

BARC Winter Launch Shutdown Period

Due to factors related to winter field conditions associated with **BARC's Rabbit Hill Farm** launch site, it has become necessary to implement a **Winter Field Shutdown Period** when **no launches will be scheduled**. Presently, and for the foreseeable future, **BARC** will no longer schedule launches during **January** and **February**.

Although extending the shutdown period into March was also considered, it was decided that scheduling March launches would be evaluated on current March weather conditions.

BARC is privileged to have an exceptional launch site, but it does not come without limitations. During the winter months (when the ground is, or has been, frozen) the access roadways and bare ground parking areas produce a very slippery, muddy, "sludge" whenever it rains before the launch day; or when the air temperature rises above freezing during the day.

We experienced those conditions at the February 2016 launch. Cars parked quite a distance from the launch area; equipment and people were "taxied" to the pad areas, cars got stuck and created ruts, and the slippery footing created a safety hazard.

We all look forward to the next launch day. However, **personal safety** and **protecting the owner's property** must take priority over our hobby desires. With that in mind, the decision was made not to expose our members, friends, and potential visitors to those conditions again.

Equally (if not more) important is preserving the property owner's good will. The **Rabbit Hill Farm** owner is a gracious and accommodating, host. Yet, we all know that guests overstaying their welcome in someone else's home can erode a relationship. So perhaps it's not such a bad idea to also give them a "breather" from having our presence on their property, creating muddy ruts, or being asked to help extract a stuck vehicle...

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