

# CANADIAN ROCKETMAIL FLIGHT SUMMARY

**2011 to 2014**

*NEW!!! PAGES 9-11 catalogs the latest twelve rocket mail covers including sixteen Gerhard Zucker 1936 postage stamps which will be on board the fifth and final flight of Wilfred Ashley McIsaac's rocket mail program which launched on May 14th, 2014.*



**Wilfred Ashley McIsaac's Canadian rocketmail program using scale models powered with composite fuel successfully delivered letters with 'First Canadian Rocket-Flight' postage stamps for the first time in Canadian history.**

Any relative Philatelic information in this article is from the Air Mails Of Canada And Newfoundland, A Volume in the Sixth Edition of the American Air mail Catalogue. Copyright 1997. Page numbers are also given. The book officially recognizes the Gerhard Zucker stamps as the first Canadian rocketmail stamps produced on record for Canada.

According to the Air Mails Of Canada And Newfoundland publication, the only rocket launch to occur in Canada's history with Canadian rocket mail postage on board took place in February of 1958 (pg# 451). However, the Astrobee D rocket impacted the ice up in Hudson Bay and was never recovered. Fifty-four years later McIsaac's second flight of his rocket mail program actually used an Astrobee D scale rocket as the launch vehicle. McIsaac's covers however were successfully retrieved and mailed or cancelled from the nearest post office in the town of Gananoque.

Prior to McIsaac's launches and based on the catalogue record, no rocket mail flights in Canada have ever been flown and recovered safely while using Canadian rocket mail postage stamps.

**Key to listing: Year designation, followed by:**

**CF- flown covers**

**RP- flown rocket mail stamps**

**CX- unflown covers**

**RX- unflown rocket mail stamps**

courtesy Air Mails Of Canada and Newfoundland

All Gerhard Zucker postage (page 449) in the Air Mails Of Canada and Newfoundland are listed as unflown rocket mail stamps.. No other flown rocket stamps (RP) are indicated in the publication. The Zucker stamps listed below should now be under the code RP (flown rocket mail stamp) and not RX (unflown rocket mail stamp).

## **FLIGHT 1 ARCAS ROCKET: October 31st/2011 10:15AM**

**WEATHER:** Clear and cool



*(left) Program Operator Wilfred Ashley Mclsaac proudly shows off Canada's first mail letters successfully delivered and recovered by rocket using rocket mail stamps. (right) Mclsaac poses with the ARCAS scale rocket prior to lift-off.*

**Operator:** Wilfred Ashley Mclsaac (rocket and mail cover design)

**Flight location:** Gananoque Airport, Gananoque, Ontario **Flight Path:** Parabolic

**Rocket:** ARCAS high-powered rocket from Aerotech. **Fuel:** Composite

**Pound Thrust:** 18 pounds est. **Altitude:** 2500 feet. **Total Distance Traveled:** approx. 1.5 km

**Payload:** Seven letters with Gerhard Zucker 'First Canadian Rocket-Flight' stamps onboard.

**5 'First Canadian Rocket-Flight' 50 cent stamps May 1936 36RX3** pg# 449

(Western Scene: Rockies, buffalo and riding indian)

**2 'First Canadian Rocket-Flight' 75 cent stamps May 1936 36RX4** pg# 449

(Western Scene: Rockies, buffalo, and riding indian)

**Special Notes:** The 4.75 foot Arcas rocket lifted off from the airstrip in Leeds and The Thousand Islands township. During the flight the vehicle crossed into Leeds and Grenville united counties before returning home. The stamps were cancelled or mailed from the nearest Post office in the town of Gananoque, Ontario. **Witnesses:** Rennie Mclsaac, Greg Falcon, James Ryschlo.



*(above) a look at the 2011 rocketmail covers before being loaded on-board the ARCAS rocket.*



(left) Launch Organizer Wilfred Ashley Mclsaac flies his scale ARCAS rocket on October 31st, 2011 carrying Canadian mail onboard. (right) One of several Gerhard Zucker 'First Canadian Rocket-Flight' postage stamps used in Canada's first ever rocketmail flight using rocket postage which was later recovered.



(left) Program Organizer Wilfred Ashley Mclsaac stands on the county line dividing Leeds and the Thousand Islands township and Leeds and Grenville united counties. Over Mclsaac's left shoulder the airfields hangar located in Leeds and the Thousand Islands township can be seen in the far background behind the old shack. (right) The ARCAS rocket returns for a perfect landing after its flight over two townships and two united counties.

