

## **My take on the cancellation of the pattern NATS.**

### **NSRCA By-Laws:**

#### **ARTICLE III - OBJECT AND PURPOSE OF SOCIETY**

##### **Section 1 – Object**

The objective of this society shall be to promote the construction and competitive flying of radio controlled aerobatic model airplanes. To aid, insofar as possible, the Academy of Model Aeronautics and other AMA activities, to further the advancement of model aircraft aerobatics.

##### **Section 2 - Purpose of the Society**

- Act as a focal point for rules development and progression. Gather intelligence from the AMA precision aerobatics community to provide the basis for AMA rules change proposals.
- Promote precision aerobatics in the general R/C community by providing leadership in all of the objectives of the society.
- Enhance model precision aerobatics as a recognized sport.
- Develop and provide high standards in judging for competitions and provide qualifications and achievement recognition for judges.

##### **Sequence of events leading up to the NATS cancellation:**

- 5-13-2020 BOD minutes
- Proposal to cancel NATS – proposed by John Decker and passed unanimously.
- Here is some of the discussion from the minutes:
  - a) Other SIG's are canceling, most major events outside model aviation are canceling due to large group restrictions.  
**My take:** We let other SIGs make our decisions. They may have a different agenda and by-laws.
  - b) Restrictions in Indiana are still not lifted, it's hard to predict what is next, each state is changing weekly  
**My take:** well, yes it is hard to predict. If I can't get there, I won't go. Why are you trying to predict anyway?
  - c) With restaurants being closed, how will participants eat  
**My take:** and why is that a concern of the BOD
  - d) Most districts reported the interest in the NATS was half of the normal  
**My take:** the final count was 75% of 2019 participation.
  - e) Travel across state lines is a concern.  
**My take:** again that doesn't seem to have proven out. If I can't get there, I won't go.
  - f) A low turnout NATS (40 pilots) will cause a major financial impact to the NSRCA organization.  
**My take:** Well how did they figure that. The day after their statement was issued, I heard AMA was planning to proceed. I called AMA and talked to a representative and was told that a vote would be taken later but as of now they were still on. We discussed the financials of having a lower turn out NATS. Based on the information I got in this call, I generated a budget for a reduced scale NATS of 25 pilots and it looked to me like NSRCA would not lose money.

Using some other SIG's poorly worded statement, NSRCA then issued a statement saying the "NATS is canceled". **My take:** Seems to have been a surprise to AMA.

- 6-10-2020: BOD minutes
  - Motion by Tim Pritchett: That the NSRCA retract its former cancellation to participate in supporting the 2020 Pattern NATS.  
President: No, Vice President: No, Treasurer: No, D1: No, D2: Yes, D3: Yes, D4: No, D5: Yes, D6: No, D7: No, D8: No.  
Motion did not pass.
  - Old Business A. NATS –
    - The BoD discussed at length how the NATS would continue without their involvement of the NSRCA.  
**My take:** I'm sorry, but how does NSRCA participate in the running the NATS. They recommend a CD and AMA approves or disapproves that person. NSRCA at some point agreed with AMA that they would monetarily support their event. This is generally funded with entry fees from the contestants and not out of NSRCA funds. In 2017 the NATS made \$6,000 + profit but has lost a little since. That is with a full blown contest and no scaled down version. And, as you can see below, AMA was going to fund this event. BTW AMA would make a profit if they got all \$170 of the entry fees.
  - Monte provided the BoD with the following info:
    - It is a 5A Contest
    - There are no plans for a banquet
    - The event will be run with Volunteers and minimal AMA staff
    - AMA was providing funds as needed
    - Social distancing rules are in effect.
  - Tim Pritchett discussed his motion to reverse the NSRCA's decision to be a part of the NATS. This was discussed at length and voted on by the BoD. The motion did not pass.  
**My take:** Thanks Tim! This was their chance since none of their initial reasons had held up even down to the financial problem.
  - The BoD discussed the wording on how we the NSRCA would stand down, but yet promote the AMA running the NATS. Charlie took the lead on this and posted to FB once everyone contributed.
- Around 6-10-2020 (?) AMA votes to go forward with the NATS.
- A day or two later, for some reason AMA decides to have a meeting with the SIGs. And soon after that meeting, AMA issues statement that they will abide by SIGs wishes and NATS is off.
- Monte resigns
- Money is refunded.
- NSRCA tries to shift blame to the AMA and Monte for resigning. NSRCA fought tooth and nail up until the money was refunded to get AMA to abide by their decision. They got what they wanted and now want to say, we got blindsided and blame AMA for cancelling. The NSRCA had posted for all the world to see that, the NATS is cancelled" and "We do not support the NATS", or something to that effect.

Since the cancellation I've been told that the BoD's decision was indeed the correct one and it is their responsibility to keep me healthy. Now get this, since it is not explicitly stated in the By-Laws, that responsibility is implied because the NSRCA is responsible for the safety at local contest (WOW!). Ok, maybe I should check this out in the NSRCA Contest Director's guide. Know what I found? NOTHING, there doesn't seem to be a CD's guide. That seems to be an AMA function.. So, keep me healthy and safe, really??? I've got my wife, my kids, mayors in



all major cities, governors, the President, the WHO and numerous others telling me to take care of myself. Now NSRCA also thinks I need their help to stay safe! How about a simple statement, "the NSRCA advises, before you attend the NATS you consider all health concerns affecting an event like this and, if you decide to attend, take all precautions to promote a safe event for yourself and others."

In my opinion, NSRCA has no authority to cancel an AMA contest (this was validated by AMA) or make decisions on my health and well being. Instead of trying to justify a poor decision and especially shift the blame to AMA, maybe NSRCA should step up and take responsibility and move on in a more productive manner.

I blame NSRCA 100% for this situation and now the sidestep to blame AMA or the CD is unacceptable to me. If you agree, please let your representative know your feelings.

To borrow from Jeff Hill, *"People can maintain an unshakable faith in any proposition, however absurd, when they are sustained by a community of like-minded believers."* Nobel economist Daniel Kahneman as quoted in Ahead of the Curve, Brian Kenny.

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