



TRIPOLI CENTRAL CALIFORNIA Central Valley Rocket News

Serving the Central Valley Chapter of the Tripoli Rocketry Association - December 2005

Central Valley Rocket News

Serving the Central California Chapter of the Tripoli Rocketry Association ** Dec. 2005



24 Tripoli rocketeers arrested by ATF

By Mark Canepa
The Tripoli Rocketry Association (TRA) has a long history of promoting the hobby of model rocketry. However, in the past few years, the hobby has become a target of the ATF. In a recent raid, 24 Tripoli rocketeers were arrested by ATF agents. The agents were looking for illegal fireworks and explosives. The rocketeers were charged with possession of illegal fireworks and explosives. The ATF agents were looking for illegal fireworks and explosives. The rocketeers were charged with possession of illegal fireworks and explosives.

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What's Inside
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**Archive
COPY**

**Twas the night before Christmas
Some five years ago
Mark Canepa was writing
The newsletter, you know.**

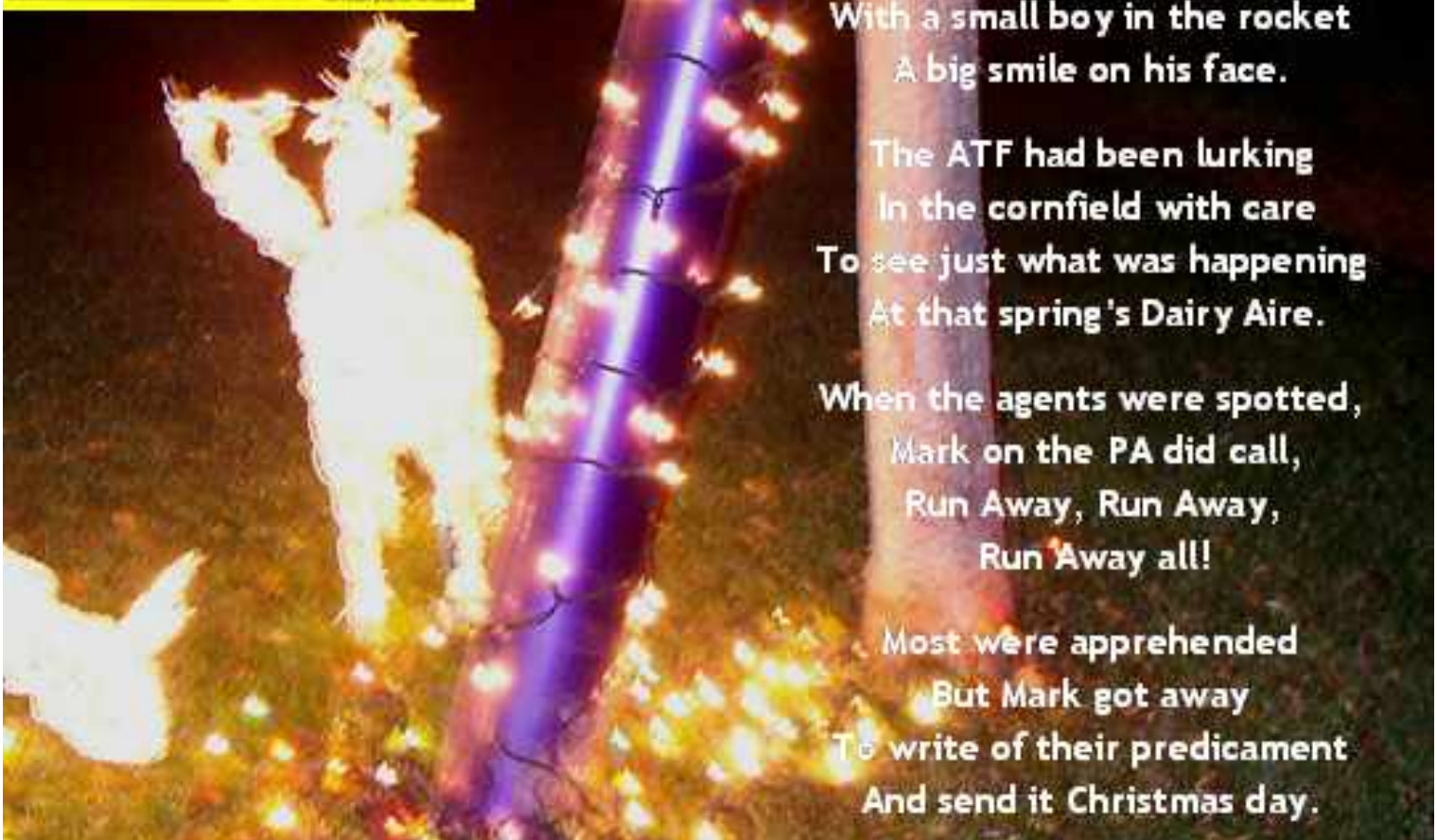
**Reminiscing of flights and explosions
Their plans so sublime.
What legal trickery would exonerate
His cohorts in crime?**

