

National Association of Rocketry
Meeting minutes
July 30-August 3, 2004
Manassas Virginia

Members present for July 30-31 session: Barber (chaired meeting), Rachor, Kane, Ash-Poole, Lyngdal, Gassaway (retired August 2), Johnson (retired August 2), Cochran (elected August 2)

Members Absent: Bundick, McNabb, Apt (elected August 2)

Business Items and Actions taken:

Motion by Jennifer Ash-Poole:

Seconded by Jack Kane:

The minutes of the Chicago board meeting shall be approved.

Motion carries with George Rachor and George Gassaway abstaining.

Member Needs and concerns:

The Board did not agree with the proposal for perpetual HPR certification independent of membership renewal, for both economic reasons and because we will lose track of where the people are who carry our certification, a big issue in our "self-regulating" story line with government authorities.

Motion by George Gassaway:

Seconded by George Rachor:

S & T shall extend contest certification to all certified model rocket motors that are currently commercially available.

Motion carried with Jack Kane abstaining.

The Board directed S&T to grant contest approval to any certified model rocket motor (regardless of whether the certification was based on NAR or on TRA testing), as long as the motor is commercially available.

Restoration of HPR certification after a lapse in NAR membership beyond the current 1-year limit was tabled to the February Board meeting. We need an economic assessment; will it potentially cause senior members to only join every couple of years when they feel like flying vs maintaining continuous membership?

An HPR certification level lapel pin proposal was referred to NARTS. Sounds like a good product idea.

Membership

The Board believes that a major key to attracting and retaining members is a timely, content-rich website. Committee Chairmen need to be authorized to update their sections of the website in order to keep them accurate and timely. The website needs front page news that is fresh and that includes frequently-changing pictures. Access of would-be members to nearby launches via website information on times/places is key. Need links established from Launch Windows to the website of the host section of each launch, and need Launch Windows

structured in a way that makes it easier for a stranger to the NAR to find the nearest launch. Educator resources should be posted on the website and reachable quickly through click-downs.

Budget

No real issues, as a result of the dues increase, good membership levels, and some generous donations our income and expenses are in balance and our cash position is satisfactory. We obviously would be better off financially if we did not have to pay legal and legislative lobbying expenses in connection with our dispute with BATFE.

Motion by Jennifer Ash-Poole:

Seconded by Jack Kane:

It shall be moved that Sport services be directed to proceed with the development of the HPR competition proposal as outlined by John Lyngdal planned for implementation by March 1, 2005.

Motion approved.

Junior High Power Rocketry

The Board approved a new "NAR Junior HPR Level 1 Participation" in accordance with the CAR model, starting at age 14. A parent must sign off on the form that the junior flier turns in -- which is a new form similar (but not identical) to the Level 1 form today. Automatic rollover of the junior's status to full Level 1 certification will occur at age 18, no further tests or flights. All flights using this junior status must be with the motor remaining in custody of an adult certified flier. Printing "NAR Junior HPR Level 1" on membership cards is easy. Need to get forms, card processing, etc. in place and details announced before implementation, but should implement on or before 1 January 2005. Sport Services for action, John Lyngdal to assist.

Carl Tulanko has taken over the Sport Services Committee from Steve Lubliner, effective at NARAM-46.

HPR Competition

The Board passed proposed rules for high power competition events (no national points involved) to the new Sport Services Chair for staffing among expert fliers. The Board was shown versions of these rules of several different lengths and levels of detail. The Board wants this implemented before next flying season, but the rules are not yet mature enough to roll out. Sport Services will own the rules, NAR Contest Board Records Subcommittee will maintain the HPR altitude records.

HPR Certification Tests

The Board directed that these be stocked at NAR HQ, not at the Sport Services Committee.

Education

The educator CD-ROM version 2.0 is nearly ready to roll out, and the fall educator newsletter is as well. We need to build up the list of educators we send this material to by advertising via TARC 2005 and its co-sponsor, the American Association of Physics Teachers. We need to

offer teachers something specific, useful, and free. Is this curriculum material or after-school enrichment program material? We need to decide which of these two very different paths our priority is -- there are different standards for support material for each. Ted Cochran says he has surveyed the web extensively and there is not much of good quality already done posted out there. We should try to use the AAPT curriculum contest being held in connection with TARC 2005 to produce something we can use. Perhaps hold our own curriculum (or enrichment program guide) contest with a cash prize, announced via the Educator Newsletter. Can we get feedback from the Cannon grant winners on the programs they funded with our grants? Can we have one issue per year of Sport Rocketry that is focused on education programs and success stories like the issue last winter was?

The Education Committee met Sunday at NARAM, and had good turnout and lots of interactive energy. The group's top two priorities offered to the Board for new NAR initiatives in education programs were to put all of our education content on the NAR website, and to search through sections (websites, individuals) for already-existing "content" of how to use rocketry in a learning environment that we can borrow and use before we start trying to generate it new. The Board agreed with these and asked the Education Committee Chairman to put together an action plan for doing them.

Stew McNabb reported (by phone) that the NAR this year received 7-8 applications from young members for post-secondary scholarships and an equal number of applications from teachers for Cannon educator grants. He is in the process of running these applications by his selection committee, and expects to award 5 NAR-funded scholarships of \$500 each, and at least 5 Cannon grants of \$500 funded by the proceeds from NARAM auctions.

