

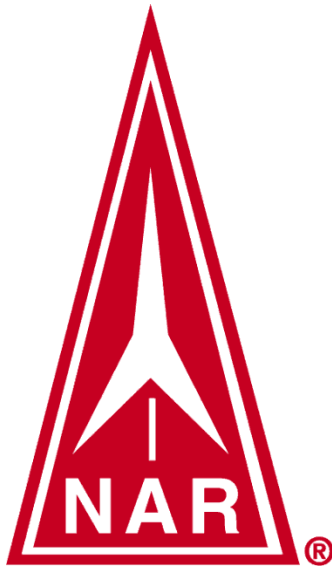
# What's Happening in Our NAR

March 13, 2010

Trip Barber

NAR 4322

NAR President





# How Are We Doing?

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- Our membership levels are OK
  - Currently about 4600 and very slowly increasing
  - Membership drive appears to be helping
  - Reaching 5200 would give us great options for services
- Our finances are stable
  - About \$200K fund balance = 7 months of revenue
- Our magazine is excellent
  - Advertising revenue is holding steady
  - Tom Beach keeps on doing great work as editor
- Our outreach programs are doing very well
  - TARC and the 4-H partnership, SLI starting this year



# My Priorities

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- Increase our organization's size: members and sections
- Improve our high-power programs
  - Updated all certification material; started competition program; increased magazine coverage; added HPR Technology Award
- Improve the flow of communications to members
  - Increased website news; Electronic Rocketeer every month
- Provide better national support to our local sections
  - Implemented safety grants, membership growth bonuses
  - Still need to increase support for section outreach, new section start-up, and launch site access

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



# Areas of Concern

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- Craftsmanship hobbies and hobby stores are declining
  - Newsstand sales of our magazine are declining as shops close
- NAR demographics show we are still not attracting enough young members to sustain our future
  - Our junior membership levels continue to decline
  - 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



# Legal Situation

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- BATFE has removed APCP from the Explosives List
- Awaiting court decision on recovery of some of the \$700K legal expenses we and TRA incurred in the BATFE lawsuit
  - Some chance of getting up to \$150-330K back (50% to NAR)
- Igniters will be our next regulatory challenge with BATFE
  - Expect them to issue regulations defining exactly what a regulated “igniter” is – these will require LEUP/magazine
- 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



# Other News

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- Estes Industries has been sold to Hobbico
  - A major plus for our hobby and the NAR
- Two of the hobby's four magazines 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
- 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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- Covers manufacturing and certification of motors
- Changes are still in draft form, two more reviews 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 is 5200 members by NARAM-52 (July 31)
  - Free merchandise sent to new members (\$30 value)
  - \$5 to NAR members for each new member they recruit
  - \$10 ad credit to manufacturers for each new recruit
- NAR HQ management information system change
  - Shifted to commercial web-based service
  - Members can access their own data online and update
  - Gives NAR leadership far more access to information
  - But transition has had some hard spots (e.g. membership card printing)





# Selling the NAR

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- At \$62/year (senior) dues we are the best value in the hobby and need to 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



# What Can You Do?

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- Recruit new NAR members, HPR certifications, competitors
- Volunteer to help with your section or a national committee
  - Section Activities needs section “mentors”
  - Public Affairs needs a chairman now
  - NARTS needs a new chairman this year
- Do community outreach to young people and those who work with young people
  - TARC, Fly50K, 4-H
- Donate to the NAR so we can expand our services faster
- Fly safely and ensure that others around you do the same