**2008 Meeting Reports**

### January Meeting Minutes (1/11/2008)

The January 2008 MASA meeting was held on the 10th at the Science Museum.

**In case you didn't realize, 2008 is MASA's 10th Anniversary year!**

7 people attended the meeting.

The January launch will be on the 26th at White Bear Lake.

* A brainstorming session was held to come up meeting topics for most of the year.  (See the Events calendar for info.)
* NARCON stuff was discussed.
* Status of TARC teams was discussed.
* The 2008 schedule of club events was discussed.
* The March launch will be held at Apple Valley High School.
* The waiver for the Nowthen sod farm has been renewed for 2008.

**2008 Officers**

* Since there was only one candidate for each club office, MASA custom allowed those candidates to be placed directly into office by a majority vote of acclamation of those club members present at the meeting.
* A motion was made and seconded to appoint Ted Cochran Chairman Pro-Tem for the purpose of appointing club officers.  This motion was approved unanimously by an oral vote.  A motion was made and seconded to place the three officer candidates directly into office and skip the electoral vote.  This motion was approved by an oral vote.
* The 2008 MASA club officers are:  President - Alan Estenson, Vice President - Carol Marple, Secretary/Treasurer - Rick Vatsaas.

**Show -n- Tell**

* No one brought any show and tell items, but we all admired Caleb's spiffy hat. <grin>

*(Alan Estenson)*

**February Meeting Minutes**

*The February meeting was canceled.  This page is a placeholder.*

*(Alan Estenson)*

**March Meeting Minutes (3/18/2008)**

The March 2008 MASA meeting was held on the 6th at the Science Museum.

"There were only about 4 of us at the meeting. Two of us brought some of our 'winter projects'. None of mine were painted."*(Buzz McDermott)*

It was a small meeting with only four of us. I processed memberships, we discussed the projects everyone but me brought: Tim Barr's Altitude Chamber, Dave Gennsler's new collection of Sci Fi Rockets, and a vast quantity of Buzz McDermott's unpainted menagerie. *(Rick Vatsaas)*

**April Meeting Minutes (4/15/2008)**

The April 2008 MASA meeting was held on the 10th at the Science Museum.

5 people braved the horrible weather to attend the meeting.

The April launch will be on the 26th.  The location is still to-be-determined.  It will be at the Nowthen sod farm if it has dried out enough.  Otherwise, it will probably be at the Elk River VFW soccer fields.  Site will be determined by the 20th and the web site will be updated accordingly.

The next meeting will be on May 1.  The scheduled topic is "hybrids".

* NARCON 2008 was a success and is now almost a month behind us.  Yay!
* We will be planning something special for MASA's 10th anniversary celebration for the club picnic in July.  If you have any ideas, please pass them along.
* If you are building one of the Semroc Golden Scout kits, we encourage you to fly them in July at either the picnic or the regular launch.
* If you have any ideas for how to make the regular club launches more fun and interesting (themes, contests, special events, etc), please let us know.
* The NARAM 50 organizers have planned a "Fly-it / Take-it" event for kids (13 and younger) or first-time flyers of any age to have an opportunity to fly an already-built rocket and then keep the rocket. The organizers have requested that NAR sections build between six and twelve rockets for donation to the event. The only restriction is that the rocket(s) must fly on a single 18mm black powder motor. MASA will be supporting this event by donating a minimum of 6 built rockets; we need your help donating and/or building.  If you would like to help out, MASA Vice President Carol Marple will be collecting the donated rockets at the April launch or the May meeting and then will ship them to the NARAM 50 organizers.

**Safety Training**

The evening's topic was range safety, rocket safety, and RSO/LCO training.  With the small turnout, this mostly consisted of discussion, Q&A, and going through the [RSO/LCO checklists](file:///C:\Users\rocke\OneDrive\Desktop\MASA%20website\Old%20website%20from%20Alan\masa\tech\rso_lco_checklist.pdf).  A selection of related safety information has also been made available in the Files section of the masarocketry mailing list.

**Show -n- Tell**

* Caleb Boe brought his compressed air pyro-free ejection system - now installed in an airframe.
* Alan Estenson brought his vintage Estes Kadet (*The first rocket that I ever launched.*) and a new Semroc Sky Hook built with a 13mm motor mount.

