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MTMA FLYER



Official Newsletter of the Mantua Township Missile Agency, NAR Section 606, Aurora, Ohio

MTMA Goes to
NARAM 51

Fall Events

Member Profile:
Mike Nowak



From Your Sometimes Senile Editor

By Mike Nowak

2009 will be remembered (for better or worse) as the year that MTMA got active in NAR Sanctioned Competition and had a measure of success. It was a very busy spring, with 3 Open Meets and 2 Regional Meets held in Northeast Ohio. That represented the only time in the history of the NAR that one could fly all 12 contest factors without leaving the area. The good news is that it stimulated interest in competition. The bad news was that it took time away from sport launch flights. One thing can be said with a reasonable degree of certainty -- we will not have a schedule like that again. Based upon the level of interest and the success of several local fliers, there will be meets for the upcoming 2009 - 2010 Contest Season, just fewer of them. There will be a MTMA Fall Regional Meet September 25 and the Ray Harmon Memorial Regional Meet in June, tentatively on the 12th and 13th. We will also help Skybusters host GLRMR-10 in the spring.

I returned to competition at NARAM 49 after a 28 year hiatus. While the thrill of flying was still there, and I had a momentary interest in HPR, I quickly gravitated back to competition. Of course it is what I was most familiar with and comfortable with. More importantly, I had made the most friendships and had the most enjoyable times when I was involved in competition and wanted to get some of that back.

This hobby is fun, but can be much more enjoyable when it is shared with others of similar interests. Let's face it, we know we are a small, unique group of individuals, and we relish the times we can find others who enjoy it as much as we do. What is good about our hobby today is that there are more areas of interest that one can be involved with. You can be a sport flier. You can be into HPR. Or you can be involved in competition.

NARAM this year was special to me. I was flying with old friends, made some new friendships, and was amazed at the general level of good sportsmanship. It was a good lesson for my children to realize that you can be friends with people you are competing against.

So participating in competition is so much more than winning trophies. It is the fun that you have flying and the friendships that you make along the way.

Mike Nowak
NAR 19203

Cover Photo: Rachel Nowak's Peanut Scale Bomarc clears its tower and heads skyward at NARAM-51. This photo and all other uncredited photos courtesy of Chris Taylor

MTMA Fall Events

By Mike Nowak

MTMA is going to have a diverse, busy fall schedule. It starts on Saturday, September 12. As you probably know, our annual night lunch at Pichan's was rained out twice this summer. In order to have a night launch this year, it was decided to move it to September 12 and to hold it at Ray Harmon Field. Setup begins at 6PM, with flights beginning at 7PM. The safety guidelines described in our last issue still apply. It will be interesting to see how things work at the larger field, at a later time of year with an earlier sunset. It is likely that there will be no neighboring fireworks displays as is the norm in July, but it still will be a fun event.

September 26 is the date of our first Regional Meet for the new contest year. Scheduled events include D Dual Eggloft Duration, 1/8A Helicopter Duration, A Streamer Duration, Open Spot Landing and Sport Scale. We are again expecting some out of state competitors to join us. The events are based upon last spring and last NARAM's events so bring your models and join us for some fun.

The weekend of October 10-11 has MTMA involved with the Aurora Parks Fall Festival. On Saturday, our usual launch day, we will be at Sunny Lake Park from 11:00 AM to 6 PM helping them host their water rocket build and launch. The plan is to work with the kids building the water rockets within the main part of Sunny Lake Park on the north side of East Mennonite Road, then move over to the ball fields on the south side of the road for two launching sessions at around 2:00 PM and 3:30 PM. We are being provided with free booth space to promote our club and have been asked to perform model rocket demonstration launches. We can set up a static display with promotional handouts in the booth at the Park and set up our pads for the demonstration launch at the ball fields. We will likely perform the demonstration launches immediately following each of the two water rocket launching sessions. On Sunday, we will be back at Ray Harmon Field for a sport launch and demo launch. We hope to attract some new members as a result.



Steve Stein preps his clone of the classic Estes Gemini-Titan with a cluster of two C6-3 motors at our August 15 launch
Photo by Mark Recktenwald

The remainder of October features back to back Sport Launches on October 24 and 31. I wonder if we can come up with some Halloween themed launches?

All things considered, this fall looks to be a busy season for MTMA. Watch our website, Yahoo group for updates.

MTMA Goes to NARAM-51

By Mike Nowak

NARAM-51, the NAR's Annual Meet was held in Johnstown, Pennsylvania this August. You will read all about it in about two months in Sport Rocketry. In this article, you will read about it from the perspective of the MTMA members who attended.

The field was described as "postage stamp" sized and located on the top of a hill. While there were two tough weather days, Monday because of wind and Wednesday because of fog, the meet offered very good flying conditions with only a few lost models.

