

NAR Board of Trustees conference call, March 3, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM Eastern Time.

Present: John Hochheimer, President; Mark Wise, Secretary; Kevin Johnson, Treasurer; Becky Green; Ed LaCroix; Steve Lubliner; Lynn Thomas; Jim Wilkerson

Absent: Carol Marple, Vice President

Also present: Don Carson

Todd Schweim managed the technical aspects of the Zoom meeting and provided his input as appropriate.

President's Report

John will include Ed's update on national events in the March issue of *The Electronic Rocketeer*.

Todd Schweim is now an employee of the NAR. His payroll tax and insurance have been set up.

Marie is doing well following her recent medical procedures, which went more smoothly than expected. (*Get well soon, Marie!*)

Trip has been doing some research in the NEON database in order to reach out to TARC mentors whose NAR membership had lapsed. Many of these mentors were unaware that their memberships lapsed, in large part due to auto-renewals involving credit or debit cards that had expired. Trip talked the lapsed mentors into renewing. Jonathan Rains, Todd, and Marie will work to reach out to people whose cards are expiring.

At this time, John is waiting to hear from Bob Blomster, our insurance agent, regarding this year's insurance quote.

As of February 28, NAR membership was 7544, an increase of almost 100 since January 31. Our total number is holding steady, which is good. John has received no complaints regarding the dues increase; in fact, some members have told him that NAR isn't raising dues enough.

Treasurer's Report

As Kevin says, "We have some money," currently about \$98,000 in the general account and \$11,899 in the committee account. Our total liquid assets as of March 3 come to \$127,288.64

The insurance bill is coming due, which will come to about \$85,000.

John directed Kevin to close out our accounts with Americhoice Federal Credit Union.

John informed the Board that NASA would not be holding the Student Launch Program this year. He is working with John Lyngdal on an invoice for NASA. We won't be billing NASA for the total contracted amount, but quite a bit of the annual SLP payment goes toward paying NAR's insurance premium.

We have completed our payment to the Museum of Flight.

Conversion to New Dues Structure

John said that the transition to the new dues structure went smoothly. He added that Jonathan Rains did an “awesome” job working with the NEON database people to set it up.

Section Committee

Annual Section renewal is underway. Section Activities Chair Chuck Neff continues to do an outstanding job.

National Events

Ed provided an update by e-mail earlier in the day.

National Sport Launch 2021 – Alamosa, Colorado, May 29-31 – Event Director Matt Abbey recently held a meeting with Conejos County Sheriff Garth Crowther, County EMS manager Rodney King, and undersheriff Chris Crown. The head of the Conejos County health department was not present but they sent Sheriff Crowther suggestions via email prior to the meeting.

Assuming that infection rates don’t worsen in the course of the next two months, NSL is a “GO” from the position of the relevant local authorities. Infection rates are currently declining.

The Sheriff’s team asked questions about the event:

- How many people
- How people will set up
- How close people are to one another and to the launch area
- How camping will be handled

Matt walked the Sheriff and EMS manager through the site plan and offered a best guess estimate on attendees, with a maximum of 500. That 500 includes those staying all weekend, plus unique local participants who will probably be there for only one day. There is likely to be at least 100 kids out there from the community, not to mention *lots* of local spectators who will come out to see this event. Matt figured it was better to overestimate than underestimate.

The County is enthused about the event and very much wants it to take place.

From the standpoint of the Conejos County Public Health department, the Health Director asked Matt to prepare a plan that addressed the following points:

- Masks be required for any person within six feet of another person that is outside of their family group
- Daily temperature checks (read the participant’s temp with an infrared temp gun)
- Ask a short series of health-related questions of all present (symptoms questions similar to those asked at the airport)

- Collect contact information for tracing if needed (this might be accomplished “at the gate” as people drive in)
- For campers, designate a team to go “door to door” each morning (Matt is working to come up with a mark or stamp to use at camp sites, such as a sticker or surveyor’s flag)
- In locations where people may congregate, such as Registration, Check-in line, etc. we should place markers to encourage spreading out, like the stickers on the floor of grocery stores (Matt has some ideas)

Operationally, Matt believes all of the health requirements are manageable if they remain unchanged by the time the Board gives the “green light” to hold the event. Matt will generate the procedures and forms, then submit them to County Health for review. Matt will make all necessary additions to the volunteer schedule to meet the needs of the health requirements.

