

HOW IT HAPPENED

ONCE AGAIN Zog 43 is published to the joy of some and the dismay of others. Zog 43 has had a long history of nonexistence. When NARHAMS was first started, the idea of a section newspaper was suggested and shapped up. The first issue was printed but the printer wanted to play Super Editor. When the dispute was settled the result was that the issue was no good and was never distributed. Later in the year or the next year the Activities Committee decided to print Zog 43. Carl Kratzer & Mark Mercer did almost all of the work and good work at that. Four or five issues were printed before stopping. Now one year after their first issue, another Zog 43 strikes again.

The name Zog 43, as far as anyone can tell, has no meaning except that 43 just happens to be the favorite number of "Ole" Ed Pearson who suggested the name. Zog...well...maybe...no, that would not be it...can you find a meaning? If you ever do, don't let us know. ...Ignorance is bliss.

SORRY

Jim Kukowski, our good friend and leader, has resigned as Executive Director of the NAR. Why? Don't know. Who'll replace him, (if they could)? Don't know that either. But do know that Jim will still be active as the editor of the Model Rocketeer section of the American Modeler and as the NAR's Public Relations man.

LIBRARY

Did you know that NARHAMS has a library? We do, and a fairly large one, with scale data, back issues of NAR, Estes, and NASA newsletters, rocket plans, technical reports, & stacks of other good and interesting material.

The NARHAMS and Whitman Sections combined their libraries to provide a larger selection for their members and for NAR members at large.

The library procedure is simple. Just call Carl Kratzer and request the materials you want and he will bring them to you the next meeting.

If you don't have a list of the library materials just ask Carl and he might have one for you.

PRESIDENT RESIGNS

Kirk Murrell has resigned from both the office of president and his membership in the section. In his letter of resignation (printed below) he said he has lost interest in Model Rocketry because of his interest in other pursuits, even though he had said he would not let this happen. But what can you do about it? Make Kirk feel so bad that he would remain president and then do a bad job because he had not the interest in it?

Kirk knew he would only do a poor job of being president. He did his proper duty in resigning. He no longer had the interest to do a good job so he made way for someone else to try.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION

I have a problem. I have three hobbies and I must eliminate one of them so that I may do a good job on the others and in school. If I quit skating, my partner and several other people will be mad at me. If I quit photography, my photography friends will shun me. If I drop out of rocketry, you will be mad at me. The point is, no matter what I do, some people will be offended, so I will be selfish and please myself. Of the three, I am least attracted by rocketry, therefore....

I am aware that this is an irresponsible decision. My commitment to rocketry is greater than my committment to my other two hobbies since I am president of NARHAMS. I said before that I am being selfish. But besides being irresponsible and selfish, I am determined. If you care to berate me, insult me, hate me, feel free to do so. That is your privelege. But don't try to talk me into coming back. I would only do a poor job since I have simply lost interest in rocketry. I haven't built a new rocket since I rejected Donna (which fact may have a great deal to do with my disenehantment with rocketry). Goodbye.

Kirk Murrell

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Editor..... Jan Blickenstaff
Printer..... Ed Pearson

NEXT ISSUE: R&D reports, contest results
BOOST GLIDER report, and other assorted news.

PHONE TREE

CORRECTIONS AND CHANGES

Murrell--first name second column is scratched.

Kaplan--first name third column goes where you just scratched Murrell's name.

The new Vice President's name will go where Kaplan was. The blank left will just be filled by moving the column up.

Singer's phone no. is OL6-3898 (second name fourth column).

Goss's phone no. in both the phone tree and in the directory is 572-4889 (second name fourth column).

Mark Bobb's name and phone no. go last place last column.

These people have formally quit: (Take their names off of the directory and the Phone Tree.)

Jackson, Robbie
Kerr, John
Murrell, Kirk
Poulos, Harry
Wallace, Bob

CONVENTION

ANNUAL MODEL ROCKET CONVENTION

On March 17, 18, & 19 the Pittsburgh Steel City Section will hold its second Model Rocket convention. There will be discussion groups on model rocketry-basic and advanced, club organization, and a seminar on R&D Projects.

Our section is honored by having four of its members as discussion group leaders. Jan Blickenstaff, Carl Kratzer, George McMullen, and Ed Pearson are those who were asked to be discussion leaders.

The convention was good last year and looks to be so again this year. May everybody get a chance to attend.

NEW MANUFACTURE

by Carl Kratzer

Flight Systems Company, a Division of Pyrochem Company, has begun to sell model Rocket supplies. Their line includes 21 different engines, ranging from B to D classification and having suitable delay charges for single & upper, and are 2.75 inches long and about 0.83 inches in diameter. The Specific Impulse of the fuel is about 100 SECONDS, a 20% improvement over Estes fuel. The price of the engine engines range from 3 for 70¢ to 2 for \$1.00. They also sell four rocket kits designed for their engines. Although the engines have not been NAR certified yet, I have flown two of them and have had excellent results. For a catalog sent 25¢ to Flight Systems Co. Box 145, Louisville, Colo. 80027.

COMENTARY

by Carl Kratzer

In the last year the price of balsa wood has increased by 50% at one of the leading balsa manufacturers and further price increases are inevitable. Balsa, which is grown mostly in Ecuador, is being consumed by modelers and industrial firms at a fantastic rate. Some of its merits which are of use to the modeler are the extremely light weight, high strength, and easy workability.

A chain of events has made the balsa supply in this country to become very low. Early in 1965 a long dock strike cut off the shipments from Ecuador. Later that year the mills in Ecuador could not acquire logs for some time due to adverse weather conditions. By the beginning of 1966 the log shipments were restored and it looked as if the balsa shortage would end, but then the mills were closed by a labor strike. Shortly after this was settled the entire working force in Ecuador called a strike against the government. The military government was overthrown and replaced by a civilian government. By this time weeks of production were lost. At this time dealer stocks were low and kit production halted. Now the shipments from Ecuador have resumed, but the cost of balsa at the mills has increased which in turn raised the consumer's cost. If new problems develop, the situation will become even worse.

It will soon be necessary to find a substitute for balsa wood that will be less expensive. Plastic is the most likely solution but other woods or papers can not be excluded as possibilities. So, keep this in mind because someday the balsa shortage will become so acute that prices will be unreasonably high.

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