

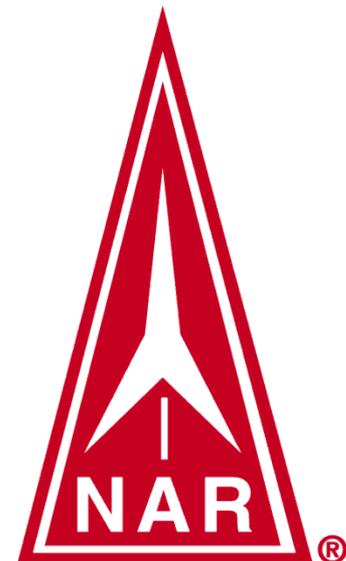
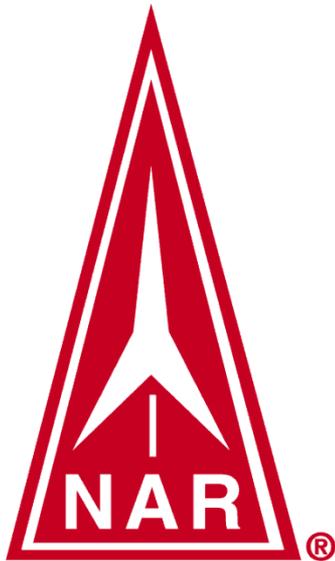
# What's Happening in Our NAR

August 2, 2010

Trip Barber

NAR 4322

NAR President





# How Are We Doing?

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- Our membership levels have gone up a lot
  - Now over 4850, highest since 2002
  - Membership drive gave us well over 400 more members
  - But ... we're still hurting for Junior members
- Our finances are very good
  - About \$220K unrestricted fund balance and growing
  - But ... not enough volunteers to turn money into services
- Our magazine is excellent
  - Advertising revenue is declining a little recently
  - But ... Tom Beach needs more article submissions
- Our outreach programs are doing very well
  - TARC and the 4-H partnership, SLI starting this year
  - But ... they are not leading to big membership growth



# My Priorities

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- Make flight safety our organization's first priority
- Increase our organization's size: members and sections
- Expand our high-power programs and launches
- Provide full and open communication to our members about everything going on in their NAR
- Provide better national support to our local sections

**Be safe, have fun, pay forward**



# Areas of Concern

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- Rockets that should not be flown still too often do get flown
- Craftsmanship hobbies and hobby stores are declining
- NAR demographics show we are still not attracting enough young members to sustain our future
  - Our junior membership is only ~500, used to be over 1000
  - Not enough age 25 – 40 adults to move into key positions in future
- Development encroachment and landowner fear of “safety” or litigation continue to challenge access to launch sites
- Need more NAR volunteers to improve our services and programs, both locally and nationally



# Volunteer Needs

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- The programs and services that your dues make possible need volunteers to execute them; we don't have enough
- Here is what we need now, but if you have something to contribute elsewhere let the NAR President know:
  - Membership Committee needs a Chair
  - Section Activities needs someone to develop materials for sections to use getting/keeping launch sites
  - Education Committee needs educators to help develop new products to support other educators using rocketry
  - Every committee is just 1-2 deep and needs people to share the work



# Legal Situation

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- The BATFE case is closed and our victory is complete
  - APCP is off the Explosives List – for now
  - We got back \$35K (10%) of our legal expenses from BATFE because the Court found them to have been “arbitrary & capricious”
- Igniters will be our next regulatory challenge with BATFE
  - Expect them to issue regulations soon defining exactly what a regulated “igniter” is – these will require LEUP/magazine
  - We have provided a technical input to try to shield model rocket and small HPR igniters from this
- Need to maintain our self-regulation under NFPA Codes to keep BATFE and other regulators away
  - Vendors must require proof of user certification and must maintain record of sales
  - No one but HPR-certified people should possess or fly HPR motors
  - Must not behave in ways that look (or are) “dangerous” to the public



# Other News

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- Two of the hobby's four magazines have folded
  - Launch and Extreme Rocketry – too few ads/subscriptions
- New edition of NAR Member Guidebook published
  - Those renewing after Jan 1, 2010 will get it at renewal
  - It includes 2-year discount coupons
- NFPA Codes that govern our hobby are in their every-4-year revision cycle
  - NFPA 1125 (motor requirements) is up this year
  - NFPA 1122/1127 (user flying safety) are up next year
- NAR team will represent USA at the August 2010 World Spacemodeling Championships in Serbia



# NFPA 1125 Changes

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- Code covers manufacturing and certification of motors
- Changes are still in draft form, one more review to go before final update takes effect mid-2011
- All changes made reflect NAR/TRA/industry consensus:
  - Raised propellant mass limit for “model rocket motor” to 125gm: 160 N-sec and 80N average thrust limits remain
  - Added major labeling requirements to “sparky” motors and other G and below motors that are considered “HPR”
  - Clarified that only solid propellant motors can be “model rocket motors”; all hybrids and sparky motors are HPR
  - Adjusted some requirements for certification testing



# Recent NAR Actions

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- Membership recruitment drive: “52 by 52”
  - Goal was 5200 members by NARAM-52, growth of 800
    - We got over halfway to 800 and now have 4850 total members
  - Free merchandise sent to new members (\$30 value)
    - We owe a big “thank you” to Quest, Semroc & Aerotech
  - \$5 to NAR members for each new member they recruit
    - This will continue in effect at least through next March
  - \$10 ad credit to manufacturers for each new recruit
- NAR HQ management information system change
  - Shifted to commercial web-based service
  - Members can now access/update their own data online
  - Section/launch site enrollment is still hard



# NAR Board Actions

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- Committed the legal fee reimbursement plus other funds to a new \$45K “reserve fund”, will add life membership dues as they come in
- Established a manufacturer membership category and revived the Joint Manufacturer-NAR Advisory Council
- Decided to spend funds from increased membership on:
  - Increased number of scholarships to 10, increased size to \$750
  - Increased number of \$500 Cannon teacher grants from 6 to 11
  - Another \$4K round of Section Safety Grants this year
  - Put 8 more pages in the NARAM issue of Sport Rocketry
  - A free full-page ad for each of the 3 supporting manufacturers
  - Continued the member-recruitment bonus program



# Our NAR's Value Proposition

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- At \$62/year (senior) dues we are the best value in the hobby and should say it proudly:
  - Includes a great magazine
  - Includes insurance that is valid anywhere, anytime, not just at sanctioned launches
  - Includes HPR certification through Level 3
  - Includes competition programs
  - Includes family member discount of \$12
  - Includes a 60-page Member Guidebook with discount coupons

**We all need to recruit personally to keep our NAR going and growing!**



# What Can You Do?

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- Fly safely and ensure that others around you do the same
- Recruit new NAR members, HPR certifications, competitors
- Volunteer to help with your section or a national committee
- Do community outreach to young people, to parents, and to those who work with young people