

January 1, 2010  
Volume 3, Issue 1

# MTMA FLYER



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

2009: The Year  
In Review

2010: Planning What  
To Build





## From Your Sometimes Senile Editor

*By Mike Nowak*

It is always fun to write a “year in review” article. In most years, the challenge is to find enough to write about. This year, the challenge is to try to cover everything. Much of this will be covered in the “Annual Report of Section Activities” which is included in this newsletter and presented at the January Annual Section Meeting.

If there is one common theme, it is that an adequate flying field will sustain a club, allowing for sport flights and competition. A high power field takes the club to the next level, broadening what the club members can do. In 2008, MTMA had neither for the better part of the year, while they acquired both in 2009. This had a significant impact on club membership and activity.

We saw multiple members pursue and achieve HPR certification this year. We saw others achieve success in model rocket competition on a regional and national scale. We all continued to have a lot of fun simply sport flying.

The challenge is to sustain and grow. There is a NAR Membership drive in place for 2010, and MTMA certainly has the potential to grow if we continue to launch frequently. We need to look at ways to outreach to the community, bring in members and keep them interested.

Another thing that came out of 2009 is that MTMA is being recognized across our region as a club that host events that people are willing to travel to. We had some “beginner’s luck” in 2009, and will need to try harder in 2010. It is fun to host events that draw fliers from around the country. This leads to the next question – Do we want to consider hosting a National Event for 2011? There are three possibilities – NARCON, the NAR National Sport Launch and NARAM. NARCON is the NAR Annual Convention and is usually held over a weekend in March. There is no flying associated with it. Rather, it is an event where NAR members attend to learn more about their hobby. The National Sport Launch is usually held over Memorial Day Weekend and is the NAR’s Annual Sport Launch featuring HPR sport flights. NARAM is the NAR’s annual competition, lasting an entire week, featuring competition and sport launches as well as multiple forums hosted by the NAR, manufacturers and others. None of these events have ever been hosted in Northeast Ohio. The closest that we ever came was in the 1970’s when KentCon, a convention held for a few years at Kent State, and in the 1980’s when the initial LDRS meets were held in Medina. The biggest barrier has been a flying field. Our Aurora field cannot host HPR, and is marginal to being a NARAM field (although it is larger than the NARAM 41 field near Pittsburgh). Several of us have been looking and we have one very good lead – a field about 1 mile by ½ mile in size, laid out so that the long dimension follows the prevailing winds. Between MTMA and Skybusters there probably are enough individuals with enough experience to run a NARAM. It is not too soon to start thinking seriously about.

**Cover Photo:** *Mike Nowak helps Rachel Nowak prepare her B Rocket Glider for launch at NARAM 51*

## 2009 MTMA Activity Summary

*By Mike Nowak*

After all of the frustration early in 2008 due to the loss of our flying field, 2009 started with some newfound optimism. However, we were all reminded that the weather in Northeast Ohio is still in charge – a heavy snowstorm cancelled our January, 2009 annual meeting. It was postponed until February 7, at the Twinsburg Library. The meeting was well attended and had a busy agenda. A flying schedule for the Harmon Flying Field was created as well as a schedule to host NAR Sanctioned Competition. This promised a busy flying year. On February 21, we had another building session to build models for the NAR's fly it/take it program to be held at NARAM-52.



*An assortment of sport scale models waiting to be judged at March Madness Open Meet*

March started with our first sport launch. The weather and flying conditions cooperated, which is unusual for this time of year. This was to be a prelude to our second flying date of the month, during which we hosted our first NAR Sanctioned Competition, the March Madness Open Meet. Overall, the flying conditions were very good, the participation was good and a lot of good flights were made. The Twinsburg High School TARC Team also certified in March, allowing them to participate in the National TARC Competition. April 4 was another good launch day with a number of sport flights, although not ideal. It also marked the resurrection of our newsletter, the MTMA Flyer. Later on, April 18 was the date of the Egg-Stream Open Meet, so named because the events involved Eggloft, Dual Eggloft and Streamer Duration and Spot Landing events. It produced two of the more memorable flights of the year: Cheryl Czyriak-Hamer's incredibly

held at NARAM-52.