## **Flight 2 ASTROBEE D ROCKET: MAY 11TH/ 2012 EVENING LAUNCH**

**8:15PM** (originally scheduled for May 5th) **WEATHER:** Clear



(left) Launch Operator Wilfred Ashley Mclsaac with his Astrobbee D high-powered rocket prior to the May 11th evening launch. (Right) The payload carrying Canadian mail as well as an advanced electronics package named the 'Astrologger 54' was recovered safely on the tarmac following the successful test launch.

**Operator:** Wilfred Ashley Mclsaac (rocket and mail cover design)

**Flight Location:** Gananoque Airport, Gananoque, Ontario **Flight Path:** Vertical

**Rocket:** Astrobee D high-powered rocket by Aerotech. **Fuel:** Composite

**Pound Thrust:** 16 pounds **Altitude:** Under 1000 feet. **Total Distance Travelled:** approx. 0.6 km

**Payload:** Five letters with Gerhard Zucker 'First Canadian Rocket-Flight' stamps on board. The Astrologger 54 electronics package.

**4 'First Canadian Rocket-Flight' 50 cent stamps May 1936 36RX3** pg# 449

(Western Scene: Rockies, buffalo, and riding indian)

**1 'First Canadian Rocket-Flight' 75 cent stamps May 1936 36RX4** pg# 449

(Western Scene: Rockies, buffalo, and riding indian)

**Special Notes:** The evening launch on May 11th, 2012 of the 3.25 pound 5.8 foot Astrobee D rocket was a successful test of the Astrologger 54 electronics package which was located inside the payload compartment underneath the mail partition. Although the altitude was lower than expected the test flight was considered an overwhelming success. All mail was cancelled at the nearest Post Office in the town of Gananoque, Ontario. **Witnesses:** Rennie Mclsaac, Greg Falcon



(left) One of five letters on board the Astrobee D high-powered rocket during the second flight on May 11th in Wilfred Ashley Mclsaac's rocketmail program. (right) The 'Astrologger 54' advanced electronics package featured two state-of-the-art altimeters as well as a cooling system which circulates air throughout the rockets cargo bay before being vented back outside.

**Flight 3 ASTROBEE D III ROCKET:** JUNE 29TH/2012 High winds delayed launch

until 10:30am. **Weather:** Clear with wind gusts up to 25 km/h.



(left) The Astrobee D III is examined back in Kingston following the crash on June 29th, 2012. (right) Picture taken of slightly damaged cargo following the doomed test flight .

**Operator:** Wilfred Ashley Mclsaac (rocket and mail cover design)

**Flight Location:** Gananoque Airport, Gananoque, Ontario **Flight Path:** Parabolic

**Rocket:** Astrobee D III test vehicle (modified Aerotech Astrobee D with 3 strap-on boosters)

**Fuel:** Composite main engine with black powder for the boosters. **Stages:** 1 1/2

**Pound Thrust:** 24 pounds **Altitude:** approx. 1600 feet **Total Distance Travelled:** approx. 1 km

**Payload:** Seven letters with Gerhard Zucker postage attached. Two on board cameras.

**5 'First Canadian Rocket-Flight' 50 cent stamps May 1936 36RX3** pg# 449

(Western Scene: Rockies, buffalo, and riding indian)

**2 'Rocket Flight From Canada to U.S.A' 75 cent stamps May 1936 36RX8** pg# 449

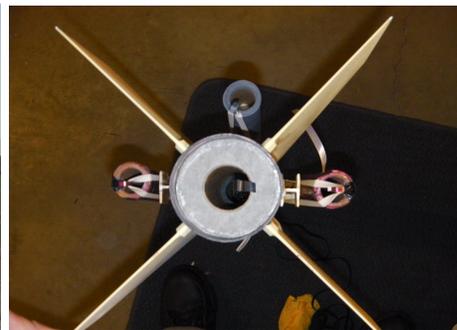
(Niagara Falls Scene: rocket over the falls)

**Special Notes:** The 5.8 foot Astrobee D III experimental mail rocket was powered by a main composite motor along with three smaller strap-on boosters located around the base of the rocket and fueled by black powder. The 2.87 pound vehicle crashed into a cornfield several hundred yards from the launch site when it nose dived from an estimated 1200-1600 feet after the boosters failed to ignite. The 1 1/2 stage rocket including two onboard cameras was completely destroyed. The mail received only minimal damage however and was cancelled at the nearest Post Office in the town of Gananoque, Ontario.

