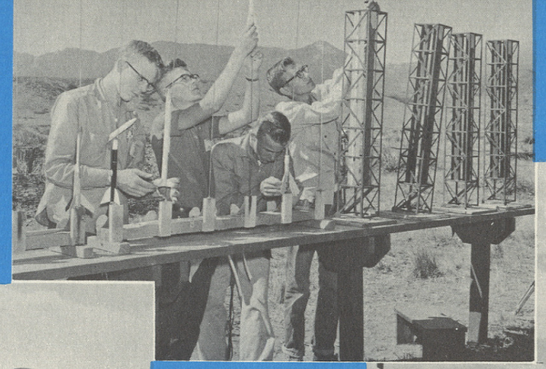

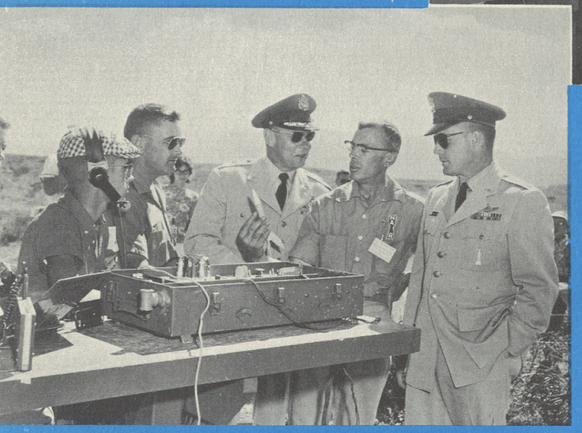

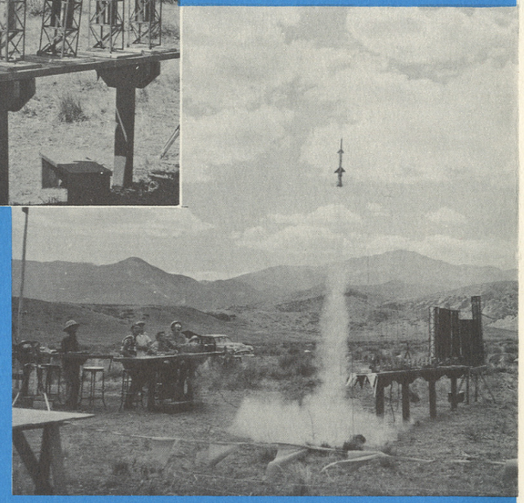

National Association of Rocketry

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 national in scope 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, businessmen, 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 models made of paper, plastic, wood, and other non-metallic materials. Model rockets are powered by factory-packed commercial model rocket engines of proven reliability and safety. Model rockets contain systems which return them to the ground 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 as safe as model aviation.

Because of all these things, model rocketry is greatly different from "amateur rocketry" that uses home-made propellants and rocket engines, large metallic rockets, extensive safety precautions, expensive facilities, and professional supervision. The difference between model rocketry and amateur rocketry is similar to the difference 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 conformance to NAR standards.

Membership in the NAR

Model rocketry knows no age limit, and membership in the NAR is open to anybody, regardless of age. Some girls join because they realize there is a future for women in the Space Age. Many science teachers have joined in order to make model rocketry a part of their school courses.

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 in model 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 Chartered Sections.

What does the NAR do?

The NAR aims to advance the art of model rocketry as a scientific hobby, as an aero-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 Plan Program makes drawings, plans, and data on working model rockets available to members.

The co-operative efforts of the NAR are many. It co-operates 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 rocket equipment at no charge. No officer or Trustee is allowed to affiliate in any way with a model rocket manufacturer in order that unbiased decisions may be made in favor of safe model rocketry.

NAR Contests and Exhibitions

Because of the high reliability of performance of model rocket engines, it is possible to have contests where every contestant is assured of having a known amount of rocket power available to him to fly his models. The NAR has adopted a standardized framework of sporting model rocket contest rules. NAR members all over the nation can conduct model rocket 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 standardized payload, to achieve the highest altitude with a scale model, and others. Also sanctioned are flight duration contests, spot landing events, and scale model events.

The United States Air Force has adopted the NAR standards and rules for the model rocket program that is part of the USAF recreation program.

Points are given for entering 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 this national meet is awarded a handsome trophy as the Model Rocket Champion of the year. Many other awards and trophies, donated by aero-space industries, are also awarded annually.

NAR model rocket demonstration teams have performed widely before thousands of people. In 1960, a crack NAR team flew over 1200 model rockets on a complete model rocket range at the Boy Scout Jamboree. An NAR demonstration team was at the First World Congress of Flight in 1959, performing over nationwide NBC television. Other teams have flown model rockets at national model airplane contests, conventions, festivals, and science fairs. These teams have been highly commended by prominent persons and organizations.