

Oregon Rocketry August 2011 Meeting Minutes

Giovanni's Restaurant, August 4, 2011: The meeting was called to order at 7:35 by Gary Goncher. Officers present: Paul Bogdanich (secretary), Robert Brabish (Treasurer). Gary Goncher (president), Ken McGoffin (publicity director) and Tim Ryerse (safety officer).

Call for New Members

Immediately upon calling the meeting to order the President made a call for new members at which time Rob Mitchum indicated that this was the first OROC meeting which he has attended.

Report of the July Brothers Launch

The results of the July launch were recounted with some one hundred seventy some total flights of which 11 were on Friday 149 on Saturday and the balance Sunday. The surge in Saturday flights was deemed incident to two cub scout troops in attendance and the arrival of the vendor Saturday morning. In the course of recounting the July launch activity a discussion started about the EX launch Friday that caused a small fire on impact and the utility of the backpack fire suppression sprayer and discussion took place about augmenting our supply of these units. The question on that front is whether the hard shell or soft shell design would be the best to buy. There was also a discussion about the stress on the low-power launch systems on Saturday. The limiting factor was the fire control unit which only had 6 channels and how on that particular day more would have been useful. It was noted that we have 2 low power pads with a total of 16 launch positions against only 6 launch channels unless we set up the Vaughn Brothers controller.

PSAS & Wilsonville Launch Report

After the Brothers launch report there was a brief report on the PSAS pick-up launch and the monthly Wilsonville launch. All went well at both launches with the small exception that the PSAS rocket over-pressured and CATOed half-way up the rail.

Labor-Day Launch Discussion

Following the historical launch reports the discussion turned to the Labor-Day event at brothers which was conceived as a four day event. The President indicated that while there is sufficient planned attendance to merit having the launch that there was little to no interest for launch activities on Monday, Labor-Day, September 5, 2011, so the event was reduced to the normal three days and if anyone wants to launch Monday they can do so on a pick-up basis.

Discussion of the Sheridan Lunch

The discussion then turned to the status of the Sheridan lunch and it was observed that we don't know what, where nor when we will be doing the launch because the unseasonably cool weather early in the year means the harvests are two or more weeks late and no farmer is far enough along to make a firm commitment for use of the land. It was decided that Robert Brabish would contact Gary Fillible and coordinate outreach to the various land owners when the timing is proper. [GG note:

Gary Goncher will contact Gary Fillible about launch organization; if Gary does wish to organize the launch, then Robert Braibish will contact the kadowners].

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer then reported that as of the meeting date the club had \$5,156.82 in cash and cash equivalents (including deposits in transit, stamps and so forth) as of the meeting date. In connection with recent expenses there was a brief discussion about the Brother's Fire Suppression Association and how we might join that organization or at least coordinate access to the suppression trailer.

Brothers Site Improvement

Following up on a recent e-mail thread Robert Brabish presented some proposals for possible improvements to the Brothers site. Mr. Brabish's concept consisted of multiple launch cells each "L" impulse distance apart as are used for large launches like LDRS. The initiation of the discussion quickly revealed that there was no consensus amongst the membership on either the need, advisability or way to proceed with such a plan. There was however a good deal of support for continuing discussion and thought. While the airing of ideas and the discussion were very productive it was this writer's impression that the main area of confusion concerned **why** such measures were being proposed which motives once clarified would inform the choices about how and when, if ever. From the discussion itself mentioned reasons for why included;

- To gain the ability to host a regional or national launch;
- So the high-power pads can accommodate full "L" motors;
- To reduce rod whip on the pads;
- To reduce the amount of launch gear needed for the Brothers site;
- To split the launch gear between that for Brothers and that for Sheridan;
- Because we can (owing versus borrowing the land);
- Because it would be spiffing, cool, novel ect.

Mentioned reasons for why not included:

- The lack of any pressing reason to engage in such a project;
- Just because one can, does not mean that one should;
- Other options like trailer replacement achieve the same objective;
- Other options provide greater gains in utility at reduced cost;
- The question of priorities between this and required improvements like the PA system and possible launch controller upgrades and standardization;
- Permanent pads will likely not reduce the load in the trailer;
- The disturbance to the land especially for hosting a national event;
- A general aversion to large, ambitious, make-work projects.

After the airing of all these views the general consensus was to think about it some more and pick up the discussion again at a future date.

Adjournment

Having no other business, announcements or pleasantries the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:55 p.m.

Please send any corrections to Paul Bogdanich @ tra11654@iinet.com