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*The Kleinhenz's enjoying Andrew's LI Certification at GLRMR IX*

close E Spot Landing flight and Mike Nowak's E Spot Landing flight that started a grass fire due to an overheated E30. The end of the month led to GLRMR-IX, hosted by Skybusters. Although there was rain on Friday night that led to mud and some interesting relay problems on Saturday, flying conditions were outstanding. It allowed Ted Schaetzle and Andrew Kleinhenz to achieve Level I Certification and Dan Cutlip to achieve Level II Certification. The competition meet was also well attended. Competitors from across the Midwest were in attendance, which led to some tight competition. It also was a weekend when newest MTMA member Brian Guzek started his run for National Champion.



*Jeff Burke, President of the Flying Aces of Aurora, and Mark Recktenwald, Vice President of the MTMS, present the Appreciation Plaque to Jim Kraus, Parks and Recreation Director of Aurora, and Dennis Kovach, the Chairman of the Aurora Parks and Recreation Board.*

Brian Guzek and Jim Krall made a roadtrip to Columbus to attend MMRR. The field and flying conditions were outstanding, several amazing Eggloft flights were made and lost. Brian Guzek continued his assault on B Division. At the end of the month, due to having a 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday, we hosted the NARAM Prep Open Meet. In addition to good weather, it marked the attendance of two out of state competitors and the first use of optical trackers in altitude events. Little did we know at the time that the top three A Division Champions were in attendance at the meet. June started with the first Ray Harmon Memorial Regional Meet. It marked the first time that we were to have bad weather affect flying. Tracking was done, but problematic due to sky conditions. Again, who would guess that the A and B Division National Champions were in attendance and won their respective divisions. Once the meet was over, the field was free for sport flying. Another well attended sport launch was held at the end of the month.

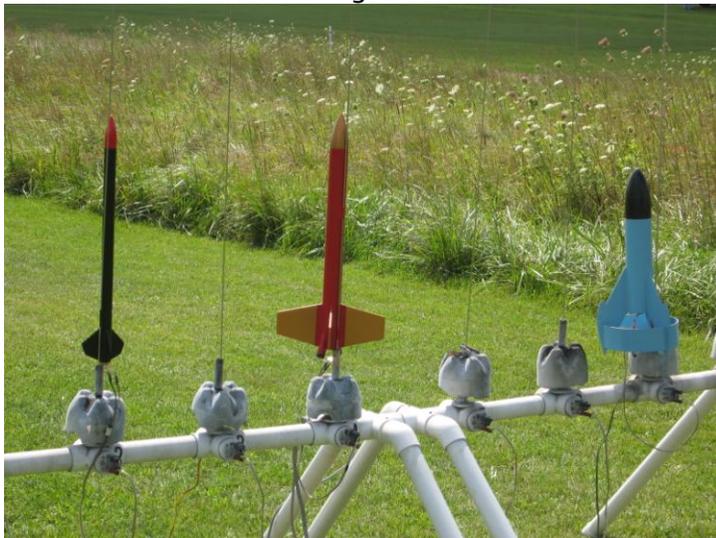
May was an interesting month. In appreciation for all he has done to create the Harmon Flying Field, James Kraus received a plaque of appreciation from all of the clubs that use the field. For the first time all season, bad weather led to cancellation and rescheduling of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Pichan's launch. It was rescheduled, but poorly attended. The Twinsburg High School TARC Team flew at the National Competition and placed 49<sup>th</sup> out of 100 teams using their backup model (their other model remains high in a tree near the Harmon Flying Field). Over Memorial Day weekend, the Nowak and Ferrante families,

July was interesting. The volume of activity led to a major upgrade in our newsletter format. NYPower and LDRS were both held in New York this month. Several MTMA members were in attendance. Cheryl Cziryak-Hamer achieved Level I Certification at NYPOWER while Bruce Levison achieved Level I certification at LDRS. We had a night launch scheduled at Pichan's field, but again had to cancel multiple times due to threatening weather conditions.



*Rachel Nowak's R2-D2 model on the judges table at NARAM-51*

August started with NARAM 51 in Johnstown, PA. It was a productive week. Brian Guzek won B Division National Champion. Surprisingly, Rachel Nowak came in third place in A Division. The Jedi Knights Team came in 6<sup>th</sup> and MTMA finished 6<sup>th</sup>. August also had two well attended sport launches.



