

# SORA Minutes of Meeting

Date: August 5, 2025

Number of Attendees: 7

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Robb White. The meeting was held at the Lebanon Public Library.

Our next launch will be at Hisey Park on Sunday, August 10, from 1 to 4 p.m. Setup starting at 11:30 a.m. The current forecast is for clear, hot weather.

Robb thanked all the volunteers who worked at the Lebanon Blues Festival this past weekend. The Lebanon Optimist Club had a very successful show and will make a donation to our club for the help we provided.

Rick Forrester gave the treasurer's report: Our current balance is \$1158.11. Income for the last month was \$66 from donations and new member dues. There were no expenditures. Rick has put in a request for prices on various sizes of new SORA shirts from our supplier. Next month, based on prices, we will decide on what to order.

We are still looking for alternate launch sites, especially one that will accommodate high power launches.

Robb informed us that the Lebanon library will begin renovation of the main floor on August 25. Due to the temporary rearrangement of the library we will not be able to use our meeting room from September until February of next year. He has investigated possible temporary sites, including Hisey Park, eRockets store and Keller Williams Realty office. He will send an email to everyone before next month's meeting with the site. You can also check our website next month.

Rick Forrester gave a summary of our July launch report. We had 41 launches with two lost rockets. Our successful launch rate was 76%, somewhat below our target of 90%. The leading mode of failure, as usual, dealt with faulty parachute deployment. Rick suggested we need to instruct all of our young members on proper procedures for packing parachutes and inspecting their work before launching.

We have three new members: Isaac Haugan, Paxton Polley and Glenn Wolf. Welcome to all three.

We are having problems with our wireless launch system. We cannot launch more than two rockets simultaneously. Robb proposed having an equipment maintenance meeting at Hisey Park to clean and refurbish all of our launch system.

During a visit to eRocket's shop in Dayton, Robb learned that their business was very low and that they had to reduce their staff from 16 to just 2 employees.

NAR has stated that all contracts entered into by affiliated clubs would have to be approved by NAR. Robb has informed them that he strongly objects to this new requirement. His negotiations with the Warren County Parks for the use of Hisey Park was a long and involved procedure and would be even more difficult with the involvement of a third party.

Robb stated that he needed to purchase bulk packs of C6-5 and A8-3 motors to give to youths just starting out in rocketry along with the free rocket kits that we distribute.

We voted to award Shane Gamble our free NAR membership for this year.

Rick Taylor displayed his unique Quaker Oats rocket built from cereal cannisters. He discussed how it was built and explained many of its unique design features. He stated that he had successfully flown it a couple of times to an altitude of 100-150 feet using two D12 motors.

Harold showed a rocket book he had recently obtained called "Make: Rockets, Down-to-Earth Rocket Science" by Mike Westerfield. He displayed a rocket he had built from plans given in the book. The rocket had helicopter recovery. He then showed a second helicopter rocket that was his own design. He invited everyone to come to Hisey on Sunday to see the first launch of each rocket.

We watched a video by Vintage Space on the Saturn V roll program. It was somewhat different than our usual Tim van Milligan video.

Rick "the tool man" Forrester gave his tool-of-the-month presentation about the Dremel tool which he discovered had a built-in wrench. As a bonus this month, he also showed how a hair pin could be used to hold the end of a roll of tape so that the end could be easily found the next time the tape was used. He stated this was especially useful for clear packing tape where the end could disappear and be extremely difficult to find.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.