**The plans were to launch
"Got Moon?" into space
With a small boy in the rocket
A big smile on his face.**

**The ATF had been lurking
In the cornfield with care
To see just what was happening
At that spring's Dairy Aire.**

**When the agents were spotted,
Mark on the PA did call,
Run Away, Run Away,
Run Away all!**

**Most were apprehended
But Mark got away
To write of their predicament
And send it Christmas day.**



Central Valley Rocket News

Serving the Central California Chapter of the Tripoli Rocketry Association ** Dec. 25, 2000



Classified photo of "Got Moon?" the club's top secret manned spaceship. (Weiner whistles not pictured.)

Rocket wives revolt

CRVN staff

A group of Central Valley Rocket Club wives stormed the December chapter meeting carrying pickets and rolls of toilet paper and demanded "potty rights" for the 2001 launch season.

Chanting "What do we say? Port-o-lay! What do we need? A place to pee!" the women, led by **Valerie Canepa**, **Lisa Eakins** and **Alice Lovley**, refused to leave the meeting until the club agreed to bring the portable toilet to every launch, and to include soft toilet paper with the service.

The wives also submitted a list of demands that included the following:

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24 Tripoli rocketeers arrested by ATF

CRVN Staff

Dec. 29, Fresno -- Tripoli President **Lowell Hart** admitted in court today that club members have been secretly planning a manned space shot using a 6-year-old boy and a 50s-era rocket.

"You can't handle the truth!" shouted Hart, who was confronted on the witness stand with classified drawings of the club's egg-shaped rocket ship powered by 20 tons of experimental rocket fuel and decorated with Oscar Meyer plastic weiner whistles.

Before prosecutors introduced the incriminating drawings, Hart had denied any association with Tripoli, insisting that he was simply a part-time milker at Maddox Dairy in Riverdale who worked the third Sunday of every month.

The federal government seeks to convict more than two dozen local Tripoli members on federal rocketeering and general mayhem charges. All were arrested by the ATF at the launch site.

Other members in custody include **Jeff Engelman**, accused of being too tidy and following the rules too closely; **Rod Lovley**, accused of coveting pyrotechnics and spreading intoxicating paint fumes; and **Scott Eakins**, ac-

cused of sneaking around and blowing up things on country roads.

Darren Boyajian, the father of **Harrison Boyajian**, remains jailed on charges of pipsqueak pandering, for allowing his child to be the intended astronaut on the 80-foot rocket. Drawings show the child would have been

strapped onto a pallet of Boy Scout sleeping bags and fed freeze-dried Double Rainbow ice cream while in orbit. Child psychologist **Richard King** was also charged with gross negligence for finding the boy mentally fit to launch into space.

"We gave him a battery of tests, including a Florida presidential ballot, and he passed every one," King insisted before he was hauled away in a straight-jacket.

Attorney/rocketeer **Mark Canepa**, who escaped arrest by running like heck and hiding in the cornfield, is now representing the Tripoli defendants, and claims his clients are innocent.

"I have never known any of them to engage in reckless or dangerous behavior, and I personally know that they all were home helping with housework on the day of the alleged crimes," he said when interviewed by New York Times reporter **Tim Sheehan**, formerly of Selma.

But government witness **Ray Young** claimed the subversive Tripoli group met once a month to train for the space mission. "Sometimes they were there for up to eight hours without eating, drinking or taking a break," said the self-professed recovering rocketholer. "I saw explosions, burn-outs, crashes -- all kinds of ugly things."

Hart's testimony followed that of **Rick Snow**, who allegedly was the organization's cook on road trips to exotic places, like Nevada.

"I just wonder what was in those eggs," remarked the government prosecutor before he was admonished by the judge.

Dairy owner **Steve Maddox** said he knew nothing about the goings-on at his dairy, and was hoodwinked by **Dick Mooridian**, who swore Tripoli was a men's prayer group that met outdoors.

What's inside

- XXX-rated footage from the Engelman "Danger Cam."
- Exclusive: Dairy cows give strange milk on launch day.
- Richard Salinas** signed as boy astronaut's agent.
- Bill Long** on living next door to nuts.



Boyajian: Boy astronaut

Richard & Gerri King hosted the annual Tripoli Central CA Christmas Party for the second year in a row.

Thanks!



Copies of past issues
of CVRN provided by
Jeff Engelman ☺



Ghosts of Christmas Parties Past!

