



President's Newsletter – Fall 2002

"Supplement to The Launch Rack"

By Jack Sarhage, President



GSSS Wins Section of the Year Award

I bet that got your attention! No, we did not win it this year, but the members of the Executive Board have made it a goal. In fact, we want this to be the year 2004 headline.

What is the Section of the Year Award? The following is in a letter from Greg Burke, NAR Section Activities Chairman:

"In 1996 the NAR implemented the Section of the Year Award to be presented annually at NARAM. The award is different than the National Championship section award in that it does not recognize the section solely for accomplishments in competitive rocketry, but instead is designed to recognize the well-rounded section, participating in a broad range of activities.

The Section of the Year Award considers the section's change in membership, communications via newsletters, competition participation, section launches, meetings, and outreach to the local community. This is an opportunity for an NAR Section to be recognized for the hard work its membership puts forth during the year promoting the hobby and servicing the membership. Since this award is not based on points massed in competition, a section with a focus on general rocketry activities stands a greater chance at national recognition than one focused on competitive activities."

The Executive Board noted that we are weak in several areas; membership—we would like to see all members of GSSS belong to the NAR; meetings—we dropped the baton here. We are going to have monthly meetings; launches—although we have always been good in this area we can improve in the number of launches by including "rain dates"; newsletter—to see this published on a regular basis; competition—we would like to see more members participate; outreach—this is another area where we have really dropped the ball.

Do you remember the story of Moses and his father-in-law, Jethro (Exodus 18:13-18) where Moses is sitting as the "judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening?" Ole Jethro stands by and watches and then asks, "What is this you are doing for the people?" "Well, he replies, "they bring all their problems, and disputes to me and I solve things for them." Then Moses father-in-law says, "What you are doing is not good. You and these people will wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you to handle alone."

This is true with GSSS as well. The Executive Board is going to need your help, We are going to need each Junior, Leader, and Senior member to be willing to do their part. First, by keeping in touch

with the board, giving your ideas on how to go about achieving this, and then be willing to lead this suggestion to its completion. Another area is that when you are asked to help to say, "Yes!"

WE CAN DO IT! WE WILL DO IT!

Team America Rocketry Challenge

I want to give an example of picking up the ball..NO!...grabbing the ball from the quarterback's hand and running with it is a more accurate description.

At the Section Meeting, Bob Gill, asked for copies of information I had with me about the Team American Rocketry Challenge, which I gladly shared. Then, a couple of days at the meeting he called me to say that he had downloaded the names and addresses of high schools in three counties and was in the process of forwarding information to them, numbering approximately 100 schools. Not only that, but he wanted to know if he should send to another three counties nearby. It was agreed that we would wait and see if there was any interest from the initial group.

Bob Gill did not wait to be asked. He saw a need and started the ball rolling. Thank you, Bob!

How about you? How about contacting your local high school's science teacher and tell him/her about this program. There is a deadline, November 15, 2002, so a quick move is needed.

Enclosed with this is a page that has a general outline of what the challenge is and the web addresses of both the AIA and NAR, the sponsoring organizations, for more information. If I am not mistaken you can also download the "Team America Handbook" at their web sites.

Outreach plays a large part in being Section of the Year and by helping high schools in going for, and meeting, this challenge we would be fulfilling this requirement. But, and this is a BIG BUT, more importantly we would be helping to introduce model rocketry to a new generation of prospective rocketeers. Let's do it!!!

NARTREK-ees, Where are you?

It has been somewhat disappointing that there are no takers of the offer made in the last issue of PNL.

Again, I will have the material you need to sign up and begin this fun program for model rocketeers. What's more there is now no waiting to receive your certificate, patch, and decals after you complete the requirements. Everything, everything needed will be at the launches.

So, how about it? If you want to get started, or get more information, look me up at the next launch which will probably be in November by the time you get this.

Feeding The Need To Know

The term "whole 9 yards" came from World War II fighter pilots in the South Pacific. When arming their airplanes on the ground, the .50 caliber machine gun ammo belts measured exactly 27 feet. If the pilot fired all their ammo at the target, it got the "whole 9 yards".

And here's another

Hershey's Kisses are called that because the machine that makes them looks like it is kissing the conveyor belt.



Manuel Mejia, Jr.

From time to time I've mentioned Manuel, especially with reference to "trash rockets". He would have to be considered the "father" of making rockets from stuff no one else had use for. Fact is, NARTS has a booklet of plans for "trash rocs".

He moved to Florida in the early 80's and started a section there; Tampa/Hillsborough Organization of Rocketry (THOR). He is still very active.

I though I would share the above photo with many that know him from way back. It pictures him in his "master's degree regalia" his specialty being Science Policy and Education.

By the time you read this he should have started his new position as an assistant office manager with the US Custom's Service.

He writes, "I am still flying rockets, running (his) section on a shoestring budget, and doing community outreach programs with model rocketry. There seems to be a steady demand for such services in the Tampa Bay area. What has collapsed has been the HPR activity. The FAA and the local landowners have driven that group of racketeers out of the region."

If you want to contact him: 3810 Quixote Blvd., Tampa, FL 33613-4842 or sfkee@scfn.thpl.lib.fl.us

Well, that does it for now. Until next time...

Keep 'em flyin'

Jack

Jack Sarhage, President