**1998 MASA Meeting Reports**

**MASA Tours the Home of "Rocketman" Ky Michaelson (4/7/1998)**

The April 6th meeting of MASA members took place a the home of "Rocketman" Ky Michaelson.  Ky and his wife Jodi entertained 12 MASA members with a tour of his palatial rocket pad and workshop.  MASA members were able to get a close look at the JOE BOXER rocket that recently returned from a 9 mile high flight over the Nevada desert.   A Rocket powered wheel chair, supersonic rocket car, and a huge amount of Hollywood and space memorabilia highlighted the visit.  Ky also gave MASA members a preview of several of his latest rocket video projects and several upcoming rocket projects.  We were both impressed and inspired by Ky's contributions to the world of amateur and high power rocketry.
*(Russ Durkee)*

**Burnt Offerings Appease the Rocket Gods (7/14/1998)**

The first annual MASA summer picnic and bovine sacrifice took place Tuesday at the home of MASA president Russ Durkee.  Ten club members were on hand to partake in the event which included an unsanctioned watermelon seed spitting contest, lots of rocket talk, and a rocket giveaway.  Several kits were generously provided courtesy of Alan Estenson and Hub Hobby Center, Little Canada.  The Fox family walked away with the majority of the prizes by taking home a Black Brant kit (with mighty D engines!), an Estes Mosquito, and two other kits.  Carl Persson's fine video premiered later in the evening featuring launch views from his Bucket-Cam.  A good time was had by all. Abundant rain fell later in the evening as sure indication that the Rocket Gods were pleased.   Look for more events like this one after the snow flies in the winter.
*(Russ Durkee)*

**October Meeting Minutes (10/6/1998)**

MASA's October meeting was held Monday, October 5 at the residence of Carl Persson beginning at 7 pm. MASA members in attendance included Russ Durkee, Damian Kostron, Alan Estenson, Chris Kvidera, Steve Fox, Len Solarz, Doug Regester, Carl Persson, and Jackson Thatcher. (Apologies for any misspelled names.)

Russ announced that, beginning next month, MASA meetings will be held in a classroom at the Science Museum in St. Paul. This will give us a nice facility for our meetings. However, we will either have to park on the street (free in St. Paul in the evenings) or pay to park in a ramp. We will likely loose this location next year while the Museum moves to its new building. More details and directions will be provided before the next meeting.

Russ also announced that nominations for club officers will be taken during the November meeting. Elections will take place during the December meeting. The December meeting will consist of the elections and a holiday party - held at Russ's place in Minneapolis.

Damian went over current and projected club finances. He also made the announcement that club dues will be going up for the next calendar year. Individual membership (18 and older) will be $10 for the year. Family membership (up to 4 people) will be $12. Junior membership (under 18) will be $5. Members who would normally pay the $10 dues but who carry the NAR personal insurance will only be assessed $5 instead of $10.

Alan Estenson discussed the new web site. Contributions for and suggestions about the site are welcome from all MASA members. Alan passed around a printout of the new kit offerings from Public Missiles. He also proposed the idea of a Apollo 11 commemorative 30th anniversary launch on July 17 of next year. By then, everyone should have their new Saturn V's built!

After a short break, during which we enjoyed some delicious cake made by Carl's sister, we had a show-n-tell session. Carl showed us some of his scratchbuilt creations including his "Humpty Dumbty" and his "Saturn 7". Steve Fox showed-off his scratchbuilt "Warthog" complete with flashing strobes for nighttime recovery. Russ Durkee brought along his nearly-complete 'Cuda R/C boost glider. Damian Kostron showed his profile / proof of concept / prototype flight test model Space Shuttle for R/C BG.

We finished the evening by watching the Rocketman "Flaming Rockets" video and Carl's video of Steve Fox's cert 2 attempt at the last MN TRA launch. (It was a Bruiser on a J415. Great launch, but the recovery system separated. Better luck next time, Steve.)

Some MASA members put football before rockets and stayed home to watch the Vikings - Packers game. (But we won't name names...)

