**2013 Meeting Reports**

**January MASA meeting – Hennepin County Plymouth Library (January 3, 2013)**

The first MASA meeting of 2013 was held at the Hennepin County Plymouth Library on January 3. A total of 13 people attended the meeting.

**Launch:**

The next regular club launch will be on Saturday, January 26, at Sunrise Park Middle School in White Bear Lake. It’s currently planned for 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., but the time might change due to the weather. Be sure to watch the email list and our website for final times.

**Meeting:**

The next meeting is planned for Thursday, February 7 at the Hennepin County Brookdale Library.  Alan Estenson will be making a presentation, "**The Nike Ajax and Nike Hercules Missiles, and their history in Minnesota"**

**2013 MASA Officers:**

Since there was only one candidate for each office, MASA tradition and precedent allowed those candidates to be placed directly into office by a majority vote of those club members present at the meeting.  (motion was made and seconded to place the three candidates directly into office)

**The 2013 MASA officers are:  President – Neal Higgins; Vice President – Jeff Taylor; Secretary/Treasurer – Chris Feld.**

Congratulations to everyone, and thank you for serving!

**Reminders & Discussion:**

* 2013 dues for new and renewing members may be paid anytime. Dues have now increased. The PDF membership application has been updated for 2013 and is available on the web site. Online / Paypal membership renewal will be available soon after Alan gets it updated for 2013.
* Membership badges for 2013 were discussed.  It was decided that Chris Feld would come up with a new design, to be submitted to the other officers for approval.
* Tripoli MN Prefect Steve Anderson had inquired whether we would be interested in changing our launch weekend from the fourth weekend of the month to the first or third weekend, so as not to launch on the same day as Tripoli Southern MN. It was decided that we would continue with launching on the fourth weekend of the month.
* The question of whether to set up a MASA PayPal account, or to continue using Neal's was discussed. It was decided that we would continue to use Neals.

**Show -n- Tell:**

* Ken Hoyme brought his in-progress Madcow Torrent high power rocket.  It will have an electronics bay and be set up for dual deployment.
* Rick Vatsaas brought one of his scratchbuilt "cup rockets".  He also had his in-progress flying replica of the MASA logo rocket.  Most parts of it were made on a homebuilt 3D printer.
* Jeff Taylor showed his Mars Snooper scratchbuilt clone, and his in-progress ~2X upscale Mars Snooper.
* Ted Cochran brought his BIG nose cone (10.5" diameter) for his Level 3 project.  It is made from Polecat parts, will be 10 feet tall, and is planned to fly on a M2400 at the National Sport Launch this May.

**Meeting Topic:**

Those present discussed possible meeting topics, launch themes and launch contests for the year.  The 2013 schedule will be up on the web site in the near future.

 A number of meeting topics were suggested:

1. Safety Review
2. Dual Deployment
3. A presentation by Alan Estenson on the Nike Hercules missile, and the various Hercules missile launch sites in the metro area.
4. A presentation on the benefits of obtaining a HAM radio License.
5. Fire extinguisher training

"MASA Fun Night" will be held at Alan's house again.  Date TBD.

It was decided that the safety review would be split into two meetings, one to cover the RSO inspection checklist, and the second to discuss the club's current practices, and non flight safety issues, tentatively scheduled for April and June. It was also decided that Alan's Nike Hercules presentation would take place at the February meeting. No other meeting topics were finalized.

Launch themes and fun contests were discussed, it was decided that we need to get more people involved in running the fun contests.

*[Chris Feld and Alan Estenson]*

**February MASA meeting – Hennepin County Brookdale Library (February 7, 2013)**

The second MASA meeting of 2013 was held at the Hennepin County Brookdale Library on February 7. About 24 people attended the meeting.

**Launch:**

The next regular club launch will be on Saturday, February 23 from 10am to 2pm.  We will be trying out a new launching site - McMurray Field, located at Lexington and Como in St Paul.

**Meeting:**

The next meeting is planned for Thursday, March 7 at the Brookdale Library.  Rick Vatsaas will be leading an Odd-roc build session.

**Reminders & Discussion:**

* 2013 dues for new and renewing members may be paid anytime. Dues have now increased. The PDF membership application has been updated for 2013 and is available on the web site. Online / Paypal membership renewal is also available on the web site.
* Two representatives from Americorp, Community Technology Empowerment Project, were at the meeting to introduce themselves and tell us a little about their organization.

**Show -n- Tell:**

* Chris Feld brought a radio antenna that he had constructed from copper pipe.

**Meeting Topic:**

**The Nike Ajax and Nike Hercules Missiles, and their history in Minnesota** - presented by Alan Estenson
Did you know that the Twin Cities area was once protected by four Army surface-to-air missile bases?  Hosting up to 18 Nike Hercules missiles at each base, they were ready to hurl atomic warheads at attacking Soviet bomber formations.  Decommissioned in 1971, the remains of these bases can still be found in the Minnesota and Wisconsin countryside.
With accompanying photos and videos, Alan talked about the following:

* The Nike Ajax and Nike Hercules surface-to-air missiles:  their history, technical overview, and how they were deployed
* Model kits, past and present, of those missiles (both static and flyable).
* Nike missile site SF-88L near San Francisco which has been restored and is part of the National Park Service.
* The four missile bases which were arrayed around the Twin Cities from 1959 to 1971 in a "ring of supersonic steel".
* The Nike Hercules missile which is on display in a St. Bonifacius city park.
* And, in particular, missile base MS-70 near St. Bonifacius, Minnesota.

*[Alan Estenson]*

**March MASA meeting – Hennepin County Brookdale Library (March 7, 2013)**

The third MASA meeting of 2013 was held at the Hennepin County Brookdale Library on March 7.

**Launch:**

The next regular club launch will be on Saturday, March 23 from 10am to 3pm.  The location will be the Elk River / Otsego VFW soccer fields.  TARC teams welcome!  This launch falls on the final weekend to do TARC qualifying flights.

**Meeting:**

The next meeting is planned for Thursday, April 4 at the Plymouth Library.  The topic will be Safety and LCO/RSO training.

**Discussions:**

* President Neal Higgins gave a summary of NARCON; NAR membership is at an all time high, and NAR finances are in excellent shape.
* Neal Higgins also gave reports on recent outreach activities; in February, Chris Feld gave a presentation on rocketry to Boy Scout Troop 570 in Plymouth. Chris Feld, Neal Higgins, and Buzz McDermott assisted with the troop's build session. The troop held a launch on Half Moon Lake in Plymouth, for which MASA provided equipment. The launch was attended by Neal Higgins and Chris Feld.
* Neal Higgins also informed the membership that a Cub Scout group had contacted him and was interested in having us do an outreach event for them. He mentioned that this was a group of 4-5, and that they would fly their models at a regular club launch. Date, time, and location were to be determined.
* Vice President Jeff Taylor reminded the membership of MASA's Fly it-Take it program, in which the club stockpiles simple model rockets (built by members) to give to visiting children.
* Jeff Taylor also informed the membership of an upcoming presentation by John Grotzinger, who headed NASA's Curiosity mission. The presentation will be held at the Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul, on May 21st at 7:00pm.

**Meeting Topic:**

The meeting concluded with a build session led by Rick Vatsaas. Nine members built rockets of Rick Vatsaas' design, which incorporates a cardboard coffee cup, plastic lid, and a plastic wine glass.

After the meeting, Rick dubbed this rocket design the "Vente Vini Vici".

The plan is to drag race these rockets at the June MASA launch.

Courtesy of Neal Higgins, here is a [RockSim file for the Vente Vini Vici](file:///C%3A%5C%5CUsers%5C%5Crocke%5C%5COneDrive%5C%5CDesktop%5C%5CMASA%20website%5C%5COld%20website%20from%20Alan%5C%5Cmasa%5C%5Cmreports%5C%5C2013%5C%5CVente.rkt), and an [OpenRocket file](file:///C%3A%5C%5CUsers%5C%5Crocke%5C%5COneDrive%5C%5CDesktop%5C%5CMASA%20website%5C%5COld%20website%20from%20Alan%5C%5Cmasa%5C%5Cmreports%5C%5C2013%5C%5CVente4Openrocket.rkt).

Here are the details that Rick sent out in advance of the meeting:

The plan for next Thursday’s meeting is to build a Rick Vatsaas style disposable cup rocket (oh, that so needs a better name), The cost per kit is going to be $3.00,  $1.00 if you want to add an engine clip instead of friction fit motor.  The finished rocket is about the same size as an Estes Fatboy.,  so $3-$4 bucks is a pretty good deal.

Kit Details

o    Uniquely whimsical sci-fi stylingI
o    Plastic Nosecone (disposable Plastic goblet)
o    Cardboard fuselage (Disposable coffee cup, 20 oz).
o    Vacuum Formed Nosecone coupler (disposable coffee lid)
o    Cardboard centering ring
o    BT-20 Mmt
o    Eyescrew launch logs
o    Day Glo shock cord
o    Note that the kit design does not require an engine block  (you create a tape motor stop Aerotech style,  or purchase the optional engine hook
o    Kit does not include a parachute.
o    Fins are paper covered  balsa
o    Cost:  $3.00, $4.00 with engine hook

Please Bring

o    Scissors
o    Xacto knifes
o    Cutting surface
o    Straight edge
o    Masking Tape
o    White or wood glue

*[Chris Feld]*

**April MASA meeting – Hennepin County Plymouth Library (April 4, 2013)**

The fourth MASA meeting of 2013 was held at the Hennepin County Plymouth Library on April 4. A total of 14 people attended the meeting.

**Launch:**

The next regular club launch will be on Saturday, April 27.  The tentative location is the Nowthen sod fields - depending upon the condition of the fields.  The backup location will be the VFW soccer fields.

**Meeting:**

The next meeting is planned for Thursday, May 2 at the Hennepin County Plymouth Library.  The meeting topic will be Safety - Field layout, ground, signage and fire training.

**Reminders & Discussion:**

* 2013 dues for new and renewing members may be paid anytime.
* The 2013 FAA waiver renewal for the Nowthen sod fields is in process.
* See the [Outreach](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Crocke%5COneDrive%5CDesktop%5CMASA%20website%5COld%20website%20from%20Alan%5Cmasa%5Coutreach.htm) page on the web site for a list of upcoming Outreach events.  Additional details will be sent out on the masarocketry email list.
	+ There is an outreach event planned for April 20th for a cub scout pack, it will involve a build session for 4-5 kids. They plan to join us at the April launch.
* Gary Stroick informed the membership that he will not be attending the April Launch. He also announced that Dale Haggert is now the L3CC member for Minnesota.
* President Neal Higgins reported that the sod farm landowner has granted permission for us to place a porta potty at the Nowthen launch site.  Neal is working on the arrangements.
* The events and date for the year's first regional contest will hopefully be announced soon.
* Alan Estenson has not yet selected a date for "MASA Family Fun Night" to be held at his house.  It will probably be in late May or early June.

**Show -n- Tell:**

* Art Gibbens showed off the Raspberry Pi that he bought.  He is contemplating uses for it.

**Meeting Topic:  Safety and RSO/LCO Training**

The planned topic for this month's meeting was the safety review, led by President Neal Higgins.

