

MDRA General Members Meeting
Knights of Columbus
College Park, Maryland
September 16, 2010

Attendees

President - Bob Utley
Vice President - Neil McGilvray
Treasurer - Kathy Gilliland
Secretary - Peter E. Abresch Jr.
BOD - Bill Cann
- Mike Tyson
Members - Harry Wynn
Troy Stanton
Shepherd Stein
Fred Wallace
Cindi Wallace

The meeting came to order at 07:05 PM.

Old Business

There was not a launch since the last MDRA meeting so there were no RSO or Safety issues to discuss.

Bob will obtain a second set of rack and pad numbers. A new set is require for the second "A" rack and will be necessary once the launches return to Higgs Farm in the fall. The mice should be moving out of the away cell tower and a call was put out for a shop vac to clean the mice remnants from the away cell storage compartments. The old away cell tower will be patched, repaired, primed, and painted by Steve Eves in the summer of 2011. There is not enough time to do it before with the launches returning to Higgs Farm next month. Possible solar cells for charging MDRA launch batteries is on hold pending site survey and discussion with landowners.

There is no new news concerning the Maryland Komen Flight for the Cure during Red Glare IX. All information is current on the MDRA web page. Non MDRA members can donate as well by going to the middle of page <http://www.mdrocketry.org/launches/redglare9/>. Neil had some wrist bands for sale as featured at <http://www.mdrocketry.org/launches/redglare9/LaunchWear.html>. Please support Susan Komen and MDRA and order yours now.

Red Glare IX dates were announced as October 22-24, 2010. MDRA will be flying from the back field. The MDRA votes were in and tallied and the rocket descending under the double "D" parachutes was the winner and will be used on the Red Glare IX shirts. These are one off shirts and once the preorders are completed, they will become highly valued collector items as there will be no more Red Glare IX shirts produced after that. Hurry and order yours now. There is "Drag Race the Wildman" using Pink "K" or "M" motors. Motors must burn pink to participate. Pink motors can be ordered from Wildman. Curt Newport will be at the field on Red Glare IX Saturday to autograph his book, *Lost Spacecraft - The Search for Liberty Bell 7*. Curt will also have for sale prints titled "Moment of Discovery" signed by Curt and artist Alfred Mira. Also for sale are pieces of the original Liberty Bell 7. Two tech sessions will be held Red Glare IX Friday night at VFW Post 7464 (Banquet Location) titled *Altimeters 101: Getting Started with Electronic Recovery and Propellant Making Overview*. See <http://www.mdrocketry.org/> for the latest Red Glare IX news, preorders, banquet tickets, and signups.

The Red Glare IX contests will be in full swing with Mach Madness, 2000 foot, 1 mile challenge, and personal target altitude prediction.

Bob assigned various Red Glare IX duties. Rockets Magazine will be covering Red Glare IX so Neal will be sharing the LCO duties with Mike and others. Peter will be reaching out to fellow members to ensure RSO coverage. Dave W. will be laying out parking areas on the back field and assisting with "Drag Race the Wildman", Kathy and Toni will run the registration and preorders, Hope and Faith will run the Susan Komen tables, Fred S. will taxi rockets to the away cells, Bob will be running the raffle and filming for Rocket's Magazine, and Bob and Peter will set up for the Banquet. It is possible that the Boy Scouts and the Civil Air Patrol will be on hand to assist in directing parking during Red Glare IX. As always, all members are encourage to assist whenever they can.

Fred W. informed MDRA that there will be some Level 3 Certifications attempts during Red Glare IX. Neil also informed those in attendance that a Blue "P" motor inserted into a Little John is scheduled to fly. Check out <http://www.mdrocketry.org/membership/featuredprojects/RedGl>

[are9/index.html](#) for the latest in large projects scheduled to fly at Red Glare IX.

Members are reminded to heed the Field Property Boundaries at Central Sod Farm and Higgs Farm. Please see a MDRA BOD member if a rocket lands outside of these boundaries. These boundaries might be further restricted at Higgs Farm during Red Glare IX depending on the crops.

Upcoming ESL 148 launch is September 18-19, 2010. Hurricane Igor is not expected to cause any problems. Two Boy Scout troops will be attending with some home built rocketry projects. Plan to come out and fly and share your rocketry knowledge and experiences with the next generation of potential future MDRA members.

The 1/10 scaled Saturn 1Bs are still in progress. Vern Hoag rocket came in slightly heavier and is working on propulsion requirements. Steve Eve's has created a small scaled version of his Saturn 1B to test the second stage flight characteristics and his electronics. If all goes well, Steve might attend Red Glare IX with his Saturn 1Bs.

Regarding fall elections, there are none.

New Business

There will be an addition to the MDRA website for members to optionally register their Radio Tracking Frequencies. Also, a white board will be available during Red Glare IX for flyers to post their frequencies while in use. It is up to MDRA members to take the initiative and fill in the appropriate information when using Radio Frequencies.

The development of the field layout and the Google tour for the Higgs Farm Front Field will continue and be filed away for future use.

Future launch dates other than Red Glare IX have not been set for Higgs Farm. These dates are expected to be announced during Red Glare IX.

Cindi W. announced that she will be making her Level 2 Certification attempt during Red Glare IX. Those in attendance wished her luck. Fred W. announced his completion of ½ scaled Patriot that is planning to premier at Red Glare IX.

A Pennsylvania College is looking for a rocketry mentor to assist and fly a level 2 type rocket for a project at Huntsville, Alabama. Troy expressed possible interest.

Fred W. wanted to get more magnetic MDRA logo signs about 9" in diameter.

An inventory of the various rods and rails is required for setup during Red Glare IX.

There will be a link from MDRA's website coming soon that will link to Rockets Magazine Project Data Sheet. If anyone wants to see their rocketry project considered to be featured in Rockets Magazine, please complete this form and email. Until the link is posted to MDRA, the Project Data Sheet can be downloaded here:

<http://www.libertylaunchsystems.com/documents/ROCKETS-Project-Data-Sheet.doc>

There was a round table for those in attendance to give an update or ask a question which was followed by some Thunderstruck Video, including the massive field fire.

The meeting concluded around 09:15 PM.

All members and future members are welcome at the MDRA General meetings. The next MDRA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 14, 2010. 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.