

# MASA PLANET

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
MINNESOTA AMATEUR SPACEMODELER ASSOCIATION



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## Upcoming Events:

- **Launch:** Saturday, September 27 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Elk River/Otsego VFW Soccer Fields
- **Meeting** Thursday, October 2 7:00—9:00 p.m. Location: TBA
- **Launch:** Saturday, October 25 10:00 a.m.—4:00p.m. Location: TBA



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Established 1998

## MASA Holiday Party

by Neal Higgins MASA President

On Saturday, January 3, 2015, MASA held its annual Holiday Party at the Eagle Lake Pavilion in Maple Grove.

There were 25 members, family and friends present to partake in all of the great food, conversation, activities and games. There were plenty of show-n-tell items brought to the party to ooh and aah over. There were steam punk hats, steam punk goggles and some rockets painted with some interesting chameleon paints.

MASA provided a ham and, with the pavilion having a stove, I was able to finish the cooking at the party. By 6:00pm everybody had arrived with their items to share and the ham was hot and ready. We all enjoyed a wonderful meal of ham, au gratin potatoes, veggies, salads, rolls, desserts and snack items. I don't think anybody went away hungry and if anyone did there was only themselves to blame.

After people had eaten their fill it was time for the fun part of the evening. But first I had to make everyone listen to me babble. I opened the meeting portion by asking  
Party, continued, p. 2

## MASA SHOWCASE

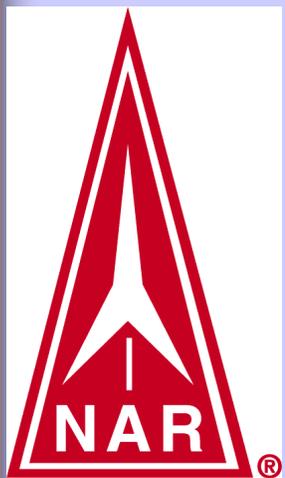
This is the section of our newsletter that showcases recent builds by MASA Members. Thanks to Brian Uhlenkamp for the pictures.



Black Star Voyager  
(Estes)



Snarky (DynaStar)



Party, continued from p. 1

for any other nominations for the 2015 Officer Nominations before closing them. There were none, so it will be Jeff, Carol, and I for 2015. Next up was a brief year in review. I didn't have any stats so I didn't know the flight counts, motors burned or total impulse. I know Alan has been busy but will have all of the 2014 statistics on the website soon. Despite no HPR field I think there were still plenty of flights at all of the launches.

Next up were the thanks to all those who helped throughout the year to make 2014 another great one for MASA: Thanks to everyone who came to the party and for all of the great food.

Thanks to Jeff Taylor for being my veep, to Carol Marple for the work she does as treasurer, to Alan Estenson for his work on the website and for keeping of the stats and a big thanks to Andy Heren for all of the work he puts into each and every issue of the *MASA Planet*.

A very big thanks to everyone who helped out with and donated funds to the Nowthen battle. Despite not getting the sod farm back we were able to get the ordinance change done so if we can find a landowner willing to fight the evil one there is still a chance we will be back in Nowthen. Thanks to the contributors: Ted Cochran, Brian Beckius, Ron Wirth, Art Gibbens, Todd Carpenter, Carol Marple, Michael Ferrell, Jeff Taylor, Alan Estenson, Glen Overby, Steve Hum, Larry Schwartz and Aaron Sheriff. I would like to thank Todd Carpenter, Carol Marple and Jeff Taylor for spending the day at the Nowthen Heritage Festival. I know there were a lot of interested Nowthen residents in our rocket sport.

Thanks to everyone at the launches who helped out with range setup & tear down and to those that took on an LCO/RSO shift.

Thanks to everyone who helped at or took on the task of running an Outreach Event. There were many this year including a STEM EXPO, grade school builds and flights, many scout events, girl day camps, science fairs, a build and fly day at the Stenberg abode and the Cross Lake area library children's program. Let's keep up the good work in 2015.

Next up were the MASSY Award winners. The winners were:

- Jace Flansburg – Outstanding Outreach Assistant - for his great job at running the launch for Pack 362
- Brian LaRose – Silhouette Presenter – for the great job on his Silhouette cutter presentation and the decals he creates with it.
- Michael Ferrell – Master of Disaster – for all of his CATO's and other issues at the November Launch.
- Jeff Taylor – Master of Color – for all of the great work he does with paint, decals and creativity.
- Art Gibbens – Kitbash Kreator – for the outstanding design of “Earl Grey Hot”
- Sean Flynn – Designed to Prang – for the great design of WTF, a rocket with 2 canted forward mounted motors, at least one good flight and then the fence post.
- Todd Carpenter – Design of the Year – for Oakenshield. Todd gets to enjoy the coveted MASSY pail and the William Shatner video for the year.

