

Pittsburgh Space Command (PSC 473)
2023 Annual Business Meeting

PSC 473 business meeting was held at the Panera in the Water Works Shopping Center in Blawnox, PA on December 5th, 2021. In attendance were PSC Vice President, John Brohm; former club president and current section advisor, Rod Schafer; former president, Steve Foster, Social Media and Marketing Manager, Duane Wilkey, PSC club Treasurer, Charles Garnes, Jerry Kraus, newly appointed Vice President Aleksandr Krachanko, Kai Oleander, and current PSC club president, John Pace. The following outlines discussion points and action items identified during the meeting:

Administrative:

2023 PSC Launch & Activities Calendar – The following highlights important dates as well as launch dates approved for calendar year 2023. Yellow highlighted bullets are PSC’s monthly launches.

- January 22nd (Sport & HP Launch) – Noon to 3 pm
- January 27th & 29th – NARCON (Virtual On-Line)
- February 19th (Sport & HP Launch) – Noon to 3 pm
- March 12th – Daylight Savings Time
- March 19th (Sport & HP Launch) – Noon to 3 pm.
- April 9th – Easter
- April 9th thru 16th – NASA Student Launch, Huntsville, AL.
- April 16th (Sport & HP Launch) – 11 am to 4 pm
- May 20th – TARC – Great Meadows, VA.
- May 21st (Sport & HP Launch) – 11 am to 4 pm
- May 27th thru 29th – National Sport Launch (NSL) West – Alamosa, CO.
- June 3rd & 4th (SCST XXIII & Sport/ HP Launch) – 9 am to 5 pm (Sat.), 9 am to 2 pm (Sun.)
- June (TBD) ECRM 49 Regional Launch – Mt. Airy, MD.
- July 1st thru the 8th – World Space Modeling Championship, Austin, TX.
- July 16th (Sport & HP Launch – 11am to 4 pm
- July 29th thru August 1st – NARAM 64 – Lordsburg, New Mexico
- August 20th (R&R, Picnic & Sport/HP Launch) – 11am to 4 pm
- September 17th (Sport & HP Launch) – 11am to 4 pm
- October 21st & 22nd (Carl McLawhorn Memorial Fly-Off XII & PSC Sport/ HP Launch)
9 am to 5 pm (Sat.), 9 am to 2 pm (Sun.)
- November 5th – Return to Standard Time
- November 12th - (Sport & HP Launch) – 11 am to 4 pm.
- December 3rd (2024 Business Planning Meeting – Panera, Water Works Shopping Center, Blawnox, PA)
– 9:00 am to 11:30 am.

NOTE: All launches in 2023 will be held at Weber Farm. **Since the high-power waiver is in effect for all monthly launches, Tripoli and all other high-power flyers are welcome to launch at any PSC event.** A porta potty will be on site from April through October. A porta potty for November will be decided the week preceding the launch. John Pace is exploring the cost of a handicap porta potty, determining if the club can absorb this added expense over 9 or 10 launches. Winter launches, which includes the months of December through March, will be held from noon to 3 pm. Two-day regional launches will be held on Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm and on Sunday from 9 am to 2 pm. NAR Sport, NASA college teams, any HP club, TARC contestants and NRC launches are welcomed at all PSC sponsored events. There are no fees associated with any PSC sport

launches. Donations during monthly launches are appreciated and are the primary source of revenue for the club. Should a monthly launch be cancelled between April and October, consideration will be given to moving the launch to the following Sunday.

ECRM 48: Need to confirm dates and events.

April 16th – Sounding Rocket Send-Off:

Build any sounding rocket kit from any manufacturer. The model could be one you've already built, or you can build a one. HP models and motors are approved for this event. No documentation required. Judging by those attending the April launch. Each attendee votes for 3 models 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Top 3 spots will receive a prize.

Steel City Smoke Trail XXIII – June 3rd & 4th, 2023:

Steve Foster created a new and exciting event that we will be finalizing over the next month. The event is rather simple. There are 6 events with 5 motors. Let's say the events are PD, SD, BG Duration, HD, Egg-loft Duration (must use B or C motor), and Altitude. You pick the 5 events you're most comfortable flying. Each event will have a maximum score per flight. After completion of all 6 events, the competitor with the highest number of points wins. More details to follow soon.

Carl McLawhorn Memorial Fly-off XI – October 21st & 22nd, 2023:

- 3 NRC Events - TBD
- Semroc Event – Spot Landing using any Semroc Kit.
- “D” Flex-Wing Glider

Website & Social Media (Duane Wilkey):

- **PSC Facebook** – The old Facebook page has been shut down for various reasons. The new PSC Facebook page which started with 2 people 2 years ago has 85 followers as of 12/4/22. Like our former newsletter, it's tough to get content. Per Duane, if we want to draw rocket enthusiasts to our page and our club, all members need to submit photos preferably with people and their rockets to Duane.
- **Q&A, Open Forum, Rocketry Discussions Various Topics** – If your interested in learning more about the hobby, tips and tricks in model construction, competition or high power, or any other topic on model rocketry the first step is to become a NAR member. Once you have a membership card, setup a NAR account, with a username and password. This will allow you access to NAR Groups.
- **Raffles** – The club needs to promote via Facebook and the website monthly raffles. Given the recent number of kits donated to the club, there should be a raffle each month with more during the two-day events.
- **Website Links** - Links to “NAR” and Facebook can be found in the upper right-hand corner of our website page.
- **Club Support** – PSC supports TARC, 4H, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, and NASA S1. If interested in any of these groups, click on the appropriate link under the tab, “Groups and Programs we Support.”
- It was recommended the website have a “Fact Page.”

