

STORM WARNING



December 2010

Storm Warning - Full issue on-line

KLOUDBusters members received an abbreviated version of this **Storm Warning** issue via snail mail during the first part of December 2010 to accommodate the KBoD elections and upcoming KLOUDBusters Christmas Party info. This is the full version of the December 2010 edition of **Storm Warning** including photos and articles.

2010 Wrap-up

by Lance Lickteig

This year - 2010 - was one heck of a year for KLOUDBusters. Besides many great days of rocket launching, we have been very busy with other projects.

From **LDRS XXX** preparation, to SB2 to the various equipment repairs and acquisitions to AIRFest 16; anyone would judge 2010 as a "busy" year for KLOUDBusters. I know from the perspective of the KBoD, we kept ourselves and a number of other Club members hopping at times.

I am looking forward to 2011 and the prospects for many days at the Rocket Pasture. As a club, KLOUDBusters has a lot on our plate for the coming year, particularly **LDRS XXX**. There will be numerous opportunities for each member to contribute. I hope each of you can pick some time to volunteer your efforts to make 2011 the best damn year for rocketry ... ever.

KLOUDBusters Christmas Party and All-Member Meeting

The annual KLOUDBusters Christmas Party will be Saturday December 11, 2010. The location for the party is the same as the last few years: Kiwanis Park Shelter, 5101 W. 2nd St. in Wichita. Hours will be from 6:00PM to 10:00PM. Please bring a potluck dish to share. Guests are welcome.

A slide show is planned of KLOUDBusters, their rockets, and other antics during 2010.

As usual, there will be an All-Member meeting portion of the evening to take care of some Club business. We'll have a recap of 2010 and talk about plans for 2011 and beyond, including **LDRS XXX** plans.

Of course, we're hoping for the traditional Gherkinbaum ceremony - if

you have never experienced the Gherkinbaum, it is something you won't soon forget.

The Christmas party is a great way to share stories of the year's events and get to meet the members. We have a large number of new members this year and I hope many will try to come out so we can get to know you. This party is a very relaxed social event, and you may bring your spouse or significant other, if you wish.



Please be aware: City of Wichita policy prohibits alcoholic beverages at all park facilities.

KBoD Elections

It is time for the annual KLOUDBusters Board of Directors (KBoD) election. We are electing the 2011 Prefect for 1 year, and Vice-President, Secretary, and (1) Member-at-Large for two-year terms for 2011-2012.

Per the KLOUDBusters By-Laws: *"The official and monetary matters of the Corporation shall be managed by a Board of Directors."* In other words, the KBoD makes policy, sets schedules, and spends the money. We have a slate of great candidates willing and able to take on these responsibilities for the Club.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a postage-paid ballot for this election. The deadline for ballot receipt is December 31, 2010. The bios for each of the candidates follow:

Prefect (1 year term)

Bob Brown Hi! I'm Bob Brown and I am a candidate for Prefect. I have been involved with high-powered rocketry since 1998 and am the current Prefect seeking re-election. I've been involved with the club since that time and have held one position or another on the Kloudbusters board since 2000. Thank you in advance for your vote.

Vice-President (2 year term)

John Farmer My name is John Farmer and I have been a member of Kloudbusters for about eight years now, serving on the board of directors as a member at large for four years, and last year, when the former vice president became inactive, I assumed that role for the remainder of his term. I would like to continue to serve Kloudbusters in the capacity of Vice President. We have accomplished much in the last year. We recently deployed two new containers



at the launch site for storing our equipment, and of course, we will be hosting LDRS 30, which will require much work, but will also be a great launch. Each year Kloudbusters gets better – better equipment, better financially, and better launches. Our club has a reputation for superior performance in hosting launches and that doesn't happen by accident. It happens because we have a knowledgeable board of directors that guides our club and an outstanding group of members that always pitch in to do whatever needs to be done. I would be honored if you would elect me as your vice president.

