

MASA PLANET

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
MINNESOTA AMATEUR SPACEMODELER ASSOCIATION



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Upcoming Events:

- **Launch:** Saturday, July 26 10:00 a.m. —?? Elk River/Otsego VFW Soccer Fields
- **Picnic:** Saturday, August 9 3:00 – ???
- **Launch:** Saturday, August 23 9:00–4:00 Location: TBA



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Annual MASA Summer Picnic This August

The annual MASA Summer Picnic will be on August 9, from 3pm to ?? at the Columbia Park picnic shelter, 800 Columbia Blvd., Minneapolis, MN

There will not be a launch scheduled before the picnic, but if you want to bring your own launcher and rockets there is a small open area near the picnic shelter.

Just come out to enjoy the food, conversation and other activities.



If you have any games or activity ideas please bring them with for all to enjoy.

Keep your eye on our webpage for more details. (www.masa-rocketry.net)



Meeting Astronauts and the Future of Space Exploration (Part 2)

By Dale Newton

INSTALLMENT THREE

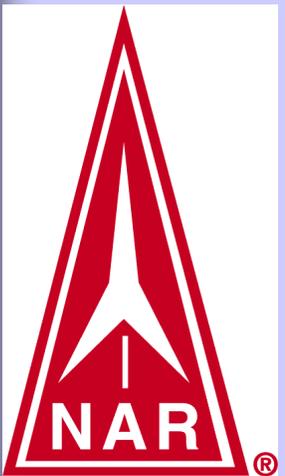
(This is the third installment of a report on the events and presentations at the Go Boldly Expo sponsored by AirSpace Minnesota [airspacemn.org] on April 26, 2014.)

THE APOLLO 17 STORY

The second keynote speaker was Harrison "Jack" Schmitt from Apollo 17, who was the only geologist to walk on the moon and later became a U.S. Senator from New Mexico and university professor. He narrated a video recapping his adventures on the last manned flight to the moon.

With humor and wit, Schmitt pointing out how many times he fell in the course of collecting rock samples and how he applied his cross-country skiing experience when descending the moon slopes on his mission, using his sampler handle as a ski pole. He reported that those ski moves gliding just above the surface worked very well.

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Cub Scout Outreach Launch Report

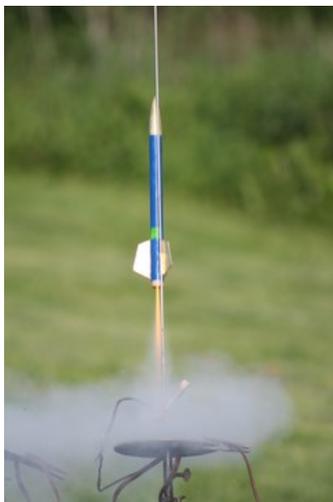
By Art Gibbens

Take 25 to 30 enthusiastic Cub Scouts, all their siblings and parents and 6 MASA members, put them all on a field on a Wednesday night at 6:30 pm in Woodbury, MN and what do you get? A great evening outreach launch! Neal, Ken, Sean, Anand, Jerry and I were on hand to help those scouts burn through 5 24 packs of B6-4s as well as another pack of C6-5s as they flew their Vikings, Alphas, generic E2X and other rockets last night. A good time was had by all (except for one little girl that sat in the middle of the field out behind the prep table and cried for about 20 minutes).

The winds were out of the East so we set up the launch pads on the South-east corner of the field, tipping the rods away from the spectators and over the corn field. The field was a bit squishy, but not too bad. We easily put up 80 flights (and probably more) in just under 2 hours of flying. Every child got to fly their rocket at least once, most at least twice, and one young man flew his at least 4 times - I know this because I helped him put it on the pad. We had a few come in hot, but all of those landed away from the crowd and on the closed range. None of the rockets got stuck in trees and most of them were recovered on the field, parking lot or corn field.

Duties were divided thus: Sean, Ken and Anand helped out at the prep table, while Jerry and I helped at the launch racks and Neal manned the launch controller, allowing the cubs to launch their own rockets after a countdown (most of the time). Neal and Sean flew some demo flights and I'll let them chime in on the details of those.

Art (the misfire igniter guy)



Meeting Astronauts, continued



On one occasion during the moon walk, he dropped his sample bag, fell trying to retrieve it, got up, dropped the bag again, and fell again trying to pick it up. At this point, Houston Control told him he was receiving calls from the Houston Ballet Society. He then executed a ballet leap as an audition . . . and fell again. Schmitt pointed out that his white spacesuit was by then covered with moon dust.