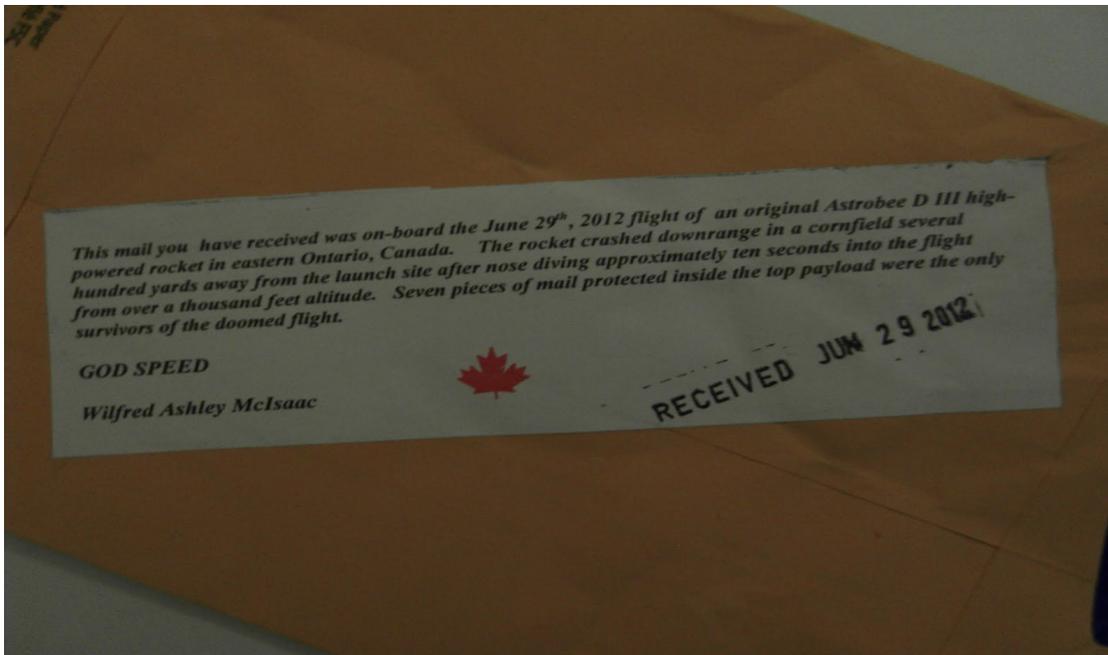
**Witnesses:** Rennie Mclsaac, James Ryschlo.



*(left) A sequence of pics showing the lift-off of the Astrobee D III rocket on June 29th, 2012. The vehicle ultimately nose dived into a cornfield after all three strap-on boosters failed to ignite. (right) Program operator Wilfred Ashley McIsaac arrives at the crash site and immediately examines the buckled payload section. The seven letters were later retrieved with only minor damage.*



*(left) During a short delay due to wind gusts the test rocket is being reexamined by McIsaac while an onlooker watches. (right) The three strap-on boosters failed to ignite on the launch pad and were essentially dead weight during the test flight which ended in disaster.*



(above) All seven mail letters onboard the June 29th test flight which crashed into a cornfield outside Gananoque, Ontario received only minor damage. Following the accident a note describing the incident was attached to the backside of the rocket mail envelopes before being sent to the United States for auction.

**FLIGHT 4 ASTROBEE D IV SUPER BOOSTER** launched on November 6th, 2012 at 11:45 am  
at  
the Gananoque airport in eastern  
Ontario.



(left) The Astrobe D IV 'Super Booster' lifts off from the gananoque airport on November 6th. (right) The aft end of the main booster clearly shows the two integrated side boosters and the main sustainer in the middle. The three motors will combine to give the rocket over 40 pounds of thrust.

The fourth flight of Wilfred Ashley Mclsaac 's Canadian rocketmail experiment carried twelve letters with Gerhard Zucker postage attached.

**Operator:** Wilfred Ashley Mclsaac (rocket and mail cover design)

**Flight Location:** Gananoque Airport, Gananoque, Ontario **Flight Path:** vertical

**Rocket:** Astrobe D IV 'Super Booster' **Fuel:** Composite and Black Powder

**Pound Thrust:** 41 pounds **Stages:** 1 ½ (Booster ignition malfunction) **Altitude:** under 1000 feet

**Total Distance Travelled:** approx. 0.5 km's

**Payload:** Twelve mail covers with a variety of Gerhard Zucker 1936 Canadian postage stamps attached concluded the rocket mail program. The list below includes all Zucker stamps participating in the final launch. When no space appears from one line to the next, this indicates both stamps are on the same cover.