*(Alan Estenson)*

**November Meeting Minutes (11/5/1998)**

The monthly MASA meeting was held on Monday, November 2 starting at 7 pm.  This was our first meeting at the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul.  Members in attendance included:  Russ Durkee, Damian Kostron, Mark Thell, Alan Estenson, Chris Kvidera, Steve Fox, Mike Martens, Ted Cochran

The primary club business of the evening consisted of nominations for elections of club officers for 1999.  The motion to ignore Roberts Rules of Order was heartily seconded.  Russ Durkee was nominated for President, Mark Thell for Vice President, and Damian Kostron for Secretary / Treasurer.  Being that there were no other nominations, the members present voted to skip the elections scheduled for the December meeting and appoint these people as nominated.  Ted Cochran attempted to rally a vote to change Alan Estenson's title from "Voluntary Webmaster" to "Mandatory Webmaster".  However, this action was not pursued...

Russ Durkee informed us that we have a potential new winter flying site.  The same landowner for the sod farm we currently use has another field about a mile further west.   However, unlike the current field, this field is located on a road which is kept plowed of snow.  Look for more details soon on the web site.  Russ also reminded us that the November launch will be a week earlier than usual due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Alan Estenson took the floor for a while.  First, he passed around some brochures and spoke of the new rocketry products on display at the National Model and Hobby Show in Chicago.  Next, he talked about speaking with Ed LaCroix at the Chicago show.   Ed is a former Minnesota resident who is now the Marketing Director for Aerotech.   When Ed lived in Minnesota, he was active in the last NAR section in this area.   He said that the club equipment from the old section is still in someone's garage in the metro area.  He is going to look into finding it and seeing if it can be handed-down to MASA.

The new issues about the BATF regulating all motors larger than "F" were discussed at some length.

For the evening's technical presentation, Russ discussed rules-of-thumb for motor and parachute selection.  This is valuable knowledge for everyone who acts as RSO at the club launches.

Show -n- Tell:  Alan passed around his album of rocket photos - including some from the October launch.  Ted brought along his Olsen altimeter.  Russ showed his cute lil' Apogee Micro-V2.

The meeting adjourned about 8:30 pm.
*(Alan Estenson)*

**December Holiday Party Report (1/9/99)**

The first-annual MASA Holiday get-together was held on Friday, December 11, 1998 at the home of Damian Kostron.  Around 20 people gathered to munch on goodies, talk about rockets, look at photos, drool over Damian's workshop ("This place is way too clean!",  "Damian, are there any hobbies that you aren't into?"), and watch Carl Persson's video tape of 1998 MASA launches.

The evening's highlight was provided by MASA President Russ Durkee as he presented the First Annual "MASSY" Awards.  (These awards were evidently created by Russ in one of his spare moments of lunacy.)

**PRANG AWARD**2nd Place, Alan Estenson for his flight of an Edmonds CiCi on an E23, thus proving that you can create smoking, balsa confetti.
1st Place, Mark Thell receives the "Persistence in the Face of Adversity" award.   Mark had a number of unfortunate flights this year.  If bad and good luck come in equal measures, Mark should have a great year in 1999 to compensate for 1998...

**AMAZING FLIGHTS AWARD**3rd Place, Mike Kutzke.  At the October launch, Mike put a maiden flight on his Estes Saturn V which had won him a 4-H purple ribbon at the 1984 MN State Fair!
2nd Place, Steve Fox.  Steve launched a stock Estes Fat Boy on an Apogee E6 giving all new meaning to the phrase "It keeps going, and going, and ..."  Flying half a mile downrange was just an added bonus.
1st Place, Damian Kostron.  Upon launch, one wing popped open on Damian's Estes Tomcat.  However, after motor burnout, this model began a perfect glide for about 20 seconds.  At that time, the model evidently awoke to the stunning realization that it was violating the obscure law of physics that prohibits a Tomcat from gliding well, so it tucked under and did a nosedive into the ground, destroying itself.

**TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**3rd Place, Carl Persson.  Carl did some great camcorder work this year and invented some interesting apparatus for filming close-ups of rocket launches.
2nd Place, Jacob (?).  At the October launch, Jacob managed 10 1/2A launches of the same Estes Mosquito!
1st Place, Christopher Kvidera.  Christopher showed an amazing range of rocketry interests and accomplishments during 1998.  He flew model rockets, stomp rockets, boost gliders, and camera rockets (just to name a few).

The evening's festivities were capped off by a drawing for door prizes provided courtesy of Hub Hobby Center, Little Canada.  Linda Fox won an Estes Astron Alpha IV.   Jenny Fox won an Estes Fat Boy.  Aaron Thompson won an Estes Seahawk.
*(Alan Estenson)*