*(Alan Estenson)*

**May Meeting Minutes (5/3/2008)**

The May 2008 MASA meeting was held on the 1st at the Science Museum.

A total of 12 people attended the meeting

Next Launch: May 31 (the Saturday after Memorial Day) at the sod fields near Nowthen.  The theme will be "Fat Boy Mania!!!".  Buzz McDermott has volunteered to run a just-for-fun contest - C Fat Boy Duration.  This will follow the "[2.0 Stock Fat Boy Duration](file:///C:\Users\rocke\OneDrive\Desktop\MASA%20website\Old%20website%20from%20Alan\masa\tech\fatboyrules.htm)" rules except that you may choose to make either one or two flights.  If you fly twice, your final score will be the best of the two flights, not the total of the two flights.  There will be a youth division and an adult division.  (We did this waaaaaay back in [2000](file:///C:\Users\rocke\OneDrive\Desktop\MASA%20website\Old%20website%20from%20Alan\masa\lreports\2000\2000-04.htm), and it was a lot of fun!)

Next Meeting: June 5.  The topic is "kitbashing".  We'll talk about the general idea of taking a kit and turning it into some other type of rocket.  Examples welcome!  We'll also kick off our 2008 kitbash contest.

* So far for 2008, MASA is at about 31 paid memberships (representing about 84 people).  Roughly 13 2007 memberships remain unrenewed.  More renewals and new membership generally come at the first summer launch at the sod farm.
* Reminder - The NARAM 50 organizers have planned a "Fly-it / Take-it" event for kids (13 and younger) or first-time flyers of any age to have an opportunity to fly an already-built rocket and then keep the rocket. The organizers have requested that NAR sections build between six and twelve rockets for donation to the event. The only restriction is that the rocket(s) must fly on a single 18mm black powder motor. If you would like to build and donate a rocket or two, MASA Vice President Carol Marple will be collecting the donated rockets and then will ship them all to the NARAM 50 organizers.
* The summer picnic will be on July 19 at the Elk River VFW.  We will be celebrating MASA's 10th anniversary.  For those of you participating in the "Sky of Gold" celebration, you're encouraged to fly your Semroc Golden Scouts at the picnic.
* A summer solstice launch is tentatively planned for the late afternoon/evening of Saturday, June 21.  Location will be the Elk River VFW soccer fields again. (pending a check on soccer usage of the field)
* Ideas (and volunteers) for launch themes and fun contests are welcomed!
* Meeting location.  It's looking highly likely that MASA will be losing its ability to continue meeting at the Science Museum.  Whether this will happen next month or next year, we don't know.  We are starting to look at alternative meeting locations.  Two possibilities have already come to light - one in Newport, the other in South Minneapolis.  If you have any ideas for meeting locations, please let MASA President Alan Estenson know.  Thanks!

**Hybrids**

Glen Overby and David Whitaker presented "One Summer of Hybrids".  They talked about the pros and cons of hybrid motors, and the available types and brands.  They brought along their 29mm and 38mm SkyRipper motors and described their components, assembly, and the costs involved.  Glen and Dave went over the ground support equipment needed to fill the motors with Nitrous Oxide and ignite them.  Then, they went through the process of prepping and flying their hybrid-powered rockets, and presented their flight results from last summer.

Great presentation, Glen & Dave!  Thank you!

**Show -n- Tell**

* Rick Vatsaas brought two scratchbuilt rockets that were inspired by using a disposable plastic wineglass for the nosecone.  He built one of the rockets as a tribute to the Golden Scout.  He also showed how he is using special ziplock bags and a mini vacuum pump to vacuum bag fins.
* Art Gibbens brought a whole rack of vintage late 70's - early 80's rockets that he recently acquired.  (Falcon Commander, Norad, Starship Nova, Soaring Eagle, Orion Starfighter, Torellian Invader, EAC Viper, ALCM, Scissor Wing...)
* Buzz McDermott also brought a big selection of newly-finished rockets - Proconsul, Optima, Tuber, Interrogator, Der Red Max, Goliath...
* Alan Estenson brought a Goony Goblin and a cloned Cherokee D.