**3 'First Canadian Rocket-Flight' 50 cent stamps May 1936 36RX3** pg# 449  
(Western Scene: Rockies, buffalo, and riding indian)

**2 'First Canadian Rocket-Flight' 75 cent stamps May 1936 36RX4** pg# 449  
(Western Scene: Rockies, buffalo, and riding indian)

**1 'Rocket-Flight From U.S.A. to Canada' 50 cent stamp May 1936 36RX9** pg# 449  
(Rocket over Niagara Falls, May 1936)

**1 'Rocket-Flight From U.S.A. to Canada' 50 cent stamp May 1936 36RX9** pg# 449  
(Rocket over Niagara Falls, May 1936)

**1 'Rocket-Flight New York' 50 cent stamp May 1936 36RX1** pg# 449  
(Triangular stamp showing rocket over New York City)

**1 'Rocket-Flight From U.S.A. to Canada' 75 cent stamp May 1936 36RX10** pg# 449  
(Rocket over Niagara Falls, May 1936)

**1 'Rocket-Flight From U.S.A. to Canada' 75 cent stamp May 1936 36RX10** pg# 449  
(Rocket over Niagara Falls, May 1936)

**1 'Rocket-Flight New York' 75 cent stamp May 1936 36RX2** pg# 449  
(Triangular stamp showing rocket over New York City)

**1 'American Rocket Flight' 50 cent stamp May 1936 36RX5** pg# 449  
(Orange-red and blue)

**1 'American Rocket Flight' 75 cent stamp May 1936 36RX6** pg# 449  
(Orange-red and blue)

**1 'Rocket In Flight Over Statue Of Liberty' 50 cent stamp May 1936 36RX12** pg# 450  
(Gold, rocket in flight over Statue of Liberty)

**Special Notes:** The fourth and final flight of the Canadian rocketmail program concluded on November 6th, 2012 with the launch of the Astrobee D IV 'Super Booster'. The two integral side boosters failed to ignite on the launch pad and the on board backup system failed as well. The test flight did prove the Astrobee D IV's stability. The payload was jettisoned on time and returned to the ground under a bright orange parachute. Twelve letters were recovered and were either cancelled or delivered from the nearest post office in Gananoque, Ontario.

Following the fourth flight of Wilfred Ashley McIsaac's rocket mail program the entire collection of Gerhard Zucker 1936 Canadian rocket mail postage stamps have been officially flown on board one of McIsaac's rockets.





(above) Four of the twelve mail covers which were flown on board the fourth and final launch of the Canadian rocketmail program on November 6th, 2012.

## **FLIGHT 5 ASTROBEE D IV (D) May 14th, 2014**



(above left) The Astrobbee D IV (D) roars off the launch pad during its final test flight on May 14th, 2014. Although the rocket reached a minimal altitude of under 500 feet while travelling 1000 feet downrange, the test flight was considered an overwhelming success. The low altitude was attributed to a variety of factors including low thrust from the main engine as well as the twin integral side boosters, poor weather conditions, launch pad complications, and finally it was simply a heavy rocket. (above right) Rennie McIsaac (left side of pic) Roger Sugarman (right side of pic) with launch commander Wilfred Ashley McIsaac in the center following the May 14th test flight.

**Operator:** Wilfred Ashley McIsaac (rocket and mail cover design)

**Flight Location:** Gananoque Airport, Gananoque, Ontario **Flight Path:** Parabolic

**Rocket:** Astrobbee D IV (D) **Fuel:** Composite and Black Powder **Guidance:** Weather Cocking

**Pound Thrust:** (first stage) 38.28 pounds (second stage) 2.24 pounds **Stages:** 2 ½

**Altitude:** 500 feet **Downrange distance:** 1000 feet **Velocity:** 157 f/s **Acceleration** 14.64 g's

**Payload:** Twelve mail covers with a variety of Gerhard Zucker 1936 Canadian postage stamps attached. Electronics Bay #1 (EB1) located in nosecone and Electronics Bay #2 (EB2) located

in the aft of main booster. Two on board flight cameras.

