

What's Happening in Our NAR

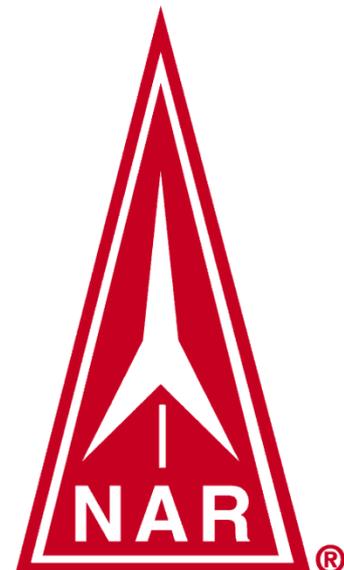
July, 2012

Trip Barber

NAR 4322 L3

NAR President

2008 - 2012





How Are We Doing?

- Our membership levels are at an all-time high
 - Around 5400 (+1000 in last 3 years) thanks to concerted NAR-wide efforts including the \$5 recruiting bonus to members and hobby shops plus kit stuffers and other manufacturer publicity
 - New initiatives and energy will be needed to get beyond 5400
- Our finances are very good as a result
 - Increasing services significantly because we can afford to
- Our magazine is the best it has ever been
 - Paying for top-quality “how to” and technical articles
 - But still not getting enough content to sustain 56-page issues
 - Now the only rocketry magazine available in hobby shops
- Our outreach programs are doing well and growing
 - TARC, 4-H partnership, NASA SLI, AFJROTC/CAP



What My Priorities Have Been

- 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
 - Make outreach like TARC a priority, to build the next generation
- Balance our support and emphasis across all dimensions of rocketry from modrocs to Level 3 high power
- 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



My Areas of Concern

- Rockets that should not be flown still too often do get flown
 - Do you really have to fly a flight that is announced as “heads up”?
- We are still not attracting and retaining enough young NAR members to sustain our future
 - Our junior membership is only ~600, used to be over 1000
 - Resumption of Estes kit stuffers (in 2013) may help with juniors
 - Not enough age 25 – 40 adults to grow into key positions in future
- Development encroachment and landowner fear of “safety” or litigation continue to reduce access to launch sites
- We do not have as many sections as we should, and too many members do not belong to one
 - We need sections with flying sites near every major population center
- We need more NAR volunteers to improve our services and programs, both locally and nationally



Membership Surveys

- About 2000 NAR members responded to our 2008 and 2011 online surveys
 - Almost all adults: demographics typical of our Senior members
 - 100+ pages of text comments in addition to answers to 30 questions
- Almost every section's leader responded to a 2012 survey
- Four areas for improvement stood out as priorities on all surveys and we are working hard on all of them
 - Increase support to sections
 - Do better supporting efforts to gain/maintain 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

Your survey feedback has driven the NAR Board's agenda



NAR Board Actions

- Set new organizational goals: 5800 members (2900 HPR certified), 140 sections with 3500 members – by NARAM in 2014
- Increased national support for sections
 - Abolished the \$25 section charter fee
 - Established a new section recognition program for 2013
 - Approved a new \$15K section grant program, broader than just safety
- Restructuring NAR website for rollout this fall
 - Under construction now by volunteer Bruce Canino
- Now send HPR certification pin to each member who earns a new level
- Will implement new programs to certify “rocketry instructors” and to recognize HPR skills with “Rocket Science Achievement” awards
- Decided that HPR certifications will carry over after membership lapse of any length as long as we have proof of prior NAR certification
- Shifted to new NAR membership cards with graphics



New NAR Membership Card

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ROCKETRY MEMBERSHIP LICENSE

Jonathan Rains
NAR # 13911 SR

Expires: 7/31/12
Member: NOVAAR, #205
Trained Safety Officer

HPR Cert. Level 2

INSURED



Jonathan Rains made it happen – thanks!



Other Developments

- Igniter issue with BATFE is stalled at status quo
 - We meet with them each year in March to maintain a dialogue
 - Letter ruling exempting any category of hobby rocket igniters will not happen
- Awarded 10 Cannon teacher grants (\$500 each), 10 NAR scholarships (\$1000), \$15K in section grants this year
 - Plus \$2200 in R&D prizes, \$2400 in NARAM travel grants for B Div
- Our insurance coverage was increased in April 2011 and we plan to increase it again next year
 - \$2M limit vs \$1M, covers Canada as well as US
 - \$300K for fire damage to launch site vs \$100K – plan to increase to \$1M in April 2013
 - Teams participating in TARC & SLI covered at section launches



New NAR Safety Codes

- Match the updates to NFPA Codes 1122 and 1127 that took effect in June
- Multi-rocket simultaneous launches have new safety (personnel standoff distance) requirements in both
 - For more than 10 model rockets, 2 HPR rockets
- HPR rockets with onboard electronic staging/deployment systems must have such systems “armed” only when upright on launch pad, minimum people at pad
- Smaller launch site minimum dimension requirements (1000 ft) for G and below “HPR” motors
 - New NFPA codes makes the upper limit of “model rocket” motors a full G (160 N-sec), not 62.5 grams of propellant
 - Hybrids and motors with >80N average thrust are still “HPR”



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 56-page bimonthly 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 64-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
- Take your own turn volunteering to help with your section or with the NAR nationally
- Do community outreach to community leaders, young people, parents, and to those who work with young people

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