

## Pittsburgh Space Command (PSC 473) Annual Business Meeting

Due to inclement weather that resulted in a cancellation of the monthly launch at Camp Lutherlyn, the annual PSC 473 business meeting was held at 12:30 PM on Sunday, January 17th, 2010 at the Garden Gate Restaurant on route 422 in Prospect, PA. In attendance were Art Nestor, John Brohm, Sean Guizek, Russell Cummins, Steve Foster, Rod Schafer, Mike Hardobey, Mark Cassata, John Pace, Scott Alexander and his daughter Michala, and Richard Beamer and his son Michael.

Club president, John Pace opened the meeting. The following are notes on each specific topic discussed during the meeting:

- **2009 Launch Calendar** – The following launch dates were recommended and approved for calendar year 2010: February 21<sup>st</sup>, March 21<sup>st</sup>, April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> (Reach for the Sky XXII), May 16<sup>th</sup>, June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> (SCST-10), July 11<sup>th</sup>, August 22<sup>nd</sup> (R&R, Picnic & Fun Events), September 19<sup>th</sup>, October 17<sup>th</sup>, November 14<sup>th</sup> and December 12<sup>th</sup>. Other important rocketry dates identified for the 2010 calendar year included: NARCON 2010, Worcester, MA – March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, Spaced Out Weekend at the Carnegie Science Center – March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, TARC Finals – May 15<sup>th</sup>, National Sports Launch, White Sands New Mexico – May 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, ECRM Regional Sports Launch – June 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, NARAM 52 – July 30<sup>th</sup> – August 6<sup>th</sup>, and RAMTEC – September 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.
- **Contest Calendar & Events** – Events as well as dates for the Sky XXII and SCST-10 were selected back in October 2009 in an effort to provide the competitors more time to design and build their models. The meeting attendees reviewed both the events and selected dates for any scheduling conflicts or errors before approving. The events chosen for Reach for the Sky XXII were “A” Flex-Wing Glider, ¼ A Boost Glider, C-Egg Loft duration, 1/2A Parachute duration and B Helicopter duration. For SCST – 10 the events will be ½ A Boost Glider, ½ A Parachute duration MR, B streamer MR, D Helicopter, and A Cluster Altitude. For more information on these events and the design criteria for each please visit the NAR website, [www.nar.org](http://www.nar.org).
- **E-mail Addresses & Telephone Numbers** – John Pace prepared a spreadsheet that contained what the club has on record as the most current and accurate e-mail addresses for all club members. What was discovered is that we have at least a half dozen inaccurate e-mail addresses. Steve Foster offered to check his list against the spreadsheet prepared by John Pace. John will also send his list to other club officers for their feedback. John’s goal is to get an accurate listing of e-mail addresses for all club members and maintain that list. Right now several members are not getting e-mails from John Pace especially as they pertain to the clubs launch schedule. If you are receiving a bi-monthly copy of the PSC Newsletter but not monthly e-mail reminders about the upcoming club launch then we don’t have your correct e-mail address. If you would like to receive these club reminders as well as other club updates, please e-mail your current e-mail address to [jp pace@psc473.org](mailto:jp pace@psc473.org). Also, if you haven’t already done so, please fill out and submit your PSC Survey. This is one way of keeping your individual profile information up to date.
- **NARAM 52** – This year’s national rocketry event will be held from of July 30<sup>th</sup> through August 6<sup>th</sup> in Pueblo, Colorado. The host section is #632, Southern Colorado Rocketeers. As of the annual

meeting club members Steve Foster, John Pace, Rod Schaefer, Mike, Tina, Michael and Brittany Hardobey, the Guizek family and Mark Cassata are planning to attend. If you are interested in attending NARAM – 52 or learning more about this event, visit the clubs website at <http://www.peakcity.org>.