**Special Notes:** The final flight of Part 1 of Wilfred Ashley McIsaac's *Canadian Rocket Mail Program* was launched on May 14th, 2014, at the Gananoque Airport in eastern Ontario. The short test flight with the complex 2 ½ stage Astrobee D IV (D) was a success and the mail was recovered safely 1000 feet downrange. Six of the twelve covers will be sent to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where an American named Andrew Warwick will launch them in another rocket before the covers are sent to Oregon for sale on Ebay.

**3 'Rocket Flight From Canada to U.S.A' 50 cent stamps May 1936 36RX7** pg# 449

(Niagara Falls Scene: rocket over the falls)

**2 'Rocket Flight From Canada to U.S.A' 75 cent stamps May 1936 36RX8** pg# 449

(Niagara Falls Scene: rocket over the falls)

**2 'First Canadian Rocket-Flight' 75 cent stamps May 1936 36RX4** pg# 449

(Western Scene: Rockies, buffalo, and riding indian)

**1 'First Canadian Rocket-Flight' 50 cent stamps May 1936 36RX3** pg# 449

(Western Scene: Rockies, buffalo, and riding indian)

**1 'Rocket Flight From Canada to U.S.A' 50 cent stamps May 1936 36RX7** pg# 449

(Niagara Falls Scene: rocket over the falls)

**1 'First Canadian Rocket-Flight' 50 cent stamps May 1936 36RX3** pg# 449

(Western Scene: Rockies, buffalo, and riding indian)

**1 'Rocket-Flight New York' 50 cent stamp May 1936 36RX1** pg# 449

(Triangular stamp showing rocket over New York City)

**1 'Rocket Flight From Canada to U.S.A' 50 cent stamps May 1936 36RX7** pg# 449

(Niagara Falls Scene: rocket over the falls)

**1 'Rocket-Flight New York' 75 cent stamp May 1936 36RX2** pg# 449

(Triangular stamp showing rocket over New York City)

**1 'Rocket Flight From Canada to U.S.A' 75 cent stamps May 1936 36RX8** pg# 449

(Niagara Falls Scene: rocket over the falls)

**1 'Rocket Flight From Canada to U.S.A' 50 cent stamps May 1936 36RX7** pg# 449

(Niagara Falls Scene: rocket over the falls)

**1 'Rocket-Flight From U.S.A. to Canada' 50 cent stamp May 1936 36RX9** pg# 449

(Rocket over Niagara Falls, May 1936)

**Total: 12 covers and sixteen 1936 postage stamps.**

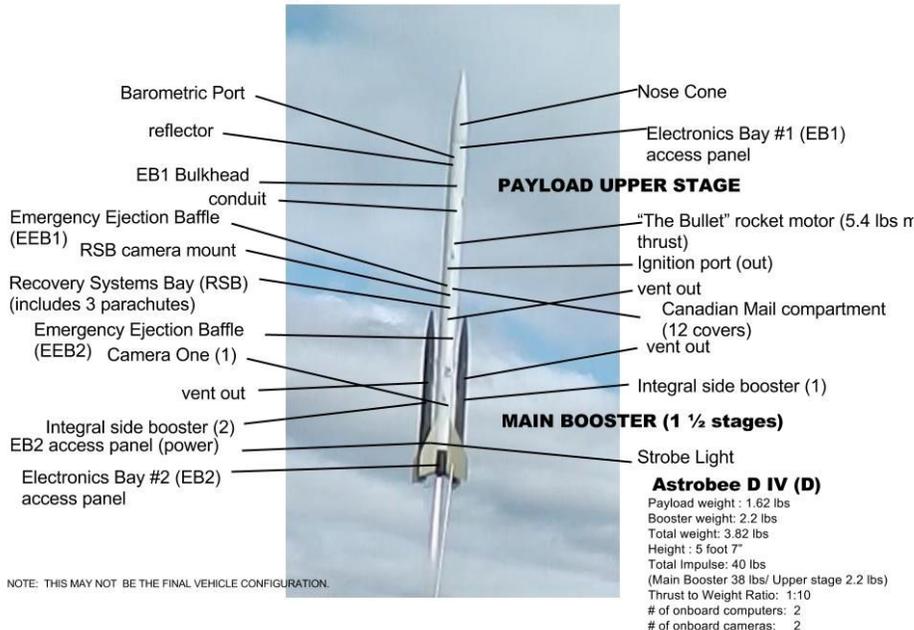
NOTE:: The list above includes all Gerhard Zucker postage stamps participating in the launch. When no space appears from one

line to the next, this indicates both stamps are on the same cover.



