

MASA PLANET

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
MINNESOTA AMATEUR SPACEMODELER ASSOCIATION



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Established 1998

Greetings from the President By Jeff Taylor

Happy New Year, Rocketeers! I hope everyone had a safe and wonderful holiday season. Now that we are officially into winter I hope that all of you are busy working on this year's rocket projects.

If you are reading this, that can only mean that the *MASA Planet* is back in production!! Thank you to Andy Heren for offering to return as newsletter editor after taking a year break after a previous three year stint as editor! As a former editor myself, I know the hard work that goes into it. Let's all help out Andy make the *MASA Planet* a great publication. He can't do it alone without the help of all of us submitting articles and pictures to him. If you are fairly new and looking for suggestions on what to submit, take a look at previous issues of the newsletter on-line on the [MASA website](http://www.masa-rocketry.org). Submit articles to Andy at planet.editor576@gmail.com

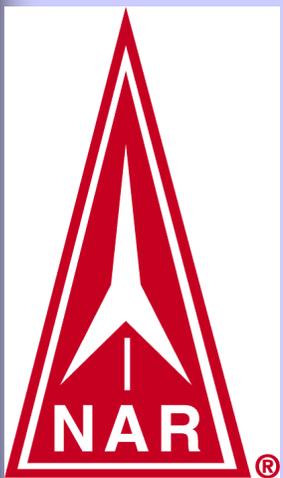


This year's club officers remain unchanged from last year since the 2016 officers were the lone nominees for the positions. Therefore, I am returning as the President, Carol Marple as the Vice President, and Michael Farrell as the Treasurer.

If you haven't already done so, please seriously consider joining the MASA Yahoo Group. This is where we post the latest up-to-date information on launches, and is where you would check to make sure a launch isn't postponed due to weather. Meeting notices and other important information is also posted here. This is also where you can find past discussions by members, or create your own new discussions to help get answers to any of your questions. To join the MASA Yahoo Group, simply follow the instructions found by clicking "Email List" on the left side of the MASA website (www.masa-rocketry.org).

MASA is also on Facebook! It is a closed group so a moderator will have to approve you joining, but it is also the perfect place to find club information and start discussions. With Facebook's growing popularity and the ability to post pictures, I have a feeling the Facebook page will eventually phase out the Yahoo Group as the official go-to place for MASA.

See **PRESIDENT** Page 2



>>PRESIDENT from Page 1

As a reminder, we plan launches on the fourth Saturday of every month (except December). Launches are typically held at the Elk River/Rogers VFW Sports Complex in Otsego, but could move around the greater metro area depending on field availability. If you know of a field that might be suitable, let us know and we will check it out. Launches are also subject to postponement due to weather, so check the MASA Yahoo Group before you go for last-minute cancelation notices.

Also, we plan meetings the first Thursday evening of each month (except December). We try to move the meeting locations around the metro, and typically hold them in public meeting rooms at area libraries, but have also held them in schools and club members' places of employment. Like launches, if you know of an available meeting space that could be utilized, let us know and we will check it out.

Please remember that if you want to fly rockets in a nearby park or in your own yard (if it is big enough), that you check with local authorities first (city hall is a great resource). Did you know that a surprising number of municipalities don't even allow rockets to be flown within their city limits?

As always, fly safe or stay home.

Jeff

The MASA Planet Returns

by Andy Heren, Returning Editor

Thank you, Jeff, for the introduction! I am so excited to be back as the editor of the *MASA Planet*! I don't get to near as many MASA events as I used to, but I like to stay connected in this way. It is my hope that I can make some time to get over for a few meetings and especially some launches.

I had meant to get this first issue out earlier. I was playing with a new format, but I decided I like my old one after all.

As I looked through some old issues, I was noticing some features that I would like to see return. For example, I would like to see the MASA Showcase again. This is an area where members can submit pictures of their latest builds. As we near the end of a (hopefully) active winter of building, I am sure people have many cool rockets that they would like to share. Submit a picture, even a short write up on how the build was, especially if it is a new kit.

How about an area for people to share their memories? I didn't get in to the hobby until 1995, so I don't have memories of building rockets as a kid. How do you feel when you discover those old kits that you thought were tossed years ago? Has a kit been re-released that was your favorite as a kid? Share your memories with us!

Have you built any new kits lately? eRockets is releasing more Semroc kits and Estes seems to be putting out new kits regularly. How do you like them?

Have you participated in an outreach event? Please write about it and submit a few pictures to accompany it?

Remember, the *MASA Planet* is the newsletter of the members. What can you contribute?

PLEASE NOTE: As you can see, this is a very late January/February issue. I want to have the March/April issue out by March 4. I have one submission already. Please get me any articles or MASA Showcase pictures by then! Thanks!



Filling the Gap... An In-Between Fat Boy

Article and photos by Jeff Taylor

Over the years I have built several Fat Boy rockets. Some have been built stock from the original Ø 2.6" now out-of-production Estes kit, and some started out as the standard kit or clones and have been painted with flames, as minions, turned into a canted 3-motor cluster, and even turned into a Saturn 1B parody. I have also scratch build a downscale version starting with a Baby Bertha Nosecone (before Estes released the Mini Fat Boy kit), and I have built an upscale version from the Polecat Aerospace Ø 5.5" Fat Man kit.