We began by reviewing the NAR's 2005 study of range safety, and concluded by covering our RSO/LCO checklist. During the review, several points were made:

* We should have a means of noting rockets that prove to be unstable in order to prevent them from being flown again before the problem is corrected.
* There was considerable discussion of the hazards arising from rockets landing in power lines. Chris Feld and Steve Hum both told stories illustrating the hazards of high voltage electricity. Chris Feld told of an incident that occurred during the construction of the Wakota bridge. An inattentive signaler signaled an equally inattentive crane operator to boom up- straight into a 350kv transmission line. The crane was a brand new Grove all terrain crane. The contact with the line rendered the crane inoperable, and left every component of it unsalvageable. The boom had to be torched off, and the crane had to be pushed onto a trailer by a bulldozer. **If contact with a transmission line will do all that to a piece of heavy machinery, it will certainly make quick work of a human being**. Steve Hum told about various videos he had veiwed on the Cooper Electric website, that showed the hazards of arc flash. In addition to the potential for electrocution and burns, high voltage arcs can send objects flying. According to Steve, several of the videos showed electricians being thrown considerable distances by arcing. **The membership was asked to immediately report any rocket they see hanging from a powerline**. The membership was also reminded that if any rocket on a powerline is hanging low enough to be reached from the ground, a person must remain in attendance to ensure that no unauthorized persons attempt to remove it.
* It was suggested that we have a siren or air horns to use in heads up situations, and that we take steps to prevent overuse.
* Steve Hum told a story of an RSO inspection he performed several years ago. As he was checking the rocket, he found that the nose was too loose. As a result, he refused to allow the rocket to fly, until the problem was corrected. Rather than correcting the problem, the flier proceeded to argue for about five minutes. At this point, Steve reminded the flier that the RSO's descisions are final. **The membership was reminded that this can happen while acting as RSO, and that the RSO has better things to do than argue with fliers about safety decisions.**
* It was suggested that we publically post the address of the launch site, so it can be given by anyone calling 911.
* It was asked whether we have a first aid kit, and people trained and certified in first aid/CPR. We have a first aid kit, and several members indicated that they had received training, but that their certifications were not current.
* It was suggested that we obtain an AED, it was decided that it would be too costly at this time.
* **The membership was reminded that when they call heads up, that they should point to the hazard.**
* **The membership was reminded that rockets using electronic deployment should not be armed until they are on the pad in the launch position.**
* It was suggested that we provide distinctive headgear for designated experts, who would be available to assist newcomers.

[PDF of the updated MASA RSO & LCO checklists.](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Crocke%5COneDrive%5CDesktop%5CMASA%20website%5COld%20website%20from%20Alan%5Cmasa%5Cfiles%5CRSO_LCO_checklists_2013.pdf)  (Recommended reading for ALL MASA members - not just those who serve RSO & LCO duty!)

*[Chris Feld and Alan Estenson]*

**May MASA meeting – Hennepin County Plymouth Library**

The fifth MASA meeting of 2013 was held at the Hennepin County Plymouth Library on May 2. A total of 9 people attended the meeting.

**Launch:**

The next regular club launch will be on Saturday, May 18 at the Nowthen sod fields (field conditions permitting).  This is one week earlier than normal.

**Meeting:**

Watch the web site for details on the June meeting.

**Reminders & Discussion:**

* See the [Outreach](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Crocke%5COneDrive%5CDesktop%5CMASA%20website%5COld%20website%20from%20Alan%5Cmasa%5Coutreach.htm) page on the web site for a list of upcoming Outreach events.  Additional details will be sent out on the masarocketry email list.
* The annual MASA Summer Regional Contest will be held on June 1 and 2.  Info will be posted on the web site soon.

**Show -n- Tell:**

* Gary Stroick talked about his experiences with USLI, mentoring several teams, and the trip to Huntsville.
* Several rockets were shown - SpaceX Falcon 9, Estes 2.6" V2, and an Estes Leviathan modified for H motors.

**Meeting Topic:**

*[Alan Estenson]*

**June MASA meeting – Hennepin County Ridgedale Library (June 6, 2013)**

The sixth MASA meeting of 2013 was held at the Hennepin County Ridgedale Library on June 6. A total of ?? people attended the meeting.

**Reminders & Discussion:**

I kicked off the meeting with some upcoming events announcements.
1) The Summer regional was postoned to the 15th & 16th.
2) Eden Prairie Pack 348 launch on June 13th from 6 to 8pm at Eden Prairie High School.
3) Pack 9005 of Woodbury launch at St. Ambrose on June 19th from 6 to 8pm.
4) And lastly the Regular June launch on June 22nd.