*(Alan Estenson)*

### June Meeting Minutes (6/7/2008)

The June 2008 MASA meeting was held on the 5th at the Science Museum.

A total of 4 people attended the meeting.  (Where was everybody?)

Next Launch: Solstice launch will be on the afternoon/evening of June 21 at the Elk River VFW soccer fields.  The next regular launch will be on June 28 at the Nowthen sod fields.

There is no regular meeting in July.  Instead, the summer picnic will be held on July 19 at the Elk River VFW.  We're hoping to have a big shindig celebrating MASA's 10th anniversary.  For those of you participating in the "Sky of Gold" celebration, you're encouraged to fly your Semroc Golden Scouts at the picnic.

* Deadline for submissions for the next issue of the Planet is June 25.

**Show -n- Tell**

* Tim Barr brought a fin can assembly.  It has built-up fins with a thin G10 skin and internal LEDs.  A small circuit board can make the LEDs flash in different ways.
* David Whitaker brought his Binder Jaguar.  He built it for electronic deployment and set it up to fly on 29mm or 38mm hybrids all the way up to the longest I-motor.
* Alan Estenson brought his old "IPFI Corrigan" that was kitbashed from an Estes Sizzler.

**Kitbash Kickoff**

\*KIT\*  
The kit chosen for this year's kitbash is the Estes Screamin' Mimi.  
<http://www.oldrocketplans.com/estes/est2185/est2185.htm>  
This kit was available at the June meeting for a purchase price of $6.50  
(For those who still need a kit, stop by Hub Hobby Center in Little Canada on Wednesday evenings or Sunday afternoons and see Alan to purchase one.)

\*KONTEST\*  
Your mission is to seek inspiration for your kitbash from the 1981 Estes catalog.  
<http://www.ninfinger.org/~sven/rockets/nostalgia/81estf.html>  
  
There are a ton of rockets in there which you could roughly upscale using the parts in the Mimi kit. There are also some rockets which you could directly clone. For even more fun, you could reimagine and reinterpret one of those old designs around your available parts. Maybe the "Photon Disruptor" might inspire you to create a "HadronCollider". Create a new "Strato-tracer" based on the "Skytracer".  
  
Exactly what you do is up to you!

Links to plans and such can be found at  
<http://www.rocketshoppe.com/info/estes_expanded_kit_list.htm>  
<http://www.dars.org/jimz/estes.htm>  
<http://www.oldrocketplans.com/estes.htm>  
  
\*RULES\*  
You may use or not use any and all contents of the kit, including the packaging, at your discretion. If you wish, you may substitute an equivalent amount of uncut balsa sheet for the laser-cut fin sheets in the kit. You may swap out the motor mount tube and centering rings if you'd prefer to build for an 18mm motor instead of 24mm. You may not add or substitute any other parts.  (You may add internal noseweight if necessary to ensure stability.  You may swap out the kit shock cord for a longer one if you wish.)  
  
\*PICNIC\*  
If you have your Kitbash Kreation komplete and bring it to the klub picnic in July, you'll be eligible for a special prize drawing!

*(Alan Estenson)*

**MASA summer picnic (7/21/2008)**

MASA members gathered on Saturday, July 19, at the [Elk River & Rogers VFW post](file:///C:\Users\rocke\OneDrive\Desktop\MASA%20website\Old%20website%20from%20Alan\masa\elkriver.htm)  for the [11th annual MASA summer picnic.](file:///C:\Users\rocke\OneDrive\Desktop\MASA%20website\Old%20website%20from%20Alan\masa\news\2008\2008-01.htm)

The site was the VFW soccer complex where occasional MASA launches are held.  The VFW kindly let us use their grill and picnic shelter again this year.  There was rocket flying, eating, and a bunch of socializing.  Well over 30 people attended the launch & picnic.  After some thunderstorms passed through mid-afternoon, the weather cooperated to give us a nice evening.