Secretary (2 year term)

Dave Pomeroy Hello 'Busters, my name is David Pomeroy and I am currently secretary on the KBOD. I have been a club member for 3 and 1/2 years and have been a board member for 2 years, 1st as a member at large, then as secretary. I am asking you to support me for secretary in the upcoming elections. My goal is to support our club in any way I can, and with LDRS coming next year our work is cut out for us. Thank you.

Member-at-Large (2 year term, one MAL position open)

Amy Howell I got started in this hobby in 2005 while helping a friend build a high-power rocket. I built my own rocket and successfully certified in 2006. I have been a member of the Tripoli rocketry association since 2006 and am certified Level 3. At LDRS 27 I successfully built my Level 3 rocket on the field and obtained my certification.

I have been a KLOUDBuster member since 2007. I attend as many of the launches as my schedule with being a college student at Kansas State University will allow. I enjoy working RSO duty at the launches. I also pitch in where other help is needed, such as with tear down of the range, pad manager duty and clean up of the site.

Please consider me for Member-at-large. I believe I would be a good candidate for Member-at-large with all of my experience and help with the club.

Glynn Kovarik I'm Glynn Kovarik, and I've been nominated for the member-at-large seat on the KLOUDBuster Board of Directors. I am a retired USAF Master Sergeant, and a Level 2 rocketeer, having certified in September 2006. In addition to flying rockets, I also enjoy helping others enjoy the hobby by volunteering at launches, ensuring everyone has a good time. We have the premiere club in the rocketry world, and takes a lot of planning and hard work to keep the club running smoothly. I believe that I have the knowledge and dedication to continue to make KLOUDBusters a top notch organization in high power rocketry. I ask that you consider me for the Member-at-Large position on the Board of Directors. Thank you, Glynn.

Eric Martin I would appreciate your vote for Member at Large. I am married with 2 kids. Reagan is 6 years old and Sam is 3 years old. I work for a Budweiser distributor in Hutchinson where I am manager of all the bar/restaurant sales and also manager of the craft/micro beer sales in a 10 county territory.

I joined KLOUDBusters in August 2007, obtained my L1 at LDRS 27, L2 at Distant Thunder that same year and my L3 at AIRFest 15. I have only missed 2 launches since I started and been to all but 1 board meeting. Needless to say, I am an active flier. I feel also, that I am an active club member as well, helping wherever I can, e.g., range duty, equipment maintenance "parties", board meetings, set up and tear down of the range, etc.

The reason that I am running for Member at Large is that I would like to ensure that the club remains the "Elite" club in Tripoli. As a relatively younger (28 years old) member, I believe that to be a good leader, you must first be a good follower. What better group to learn from than our current BoD. Our current BoD has it down to a science and I want to learn it from the inside out from some of the best. From infrastructure, launch operations, planning large launches, etc, to ensure the groundwork they laid was not in vain well past their time as leaders of our club. Thank you very much for your consideration. Eric Martin. TRA#11777

Monta "Gunner" Plank I have been in rocketry for over 30 years and as of now in the tripoli, I am level2. I launched high power in California (Ocotilla Wells) for about 20 years and attained level2 a few times. I want to help build up our organization even more than it is. I love helping set up and helping the young kids learn about rockets. I do demos at several middle schools all year to promote this. I hope you will re-elect me to member-at-large. Thanks Gunner.

Deadline for KBoD ballot receipt is December 31, 2010.

2011 KLOUDBusters Schedule

We are happy to announce the KLOUDBusters 2011 launch schedule. The schedule for the coming year is similar to those of the last few years with the exception that **LDRS XXX** occurs in place of what would be AIRFest 17. This is a great schedule, offering potentially 22 launch days in 2011.

You'll find the traditional KLOUDBusters launches as always. The July two-day Research (Sweaty Balls) opportunity is gaining traction and is becoming a tradition all its own. Heck, even **LDRS** on a KLOUDBusters schedule is becoming a regular tradition!

