

RRS NEWS

FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
ROCKETRY AND ASTRONAUTICS

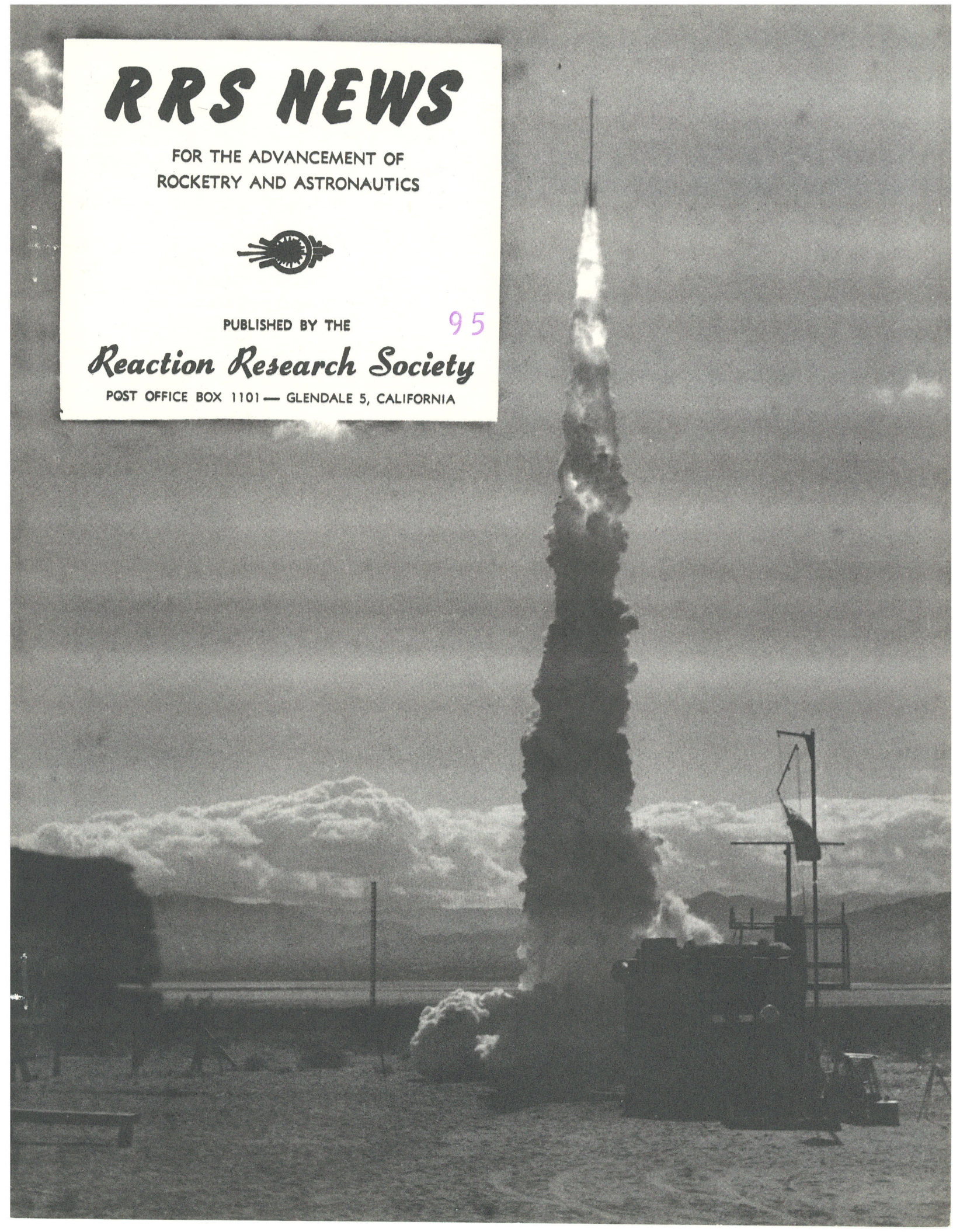


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Reaction Research Society

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REACTION RESEARCH SOCIETY

NEWS

FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ROCKETRY AND ASTRONAUTICS

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REACTION RESEARCH SOCIETY, INCORPORATED

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R.R.S. NEWS Number 95

SUMMER 1961

R.R.S. Meetings

5th R.R.S. Rocket Mail Flight, May 27, 1961

M. T. A. Development

September 9, rocket test program

Student Program

A. R. A. Convention

H₂ O₂ Report

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REACTION RESEARCH SOCIETY MEETING NOTICE

HEADQUARTERS DISCUSSION MEETINGS: Monday, October 9, November 13, and December 13, 1961 at 7:30 p.m. at the Casa Verdugo Branch of the Glendale Public Library, 1151 North Brand Boulevard, Glendale. Movies and membership projects will be shown. Open to the public.