Section Affairs

Need to make the cutoff date for Section of the Year competition 1 June not 1 July, and/or send out the questionnaires earlier, it takes a lot of work/time to accumulate the data needed to submit one of these and they are due in early July. This year's scoring procedure for this award is viewed as a big improvement from previous rules.

Contest and Records

We need a resource guide for new Contest Directors on how to run a meet. We need an active website (or sub-site in the NAR site), where plans and how-to guides for events similar to what George Gassaway did for NARAM-46 and its website are posted, and/or we need a printed how-to guide for new competitors.

S&T

S&T tested and certified 16 Animal Motor Works motors this year. Letters have been sent for "triennial" recertification testing samples and some have been shipped to S&T. The Committee will be testing indoors at MIT through the winter and plans to build a hybrid test stand. After the upcoming tests, the Committee will be shifting to a 5-year recertification testing cycle and 5 year time period for motors to lose certification after the end of their production.

S&T will publish in Sport Rocketry a bar chart showing the number of MESS reports received per year (aggregate total, no detail by manufacturer or type), showing a rapid decline in reports received since the 1998-1999 peak, with an exhortation to members to submit reports when their motors fail.

Team America Rocketry Challenge

TARC 2005 is underway, with much stronger aerospace industry support than 2004, and with broadened eligibility rules and a new precision-duration challenge that makes the expensive altimeters unnecessary, thereby reducing entry costs. A larger level of participation is expected.

John Lyngdal discussed a "TARC Prep" rocketry skills-development program initiative first brought up at the February 2004 Board meeting, and showed sample rockets he had made from Estes and Quest kits, customized to enhance the craftsmanship effort required and to teach skills applicable to TARC.

This is really a proposal for an after-school structured enrichment program teaching rocket skills to 5th and 6th graders, potentially a valuable tool for Education Committee. It has value even if not connected to TARC. The best approach for the NAR (in terms of workload and market penetration) may be to have a manufacturer develop a kit and educator guide package to do this, and work with them to ensure that it ties into TARC.

National Events

All NAR national events in 2004 were successful. NARAM-47 will be held in Ohio, hosted by Quark section near Cincinnati. WOOSH will host NARCON again, in Wisconsin. NSL 2005 is likely to be in California.

NARTS

The Board brainstormed what NARTS might usefully sell as new products that would further the Association's goals and be saleable. Not educator materials, this should be free when we develop it. Contest plans should be on the contest part of the NAR website for free, but could also be published via NARTS in paper form. Board suggestions included: HPR Cert pins; NAR bumper stickers and decals (new design decal); "October Sky" book and/or DVD; and "theme-bundled" Tech Reviews which are "the best glider R&D reports, NARAM 40-46", or such -- by topic, not by NARAM, with minimum format processing of reports, just print them without the labor-intensive editing/smoothing.

Legal and Legislative

The Board met in executive session to discuss the status of our current legal and legislative issues.

Range Operations Policy

The Board agreed that for liability-protection reasons the NAR should put some language/requirements on a form that section advisors sign in

order to purchase NAR site owner insurance. The section officer would sign agreeing that as a condition of ordering NAR insurance the section agrees to conduct flight operations on that site only in accordance with NAR Safety Codes, and that the site has been measured and found to support flights up to a particular motor size and flight altitude in accordance with NFPA Codes.

Long-Range Strategy Initiatives

The Board reviewed the status of actions taken on initiatives for long-term NAR growth that were developed at the February 2004 Board meeting strategic planning session. There were 10 such initiatives:

1. Establish long-term partnership with NASA. Well underway through Vince Huegele, with a significant boost from interactions at the TARC 2004 fly offs. Ted Cochran said that we need to add rockets to the NASA "Explorer Schools" program, and offered to take the lead on exploring this.
2. Develop feeder/foundation program for TARC. John Lyngdal brought in his "homework" for identification of skills that need to be developed. Further discussion under the "TARC" heading earlier in this report.
3. Develop incentives for sections to promote NAR membership. No action taken.
4. Develop and distribute NAR promotional materials for use by sections and individuals. Done.
5. Reorganize NAR community building tools at website. No action taken.
6. Determine ways to market to female populations. No action taken.
7. Develop a new kit stuffer program. Formal relationship with Quest is in place; smaller manufacturers are willing, but system not yet in place.
8. Develop prospecting packet for new member recruitment. No action taken.
9. Improve recognition of key volunteers. The Board agreed on a priority list of the first 6 specific categories of volunteers whose names we are going to accumulate and who we will recognize. George Rachor took for action to find out the means by which the names can be assembled for each, and the ways that the recognition can be executed (certificate, and who should do it, magazine announcement and who should do it, etc.). The categories are: (1) newly-formed sections; (2) national committee chairmen; (3) contest directors; (4) new HPR certifiers (publish list in Model Rocketeer); (5) section anniversaries; (6) members of L3CC upon their appointment.
10. Develop partnerships with major corporations and national foundations and organizations. No action taken.

Board business at August 3 session:

Motion by Jennifer Ash-Poole

Seconded by Jack Kane:

Motioned that George Rachor having been reelected should be reaffirmed as Secretary of the National Association of Rocketry

Motion carried

George Rachor was re-elected as Secretary of the NAR following his re-election to the Board. The issue of identifying a replacement for Mark Johnson on the Executive Committee following his retirement from the Board was tabled to a mail ballot.

Motion by Jack Kane:

Seconded by Jennifer Ash-Poole

It shall be moved that the meeting should be adjourned.

Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned.