**January 2001 meeting minutes (1/4/2001)**

A group of about 16 gathered at the Science Museum on Tuesday, January 2 for the first MASA meeting of the new year.  The first order of business was to conduct the voting for new MASA officers.  Because email ballots were still being accepted, the winners of the election were not announced during the meeting.  That information would be made public a couple days afterwards.

While Russ is retiring from the Presidential position, he will remain our liaison with the Science Museum and continue to arrange the classroom space for our meetings.

The next club launch will be on the 27th at Sunrise Park Middle School in White Bear Lake.  The February meeting will be on the 6th.  A topic, subject, or event is still needed for this meeting (and all following meetings this year!)  If you have an idea, please pass it along.  The most popular ideas for the next meeting were to have some sort of kit building or kitbashing session.

The date of the March meeting may be changed; there is a MN Wild game that same night, and we'd really rather avoid that traffic snarl.

Once the new Secretary/Treasurer becomes official, your club dues for 2001 will be payable.  The dollar amount of the dues will stay the same as last year.

Art Gibbens is working on the next issue of the MASA Planet.  He hopes to have it out very soon.  As always, contributions to the newsletter are solicited!  Art also mentioned that he is looking into the possibility of arranging a club tour of a local plant that makes solid rocket fuel.  He hopes to have more to report about that at a future meeting.

Alan Estenson brought up the subject, recently discussed on the Net, about certain F & G motors requiring a level 1 high power certification.  This is now covered on the web site's [Launch FAQ's](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CCarol%5CDesktop%5CMASA%20Club%20and%20website%20info%5CWebsite%20-%20old%20files%20from%20Alan%5Cmasa%5Claunchfaqs.htm) page.

A few show-n-tell items were present.  Glen Overby showed his pad modifications to replace the entire head on the 4-legged PVC pads with something much sturdier.  Glen plans to write up the idea either for the newsletter or the web site.  Ed Ryan brought along part of a rocket that he's building using a zipperless recovery technique.  Jeff Hove brought along some of his MicroMaxx-powered rockets including the (award winning) Bic pen rocket.

Steve Robb gave an informative presentation on the use of composites for reinforcing rockets.  He brought samples of fiberglass, Kevlar, and carbon fiber materials.  He also showed us the methods and equipment that he uses to vacuum-bag composite parts.  Also, Steve had along his Swinger II and a 29mm Big Daddy that he had reinforced with composites. Thanks, Steve!

The next day, Steve sent out the following email:

After the discussion that we had last evening at the meeting about fiberglassing rockets and composite materials, I thought I'd compile a list of resources that you can check out if you want some more information on different fabrics, tools and techniques.

The Composites Store - <http://www.cstsales.com>

Shadow Composites - <http://www.shadowaero.com>

Fibre Glast - <http://www.fibreglast.com>

Aircraft Spruce & Specialty - <http://www.aircraftspruce.com>

AeroSpace Composite Products - <http://www.acp-composites.com>

The Composites Corner - <http://www.advmat.com> (lots of good links to other suppliers)

There is also an excellent write up on Rocketry Online in the InfoCentral section that talks about fiberglassing techniques.

Have fun! (and wear that respirator <g>) - *Steve Robb*

* *

*(Alan Estenson)*

**February 2001 meeting minutes (2/8/2001)**

The February MASA meeting began a bit after 7pm at the Science Museum. There was a small turn-out with only about 8 people in attendance. Alan Estenson, the new club president, started things off with a few announcements. The February launch will be on the 24th at Elk River (site to be confirmed). The March meeting will be on the 13th; this is a week later than usual. A topic is still needed for that meeting.

Hopefully, you noticed the MASA October launch report in the Section Soundings of the last Model Rocketeer newsletter.  This is great exposure for MASA, as it lets other NAR sections see what we're up to!  Tim Bush has kindly volunteered to submit this type of thing for MASA at least a couple times this year.  (Thanks, Tim.)

Alan has updated and amended the MASA bylaws.  You may download these proposed bylaws from the [Files -n- Forms](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CCarol%5CDesktop%5CMASA%20Club%20and%20website%20info%5CWebsite%20-%20old%20files%20from%20Alan%5Cmasa%5Cfiles.htm) page.  At the March meeting, a vote will be taken to accept the new bylaws.

The schedule on the web site has been expanded. For every launch, it now lists the theme, fun event, contest, and contest director. Some of this information has been filled-in, but it's subject to change. If you have ideas for themes or fun events, please suggest them to Alan. If you'd like to volunteer to be a contest director for a launch, you can pick what the contest will be! (Don't worry, it's not a difficult job.) Also, ideas and volunteers are desperately needed for upcoming meeting topics and presentations.

So far, 19 membership renewals have been received (including those collected at the meeting). This represents less than half the number of MASA memberships in 2000! If you plan to renew, please do so soon. If you'd like to join as a new member, now is a great time!

Alan showed copies of a new MASA flier / membership form that he created. It is intended to replace the old MASA information fliers which are now out-of-date. A PDF file for this flier may be downloaded from the web site. You may use either this form or the web form when you send in your membership. ([Files -n- Forms)](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CCarol%5CDesktop%5CMASA%20Club%20and%20website%20info%5CWebsite%20-%20old%20files%20from%20Alan%5Cmasa%5Cfiles.htm)Also, feel free to distribute copies of this form to interested people, schools, hobby stores, when you do rocketry outreach, etc. A copy of this flier will be sent out along with the first MASA newsletter.

Art is working on the first issue of the MASA Planet newsletter of the year. He says that he has some good material for this issue, but welcomes contributions for future issues. This issue of the newsletter will be sent out to all MASA members from last year as well as new members for this year. Later issues of the newsletter will only be sent to paid 2001 MASA members. Also, please note that the membership form has a new option that you need to select. You may either choose to continue having the newsletter mailed to you, or you can choose instead to download the PDF version of the newsletter from the web site. (Downloading the newsletter saves postage costs and helps keep club dues from rising!)

A few people brought items for show and tell. Steve Robb had a new, simple mini-tower launcher built from magazine plans. Steve also had a scratchbuilt 10.5mm streamer duration rocket (that uses the tower) that he built for the 1/2A streamer duration contest planned for the March launch. Alan Estenson showed his flying 2001 Monolith rocket and his new Rocketronics mini altimeter.

The event for the night was "kitbash!" Several people arrived early so that they could start work before the meeting and building continued until about 8:30. Several people took part in the Alpha competition; they had to kitbash a rocket using only the contents of an Alpha kit (Glen even used the instructions in his creation). Thanks to Art Gibbens for bringing and selling some Alpha kits. ($5 each - what a bargain.) Others took a more free-form approach with their kitbashing. Several people went home with some extra body tubes from Damian's box o' free stuff. Thanks, Damian! Some interesting and creative rockets grew out of the night's work; you may see them flying at an upcoming launch.



*(Alan Estenson)*

**March 2001 meeting minutes (3/15/2001)**

The March MASA meeting began at the usual time on Tuesday, March 13.  Roughly 16 people were in attendance.

The next meeting will be on April 3.  We will be having a guest speaker from 3M who will talk about solid rocket propellants [see the [Events](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CCarol%5CDesktop%5CMASA%20Club%20and%20website%20info%5CWebsite%20-%20old%20files%20from%20Alan%5Cmasa%5Cevents.htm) page for all the info.]  At the May meeting, we will be having an informational / training session for launch LCO / RSO's.  A guest at the meeting, Ray Peterson, is a docent at the MN Air Guard Museum.  Jeff Hove and Ray are working on setting up a special tour of the museum for MASA members.  (rockets, missiles, airplanes, and lots of other stuff!)  We don't have a date set yet, and we'll probably wait until it's a bit warmer outside.  Watch the website for the announcement.

The next launch will be on March 24 at the White Bear Lake field.  Alan Estenson will be running a 1/2A streamer duration contest.  It isn't an official sanctioned competition, but he will be running it according to the NAR "Pink Book" rules.  More details will be posted soon.  [Alan will be providing FREE 1/2A3-4t motors to those contest participants who wish to use them!]  Additional contest directors are needed for later launches.  If you volunteer to run it, you pick the contest for the month!

The first issue of the 2001 MASA Planet newsletter has been mailed.  It is also available on the website for [download](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CCarol%5CDesktop%5CMASA%20Club%20and%20website%20info%5CWebsite%20-%20old%20files%20from%20Alan%5Cmasa%5Cplanetonline.htm).  Kudos to Art Gibbens for his hard work as Editor.  Art could always use your assistance and submissions of material for upcoming issues!

President Alan Estenson brought up the idea of keeping "official" MASA club records for the various types of contest events.  This would be like the tables of records that the NAR keeps, but just for our club.  Any MASA member could attempt to set a record at any MASA launch.  This idea brought an enthusiastic response; it could help promote some fun competition.  Watch the web site as this idea is developed.

MASA's NAR section charter has been renewed, so we're official for another year.

The official business for the evening concerned the proposed revision 3.1 to the MASA Bylaws.  Strictly for this occasion, the meeting was held to a rough approximation of Robert's Rules of Order. During discussion, Russ Durkee voiced his concerns over the proposed Article 3, Section 3 that allowed a club officer to waive the membership requirement to fly big rockets under special circumstances.  After further discussion, a motion was made and seconded to remove this section from the proposed bylaws.  This amendment was approved by a voice vote with no dissentions.  Following further discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed bylaws, as amended.  This motion was approved by a voice vote with no dissentions.  [The new [bylaws](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CCarol%5CDesktop%5CMASA%20Club%20and%20website%20info%5CWebsite%20-%20old%20files%20from%20Alan%5Cmasa%5Cfiles.htm) are available on the website.]

Secretary/Treasurer David Fergus handed out new 2001 membership cards to those in attendance.  He will start mailing them out to the rest of the club members.  He isn't sending the plastic badge holders to renewing members, but, if you need one, just ask him.

V.P. Steve Robb is working on making a new launch controller.  This news, of course, led to a broader discussion of launch equipment.  The idea of hooking a FM transmitter into our PA system was also mentioned.

Several people brought along items for "show -n- tell".  Steve Robb brought along his completed "Bad Daddy".  Art Gibbens had his modified Maxi Alpha 3.  It is now a 2-stager with hidden spring-out fins on the upper stage.  David Fergus brought his boat-tail Fat Boy, a Cosmodrome Nike Smoke, Quest Nike Smoke, and the new Estes Mercury Redstone.  Sarah Fergus showed us her scratchbuilt, blue-ribbon-winning rocket. (very nice!)  Ted Cochran had the completed upper electronics bay for his Quantum Leap.