2011 KLOUDBusters Schedule

Event	Date
Combined (TRx) Fun Fly	Sunday, January 9, 2011
Combined (TRx) Fun Fly	Saturday Feb. 12, 2011
Commercial Fun Fly	Saturday, March 12, 2011
Combined (TRx) Fun Fly	Sunday, March 13, 2011
KLOUDBurst 21 - Commercial	Saturday April 9, 2011
KLOUDBurst 21 - Commercial	Sunday April 10, 2011
Combined Fun Fly	Sunday April 17, 2011
-----Break for Wheat-----	
Sweaty Balls 3 – Research	Sat., July 9, 2011
Sweaty Balls 3 – Research	Sun., July 10, 2011
Combined (TRx) Fun Fly	Saturday August 6, 2011
Commercial Fun Fly	Sunday August 7, 2011

Event	Date
LDRS XXX TRx Rules	Thu., September 1, 2011
LDRS XXX Commercial	Fri., September 2, 2011
LDRS XXX Commercial	Sat., September 3, 2011
LDRS XXX Commercial	Sun., September 4, 2011
LDRS XXX TRx Rules	Mon., September 5, 2011
LDRS XXX TRx Rules	Tues., September 6, 2011
Combined (TRx) Fun Fly	Saturday, October 8, 2011
Commercial Fun Fly	Sunday, October 9, 2011
Distant Thunder 2011 Commercial	Saturday Nov. 12, 2011
Distant Thunder 2011 Commercial	Sunday Nov. 13, 2011
Combined (TRx) Fun Fly	Saturday Dec. 10, 2011
Christmas Party	Saturday Dec. 10, 2011

Launch updates are available from the "Latest News" section at the bottom of the KLOUDBusters web site prior to each launch at <http://www.kloudbusters.org>.

KLOUDBusters Yahoo e-group

I strongly encourage every member to join our KLOUDBusters e-group mailing list. The group is the best way to stay as informed as possible to late-breaking club news and events. You can also ask local "experts" how-to questions and learn from others' experiences. You don't have to post there if you choose not to, and you receive e-mails either as they come in or via digest (once per day). Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/kloighbusters> to join.

Last-minute announcements on launch schedule changes and such ALWAYS occur on the Yahoo e-group. To stay "in the know" on KLOUDBusters news, our Yahoo e-group is the place to be.

LDRS XXX

Way back in May we submitted a KLOUDBusters bid to host **LDRS XXX** at Argonia. We worked off our previous bid and sent it on to the Tripoli Board, not sure if there was a desire to place LDRS in Kansas for the unprecedented 6th time (for those counting, that would be 1993, 1994, 1999, 2003, 2008, and 2011). The TRA Board accepted our bid so now we face another busy year in 2011. KLOUDBusters and the Argonia Rocket Pasture *will host LDRS XXX* September 1-6, 2011.

In August 2010, we held an initial **LDRS XXX** kickoff meeting at the Best Western Airport Inn and Conference Center restaurant. Several members volunteered for leadership roles and plans were set into motion for our hosting effort. Detailed planning for **LDRS XXX** will begin in earnest after the first of the year. Watch the KLOUDBusters Yahoo! group for meeting scheduling and volunteer opportunities.

Some of the things we already know about **LDRS XXX**:

LDRS XXX Hotel We have already made formal arrangements with the Best Western Airport Inn and Conference Center to be the official hotel for **LDRS XXX**. This facility was a great host for our previous LDRS 27 events and is loaded with amenities. It is close to local shopping and entertainment, and is less than an hour from the launch site. A group rate of \$74.99 per night including daily breakfast will be in affect for **LDRS XXX** flyers and the **LDRS XXX** Banquet and TRA All-Member meeting will take place at the Best Western.



To reserve a room for **LDRS XXX** you must call the hotel

1-888-942-5666 and request the "Tripoli LDRS 30" rate. The hotel is ready now to accept reservations.

LDRS XXX Web Site The domain for the **LDRS XXX** web site has been reserved and will be on-line soon at

<http://www.ldrs30.org>. The target date for bringing up the web site is Jan. 1, 2011, so check back around that time.

Volunteers **LDRS XXX** will take the full effort of the membership and is an event that is the highlight of the rocketry year. Those of us who have been involved in past **LDRS** events mark time in our rocketry experiences by our **LDRS** memories. Please consider taking on volunteer opportunities when they arise.

