

# What's Happening in Our NAR

**March 12, 2011**

**Trip Barber**

**NAR 4322**

**NAR President**





# How Are We Doing?

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- Our membership levels have gone up a lot
  - Now at 5150, approaching our highest since the 80's thanks to a NAR-wide team effort in recruiting
  - But ... we're still hurting for Junior members
- Our finances are very good
  - About \$300K unrestricted fund balance and growing
  - But ... not enough volunteers to turn money into services
- Our magazine is excellent
  - Advertising revenue is steady at \$6K/issue (25% of cost)
  - But ... Tom Beach needs more article submissions
- Our outreach programs are doing very well
  - TARC, 4-H partnership, NASA SLI



# My Priorities

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- 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
- 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 not doing well
- We are still not attracting enough young NAR members to sustain our future
  - Our junior membership is only ~600, 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 (including Trustees) 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 more volunteers to 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, and someone to monitor the NAR Sections Yahoo group
  - Education Committee needs someone to write the quarterly e-mail Educator Newsletter
- Every committee is just 1-2 deep and needs more people to share the work and improve their services



# Legal Situation

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- The BATFE case is closed and our victory is complete
  - APCP is off the Explosives List
- Igniters are our next challenge with BATFE
  - They have jurisdiction over them by act of Congress and have been enforcing inconsistently, mostly against HPR igniters
  - We met with them on March 8 to open a dialogue – it went well
  - Detailed regulation is not part of their near-term plans
- Need to maintain our self-regulation under NFPA Codes to keep all forms of regulators at bay
  - 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 Developments

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- Two of the hobby's four magazines have folded
  - Too few ads/subscriptions to go around
- Estes is in NAR-friendly hands again
- New edition of NAR Member Guidebook published
  - Those renewing after Jan 1, 2010 got it at renewal
  - It includes 2-year discount coupons
- NAR HQ management information system changed to “Neon” commercial web-based service
  - Section and family online enrollments still need work
- NFPA Codes that govern our hobby are in their every-4-year revision cycle



# NFPA 1125 Changes

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- Code covers manufacturing and certification of motors
- Changes are approved, take 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





# NFPA 1122/1127 Changes

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- Codes cover flight safety
- Changes are still in draft form, one more review to go 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 in launch position; then minimum people allowed at pad
  - All references to court-canceled BATFE requirements removed



# NAR Board Actions

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- Decided to spend funds from increased membership on:
  - More & bigger scholarships: 10 @ \$1000 each
  - More NARAM B Division first-timer travel grants: 5 vs 3
  - \$10K in section grants of up to \$250 for safety & range equipment
  - Doubling insurance coverage: \$2 million rather than \$1 million
- Approved section website excellence award
- Approved an all-member online survey for April-May
  - Want NAR-wide feedback on our services and programs
- Membership growth “bounty” programs expanded
  - \$5 to each member who recruits a new member
  - \$5 to participating hobby stores who recruit a new member



# 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 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?

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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