

National Association of Rocketry  
Board of Trustees meeting

NARCON Rochester Minnesota

March 8, 2007 9 PM.

Present are;

Jay Apt, Jennifer Ash Poole, Mark Bundick, Trip Barber, Tech Cochran,  
John Lyngdal, George Rachor

Meeting called to order....

**Approval of the Phoenix, AZ Minutes**

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Motion by Trip Barber – Second by Jennifer Ash Poole

Motion to approve the minutes from August 2006 (NARAM) as amended...

Jennifer seconded

Motion: Passes Unanimously

**Member Needs and Concerns**

NAR Trade Show Booth: Tom Pastrick - [tepastrick2276@juno.com](mailto:tepastrick2276@juno.com)

Tom asked the Board to consider providing members with a permanent trade show booth to be used at events to promote the NAR. After discussion that included results of previous NAR trade show promotions, the Board decided to continue to concentrate NAR presence at educational shows and conventions rather than shift or expand to consumer trade shows. The President was directed to analyze and suggest alternatives to a booth by generating materials that could be reproduced by local NAR members and sections at consumer oriented shows.

Cannon Fund Grant Delays: Robert Alway - [robertalway@charter.net](mailto:robertalway@charter.net)

Bob asked the Board to investigate delays in awarding 2006 scholarships and grants. The President reported that the application process was currently on the Treasurer's plate, and Stew's duties there, coupled with job time pressures resulted in these unfortunate delays. The Board directed the President to have the 2006 Awards completed in 30 days, to adjust future application acceptance to go to NAR HQ for redistribution to Education Committee members for review and adjudication, and to assign oversight of the 2007 processing to Joyce Guzik. The 2007 process will complete in time for awards to be announced at NARAM.

HPR Certification Procedures and ATF: Michael Hollman –  
[mhollman@mac.com](mailto:mhollman@mac.com)

Mike's request for guidance was forwarded to the Sport Services Committee for consideration.

Interpretation of ATF Rules: Jonathan Rains – [jrains@comcast.net](mailto:jrains@comcast.net)  
Jon's request for additional guidance to members given recent BATFE final rule publications was reviewed and discussed. Counsel advised that any guidance provided would have no bearing on the legal issues surrounding ongoing litigation. After further discussion of option, the item was referred to Sport Services, with suggestions that local NAR members who have successfully navigated ATF licensing and magazine application and approval be solicited to provide their input and "best practices" that are generally dependent on geographic region.

By Laws Changes: Lee James – [ojames3@yahoo.com](mailto:ojames3@yahoo.com)  
NAR BoT Agenda Items: Art Applewhite - [Rocket877@aol.com](mailto:Rocket877@aol.com)  
Lee and Art's items dealt with the past and potential future mechanics of the NAR Board of Trustees election. In Lee's case, the Board reviewed whether or not a break in membership immediately disqualified a previously longstanding member from voting. The Board found that the Secretary had reviewed the By Laws in this case and by his reading determined that it did, but upon further discussion, the Board decided that for future election, this should not be the case, and those members who temporarily let membership lapse, upon renewal within a year, should be credited with prior years of membership. (This principle is applied currently to members and their HPR certification status.) Relative to election mechanics questions raised by Art, the Board directed the Secretary and President to ensure that ballots for future elections would be directly mailed to all voting-eligible members, that ballot returns should be sent to NAR HQ for collection prior to the Association meeting, that an independent committee not including persons up for election should review, validate and count both mail and in-person ballots to determine election results.

Section Maintenance and Growth: Mark Hutchinson -  
[m.hutchinson@mindspring.com](mailto:m.hutchinson@mindspring.com)

Mark's ideas and comments were referred to Section Activities.

Founder's Pay Forward Proposal: Ed Pearson - [glennepearson@aol.com](mailto:glennepearson@aol.com)

Ed's suggestion for a new service award was forwarded to the Education Committee; the Board felt that a number of membership service awards already exist (President's, Galloway and Stine), but that we lack an award to recognize rocketry educational efforts, including those done by non-NAR members (teachers, youth leaders in Scouts, etc.)

**ATF Litigation Review:** The President reviewed litigation matters in Executive Session.

**2007 NAR Insurance Review:** The President and NAR Insurance Agent Bob Blomster reviewed our current insurance deductibles in light of approximately \$6,800 in payouts in 2006 for damages originally estimated to be below the \$5,000 deductible. While insurance is necessary to secure flying sites for members it should not be considered a substituted for safe practices, and the accidents for which the NAR has paid out must be reviewed and analyzed as part of our larger safety efforts. In particular, the President, Trustees, section leaders and members need to remind one another that the "right to fly" does not trump safety, even with insurance in place. The Board will also seek input from the L3CC, who has built up considerable flight experience with significant rockets, both successful and unsuccessful flights.

The Board considered changing both the size and the terms of the deductible. Previous policy was that members pay the first \$500 of the \$5,000 deductible on every claim. After consideration of incentives to increase safe practices, the following motion was made and passed.

Motion by Jay Apt - Seconded by Trip Barber

Member portion of the insurance liability shall be \$1,000 on the member's first claim and \$5,000 on subsequent claims by that same member.

Motion: Passes unanimously

**Insurance and Joint Launch Policy:** Bob Blomster also asked the Board to consider a "joint launch policy statement" that would outline the mechanics of insurance coverage and launch rules when launches were jointly sponsored by TRA and NAR members. The discussion was deferred until the Board receives a better understanding regarding TRA insurance coverage, deductible and conditions. The President was directed to investigate those elements with TRA President Ken Good, and work towards developing a draft policy for review by both Boards.