Gary Stroick brought up the Scout Camp launch near Annandale. I don't recall the times or dates.

**Meeting Topic:**

**Ted Cochran talked about his Level 3 high power project.  Ted successfully flew his stretched Polecat Goblin (10 inch diameter, almost 10 feet tall, 56 pounds GTOW) to 6,000 feet on an M2400T motor at the National Sport Launch on Memorial Day weekend, 2013.  It reached an altitude of 5985 feet AGL.**

[**YouTube video of the flight**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6ZF35xMVd0)

[**Short YouTube video of the main ejection charge ground test**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtueJc5b9x4)

[**Short YouTube video of the apogee ejection charge ground test**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYUxOCKD0mA)

[**Gerald Meux's photo album from NSL, with many shots of Ted's rocket**](https://picasaweb.google.com/100407756744853308407/NSL2013PuebloCO)

[**Carol Marple's photo album from NSL, with many shots of Ted's rocket**](https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10151468165627321.1073741826.723597320&type=1&l=c7498197c6)

[**Glen Overby's photo album from NSL**](https://plus.google.com/photos/111537531521989178225/albums/5882145890421089345)

According to Neal, "Ted Talked.  We all oohed and aahed."



*[Neal Higgins]*

**July MASA meeting – Neal's Garage o' Launch Equipment Fixin' (July 9, 2013)**

On the evening of July 9, several MASA members gathered at the home of MASA President Neal Higgins for an equipment clean-up/repair night.

Launch rods and clips were cleaned.  Equipment and the trailer were organized.  Pads were fixed.

*[Alan Estenson]*

**MASA summer picnic 2013 (August 3, 2013)**

Around 30 MASA members gathered on Saturday, August 3rd, at the [Elk River & Rogers VFW post](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Crocke%5COneDrive%5CDesktop%5CMASA%20website%5COld%20website%20from%20Alan%5Cmasa%5Celkriver.htm)  for the [16th annual MASA summer picnic.](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Crocke%5COneDrive%5CDesktop%5CMASA%20website%5COld%20website%20from%20Alan%5Cmasa%5Cnews%5C2013%5C2013-02.htm)

It was a nice, sunny day without being too hot.  There was a breeze out of the north  The rocket launch went from 3 until 5pm, followed by eating, conversation, and door prizes.

There was an enormous quantity of delicious food and picnic treats.  Art Gibbens did stellar duty as Fabulous Grill-Meister.  Thanks Art!

Thanks to MASA President Neal Higgins and VP Jeff Taylor for organizing the picnic and hauling tons of stuff to the VFW!

Thanks to everyone who brought all the delicious food!  I don't think that anyone went home hungry.  Thanks to Neal for his Conflagration Corn Cookery!

**Launchin!**

This was also an official MASA launch.  Launching began about 3:00 pm and ended just after 5:00 pm.  The [launch report](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Crocke%5COneDrive%5CDesktop%5CMASA%20website%5COld%20website%20from%20Alan%5Cmasa%5Clreports%5C2013%5C2013-07.htm) tells that side of the story.

**Prizes!**

After everyone had eaten far too much, drawings were held for the free "door" prizes.  Thanks to all the businesses and individuals who donated prizes!

Here's the list of the prize winners:  *[apologies for any misspelled names!]*

Group 1 (Age 14 and under) PrizeWinners:

* Provided by MASA
	+ Lance Murphy - Estes Sky Twister kit
	+ Jennifer Jones - Semroc April Dancer kit
	+ Victor Beckius - Estes Hi-Flier kit
	+ Ellen Beckius - Quest Astra 3 kit

Group 2 (Age 15 and up) Prize Winners:

* Donated by Hub Hobby Center, Little Canada
	+ Julie Hoyme - FlisKits Proxima Centauri kit
	+ Alissa Taylor - DynaStar Rising Star kit
	+ Neal Higgins - DynaStar Orion kit
	+ William Inboden - Aerotech G40-7 motor
	+ Stuart Lenz - Jolly Logic AltimeterOne
* Donated by various and anonymous sources
	+ Sue Jones - Wood filler & Titebond glue
	+ Ted Cochran - a pack each of Estes A8-3, B6-4, and C6-5 motors

*(Alan Estenson)*

**September MASA meeting – Hennepin County Brookdale Library (September 5, 2013)**

The September, 2013 MASA meeting was held at the Hennepin County Brookdale Library on September 5.  10 people were in attendance.  MASA VP Jeff Taylor led the meeting.