NARAM 62 – Geneseo, New York, July 24-30 – Ed recently reached out to Bill and MaryBeth Clunes who are anchoring the support of the MARS Section in support of NARAM 62. Contest Director Dan Wolf was copied.

- MARS is ready to serve as the host Section.
- Bill and Mary Beth asked Ed to wait another 30 days to see what the New York State COVID regulations for up-state New York are, and then reconnect to discuss reopening the NARAM-62 website.

High Power Rocketry

Jim talked to a group at the University of Washington on how his hobby turned into a career. John Thompson is mentoring a group with Level 2 certification as their learning objective

Steve informed the Board that ESRA has cancelled the Spaceport America Cup’s live event for 2021, but that they will have some virtual activities. They may reach out to Ed and Todd for advice. There is some possibility of dispersed flight testing in support of Spaceport America, and Steve asked whether NAR would support launch attempts to 10,000 feet at NSL. John had no objections.

Safety Committee

Some individuals have raised questions as to whether rocket gliders are considered drones under Part 107 of the Federal Aviation Regulations. Based on Steve’s reading of the regulations, FAR 107 refers to aircraft, not rockets. John said that the last time he talked to the FAA, they told him that if a model ascended under rocket power it was governed by Part 101, not Part 107.

Education

Becky is working with a First Nations launch, involving a team from the University of California at Davis.

The Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium has cancelled their launch and released the participating teams to launch locally.

Todd will connect Becky with Roy Houchin (editor of the Educator Newsletter) to make sure that she’s on his distribution list and that the Junior Science Fair information will go into the newsletter.

Tripoli Rocketry Association

John has spoken with Gerald Meux of Tripoli. NAR and Tripoli have agreed to hold quarterly meetings. The organizations are getting along quite well, and we have no issues to discuss at this time. Gerald was highly complimentary about NARCON.

Gary Rosenfield informed Ed that TRA will hold "TRACON" at LDRS in late July.

National Science Teachers Association Membership

Eric Pyle, a Level 2-certified NAR member and TARC mentor, will become the president of the NSTA in June. He has reached out to the NAR and is interested in solidifying a relationship between NAR and NSTA. He wants to make increased rocketry involvement a centerpiece of his tenure as president. John put Eric in touch with Trip Barber. Trip and John see this as an opportunity to become an "affiliate member" of the NSTA. The fee for non-profit organizations is fairly minimal. We would need to assemble a package with general documentation (bylaws, IRS 990 form, a list of officers). Our status with NSTA would be reviewed every three years.

John asked the Board to pass the following resolution:

The National Association of Rocketry (NAR) Board of Trustees approves for the NAR President to apply on behalf of the NAR to the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) as an Affiliate, Category B, member. Additionally, the NAR Board of Trustees supports the mission of the NSTA and finds our mission to be complimentary to that of the NSTA. If accepted, the NAR will fulfill all of the obligations required of an Affiliate member.

Ed said that this was a lot of information to digest on short notice. Steve agreed, and suggested that we get a sense of the cost to NAR, identify a point of contact for the NAR. At the very least, participation in regional and national conferences would involve travel fees.

John sees this as a golden opportunity. He has someone in mind to be our liaison to NSTA in addition to Lynn, who is a prior NSTA member. We will discuss this further during the April board call.

Member Concerns

A member expressed concerns about gendered pronouns in the NAR high power certification standards. Jim will work with Todd to scrub these documents and include gender-neutral language.

Steve will review the Radio-Controlled Rocket Glider Safety Code with an eye toward re-casting it as a best practices document rather than a safety code.

The next scheduled conference call will be on April 7, 2021 at 8:00 PM Eastern Time.

Meeting adjourned 9:16 PM.