



The newsletter for the Northern Illinois Rocketry Association

August 2006

Welcome to the new NIRA newsletter

YES, this is a NIRA newsletter. We realize that there has not been a newsletter in 2006. Unfortunately, our editor Adam Elliot has had some personal difficulties and was unable to publish. We now have a new editor. Pat Butler has accepted the VOLUNTEER position as newsletter editor. We are hopeful that NIRA will be able to start publishing THE LEADING EDGE in a more timely manner. If you have an submissions for the newsletter you can contact Pat at www.nira-rocketry.org under *editor* on the contacts page, or just send an email to editor@nira-rocketry.org. Thank you for your patience.

This newsletter is for you

You might be wondering why you received this newsletter. No, this is not junk mail or advertising. You either are, or were a member of The Northern Illinois Rocketry Association. We have decided to send this to former members as well as current members in order to show how NIRA is changing. We are trying to make NIRA and model rocketry more interesting and fun.

In this small issue we are going to explain why we think NIRA IS getting better and that we hope you will stay with us or rejoin us. The activities of NIRA are determined by it's members and your membership in this club is very important to all of us. So check out what we are doing and We hope you will rejoin us. You can rejoin NIRA by contacting Marty Schrader at WWW.NIRA-ROCKETRY.ORG under Secretary/Treasurer on the contact page. Thank you.

A different look to 2006 NIRA monthly meetings

At the beginning of 2006, the new officers of NIRA asked the members what they would like to see at the Club's monthly meetings. The vast majority of club members answering the survey answered that they wanted less boring business and no more personal attacks and snipping. Our members said they wanted to see MORE ROCKETS and rocket related presentations. So every month we try to have an interesting demonstration or presentation ie. Bob Kaplow's - how to fill body tube spirals, Joe Chesack's - how to build a inexpensive launch system that meets the safety code, Ian Timberlake's - how to build a trash rocket, Pat Butler's - Air brushing demonstration, and others. These presentations have been well done, interesting and educational for the members in attendance. We have more demos planned and are looking for more volunteers. We definitely have more ROCKETS to show with our new Model of the Year competition



Meeting attendance is way up. Why don't you join us at the next meeting?



and youth Model Rocket Challenge Program. We believe that our meetings are more fun and interesting than in the past and we certainly hope that you will come and join us in the fun of our NIRA monthly meetings. The schedule and location can be found at WWW.NIRA-ROCKETRY.ORG under the title of meetings. We hope to see you soon.

Parade of rockets!

The August meeting is a special one. Everyone is encouraged to bring ALL of their rockets for display.

We want to see how many rockets we can display on the tables provided by the library. That's right-pack up your entire collection of rockets and show them off to other club members.



Youth model rocket challenge

by Bill Ipjan

At many of the NIRA monthly meeting that I have attended, I have noticed a lot of younger rocketeers who were bored, disinterested in the proceedings, or



Youth member Katie Mitchell describes the construction of her rocket.

sleeping. The boring club business and members snipping at members was not any fun. We needed some activities besides model of the month (that was all the way at the end of the meeting) to get them interested. They enjoy rockets. What is there not to be interested in about rockets? So I came up with a monthly meeting activity that gave our

younger members a chance to show off their rocketing skills. I call it the YOUTH MODEL ROCKET CHALLENGE!

At every monthly meeting, We select a young rocketeer who is present at the meeting to receive a model rocket kit that they are to build and bring to the next months meeting. At that meeting they present the model and explain how they built it. They answer questions from the club members present about the building of their model. They are not competing for a prize but they are proudly telling the club members about this rocket that they were given. After their presentation, we present another youth with a model to build for next months meeting.

Starting with Joey Chesak's presentation of the Pip Squeek he was given to Allison's Butler's presentation we have had a lot more interest in our meetings by our younger members. They want to participate and are doing so with great enthusiasm. They get to keep the rockets. They club members enjoy the wonderful presentations. This is at no cost to NIRA because all the models are donated by members. You only need to come and watch one of these presentations to see that YOUR club is trying to have activities that are fun and interesting for all our members.

I hope that we have captured your interest and you will attend a meeting soon. Thank you.



THE LEADING EDGE

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The Leading Edge is published by-monthly for members of the Northern Illinois Rocketry Association (NIRA), NAR Section #117, and is dedicated to the idea that rocketry is fun!

Team American Rocketry Challenge

Registration for the Team America Rocketry Challenge 2007 event will open on September 6, 2006. Anyone (team member or Mentor) who wants to get the public announcements of the official opening should go to the event website www.rocketcontest.org now and fill out the little "pop-up" screen with contact information.

Organizers are trying to reach the capacity limit of 750 teams with teams from every state, and to have at least two-thirds of all entered teams conduct a successful local qualification flight. There are very few differences from TARC 2006. The flight performance goal is 850 feet AND 45 seconds, a slight change from last year's 800 feet and 45 seconds.

Please help spread the word about TARC- word of mouth remains one of the best recruiting tools for this competition. You can also check out the TARC Yahoo group which provides the most updates information at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NARTARC/>.



Meet some of your NIRA officers

Bill Ipjian

In November of 2002, I went into Hobby Town USA in Niles looking for a Christmas gift for my friend Dan. While there I came across an aisle of model rockets. I purchased two Estes Stars and Stripes kits. I gave 1 to Dan and kept the other. After Christmas we both built our models and on a warm Sunday in February 2003 we went to a local park and launched our models on B64 motors. We had a great time and that was my start into the wonderful world of model rocketry.