NOTICE

Due to difficulties in publishing the R.R.S. NEWS, the regular quarterly issues that were omitted will be made to apply on future issues of the NEWS. Those subscribing to the R.R.S. NEWS will automatically have their subscriptions extended for another year.

Flown Rocket Mail Covers

From the R.R.S. 5th Rocket Mail Flight, there are remaining less than 150 covers postmarked, Randsburg, May 27, 1961, and only 110 souvenir mint stamp sheets (2 stamps per sheet). The covers sell for \$2.00 each, postpaid, and the souvenir stamp sheets are \$1.00 per sheet of 2 stamps, postpaid.

This rocket mail flight being our most successful in the last few years will be followed by a special rocket mail flight sometime in January or June of next year. Advanced notices will be given when the date can be announced.

5th R.R.S. ROCKET MAIL FLIGHT

MAY 27, 1961

As the date for the important time of an Official Society Rocket Mail Flight nears, organized confusion in rampart. Excitement runs high as all of the rocket components are checked for readiness. Countless errands have to be run. Last minute checking of the Society Postoffice box must be made for orders received on the pre-flight date.

As we complete packing equipment and at last are on the way to the Townsite of Randsburg in the wee hours of the morning, there always remains that same old thought, has anything been forgotten. Then as you are traveling the 145 miles to the desert, anxiety increases about what type of weather we will have, will permit a successful launching of the mail rocket.

After entering the site of launching, all of these things are forgotten and there is nothing but hurried work details of preparing rockets, loading them and setting up the firing circuit in advance of having the completed rocket installed within the launcher. After all of these details have been completed, the prepare to launch signal is given. After all other crewman are behind protective cover, the firing crew prepares to arm the rocket. Then the red flag is raised on it's staff, designating that the rocket is armed and the count-down will begin from 30 seconds. Everyones pulse increases as the count-down goes from 9-----1 FIRE!

Because of the nature of the rapid burning solid fuel, the flight is over in less time than it takes for the count-down. The all clear sounded, the green flag replaces the red and the recovery crew is on it's way to pick up the compartment of rocket mail covers that have flown more than a mile down the flight range. After the removal of the protective wrapped packages of flown covers they are immediately loaded in the nearest vehicle-- and are on the way to the Postoffice of Randsburg.

No, its not over yet, now begins the hurried assembly of all personel present to apply regular AIRMAIL stamps to the Rocket Cache Covers. Finally as the 2000 covers are at last all completely stamped and are delivered--- in this case to a Post-mistress, everyone can make that sigh of relief. The rewarding feeling of success is felt by all. Consummating another Rocket Mail Flight of which the Reaction Research Society has been pioneering since June 27, 1947 with it's First flight across the Colorado River, from Winterhaven, California to Yuma, Arizona.

MOJAVE TEST AREA DEVELOPMENT

I would like to make a proposal that the Reaction Research Society take the initiative in developing the Mojave Test Area. As an interested party I have observed the excellent results of the work of a few members of the R.R.S. and the P.R.S. However, much more work needs to be done, and I will mention a few projects that seem to be in order.

But-what is really needed is for individual members-- You who are reading this article-- to pick on small project, which you know you can do and would like to do, and offer it as Your contribution to your Society. A project needn't be big: for example, if each member had contributed one concrete block and carried it out to the MTA each time they went out there, we could have some really solid facilities by now.

Besides a sign that has already been made to be posted at the entrance road to the MTA. There is need for guide posts along the dirt road leading to the area. Small arrows saying "MTA" mounted on a sign and anchored to a sturdy post 4" by 4" every half mile or so would be sufficient. Here's a project you could build and install--maybe one, each time you took a trip out to the MTA and it would be there every time you passed, and you would have the feeling ' I did that'. I know the R.R.S. News would be proud to give proper credit for good jobs, well done.

Another really important project: a permanently marked range. Right now, if you ask one of the rocket builders who have fired at MTA "which way did it go and how far?". The rocket 'scientist' could only answer, ' It went that-a-way' and, 'a far piece'. Without permanently fixed base line, measurements cannot be accurate. Every time the launching tower is lowered or raised, it is probably pointing in a different direction. The solution to these haphazard practices is not really difficult. There already exists a good fixed point; the solid concrete launching pad. All that is necessary for a base line is another accurately fixed point down range. A small concrete pad would do, but a visible tower or post would serve many valuable functions. A 30 foot pole, painted alternately red and white every 5 feet, at a distance of 500 or 1000 feet down range would aid immeasurably, in aligning the launching tower, in establishing a relative wind direction, and in providing a base for measuring to a downed rocket. It is a must for laying out accurate tracking, and photo-tracking stations. Most photographs would show such a tower and provide a relative yardstick.

So, the Society does need your help. Better yet, the bits of work of each member does is what really makes the Society.

George Dosa