

MDRA General Members Meeting
Knights of Columbus
College Park, Maryland
April 21, 2011

Attendees

President - Bob Utley
Vice President - Neil McGilvray
Treasurer - Kathy Gilliland
Secretary - Peter E. Abresch Jr.
BOD - Maggie Stanton
Members - Scott Szympruch
Shepherd Stein
Momoko Harper
Harry Wynn

The meeting came to order at 06:58 PM.

Bob started the meeting by reading a letter of gratitude from Vern Hoag thanking MDRA for all their support with his 1/10 scale Saturn 1B. See the letter at the end of these minutes.

Old Business

Once again Red Glare was a success and MDRA rocks when it comes to putting on big launches. However, there were some big rockets that had trouble with recovery. The RSOs need to do a better job with the away cell rockets. The RSOs need to get involved earlier during the larger rocket preparation work. The preliminary stats were in for Red Glare X. Friday had 22 flights, Saturday boasted 304 flights, and Sunday had 274 flights. Thanks went to Scott S. for providing transportation of some of the larger projects to the away cells.

Owners of rockets that come down on the other side of Ell Downes towards the buildings need to contact Bob or a BoD member prior to retrieving their rocket. A rocket came down and was close to causing property damage. MDRA needs to keep the landowners and neighbors happy. Bob's *Chicken for Rocket* program helped in retrieving some long lost rockets from one of the neighbors.

The equipment functioned well during Red Glare. There was a battery issue and some issues with the away cells. The issues were minor and corrected. Some of the standoffs were missing off the rails. Troy was volunteered in absentia to

install new L-Brackets to those rails that were missing the standoffs. Everyone liked the cattle chutes and thanks went to those that manned it. There were still some long waits for a pad even with the cattle chutes. It was suggested that a 10 minute limit be enforced to set up a rocket on the pad. Any rocket requiring more than 10 minutes to install on the pad might not be properly prepared to begin with.

Bob announced that WBOC will air MDRA's Red Glare X on its April 23rd, 2011 episode of Outdoor's Delmarva at 7:30 PM. For those of us on the Western Shore, the episode should be available on the website soon at <http://www.outdoorsdelmarva.com/>

The Saturn 1B launch took place. The crowds were smaller than Red Glare's. Parking went well and the spectators were corporative. Thanks went to Kevin for providing a flatbed trailer at the last minute for Vern's rocket. Neil related his experience that the Saturn 1B event seemed rushed and that maybe he should have slowed it down a bit. Vern's Saturn 1B was destroyed on its ascent in what is believed to be drag separation, maybe due to not all the motors simultaneously igniting on the pad. Vern will conduct further analysis. The condition of Vern's motor hardware is not known at this time.

Steve's Saturn 1B had initial trouble with its recovery system while on the pad. However, Steve was able to correct the issues in time to get his launch in. Steve's Saturn 1B had a successful flight and recovery however the second stage did not ignite by design due to the Saturn 1B exceeding Steve's vertical threshold of 25 degrees from vertical, by 2 degrees.

Both Saturn 1Bs were recovered in the field. Steve and Vern were happy with the launch and thanked MDRA for their support. Discovery Canada is expected to air the Saturn 1B launches as part of its Daily Planet program. Keep an eye to <http://www.discoverychannel.ca/> for additional details.

JAR, Japan Association of Rocketry, were grateful for the donation that MDRA provided for the Japan Earthquake Relief. The money went to Red Cross aiding the earthquake relief efforts. Momoko had already read the letter of gratitude during Red Glare. Momoko provided an update and announced that contact with her family was finally

established. Momoko's family are accounted for and doing well, considering the circumstances.

New Business

Scott Kormeier bought Loki Research. The Loki motors live to fly another day. Loki's web store is closed while the business is being relocated to Missouri. It is not known how long it will take before reopening but is expected that it could take months.

Congratulations were extended to Maggie, Troy, and Momoko for their successful level 2 certifications during Red Glare X. Bob announced that Dave Olson is researching certification pins. These pins will say something like "Certified at MDRA" and will be provided to members that successfully certified at MDRA's launches. More details are coming.

There are some upcoming rocketry events. The annual Maryland Science Center exhibition is expected soon. Bob will contact them for dates. On May 25, 2011, *An Evening with Dr. Bobby Braun, NASA Chief Technologist* will be hosted in Laurel, Maryland. See <http://psu-jhu-braun.eventbrite.com/> for additional details. Wings and Wheels is June 5, 2011. MDRA might also be providing an exhibit at the Smithsonian's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center near Dulles Airport on June 18-19, 2011.

ESL 156 will be at the Sod Farm on May 14-15, 2011. Neil claimed that the trailer is pretty well organized and MDRA is ready to move to the summer launch field.

There was a round table for those in attendance. The meeting concluded at 08:00 PM with a sneak peak of Rocketry Magazine's Saturn 1B launches and some addition footage of the Saturn 1B launches from various angles, choreographed to Chopin.

All members and future members are welcome at the MDRA General meetings. The next MDRA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 19, 2011. The schedule is available and posted on the MDRA website at <http://www.mdrocketry.org/membership/meetings/meetings.html> Come and enjoy a drink and discusses all things rocketry with fellow and future MDRA members.

The following is a copy of Vern's letter of gratitude:

Bob and Neil,

I would like to thank the two of you for all you have done for me on this project. From the first thought of this project to analyzing what happened now. Please pass this on to the members of MDRA if you feel it is ok

Thanks to all the MDRA members that helped out on this project. You guys took over in setting it up, getting it on the pad and made it happen. It was incredible what team work you guys displayed lifting and getting it together on the pad. After every step that was completed you called me over to make sure I was happy with what was done. It is so true that you can build a large rocket on your own but it takes a team to flight it. I would like to add it takes a team to fly it, but it takes MDRA to do it right.

Another point was after the crash I was talking to people and I looked around and MDRA members were working to disassemble the still good hardware and picking up all the pieces. I realize I was not helping out and I apologize and was going to start picking things up. I was told 'Don't worry about it. You have enough on your mind right now. We will handle it for you.' That just blew me away.

I know I told a few people I would never fly a project like this anywhere but MDRA. I got reactions like 'Ready, why?' I just said look around, it's because of the help, team work, support and knowledge. It makes that much of a difference.

I would also like to thank Tommy and his brother for allowing me to fly this project on their land, your support before and after the launch was much appreciated.

So with that said I thank you all, you guys are the best and I will be back

Vern