**Launch:**

The next regular club launch is scheduled for Saturday, September 28.

**Meeting:**

The next meeting is planned for Thursday, October 3.

**Discussions:**

* MASA could use more rockets for the Fly-It, Take-It box.  FITI rockets are kept on hand at MASA launches.  Visiting kids may pick out a rocket, are provided with an engine, get to fly it and take it home.  If you would like to build and donate any FITI rockets, please keep them fairly simple and make sure that they can fly on an "A" motor.
* The annual outreach event to help Cub Scouts in Lino Lakes build and fly rockets will be coming up in October.  More details will be sent out on the email list.  Alan Estenson will be coordinating this outreach.
* Air Horn Etiquette.  MASA has purchased a small handheld air horn for use by the range safety personnel at launches.  Please remember that it should only be blown in circumstances where there is a strong risk of injury to people.  Blowing it every 17 seconds will just result in everyone ignoring it!
* If a "Heads up!" is called, everyone who can see the rocket should point to it. That will help others in the area locate the rocket and take appropriate action.
* The NAR Board of Trustees has adopted a policy that, on NAR ranges, the default launch guide angle shall be 5 degrees (approximately one inch per foot of launch guide) away from spectators. For local conditions and specific rockets, this angle may be reset at the discretion of the RSO.  MASA will be following this policy.
* NARAM 56 will be held July 26 to August 1, 2014 in Pueblo Colorado.
* Gary Stroick reminded us of a big Cub Scout event coming up in central Minnesota on October 5.  More help with this big outreach event is needed!
* The 2nd annual Harvest Regional Contest is planned to coincide with the MASA September launch.  Jon Stenberg will be the Contest Director.  More details will be published on the MASA web site ASAP.  Planned events are:  A SD, 1/2A BG D, B RG D, A HD MR, and random duration.

**Show -n- Tell:**

* Alan Estenson brought a small E-flite radio controlled sailplane, the [UMX ASK-21 BNF](http://www.e-fliterc.com/Products/Default.aspx?ProdID=EFLU1280).  This model is currently on clearance (at Hub Hobby and other places) at half of its normal price.  Alan has ideas about boosting it up as a parasite glider attached to a large rocket.

**Presentations:**

* **Jeff Taylor gave a presentation and demonstration of the**[**Silhouette Cameo**](http://www.silhouetteamerica.com/shop/silhouette-cameo)**.**This electronic cutting machine is often used for scapbooking purposes, but Jeff uses it for things like cutting paint masks for rockets.  Jeff gave a demonstration of cutting out flame shaped paint masks on frisket film.  The machine can cut things like paper, cardstock, vinyl, and fabric.  The machine and accessories is available from many sources, including [Amazon](http://www.amazon.com/Silhouette-Cameo-Electronic-Cutting-Tool/dp/B005Y1CPSU).
* **Chris Feld gave a presentation on fire extinguishers and fire suppression.**

*[Alan Estenson]*

**November MASA meeting – Hennepin County Brookdale Library (November 14, 2013)**

The November, 2013 MASA meeting was held at the Hennepin County Brookdale Library on November 14.  12 people were in attendance.

**Launch:**

The next regular club launch is scheduled for Saturday, November 23.  It will be at the Elk River / Otsego VFW soccer fields.  Remember to bring your "snowballs" for the Snowball Fight drag race!