2004



2003 at Vitucci's



Northern Alliance (Rocket) News

Serving the U.S. Armed Forces and Central California Rocketeers ** Dec. 25, 2001



Artist's rendering of new toilets

Hoity-toity toilets

New facility will feature hand towels, scented soaps

CRVN staff

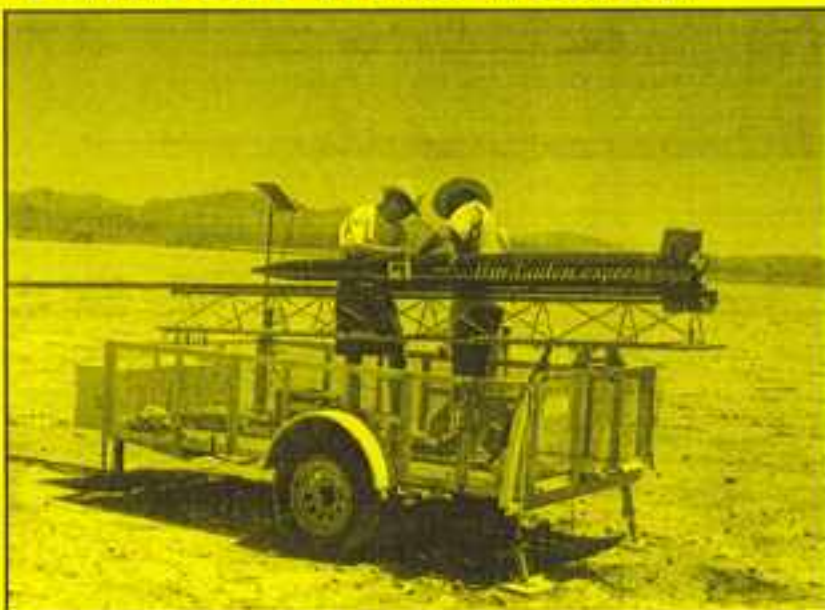
The blue and pink Port-o-Lets will soon be teal and mauve and filled with accoutrements, thanks to the Afghan war.

More than \$100,000 will be used to build a permanent powder room at the Maddox Dairy. The structures will feature a fully-stocked library of books, newspapers and magazines (in the men's room), and chaise lounges and a manicure station (in the women's room). Bidets -- those funny little French toilets on the ground -- are planned, according to the newly elected Women's Affairs Committee, Lisa Eakins.

A full-time attendant will be present to hand out fresh hand towels and breath lozenges. A vending machine will dispense first-aid kits, dental floss, men's cologne and breathalyzer kits.

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Tripoli troops turn Taliban into toast



"Pointy end toward the mountains," Tripoli member Bill McEwen tells his partner Bruce Rohn as the team prepare for battle in the Afghan desert. A donkey was used to remove the trailer afterwards.

CRVN Staff

Dec. 21, Afghanistan -- The September, October and November launches were canceled at Maddox Dairy so that Central Valley Tripoli members could work with the U.S. Army's Special Forces units to over-

throw the Taliban regime.

Thirteen members participated in the top secret mission. The Army only wanted 12, but a 13th person, Harrison Boyajian, was discovered hiding in his father's rucksack during the flight to Pakistan.

The Army agreed to pay \$250,000 to

the Tripoli Rocketry Association's Central Valley Chapter for use of the special weaponry expertise. Regrettably, more than \$20,000 was spent on a night on the town in Las Vegas at the end of the mission, treasurer Richard King said.

"Why the government decided to pay them in cash, I'll never know," King told CRVN. "But the damage is done now, and we just have to live with it."

In Las Vegas, charges are pending against Tripoli members Lowell Hart, Tim Sheehan and Dick Mooradian for trespassing at Treasure Island casino. News reports indicated the trio were armed with toy swords and bottles of Captain Morgan's Spiced Rum.

One other Tripoli member -- Rick Snow -- remains AWOL in Las Vegas.

See TOAST, page 2

What's inside

- 'Girls of Afghanistan' centerfold.
- Winners of the Pack Up the Trailer Fastest contest.
- Living without my little finger: A rocketeer's tale.
- Rocket wives tell all: The new "Gerri and Alice Morning Show."



Mystery explosion rocks the Eakins' neighborhood.

More NA (Rocket) News

TOAST, cont'd from Page 1

He was last seen trying to pick fruit from the headdress of a cocktail waitress at the Tropicana, but the guard said he got away.

The Afghan mission was deemed a huge success, military officials and Tripoli national officials said.

Altitude and distance records were shattered and two new categories were added – Cluster Motors with Warheads and Amateur Cruise Missiles With Payloads.

Tripoli member **Mark Canepa** set a new cluster record, with a 7-motor, 7-warhead, 7-color rocket called "This Scud's For You."