For the evening's topic, Ted talked about building and flying rockets with groups of kids.  He passed along advice based upon his experiences.  [A [document](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CCarol%5CDesktop%5CMASA%20Club%20and%20website%20info%5CWebsite%20-%20old%20files%20from%20Alan%5Cmasa%5Ctech%5Ctedgroups.htm) that Ted wrote on the subject is now online.]





*(Alan Estenson)*

**April 2001 Meeting Minutes (4/6/2001)**

On Tuesday April 3rd, MASA held its monthly meeting at the Science Museum.  There were 18 people in attendance (13 adults, 4 kids, 1 guest speaker).  Alan started the meeting around 7pm.

The next launch will be on the 28th at the Elk River site.  The competition will be 1/2A streamer duration (postponed from March).  The theme will be "OddRocs!".  The next meeting will be on May 1.  We will be doing some interactive RSO / LCO training led by Ted C. and Steve H.  We still hope to do the tour of the Air National Guard Museum, but a date hasn't been set yet.  A topic is still needed for the June meeting.

Glen Overby had ventured to Texas for NARCON.  We hope that he'll write up his experience for the newsletter.  (Art Gibbens welcomes any and all submissions for the newsletter.)

VP Steve Robb reports that he is working on his new launch control system, and it may be ready for this month's launch.  S/T David Fergus reports that the club is in good shape, financially.  Currently, we stand at 18 family memberships, 19 senior memberships, and 4 junior memberships.  This is still below last year's levels, but we may see more renewals and new members at the popular summer launches.

Quite a few people brought along items for "show and tell".  Steve Robb had a very nice PML Bullpuppy.  This sparked a discussion of the problems of using phenolic pistons inside Quantum Tube.  Glen Overby had a NASA cd that contained transcripts of all the manned NASA missions from Mercury through Apollo 17.  Dave Fergus brought along his scratchbuilt "Heavy Lifter"; he was looking for suggestions of appropriate decals.  Steve Hum had a fin can for an Optima/Shadow replica.  He had filled the interior space between the body tube and motor mount with 2-part expanding foam (purchased at a florists shop).  Rick Vatsaas had his high-power, much traveled Fat Boy as well as a rocket for which he had made custom decals.  Joel Henry had an "Aptek Pencam II" - a small digital camera that he hopes to fly in a rocket.

For the evening, a special guest speaker was present.  (Dr.) Tony Manzara is a scientist with the 3M Performance Materials Laboratory - Propellants, Ordnance, and Pyrotechnics.  The title of his presentation was "Composite Solid Rocket Propellants - a Brief History and Current Trends."  He covered the history and different types of propellants that have been used over the years.  Tony also talked about elements of motor design - particle size, core shape, casings and liners, environmental and storage concerns, the chemicals used - and 3M's role and contributions.  Everyone present learned something new or discovered why things work as they do - it was a very interesting presentation.  Thanks to Tony for coming and talking to the group, and thanks to Art Gibbens for arranging his visit.  [If you have thought of additional questions for Tony, contact me and I'll get you his email address - Alan.]



 

*(Alan Estenson)*

**May 2001 Meeting Minutes (5/3/2001)**

On Tuesday May 1st, MASA held its monthly meeting at the Science Museum.  There was a good-sized group of people there [but I forgot to count them.]  Alan started the meeting a bit after 7pm with a few announcements.

The next launch will be on the 19th - one week earlier than normal.  [CORRECTION - THE LAUNCH HAS BEEN MOVED TO THE 26TH]  Hopefully, it will be at Blaine.  The 1/2A streamer duration competition has been rescheduled for this launch.  The theme will be staged rockets [more info will be coming].  The June meeting will be on the 5th in classrooms 5 & 6 (different room than normal.)  A topic is needed for this meeting!  Contact Alan if you'd like to volunteer to do something.

A volunteer is also needed to organize the July club picnic.  If you can perform this important job or if you want to discuss it first, please contact Alan.

Alan had some blacksky-compatible rail buttons for $0.25 each.  Several club members purchased some; see him at a launch or meeting if you're interested.

VP Steve Robb reported on the first use of his new launch controller at the recent launch.  Save for a few bugs, it worked well [and is very shiny, too].  Art Gibbens reported that Friday, May 18th is the deadline to submit material for the next issue of the Planet.

Several people brought items for show and tell.  Lee and Mollie Frisvold had a LOC Graduator that they had built together.  Chuck and Brady Jerve had a Quest Navaho 2-stager and a LOC lil' Nuke.  Alan Estenson had some carbon fiber reinforced Edmonds gliders and a 2-stage stomp rocket.

The evening's event was a RSO/LCO information and training session.  Steve Hum presented a number of slides as he discussed the subject.  [If you missed the meeting, Steve's slides are available online, as a PDF, on the [Tech](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CCarol%5CDesktop%5CMASA%20Club%20and%20website%20info%5CWebsite%20-%20old%20files%20from%20Alan%5Cmasa%5Ctech.htm) page.]  A lot of good information came forth accompanied by questions and some discussion.

To test everyone's abilities to perform a RSO check-in / inspection of a rocket, Steve and Ted Cochran brought in a dozen rockets.  They set these up as two racks of 6 each, using the MASA pad sign-up sheets.  Everyone had a opportunity to inspect all of the rockets, try to find any problems with them, and decide whether or not they should be allowed to fly.  Then, Steve led a group discussion covering each rocket.  Yes, Steve and Ted had to intentionally screw up a bunch of their rockets!

A big thanks to Steve Hum and Ted Cochran for all their work with this presentation!



*(Alan Estenson)*

**June 2001 Meeting Minutes (6/7/2001)**

On Tuesday June 5th, rocket enthusiasts trekked to the Science Museum for the monthly MASA meeting.  There were about 15 people in attendance.  Club President Alan Estenson started the meeting a bit after 7 pm.

On Tuesday June 12, Jeff Hove has arranged for an exclusive MASA tour of the Minnesota Air National Guard Museum.  The tour will be from 7pm until 9 pm, but it's best if you're there a little early.  The museum is not normally open at this time, so we'll have the place to ourselves.  Jeff also says that they should have the cockpits of the A-12 Blackbird and a F-4 Phantom open for us!  If you can't make this date, MASA members are also invited to the museum on Saturday June 30 from 10am until noon.  Bring your cameras!  Thanks Jeff!

The next club launch will be on the 23rd at Blaine.  Setup will begin at 9am with the launch starting at 10.  The theme is staged rockets, and the contest is A boost glider.  The 1/2A streamer duration contest has been postponed (again) until the July launch.

An organizer was sought for the July club picnic with the threat of cancellation if someone didn't step forward.  [Art Gibbens has volunteered.  The picnic will be on July 21 - more details to come.  Thanks Art!]

Thanks to Art, a new issue of the Planet newsletter has just come out.  The deadline for submissions for the next issue is at the end of June.  Please consider contributing something!

MASA member Ted Cochran has an article in the new issue of Sport Rocketry.  It considers the proper place to attach a parachute to your rocket and is based on Ted's R&D report from NARAM 42.

Meeting topics are desperately needed for the August through November meetings.  If you can volunteer to do something, or you have a good idea, please step forward.

The idea of procuring MASA t-shirts was discussed.  Various options were thrown around, and it was decided to start collecting potential artwork and pondering ideas until next month.  If you have an artistic bent, we'd like to collect different ideas & concepts for a t-shirt design.

The idea of resuming occasional summer evening club launches was discussed.  These will typically be announced 48 hours ahead of time and held at the Blaine site.  Thursday evening has been the traditional time for them, but they could be held on other days.  If the weather forecast looks great for a particular evening, 2 days away, don't be afraid to suggest the idea of holding an evening launch!  Evening launches will be held in a "misfire alley" configuration where everyone must bring their own launch pad and controller; the club equipment will not be brought out for these.  More info on misfire alley will be forthcoming, but you can get an idea of how it works by reading the [NIRA Range Rules](http://www.nira.chicago.il.us/RangeRules.htm).

Alan Estenson still has rail buttons for sale, 4 for $1.00, that fit the standard blacksky rail.  Alan also passed along information on the new Estes black powder E engines and new kits for them (available in August).

Several people brought along items to show.  Steve Robb brought along the payload section for his Comanche-3 equipped with a Rocketronics altimeter.  Steve also brought the tiny Rocketronics timer and small Perfectflite altimeter.  Jeff Hove had a large 4-legged PVC launch pad of recent construction.  He has continued to improve on the pad design seen at many MASA launches.  Jeff also had one of the magnetic apogee detection kits.  Seth Cochran brought along a clustered MicroMaxx rocket and a glider that he would like to make rocket-boosted.  Lee Grimm showed a piston launcher that he built from a kit.

For the evening's presentation, Alan Estenson talked about tubular fin rockets.  He brought along a bunch of examples, discussed the pros & cons of this design, talked about ways to simulate tube fins using VCP or RockSim, and handed out some information about tube fin designs.  [This handout may be downloaded from the [Tech](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CCarol%5CDesktop%5CMASA%20Club%20and%20website%20info%5CWebsite%20-%20old%20files%20from%20Alan%5Cmasa%5Ctech.htm) page.]

There will not be a regular meeting in July.  Instead, we will have the summer picnic.

 *(Alan Estenson)*

**MASA summer picnic (7/31/2001)**

**A really hot time (again!)...**

MASA members congregated on Saturday, July 21, at Veterans Park in New Brighton for the [4th annual MASA summer picnic](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CCarol%5CDesktop%5CMASA%20Club%20and%20website%20info%5CWebsite%20-%20old%20files%20from%20Alan%5Cmasa%5Cnews%5C2001%5C2001-03.htm).  Just like last year, the weather was very hot and humid.

Some 27 people braved the heat to sit in the shade around the gazebo, talk rockets, eat their fill of picnic fare, and make a few transactions at the MASA swap -n- sell.  People started arriving around 4:00 in the afternoon.  After resting awhile, the grill was fired-up, and large quantities of burgers, brats, and dogs sizzled-away.  In typical Minnesota pot-luck fashion, there was more food than the group could possibly eat.

**Lots of prizes!**

Just after 7pm, Alan Estenson drew for the free "door" prizes.  Everyone present went home with something!  There were so many prizes that everybody was a winner.  Here's the rundown:  (name in parentheses is the person or business that donated the prize.)

* Margaret Eastman, Estes Magnum kit (Ken Jarosch)
* Dave Fergus, Estes Warp 2 kit (Ken Jarosch)
* Walter Kjellander, Estes Rattler 7 kit (HHC)
* Lee Frisvold, Rail guides (Alan Estenson)
* Mark Thell, Estes Delta Clipper kit (Ken Jarosch)
* Randy Miller, Estes Nova Payloader kit (HHC)
* Philip Gibbens, Estes Polaris kit (HHC)
* Sara Fergus, Orbital Sciences frisbee (Alan Estenson)
* Ed Eastman, KosRox Streadur kit (MASA)
* Art Gibbens, Estes Menace kit (HHC)
* Kyle Bright, Estes Nike Arrow kit (HHC)
* Sara Bright, Estes Zinger kit (Alan Estenson)
* Mathias Gibbens, Quest Micro Maxx set (HHC)
* Molly Frisvold, Quest Micro Maxx set (HHC)
* Meg Gerdes, Rail guides (Alan Estenson)
* Steve Robb, Rail guides (Alan Estenson)
* Kent Peterson, Estes Invader (HHC)
* Joel Henry, Giant bundle o' Copperhead igniters (Alan Estenson)
* Hannah Gibbens, Quest Micro Maxx set (HHC)
* David Bright, Quest Micro Maxx set (HHC)
* Rick Vatsaas, Quest Micro Maxx set (HHC)
* Kaitlin Bright, Quest Micro Maxx set (HHC)
* Renee Gibbens, Estes Droid Fighter kit (HHC)
* Deb Thell, Estes Droid Fighter kit (HHC)
* Glen Overby, Estes Droid Fighter kit (HHC)

Raffle tickets were exchanged for $1 donations during the picnic with the grand prize being a Aardvark / Blackhawk R&D Sandia Tomahawk rocket kit. All money from the raffle went to pay the $50 permit fee for using the park and to pay for the consumables (plates, cups, etc.) used during the picnic.  Tons of tickets were sold, and enough money was raised to cover nearly all the expenses.

* Joel Henry, Aardvark Rockets Sandia Tomahawk (Tim Bush)
* Lee Frisvold, Aerotech Mantis launch pad (HHC)
* Randy Miller, Estes Space Shuttle kit (HHC)
* Walter Kjellander, NCR launch pad (HHC)
* "Snuggles", Estes Droid Fighter kit (HHC)
* Glen Overby, Flammable sticker (Alan Estenson)

The Sandia Tomahawk kit was graciously donated by Tim Bush.  It was one of his prizes for winning third place in the recent rmr design contest.  It was donated originally by [Aardvark Hobbies](http://www.aardvarkrockets.com/).

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A big "Thank You!" to:

* Art Gibbens for organizing the picnic this year, and then sweating over the hot BBQ and cooking everything to perfection.
* Steve Robb for bringing lemonade and helping Art with the grilling.
* Glen Overby for bringing soda.
* Rick Vatsaas for bringing condiments
* The Bright family for bringing the delicious watermelon.
* Dave Fergus for selling the raffle tickets.
* Everyone else who helped with the picnic and bought a raffle ticket!

*(Alan Estenson)*

**August 2001 Meeting Minutes (8/10/2001)**

On Tuesday August 7, Alan Estenson called together the monthly MASA meeting at the Science Museum.  Quite a crew turned out; it probably helped that the museum has nice A/C and it was beastly-hot outside.

The next club launch will be on the 25th at Blaine.  Setup will begin at 9am with the launch starting at 10.  The launch has a "sci-fi" theme.  We will have the annual UFO drag race, and, new for this year, a Silver Comet drag race.  No contest is scheduled unless someone steps forward to organize one.

One topic for discussion was the sheer number of people & vehicles at the July launch.  We need to make sure that the owner of the sod farm is comfortable with this level of activity.  Alan will have a conversation with him, but, in addition, the possibility of giving the sod "a month off" was discussed.  The September launch may be switched to one of the two alternate launch sites.  Watch the web site for more information.

Also discussed were the picnic turnout, the July launch, the need for volunteers to organize contests at launches (or there won't be any), the possibility that we may need to switch around meeting dates this fall, the current number of club members, switching the big launch pads over to flight cards instead of signup sheets, and other topics.

The winners of the 1/2A streamer duration competition were announced.  Steve Robb, winner of C division, received his ribbon and prize (a kit from Custom Rockets).  The winner of A division, Ingrid Vatsaas, will receive her prize and ribbon soon.  There are also ribbons for the runners-up, Paul Newswanger & Joe Schneider.

Meeting topics are desperately needed for the September through November meetings.  If you can volunteer to do something, or you have a good idea, please step forward.

Several people brought along items to show.  Ed Ryan & Dan Nelson brought their very nice scratchbuilt Gemini Titan model.  It has great aluminum motor nozzles that Dan machined.  They plan to fly it for the first time on two G's at the next Minnesota Tripoli launch.  Two people (names withheld to protect the scavengers) brought along a couple of expended Smokey Sam rockets.  These small rockets are used by the military to simulate the launch of surface to air missiles.

For the evening's presentation, Steve Robb led a discussion on the use of electronics in rockets.  The primary subjects were altimeters and accelerometers.  Lots of examples of electronics & mounting schemes were on hand.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 4.  However, this date may change due to room availability at the museum..

 *(Alan Estenson)*

**September 2001 Meeting Minutes (9/8/2001)**

On Tuesday September 4, Alan Estenson called together the monthly MASA meeting at the Science Museum.  Alan reported that membership levels have achieved the biggest numbers ever.  The club treasury is also doing well.  Some discussion was held on the recent subject of launch procedures & safety.  Art mentioned that the deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is October 26.  Russ Durkee briefly talked about a proposed program within the Science Museum to  foster a closer involvement with groups such as MASA.

The next club launch will be on the 25th at Blaine.  The launch has a theme of cluster-engine rockets (rockets that have more than one motor burning at a time.).  There will also be a Big Daddy drag race.  No contest is scheduled unless someone steps forward to organize one.

Meeting topics are desperately needed for the October and November meetings.  If you can volunteer to do something, or you have a good idea, please step forward.

Several people brought along items to show.  Ellison Lenz had a scratchbuilt rocket with a clear plastic body tube.  The tube, similar in size to bt50, was found at a place that sold aquarium supplies.  Mark Thell brought along his old "Fred Flintstone" launch control that he found in his garage.  Mark also brought his under-construction Aerospace Specialty Products 2.6" WAC Corporal.  Steve Hum showed us his new Ratt Works H70 hybrid motor (in "shocking" purple)

For the evening's topic, those present discussed methods & materials for repairing broken rockets.  Several examples were present and a lot of good information was traded around.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 2.  However, this date may change due to room availability at the museum.  The topic will be the perennial favorite:  Reloadable Motors - what, when, why, and how much $$.

 *(Alan Estenson)*

**October 2001 Meeting Minutes (10/4/2001)**

On Tuesday October 2, Alan Estenson called together the monthly MASA meeting at the Science Museum.  Art Gibbens reminded us that the MASA Planet submissions deadline is October 26.  Your contributions are both welcomed and encouraged!  Steve Robb told us that he plans to replace a bunch of the alligator clips on the launch system.

The regular September launch having been rained-out, a make-up launch was held on the following weekend.  A small contingent of MASA members were present, and they were joined by a group of Scouts.  About 50 flights took to the skies.

The next club launch will be on the 27th at Blaine (hopefully).  The situation with the FAA and model rockets appears to have been sorted-out.  The launch has a theme of cluster-engine rockets (rockets that have more than one motor burning at a time.).  There will also be Big Daddy and Fat Boy drag races.  The contest will be A-engine altitude using the timed descent of a standard marking streamer.  Rick Vatsaas will be the contest director.

A topic is still needed for the November meeting.  If you can volunteer to do something, or you have a good idea, please step forward.

It's time to start thinking about the club's December holiday party.  Alan is looking for a person or persons to assist in organizing this event!

Alan Estenson talked about current rocket news and new products.  He showed the new Estes E9 black powder engine and a Top Flite X-form nylon parachute.  Ted Cochran brought along his modified Big Daddy.  He added four 13mm motor mounts around the central 24mm mount.  He also mounted a tube inside the nose cone so that he can vary the amount of nose weight.

Alan also passed around the "MASA Patriot SS" rocket that he scratchbuilt.  He's having MASA members sign it.  (SS = sorta scale)

For the evening's topic, Alan gave a presentation on reloadable rocket motors.  He discussed types, sizing, economics, tools, prep, cleanup, and various tips.  For those of you who couldn't make it, his handouts will be available soon for download from the web site..

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 6. The topic is not set yet.  The major bit of club business will be 2002 club officer nominations.

 *(Alan Estenson)*

**November 2001 Meeting Minutes (11/10/2001)**

On Tuesday November 6, club President Alan Estenson called together the monthly MASA meeting at the Science Museum.  About 20 people were in attendance.  For those who like to plan well in advance, Alan announced that he has put together the basic MASA schedule for 2002; it is now up on the web site on the Events page.  The next club launch will be on November 17th at Sunrise Park Middle School in White Bear Lake.

The January meeting date will not be on January 1.  The actual date will be announced sometime in December.

In December, MASA traditionally holds a holiday party.  As of meeting time, no details had been set yet.  A person or persons are needed to help organize the party.  If you can help, please contact Alan.  Ted Cochran, host of last year's party, volunteered to host it again if we don't come up with any other ideas.

Secretary/ Treasurer Dave Fergus reported that the MASA treasury has a balance of $739.  We do need a membership badge design for 2002.  If you're feeling artistic and would like to create something, please contact Dave.  Jeff Hove suggested that the same design (if appropriate) could be used on a MASA t-shirt.  To abide by MASA bylaws, we must spend most of our treasury by the end of the year (save what we need for expenses at the beginning of next year).  Various ways were discussed whereby the funds will be disbursed.

Art Gibbens reminded us that the MASA Planet deadline is coming up fast.  He also announced that this would be his last issue as newsletter editor.  If we want to continue to have a club newsletter, a new editor will be needed for 2002.  Please contact Alan if you're interested.

The official business for the evening was the nomination of MASA officers for 2002.  As of 11/10, the nominees are:

President: Alan Estenson

Vice President: Ted Cochran

Secretary/Treasurer: Dave Fergus

The nominations will remain open through November 20.  Additional nominations are welcome for all 3 positions (but especially for VP).  You may nominate yourself.  You may nominate someone else.  Once nominations close, the nominees will be contacted to confirm that they want to be candidates.  The election will occur at the January meeting.  Those MASA members unable to attend the January meeting will still be able to vote - details to be announced.

Ted warns that, if he ends up being VP, his first task will be to spread the equipment-transporting duties among several people!

The evening concluded with a "stomp" rocket building session.  Alan Estenson had assembled 18 kits (for a $1 each) to convert an air-powered stomp rocket into a model rocket.  It looks like we'll be seeing lots more of these take to the air at MASA launches!  The instructions are on the Tech page of the web site.  You can buy the stomp rockets at Ax-Man.



 *(Alan Estenson)*

**December 2001 Holiday Party (12/17/2001)**

On Friday evening, December 14, many MASA members and their families gathered at the Cochran residence for the annual club holiday party.  Rocket videos played throughout the evening as everyone enjoyed ample party snacks.  A lot of rocket talk filled the air while people gave away their extra photos.  Those present signed a card for the sod farm owners and Alan's "MASA Patriot" rocket also gained a few signatures.

One of the evening's activities was a fun gift exchange.  The "rocket tree" had grown this year - Ted's Quantum Leap was decorated with lights.  Going in order of drawn numbers, each person could unwrap a gift or steal someone else's gift.  Lots of things got swapped around - with rocket kits being the most popular items.

Later in the evening, MASA President Alan Estenson had a program of year-in-review, presentations, and awards.

This year, MASA had 9 official club launches ([click here for all the stats](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CCarol%5CDesktop%5CMASA%20Club%20and%20website%20info%5CWebsite%20-%20old%20files%20from%20Alan%5Cmasa%5Clreports%5Claunchstats.htm)) with a record 244 flights at the July launch and 960 flights for the year.  We also had 10 successful meetings, a great summer picnic and wonderful holiday party.  The club is at its biggest size ever!  We ended the year with:  39 family memberships, 30 individual memberships, and 8 junior memberships.  Let's hope that they all renew their memberships for 2002!

Alan thanked everyone who organized or presented a meeting topic this year:  Steve Robb, Ted Cochran, Tony Manzara, Art Gibbens, Steve Hum.  Thanks were also extended to Ted Cochran and Rick Vatsaas who each organized a contest at a launch this year.  Other notables were:  Ray Peterson and Jeff Hove who organized the tour of the MN ANG museum, Art Gibbens for editing the Planet newsletter and organizing the summer picnic, Ted Cochran who wrote an article for Sport Rocketry magazine, and Rick Vatsaas for creating new designs for the 2002 MASA badges.

One retiring notable is outgoing Vice President Steve Robb.  Steve did a stellar job as VP this year.  He created an amazing new launch controller and upgraded the old one.  He hauled around all the launch gear - filling the back of his truck every month.  He presented meeting topics, volunteered as LCO and RSO at launches, had a bunch of great rocket flights, and even found time to get his level 2 high power certification.  In thanks, Alan presented Steve with a framed lift-off photo of Steve's Extreme Stovi rocket.  From all MASA members, thanks Steve!

The critical volunteers at every launch are those people who give up some of their time to serve as LCO or RSO.  Without them, the launches couldn't happen, so a big Thank You goes out to all of them.  The LCO volunteers this year included:  Steve Robb, Ted Cochran, Art Gibbens, Kerry Hodges, Kent Peterson, Glen Overby, Alan Estenson, Mark Thell, Ed Eastman, Dave Fergus, Joe Kimmes, Tim Bush, and Jeff Hove.  The RSO volunteers this year included:  Steve Robb, Ted Cochran, Art Gibbens, Alan Estenson, Steve Hum, Walter Kjellander, Russ Durkee, Tim Bush, Dave Fergus, Damian Kostron, Kerry Hodges.  Thanks!  (I hope that you as well as other members will volunteer again in 2002!)

As an additional thank you to these people, Alan put each of their names in a drawing once for each time they had volunteered this year.  Unlike the door prizes, these people didn't need to be present to win.  The winners of the RSO/LCO "thank you" drawing were:

* Steve Robb - $10 gift certificate from Hub Hobby Center
* Dave Fergus - $10 gift certificate from Hub Hobby Center
* Tim Bush - Estes Black Brant II kit (donated by MASA)
* Walter Kjellander - Custom Tri-Star kit (donated by Hub Hobby Center)

There were two level 1 high power certifications this year at MASA launches:  Tom Brekke and Larry Schwartz.  Alan also talked about some of the noteworthy flights that he remembered.  He also went through some individual and family launch stats.

**2001 MASSY Awards**

In grand MASA tradition, President Alan Estenson created this year's awards in a particularly inspired session of lunacy.  Recipients were given a lovely paper certificate suitable for framing (or wiping glue off their fingers).  As usual, most of them were rather "tongue in cheek".

* **The "I give my rockets really long and/or weird names" Award - presented to Rick Vatsaas** for such creations as "Fierce, Bad Rabbit", "Resume Enclosed", "Return of the Mother-In-Law", "Vinyl Pigskin of Porcine Revenge", and "Kidd Plasma's Flaming Atomic Meteor of Justice".
* **Perseverance in the face of lawn darts, landing on school roofs, hitting parked trucks (twice!) and almost beaning Russ Award - presented to Steve Robb** and his Swinger II boost glider.
* **Keeping the classics alive Award - presented to John Carlson**.  John is famous for flying a huge flock of classic rockets - all with descriptions of being 25 or more years old!  John also flies some great upscales of old kits.
* **Young Rocketeer of the Year Award - presented to Ellison Lenz**.  Ellison has tried many new things this year - scratchbuilding, clustering, innovative materials ... while attending meetings and launches.  Not all of it has worked right the first time, but he's learning!
* **Technical Achievement Award for Rocketry Electronics - presented to Glen Overby**.  Glen flies lots and lots of electronics - much of it homebrewed - over and over and over ... until some of it it finally works!
* **Technical Achievement Award for a super-duper (and shiny) new launch controller - presented to Steve Robb.**

Not really awards, Alan decided to place some MASA members into groups of "distinction".

