

The APRL Archives

1st Issue - Summer & Beginning Fall Quarter

APRL Actuates Valves, sees Third Chief, Visual Update, New Website and Record Number of Potential New Members to Date.

by Business & Operations

Welcome to The APRL Archives! The official APRL newsletter committed to bringing students, alumni, and the general public up-to-date and excited to be supporting APRL!

Although the Summer heat this year had grown hotter with great intensity seemingly every week, Aggie Propulsion & Rocketry Lab (APRL) has taken fast strides to cruise into the 2026 Fall Quarter. Efforts made by the club to extend outreach and club presence have led to a record-breaking number of potential new members in APRL history, as the club has seen more than 200 people join the official Discord since the rebrand went live on Tuesday, September 22nd. New club structuring through a third Chief Systems Engineer, a tentative schedule set in stone, and dates for key project testing have been decided as APRL plans for a Spring 2027 launch date.

Record Number of Potential New Members kicks off Fall Quarter

With the start of the 2026 Fall Quarter, APRL has seen a surge in potential new members



APRL at the 2026 UC Davis College of Engineering Club Fair

who have all expressed their interest in joining the club. With 200+ people joining the APRL Discord, and an increase of about 150 Instagram followers, from the UCD College of Engineering Club Fair, branding and outreach efforts have seen great success.

Following APRL's record growth, the club has hosted a total of three meetings to slowly introduce these new students into APRL's subteams, club structure, and various programs used by members. The team's New Member's Info Night saw more than 120 students in attendance to learn about APRL,

and two Onboarding meetings allow students to gain a better understanding of more in-depth work that each subteam handles, as well as the various applications and programs that they may utilize.

Visual Update brings APRL to modernity.

With the 2026 - 2027 academic year at UC Davis proving to be an extremely pivotal point for the club, the Business & Operations subteam has launched a visual update to the club's existing branding in