The 78-year-old Schmitt briefly described the rich trove of geologic discoveries that were made on this final Apollo mission, which was barely televised back on Earth. A particularly exciting discovery was orange soil in one location. [*Perhaps the moon is made of cheddar*

rather than green cheese.]

During take off from the moon surface, the video camera was placed 100 meters away to get a good video of the lift-off. Schmitt said pilot Gene Cernan urged him to step outside to get a really good picture, but Schmitt declined the offer.

RETURNING TO THE MOON

Schmitt concluded, "The fastest way to achieve the goal, which is the important one for the long term, of landing on Mars is to learn how to do it again by going to the moon. There are many, many questions yet about how to actually perform a Mars mission, and those can be learned in the process of gaining increased understanding of the moon and its resources for use here on earth."

SCIENCE VS. GEOPOLITICS

In response to a question about how important it is to integrate science into the next technological leap into space, Schmitt answered, "The primary purpose of major space endeavors is clearly not going to be just science. It's not going to be science at all. Science has to provide the frosting for that cake, but geopolitically, there will be many other drivers. On the other hand, when Apollo was conceived . . . a number of people in the scientific community began to move to make sure we could use that capability for increased learning about the moon and thus the earth. . . . They realized that once we had the capability to land on the moon, we had the capability to do much more. We could become true explorers."

As a result of including scientist astronauts, geologic training for astronauts, and the addition of scientific packages to the flights, he said "every mission produced increasingly high-value science, knowledge about the moon, knowledge about what the moon was telling us about the early history of the earth, about the resources that were present on the moon that could be utilized here on Earth as well as in space to supply missions to the planet Mars. All of that became a remarkable additional return to the original Cold War objectives that were envisioned by Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy."

Schmitt continued, "So I think the same thing will happen in the future. That the young men and women who will put together the missions back to the moon and on to Mars will indeed be integrating science with the engineering activities that are necessary to successfully accomplish such missions. I can only encourage all of you to continue to support a science and technology and mathematics education in Minnesota. But don't forget that young people need to know about the history of their country at the same time. It's in that history that you find the inspiration and knowledge that human beings really are built to explore. They have from the very first, exploring their habitat. Here on Earth now we have a new frontier to explore, and it's called space."

MISSED RENDZVOUS

After getting Buzz Aldrin's signature on his book, my daughter Holly and I joined the line of space fans waiting for the autograph of Harrison Schmitt on his book. Other people told us that he was happy to chat and take photos with the people he was meeting. Sadly, this generosity with his personal time, meant that Dr. Schmitt had to leave before he could sign all the books in line. A true gentleman who didn't want to leave anyone unsatisfied, he left his personal address where we could mail our books for him to add a signature and dedication. We missed meeting him in person, but we can always write him a letter.

Details of presentations by retired Space Shuttle pilot Curt Brown and Space Shuttle and International Space Station astronaut Karen Nyberg will be covered the final installment of this article.

Continued, p. 4

Meeting Astronauts, continued

MEETING ASTRONAUTS AND THE FUTURE OF SPACE EXPLORATION FINAL INSTALLMENT

(This is the fourth and final installment of a report on the events and presentations at the Go Boldly Expo sponsored by AirSpace Minnesota [airspacemn.org] on April 26, 2014.)

[Author Note: This will be a summary of presentations by current astronaut Minnesota native Dr. Karen Nyberg and astronaut/Air Force Colonel Curt Brown (retired) as soon as I can get it done.]



MASA SHOWCASE

This is the section of our newsletter that showcases recent builds by MASA Members. Thanks to Jeff Taylor for this article and pictures.

MASA Showcase: LOC Forte-8

by Jeff Taylor

I recently finished a LOC Forte. I upgraded the standard elastic shock cord and attachments with an eye-bolt in the nose cone, a u-bolt in the bulkhead, and some tubular nylon strapping. I traded in the launch lug for some rail buttons mounted on some 1/4" plywood standoffs. To keep the motor casing restrained in the 38mm motor tube, I used a PML PMR. I also built a LOC 38/29 adapter so I can fly it on 29mm motors too. To fill the body spirals and nose cone seam and to smooth out the fin fillets, I used a mixture of Elmer's Wood Filler with a little bit of water.

