

T H E



S E N T I N E L

PUBLISHED BY THE CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS SPACEMODELING SOCIETY
339 CRAWFORD STREET, NORTHBORO MA 01532 — (508) 393-6599
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CMASS AGAIN WITHOUT LAUNCH FIELD MAY 29 LAUNCH CANCELLED; OTHER LAUNCHES IN JEOPARDY

After only two hours of launching on April 24, CMASS's first launch of the year was abruptly shut down by the police, leaving us again without a launch field. The police were responding not to any negative activity of ours, but strictly to our presence in the field. Victims of a series of miscommunications, we were told that the owner, who had given us permission to use the field, had asked them to remove us (see sidebar).

EMERGENCY DECLARED

Our need for a field is now critical. Our May 29 launch has been cancelled. Our June 26 Public Launch and our launches on July 17 and October 9 are also at risk. SNEAR is also without a field; and the only other Section in New England (NARCONN) has a field limited by the owner to their members only. In short, *we have no one to turn to but you.*

YOUR EFFORT NEEDED

Since April 24, Jim Cook, Ron Quattrochi, Bill Spadafora, and Chris Tavares have all contacted one or more field owners, with no success. It is becoming doubtful that these four alone will be able to solve the problem alone. CMASS needs *your active assistance* to find a field. We need you to invest a couple days of your time and effort to contact field owners in your area and arrange written permission for at least one launch this year. We can't stress enough the importance of your participation. Call the number in the masthead *today* to help. *We can't afford to let model rocketry activity die in Massachusetts.*

COOK EXPLAINS APRIL DEBACLE

I spoke with the field owner and the Chief of the Blackstone Police. Basically, we can't use the field in Blackstone any longer. Yes, we had permission to use the field. However, after we set up, the nearby residents made phone calls to the field owner, Robert Kimball, of Kimball Sand & Stone. I get the idea that they were complaining either of noise, or just that we were there. Not knowing it was us there, the owner called the police. He assumed that we were just another group with model planes, dirt bikes, ATV's, etc. The police then threw us off.

From my conversation the next day with Mr. Kimball, it seems we are just one link in a long chain of problems he has had with the local residents. The boulders and piles of dirt surrounding the field were his attempts to resolve prior complaints. He said that while technically the property is his to do with as he pleases, he isn't a Blackstone resident; so he feels bound to keep the local residents happy to avoid problems with his gravel business in Blackstone.

I also called the Chief of the Blackstone Police. I wasn't happy that the officers were unwilling to let us call the owner to clear up this misunderstanding. I also wanted to learn what was on the minds of the local Lake Hiawatha Vigilante Association. I didn't get too far. First, the chief insisted we should have had *written* permission. Second, the field is a known problem area, with ATV's, trash, and stolen/burned cars from out of state found there. Finally, his position was that any resident's complaints *had* to be addressed. In short, typical Massachusetts parochialism triumphed once again.

I'm sorry, guys, I tried my best. I feel badly for dragging everyone out to Blackstone for what turned out to be a two-hour abortive launch session and mothball roast. I'm still bummed out. I'm particularly sorry for the folks that drove for long distances: from Maine, New Hampshire, and the western end of the state.

COUNTDOWN CALENDAR

First and Third Monday of Each Month	CMASS Meetings and Building Sessions, 7:00-10:00 PM. Take Interstate 290 to the Church Street exit. Go south on Church Street towards Northboro. Take the first right, at the Rotary Club sign. Just after the first curve, look on the left for a large, wooden mailbox with red reflectors marked "339/Tavares." Take the next driveway on your right. Call (508) 393-6599 for details.
May 29	Sport Launch scheduled
June 12	S&T Test Session, 10:00, Northboro or MIT, depending on weather.
June 26	Annual Public Sport Launch (depends on obtaining a field).
July 4	Fourth of July demonstration in Lincoln.
July 10	S&T Test Session, 10:00, Northboro or MIT, depending on weather.
July 17	Sport Launch scheduled (depends on obtaining a field).
August 1-7	NARAM-35, Fredrick MD. We're taking the trailer to run the sport range; come on out!
August 21	Rocket Day launch for A2Z Science and Nature Center in Northampton (tentative).
August 28	S&T Test Session, 10:00, Northboro or MIT, depending on weather.
September 18	Sport Launch scheduled (depends on obtaining a field).
September 25	S&T Test Session, 10:00, Northboro or MIT, depending on weather.
October 9	Last Sport Launch of the season (depends on obtaining a field).
October 23	S&T Test Session, 10:00, Northboro or MIT, depending on weather.
November 20	S&T Test Session, 10:00, MIT.
December 11	S&T Test Session, 10:00, MIT.

THE SENTINEL

First Class

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EXTRA!