

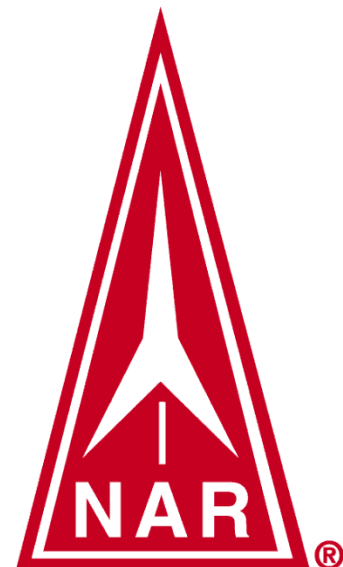
What's Happening in Our NAR

July 25, 2011

Trip Barber

NAR 4322

NAR President





How Are We Doing?

- Our membership levels are going back down
 - Reached 5150 in March 2011 thanks to a NAR-wide team effort in the membership drive
 - But losing ground since then despite continuing the \$5 per new member recruiting bonus; now at ~5000 members
- Our finances are very good
 - About \$300K unrestricted fund balance
 - Can afford increased services
- Our magazine is excellent
 - Advertising revenue is steady at \$6K/issue (25% of cost)
 - But ... Tom Beach needs more “how to” article submissions
- Our outreach programs are doing very well
 - TARC, 4-H partnership, NASA SLI



My Priorities

- Make flight safety our organization's first priority
- Increase our organization's size: members and sections; then increase member services as our size goes up
- Expand our high-power programs and launches
- Provide full and open communication to our members about everything going on in their NAR and take their NAR in the direction they want it to go
- Provide better national support to our local sections

Be safe, have fun, pay forward



Areas of Concern

- Rockets that should not be flown still too often do get flown
- We are still not attracting and retaining enough young NAR members to sustain our future -- or enough members overall to be as effective as we want to be
 - Our junior membership is only ~600, used to be over 1000
 - Not enough age 25 – 40 adults to move into key positions in future
 - New-member retention is not high enough, need personal contact
- Development encroachment and landowner fear of “safety” or litigation continue to reduce access to launch sites
- Need more NAR volunteers (including Trustees) to improve our services and programs, both locally and nationally



Membership Survey

- 843 NAR members took the 2011 online survey
 - Almost all adults: demographics typical of our Senior members
 - 65 pages of text comments in addition to answers to 30 questions
- Overall, no program is “broken” but all could do better
- Three areas for improvement stood out as priorities
 - Increase national support to sections, particularly for launch site access
 - Completely redo the NAR website
 - Enhance the “how to” article content in Sport Rocketry
- Number one impediment to members’ enjoyment of the hobby is access to launch sites
- Lots of divergence of opinion on the direction or need for changes to the competition and HPR programs
- Significant support for fundraising for education programs



NAR Board Actions

- Increase national support for section launch site access
 - Accumulate and distribute “lessons learned” from sections
 - Develop briefing to use when seeking access from landowners
 - Put all the relevant support material on one website page
- Restructure NAR website
 - Develop specs and solicit bids for new website development
- Enhance “how to” content in Sport Rocketry
 - Begin offering \$250 payment for 1-2 substantial “feature” articles per issue on “how to” and/or technical topics
- Offer free NAR banner to each section
- Shift to credit-card style NAR membership cards
- Enable online section renewal



Volunteer Needs

- The programs and services that your dues make possible need more volunteers so we can deliver them
- Here is what we need now, but if you have something to contribute elsewhere let the NAR President know:
 - Candidates for election to the Board of Trustees
 - 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 more people to share the work and improve their services



Other Developments

- Igniter issue with BATFE is not an immediate threat
 - We met with them on March 8 to open a dialogue – it went well
 - Detailed regulation is not part of their near-term plans
- Will begin recognizing section websites for excellence this year, in addition to the newsletter recognition
 - Revised section recognition program will begin in 2012
- Will award 10 Cannon teacher grants (\$500 each), 10 NAR scholarships (\$1000), \$10K in section safety grants
 - Plus \$2200 in R&D prizes, \$3200 in NARAM travel grants for B Div
 - And Sport Rocketry now has multiple 56-page issues each year
- Our insurance coverage has been increased as of April
 - \$2M limit vs \$1M, covers Canada as well as US
 - \$300K for fire damage to launch site vs \$100K
 - Teams participating in TARC & SLI covered at section launches



NFPA 1125 Changes

- Code covers manufacturing and certification of motors
- Latest edition in effect as of June 20, 2011
- Changes in this edition made that reflect NAR/TRA and 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



NFPA 1122/1127 Changes

- Codes cover flight safety
- Changes are still in draft form, one more review to go (October 1-3) before final update takes effect mid-2012
- All changes made reflect NAR/TRA/industry consensus:
 - Greater standoff range required for “mass” launches
 - For HPR with onboard pyro systems: must only be armed when in launch position; then minimum people allowed at pad
 - All references to court-canceled BATFE requirements removed



Our NAR's Value Proposition

- 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 in the US & Canada, anytime, not just at sanctioned launches
 - Includes HPR certification through Level 3
 - Includes US & international 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?

- 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 community leaders, young people, parents, and to those who work with young people