

25-May-2020

DART Community:

We are looking forward to resuming model rocket launches when we can do so safely. John Hochheimer, president of NAR, has announced that NAR launches are allowed again as long as we follow all federal, state, county, and local regulations and public health requirements.

Our next scheduled launch dates are May 30 and June 21, then we resume again August 16 after our summer hiatus. Fiesta Island remains closed at this time. However, San Diego is beginning to re-open, and Fiesta Island may be re-opened before the May or June launches.

When we can proceed with launches, we will implement the following steps to maintain a safe model rocketry launch including COVID considerations.

- We will have a limited number of launch pads, separated by a minimum of 15'. This provides generous social distancing while also satisfying the Model Rocket Safety Code.
- We will orient the launch range to such that people are not downwind from each other. Assuming typical west-to-east wind direction, people and launch pads will be arranged in a north-to-south layout (see drawing).
- "Dog barf" wadding will be available in Ziploc baggies.
- All people shall wear masks/facial covering while in the vicinity of the launch pads.
- When your rocket is prepped and ready to fly, approach the launch range (maintain 6' social distancing from any others waiting to launch). The Launch Control Officer (LCO) will assign you to a launch pad. Place the rocket on the launch rod, then withdraw 15' from the launch pad. DART personnel will attach the microclips to your rocket and do a safety check. The LCO will then perform the countdown and launch your rocket. This process will maintain social distancing and minimize surface touches.

It is possible that the re-opening regulations may place limits on crowd size and may require that we collect information for contact tracing. We will address these issues when we have additional insight about the re-opening process.

Our primary obligation is the safety, health and welfare of our community and the people who attend our launches. We appreciate your cooperation and support with these new procedures.

Fiesta Island Range Layout – COVID

