

Saturday, July 26, 2008:

The CAP Cadets of the Marco Island Squadron have been building model rockets for the past month as part of the CAP Aerospace Education program. They have been building them under the guidance of **Tim Eiszner**, a nationally known rocket hobbyist, with the assistance of **Rene Simon**. After learning how rockets function and the many safety precautions that must be taken, they completed the construction of a number of model rockets.

Some of the cadet's younger brothers and sisters were so entranced by this project, they too wanted to be included. And so they were - placed in a Junior Group - and they too built their own rockets.

Today, Saturday, was the big **Launch Day!** Over 50 CAP members, families, and spectators gathered at noon in the Florida Sports Park, Rattlesnake Hammock extended, to watch the CAP Cadets and juniors successfully launch twelve rockets. Four special launch pads were constructed by Rene Simon for this event. The weather cooperated and the early afternoon was hot and clear with very little breeze to affect the descending parachutes.

The rockets fired reached altitudes of about 2,500 to over 3,000 feet; it was spectacular to view them disappear in the sky. As they reached their maximum altitude, a secondary firing device blew off the nose cone to release a chute and the entire rocket parachuted back to earth.

Almost all of the rockets launched were retrieved for future use and several parachuted back close to the launch pad area.

Senior members Lee Henderson, Dick and Ann Niess, Angela Andrews, Pat Lammersfeld, and Peter Baker were among the spectators. Peter Baker also participated in the rocket building and had a very successful launch. Several members of the press were also present and we hope to see some articles appear in the Marco and Naples newspapers.

I took a number of photos and these can be viewed at <http://picasaweb.google.com/richard.niess/RocketProgram> I suggest you view them by clicking on the Slideshow option.

Please cut out any published articles you see and bring them to the next meeting.

Our sincere thanks go out to Tim and Rene for their dedication in running this project - it could not have been so successfully accomplished without them! Also our thanks to all the parents of the cadets who helped them and came out to see their cadet (and junior in some cases) have a successful launch.

Dick

Richard C. Niess LtCol CAP  
Public Affairs Officer  
Marco Island CAP Composite Squadron 376  
Florida Wing  
Home: 239-530-0786  
Cell: 239-595-9588  
[rniess@embarqmail.com](mailto:rniess@embarqmail.com)

<http://www.marcoislandcap.org/>