

NIRA - Meeting Notes  
Meeting Convened: May 4, 2012

Last Friday's (May 4, 2012) meeting was great fun. We had a lively discussion from a visitor from the Adler Planetarium who is involved in a project of launching a rocket from a balloon 100,000 feet up with a goal of getting the rocket to go an additional 200,000 feet. That's right - an amateur rocket to 300,000 feet.

It may seem crazy, but what fun! Before your brain explodes from what I just stated (Where to launch? What does NAR think about it?), that is NOT our concern. What they are looking for is brainstorm ideas from the rocket perspective. They are looking for advice in any way, shape or form to achieve their goal of 300,000 feet. This is a project that was from the 1950's.

Here are some links to check out:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rockoon>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8KrEvT-wYQ&feature=related>

We had some great rockets come in for model of the month: 5 adult and one 1 youth. Maverick Penkava won the youth category with his rocket that he built at our build session in March called "Bat" and Marc Mitchell won the adult category with his 2 cluster 2 stage "Ace in the Hole" rocket. Very cool – it was made to look like a single stage rocket.

Bob Kaplow and Rick Gaff demonstrated their homemade launch controllers. Both were well built and made noise to check continuity. Bob's sound was slightly more irritating than Rick's however.

All in all, a great meeting. Thanks to all

Matt Penkava  
May 4, 2012