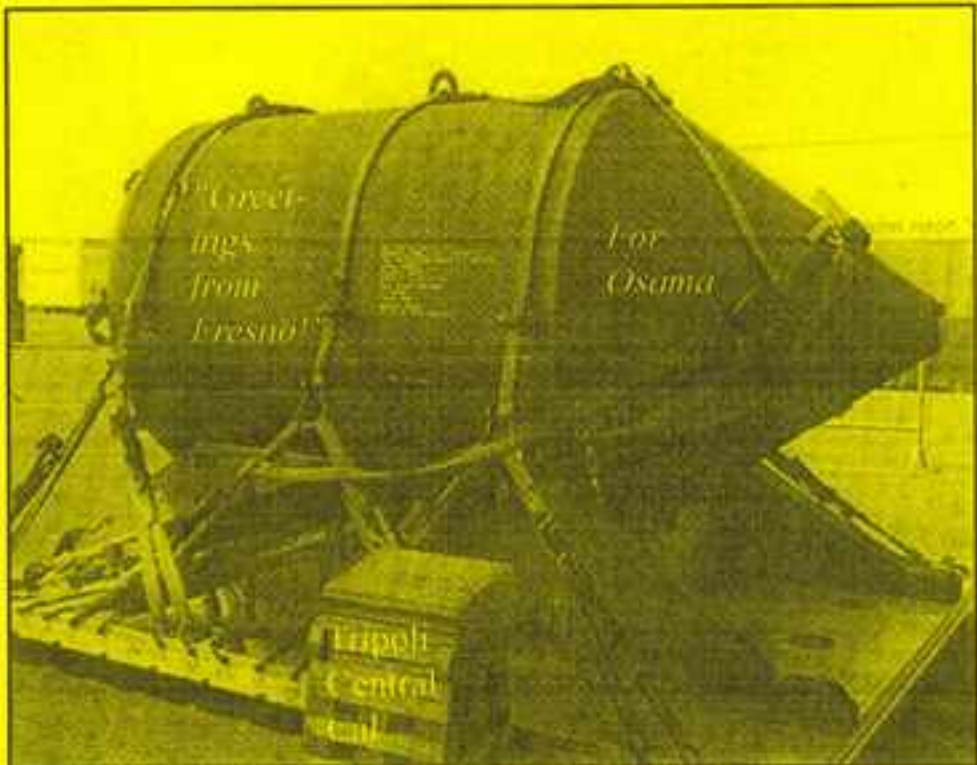
Wanting to generate excitement about the launch, he encouraged Northern Alliance fighters and U.S. troops to guess how many Taliban it would obliterate.

Shawn Stephens was designated the cave demolition expert, based on his background in BUSS (Big Ugly and Scary Stuff). He directed the launch of a 15,000-pound air-fuel cell on a terrorist training camp near Tora Bora. The missile was a tiny bit off target and wiped out a CNN crew filming near the front lines instead.

Afterward, Stephens was apologetic and regretful. "Now I won't have anything to launch at DairyAire next year," he said.

Psychological warfare commander **Scott Eakins** left his mystery fuel behind in the states but brought his SurroundSound stereo system and a few choice sound effects to blast through loudspeakers at the retreating Taliban.

"I tried everything -- Cindy Crawford, Pamela



Shawn Stephens' creation, which he called "Greetings from Fresno." The 15,000-pound rocket made a new crater near the Taliban stronghold of Tora Bora – and took CNN off the air for 8 days.

Anderson, Penelope Cruz," said Eakins, whose mission was to lure out bin Laden loyalists, who hadn't seen a woman's shaved legs in 20 months of Sundays. "The Victoria's Secret Fashion Show worked best."

Jeff Engelman and **Rod Lovley** handled the media interviews during the operation and afterward.

Engelman, whose talkative and boisterous nature made him a favorite of the MTV news crew, coined the new wartime term *rocketallah*, which means "go, by way of extreme force, to Allah."

Lovley, whose wife, Alice, raised more than \$3 million for the Save the Afghan Hounds fund, was the first to report that his fellow war commentator, **Geraldo Rivera**, was carrying a gun

in the Afghan desert.

"The only danger to **Geraldo** is the danger that the MPs will never be able to figure out which one of us

shot him," Lovley quipped. The quote was used on the front page of the New York Times.

Trailer controversy heats up

A special club meeting was called for Jan. 13 to discuss a proposal for a new equipment trailer for the club.

Trailer Committee Chairman **Richard Salinas** called the meeting after he learned that a deposit had been placed on a \$750,000 state-of-the-art moving van with sleeping quarters and party room.

"The trailer we have now we've had for almost a year now,"

said the old Trailer Committee Chairman, **Bill Long**, who was forcibly removed from his post. "It's dirty and it's used and it's a freaking lot of work."

The new trailer comes with a hydraulic lift and pulley system that can be programmed to carefully remove the equipment from the vehicle and place it on the alfalfa field. The push of a button retrieves the equipment at the end of the day.

MERRY
CHRISTMAS!



HAPPY
NEW YEAR!