MTMA entered NARAM in 4th place among NAR sections. MTMA members participating at NARAM included Rachel Nowak (9th place in A Division), Mike and Nick Nowak competing as the Jedi Knights team (2nd place in T Division) and Chris, Matt, and Mike Nowak Jr. competing as Team Snuggie (12th place in T Division). MTMA Members Bob Ferrante participated as a member of the 1st place Pod Bay Doors Team and his daughters Samantha and Savannah participated as the Sugar and Spice team. Both teams were flying for the national champion section Superstition Space Modelers. MTMA Member Brian Guzek (1st place in B Division) was flying for his home section and meet sponsor, Pittsburgh Space Command. Skybuster Jim Krall was the only other Northeast Ohioan in attendance. After a week of flying which featured some highly rated modelers not attending and some very skilled modelers who did not do well during the contest year score high at NARAM, there were some surprises in the final standings.



Brian Guzek with one of the many Tiddly Winks that placed in HD

Monday featured 1/8A Helicopter Duration and A Streamer duration. The most common model for Helicopter Duration was the Flis Kits Tiddly Wink. Brian Guzek flew his twice, for a total of 25 seconds and third place in B Division. The Jedi Knights flew theirs twice for a total of 24 seconds and fourth place in T Division. Chan Stevens flew a modified version for over two minutes for a new US record. In Streamer Duration, the thermals were not very active. The Jedi Knights qualified two flights for a total of 161 seconds and Fourth place in T Division. The Pod Bay Doors placed first with a total of 242 seconds.

Random Altitude was on the agenda for Tuesday, as the first scheduled tracking event. The target was set at 175 e competition was fierce. Top finishers had to be in the low

single digit error. Rachel Nowak scored 5th place in A Division with 7.5% error. Jim Kral was part of a three way tie for fourth place in C Division with a 5.1% error. There were two perfect scores in Team Division. Team Snuggie's claim to fame was tying the reigning team Champion Pod Bay Doors for 8th place with a 10% error. The Jedi Knights were only one meter behind them in 9th place. The other event flown on Tuesday was ½ A PD Multiround. It is also the day that Rachel's season long bad luck changed. She was barely holding on to fourth place after two flights and needed to get a reasonable qualified third flight to place. At ejection, the RSO felt that her engine ejected and disqualified the flight. The timers followed it for 33 seconds, when it landed in a tree. After a discussion with the RSO, he said that he would qualify the flight if the engine was intact. This was quite a difficult thing to do with a model high up in a tree. Her brother, Nick was able to spot the model and thought he saw the motor in place. One of the contest officials went to the site with binoculars, saw that the motor was in place, qualified the flight and Rachel earned her first medal of the week, a third place medal. The Sugar and Spice Team had one MAX and totaled 278 seconds for fourth place in T Division.

Wednesday featured B Altitude and B Rocket Glider Duration. Fog and a very low ceiling limited the success of tracking. Even though four trackers were used, it was almost impossible for some of the trackers to see



Rachel Nowak watches her B Rocket Glider head skyward on its successful 2nd flight



Bob Ferrante advises his daughters regarding their parachute duration flight

tracking powder or models. A lesson learned that day was that grey sunglasses can be superior to green sunglasses on an overcast day. Rachel suffered a track lost on her first flight, but regrouped to snatch a fourth place in A Division with 247 meters on her second flight. Brian Guzek put up his model 315 meters for third place in B Division. In B Rocket Glider duration, Rachel Nowak recovered from a first flight DQ to keep her second Rocket Glider flight up for 55 seconds and a fourth place finish. Michala Alexander (who flew at our NARAM Prep Open Meet) set a US record with a 231 second flight. Brian Guzek placed third in B Division with 147 seconds and the Pod Bay Doors placed fourth

in T Division with 116 seconds. Wednesday evening featured R&D Presentations for A & B Division. There were three A Division entries – Alyssa Stenberg, Michala Alexander and Rachel – all of whom had attended MTMA meets this year. They placed first, second and third, respectively. In B Division, Brian Guzek’s Report “Active Stabilization Flight Computer” earned him second place and a scholarship award. HINT: Sounds like a great future newsletter article, Brian.

Thursday was D Dual Eggloft Duration day. The start was delayed due to fog, but some awesome flights were made after the skies cleared. Rachel was able to keep her model up for 89 seconds, catching a weak thermal and recovering both eggs intact for fourth place. Brian Guzek had an outstanding flight, only to have it disqualified for a microscopic crack in one of the eggs. The Pod Bay Doors had a spectacular 289 second flight, but finished second to the Bumbling Brothers Flying Circus record setting 344 second flight. That evening was R&D Presentations for C and T Divisions. The Pod Bay Doors placed second, while the Jedi Knights were able to garner one more 4th place medal with their project.