I wanted something in between the low power Ø 2.6" version that flies on "C" motors and the high power Ø 5.5" version that flies on "I" motors, like a mid power that could maybe fly on "F" or "G" motors. I found a suitable fiberglass 4" Nosecone at Rocketry Warehouse in the same general shape as the Estes Fat Boy. Upscaling the Ø 2.6" rocket to Ø 4" was a scale factor of just over 1.54X.

I started out by building a simple Motor Mount (see Photo 1) using a Ø 29mm Motor Tube, some plywood Centering Rings, an Estes Ø 29mm Retainer, and a U-Bolt for the Shock Cord attachment.

Next I cut some Ø 4" Body Tube to the proper scaled length, and cut some slots for Through-the-Wall Fins (see Photo 2).

I cut the Fins from plywood using the standard Fat Boy Fin shape scaled to the right size (see Photo 3).

The shoulder that came on the Nose Cone was about twice as long as I wanted for his project, so I sawed some of it off and sanded the cut edge smooth. The fiberglass mold parting line also needed quite a bit of sanding to smooth it out. I attached an Eye Bolt and plywood Bulkhead to the inside front of the Nosecone for Shock Cord attachment and as an anchor to add nose weight later if needed, although this Nosecone alone is fairly heavy.

With all the parts ready to go (see Photo 4), I used epoxy to attach the Motor Mount inside the Body Tube and to attach the Fins to the Body Tube and Motor Mount.

Photo 5 shows this upscale project next to a standard Fat Boy for size comparison.

I added rail buttons, epoxy Fin fillets, and coated it all with Rustoleum Painter's Touch 2X White Primer. After the Primer was completely dry it was sanded smooth with 220 grit sandpaper, then the Fins were painted with Rustoleum Painter's Touch 2X Blue Paint. Once the Blue Paint was dry, I masked them off and sprayed the Body and Nosecone with Rustoleum Painter's Touch 2X Red Paint. I scaled the original Fat Boy decals and cut them from blue and white vinyl using my Silhouette Cameo.

Photo 6 shows the finished scratch-built rocket standing alongside the other size Fat Boys. The Nosecone shape is slightly off from the original Fat Boy, but it is close enough for me. I still need to add some tubular nylon Shock Cord and get a Parachute (probably a 30") before it flies, but other than that it is ready to go.



Wisconsin Organization Of Spacemodeling Hobbyists -WOOSH National Association of Rocketry REGIONAL MEET MidWest Regional Championship 2017 - MWRC 2017

WHEN: Saturday June 24 - and Sunday June 25, 2017

WHERE: The Richard Bong State Recreation Area, Near
Kansasville WI -Model Rocket Area

dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/richardbong/

WHO: Open to all NAR members of all ages.

First time contestants especially welcome!

HOSTED by the Wisconsin Organization Of
Spacemodeling Hobbyists - WOOSH - section 558 -

www.wooshrocketry.org

Our Regional Contest will be held concurrently with
our June Sport and HPR launch. Onsite vendor -
Wildman Rocketry. Test fly your NARAM models on
our large field. A separate contest area and pads are
being set up. Camping is available.

FEES: No contest fees - The DNR does have a fee to
enter the park. -

dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/admission.html

EVENTS:

Open Spot Landing - OSL

A Parachute Duration - A PD

B Streamer Duration - B SD

B Helicopter Duration - B HD

D EGG Loft Altitude DELA with
Altimeters

Sport Scale -SS



Contest Director - John Cieslak

Questions? email: jphoton@tds.net

2017 Membership Renewal

By Michael Farrell, MASA Treasurer

Hello MASA Members, this is our annual reminder that we are now accepting dues for the 2017 flying season. We're happy to report that annual dues are unchanged at \$20 for senior members, and family memberships are only an additional \$2 per family member. Junior memberships are \$10.

Membership renewals can be made online at the MASA website -

<http://www.mn-rocketry.net/masa/>

Brochures with 2017 renewal applications are also available on paper, please let me know if you'd like one.

The easiest way to pay for the renewal is using PayPal at the website -

http://www.masa-rocketry.org/masa-dues_pay.htm

Of course, good old fashioned checks and cash are still accepted, too.

To those of you who have already renewed, thanks!

Looking forward to seeing your winter builds,

Michael Farrell
2017 MASA Treasurer

See your article or pictures here!

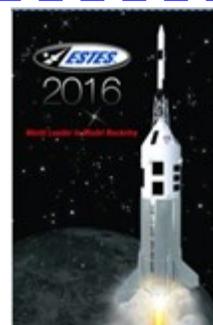
*Submit an article or picture for the
MASA Showcase to*

planet.article576@gmail.com

2016 Estes Catalog

The PDF of the 2016 Estes catalog is available for download from the Estes web site.

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



MASA DIRECTORY

Established 1998

Founding President: Russ Durkee

President

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

Vice President

Carol Marple— carol.marple@mn-rocketry.net

Secretary/Treasurer

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MASA Planet Newsletter Editor

Andy Heren—planet.editor576@gmail.com

MASA Planet Online

www.masa-rocketry.org/planetonline.htm

Club Website

www.masa-rocketry.org

Webmaster

Alan Estenson — estenson@mn-rocketry.net

Club Yahoo Group

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

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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