This was an extra special event as it was also a celebration of MASA's 10th anniversary!  The picnic began around 5pm as the launch was winding down.  Grill-meisters Art & Andy cooked up the hamburgers and hot dogs.  As always, there was a ton of food and cold beverages.  After everyone had eaten their fill, we enjoyed MASA anniversary cake for dessert.  Some of MASA's proceeds from NARCON 2008 were used to help make this picnic extra special.

**Launchin!**

This was also an official MASA launch.  A misfire-alley range was set up on the soccer fields.  Launching began about 2:00 pm and ended just after 5:00 pm.  The [launch report](file:///C:\Users\rocke\OneDrive\Desktop\MASA%20website\Old%20website%20from%20Alan\masa\lreports\2008\2008-07.htm) tells that side of the story.

**Lots of prizes!**

At about 6:30 pm, drawings were held for the free "door" prizes.  There were a HUGE number of prizes, and everybody who stayed for (and entered) the drawing went home with something.  Here's the rundown of who got the loot:

* Donated by MASA
  + $10 gift card to Hub Hobby Center - Mike Erpelding
  + $10 gift card to Hub Hobby Center - Jeff Taylor
  + $10 gift card to Hub Hobby Center - Neal Higgins
  + $10 gift card to Hub Hobby Center - Susan Shmel
  + $10 gift card to Hub Hobby Center - Cindy Whitaker
  + Motor toolbox/organizer - Ethan Erpelding
  + Medium toolboxes - Kevin Day
  + Medium toolboxes - Jim Myers
  + Medium toolboxes - Justine Myers
  + Set of building supplies - Dave Schaffhausen
  + Set of building supplies - Ben Ericksen
  + Set of building supplies - Renee Gibbens
* Donated by Hub Hobby Center, Little Canada
  + Estes X-Ray kit - Elizabeth Shmel
  + Estes Nemesis kit - Rick Vatsaas
  + Estes Canadian Arrow kit - Heather Myers
  + Estes Night Wing kit - Eric Myers
  + Estes Venus Probe kit - John Carlson
  + LOC Star Fighter 152 kit and Aerotech F25-9W motor - Art Gibbens
* Donated by Hub Hobby Center, Richfield
  + Estes Screaming Eagle kit - Nancy Schaffhausen
  + Semroc Starfire kit - Andy Heren
  + Semrco Squire kit - Austin Whitaker
  + Fliskits Freedom Forge Missile kit - Dwayne Shmel
  + Custom Evil One kit - Scott Gleason
  + Custom Ion Pulsar kit - Quinn Carlson
  + Custom Venture kit - Matthias Gibbens
  + LOC 36" nylon chute - Ken Jarosch
* Donated by Ken Jarosch
  + Estes SpaceShipOne kit and Quest C6-5 motors - David Whitaker
  + Estes Blast Off Flight Pack - Amy Whitaker

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

* Everyone who participated!
* Everyone who donated door prizes!
* Grillmeisters Art and Andy
* Carol for the MASA anniversary cake
* Neal for the fresh roasted corn-on-the-cob (delicious!)
* Rick & Mike for running the rocket range

*(Alan Estenson)*

**August Meeting Minutes (8/8/2008)**

The August 2008 MASA meeting was held on the 7th at the Science Museum.

A total of 16 people attended the meeting.

Next Launch: The next regular launch will be on August 23 at the Nowthen sod fields.  The theme for the launch is "multistaging."  Special events include the annual Great UFO Drag Race and the Annual Comanche-3 drag race.  An Open Spot Landing contest, run by Art Gibbens, will be held.  (For contest info, please [download this PDF file](file:///C:\Users\rocke\OneDrive\Desktop\MASA%20website\Old%20website%20from%20Alan\masa\files\Spot%20Landing%20Contest%20Rules%20for%20MASA%20Launch%20on%20August%2023.pdf).)  Art will be donating up to 18 old MRC B4-4 motors for use by participants in the contest.  Info on the performance of these motors will be submitted to the NAR's expired motor testing program.

Next Meeting:  The next club meeting will be on Thursday September 4 starting at 7pm.  Since the Science Museum will be closed for the Republican National Convention, this meeting will be held at Bailey Nurseries in Newport.  Directions will be posted on the mailing list and web site soon.  Thanks to Art Gibbens for arranging this meeting location!