ENGINE
PROPELLANT FEED

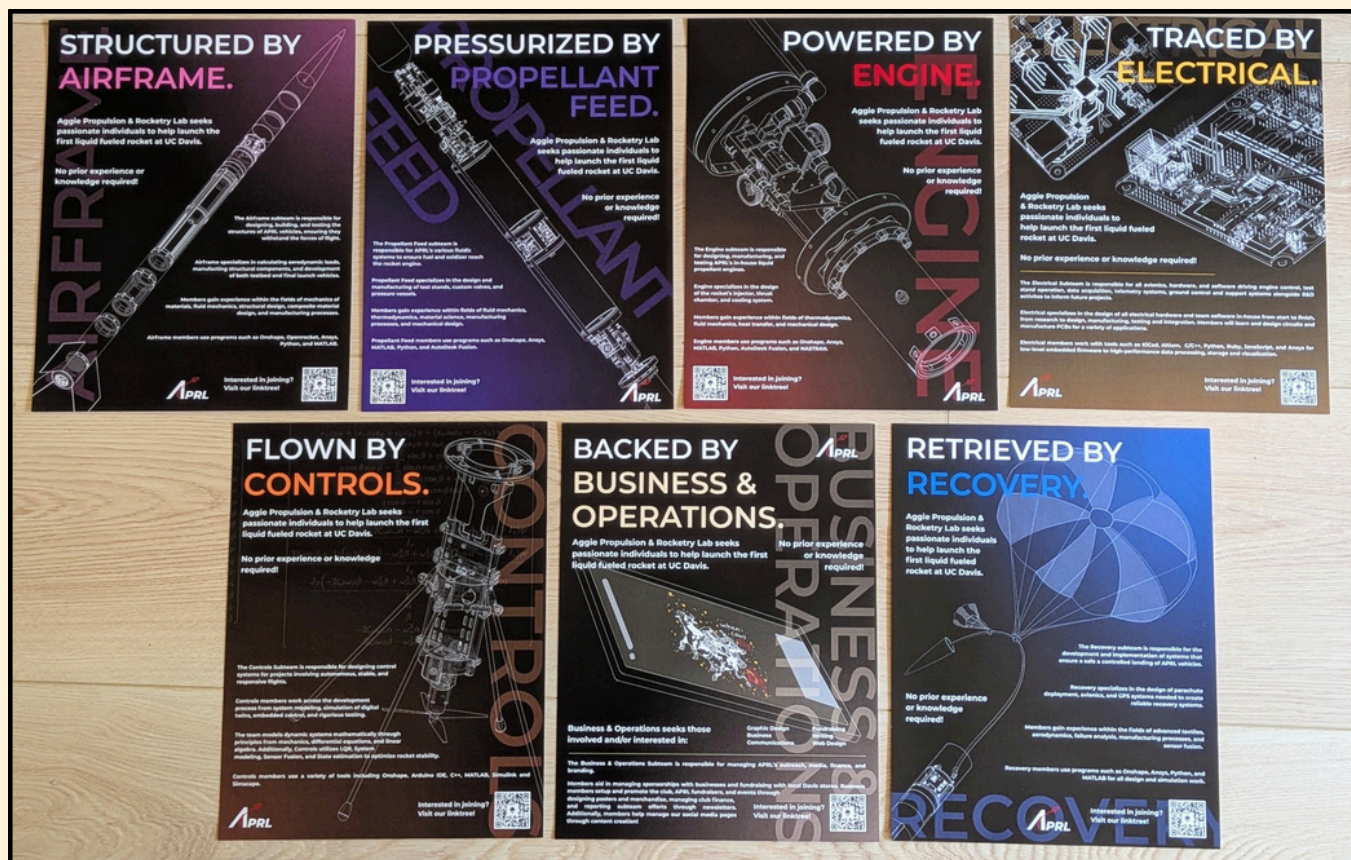


RECOVERY
AIRFRAME



ELECTRICAL
CONTROLS
BUSINESS & OPERATIONS





Subteam specific posters!

in order to cement the club's new commitment towards expanding media and outreach.

The visual update has seen a refreshed and refined APRL logo, subteam color identities, and a clear club theme, all while maintaining our a level of simplicity and professionalism that APRL has always been known for. The updated logo brings color and a small refresh while remaining minimal, staying true to the club's origin. Many variations on the logo ensure adaptability to media, a must-have as APRL's social media presence begins to grow.

Additionally, all Subteams now have their own unique color! Our new color palette has already implemented on certain projects, such as our new recruitment posters!

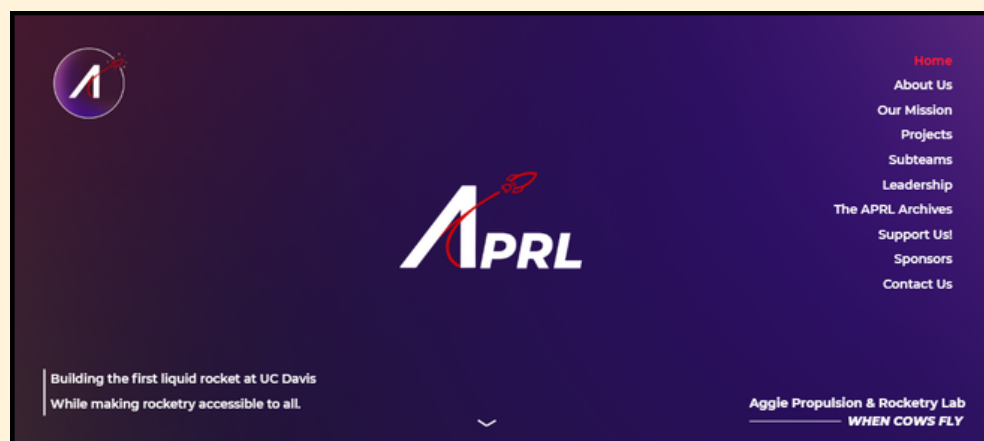
The visual update has also been implemented into APRL's social media accounts such as discord, instagram, and our new, redesigned website!

When/Where Cows Fly: APRL's Overhauled Website is now live!

Rounding out the visual update is a newly completed

overhaul of APRL's website! The new site features consistent color and brand theming, a new sponsorship page, and an in-the-works project pages about all our past and current projects!

We encourage you to explore the new Aggie Propulsion & Rocketry Lab website at aprl.space.



