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THE APOGEE OF ROCKET SOCIETIES IN ARGENTINA (1950 TO 1970).

Abstract

While the launch of Sputnik 1 is traditionally represented as a moment of change for science and technology education in the United States, the effect of the first artificial satellite echoed in the rest of the world as well. One of the sub products of this renewed interest in science and technology education was the creation of rocketry societies. Unencumbered by the lack of laws against the use of explosives, Argentina was one of the first countries in Latin America to enjoy a strong amateur rocketry community, which started right after the launch of Sputnik 1. As a sub product of the Argentine Interplanetary Society, chaired by Teofilo Tabanera, who himself was against amateur experimentation, several groups started their own clubs and associations, trying to emulate rocket societies from the United States and other countries. These experiences, most of the times crossing the line of safety practices, allowed a cadre of young enthusiasts, to receive their first experiences in physics, chemistry, engineering and propelled many of them to science and technology professional careers, who will later be fundamental for the development of the defense and sounding rocket programs in this South American country.