Model Rocketry Program of the NAR
What is the National Association of Rocketry?

Founded in 1957, the National Association of Rocketry is the largest non-profit, non-professional rocket and astronautic society in the United States. The NAR is structured in some with members and affiliated local groups in all states.

The NAR is affiliated with the National Aeronautic Association, United States representative of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale.

Many famous scientists, engineers, aviators, astronauts, and educators are members of the NAR.

Model Rocketry and the NAR

The NAR is the nationwide voice of model rocketry, the new Space Age scientific hobby and sport. Model rocketry is concerned with small, light, inexpensive rockets made of paper, plastic, wood, and other non-metallic materials. Model rockets are propelled by factory-made commercial model rocket engines of power reliability and safety. Model rockets are controlled systems which return them to earth in a safe manner so that they may be flown over and over again.

Extensive safety precautions and expensive launching facilities are not required with model rockets.

In model rocketry, emphasis is placed upon design, performance, flight characteristics, instrumentation, reliability, and safety with minimum importance assigned to propulsion and rocket propellants. It is truly rocketry in miniature form.

Model rocketry has proven itself to be on safe on model aviation.

Because of all these things, model rocketry is greatly different from "amateur rocketry" that uses home-made propulsion and rocket engines; large metal rockets, or small rocket models, expensive facilities, and professional supervision. The differences between model rocketry and amateur rocketry are similar to the differences between model aviation and experimental aviation.

The NAR has compiled a complete set of standards for the design, construction, and flight of model rockets. It has also established standards for commercially-made model rocket engines. Each new model rocket engine type appearing on the market is tested by NAR personnel to ascertain its safety, reliability, and conformity to NAR standards.

Membership is the NAR

Model rocketry knows no age limit, and membership in the NAR is open to anybody, regardless of age. Some girls and boys participate in a rocketry program for young students in the Space Age. Many science teachers have joined in order to make model rocketry a part of their school curriculums.

NAR membership dues are based on the age of the applicant.

All members signify upon joining that they will obey the strict NAR Safety Code and that they will abide by the NAR rules for rocket work.

If more than ten NAR members live in one town or neighborhood, they may form an NAR Section and apply for an official charter. The group must have adult supervision. Many local rocket clubs have affiliated themselves with the NAR as Charterd Sections.

What does the NAR do?

The NAR strives to advance the art of model rocketry as a scientific hobby, as an air and space sport, and as a Space Age educational tool.

A monthly newsletter, THE MODEL ROCKETEER, is published monthly and sent to all members. Available to NAR members are the NAR Technical Reports covering various aspects of model rocketry. The NAR Flight Program invites drawings, plans, and data on working model rockets available to members.

The co-operative efforts of the NAR are many. It cooperates with schools in establishing Space Age curricula and clubs. It joins in co-operative programs with professional and civic organizations. It makes its services and facilities available to such organizations as the Civil Air Patrol, the National Aviation Education Council, and the Boy Scouts of America.

The NAR keeps in close touch with model rocket manufacturers, helping them develop safe and reliable model rocketry equipment at no charge. An officer or Treasurer is allowed to illustrate in any way with a model rocket manufacturer in order that unbiased decisions may be made in favor of safe model rocketery.

NAR Contests and Exhibitions

Because of the high visibility of performance of model rocket engines, it is possible to have contests where every contestant is assumed of having a known model rocket power available to him to fly his models. The NAR has adopted a standardized framework of scoring model rocketry contest rules. NAR members and the public can conduct model rocketry contests on an equal basis.

Nearly two dozen separate contest events are authorized under the NAR rules. Events are held to achieve the highest altitude with a known amount of rocket power, to achieve the highest altitude carrying a standard payload, to achieve the highest altitude with a scale model and static. Also mentioned are free flight, junior, and model rocketry events, and the United States Air Force has adopted the NAR standards and rules for the model rocketry program that is part of the ISAP recreation program.

Points are given for scoring and placing in NAR contests throughout the year. The NAR National Model Rocket Championships are held every summer. The NAR member with the highest number of yearly contest points at the end of the contest is awarded a handsome trophy on the Model Rocket Championship of the year. Many other awards and trophies, donated by space industries, are also awarded annually.

NAR model rocketry demonstration teams have performed widely before thousands of people. In 1958, a group of NAR members flew two 1500 model rockets on a complete model rocket stage on the Boy Scout Jamboree. An NAR demonstration team was at the First World Congress of Flight in 1958, performing over nationwide NBC television. Other teams have flown model rockets at national air and space conventions, festivals, and science fairs. These teams have been highly commended by prominent persons and organizations.
The Answer to the Youth Rocket Problem

Rocketry has received much bad publicity because of a few unfortunate accidents involving over-enthusiastic, uninformed young men. Many people have become seriously concerned about the safety problem of youth rocketry.

NAR model rocketry is widely recognized as a safe, workable solution to the problem of youth rocketry. The NAR rules and programs have evolved from years of actual experience. These rules and programs are tried and proven. They work.

The NAR does not attempt to entice people to build rockets, but it does encourage them to build and fly them safely if they wish to fly them at all.

The greatest hazards to model rocketry are the irresponsible enthusiasts who do not pay attention to safety rules, advice, instruction, or laws. These "Basement Bombers" are not model rocketeers! But their accidents cause people to fear all types of rockets. These accidents could cause all forms of rocketry to be outlawed. Model rocketry would then be driven under cover where it could not be legally supervised by adults or safety-controlled by the NAR.

The NAR firmly believes that it is vital to this nation to have a safe, controlled, supervised, citizen-operated model rocketry program that is openly sanctioned and encouraged if the United States is to develop a reservoir of trained and motivated scientists for the future.

For further information write:

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