For paint, I wanted to go with the paint scheme of Jimmie Johnson's #48 NASCAR race car from a few years back (hence, LOC Forte-8). To cut the painting masks for the #48 and the Lowe's logo, I used my Silhouette Cameo cutting machine and some frisket film. First, I painted the back end fluorescent yellow. Then I added the first mask that defined the outside edge of the yellow and added some registration marks. Then I sprayed black around the edges of the mask. After removing the first mask for the yellow, I used the registration marks to align a second mask that defines the outline of the black around the numbers.

With that mask still on over the black and yellow, I laid out the lines for the red stripe that makes the house over the Lowe's logo. Then I sprayed red along those lines and along the length of the rocket. Using 1/4" Tamiya yellow masking tape, I covered up the red to define the stripe. Then I painted the metallic silver along the top. After that dried I masked it off and painted the iridescent blue along the bottom. Then I added a mask to spray the Lowe's text in white. After removing all the masks and heat-setting the paint, I sprayed some Krylon gloss clearcoat over the entire rocket.



More MASA SHOWCASE

Thank you to the Uhlenkamp family for these great pictures!

Brian Uhlenkamp — Argent, Big Daddy, Extreme 12



Lukas Uhlenkamp — Firebolt



Julia Uhlenkamp — Juliulus (Semroc Sky Hook II)



Space Quotes

“I didn’t feel like a giant. I felt very, very small.” - Neil Armstrong



“Mars has been flown by, orbited, smacked into, radar examined, and rocketed onto, as well as bounced upon, rolled over, shoveled, drilled into, baked and even blasted. Still to come: Mars being stepped on.”

— Buzz Aldrin, in his new book, *Mission to Mars: My Vision for Space Exploration*

“It means nothing to me. I have no opinion about it, and I don’t care.” — Pablo Picasso, reacting to the successful Apollo 11 mission, was quoted as saying this in the *New York Times*, July 1969



MASA DIRECTORY

Established 1998

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Club Website

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Club Yahoo Group

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/masarocketry>

MASA Calendar

Launch

Date: Saturday, July 26

Time: 10:00 a.m. until ??

Place: Elk River/Otsego VFW Soccer Fields

NARAM 56

Date: July 26 - August 1

Location: Pueblo, Colorado <http://naram.org/>

Picnic

Date: Saturday, August 9

Time: 3:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Place: Elk River/Otsego VFW Soccer Fields

Launch

Date: Saturday, August 23

Time: 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Place: Elk River/Otsego VFW Soccer Fields



Can you find the MASA members in this photo from NARAM 56?

For more information, please go to the

MASA website at

www.masa-rockeetry.org/events

MASA PLANET
C/O ANDY HEREN
3711 BRIAN ST.
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701



Mailing Label Here

MASA

Minnesota Amateur Spacemodeler Association, founded in 1998, is an active rocketry club with members from the Twin Cities and surrounding areas of Minnesota and western Wisconsin. MASA is dedicated to the safe and enjoyable pursuit of the rocketry hobby. MASA is a registered section (Section #576) of the National Association of Rocketry (NAR). MASA has been recognized by the NAR as “Medium-Sized Section of the Year” in 2006 and 2007, has received the NAR’s North American Rockwell Trophy for best newsletter in 2008, 2009 and 2010, and has hosted NARCON (the NAR’s Annual National Convention) in 2007 and 2008. MASA has an official club launch on the 4th Saturday of each month (weather dependent) year round at one of several different flying sites located in Nowthen, White Bear Lake and Otsego. We also hold monthly club meetings on the 1st Thursday of each month, typically held at the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul. We host a Club Picnic in July and a Holiday Party at the end of the year. MASA also participates in numerous rocketry-related outreach activities including Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, schools, 4H, TARC and USLI to name a few. Visitors, spectators, and prospective members are always welcome to join us at club events! MASA welcomes rocketeers of all ages and experience levels. MASA members share their building and flying experience to help you hone your skills and become a better and safer rocketeer. Flying in a club environment keeps you in touch with the latest rocketry techniques and products, as well as offers encouragement and support through camaraderie of fellow club members. You do not need to belong to the NAR (National Association of Rocketry) in order to join MASA. However, we do encourage you to consider NAR membership. (Find out more about the NAR at www.nar.org) You can find more information on the MASA web site, www.masa-rocketry.org, or email us at masarocketry@rocketmail.com.

For more information, or to join MASA ,go to www.masa-rocketry.org



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