**2006 Meeting Reports**  
  
January 2006 Meeting Minutes (1/13/2006)

The January 2006 MASA meeting was held on the 12th at the Science Museum.

14 people attended the meeting.

* MASA is planning to have a model rocket exhibit at [MarsCon](http://marscon.org/2006/index.php), a local Science Fiction convention during the weekend of March 3-5.  If you are interested in helping with the exhibit, please let a club officer know.
* NARCON is the weekend of March 10-12.  Many MASA members are planning to attend.
* TARC was discussed - how mentors and teams are doing.
* 2006 MASA name badges were discussed.  Design submissions will remain open until January 20.  Then, votes will be collected and a design chosen.
* The January 28 launch will be at the White Bear Lake field.  Mike is going to try to submit a Notification for this launch just in case TARC teams are there with >1lb rockets.  This date also marks the 20th anniversary of the loss of Challenger and her crew.
* There will be no rocket exhibit at the Lego League tournament this year.
* Ted needs submissions for the March issue of the Planet newsletter.
* The meeting topics for the year were discussed.  Arms were twisted.  See the [Events](file:///C:\Users\rocke\OneDrive\Desktop\MASA%20website\Old%20website%20from%20Alan\masa\events.htm) page for what we devised.

**Show -n- Tell**

* Stuart Lenz brought a MicroMaxx size version of the old Cherokee D.  It'll be the next kit from MicroClassics.
* Rick Vatsaas showed off his scratchbuilt 1/16 scale SpaceShipOne (very cool!) and some scratchbuilt fiberglass nosecones.
* Buzz McDermott brought a pile of old Model Rocketry magazines.  He has accumulated many old rocket magazines.  If someone is looking for a specific article, Buzz is willing to make photocopies.

### *(Alan Estenson)*

### February 2006 Meeting Minutes (2/6/2006)

### The February 2006 MASA meeting was held at the Minnesota Science Museum in St. Paul. Eleven people turned out for the meeting.

### There was some initial discussion that included:

### Kimball TARC team is now starting to design their TARC rocket.

### SW middle school (Albert Lea) TARC team has launched a practice rocket.

### The F21 motor is TRA certified but on "production hold".

### MARSCON [Science Fiction convention] is first week of March. MASA will have a booth and one general pass to the convention.

### NARCON is the second week of March. Primary guests are Lee Piester (Centuri) and Matt Steele (NCR).

### It appears that the MASA meatball design won the badge competition for 2006.

### MASA will have some TARC launches in the future as the TARC deadline nears (not surprising).

### Buzz McDermott has a brochure from Bellville Discount Hobby to get all the discontinued Estes stuff at a 40% discount.  Buzz wanted to do a group order. If interested, call Buzz soon!

### Ted Cochran then gave his safety talk which is also his NARCON talk, entitled "Safety in Sport Rocketry". The talk was a result of NAR trying to improve the safety of sport rocketry. The impetus for this was a number of "close calls" that occurred last year around the country. Ted had a number of pictures (some very cool) and videos of rocket disasters. Ted also presented a statistical study of model rocket launches (based on MASA's flight cards) in an attempt to evaluate the dangers of sport rocketry. The dangers included rocketeers trying to recover a rocket from power lines as well as getting struck by a rocket. Based on the statistical study, NAR came up with some minor modifications to the safety code as well as some best practices.  Best practice is to always have spectators, prep areas and cars at cross-wind to the launch area. Almost all rockets land upwind or downwind from the launch area. Having spectators and others off to the side of the wind direction will reduce the chances of someone or something getting hit.

### (David Whitaker)

**March 2006 Meeting Minutes (3/4/2006)**

The March 2006 MASA meeting was held on the 2nd at the Aero Systems Engineering FluiDyne Laboratory in Plymouth.

12 people attended the meeting.  We declared that Mike set some sort of record by driving all the way down for the meeting from his job site in Park Rapids!

* MASA is planning to have a model rocket exhibit at [MarsCon](http://marscon.org/2006/index.php), a local Science Fiction convention during the weekend of March 3-5.
* NARCON is the weekend of March 10-12.  Many MASA members are planning to attend.
* The (known) status of local TARC teams was discussed briefly.  Ted C. let us know that some launch dates are planned down at Apple Valley High School again this year.  More info to come.
* Articles are needed for the next issue of the Planet.
* The (cold) February launch was briefly discussed.
* The March launch is scheduled for the Elk River VFW field.  However, the site may change, so watch the web site for updates.
* Recent outreach activities were discussed.

**Show -n- Tell**

* Ted Cochran brought his FlisKits UFFO.  He stated that much hot-gluing went into its construction.
* Alan Estenson brought his vintage Estes Nebulon Warrior - built in 1984.

**Tour**

The evening's activity was a tour of [ASE's FluiDyne Aerotest Laboratory](http://www.aerosysengr.com/Aero_Test_Services/aero_test_services.html) by Alan Estenson.  The attendees got to see wind tunnels, test stands, machine shops, and all kinds of technical stuff (much of it painted grey).

*(Alan Estenson)*

**April 2006 Meeting Minutes (4/21/2006)**

The April 2006 MASA meeting was held on the 13th at the Science Museum.

9 people attended the meeting.

* Those in attendance discussed this year's TARC experiences and flight performances.  (UPDATE - 4 MN teams have qualified for the national fly-off!)  The March MASA/TARC launch at Apple Valley was discussed.
* The April 22 launch will be at the Buffalo/Rockford farm fields.  Mike cannot attend, so this launch will be MISFIRE ALLEY.  Mike will phone in a notification to allow flights up to 3.3lb.  However, encroaching development means that the max motor size for this field is now a single G.
* The May meeting date and location have yet to be set.  No Thursday evenings are available at the Science Museum in May.  Watch the website and email list for an update.
* The May launch will be at the sod farm by Nowthen.  We also have permission to hold some Sunday launches this year at that site.
* The necessity of having a "backup" multi-pad controller than Mike's "Double Dozen" was discussed.  The feeling was, that there were enough multi-pad controllers owned by various MASA members, that it wasn't necessary for Mike to construct yet another one.
* It's the busy rocket time of year for schools and groups.  There are many upcoming outreach opportunities in May.  Watch the email list for details.  If you can volunteer to help with outreach requests, it would be greatly appreciated!
* Buzz McDermott is planning an official NAR Local Contest for the June launch.  More details will be forthcoming.
* Ted Cochran requests submissions for the next issue of the Planet.  He would like articles to reach him by May 1.  He is still waiting on some promised NARCON articles (hint, hint).
* Speaking of NARCON, the idea of MASA hosting a future NARCON has arisen.  Watch the email list for discussion on this topic.

**Found Parts**

* The topic for the evening, organized by Mike Erpelding, was "Found Parts" rockets.  That's the building of rockets out of parts that, well, weren't designed to be used in rockets.  Some of Mike's examples were a "Cheeky Chip Cup", a spool rocket, and a rocket make from a plastic pop bottle.  Mike and Buzz brought boxes of parts that were free for the taking to meeting attendees.

*(Alan Estenson)*

**May 2006 Meeting Minutes (5/20/2006)**

The May 2006 MASA meeting was held on the 8th at the Science Museum.  17 people attended.

**Big planes on skies and other cool stuff.**

* Russ Durkee gave a presentation about the 2+ months that he spent living and working at Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station in Antartica from Oct-Dec 2005.  Russ shared a lot of photos with us, and it was fascinating hearing about how people live and work at the bottom of the world.
* Activities at the station support science at research.  The station sits atop 9,000 feet of ice.  When Russ was there, the temperature was about -65 F.
* To get there, Russ flew from MPS to Denver to LA to Auckland, New Zealand to Christchurch, New Zealand then by C-17 to McMurdo base and then by ski-equipped C-130 to the pole.
* Russ talked about his duties there as a meteorologist.  He also talked about the science being done at the station, and how people lived and worked in such extreme conditions.
* Thanks Russ!  Great presentation!

**MASA stuff**

* The May 27 launch will be at the Nowthen field.  Yes, this is the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.
* The next MASA meeting will be on June 1.  The topic is finding your rockets in those pesky cornfields.  Please bring along any tips, tricks, equipment (buzzers, trackers, etc) that you may have to share.
* Mark Thell showed off a rocket that he built from a giant plastic MGD beer bottle.  He also had a couple Gemini Titan models.

*(Alan Estenson)*

### June 2006 Meeting Minutes (6/3/2006)

The June 2006 MASA meeting was held on the 1st at the Science Museum.

7 people attended the meeting.

* MASA is being invited to set up a model rocket display in the Science Room at Convergence Con.  This is a science fiction convention being held July 7-9.  Info has been sent out on the email list; please speak up if you would be interested.
* Ted Cochran and Mark Nelson talked about the TARC finals.
* Mark also talked about a launch he was having in Farmington on June 3.
* The June 24 launch will be at Nowthen.  There will be a local contest thanks to Buzz McDermott.  Hopefully, he will remind us what the events will be.
* The MASA summer picnic will be held on Saturday, July 15.  It will probably be at the Elk River VFW and be similar to last year.  Details will be forthcoming in the next two weeks.

**Darn Cornfields!**

* The topic of the meeting was "rocket locators" aka "how to find your rocket in those blankety-blank cornfields (or beanfields).
* The simplest method is simply to get a good bearing on your rocket, and watch it all the way down.  When you're walking out to look for it, remember that it always lands farther away than you think.  Using a compass to get a heading can also help.
* There's also the method of putting a really, really long streamer in your rocket.  A huge line of Caution tape or something similar can make things easier to spot amongst the crops.
* Another method is to put a "sonic beacon" or "beeper" in your rocket.  You can simply buy a pre-made beacon intended for use in a rocket.  Both [Transolve](http://www.transolve.com/Transolve/index.html) and [Pratt Hobbies](http://www.pratthobbies.com/proddetail.asp?prod=MB-12) offer such units for sale.  You can buy a [personal alarm and modify it](http://www.rocketreviews.com/reviews/scratch/rocket_beeper.html).  You can also make your own beacon out of parts.  Beacons that warble or pulse are preferable to those that make a steady tone.
* Some GPS units can take a bearing and initial location and then help you walk a line.  If done right, this can help keep you on the right track through the corn.
* There's also active radio tracking.  There are commercial systems such as Walston and [Rocket Hunter](http://rockethunter.com/).  Glen Overby also talked about some of his homemade radio tracking gear.

*(Alan Estenson)*

### MASA summer picnic (7/24/2006)

**An evening's (HOT) fun...**

MASA members gathered on Saturday, July 15, at the [Elk River & Rogers VFW post](file:///C:\Users\rocke\OneDrive\Desktop\MASA%20website\Old%20website%20from%20Alan\masa\elkriver.htm)  for the [9th annual MASA summer picnic](file:///C:\Users\rocke\OneDrive\Desktop\MASA%20website\Old%20website%20from%20Alan\masa\news\2006\2006-01.htm).  It was a very, very hot day with temperatures around 99 degrees.  With a stiff 20mph wind, the planned afternoon launch was cancelled.  Even with the heat, there was a good turnout of people.

Art Gibbens manned the grill and the hot dogs were quickly cooked.  As usual, there was a ton of food.  Rick Vatsaas brought some unusual rockets to serve as the centerpiece of the table.

**Lots of prizes!**

At about 7:15 pm, drawings were held for the free "door" prizes.  Here's the rundown of who got the loot:

* Donated by Hub Hobby Center, Little Canada
  + Buzz (& Avery) McDermott - Pack of Estes B4-4 motors
  + David Whitaker - Pack of Estes C6-5 motors
  + Brenner Carlson - Pack of Estes D12-5 motors
  + Amee Whitaker - Semroc Rawhide kit
  + Ted Cochran - Semroc Laser-X kit
  + Joshua Boe - FlisKits UFFO kit
  + Justine Myers - Estes Baby Bertha kit
  + Jeff Taylor - Estes Swift kit
  + Rick Vatsaas - Estes Wacky Wiggler kit
  + Mike Erpelding - Estes Thunderstar kit
  + Quinn Carlson - Estes Echostar kit
* Donated by Hub Hobby Center, Richfield
  + Cathy McDermott - Pack of Quest B6-0 motors
  + Mathias Gibbens - Pack of Quest B6-0 motors
  + Terry Myers - Pack of Quest B6-0 motors
  + Heather Myers - Estes Bandit kit
  + Daniel Boe - Estes Omloid kit
  + Eric Myers - Quest Totally Tubular kit
  + Art Gibbens - Quest Gamma Ray kit
  + Hannah Gibbens - FlisKits Drake kit
* Donated by Carol Marple
  + Blayne Carlson - Custom SAM-X kit
  + Jim Myers - Quest Screamin' Demon kit
* Donated by Mark Thell
  + Austin Whitaker - Quest Big Rage
  + Austin Carlson - Estes Mach 12
  + Linda Boe - Estes Screamin' Mimi kit
  + Glen Overby - NAR cap

**A big "Thank You!" to:**

* Everyone who participated!
* Everyone who donated door prizes!
* Everyone who helped out!

(Alan Estenson)

**August 2006 Meeting Minutes (8/5/2006)**

The August 2006 MASA meeting was held on the 3rd at the Science Museum.

7 people attended the meeting.

* The August launch is scheduled for the 25th at Nowthen.  Mike Erpelding cannot be present, so we will especially need people to assist with the launch and equipment.  Ted Cochran is planning on bringing his 12-pad launch controller; people may also set up their own pads & controllers in misfire alley style.
* Ted Cochran had just returned from NARAM 48 in Arizona, and he gave us a brief description of events there.
* Deadline for submissions for the next MASA Planet is at the end of August.  Please consider sending something in!

**Show -n- Tell**

* Jeff Taylor brought several very sharp rockets.  He had an Estes Renegade with a really cool NWA paint scheme and custom decals.  Jeff has painted up a Big Bertha with multi-colored "hot rod" flames - very sharp!  Jeff also brought a very spiffy rendition of an Estes Outlander.
* Andy Heren brought a cool "found parts" rocket that he built - "Tooth Decay".  He made it entirely from candy containers, boxes, wrappers, etc.
* As part of the L1 cert topic, Alan Estenson brought his LOC Cyclotron, Ted Cochran brought his trusty LOC IV, David Whitaker brought a LOC Norad Pro Maxx, Carol Marple brought her PML Black Brant VB, Jeff Taylor brought his LOC IV kit, and Caleb Boe brought his PML Tethys (with really cool color-shifting paint!)

**Level 1 High Power Certifications**

* The topic of the meeting was to provide information and answer questions about Level 1 high power certification.  Alan Estenson led the discussion and provided a handout packet of relevant information.  (A PDF version of this packet may be downloaded through the masarocketry yahoo groups mailing list.  Because it contains some copyrighted information, it will not be placed on the MASA web site.)  With able input from Dave & Ted, many questions were answered.  Subjects covered included rocket selection, upgrades, motors, motor retention, recovery, and much more.  Alan had tabulated all the L1 cert flights at MASA launches over the years (16 known attempts - 14 successes - 2 failures) and prepared tables of suitable rocket kits from LOC & PML.
* Thanks to everyone who participated!

*(Alan Estenson)*

**September 2006 Meeting Minutes (9/8/2006)**

The September 2006 MASA meeting was held on the 7th at the Science Museum.

11 people attended the meeting.

* MASA President Mike Erpelding was not present, but his excuse that he is getting married this Saturday was a pretty good one.  Congratulations and Best Wishes to Mike and Amber!
* Congratulations were offered to Carol Marple for her successful L1 cert flight at the August launch!
* The September 23 launch will be at the Nowthen field.  The theme is "clusters", so bring out those multi-engine rockets.  Hopefully, we will have a Fat Boy Duration fun event, so remember to bring your Fat Boy rockets too!  Watch the events calendar for info.
* The October meeting will be on the 5th.  The topic will be "Baby Bertha kitbash".  Alan Estenson will be organizing the event.  Baby Bertha kits will be available for purchase at the meeting, or you may provide your own.  Watch for more details on the events calendar and on the mailing list.
* Buzz and Kathy McDermott have volunteered to host the MASA holiday party again this year.
* Ted says that the new issue of the Planet will be out soon.  Anyone with last minute submissions, please send them to him ASAP!

**Show -n- Tell**

* Ted Cochran brought his recently completed Estes Sweet Vee radio control rocket glider.  He hopes to fly it for the first time at the September launch.
* Russ Durkee brought an electric powered radio control delta wing airplane that he plans to convert to rocket power.

**Basement Bounty (a sequel to Attic Treasures) by Russ Durkee and Buzz McDermott**- a nostalgic look at vintage model rocket stuff

* Russ Durkee brought a variety of interesting stuff:  FSI F100 engine, Centuri engines, various unbuilt Centuri kits (Satellite Killer, Flying Saucer, Evel Knievel Sky Cycle, Hercules II...) and various vintage catalogs
* Buzz McDermott brought a selection of stuff from his "not a collection":  various old built Centuri rockets (Powersystems, SSV Scorpion, Saturn 1b), a new built MRC Iron Man, a new Semroc Mark II clone, various old wooden launch pads, a new built MRI Kappa 1 and an MPC Microsonde 3, various MPC boxed kits and minirocs kits, a MRC Concept II launcher, FSI catalogs and unbuilt kits, an unbuilt 1969 Estes Mars Lander kit, unbuilt Estes Citation Bomarc and Starship Vega kits, the old Estes Aerospace Club set, a Canaroc kit, and much more!
* Alan Estenson brought along some old catalogs and promotional literature.
* Thanks to Russ & Buzz for bringing these items!  It was great fun to look at it all.

*(Alan Estenson)*

**October 2006 Meeting Minutes (10/7/2006)**

The October 2006 MASA meeting was held on the 5th at the Science Museum.

8 people attended the meeting.

* A "bonus" launch is planned for Saturday, October 7. [*That launch cancelled due to winds.*]
* The "official" October launch is scheduled for the 28th at the Nowthen site.  The themes are multi-staging and scale-model missiles.  There will hopefully be a fun Fat Boy duration contest, and, with Halloween right around the corner, a Goblin drag race.  Unless someone volunteers to bring a multi-pad control system, this will strictly be a misfire-alley style launch.
* The next meeting will be on November 2.  Nominations for 2007 MASA officer positions will open at that time.  The meeting topic will be "rocket web sites" led by Rick Vatsaas.  There is a Wild game that night, so there is a possibility that the meeting date or location may change.  Watch the web site for updates.

**Show -n- Tell**

* Buzz McDermott brought along a big binder full of old issues of Estes' Model Rocket News.  He also brought an oddroc made of a stack of little plastic pumpkins.

**Baby Bertha Kitbash - organized by Alan Estenson**

* 6 people at the meeting accepted the kitbash challenge by purchasing a Baby Bertha kit for $5.  (Stuart Lenz, Buzz McDermott, Andy Heren, Mike Erpelding, Caleb Boe, and Tim Barr.)  You didn't need to be at this meeting to participate; you can pick up a kit from whatever source that you like.
* The goal is to build a flyable rocket from the parts contained in an Estes Baby Bertha kit, just so long as you don't actually build a stock Baby Bertha!  There aren't a ton of parts in this kit, so it's going to challenge your creativity.
  + You are allowed to use any paint and decals that you desire to finish the rocket.
  + You are allowed to substitute uncut balsa sheet (of an identical size) for one or both of the laser cut fin sheets included in the kit.
  + You are allowed to use a different shock cord if you desire.  You can also add a snap swivel for the parachute.
  + You are allowed to add nose weight if necessary for stability.
  + NO other substitutions or additions allowed!
* Everyone who brings their finished kitbash rocket to the November MASA meeting will have their names thrown in the hat for a prize drawing.  Of course, flying your kitbash creations at the October and/or November launches is encouraged!

*(Alan Estenson)*

**November 2006 Meeting Minutes (11/3/2006)**

The November 2006 MASA meeting was held on the 2nd at the Science Museum.

* A "bonus" launch is planned for Saturday, November 4.  This will be the last launch of the year at the Nowthen sod fields.  This will be a misfire-alley style launch.
* The "official" November launch is scheduled for the 18th at the Elk River VFW fields.  This will be a misfire-alley style launch.  This is the Saturday BEFORE Thanksgiving.
* The 2006 MASA holiday party will be held on Saturday, December 9 at the Buzz & Kathy McDermott residence in Blaine.  Details will be posted on the web site and sent out via the email list.
* There was some talk about status and progress of local TARC teams.
* Ted Cochran will be retiring as Editor of the MASA Planet newsletter at the end of this year.  Buzz McDermott has volunteered to succeed him in that position.
* There was some talk about NARCON planning - an ad to appear in Sport Rocketry magazine, and the need to get organized!  It's not much over 4 months away!

**2007 Officer Nominations**

**Nomination of club officers for 2007:**

The floor was opened for nominations of club officers for 2007.

Current nominations are:

**President**- Mike Erpelding (accepted)

**Vice President**- Glen Overby (declined), Stuart Lenz (?), Alan Estenson (accepted)

**Secretary/ Treasurer**- Rick Vatsaas (?), Alan Estenson (declined)

Nominations for club office will be open until 11:59 PM November 30, 2006.  Please use the masarocketry Yahoo group to nominate someone and to accept or decline your nomination. Nominees will have until the day of the holiday party (December 9) to accept or decline their nomination.    The election will be held at the January 2007 MASA meeting.

**Baby Bertha kitbash**

* Four people brought their Baby Bertha kitbash rockets to the meeting
  + Caleb Boe - airplane style creation
  + Andy Heren - "Ring of Fire" - flame fins with a red ring
  + Tim Barr - "Baby Squidtha" - looks like it came 20,000 leagues under the sea
  + Scott Gleason - "Baby Spartan"
* In a random drawing, Tim won a Quest Navaho kit.  Scott received the consolation prize - a 25% off Hub Hobby coupon.
* Thanks to everyone who participated!  Now, let's see them fly!

**Show -n- Tell**

* Alan Estenson brought his "It's the Great Pumpkin Rocket, Charlie Brown."  It's a hefty beast - made out of a molded plastic stack o' pumpkins that is supposed to be a lit-up lawn ornament for Halloween.

**Rocket Web Sites - presented by Rick Vatsaas**

* Rick Vatsaas gave a very good presentation about rocket web sites.  He is hoping to present it at NARCON next year.  Thanks Rick!

*(Alan Estenson)*

**December 2006 Holiday Party (12/11/2006)**

On Saturday evening, December 9, over 40 MASA-ites gathered at the residence of Buzz & Kathy McDermott in Blaine for the annual club holiday party.  There was a huge turnout of all ages - almost certainly the biggest MASA holiday party ever!

The annual MASA gift exchange game was once again a fun time with well over 30 people participating.  Homemade nylon parachutes were again a hot item, with some toolboxes and a rocket poster also changing hands numerous times.

Buzz ran a special build session where the youngsters built and decorated a variety of rocket kits.  Thanks Buzz!

As a special bonus, everyone got to watch the live launch of the Space Shuttle Discovery during the party.

**2006 MASSY Awards**

* **Appreciation Award for hosting the MASA Holiday Party:  Buzz & Kathy McDermott (Thanks!!!)**
* **Most Outstanding Volunteer Award - Buzz McDermott**
* **Outstanding Service Award - Ted Cochran (MASA Planet Editor emeritus)**
* **MASA TARC Mentors Recognition:** Ted Cochran, Art Gibbens, Buzz McDermott, Mark Nelson, Ken Jarosch
* **Prang Award:  Mark Thell for the flight (and demise) of his MGD beer bottle rocket!**  Mark gets to keep the "treasured" Estes William Shatner rocket video and a rocket-shaped sand pail until next year.  He also received a "Pranger" patch to keep.

Drawings were held for free door prizes.  The winners were:

**(The following prizes were donated by Hub Hobby Center of Little Canada.)**

* Carol Marple - Estes Python 4 kit
* Mark Nelson - Estes Meteor Masher kit
* Art Gibbens - Semroc Thunderbee kit
* Justin Nelson - Custom Sierra kit
* Jeff Taylor - FlisKits Espresso kit
* Joshua Boe - C6-5's
* David Whitaker - D12-5's
* Andy Heren - G77-7R
* Cindy Whitaker - PML Black Brant VB kit

**(The following prizes were donated by Hub Hobby Center of Richfield.)**

* Alyssa Taylor - Quest Nike-K kit
* Sue Carlson - Custom Sierra kit
* Ted Cochran - Estes Alpha III kit
* Austin Whitaker - B6-4's
* Ben Ericksen - Quest Flash kit
* Cheryl Vatsaas - FlisKits Espresso kit
* Mark Thell - Estes Fat Boy kit

A BIG thanks to Hub Hobby Center (Little Canada and Richfield stores) for donating prizes!  A HUGE thanks to Buzz & Kathy  for hosting the party this year!  An enormous thanks to everyone who attended!

Extra thanks to club officers Mike Erpelding, Stuart Lenz, and David Whitaker for a great year!

*(Alan Estenson)*

*from Buzz McDermott:*

What a great party last night. It looked like a wonderful success to me! There was plenty of great food to nibble on, LOTS of MASA families to spend time with, a rocket build session, a huge Christmas gift exchange, and Ted was even nice enough to schedule a shuttle launch for us to watch! If you were unable to attend you missed a wonderful evening.

Kathy and I would like to thank all who attended. We really enjoyed getting to see all of you. Based on the RSVP count, and allowing for a few additional people, we were expecting a turnout of around 30 total adults and kids. In fact, somewhere around 44-46 people came. We had 38 in the gift exchange! You really packed our poor little house (which is great!)!

And speaking of the gift exchange, there were several items of note. Who put in the box of 4 Centuri and CMR kits (this is a rhetorical question - I'm not naming any names!)? What a wonderful present! Also, we had no less than three of those incredible parachutes this year. Range boxes were all the rage with three of them exchanging hands often. There was another classic kit that got swapped around a few time (an old MPC kit) along with a very popular rocket poster. Finally, MASA now has one very well armed teenage girl in the club (having walked out with pointy implements of destruction two years in a row!). I guess it's true what they say - a young girl can never have too many knives (or something like that). :-) :-)

By the way, who won the MASA Prang award this year? Oh, yes, never mind. I remember - what a terrible end to a great beer bottle. :-) :-)

There was also a special member recognition. Ted Cochran was thanked for his many (was it five?) years of service as the club newsletter editor. He has done a wonderful job and deserves all of our thanks.

Again, thanks to all who came to join in the company of fellow rocketeers, all those who brought along snack or dessert items to share, all who participated in the gift exchange, all the kids who built rockets, and anyone else we might have inadvertently left out!