- **NARAM 52 Fly It / Take It Program** – Jason Unwin, President of section #632, Southern Colorado Rocketeers is asking club sections and NAR members for completed kits for this year's Fly It / Take It Program at NARAM 52. Since NARAM-52 will be held in Pueblo, Colorado, the club is anticipating a moderate turn out for this event and has set a goal of 110 to 120 completed kits. PSC will be holding a rocket building session on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 10 am at the home of Mike & Tina Hardobey. This building session will be held in conjunction with a class on how to make fiberglass body tubes. John Pace has been given the responsibility of purchasing E2X kits from AC Supply that the club will donate for the Fly It / Take It event. Based on the speed with which the club members built the models last year this session shouldn't take more than two hours to complete. Once complete the rockets are to be mailed to: Southern Colorado Rocketeers, NAR Section #632, 1682 Indian Wells Road, Cotopaxi, CO 81223.
- **Fiberglass Body Tube Class** – Rod Schafer and Steve Foster will conduct a class on how to build fiberglass body tubes. As noted above, the class will be held on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> and will immediately follow the rocket building session for the Fly It / Take It program at NARAM -52. For those of you interested or currently participating in competitive flying this is an invaluable class and you should make every effort to attend. You may not have another opportunity like this.
- **Treasury Status** – In Jerry Kraus' absence John Pace reported on the status of the club treasury. The treasury balance as of December 31, 2009 was \$1,169.97. Membership dues are being paid to Jerry. Steve Foster requested that any and all e-mails identifying dues payments made be sent to him. John Pace agreed to review his e-mails from Jerry Kraus and forward or scan any Steve was not copied on.
- **Website** – Webmaster Mike Hardobey reported on the status of the website. Mike noted that we have ample memory to add scanned newsletters or any technical bulletins developed by club members to the site. The technical bulletins seem to be hot topics with visitors to our site. In particular, John Brohm's piece on parachute design. John Pace will continue to scan and forward past newsletters to Mike. Mike noted that our website is receiving roughly 330 unique hits each month. This reflects the new look and content of the website. Mike informed the group that the NARAM 51 site was still live and would remain so until the close of NARAM 52. The one section of the website that is still a work in progress is the member's area. We need more people to complete the PSC survey so we can update member on line profiles. Scott Alexander recommended that for any member under 18, the photo next to their bio be of their favorite rocket kit and not a photo of that person. This idea was well received by the group and approved. It was also agreed that in the spring photos would be taken of any member over 18 that approved the use of his or her picture on the website. Members under 18 are asked to bring their favorite rocket so it can be photographed for the website. John Pace's and Rod Schaefer's home phone numbers and e-mail addresses are to be added somewhere on the front page of the website as initial contacts should anyone have any questions about the club.

- Newsletter** – At the September 2009 meeting the club set a goal of winning the newsletter of the year award. For the past several years the club has finished second, receiving an honorable mention at the NAR banquet but no trophy to take back to Art and the club members. We would like this year to be different. However, to reach our goal we are going to need some help from ALL of our members. The help we are looking for is simple and requires no time away from your families (maybe a little less time in front of the TV or the computer). We need members, young and old to contribute one article to the club every two months. The articles need only be a few paragraphs or if possible a full piece of paper. You can talk about anything. Your favorite kit, when your interest in model rocketry began, if you're a BAR why did you reenter the hobby, your favorite model and why, what you like most about model rocketry and what you like the least, or anything about model rocketry that interests you. For you adults share some of your memorable moments when you were a kid or with your own children. Also, if you have a unique way of building a rocket, a unique kit design or some new materials you have come across to make your model look or perform better be sure to share those ideas with the club. The current newsletter is 16 pages long. Our goal is to maintain that number of pages throughout 2010. Other ideas to help fill our newsletter include model rocket reviews, and the publishing of drawings of unique model rocket designs. As editor, Art Nestor puts a lot of effort into developing our newsletter. In appreciation for his efforts let's all contribute to this worthy cause so we can bring back the newsletter of the year award to Art and present it to him at the August picnic. It was agreed that the website would include all but the two most recent newsletters. This is because the newsletters is one of the primary benefits of joining our club and current newsletters should not be something that is free to anyone visiting our website.
- Fun Events** – John Brohm has contacted Semroc to again sponsor the fun event at the August Picnic. Although no name was selected for the event it was decided both the youth and adults are to build the Semroc Hornet. The Hornet kit comes with both an 18 mm and 24 mm engine mount. The membership recommended the Hornet be built with an 18 mm motor mount. After much discussion, the fun events selected were as follows: Adults - Event one craftsmanship and event two predicted duration: Youth – Event one predicted duration to be more than 30 seconds but not to exceed 90 seconds; and event two random duration to be determined by the CD or safety range officer at the launch site on the day of the competition. The random duration will also be more than 30 seconds but less than 90 seconds. The Semroc Hornet kit should be available for purchase by the March launch. **Recent Update from John Brohm:** The order has been placed for the Magnum Hornets, and the package should be here by 2/1/10. Each kit will be sold at \$16.50.
- Carnegie Science Center Display & Participation** – The Spaced Out Astronomy Weekend is scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at the Carnegie Science Center. PSC will have a table display at the event both days. If you are interested in volunteering some of your time for this event please send an e-mail to John Pace at [jpance@psc473.org](mailto:jpance@psc473.org). You don't need to commit your entire day to this event. We will accept as many hours as you can spare. We will need a minimum of three and hopefully four to five members each day to man the booth. John Brohm, Rod Schafer, Sean Guizek and John Pace volunteered at least one of the two days. Barry Majerski will be there for both days. This event has helped us find new rocketeers and grow our club membership. John Pace contacted Dan Malerbo of the Carnegie Science Center who agreed to provide family members of a club member volunteering his or her time at the event free passes to the science center for that day only

for up to 3 family members. Rod Schafer to inspect the display board making any necessary repairs.