*An array of sport models ready to be launched at our August 29 sport launch*

September started with another sport launch and the news that we had located a HPR field in Middlefield. We also attempted to host a fall regional meet, but had to cancel due to weather. Several national competitors were planning to attend. Weather continued to be a problem during October, but we finally were able to fly the Fall Regional Meet and get some sport launches in. It was obvious that the caliber of competition had increased during the course of the year.

November marked the debut of our O'Reilly Farm flying field in

Middlefield. It was great to get some HPR models and midpower models flying on a larger field. It led to an enjoyable Turkey Shoot.

December had one more sport launch, and also our Christmas Party, which was graciously hosted by the Kleinhenz's.

## Planning and Building for 2010 Competition

*By Mike Nowak*

Since we have four outside seasons in Northeast Ohio, we usually have two rocketry seasons—flying and building. The events for NARAM-52 are set, and the events for our spring meets are based upon the NARAM events and set. Now is the time to start planning and building in advance of the flying season. In order to help get started, I generated a list of commercially available models that can help you get started.

### B Streamer Duration

The optimum model is based upon a BT 20 body tube with a mylar streamer. QCR had the “Straight Up 1” kit for \$7. ASP sells an 18mm SD Kit for \$9.50. Both of these models could be flown without modification in competition. The downside of the QCR model is the difficult to follow instructions. While the ASP model has thorough instructions, it features a tracing paper streamer rather than mylar. There are multiple BT-20 models sold by all manufacturers that could easily be modified for this event.

RECOMMENDATION: ASP for the beginner because of the detailed instructions

### 1/2A Parachute Duration

One can use a minimum diameter 13mm model and face the challenge of packing a parachute in a small diameter tube and getting it to deploy. One could also use an 18mm model with a boat-tail. Similar to the descriptions for B SD, QCR sells a 13 mm PD model for \$7 and ASP sells one for \$9.95. They are very similar. Fliskits also sells the Cougar 660, which is 18mm in diameter but flies with 13mm motors. It costs \$11.95 but you need to add a parachute. 18” mylar parachute kits are available for \$3.50 from ASP. 12” mylar parachutes are \$2.95 from ASP and \$2.50 from ASP. The comments about instructions still apply to ASP and QCR. Fliskits has excellent instructions

RECOMMENDATION: ASP for the beginner because of the detailed instructions

### ½ A Helicopter Duration

Here the options begin to expand. The optimum model is based upon a 13mm motor. Fliskits features the popular Rose A Roc for \$19.95. While the price is steep, the quality of the instructions and laser cut hub pieces make it worth it. Apogee features the Heli-Roc for \$17.47. Again, good instructions and a reliable design. QCR features two models, the High Rotor II (\$12.00) and the Ultimate I (\$14.00). Both are outstanding, competitive models at a bargain price with very difficult to follow instructions. The High Rotor is similar to the Heli-Roc, while the Ultimate features a rotating hub. Lastly, Apogee sells the Texas Twister for \$17.47. It will not win many meets but will be handy to have when you need to get a qualified flight under poor flying conditions.

RECOMMENDATION: Fliskits Rose A Roc

#### D Helicopter Duration

One can either use a 24mm or 18mm model for this event, with limited models to choose from. QCR sells its High Rotor and Ultimate models in both 18mm and 24mm sizes. RECOMMENDATION: QCR Ultimate using an 18mm D motor

#### 1/4A Boost Glider Duration

This would be a glider boosted by the 13mm 1/4A3-3t motor (or two MMX clustered I suppose). For beginners, no one sells a better kit than Edmonds. The Elcie Boost Glider sells for \$7.95 and the Tinee sells for \$6.95. Both feature pre-cut balsa parts and easy to follow instructions. These can be purchased directly from ASP. For those who want a challenge, try the QCR Never Loop I for \$10.

RECOMMENDATION: Any Edmonds Kit

#### Sport Scale/Giant Sport Scale

There are a multitude of models by many manufacturers that can be used for Sport Scale. Giant Sport Scale requires the model to be at least 1 m (39") in length or at least 10 cm (4") in diameter. Also, it is nice to have available scale data to substantiate the model. ASP sells a Model of the Super Loki Dart for \$29.95. NART's sells a scale data pack to support it. ASP also sells two versions of the Japanese Kappa-9M two stage sounding rocket. The three 18mm cluster version sells for \$29.95 while the 24mm version sells for \$32.95. Scale data is harder to find, but Rockets of The World covers it. If you wanted to fly a Saturn, you would need to fly the 1:70 Apogee Saturn V - the Saturn 1b just barely misses the length and diameter requirements. Another option is the 1:48 Saturn 1b by Sherri's Hot Rockets, although I am told that it requires modification to get its weight down. Sherri also sells a very nice Little Joe II model that could be entered. Aerotech sells an Astrobee D kit that is probably the most detailed mid-power sounding rocket kit on the market. It is also pricey, although it can usually be found on sale for about \$80. Semroc sells a very nice Arcas model for \$68 that could be a good entry.