**Holiday Party:**

The MASA Holiday Party will be on Saturday, December 7 at Bailey Nursey in Newport.  [Click on this link for all of the party info!](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Crocke%5COneDrive%5CDesktop%5CMASA%20website%5COld%20website%20from%20Alan%5Cmasa%5Cnews%5C2013%5C2013-06.htm)

**2014 MASA Officer Nominations:**

Nominations opened for 2014 club officers.  For the current list of nominees / candidates, [please follow this link!](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Crocke%5COneDrive%5CDesktop%5CMASA%20website%5COld%20website%20from%20Alan%5Cmasa%5Cnews%5C2013%5C2013-05.htm)

**Discussions:**

* MASA could use more rockets for the Fly-It, Take-It box.  FITI rockets are kept on hand at MASA launches.  Visiting kids may pick out a rocket, are provided with an engine, get to fly it and take it home.  If you would like to build and donate any FITI rockets, please keep them fairly simple and make sure that they can fly on an "A" motor.
* A discussion was held on the possibility of having more official volunteer positions within MASA.  One suggestion was to have a Club Safety Officer.  Discussions about this idea will continue in January.
* Neal is looking for nominations for the 2013 Prang Award.  If you remember some "suitable" flights from this year, please send Neal an email!
* MASA is expecting to receive some NAR Safety Grant money to pay for the PA system equipment replacements/upgrades that were made this summer.
* Lost rockets - find 'em!  It's important not to leave lost rockets out in crop fields - especially the bigger rockets.  If they get swallowed up by a combine at harvest time, they could cause significant damage!

**Nowthen Field Status:**

* [(see this page for background info)](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Crocke%5COneDrive%5CDesktop%5CMASA%20website%5COld%20website%20from%20Alan%5Cmasa%5Cnews%5C2013%5C2013-04.htm)
* Summary - the use of the field is still in "limbo", but we are optimistic that things can be worked out in time for next year's flying season.
* In late October, Neal Higgins and Ted Cochran, along with members of the R/C flying club, met with a member of the Nowthen city council.  The city council member presented information in regards to how the city works and some of the other issues that they are dealing with as the city grows.  He talked about the possibilities of use permits, limits to the hours of operation, and possible signage and ordinances.
* The R/C club members stated that they would take steps to curtail noise levels in the future.  They did not like the idea of limiting hours of operation since they have some members with illuminated aircraft for night flying.  They stated that their club could not fund high cost permits.
* MASA presented information about the NAR, our safety record, insurance, and outreach events (including with Nowthen Cub Scouts).  We relayed that we have been flying on the field for 9 years and ~6,000 flights.  We have never had any safety problems, complaints, or issues with the sod farm owner or surrounding land owners.
* The city council member wants to reach a resolution agreeable to all parties.  This process will likely take some months.
* As a backup, we discussed the possibility of using the same sod farm near North Branch as Tripoli Minnesota and/or having more combined launches with them.  Also, if MASA members have any suggestions for new flying field locations, please let the club officers know about them!

**Show -n- Tell:**

* Sean Flynn - showed a scratchbuilt rocket of his own design.  It has unusual fins made from curved 1/32" plywood.  The rocket is 24mm minimum diameter.
* [nuts, I forgot your name!  Sorry.  :-( ] - showed a scratchbuilt 3-motor cluster rocket of his own design.  This inspired some discussion about the use of booster motors in the side pods.
* Jonathan Sullivan - showed an Estes V2.  He used decals from Excelsior and added a baffle.
* Alan Estenson - showed the new Estes Pro-Series II "Ascender" kit.  He also brought the booster stage that Estes sells to fit these kits and a package of the new Estes 29mm black powder E16 motors.

*[Alan Estenson]*

 **2013 MASA Holiday Party**

On Saturday evening, December 7, many MASA members gathered at Bailey's Nursery in Newport for the annual club holiday party.  There was plenty of food to eat and holiday treats to enjoy.

Thanks to everyone who came to the party and for all of the great food. MASA supplied turkey and ham as well as beverages.

Thanks to Art for setting up the party and for getting us access to the Bailey Nursery meeting room for the event. The room and setup worked out great for the party.