- **NAR Membership Drive 2010 (52 by 52)** – Between 1/1/2010 and 7/31/10 (the first day of NARAM – 52), NAR is taking some extraordinary steps to encourage new members to join its organization. The goal is to reach a membership total of 5200 which is an increase of approximately 700 members in just seven months. There are several special benefits and incentives that will to new member applicants during this period. Those benefits and incentives are as follows:
  - A free rocket kit from Semroc and Quest and a free hat from Aerotech shipped directly to them. Gifts worth more than \$30.00.
  - Current NAR members will get a \$5 cash bonus direct from NAR for each new member they recruit. The new member must list the current members NAR number on the application to receive the \$5.
  - Sections will get a \$5 cash bonus for each unit of growth in total NAR member count on their section's roster compared to this count in 2009.
  - Manufacturers will put ads for the NAR on their websites and will get discounts on future Sport Rocketry ads for each new member they secure from these.

To help generate new members for the club as well as for NAR, Mike Hardobey proposed the club offer to pay the **FIRST YEAR NAR dues** for the first ten junior members who attend two club launches and launch at least one rocket at each of the two launches. This program was approved by all members at the meeting. In addition Mike Hardobey agreed to donate the funds for two new junior members and John Pace agreed to fund the dues for four new junior members should we find that many new junior members interested in joining the NAR . John Pace to contact the NAR to obtain flyers and any other documents available that can be placed in local hobby stores with the PSC contact information on them. Steve Foster agreed to modify the NAR application to include club information including mailing address. Mike Hardobey will post this PDF file on the website for easy access by potential new members.

- **Equipment Needs** – In general, the club equipment is in good working order and is in no need of any major overhaul at this time. Steve Foster recommended some new 1/4" diameter stainless steel launch rods. Specifically four to six at four foot and two to three at six foot. John Pace to purchase these through Grainger. Dick Beamer recommended a “ T” Allen wrench attached directly to the launch pad to prevent it from being lost which happened during one of the late summer launches in 2009. Rod Schafer to purchase this item and attach it to the launch rack.
- **2010 Club Raffles** – Steve Foster recommended that in lieu of any club raffles to help pay for club expenses, a special raffle and auction be held most likely during SCST-10, the evening of June 5<sup>th</sup> to help support Rod Schafer's trip to Serbia as he attends the Internats not only representing the US but also our Club. All members in attendance agreed with Steve's proposal. In addition several members agreed to donate kits and other items of interest for the auction.
- **Club Officer** – The Vice Presidents position for the club has been vacant for almost one year now. The duties and responsibilities of the Vice President are rather simple. Fill in for the president in for this position. Steve Foster told the group that if no one else volunteered Barry Majerski would

accept the position. Barry Majerski was unanimously voted Vice President of PSC 473.  
Congratulations Barry!!

- **Section Advisors Update** – Rod Schaefer had nothing to report at this time.
- **Butler County Civil Air Patrol** – Kevin Berry, Commander of Civil Air Patrol Squadron #712 Butler contacted me to discuss a structured rocketry program they have for Cadets. The program was developed so that even the youngest cadet can participate in and have fun building model rockets. It includes three stages, Redstone, Titan, and Saturn with each stage more challenging than the previous one. Upon completion of all three stages, the cadet is eligible to receive the Official Air Patrol Model Rocketry Badge. Unfortunately the program has been inactive for several years. Kevin would like to reinstitute the program but is looking for help from our club. Anyone interested in either joining the Civil Air Patrol or helping him restart this excellent program please e-mail John Pace at [jp pace@psc473.org](mailto:jp pace@psc473.org). Kevin will be attending an upcoming launch with some of his cadets to provide further details about the program and how our club may be able to help. Remember what Trip Barber, our current NAR President, tells us when he addresses the membership in his newsletters or e-mails. It is up to the membership to “Pay It Forward”. Attached is a copy of the Civil Air Patrol Model Rocketry Program for your review and consideration.
- **Open Forum** –
  - **Club Anniversary** – May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of PSC. This is a milestone for any organization. Art Nestor has volunteered as Anniversary Coordinator for this event. Some ideas recommended by various members during the meeting included a picnic, special edition newsletter, possible anniversary club patch and/or “T”-shirt. If you have any suggestions on how we can make this event a memorable one, please send your ideas to Art Nestor. His e-mail address is [artpeg@hotmail.com](mailto:artpeg@hotmail.com).
  - **Camp Lutherlyn Donation** - It was approved that the club would donate \$100 to Camp Lutherlyn for allowing us to use their facilities once a month and sometimes more for our rocket launches. Jerry Kraus to issue a check to Camp Lutherlyn in this amount and either mail it to their offices or hand carry the check to them when attending a future launch.

The meeting concluded at 3 PM.

John D. Pace  
President PSC 473