In August 2003, I joined NAR so I could join a local NAR section. In October 2003, I went to the hobby show in Rosemont and joined NIRA. At the hobby show, I was greeted by Terry House, Rick Gaff, and Bob Kaplow. They encouraged me to come out to their launches and continue to pursue model rocketry. So I went to some launches and had a lot of fun and meet more great members like the Hojeks. Then I started to come to meetings and meet more friendly and helpful racketeers. I also went to NARCON in Kenosha and was wowed at how cool model rocketry really is.

In 2004, I built my first high powered rocket a Loc IV. At mrff 2005, I certified level 1 with an Art Applewhite 12" flying saucer. I now have two models that I am starting to build in quest of level 2.

It was the members of NIRA and NAR that have really encouraged me two advance in model rocketry. By being elected President of NIRA in Jan 2006, I hope to bring to other members the fun, helping hand, and enthusiasm that NIRA and NAR member have given to me. Thank you.

John Hojek

Hi, my name is John Hojek and I am a Born Again Rocketeer. I have been active in rocketry this time around for about 6 years. The experiments of my two sons and safety concerns is what brought me back into the hobby. I am currently Level 1 certified but enjoy all aspects of the hobby. I love to fly



NIRA Officers (l to r)- John Hojek (vice president), Bill Ipjian (president), Bob Kaplow (safety officer), and Marty Schrader (secretary/treasurer).

Alpha's on an A as well as my large AMRAAM on an I. At this time my whole family is involved in rocketry and NIRA.

As your Vice President for this year my hopes are to get more members involved in not only the monthly launches but the meetings as well. That is why I sponsored the prize for the Model of the Year contest. As Bill our president has said over and over again, "this is your club", we must all participate and get involved for the success of the organization. At this time I would

ask all members to come out to a meeting, bring a rocket for model of the month, attend the launches, fly some rockets, and volunteer to help set up or tear down the range. Volunteer for RSO, LCO, or Gate Duty. We have several committees currently in need of members to help out. Bring a friend or neighbor out to a meeting or launch. Help the hobby grow by inviting a youth to join.

Please GET INVOLVED.

How to get involved with fun activities

Upcoming launches

August- cancelled

September 17th- East Branch Forest Preserve

October 15th- East Branch Forest Preserve

November 19- East Branch Forest Preserve

Meetings

Meetings are held the first Friday of every month from 7pm until 8:45pm at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard.

Are you aware of these member benefits?

Your NIRA raffle

We have signed up NIRA at Al's Hobby Shop in Elmhurst. When you purchase rocketry related items and check out in the rocketry department at Al's, let them know you are a NIRA member and you will receive a 10% discount on your rocketry related purchase. In addition to your 10% discount Al's will award NIRA a 5% bonus. We will let this money accumulate, and at the end of the year we will purchase rocket items to be auctioned off at the 2007 NIRA Conference.

However your MONEY is no good at this Auction. In order to bid and win these items you will need NIRA BUCKS. How do you get NIRA BUCKS you ask? Well you participate that's how. For each simple participation you do, you will accumulate NIRA BUCKS that can be redeemed at the auction.

PARTICIPATION NIRA BUCKS EARNED

Joining NIRA as an Individual	\$1
Joining NIRA as an Family	\$5
Attend a NIRA Club meeting	\$1
Attend a NIRA Club Launch	\$1
Help set up at a launch	\$2
Help tear down at a launch	\$2
Shift at Gate Duty	\$5
Shift as Launch Control Officer	\$2
Shift as Range Safety Officer	\$2
Active Committee Chair per meeting	\$2
Active Committee Member per meeting	\$1

One of your club officers will have a sign in sheet for meetings, launches and activities. It is the member's responsibility to find the sign in sheet and sign in for attendance, and or work shift.

NIRA BUCKS are earned as an individual and cannot be combined with other members. However, families can combine their NIRA BUCKS, but only one family member may bid at the year end auction.

THE MORE YOU PARTICIPATE, THE MORE YOU EARN, THE MORE YOU WILL WIN, THE OVERALL WINNER OF COURSE IS YOUR CLUB

This is your newsletter

by Pat Butler, Editor

Feel free to submit any articles and/or photos that you want published in this newsletter. In fact, we encourage you to do so. We plan on taking advantage of making this newsletter available online in the future so that we can expand the number of pages, as needed. There will be no printing charges so it will be a great savings for our club. We'll always have printed copies available for those without Internet access, but having a mostly online version available in the future will allow us to fill this newsletter with colorful photos.

You can submit articles in any format- we end up reformatting them anyway, so don't worry about how your article 'appears' in a graphical sense. Please submit any photographs in the highest resolution you have. We can use photos of at least 300 pixels per inch and we will do any necessary editing on those photos.

Al's Hobby Shop rebate program

At the first NIRA meeting of 2006, the club membership voted to authorize President Bill Ipjian to sign NIRA up for the Al's Hobby Shop Rebate Program. This was done as quickly as possible. The



program provides NIRA with a rebate on all rocket related purchase made by NIRA members who have been identified as club members. NIRA had to provide Al's with the names of participating members. Nira also has to monitor purchases credited to club members thru Al's web sight. Only current NIRA members who are signed up can accumulate rebate money for the club. We only provided Al's with the names of members who agreed for us to provide their name to Al's. No addresses, web addresses, or phone numbers were supplied to Al's.

When a participating NIRA member goes to Al's Hobby Shop in Elmhurst (web address www.alshobbyshop.com), the member takes his purchases to the rocket desk and tells the clerk that he is a member of NIRA. This program does not apply to web purchases. The clerk will check the list and ring up the sale giving the purchasing member 10% off his ROCKETRY related purchases. The club will then be credited with the sale and at the end of the year NIRA will receive gift cards in the amount of approximately 5% of the total amount. This rebate can be used as NIRA see fit.

As you can see, this is a win-win program for both the club member and the club as a whole. Thanks to all who have participated!