After the massy's we moved on to the door prizes and the winners were:

- ⇒ Ethan Erpelding – Space Eagle
- ⇒ Darian LaRose – Ricochet
- ⇒ Jennifer Jones – Cosmic Explorer
- ⇒ Jace Flansburg – Star Stryker
- ⇒ Jaden Beard – Vector Force

And for the adults:

- ⇒ Art Gibbens – 24” x 36” cutting mat
- ⇒ Craig Borchard – LOC Aura & Estes motor retainer
- ⇒ Dale Newton – Mega Mosquito
- ⇒ Holly Newton – Partizon
- ⇒ Jenifer Flansburg – Argent

## February MASA Meeting

The Nike Ajax and Nike Hercules Missiles, and their history in Minnesota - presented by Alan Estenson

Did you know that the Twin Cities area was once protected by four Army surface-to-air missile bases? Hosting up to 18 Nike Hercules missiles at each base, they were ready to hurl nuclear warheads at attacking Soviet bomber formations. Decommissioned in 1971, the remains of these bases can still be found in the Minnesota and Wisconsin countryside.

With accompanying photos and videos, Alan plans to talk about:

- \* The Nike Ajax and Nike Hercules surface-to-air missiles: their history, technical overview, and how they were deployed.
- \* Model kits, past and present, of those missiles (both static and flyable).
- \* Nike missile site SF-88L near San Francisco which has been restored and is part of the National Park Service.
- \* The four missile bases which were arrayed around the Twin Cities from 1959 to 1971 in a "ring of supersonic steel".
- \* The Nike Hercules missile which is on display in a St. Bonifacius city park.
- \* And, in particular, missile base MS-70 near St. Bonifacius, Minnesota.

### Party, cont. from p. 3

Now it was finally time for the much anticipated fun part of the evening, the gift exchange. It took several rounds of opening gifts before the stealing started. And like every year there were 1 or 2 gifts that were the prize to try and hang onto. This went on for about ½ hour before the final gift was opened and everybody was happy.

Just as the gift exchange was wrapping up (maybe it should be un-wrapping up) Ted Cochran finally arrived bearing decadent treats created by his daughter. Despite being full from over eating already I think just about everyone tried something. Thanks very much Ted for bringing them and to your daughter for making them.

Thanks everyone who arrived early to help with the setup. Thanks to everyone who helped out at the end to put away the chairs and table & for the great job of cleaning up. If it wasn't for mop mastery of Jeff Taylor I doubt we would have gotten our damage deposit back. LOL

Thanks again everyone for making the party a successful and fun night.

Neal

## 2015 Estes Catalog

The PDF of the 2015 Estes catalog is available for download from the Estes web site.

Click on the catalog cover at the right to get linked to Estes.



See your article or pictures here!

Submit an article or picture for the MASA Showcase to

[planet.article576@gmail.com](mailto:planet.article576@gmail.com)

## MASA DIRECTORY

Established 1998

Founding President: Russ Durkee

### 2014 President

Neal Higgins—nthiggins@gmail.com

### 2014 Vice President

Jeff Taylor— jeff.taylor@mn-rocketry.net

### 2014 Secretary/Treasurer

Carol Marple— MASA576Treasurer@gmail.com

### MASA Planet Newsletter Editor

Andy Heren—planet.editor576@gmail.com

### MASA Planet Online

[www.masa-rockeetry.org/planetonline.htm](http://www.masa-rockeetry.org/planetonline.htm)

### Club Website

[www.masa-rockeetry.org](http://www.masa-rockeetry.org)

### Webmaster

Alan Estenson — [estenson@mn-rocketry.net](mailto:estenson@mn-rocketry.net)

### Club Yahoo Group

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

## MASA Calendar

### Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, February 7

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Hennepin County Southdale Library,  
7001 York Avenue, Edina, MN 55435

The library is located near the Galleria Mall, just a few blocks south of the Southdale Mall. We will be in the "Full Meeting Room".

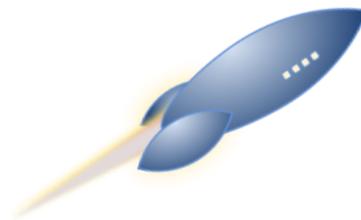
**Topic:** The Nike Ajax and Nike Hercules Missiles, and their history in Minnesota - presented by Alan Estenson

### Launch

**Date:** Saturday, February 28

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Sunrise Park Middle School, White Bear Lake.



### Activities Disclaimer

Scheduled dates, times and launch sites are subject to change due to weather and/or field conditions. Check the MASA Web Site ([www.masa-rockeetry.org](http://www.masa-rockeetry.org)) or MASA Yahoo Group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/masarocketry>) for up-to-date changes.

All MASA Launches are "Misfire Alley" (bring your own launch pad and controller), however, community pads are usually set up for everyone's use.

For more information, please visit the  
MASA website by clicking

[here.](#)

**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](http://www.nar.org)) You can find more information on the MASA web site, [www.masa-rocketry.org](http://www.masa-rocketry.org), or email us at [masarocketry@rocketmail.com](mailto:masarocketry@rocketmail.com).

**For more information, or to join MASA ,go to [www.masa-rocketry.org](http://www.masa-rocketry.org)**



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