Other stuff:

* Todd Schweim has volunteered to have an FAI session at his house on Saturday, September 6 at 1pm.  If you're interested in FAI competition and those "wacky looking" rockets that they fly, you won't want to miss this!  Learn about making tubes, nose cones, fins, and much more.  More info will be sent out on the mailing list.
* Todd is also interested in organizing either a NAR sanctioned contest meet, probably in June of 2009.
* Jeff Taylor talked about the possibility of having MASA t-shirts silk-screened.  Most of those present at the meeting were interested.  Roughly 36 t-shirts would need to be pre-sold in order to make this practical.
* Deadline for submissions for the next issue of the Planet is August 25.

**LAC Trophy**

At the conclusion of NARAM 50, the prestigious LAC Newsletter Award was presented to the MASA Planet for best NAR section newsletter!  As recipient, MASA is entrusted with the history-laden North American Rockwell Trophy and the "annex" that accompanies it for the next year.  Congratulations to MASA Planet Editor Jeff Taylor!  Huge thanks to all the different contributors to the Planet over the years!

Ted Cochran (Planet editor from 2002-2006) accepted the trophy at NARAM and brought it back to Minnesota with him.  At the meeting, we unboxed the trophy.  In use since 1969, the trophy is a little battered and worn around the edges.  In fact, this was the 40th time that the trophy had been awarded.  We persuaded Jeff to pose with the trophy, and then got Ted into the photos too.

Todd Schweim told us that this was the trophy's first return to Minnesota since it was won by the former Zenith section for their "View From Zenith" newsletter back in 1979!  (and sat in Tom Beach's house for a year)

Accompanying the trophy is a locked wooden "annex" box.  This box contains items placed in it over the years by all the different sections that have won the trophy.  Only members of the section winning the trophy get to view the contents of the box, and they are never to be divulged to anyone else.

When the moment came, we "tyled the lodge", closed the door, put away the cameras, and opened the box.  There's a lot of neat stuff in that box, like **[THIS SECTION REDACTED BY NAR EXECUTIVE ORDER #011678347B]**.  Wish you were at the meeting to see it in person, don't you?  ;-)

The trophy and annex went home with Jeff for the next year until we have to deliver it to NARAM 51.

Jeff writes:

At the August meeting on the 7th, we opened the LAC Annex. This is a wooden box about the size of a box that a new pair of snow boots would come in. It came to us under lock and key as part of the LAC  
Newsletter Award that MASA received at NARAM 50. There is a long-standing tradition that the contents of the Annex are to be shared with the winning club but are to be kept secret outside of the  
club. If you missed the meeting and would like to see what's inside, let me know and we can figure out  
how you can get a peek inside. At the end of MASA's reign in June 2009, we will make a secret contribution to the Annex and pass it on the next year's LAC Award winner.

Also, the LAC Newsletter Award includes the Rockwell Trophy. This is a very large trophy that has been traveling from club to club since 1969. It has many miles on it (and it shows) and has a long history.  Again, if you would like to see the trophy before we give it up next June, let me know.

According to Ted's report from NARAM when MASA was presented the award, we were in the running with two other club newsletters, but the one thing that put us above all others were the number of contributors that we had over the past year. Having said that, I would like to personally thank the following individuals who contributed to the MASA Planet over the past year:

Caleb Boe  
Ted Cochran  
David Donovan  
Ben Ericksen  
Mike Erpelding  
Alan Estenson  
Art Gibbens  
Ken Jarosch  
Ray King  
Carol Marple  
Glen Overby  
Rick Vatsaas

I can't thank Ted enough for being the club editor for 5 years before I took it over last June. He did an amazing job and deserves a huge round of applause from all of us. He had built up a solid publication that I tried to continue when he retired, and I don't think we would have won this award if it weren't for the foundation that he had built.

As I enter my second year as editor of the MASA Planet, I would like to ask all of you to consider contributing something to the Planet. Diversity in the Planet's content and contributors keeps it interesting for all who read it. Please consider submitting a short article or two, and let's see if we can keep the LAC Award in Minnesota for another year!

Thanks to everyone! Wining this award was as much of a surprise to me as it is an honor, but it wouldn't have happened without contributions from MASA members like you.

**NARAM 50**

A number of MASA members made the trip to The Plains, Virginia for NARAM 50 and especially for the Old Rocketeers Reunion.

Making his first NARAM trip was Caleb Boe accompanied by his mother, Linda.  Caleb competed in B division, and brought home some serious hardware!  He won:  3rd in helicopter duration, 2nd in payload altitude, 1st in R&D(!!!), and 4th overall in B-division.  Congratulations, Caleb!!!  Caleb brought along his medals and trophy, and he also showed us some of the competition rockets that he used.

*(Alan Estenson)*

**September Meeting Minutes (9/6/2008)**

The September 2008 MASA meeting was held on the 6th at Todd Schweim’s house in St. Croix Falls, WI.

A total of 7 people took the opportunity to take a drive on a beautiful Saturday afternoon.  They were rewarded with a very informative session on FAI competition/building, a chance to check out Todd’s shop (WAY cool!), and a relaxing dinner on his deck (complete with dog tricks, courtesy of his very talented Doberman, Aspen)

The FAI session was very informative.  Attendees learned the various steps involved in making body tubes, nose cones (including vacuum forming and plunge forming), fins, etc.  The group also discussed types of motors used in FAI competition, competition schedule and locations, and general tips to help with building rockets for use in FAI.  Todd agreed to write a series of articles for the MASA Planet.

Next Launch: The next regular launch will be on September 27, from 9 – 4, at the Nowthen sod fields.  The theme for the launch is "scale rockets."  No contests are planned at this time.  If you’re interested in running a contest, please let us know.

Next Meeting:  The next club meeting will be on Thursday October 3 starting at 7 pm at the Science Museum.  Rick Vatsaas will be leading a discussion on how to make composite fins for small, medium, and high power rockets.

Other stuff:

* Deadline for submissions for the next issue of the Planet is now.  :-)
* 2009 MASA club officer nominations open at the November meeting.
* The MASA holiday party is just a few months away.  We’re looking for a host and/or location for the party.  Date, time, and location are currently TBD.  Please let us know if you’re interested in having a bunch of MASA-ites at your house for an evening of food, exchanging gifts, and rocket talk (not necessarily in that order).
* Caleb Boe brought along his vacuum forming system to show the group.  Caleb and Todd compared techniques and the group shared helpful hints.

*(Carol Marple)*

**October Meeting Minutes (10/3/2008)**

The October 2008 MASA meeting was held on the 2nd at the Science Museum.

A total of 4 people attended the meeting.  (Where was everybody!!!)

Next Launch: The next regular launch will be on Saturday, October 25 at the sod fields near Nowthen.  This will likely be the final launch of the year at the sod fields.  Theme of the launch is "goonies and odd-rocs".

Next Meeting:  The next club meeting will be on Thursday, November 6 at 7pm at the Science Museum.  Major order of business is opening nominations for 2009 MASA officers.  A topic or activity is needed for this meeting!

Other stuff:

* NIRA is hosting a sanctioned regional competition in the Chicago area this Sunday, October 5.
* It's time to get thinking about the club holiday party (where, and when?)
* TARC registration is now open.  TARC mentors - "on your marks, get set, GO!"
* S/T Rick Vatsaas reported that MASA currently has 26 family memberships, 15 senior memberships, and 2 junior members.  There is about $500 in the treasury.

Show and tell:

* Andy Heren brought a vintage package of Centuri B6-6 motors that were given to him recently.
* Rick Vatsaas brought two of his "cup rockets".  The bodies are made from cups purchased at "Bed, Bath and Beyond."  [Wow, that "beyond" section really does have everything!]  One is complete and has flown; the other is still under construction.  Rick also brought his scratchbuilt 4" diameter "Rather Big Bertha".  He plans to fly it on a J350.
* Alan Estenson brought his Estes Big Daddy with custom "Der Grosser Vati" decals.