High Powered Flights at Weber Farm: PSC's foremost concern with HP flights is the safety of all those at the launch and living in proximity of the launch. The #1 safety concern at the meeting was launching low-level HP flights on the sports pad. To improve the safety of our launch area the club officers have decided to add one or two mid-range pads half the distance between the sport and HP pad (approx.150 feet), for "F" and "G" motors. We will also be bringing back the caution tape to prevent attendees from walking between the announcing table and the launch racks which can lead to system and tripping issues. Going forward PSC and its officers encourages all members to use "rail buttons" on any a "F" impulse and above. If you don't have buttons on your HP models greater than an "F," they will have to be moved to one of the Mid-Power or High Power pads which can accommodate a rod. In keeping with past practice PSC will be limiting motor impulse to nothing greater than an "M" motor and altitude flights to 5200 feet. PSC will continue to require rail buttons on all level 1 and level 2 certified high-power flights. For all level 2 certified flights, the model should include the Center of Gravity (CG) and the Center of Pressure (CP). All models will be inspected by the RSO prior to any launch for vehicle integrity, recovery system, and impulse. If the RSO deems the model unsafe for whatever reason, it will not be allowed to fly. High power launches are also dependent on weather conditions the day of the launch. If the RSO feels the rail angle needs to be changed due to wind conditions, the appropriate action must be taken by the owner of that model. Low cloud cover is also a factor in all high-power flights.

NARAM-64 Rocketry Festival - The Festival will be held July 29 thru August 1st, 2023, in Lordsburg, New Mexico. The event is hosted by the Cotton City Rocketry Club (#748). A 12,000' waiver is expected for this event. The Contest Director is Vern Richardson. Events include 1/4A Parachute Duration*, 1/2 A Flex-wing, A Streamer Duration*, A Boost Glider Duration*, A Altitude*, A Payload Altitude*, B Egg-loft Duration*, Precision Fragile Payload (NAR-TARC), and Classic Model (Craftsmanship). "*" Denotes NRC Events. No site has yet been chosen for NARAM-65. NARAM-66 will most likely be held in Muncie, IN or Geneseo, NY.

Club Officers: After 15 years as VP of PSC 473, John Brohm has decided to retire from his position with the club. I'm sure John will remain an active member of PSC for many years to come. I'd like to thank John, for his commitment to the growth of the club and the improvements he's made to our equipment over those many years. Aleksandr (Aleks) Krachanko, was nominated and accepted the role vacated by John Brohm. We wish Aleks much success in his new role at PSC. All other club officers agreed to volunteer their time through calendar year 2023. We welcome anyone with a deep interest in the future of PSC and our hobby to step forward and take a more active role as an officer of the club. The future of the club will depend on volunteers from the next generation who possess an interest and passion for our hobby. PSC is roughly 35 years old. Who's going to be the leaders to take it the next 35?

Master Address and E-Mail Listing of PSC Club Members: John Brohm and Chuck Garnes, with the help of Jerry Kraus, have updated the e-mail contact list. Thanks to all those that participated in this 2022 project. For 2023, we're asking all members to fill out a PSC application form complete with e-mail address. We want to confirm what we have in our master listing and make any necessary updates. To reduce submittal errors we'd like to add an autofill program when completing the PSC application.

Section Advisors Update: Rod Schafer filed for our Charter, and NAR field insurance for 2023 at which time he dropped Camp Lutherlyn as one of our insurance sites. Anticipated equipment purchases for 2023 include:

- Spider box for mid-range pads – A NAR safety grant will be issued for this expense.
- New tires for trailer.

FAA Waiver: A new 2-year waiver was approved in 2022 by the FAA and will remain in effect until 3/15/24.

Sales & Marketing:

University/College Rocketry Clubs: As of 11/30/22, the only college that will be flying at Weber Farms is Youngstown University. All other colleges will be flying at the Tripoli site which is best suited to accommodate experimental models and motors.

