

Catapult Launch Glider Launching Stick

This article shamelessly lifted from the July-August 2001 Issue of "The Max-Out" the Newsletter of the Magnificent Mountain Men, Rick Pangell, Editor

Every so often, someone comes up with a good idea. This one is no exception. I'll re-cap the discussion as it came over the internet.

Bill Gieskeing was responding to Kevin Mosely over the FF Mailing List. The discussion was queried regarding the 9 inch loop of rubber allowed by the CLG rules.

Kevin: "Was messing around with a 9" loop of rubber tonight and seeing just how far it can be stretched. The problem is that I feel that there is not that much pull on 9". Would models not get higher if it were 7" which would give you more power to pull back (unless you are 7 foot tall or over) on the launch than 9"?"

Bill replied: "Yes, Kev, you are right. The rubber must be stretched right up to the breaking point. The last few inches give you a tremendous power spike.

My arms are too short to let me use the 9" loop correctly. Since I didn't want to waste the available power in the longer loop, I made a special launching dowel. The rules call for a 6" dowel. A dowel can be other than wood even though that is what comes immediately to mind. Nothing is specified about the diameter. It is stated that the rubber is attached to one end.

I used a nylon rod 3/4" X 6" and drilled a hole through it lengthwise. I bell mouthed the lip like a trombone mouth. I fastened the allowed loop at the bottom and fed it through the bore and out the bell mouthed topside. I lubed the rubber real good (sic) so it will go around the lip with little friction.

This gives me a legal launching dowel — albeit one contentious soul I always manage to run into refers it to a "cheater stick." I think of it instead as a semi-equalizer. It does not give a tremendous advantage but it is a help, and is proudly offered as on of my good ideas."