**"Making Composite Fins for low, mid, and High Power rockets" by Rick Vatsaas**

For the evening's topic, Rick presented some ideas and methods for making composite fins.  He talked about fiberglass, epoxy, molds, and vacuum bagging of small fins.  Rick shared some ideas for doing vacuum bagging inexpensively.  He uses "ziploc" type bags that can be evacuated using a small electric or manual vacuum pump.  Instead of peel-ply, he uses ripstop nylon.  Rick demonstrated by mixing up some epoxy and vacuum-bagging a balsa fin right on the spot.

Thanks Rick!

*(Alan Estenson)*

**November Meeting Minutes (11/8/2008)**

The November 2008 MASA meeting was held on the 6th at the Science Museum.

A total of 7 people attended the meeting.

**Next Launch:**The next regular launch will be on Saturday, November 22 at the Elk River/Otsego VFW soccer fields.  This will be a mod-roc launch (max 1 lb)

**Next Meeting:**  Their isn't a regular club meeting in December.  We are still working on details (location & date) of the club holiday party.  Details, once set, will be announced on the mailing list and web site.

**2009 club officers**

Following MASA tradition and precedent, the 2008 MASA officers (Alan, Carol, Rick), having indicated their willingness to serve in those positions for another year, were confirmed in their respective offices for 2009 by unanimous acclamation of all MASA members in attendance.

**2009 meeting locations**

It's currently unknown if MASA will be able to continue meeting at the Science Museum in 2009.  We will be checking into it and investigating alternative meeting locations.

**Secretary/Treasurer's report**

Rick reported that there is currently about $560 in the club treasury.  Current memberships consist of 26 family, 16 single, and 2 junior for a grand total of 116 people.

**2009 MASA badge design contest**

In the coming weeks, we will be starting up a little contest to design the MASA name badge / membership card for 2009.

**Show and tell:**

* Caleb Boe brought his Semroc Saturn 1b.  Caleb and three other MASA members (Carol, Jeff, Mark) participated in building a total 30 S1b's for the Apollo 7 40th anniversary event in October.  The best three rockets were autographed by Apollo 7 astronaut Walt Cunningham and sent back to their builders.  Both Caleb and Carol got theirs back!  All the other rockets were donated or sold for charity.  
  Caleb talked about the experience of building the rocket in a very short time and about some of his construction and painting techniques.  Looks incredible, Caleb!  Congrats!
* Rick Vatsaas brought his "Starship Ursa" (kitbashed from a Screaming Mimi), his "Lunar Liner" cup rocket and a new cup rocket under construction, and a 2-stage Estes Renegade.
* Ted Cochran brought his Estes Interceptor-E and an ARC parallel-staged rocket.  The ARC rocket had a successful first flight in September on four A8-3 and one D12-3 motors.
* Alan Estenson brought his "2008 Halloween Rocket" (made from a $1 Walmart flashlight) and his Solar Warrior inspired goony, the "Solar Goon".

*(Alan Estenson)*

**December 2008 Holiday Party (1/2/2009)**

On Friday evening, December 19, more than 30 MASA-ites gathered at the Chaska Community Center in the Sun Room for the annual club holiday party.  There were all sorts of potluck goodies to eat.  Plus, rockets and mementos to look at.  The party started around 6pm and ended around 9pm.

A big thanks to Lyle Merdan for arranging the use of the room!  Thanks to everyone who attended!

The annual MASA gift exchange game was once again a fun time with more than 20 people participating.

**2008 MASA Year in Review**

* MASA's 10th Anniversary Year!
* 9 meetings plus the summer picnic and winter holiday party.  Thanks to the meeting presenters:  Glen Overby, David Whitaker, Todd Schweim, and Rick Vatsaas
* Thanks to all the TARC mentors!
* 12 club launches in 2008: 903+ flights, 1005+ engines burned, 22,136 N-s of total impulse.  The total number of MASA flights to date is over 9,000!
* MASA donated rockets to NARAM 50 for the "Fly-It / Take-It".  Thanks to Carol Marple for organizing.  We'll also be donating rockets in 2009 for NARAM 51.
* The LAC trophy for best NAR section newsletter was awarded to the MASA Planet.  BIG thanks to editor Jeff Taylor!  (Jeff brought the trophy to display at the party.)
* Four MASA members - Caleb Boe, Carol Marple, Jeff Taylor, and Mark Thell built Saturn 1b's for the Apollo 7 40th Anniversary event.  Caleb and Carol got theirs back because they were selected as two of the best three rockets at the event.  Congratulations!  (Caleb and Carol both brought their Saturn 1b's to display at the party.)
* Thanks to those who organized and ran contests at club launches in 2008:  Buzz McDermott, Andy Heren, and Art Gibbens.
* NARCON 2008!  For the second year in a row, MASA hosted the national convention.  The core staff were Carol Marple, Jeff Taylor, Mark Thell, Ted Cochran, Alan Estenson, David Donovan, and Andy Heren.  Thanks also to everyone who helped out at the convention!

