

OROC Meeting Minutes

Location: Giovanni's Restaurant in Beaverton

Date: May 5, 2005

Club officers present:

Fred Azinger, President

Greg Clark, Launch Director

Dave Bradley, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM

The April meeting minutes were approved.

New members Nicholas and Liam Walsh, Scott Reed, and Brent Rowe were introduced.

No treasurer's report

Old Business

Desert Thunder Fred reminded everyone of the upcoming May 13, 14, 15 launch.

FAA waiver status: Greg Clark announced that we have the FAA waiver. We have a standing weekend waiver of 23,000' MSL (18,500' AGL) with windows to 40,000' MSL. Launches that require use of the 40k window are by request only and require approval of a Board member and the Flight Safety Officer at the time. Anyone expecting to launch above 18,500' AGL should notify the Board of Directors at least a day in advance of the flight. Typically, flights below 20,000' AGL will be quickly approved. Flights over 20,000' AGL require that the FSO and Board member consider upper level winds to help assure that we avoid landing on the highway or Brothers. Site limitations which may prevent approval of higher flights include distance to the highway, approximately 2 miles, that by one reading of the rules would limit flights to 24,000 AGL.

John Gamble interjected that our proximity to the highway does not limit our flights to 24k. Greg agreed to talk with John outside the meeting.

We were not able to get the EX waiver moved to an earlier start time. As the waiver is currently written, the waiver opens at noon because the Klamath Falls Fighter Wing has operations in the airspace over the launch site from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. So for Friday of the May launch, the waiver still opens at noon. Saturday and Sunday 8:00 am to 10:00 pm, night launch on Saturday.

Night launches are allowed up to K motors and must have flashing lights. See website for night launch rules.

Portapotties will be cleaned Friday 5/6/05.

Launch Equipment: Trailer will be hauled to launch by Bob by 3:00 on Friday.

Greg requested help with setting up and tearing down the range. If people have their own launch equipment they can continue to launch while the range is being torn down on Sunday because the FAA waiver can remain in effect.

Release of Liability: Wrist bands will be distributed to all who have signed liability waivers. Everyone attending the launch should be wearing a wrist band.

Tom Walsh asked whether a liability release form will be required for the Sheridan launch, and suggested that requiring a release form similar to the one used at Brothers may "limit the outreach" of the local launches. As a father of young children, he questions whether people may be turned away by language that protects the landowner from, among other things, intentionally harming guests, as with the Brothers release form.

Greg responded that liability release forms are fairly standard practice at rocket launches.

John Lyngdal stressed that a liability release would protect the Amity landowner who lets us launch from his extremely valuable property.

Dennis Winningstad said the liability release helps protect the landowners from normal, but not gross negligence.

Jeff Bennett recommended that the danger signs could be modified to more clearly indicate that by proceeding to the launch site, people acknowledge risk.

Greg recapped that the release form is a requirement of the lease at Brothers. The BoD will look into the requirements for the Sheridan launch as it approaches.

John Gamble asked whether pick-up launches and the August EX-only launch require liability release forms. Fred said yes, for Brothers, a signed form is required by the lease. However, for pick-up launches, wrist bands are not required. The landowner at North Plains does not require release forms.

LCO and FSO: Greg announced that we would be needing help at the LCO and FSO positions during the launch. He would have a sign-up sheet for 2-hr time slots. There will be a written announcements that are intended to be read during each LCO shift reminding attendees of the basic rules and responsibilities. This is to account for the fact that not everyone attends the morning flyers' meeting.

Trailer and raffle update: 66 tickets sold before meeting plus more during the meeting, so roughly 75 tickets sold. More prizes have arrived, including two Performance Rocketry nose cones, a Pro 54 K motor and casing from ACME Rocketry and Hobbies, and a Pro 38 motor and case donation from Steve. With roughly 50 prizes with 75 tickets sold, the odds at the time of the meeting are very good.

New Business

The Kelso TARC team is now officially called the Kelso Rocketmen, as featured in their local paper. Fred read a letter from the team thanking OROC members for their contributions received at the April meeting. The team has been invited to participate in the national shoot off May 21st in Virginia. They hope to report back at our June or July meeting.

Where to fly in Willamette Valley? Fred asked that if anyone knows of places to fly model rockets in the valley please let us know. The 50th anniversary of model rocketry is coming up and it would be nice to have places to recommend for people who email requests about where to fly.

Round table discussion: John Gamble suggested that we send a representative to give a presentation at the Oregon State Firefighters convention in June to help dispel misinformation about model rockets and fires. John agreed to look into the specifics of the event. Fred volunteered to talk to a friend who is a Portland Firefighter.

Greg mentioned the Cirrus Dart contest, in which each launch the size of motor will be increased until a J motor is used in October. In essence an elimination competition. Radio trackers recommended.

NAR and TRA people will be available at the launch to witness certification flights.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM