

Book review in October 2006 issue of **extreme rocketry**

***Go For Launch* Book Review**

Review by Steve Ainsworth



“If you only add one book a year to your HPR library, or are considering flying some of the big stuff soon, get *Go For Launch* as a reference!”

The title, *Go For Launch* is essentially a 317 page launch report for the worlds greatest EX launch. This EX launch began in 1950 and continues today at Cape Canaveral, Florida. The “launch report” includes two or three photographs per page, with great project descriptions, launch prep photos, interviews and even rocket specific data as it might appear on a flight card. As at any EX launch, there are fantastic CATO photos, with an engineering diagnosis of the problems. These are all “heads up” flights!

The first rocket to fly from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station was a “Bumper” rocket in July 1950. The Bumper was a V2 with a WAC Corporal upper stage added. Also flown in 1950 was the Lark Missile. The Lark was 173 inches long and 18 inches in diameter. Just about the right size for a Delmar Dry Lake or a Blackrock Aeronaut launch today!

As I read through the book I noticed that many of the early failures

really sound like EX launch failure reports. They had blown forward closures for solid rocket motors, airframe structural failures as the velocity approached Mach 1, loss of stability due to component failures, and recovery failures similar to ours. They even had a Redstone that following the launch signal misfired, sat on the pad and popped the chute by timer. A definite recovery “closest to the pad” winner.

Recommendation

If you only add one book a year to your HPR library, or are considering flying some of the big stuff soon, get *Go For Launch* as a reference!

Pro’s

Go For Launch has many never before published photos of launches, launch attempts, and launch failures. The best part of the book is the explanation discussion that goes into the cause of the failures. The photos also provide detail of

inter-stage connections and flight profile (guidance) control strategies. I believe that there is material in the book that can be applied to today’s high powered rockets.

Con’s

Most of the Apogee Books include a CD or DVD of related video. Some of the *Go For Launch* photos are frames from motion pictures of the launches. Apogee has spoiled me, I would like to have seen a DVD with some of the motion picture footage included.

Product Info

Go For Launch: An Illustrated History of Cape Canaveral

By: Joel W.Powell with Art LeBrun
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www.apogeebooks.com