(Above) Canadian Rocket Mail returned on May 14th, 2014, with twelve more covers flying 16 Gerhard Zucker 1936 postage stamps inside the second stage of the Astrobee D IV (D) high powered rocket.

### ASTROBEE D IV (D) ROCKET VEHICLE ORIENTATION mark 4



(above) The complex Astrobee D IV (D) test rocket schematics.

## CANADIAN ROCKET MAIL PROGRAM TOTALS:

*The entire collection of Gerhard Zucker 1936 Canadian Rocket Mail Stamps were flown in Wilfred Ashley Mclsaac's Program. [as per the Air Mails Of Canada and Newfoundland, page 449.]*

Total # of flights:

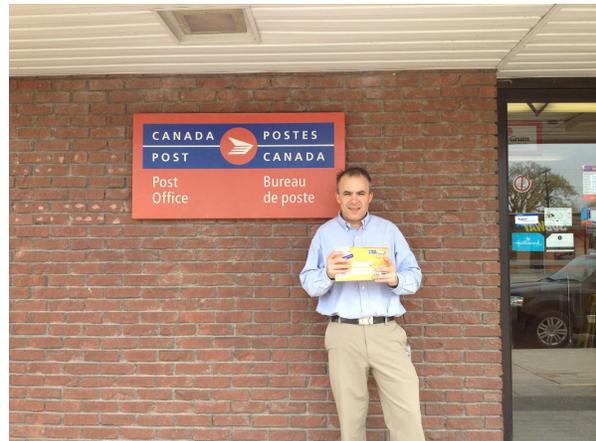
5

Total # of Gerhard Zucker 1936 Canadian Rocket Mail Stamps flown: 49

Total# of Covers flown:

43

**ALL ROCKET MAIL ENVELOPES ALSO INCLUDE CURRENT POSTAGE FROM CANADA POST.**



All rocket mail launched in my program since 2011 has been either mailed or cancelled from this post office located in the small town of Gananoque, Ontario.

## ***SOURCES:***

**The Air Mails Of Canada And Newfoundland, A volume in the Sixth Edition of the American Air Mail Catalogue**

***'My Own Private Rocket Program' Final Review 2012***

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1w\\_2RUq9VMW9yVjlqWbf29HXjGHgOE1F5ATmkxGnn\\_7Y/edit#heading=h.v16f56w4uda7](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1w_2RUq9VMW9yVjlqWbf29HXjGHgOE1F5ATmkxGnn_7Y/edit#heading=h.v16f56w4uda7)

**Rocket Room 101 channel on Youtube**

<http://www.youtube.com/user/artkickstart>

**Rocket Room 101 on Facebook**

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Rocket-Room-101/173207116026138>

**CANADIAN STAMP NEWS August 28,2012 issue**

***'German engineer's mail finally sees liftoff' by Chris Hargreaves***

**SIGMA ROCKETS November 22,2012 [www.sigmarockets.com](http://www.sigmarockets.com)**

***'Personal Rocket Program' written by Sigma***

## StampNews.com

[http://www.stampnews.com/stamps/stamps\\_2012/stamp\\_1335606798\\_388866.html](http://www.stampnews.com/stamps/stamps_2012/stamp_1335606798_388866.html)

## Google Documents article 'Canadian Mail Rocket Crashes In Eastern Ontario. Zucker stamps survive.'

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1r2pGUT4IHGa1ifgWAJyv\\_7OsH8xLrGDk9\\_6V5OfZxIk/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1r2pGUT4IHGa1ifgWAJyv_7OsH8xLrGDk9_6V5OfZxIk/edit)

## The Canadian Aerophilatelist 'Quarterly Journal of THE CANADIAN AEROPHILATELIC SOCIETY' December 2011 issue Volume XXVII, Number 4; Page 11, article 'CANADIAN ROCKET MAIL 2011'

## RocketReviews.com

<http://www.rocketreviews.com/wilfred-mcisaac-page.html>



(above) Twelve letters with Gerhard Zucker postage attached were inside the payload bay of the Astrobee D IV 'Super Booster' when it launched on November 6th, 2012 to conclude the program.



(above) Commemorative letters were inside all the rocket mail envelopes recounting the unique story of the Gerhard Zucker stamps over their 76 year history.

