



Jim Fox of the Bruce Peninsula District High School gets his homemade rocket ready for launching.

Club launches 200 rockets

For two days last week, members of the Rocket Club of the Bruce Peninsula District School in Lion's Head launched 200 rockets in a field near the village.

Most launchings were successful and flights to heights over 2000' were common.

There was the occasional problem: A rocket fizzled on the launching pad or somersaulted through the air; there were some misfires. Jeff Hatt's rocket performed beautifully except that it went horizontal rather than vertical, and when last seen, was heading toward his home on Highway 6 at remarkable speed.

One hundred and fifty students are members of the rocket club, and two-thirds of them are between grades 5 and 8. All students built their own rockets and in the case of thirty senior students, even designed them.

Launching systems were similar to those used at Cape Canaveral and Houston. From a remote control panel at the command table, each student fired his or her own rocket. Students with a tracking device measured heights reached, and other students acted as recovery teams. Communication was by 2-way radio.

When the rockets reached their maximum height, the nose

cones opened and a small parachute opened, hopefully. Many rockets were recovered and fired again, after being recharged in the assembly area.

The Lion's Head rocket club has been launching for nine years.

The altitude record was set two years ago. A rocket named 'Kon-Tiki Joe', designed and built by Sylvia Rodgers, reached a height of 4200 feet.

Science teachers Doug Cunningham and Tom Heatherington were on hand to help, last week.

According to Cunningham, there will probably be a rocket meet next year with clubs from other schools in Bruce County.