



Our Primary Concerns

Rockets that should *not* be flown too often *do* get flown

- Near misses and landing mishaps occur too frequently
- Financial health would be significantly impacted by a major incident
- “Minor” incidents happen too often (several times per year)



Our Other Concerns

- We need to continue to attract and retain new NAR members to sustain our future
- Development encroachment and landowner fear of “safety” or litigation continues to reduce access to launch sites
- We could use still more sections; too many members do not belong to one
 - We need sections with flying sites near every major population center
- We need more NAR volunteers to improve our services and programs, both locally and nationally
- *To better serve our membership, we need to address the structure of our National Events in general, and contest rocketry in particular.*



Contest Rocketry

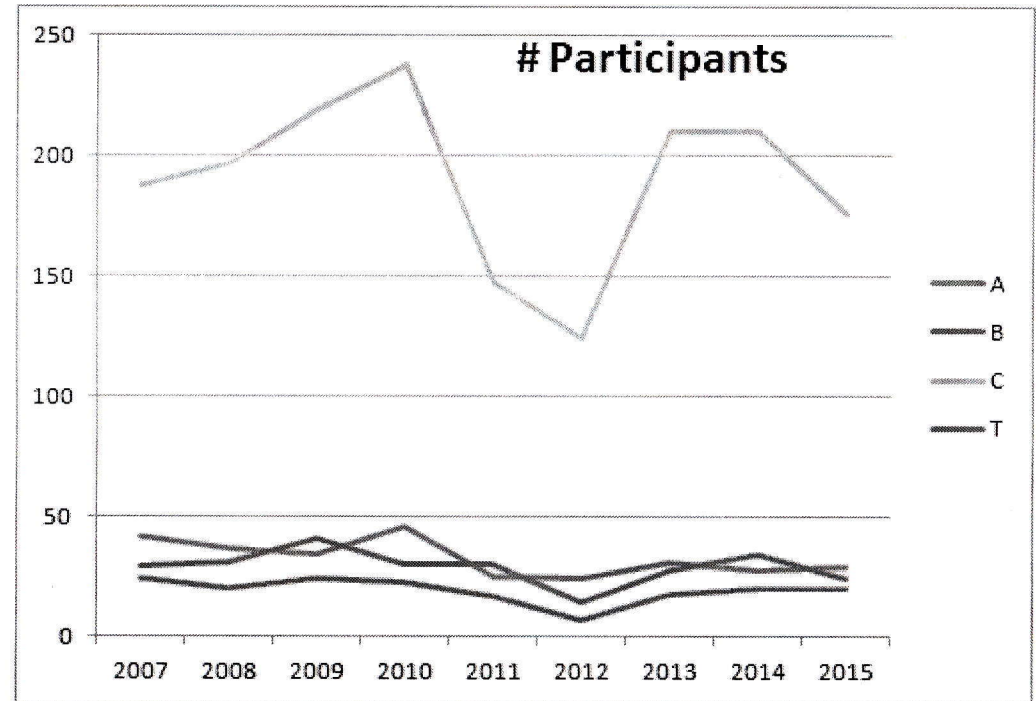
- An integral part of our organizational history
- A foundation for technical advancement in the field
- The primary source of non-HPR technical challenges in sport rocketry
- A core group of member enthusiasts

...but declining



Contest Rocketry

- Flat to declining participation even as NAR grew by 30%
- Threatening to become insignificant in terms of numbers of members
 - There are more L3 fliers
 - There are more Teachers
 - 8X members are Jr HPR vs. B-division contest fliers



Estimated number of contest participants



Contest Rocketry

Issues include

- Barriers to entry
 - Well-established, but insular, community
 - Few mentors outside of contest-oriented sections
 - Significant investment to be competitive
 - Highly technical (for the novice) rules
 - Converging designs
 - Few contests, lack of publicity
- Organizational structure making it impossible to drive change from within
 - System has evolved such that everyone acting in good faith and within the rules can not address the problems



National Events

- NARCON strong and growing
- NSL depends on location, but strong demand for multiple (regional) HPR launches
- NARAM flat to declining
 - 7 days may be (probably is) too long for modern families
 - Competition draw is flat to declining
 - HPR draw increasing, depends on location
 - Significant investment on the part of sponsors (Thank you Ed and Stephen!)
 - Now the smallest National Event in terms of participation



Enhancing National Events

Board of Trustees has established a Special Committee for the Enhancement of National Events to recommend ways to attract more NAR members to the NAR's National Events and to reinvigorate all forms of rocketry competition.

- Chaired by NAR Vice President John Hochheimer
- Specific charter and membership to be established by the Executive Committee and approved by 2/3 vote of the Board of Trustees.



Enhancing Contest Rocketry

The Special Committee will have enhancing contest rocketry as part of its charter.

In addition, there being no bids to host NARAM in 2016, the Special Committee will itself establish NARAM-58, which will likely be shorter in duration and significantly different in content from previous NARAMs.

- However, if a good “classic NARAM” bid is received by September 30, it will be accepted.



Enhancing Contest Rocketry

The Board of Trustees has voted to make three pink book changes to spur growth and enable change.

First, to increase flexibility of scheduling and judging of R&D:

- Add the following to the end of Rule 63.5.5:
The written portion of R&D entries must be submitted as a .pdf file to the NAR website (nar.org/rd) no later than two weeks prior to the opening of the contest.



Enhancing Contest Rocketry

Second, limit teams to three members to reduce insularity and increase competition

- Amend first sentence of Rule 8.5 from "Two or more..." to "Two or three..."



Enhancing Contest Rocketry

Third, encourage mentorship with a new event

Event 64: Mentorship

- 64.1 Scope: The purpose of this event is to encourage expanded participation of NAR members in rocketry competition.
- 64.2 Weighting Factor: 15. This event shall be held at all sanctioned contests except record trials. The weighting factor of this event shall not count against the maximum weighting factor for a contest as described in Rule 6.6.
- 64.3 Scoring. A "new competitor" is defined as a NAR member that did not receive competition points from the previous contest year. A "mentor" is defined as a NAR member who is named by a new competitor as their mentor on the contest entry form. Only one mentor may be named by each new competitor. Each mentor shall receive one point for every new competitor that names them for that contest, provided the new competitor attends the contest and makes at least one qualified flight. Placement is determined by the number of points. No place shall be awarded for zero points.



Our Value Proposition

- At \$62/year (\$25 for Age 25 and under) dues, we are the best value in the hobby and should say it proudly:
 - The hobby's only magazine, 56 pages, every other month
 - Includes \$5M insurance that is valid anywhere in the US & Canada, any time, including fire insurance for launch sites
 - Includes HPR certification through Level 3
 - Includes US & international competition programs
 - Offers a family member discount of \$12

We all need to recruit personally to keep our NAR going and growing!



What Can You Do?

- *Fly safely*, and ensure that others around you do the same!
- Recruit new NAR members, HPR flyers, competitors
- Take your own turn volunteering to help with your section or with the NAR nationally (see me for our pressing needs)
- Do community outreach to community leaders, young people, parents, and to those who work with young people
- Make sure everyone knows and takes advantage of our scholarships and grants

Be safe, have fun, pay forward