ATHA Dauphin (Dolphin) Sounding Rocket



The Dauphin project was the first team effort of the Access to High Altitude (ATHA) group, based in Calgary and affiliated with the museum. Flying initially under the name "Team O Canada", the Dauphin was a huge success!



The 16.5 ft, 300 lb. rocket flew at the Roc Lake V site south of Taber, Alberta on June 28, 2003 to an apogee of 5924 ft. (1805 m). It was successfully recovered within a few hundred yards of the launch tower.

In October 2002, the team selected the Dauphin configuration for its prototype. The major criterion for the design was a large, stable rocket that would provide an apogee of less than 10,000 ft. (3048 m) using the Cesaroni Pro 150 O5100 motor.

The launch vehicle is close to being a full-scale model of the original Dauphin, a French (CNES) meteorological sounding rocket from the late 1960s, which had a height of 6.21m (20ft. 4 in.) and reached an apogee of 110 km (68 miles). The CNES Dauphin flew in many configurations including two stage configurations with another Dauphin propulsion section on top of the first stage.

The achievements that the Dauphin Project established include: a new Canadian Association of Rocketry Record for complex Impulse Altitude at 5924 ft (1805 m);

The largest and heaviest amateur rocket ever launched in Canada The highest thrust and highest impulse amateur rocketry motor (40,700 Newtons) in Canada.

The first commercial, non-military use of the CTIO5100 rocket motor. The first full-scale model of the CNES Dauphin to fly. It flew to a Canadian record altitude of 1805 m, or 5924 ft.