The music played, a year's worth of photo's showed on the screen while all who were there mingled and talked. The food was ready and we all sat down to very good meal.

The annual MASA gift exchange game was once again a popular activity with nearly all the attendees participating.  As usual, there were a couple "hot ticket" items that changed hands a few hundred times.

***2013 MASA Year in Review***

* 2013 is coming to a close and despite a few problems with the weather and the temporary loss of the Nowthen field I think it turned out to be a pretty good year.
* A big thanks to VP Jeff Taylor for all you did this year.
* Thanks Chris Feld for your service as Secretary/Treasurer this past year.
* A really big thank you Alan Estenson for all your great work on the website and all of the stats you keep.
* Thanks Andy Heron for the great job on the Planet this past year.
* Thanks Mike Erpelding and Jon Stenberg for all the work you did to get the 2 contests planned and run so smoothly.
* Thanks to everyone who helped out with all of the outreach events, party planning, launch range setup and tear down and especially to those that volunteered for LCO/RSO duty. Without all of the help the club would not run as nearly as smoothly as is does.
* Congratulations to Sean Flynn & Jon Isom on your successful Level 1 certifications
* Congratulations to Michael Farrell on your successful Level 2 certification.
* We had a total of 6 club launches, 2 contests and 1 special launch held in October with Tripoli at North Branch.
* The 6 launches had a total of 640 flights, 703 motors, a total impulse of 18,328.25 N-s at a cost of $4119.
* All of the stats can be found on the MASA website under the Launch Report tab. Thanks again Alan.
* The field loss came to a shock to all us but we hope to be back and flying at Nowthen next year. Ted Cochran and I presented our case to the Nowthen City Council and they have taken all of the information under advisement.  As of today there has not been any more news to report but we feel that some kind of settlement will be reached and that we should get back to flying in Nowthen in 2014. If for reason we do not we will do our best to find a new field.

***2012 MASSY Awards***

Following MASA tradition, club president Neal Higgins presented a few special awards.

* Prolific Flyer – Michael Farrell with a total of 64 flights at MASA launches
* Prolific Burner of Total Impulse – Allan Grover - a total of 2744 N-s in only 4 flights.
* Design of the Year – Rick Vatsaas for his great work on the 3D printed MASA logo rocket. This replaced the Prang award because Jeff and I felt it promoted unsafe flying. Rick was not present to accept the award but through emails he has accepted the award and assured me the Rocket Pail will fly someday.
* Ted Cochran for his successful Level 3 certification and for his work as NAR Presisdent. He was presented with a certificate and a MicroMaxGoblin for his next project. This was a scaled down version of his L3 rocket
* Outstanding Outreacher – Art Gibbens for his great work in Cross Lake.
* and lastly Jeff presented me with the award certificate for the "Guy We Need The Most".

**Free Door Prizes**

Here's the list of the prize winners:  *[apologies for any misspelled names!]*

Group 1 (Age 14 and under) PrizeWinners:

* Provided by MASA
	+ Darian LaRose - Quest Totally Tubular kit
	+ Ryan Flynn - Quest Full Betty kit
	+ Jennifer Jones - Fliskits Long Overdue kit
	+ Ethan Erpelding - Custom Fiesta kit
	+ Davis [?] - Semroc Mini Optima kit
	+ Jace Flansburg - Estes A3-4t engines
	+ Jaden Flansburg - Quest Courier kit
	+ Blake Grover - Custom Aztec kit

Group 2 (Age 15 and up) Prize Winners:

* Donated by Hub Hobby Center, Little Canada
	+ Sean Flynn - Estes D-Region Tomahawk kit
	+ Jenny Baechler - Estes E12-6 engines
* Provided by MASA
	+ Alyssa Taylor - Estes F15-8 engines
	+ Alan Estenson - Estes C6-5 engines
	+ Jeff Jones - Estes Trajector kit
	+ Brian LaRose - Estes F15-4 engines

Congratulations to the winners!  (apologies for any misspelled names)

[Neal Higgins and Alan Estenson]