**Membership Statistics Review:** The Board directed the President to seek out the advice of a marketing professional for help, and press with all due speed toward the pilot program of postcard based renewal reminders to new members coming up on their first renewal.

**Safety Committee:** Ted Cochran, Chairman - Ted asked the Board to consider extending and slightly modifying the procedures around the Expired Motor Testing Program. After discussion, the Board approved the following motion:

Motion by Jay Apt –Second Trip Barber

The expired motor testing program shall be extended past the original program end date to the 2007 NARAM and that the program shall be modified to require the only the Safety Committee chair rather than the NAR President to authorize launches conducted under this program...

Motion: Passes unanimously

**NAR Education Committee:** Vince Huegele, Chairman - After reviewing the report of this Committee, the Board emphasized the need to get a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with 4-H concerning a partnership arrangement that has been under discussion for several years. That MOU should be structured such that local leaders in both organizations get connected, since the local level is where the real education takes place. Reviewing experiences from the National Conference of Aviation and Space Educators, NCASE, we had good interactions with educators and were well received for our presentations and workshops. However, it's difficult to assess direct tangible results from these events. We should more formally reassess our objectives prior to the next conference. In the meantime, Vince continues his work with NASA on the Student Launch Initiative (SLI). This program follows TARC participation and allows interested students to pursue larger, more complex projects, providing an experience similar to that of professional researchers who work with NASA on suborbital and orbital projects. Vince also worked closely with PARADE magazine on a January article positively featuring the NAR and rocketry education. The Board suggested the next version of the NAR Educator CD-ROM look to enrich its content, now that we're past the startup stage. To the extent that we can push more, newer or better material onto the CD, the better it will be

for us and the teachers alike. Jennifer reported the next issue of the Educator Newsletter will be out after NARCON

**Standards and Testing Committee:** Jack Kane / John Lyngdal, Co-Chairmen - The Board reviewed S&T's work on the Triennial retesting, MESS process and reporting, the development and deployment of a hybrid test stand, the operational status of a second, West Coast test stand, and the draft version of the new S&T Policy and Procedure manual.

Motion by Trip Barber - Second by George Rachor

Standard & Test committee must certify motors using NFPA 1125 standards with any additional requirements only as approved by the NAR board.

Motion Passes with John Lyngdal abstaining

Motion by Jay Apt - Seconded by Ted Cochran

The co-chairs of S&T are directed to deliver the revised draft of the S&T procedure manual May 15th (second draft) with the final version due by July 15, 2007.

Motion passes with John Lyngdal abstaining

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**Section Activities Committee:** John Hochheimer, Chairman

John presented his report to the Board in person. Review of the 2006 "Needs Fixin'" survey will result in changes to the 2007 version to narrow focus on problem details. John continues to monitor the Section Listserver, and steps in where necessary to cut down on unproductive threads. He will investigate ways to extract useful threads, and make them available directly for reference. The list will eventually migrate into the NAR technology infrastructure. John will be trained in the content management tool and will take on responsibility for section info updates on the NAR website.

The Section of the Year Awards continue to be reviewed; John feels the award needs to be based on established benchmark performances, and then to reward sections for reaching those benchmarks, as opposed to an "all or nothing" approach currently in place. John will also solicit input on the new Section Manual and ask for help among experienced section leaders. Bunny suggests partnering with a national parks organization as a way to potentially open up local flying fields in parks.

**Special Committee on FAI Activities:** John Langford, Chairman - John reported on flyoff planning for NARAM 49, upcoming FAI CIAM meetings, FAI materials postings to the NAR website, and a possible World Cup event in the US.

**Other Committees:** The Board reviewed and accepted with thanks the reports from the Contest & Records Committee, Tom Lyon, Chairman and NAR Technical Services, Thomas N. Ha, Chairman.

**Publications Strategy:** The President led the Board in a comprehensive review of NAR publications: Model Rocketeer, Sport Rocketry magazine, and the Member Guidebook. Relative to the Model Rocketeer, the Board adopted the following motion:

Motion by Trip Barber – Second by Jay Apt

Paper publication of the Model Rocketeer will be discontinued with the next issue and the content will be shifted to the website with contest rules changes and trustee election to be conducted by separate mailing or special edition once per year.

Motion passes unanimously

Eliminating the Rocketeer will push previously published items to the website. Jennifer will work to set up the necessary infrastructure and prepare training as required to make that happen on a timely basis. The single printed issue per year allows us to handle both balloting and any items for which we believe updated paper distribution makes sense, e.g. S&T Certified Engine List. While the Member Guidebook was seen as a successful membership benefit, additional content could be squeezed in by moving time sensitive material to a list of web links. The President will review the material with the editor (Mario Perdue) and work to implement this approach in the next edition. Sport Rocketry production continues to operate smoothly. The President will analyze the costs and benefits of 48-64 page soft backed publication that could be developed from the content of Member Guidebooks and then sold in hobby shops. The President was also directed to consider other distribution outlets beyond Kalmbach promotional mailings as a way to push the magazine further.

Motion by Ted Cochran seconded by George Rachor

Move to adjourn the meeting without establishing which specific date at NARAM will be the date for reconvening.

Motion passes unanimously