SB2

SB2 was another fine success. Two days of research rocketry in the middle of the Kansas summer might sound crazy to some, but a good showing by area flyers and somewhat moderate temperatures this year made for a great time. Some will say, the off-hours fun at SB rivals the launches.

The range was set-up again this year to the west of the pasture, and the field had already been plowed. This allowed us to launch anything and everything without limits. Numerous cool and really cool flights took place.

I have included a few photos at the end of the newsletter from SB2.

Cable Repair and Battery Replacement

The springtime launches and SB2 raised some concerns with the cabling and batteries that have served the Club for many years. The KBoD decided it was time to rehabilitate all of our pad cables and replace the clubs batteries. In early August, all the cables were brought into Wichita and a very dedicated group of Club members worked several weekend days to strip almost all of them back to the splice, replace the red/black leads, and replace all of the banana plug connectors. This was a big job and the members who assisted should be proud of accomplishing it. AIRFest 16 flight operations ran very



Photo Credit: Lance Lickteig

Nick Stich and John Farmer solder new connectors on pad cables.

smoothly because we weren't fighting any cable or battery problems.

In all, 45 cables were stripped of all heat shrink and reworked back to the splice. All 60 cables had new banana plugs installed on the ends. Parts are on order for 12 more pad cables and 2 extra battery cables which will be completed in 2011. Nice work, all. Special thanks to the Klausmeyer family for allowing us to invade their shop during the cable repair efforts.



Photo Credit: Lance Lickteig

Wayne Warren, Dave Pomeroy and Jerome Tonneson put the finishing touches on the shrink tube pad cable ends.

Additionally, prior to AIRFest 16, Jay Bailey and Jim Cooper took responsibility to acquire new batteries for the Club. Along with that acquisition, Jay and Coop investigated a different scheme for keeping the batteries charged. The battery maintainer we have used for a long time had a down side in that the corrosives from the batteries would literally disintegrate the cable clamps in just a few months. Jay and Coop came up with a trickle charging system for the batteries that works off a timer and reduces the active charging time to just a few minutes a day to just keep the batteries fully charged. Along with the new charging system, Jay and Coop installed a new battery storage rack and the whole set-up should last us a long time. Thank you for your efforts!

AIRFest 16

AIRFest 16 fell together nicely with a very good response to our on-line pre-registration. We had 124 flyers pre-register for the launch. Overall, there were 149 registered high-power flyers.

On Thursday when we arrived at the Rocket Pasture for set-up we were greeted by gale-force north winds gusting near 50mph and temperatures plummeting about 30 degrees from the time many of us left home. There was so much wind and dust, that set-up was a real challenge, but in true KLOUDBusters fashion, the range got assembled and we were ready to roll on Friday morning on schedule. Thankfully, the winds calmed and a large

number of flyers took advantage of the Tripoli Research day. Around 75 rockets, most in the J through M range took to the skies on Friday.

Saturday was a typically busy AIRFest day. The full gamut of flights from very small to very large and spectacular thrilled the assembled crowd. It was a near-perfect day early with mild temperatures and a cloudless skies. Saturday evening we grilled 240 hamburgers and about 120 hot dogs and hot links and fed 175 flyers at the traditional AIRFest Burger Blast.

Sunday started out nicely, if a just a tad breezy. As the day progressed, the wind started to return with force and the range operations were halted mid-afternoon for the rest of the day. Prior to the increase in wind, several more



Photo Credit: Lance Lickteig

A rack of rockets on the 'M' bank awaits the go-ahead for launch at AIRFest 16 as a truck returns to the flight line.

nice flights took place.

Monday's TRA Research day was forecast to be breezy once again, starting moderately and increasing later in the day. The morning looked to be marginal, but flyable, so we decided to allow high-thrust flights for those brave souls who wanted to get their final few rockets launched for AIRFest 16. By noon, the wind started to exceed safe limits again and AIRFest 16 was over. I guess AIRFest 16 Will go down as "WindFest" in KLOUDBusters history. Oddly, since I have been an active KLOUDBusters member, I do not recall having such windy conditions at AIRFest time. I know one Argonia LDRS in particular was challenged by wind. Bottom line: we have been lucky to have a nice run of very good weather for recent AIRFests up to now.

Thanks also to our **VIP Partners** who donate to the volunteer raffle and give some incentive to members and visiting flyers to volunteer for range duty. Please know your assistance with this project is very much appreciated. **VIP Partners** for AIRFest 16 were:

- Giant Leap Rocketry
- LOC precision
- Photos by Nadine
- Quickburst
- Rockets Magazine
- Science Education Center
- Wildman Rocketry
- Kansas Brass
- MadCow Rocketry
- Public Missiles Ltd.
- Red Arrow Hobbies
- Rouse-Tech
- Wildman Kentucky

In typical KLOUDBusters fashion, the members stepped-up BIG TIME to pitch-in for every stage of the launch where there was work to be done. We had a great turnout of about 18 members for Set-up Sunday to set the fencing, pads, etc.; several members came out to the range on Thursday to help with final set-up; and, the range was well-staffed with RSO, LCO, and Pad Managers all weekend. A very big **Thank You!!!** to everyone who continues to volunteer to help and make KLOUDBusters launches the best in the USA.

All in all, AIRFest 16 was a success. Flight counts were down just a little due to some wind challenges, but totals of 149 registered flyers, 174 T-shirts sold, and 175 Burger Blast partiers attest to the reputation of AIRFest and KLOUDBusters.

BALLS 19

In late September, several KLOUDBusters members made the trek out to Black Rock, Nevada to attend BALLS 19. This was the first BALLS experience for those who went and we came back to Kansas with a full appreciation of the BALLS experience and an even fuller appreciation of the great launch system we have been spoiled by over the last dozen or so years at KLOUDBusters launches.



Photo Credit: Lance Lickteig

A rack of rockets on the 'M' bank awaits the go-ahead for launch at AIRFest 16 as a truck returns to the flight line.

A full KLOUDBusters BALLS 19 report with photos of the experience may be read at:

http://www.kloubusters.org/misc_files/BallsReport/index.html.

New Equipment Storage Containers

November 2010 brought about a big milestone for KLOUDBusters - the placement of new storage containers at the launch site.

For a few years, the KBoD had been discussing the need to replace the aging and decaying semi-trailer the Club has used for equipment storage. Encroachment by

water and vermin had gotten increasingly worse and real concern for our equipment was creating a sense of urgency to concentrate on finding containers for the Club to purchase to replace the old trailer. Shortly before AIRFest 16, two used 40'X8'X8' overseas shipping containers were found and purchased. Next, we devised a plan for getting the trailer out of the way and placing the storage boxes.

This was to be a multi-stage process:

- ✓ Clear out everything around and under the old trailer and remove important electronics from the trailer to avoid damage during the move;
- ✓ Get the trailer moved out of the way and clear and prepare the site for placement of the containers;
- ✓ Acquire a load of crushed rock and level a pad upon which the containers can rest;
- ✓ Have the containers placed.

We were incredibly lucky to have nice dry weather this fall and particularly on the workdays for site preparation and placement of the containers. We also had great help from the members coming out on those days and working hard to get the jobs completed. Rick Nafziger came over with his tractor and moved the trailer, which, incredibly, held together!

So, the containers are now in place. As soon as it is feasible, we will be installing shelving, racks, bins, pegs, or other storage schemes for all our gear. Once that phase is complete, the old trailer can be emptied and retired from KLOUDBusters service forever.

Many things had to happen in a timely manner for this work to get done in the time scale we set. Again, credit and thanks to numerous Club members who provided a huge assist getting all this work accomplished.

I have included some more photos related to the container placement effort at the end of this issue.



Photo Credit: Lance Lickteig

We had to turn a big pile of crushed rock into a pad for placement of the two containers. An assist from Dutch's skid loader saved a lot of back strain.

How Do We Do It?

One final note, related to repairs and equipment purchases: KLOUDBusters infrastructure is currently in very good shape going into our **LDRS XXX** effort. There are a few acquisitions that will be made next year, including a new KloudRadio system, replacement of some (or all) barrier fencing and some more high-power pads, but to an extent, these are icing on the cake.

Chuck Mies once told me that KLOUDBusters \$15 per year dues was the best value in rocketry and that the amount should never change. In reality, your \$15 would not even purchase a single pad cable, but collectively with a strong membership base over the years and the support of our large launches, KLOUDBusters can continue to provide the best launch equipment and launch experience in the US.

In recent years, KLOUDBusters members have gotten an even better value for their \$15 in that all launches, including KloudBurst and Distant Thunder have been free for KLOUDBusters members.

How can we do all that? The answer is three-fold:

1) Our membership base is over 120 strong and has been for several years;

2) The KBoD looks at expense items and ensures they make sense for the Club; and,

3) AIRFest each year and LDRS every few years are our "harvest" - funds collected during those launches support the Club for the rest of the year, and launch fees are adjusted accordingly.

When AIRFest or LDRS is a financial success, KLOUDBusters thrives. When individual members go the extra mile to improve equipment, volunteer for various jobs, etc. it makes a difference. When KLOUDBusters provides a fun launch experience to flyers outside our area, they want to come back. With large numbers of flyers at AIRFest or LDRS, dues remain a \$15 per year bargain and can include all other Club events to the members for no additional cost. That is how we do it ... *together!*

New KLOUDBuster TAP Members

This is late breaking news ...

We have just been notified that two local rocket gurus have been added as Tripoli Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) members. Our very own Bob Brown and Steve Klausmeyer will now be available as TAP members and all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of that position.

That means, Steve and Bob are now available as advisors and certification authority for Level 3 aspirants

Congratulations, gentlemen! These are two EXCELLENT choices for TAPs, I believe.

Some photos I've taken recently appear below ...

Spring Fun Flies and KLOUDBurst



Cal Ammons and the Stuckey Middle School Student Launch Initiative (SLI) team prepare their rocket for its proving launch in March.



Loki Blue M-2550 in Eric Martin's rocket.



Grand Illusion takes-off under M1250 Polish Rojo power during a great April TRx launch weekend.



Attentive rocketry lovers watch the proceedings at KloudBurst 20.

SB2 Launches



Justin Nichols Level 3 launch at SB2.



Impressive recovery of Marty Beck's "Kraken Up" upscale Kraken Level 3 launch.

More SB2 ...



Kevin Trojanowski tries to get a motor lit with an assist from a "couple" Pyrodex pellets from Bob Brown.



CAUTION: Emits Showers of Sparks.



Sam shows off his rocket. Looks hot, doesn't he?



Polish Rojo M1200 in C4.2 headed toward 13,700'.

AIRFest 16



Kevin Trojanowski's Level 3 Recovery Team stands at the ready.



John Farmer's Competitor 4 takes flight for a successful Level 3 Certification flight.



Now this gives a whole new meaning to "Bucket List" ...



... As does this ...

Container Placement



Rock pad prepared for placement of containers..



Two 40'X8'X8' containers where the old 53' semi-trailer used to sit.

Distant Thunder and fall Fun Flies



That's not supposed to happen!!!



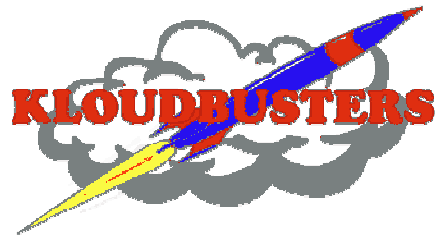
Beautiful lift-off on an Aerotech Red motor on Dave Pomeroy's KloudBuster rocket.



Memorial launch in honor of Joe Grasso by Tulsa Rocketry in October. Joe lost his battle with cancer a few months back. Godspeed, Joe,



Distant Thunder KloudBuster Rocket line-up ... Lickteig, Pomeroy, Bailey, Cooper, Martin.



Presents:



***September 1-6, 2011
Argonia Rocket Pasture
Argonia, Kansas***



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