RECOMMENDATION: The ASP Loki Dart based upon its relative value, quality of instructions and materials and the readily available scale data.

#### E Dual Eggloft Altitude

The Kuhn cone, now known as the Pratt Cone revolutionized this event back in the 1970's. Nothing comes close. The problem recently has been availability of the dual Eggloft cone, since Pratt Hobbies is the only supplier. ASP has a 24mm motor based shroud based model on its website for \$22.95 or \$24.95 in the deluxe, platinum version. They have been listed as out of stock for the past year. QCR sells a 24mm motor based "Egg on a stick" model for \$14 and has been in stock recently.

RECOMMENDATION: If you can find the ASP 24mm platinum version, buy it. Otherwise, buy the QCR 24mm version.

Other events – F Superroc Altitude, A Cluster Altitude

No, I did not get lazy. No one makes a kit that you could fly competitively in these events. You're on your own for these. Read the Pink Book, use your imagination, and search the NAR Website for ideas. Expect to see some scratch built plans in upcoming issues of this newsletter.

Manufacturers mentioned in this article:

Aerotech	<a href="http://www.aerotech-rocketry.com">www.aerotech-rocketry.com</a>
Apogee	<a href="http://www.apogeerockets.com">www.apogeerockets.com</a>
ASP (Aerospace Specialty Products)	<a href="http://www.asp-rocketry.com">www.asp-rocketry.com</a>
Fliskits	<a href="http://www.fliskits.com">www.fliskits.com</a>
Pratt Hobbies	<a href="http://www.pratthobbies.com">www.pratthobbies.com</a>
QCR	<a href="http://www.cybertravelog.com/qcr/index.html">www.cybertravelog.com/qcr/index.html</a>
Sherri's Hot Rockets	<a href="http://www.cjsaviation.com">www.cjsaviation.com</a>

## Newsletter Publication Schedule for 2010

*By Mike Nowak*

Here is the planned publication Schedule of the MTMA Flyer for 2010:

January 1	New Year Issue
February 15	Midwinter Issue – Annual Meeting Report
April 1	Special Comedy Issue
May 15	Spring Issue – GLRM and spring sport launches
July 1	Summer Issue – Ray Harmon Memorial, LDRS, spring sport launches
August 15	Late Summer Issue – NARAM, NYPOWER, summer sport launches
October 1	Fall Issue – Fall meet and sport launches
November 15	End of Season Issue – Fall Sport Launches

The newsletter needs your support to fill in the gaps. Articles about roadtrips, model plans, or anything of general interest is welcome. It is a lot easier to write articles when we are actively flying, more difficult in the winter months. All help is appreciated.

2010 Launch Windows

January 9	Section Annual Meeting	Twinsburg Library
January 16	HPR Sport Launch	O'Reilly Flying Field
January 30	HPR Sport Launch	O'Reilly Flying Field
February 13	HPR Sport Launch	O'Reilly Flying Field
February 27	HPR Sport Launch	O'Reilly Flying Field
March 12-14	NARCON	Worcester, MA
March 13	Sport Launch	TBD
March 27	Sport Launch	TBD
April 10	Sport Launch	TBD
April 24	Sport Launch	TBD
May 1-2	GLRMR-X	Amherst, OH
May 28-31	National Sport Launch	Alamogordo, NM
June 10-15	LDRS-29	Lucerne Valley, CA
June 12-13	Ray Harmon Memorial Meet	Harmon Flying Field
July 31- Aug 6	NARAM-52	Pueblo, CO

Please check [www.mtmarocketry.org](http://www.mtmarocketry.org) for updates on launches especially those in March and April

*"To get the most up to date launch information (including rainout dates), check our website [www.mtmarocketry.org](http://www.mtmarocketry.org) or subscribe to our Yahoo Group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MTMA/> and receive instant email updates."*

**MTMA Flyer**

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

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