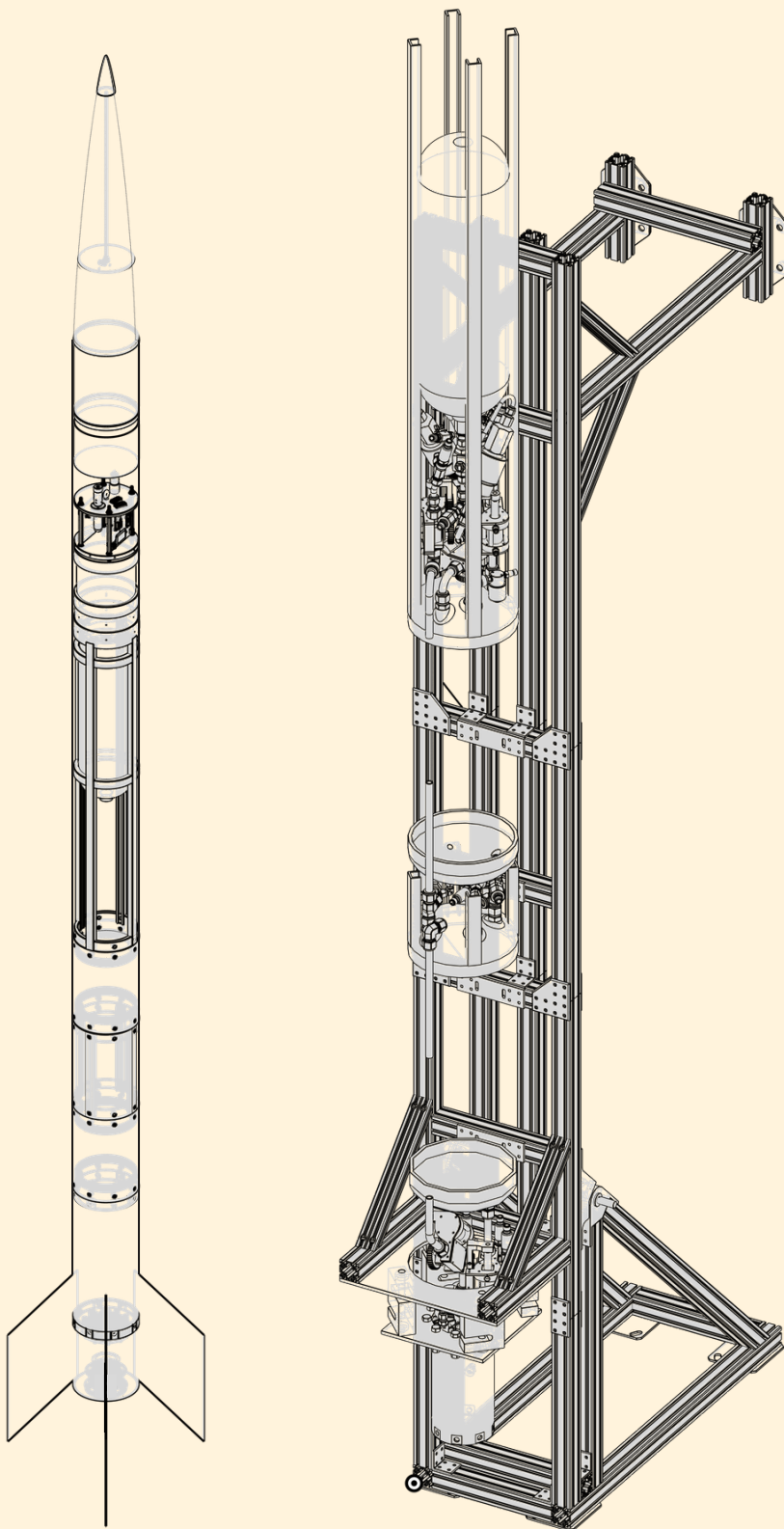
Overhauled website homepage concept!

November 21st, 2026 set as the Official Date for VTS hotfire and Ophiotaurus launch.

With the new quarter beginning, APRL leads have locked in a tentative schedule for the first hotfire of Propulsion's Vertical Test Stand system, VTS, as well as the launch of Vehicle's solid full-scale rocket named Ophiotaurus. The group targets for November 21st, and plans to complete final parts purchasing, complete manufacturing, and full testing procedures have been scheduled for both projects to ensure they are ready for transit and setup at the Friends of Amateur Rocketry site.

Currently, the group is beginning the manufacturing and testing of these systems while balancing the surge of new members. VTS and Ophiotaurus are key projects for APRL, as both projects will lead into the production and launch of APRL's first liquid fueled rocket. VTS will prove the culmination of work from Engine, Propellant Feed, and Electrical systems are functioning properly. Similarly, the launch of Ophiotaurus will demonstrate that the Airframe and Recovery systems are in working order for a successful flight.

These pivotal events will accelerate APRL into achieving our goals by a targeted end of the 2026-2027 academic year. A goal in the making since the beginning of APRL, and a goal that seems closer than ever to achieving.



Current models of both Ophiotaurus (left) and Vertical Test Stand (right).

2026 - 2027 Leads

Chief Systems Engineer - Daniel Fan

Chief Engineer of Propulsion - Charan Sampath

Chief Engineer of Vehicle - Natasha Alvarenga

Engine Lead - Jasper Dratt

Propellant Feed Leads - Cole Walker, Rubi Rodriguez

Airframe Leads - Adam Pratt Dermer, Samuel Sargent Walker, Trey Lowry

Recovery Lead - Eva Zhou

Electrical Leads - Nolan Poe, Daniel Fan

Controls Lead - Lucas Bauckman

Business & Operations Leads - Vaughn Bui, Benjamin Nguyen



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