut earlier than normal, don't be surprised if I announce an additional launch date in October.



SOYBEANS!!!



Thanks to Larry, Michael and Derrick for all their help. It was fantastic. And a special thanks to Michael for the chili AND the beer! See what you miss when you don't come to the yearly cleaning session?

OTHER THOUGHTS!

Some other things that are on the mind of your Prefect/Secretary:

The annual meeting is fast approaching and nominations for Prefect, Vice Prefect and any other positions members are interested in are due by the end of the November Team1 launch on November 5th and 6th. Please contact either Larry or myself for more details. Should the Team1 launch be postponed or canceled, nominations will still be due on those dates.

NARAM is coming up in 2012 and SMASH is hosting it in Muskegon, MI. This is not very far away from our launch site and may not be a bad idea for us to check it out. Several of our members are also members of SMASH and will probably be involved in it to some degree. This is a NAR event that is held every year all across the country. To find out more goto www.nar.org.

Please consider helping out this season! We always could use a hand setting the equipment up and tearing it down. There are other ways you can help out at a launch by doing LCO, RSO, towing the trailer, taking the batteries home to be charged, etc. Be sure to contact Larry or I to see how you can help make your club better.



By the way, did I tell you I met Kari Byron at LDRS 30? She asked me out but I had to turn her down seeing how I'm married and all.