Mike Nowak displays the Jedi Knight's tiny Delta II Peanut Scale model



Rachel Nowak's R2-D2

Friday was the most dramatic and entertaining day of the week, with Peanut Sport Scale and Sci-Fiction and Future Scale flights. There were some unique and unusual models entered with some outstanding craftsmanship, and some spectacular crashes. Rachel Nowak’s bad luck returned for the first part of the day. Her 3rd place Bomarc went unstable and was disqualified. Her 3rd place R2-D2 was underpowered on a C6-3 and crashed. She was able to recover from both failures, added some nose weight to the Bomarc and some CA to R2-D2, along with a D10-4 motor. Both second flights were flawless, leading to a 3rd place finish in each event in A Division. Brian Guzek’s complicated X-20 Dynasoar/Titan III GLV finished third in B Division with a flawless flight of a well done model. In the hotly contested T Division, the Pod Bay Doors placed third with their Saturn 1B – MLV 1.5. It is too much for words – imagine a Saturn 1B with Strapons. The Jedi Knights finished at the bottom, but had a dramatic, perfect flight of their X Wing on a G-77 RL motor. In B Division, Peanut Scale was hotly contested.

Brian Guzek tied for fourth place with his Aries first test round. The Jedi Knights finished 5th with their tiny Delta II. Unfortunately, their wiring system broke and they could not fly it as planned with 9 MMX strapons.

If you have been following this article, you probably had some idea how the final standings would settle out. There were some surprises, however. Rachel Nowak ended up with 7 medals in 10 events, a mixture of 3rd and 4th places. This was enough to put her in fifth place for the meet. When it came to the National Championship, here modest pre-NARAM point total was enough to garner her a third

place finish, behind Alyssa Stenberg and Michala Alexander. No one in the award ceremony was more surprised and thrilled at the outcome than Rachel.



The Jedi Knight's X Wing drifts safely to earth after a dramatic flight



Two of the more spectacular SF&FS Models: The Pod Bay Doors Saturn 1b MLV 1.5 in the foreground and Brian Guzek's X-20 Dynasoar/Titan III GLV in the Background

Brian Guzek finished second for the meet in B Division, ahead of his closest pre-NARAM competitors. As a result, he won B Division National Champion.

The Pod Bay Doors finished second for the meet, with the Jedi Knights finishing 8th and Team Snuggie finishing 21st. As a result, the Pod Bay Doors won the National Championship, and the Jedi Knights fell to 6th place.

In the Section Competition, SSS continued its run of National Championships, followed by SMASH. MTMA finished in 6th place nationally, first in Ohio.

The close of NARAM-52 put an end to a very enjoyable and exciting contest year. MTMA was put on the map as one of the top sections in the country, especially considering our relatively small size. Several individuals also had successful years. The hope is that we can build upon our successes for the next contest year.

MTMA Member Profile: MTMA Secretary Mike Nowak

How old are you? 52

What do you do for a living? Work as a General Surgeon

What is your favorite movie? "Field of Dreams "

Who is your favorite actor? Clint Eastwood

What is your favorite book? "1984" by George Orwell

Who is your favorite singer? Jimmy Buffett

Who is your favorite musical group? The Eagles

What is your favorite song? "Easy" by the Commodores

What is your favorite television show? Of all time, it has to be "M*A*S*H". Currently, "House"

Do you have a favorite saying? "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result."

When did you fly your first model rocket? 1968

What model was it? Estes Aerobee 150

What is your favorite model rocket of all time? The Original Estes Orbital Transport

What is your most memorable moment in flying rockets? Watching Team Jedi's X Wing majestically lift off on a G77RL and perfectly deploy its parachute at NARAM-53.

What is your most embarrassing moment in flying rockets? Having my Scale

Model CATO at NARAM 16 and earning both a third place and "Dead Last But Finished" award for the same flight

What other hobbies do you have outside of rocketry? Model Railroading, coaching youth sports, although my time spent on both has been limited due to my renewed interest in rocketry

What would you most like to accomplish in rocketry? A lot of things: Host a NARAM in Northeast Ohio. It has never been done. Get HPR Certification. Win a National Championship. Compete on the Internats Team.

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2009 Launch Windows

September 12	Night Launch 7PM	Ray Harmon Field
September 26	Fall Regional Meet	Ray Harmon Field
October 10	Aurora Fall Festival	Sunny Lake Park
October 11	Launch	Ray Harmon Field
November 24	Launch	Ray Harmon Field
October 31	Launch	Ray Harmon Field
November 14	Launch	Ray Harmon Field
November 27	Annual Turkey Shoot	Ray Harmon Field
December 12	Launch	Ray Harmon Field
Jan 9, 2010	Section Annual Meeting	Twinsburg Library

"To get the most up to date launch information (including rainout dates), check our website or subscribe to our Yahoo Group and receive instant email updates."

MTMA Flyer

The official newsletter of the Mantua Township Missile Agency, published six times each year (we hope!)

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