



# ALL SYSTEMS GO

MASA uses the Internet website as its regular means of communicating information to its members. Keep an eye on this site for the latest information. Prior to a launch, we will publish a "go" or "no go". This is real handy, if weather is questionable the morning of the launch. So, if you can, just prior to leaving for a MASA event, visit the web - there may be important information there that you will want to know.

MASA also uses E-mail to notify members of events/information that we want you to get promptly. If for some reason you have not been getting E-mail from one of the MASA officers, please e-mail your current address to dtkostron@eandc.com. We will make sure your address is correct for the next mailing.

MASA is always willing to hear from its members. We like to know what you are up to. This news-letter is one place we would like to include your input. If you would like to help out with new-letter or would like to contribute a small story/article, please let us know.

## Mission Control

MASA Members,

Our summer launch season is in full swing and our numbers keep growing. Our paid membership is around 60 members and if you include the family members, that number is near 110. Over the last year MASA has doubled its membership and has become one of the larger rocket clubs in the country.

As you may have already suspected, our growing numbers also has caused some difficulties, mostly regarding access to our Blaine field. More and more people are attending our launches and we feel that the landowner may ask us to leave. I believe that we nearly reached that point this spring. At the April and June Launches, about 50 cars were parked on the field, and 75-100 people attended each event. In conversations with the club officers and the landowner it became clear that everyone is concerned with the growing crowds. So, we have to change how we operate in Blaine or lose the field altogether. Instead of losing access to the site completely, we decided to stop holding our regularly scheduled launches at the Blaine field.

We will still use the Blaine field periodically but only for smaller events such as summer or weeknight launches. For the time being our regularly scheduled Saturday launches will take place at Sunrise Middle School in White Bear Lake. Our goal is to eventually locate several sites that we can choose from for our launches.

The White Bear Lake field is fairly small, but will allow rockets up to E impulse in good conditions. The vast majority, about 87%, of our rocket flights are E impulse and below so our limited access to the Blaine site will not cripple the club. We all enjoy seeing the larger rockets fly, but without access to a much larger field we will be seeing fewer of them flying at our launches for a while.

Having access to good launch fields is the single most important goal for the club. I have been following up on every potential launch site that I can find. If you are not happy with our current field situation, you can help by joining the search for new launch fields. We carry NAR sponsored insurance and can pay for similar insurance for the landowner. Please forward any leads to me (Russ Durkee).

Keep in mind that our field difficulties are the result of our own success. We have created a fun, safe, and friendly rocket club. The club is thriving, people are flying a lot of interesting rockets and having a great time doing it. We have had good national exposure and are in demand with local school groups and organizations. None of this happened by accident. Every club member has had a part in this success. Whether you are giving demo launches to schools, RSOing, welcoming a new visitor to the a launch, or helping someone pack their parachute, you are paying forward. We don't need a huge flying

field to do this...but it helps.

Russ Durkee  
MASA President

For information on current  
MASA events  
Checkout Our Website at:  
[http://www1.minn.net/~estenson/masa/  
index.htm](http://www1.minn.net/~estenson/masa/index.htm)

## Support Crew

### RSOs Keep the Launches Running Smoothly

MASA has made some impressive strides this year toward training RSOs and LCOs. The club now has about 10 "trained" RSO/LCOs and an additional 4 up and coming. LCOs have donated their valuable launch time to keep our launches running smoothly. We are always looking for more people to help with LCO and RSO duties. If you are over 18 or an adult NAR member and would like to help out, please contact one of the club officers.

### Demo Launches Introduce Hundreds to the Hobby

Our organization is having a large impact throughout the metro area by introducing model rocketry to school and community groups. I would especially like to thank Ted Cochran and everyone else who worked with him this spring to organize building sessions and launches throughout the metro area. Ted was involved in 6 launches that introduced over 500 kids to the hobby. That is an amazing statistic one that every MASA member can be proud of.

Russ Durkee

## Tech Tip

A common question that is asked is: "what do I use as a filler?". Elmers Fill 'N Finish thinned with 30% rubbing alcohol and 70% filler. This can be brushed on most cardboard and wood surfaces and sands like balsa. Try it!

## CLASSIFIEDS

**Launch Pad:** MASA has two launch pads for-sale. These are the pads that were made during the Pad Building Session earlier this season and the ones that are used at our launches. The pad is a four legged 2 inch PVC pad with a pivoting rod holder. This pad is suitable for rods from 1/8 inch to 1/4 inch and up to 3 pound rockets. \$15.00 each.

Contact: Damian Kostron (651)714-4512, dtkostron@eandc.com

**MASA Decal:** MASA has several decal sheets left. These are 4 inch by 5 inch water-slide decal sheets with various "MASA" logos on it. \$5.00 each.

Contact: Damian Kostron (651)714-4512, dtkostron@eandc.com

**KOSROX:** Apollo Capsule Kit (as seen at MASA launch), Kraft Spiral wound tubes and more. See website at: [www.tela.com/~dtkostron](http://www.tela.com/~dtkostron) for pricing and availability