Vassals to the Nike-Eating Forest:  Dave Fergus and Glen Overby

Charter members of the "The chute works a lot better when I remember to put it IN the rocket" club:  Dave Fergus and Steve Robb.

Charter members of the "Ballistic Fenceposting" Club:  Alan Estenson, Kent Peterson, Mike Kutzke, Tim Bush, Mollie Frisvold, John Carlson, Randy Miller, Ted Cochran, Josh Handeland, Philip Gibbens, Art Gibbens, Lee Grimm, Dave Fergus, Steve Hum, Ellison Lenz (and possibly more - you know who you are..)

**2001 MASA Prang Awards**

**The "We can melt bits inside Steve's new launch controller" Award - presented jointly to Ted Cochran and Joe Schneider**for the flight of Joe's Wildcat on an 8-motor AP cluster.

**The CFIT (Controlled Flight Into Terrain) Award - presented to Damian Kostron** for the impressive (heart-wrenching) loss of his Cuda R/C rocket glider.

**Prang Award - "Dishonorable Mention": Tim Bush's PML AMRAAM 2** (G35):  "*A great boost, followed by a complete absence of a parachute.  Ballistic lawn dart (some ways away, fortunately) created an impressive new fence post and required some major excavations for retrieval.*"  (Nominated by Alan Estenson)  *I'd still have to recommend Tim for the award for his AMRAAM fencepost.  When I first drove up to find him, he was laying on his belly with both arms and part of his head down inside the hole he'd dug by hand. I'd estimate 16-18".*(Jeff Hove)

**Prang Award - "Dishonorable Mention":  Art Gibbens' 3-stage Maxi Alpha 3** (D12-0;D12-0;C6-5):  *"My prang nomination has to go to Art. I'm SOOO happy it was underpowered. All we needed was a three stage land shark. I can see it now, in to the prep area, under someone's pound of black powder. Yippiee!"* (Nominated by Ted Cochran)

**Prang Award of the 3rd Order:  Jeff Hove's Centuri Orion** (B6-4):  "*Who did the power prang and in your-face-ejection into the group of preschoolers? That beats a Saturn V or an AMRAAM fence post in my book!  Besides, the Sat V looked like it could be fixed--Where's the tragedy in that?"   "That would be that same guy who was complaining about other people's rockets raining down on the crowd at June's launch ... ME   (I'm upset that this happened and have been thinking about it a lot today.)  The rocket was my Centuri Orion. Because of the "B" motor limit that morning, I loaded it with a Quest B6-4 instead of the C6-5's I normally use. When I was a kid I used to fly B6-4's most of time and thought this rocket flew ok on them (it is big but light).  An earlier flight of my Centuri Taurus on a motor from the same pack had gone over 300' with ejection at apogee so I expected this one to do well over 200'.  Instead it made it up to about 80', arced over and ejected about 2 feet off the ground right in front of a little girl standing next to me at the flight line. I was photographing and didn't even see her or would have pulled her back. I don't know if she even saw the rocket.  The rocket is repairable, I hope the crowd's nerves are too."* (Nominated by Ted Cochran and Jeff Hove)

**Prang Award of the 2nd Order:  Ed Ryan's Custom Lightnin'**(D12-0; D12-7):  "*I have to nominate the Custom Lightnin that looped, pranged, staged, land sharked, and then did a Lazarus and tried to fly again. Even made it into the air for awhile, but the BT was bent too much and it crashed again. Never saw that before!*"  (Nominated by Ted Cochran)

And the grand champeen...

**Prang Award of the 1st Order:  Steve Hum's Optima Clone** (G64):  "*On its maiden flight, Steve's Optima went up and then down - in flames.  A pinched O-ring resulted in the total flaming destruction of the motor casing, motor retainers, and significant burn damage to the motor mount, fin can and body tube.*"  (Nominated by Alan Estenson)

Drawings were held for a huge number of free door prizes.  The winners were:

* **(The following prizes were donated by MASA.)**
* Dave Ericson - Estes Mk109 kit
* Lee Frisvold - Estes E9-6 motors
* Stuart Lenz - BT-20 tube pack and NC-20 nose cone pack
* Susan Fergus - Estes Star Dart kit
* Deb Thell - BT-50 tube pack and NC-50 nose cone pack
* **(The following prizes were donated by Hub Hobby Center of Little Canada.)**
* Russ Durkee - Custom Fiesta kit
* Rick Vatsaas - Custom Venture kit
* Ingrid Vatsaas - Estes Venom kit
* John Carlson - Quest SpinFin kit
* Cheryl Vatsaas - Estes emergency repair kit
* Ted Cochran - Custom Freedom kit
* Christian Vatsaas - Quest Nike Smoke kit
* Seth Cochran - Custom Redliner kit
* Steve Robb - Custom Ion Pulsar kit
* Ellison Lenz - ASP WAC Corporal kit
* Sarah Fergus - Estes Flash kit
* Mark Thell - Estes AMRAAM kit

A BIG thanks to Hub Hobby Center for donating many of the prizes!  A HUGE thanks to Ted Cochran and family for hosting the party again this year!  An enormous thanks to everyone who attended!



 *(Alan Estenson)*