Financial Report:

Treasurers Report (Chuck Garnes): The following is the financial status of the club as of December 2022:

Opening Balance (December 2021) \$3007.00
Donations & Other Receivables - \$1381.00
Dues - \$848.00

Total Receivables - \$5236.00

Itemized Expenses:

Weber Farms - \$500.00 (annual use of the field).
Porta potty - \$560.00
Launch box & Safety pylons - \$294.00
Pins & Patches - \$700.00
Prize Kits for CMMF Event - \$588.00
Batteries - \$320.00
New Canopy - \$215.00

Total 2022 Expenses - \$3177.00

Current PSC checking account stands at \$2059.00. As you can see from the numbers, in 2022 we spent \$948.00 more than what we received in dues and donations. During 2022 the porta potty monthly rental jumped from \$100 to \$125 and is expected to jump again in 2023.

Dues Structure: Club dues for 2023 are due in January and remain in effect through December 31st, 2023. **Dues for 2023 will be raised to \$20 per year for a family or individuals.** Dues and Donations are our only source of income and are used for equipment upgrades, monthly launch expenses, the annual donation to the Weber's, any NAR administrative expenses and regional events. Please submit your dues to Chuck Garnes made payable to Pittsburgh Space Command and mailed to 4609 Northern Pike, Monroeville, PA 15146.

Donations: Due to the generosity of the Weber family our annual donation in the amount of \$500.00 has been sent to the family

Other Equipment Needs: See Section Advisor Update.

Rocket Donations: Club members have donated a significant number of collectable and newer models to be used for raffles and prizes at 2023 events. Some of the kits may need a new body tube or the packaging is torn. Tickets can be purchased the day of the launch. PSC will also be giving away kits to "new" junior participants attending monthly PSC launches. All monies collected in the raffles will be used to pay for the monthly portable restroom rental, equipment upgrades, and any safety features deemed necessary by the club officers. A list of raffle kits can be found in the appendix section.

New Business:

Volunteers & New Launch Rules:

- We greatly appreciate the new level of interest in sport and HP rocketry. With the growth in the club, we ask all members to volunteer a little of their time during the monthly launches to help with rocket check in. Also, to speed the launch process, please pickup a flight card from the table and prepare it prior to model check in.
- Anyone planning a level 1 or 2 certification launch is to contact an officer of the club the week prior to the launch.
- A launch rule page outlining site flight requirements will be available to all fliers the day of the launch. Please pickup one when you pick up your flight card(s).
- All heads-up flights will be launched from the mid or HP rack not the sport racks.
- Duane Wilkey to share the site launch and responsibilities document used by the Erie Rocketry Club
- We ask that all new members

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

John Pace
President
Pittsburgh Space Command (PSC 473)

Appendix 1 – PSC Rocket Model Inventory

Rocket Name	Model #	Manufacturer	Quantity	Notes
Sizzler	2127	Estes	2	1 was opened
Challenger Tomcat	2086	Estes	2	
Battlestar Galactica	1311	Estes	1	
Trident	2033	Estes	2	
Sizzler	1906	Estes	1	
Black Brant	1958	Estes	1	
Gemini DC	2136	Estes	1	
Comanche -3	1382	Estes	1	Opened
Bullpup 12D	1972	Estes	1	
Space Shuttle	1284	Estes	1	
Ranger	1955	Estes	1	Opened
Skinny Mini	0880	Estes	1	
US Army Patriot	2056	Estes	1	
Vanguard Eagle	2193	Estes	1	
Star Wars Imperial TIE Fighter	1299	Estes	2	Bags have small tears
Star Trek - Starship Enterprise	1275	Estes	1	
Cosmos Mariner	2190	Estes	1	
V-2	1904	Estes	1	
SDI Satellite	2003	Estes	1	
Mars Snooper Collector Series	K-20	Estes	1	No plastic wrap on box
Greyhawk Orbital Interceptor		Estes	1	
Bullpup 12D	7000	Estes	1	Box in bad shape
Helio-Copter	1995	Estes	1	
Photon Probe Classic Series	3026	Estes	1	
Astron Shrike	K-46 #1246	Estes	1	Needs a body tube
Len Fehskins NARAM Model		Len Fehskins	1	
Pegasus Retro Rocket	#6	Lawn Dart	1	
AL Hussein SS-1C		AR11	1	Plastic Model
Super Cruiser	2012	Quest	1	
Shuttle Intrepid	4002	Quest	1	
Future Launch Vehicle	3013	Quest	1	
Drake NSL 2003	65	Flis Kits	1	
IRIS	KO-4	Semroc	5	

Magnum Hornet	KV-69	Semroc	3	
LaserX Space Probe	KV-33	Semroc	1	
SST Shuttle	XCE-K17	Semroc	1	
Space Shuttle	KV-38	Semroc	1	
Lil I Vans	KV-49	Semroc	1	
Space Plane Boost Glider	XES-K3	Semroc	1	
Apollo Space Capsule	KS-2	Semroc	1	
PSC Infinity	KN-5	Semroc	3	
US Army Redstone		Revell	1	Plastic Model
OA-4M Skyhawk Jet	613	Hasegawa	1	Plastic Model
V-2 Conversion Kit	12111	Apogee	1	
7 ¼" Flying Saucer	NA	Art Applewhite	1	
		TOTAL KITS	57	