**2008 MASSY Awards**

Following MASA tradition, club president Alan Estenson presented a few awards and thank-you's.

A thank-you to Rick Vatsaas for his work as Secretary/Treasurer.  Rick was presented with a framed art print of a vintage-style rocket.

A thank-you to Jeff Taylor for his work as MASA Planet editor.  Jeff was presented with a framed enlargement lift-off photo of his 2008 kitbash rocket.

A thank-you to Carol Marple for her work as Vice President and her stupendous job as NARCON 2008 Director.  Carol was presented with a framed photo of her with Vern & Gleda Estes and a certificate of appreciation.

**Rocketeer of the Year - presented to Caleb Boe**.  Simply put, Caleb had quite the year.  He was at pretty much every MASA event.  He was an active TARC team member.  He went to his first-ever NARAM and brought home some impressive medals - including a 1st in B-division R&D.  Plus, he was part of the exclusive group who built Saturn 1b's for the Apollo 7 40th Anniversary, and the even more exclusive group who got their rockets back!  Caleb was presented with a framed certificate of appreciation, and an Apollo launch vehicles poster.  Congratulations!

Two Prang Awards were presented to the unlucky winners:

* **Honorary Prang Award:  Mark Thell, for his CATO of a vintage Estes 2-stage Omega / Cineroc at NARAM 50, right in front of Vern Estes (and everyone else)!**
* **Prang of the Year Award:  Lyle Merdan's FlisKits "Frick -n- Frack" on C6-0 to C6-0 at the August launch.**  Lyle launched this 2-stage saucer as part of the annual Great UFO Drag Race.  It ignited, boosted, turned horizontally into the 10mph wind, staged, and powered itself into the ground right at the flight line (suffering minor damage).  In honor of this recognition, Lyle received the traveling Prang Trophy (a copy of the William Shatner Estes video and the rocket sand pail set) to hold for 2009.

[Mark Thell says "Thanks for the "honorary" PRANG award. You mentioned that I CATOed my rocket in front of Vern Estes himself.  I asked Vern to push the button for me.  I had nothing to do with the damn thing CATOing !!!!!  Vern came up to me later and said he was sorry that it happened.  LOTS of other folks said the same thing."]

**Free Door Prizes**

* **(The following prizes were donated by Hub Hobby Center.)**
* Ethan Erpelding - Estes Der Red Max kit
* Dwayne Shmel - Estes Rock-It kit
* Cindy Whitaker - Revell Nike Hercules plastic model kit
* Nancy Schaffhausen - Estes ARV Condor kit
* Matthias Gibbens - Estes Sizzler kit
* Ted Cochran - Estes Nova Payloader kit
* Jeff Taylor - FlisKits Over Drive kit
* Alyssa Taylor - Semroc My Boid kit
* Philip Gibbens - Semroc My Boid kit
* Kathy McDermott - Quest QT Glider
* Carol Marple - DynaStar 36" parachute
* Renee Gibbens - pack of Estes B6-4 engines
* David Whitaker - pack of Quest B6-4 engines
* David Schaffhausen - pack of Quest B6-4 engines
* **(The following prizes were donated by a mystery rocketeer.)**
* Art Gibbens - Quest SPEV UFO kit with C6-0 engines
* Amy Whitaker - Quest D5-0 engine
* McKenna Taylor - Estes Mosquito kit

Congratulations to the winners!  (apologies if I misspelled any names)

*(Alan Estenson)*