

NAR Board of Trustees conference call, October 6, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 PM Eastern Time.

Present: John Hochheimer, President; Carol Marple, Vice President; Mark Wise, Secretary; Kevin Johnson, Treasurer; Becky Green; Steve Lubliner; Lynn Thomas.

Absent: Steve Kristal, Jim Wilkerson.

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

President's Report

John informed the Board of a recent incident in Nevada, where a NAR member "land-sharked" a high-power rocket (H motor), striking the back bumper of a car and causing some damage. The incident was initially reported to the NAR by another club member, and then the flier reported it. The parties told John that they will take care of the damage through their insurance company. John asked Todd if we could come up with some way to facilitate incident reporting. John added that he shouldn't have to find out about an incident from our insurance agent, especially three days after the fact. "I think we really have to make it obvious," he said. He suggested making a link to the insurance claim form (<https://www.nar.org/nar-insurance-claim-form/>) easier to find, perhaps linked to the blue banner on the NAR home page. John said that he would like people to report more incidents, just so that we can get a sense of what's going on. Todd said that he would work on it.

John traveled to Iowa during the month. He started the process to research the Collins Credit Union account to recover the funds still on deposit with them. He also visited US Bank and said that it looks as though NAR will be able to set up a \$50,000 line of credit with them.

The U.S. Spacemodeling Team is currently flying in the World Spacemodeling Championships and doing well.

The Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) has hired Katrina Hill as their new TARC manager. She has over 10 years of experience in STEM education. John spoke with her and came away with a good first impression.

John said he is certain that the host Section will have to move the launch site for NARAM-63, because the original site will be in a restricted-use status due to biosolid application on the field. John also said that the dates for NARAM conflict with the Farnborough International Airshow (scheduled for July 18-22), which could lead to scheduling problems for some of our people.

Safety/High Power Rocketry

John updated the Board regarding the incident we discussed last month, involving a NAR member making two high-power flights in violation of the applicable safety codes and posting video of the flights to social media. John has talked to the member, who seemed sincerely apologetic that he had created a problem. He said that it was not until after he made the flights that he realized that he should have requested a waiver.

John sees this as an education problem rather than an enforcement problem. He recommended letting the matter drop, since the member knows he did wrong and won't do it again. John added that we need to think about reaching out to high-power flyers to educate them beyond just passing the Level 2 written exam. HPR education is probably a good niche for us.

Steve expressed his concern that posting videos of the flights sent a signal that this sort of activity is acceptable. Even if the flights had taken place under commensurate compliance, uploading the videos to social media would have been problematic. John suggested that if we grant commensurate compliance for flights that push the envelope, we should talk about what the flyer is going to do with the results and how they should be shared. Flights like these need to be presented from the standpoint of legitimate research rather than appealing to viewers' baser instincts.

Steve suggested making the current Level 2 exam a part of the Level 1 certification process. He added that there was no excuse to say, "Gee, I forgot that I need a waiver for high-power rocket." Steve sees that as inexcusable – this is a basic responsibility of a high-power flyer. John said that he didn't disagree but added that the majority of our HPR flyers don't request waivers often enough to remember all of the necessary information. He believes that education rather than punishment is appropriate in this case, and that the NAR should go forward with additional emphasis on education.

After further discussion Steve and Carol suggested the possibility of making the Junior Level 1 exam a part of all Level 1 exams and retaining the current Level 2 exam as part of the Level 2 certification process.

Becky made the point that if you don't use it (the regulatory knowledge covered in the Level 2 test), you lose it. She suggested that we recommend that people study the exam questions as a form of recurrent training. Steve expanded on that, saying that people could take the practice exams on the NAR website to see if they've retained what they need to know, as a sort of refresher.

John said that clubs could, perhaps should, have annual safety standdowns. He cited NOVAAR as an example of a Section that does this with good results. John also noted that people who have the capability to fly HPR without a club are really the people we need to reach with safety and training initiatives.

Steve volunteered to write an article for *Sport Rocketry* to address this topic. John said that we could send targeted e-mails, using the member database. Todd said that we could send targeted e-mails, make the relevant information more prominent on the website, and perhaps add a page to the updated NAR Member Guidebook that is currently in production.

John said we should start by drafting an article for *Sport Rocketry*. Thinking of the bigger picture, John wondered whether we could really push this as a fairly major campaign of NAR, to include short YouTube videos and other multimedia content. Steve said he thought that was a good idea and added that we could dedicate a NARCON session to a safety review.

John will contact the High Power and Safety committees to come up with some options to bring back to the Board.

Treasurer's Report

Kevin reported that the current balance in USBank accounts stands at \$168,623.44, roughly evenly distributed between the general account and committee account. Kevin will probably move money from the committee account to the general account, because we don't need to keep that large a balance in the committee account.

NAR still has \$8,846.55 in accounts with Americhoice Credit Union, as well as \$154.84 in the PayPal account. Kevin did a periodic cleanout of the PayPal account on October 5th, moving about \$2,000 into the general account.

Recent payments include \$107.32 to Greg Deputy for e-mail services, \$1,395.27 to Chase Bank, and \$362.37 to the membership card vendor. Kevin has also sent Cannon and Extracurricular Activity Grant checks to Claude Maina to distribute to the recipients.

Dan Wolf and Ed LaCroix need to be reimbursed for their NARAM expenses, totaling total around \$2,000.

NAR has \$177,624.83 total cash on hand.

HPR Exams

Chuck Neff has received multiple requests from pairs of Level 1 rocketeers who want to administer the Level 2 written test to each other. The sense of the Board was that this was not advisable for several reasons. Jim drafted a policy to address this issue and e-mailed it to the Board on September 28th.

Using Jim's proposed policy as a starting point, the Board arrived at the following wording after extensive discussion:

It shall be the policy of the NAR that:

- **NAR Level 2 and Junior Level 1 written tests shall be administered by a Level 2 or Level 3-certified NAR member who is a NAR Section officer (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Section Advisor) or L3CC member.**
- **NAR Sections may designate additional Level 2 or Level 3-certified members to administer and proctor Level 2 and Junior Level 1 written tests. This designation must be made via email or hard copy letter from the Section President to the NAR High Power Services Committee chair and renewed or updated no later than April 15th of each calendar year.**
- **Commensurate compliance for exceptional circumstances may be requested from NAR High Power Services or the Section Activities Committee.**

Steve moved to adopt the policy. Lynn seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark will update the NAR policy list accordingly and send the document to Todd for inclusion in the "Association Documents" page of the NAR website.

Miscellaneous

Steve will write an article for the *E-Rocketeer* to recruit Level 3-certified volunteers to be mentors, flyers of record, and range crew for the Spaceport America Cup. He noted that while experimental motors are permissible in this event, approximately 80 percent of the entries use commercially available motors. Any dual NAR/TRA member can assist with experimental motors in his/her capacity as an appropriately certified TRA member. The Spaceport America Cup finals will be held at Spaceport America, southeast of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, June 21-25, 2022.

Lynn is currently reviewing NAR's educational materials. Eventually, she looks to update and improve them in cooperation with the National Science Teachers Association.

The next scheduled conference call will be on November 3, 2021, at 8:00 PM Eastern Time.

Meeting adjourned at 9:43 PM.