**January 2014 MASA meeting – Ramsey County Roseville Library (January 2, 2014)**

The January 2014 MASA meeting was held on January 2, 2014 at the Roseville Library. 14 people were in attendance.

**Launch:**

The next regular club launch is scheduled for Saturday, January 25. It will be held in St. Paul @ McMurray Field (near the Como pool).

**Upcoming Events:**

* 1/23 – Countryside Elementary outreach opportunity, 6 – 8 pm. Display with rockets, plus a few club members to talk about rocketry. Neal is the contact.
* 2/12 – STEM conference at the Mpls Convention Center. MASA member Todd Carpenter said his company Adventium/Andamio Games might have a booth and we could participate with a rocket display. Todd is the contact.
* NARCON – in Cocoa Beach
* NSL – in Muskegon, MI
* NARAM 56 – in Pueblo, CO
* FiTi program – MASA will be participating in the NARAM 56 FiTi program. Carol will be coordinating this effort. Watch for an announcement on the MASA Yahoo group.
* TARC program – needs volunteers.

**2014 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 2014 MASA officers are:  President – Neal Higgins; Vice President – Jeff Taylor; Secretary/Treasurer – Carol Marple.**

Congratulations to everyone, and thank you for serving!

**Discussions:**

* It’s time to renew your membership dues. You can renew online using PayPal, or mail your application to the club treasurer.
* Meetings – consensus is to keep the meetings on the 1st Thursday of the month.
* Launches – will remain on the 4th Saturday of the month (with a few normal exceptions due to holidays). The group discussed the option of determining a method for consistently rescheduling launches due to weather-related cancellations. Suggestions were to plan a reschedule for the following day (Sunday), then the following Saturday/Sunday.
* 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. (we could also use motor donations)
* Nowthen field status - there is no new news. (See notes from the Nov meeting).

**Show -n- Tell:**

* Sean Flynn – showed a rocket called “WTF” (Where’s the Front?”) which has a nose cone on each end.
* Alan Estenson – offered a number of old National Geographic magazines (many containing space-related articles) to the members at the meeting.

**Meeting Topic Suggestions:**

* January – Officer elections and 2014 planning
* February - Rocket simulation programs – presented by Gary Stroick.  (Meeting is planned for 2/6/14 at the Plymouth Library meeting room.)
* March - Safety review, including RSO/LCO training and MSDS discussion
* April - Electronics / dual deploy
* May – Contest prep discussions or TARC presentations (ask local teams to present as a practice run for the TARC presentations)
* June – HPR certification prep and Q&A
* July – no meeting due to the picnic
* August - Airbrushing techniques (presented by Jeff Taylor)
* September – need topic and presenter
* October - Ky Michelson tour
* November – need topic and presenter
* December – no meeting due to the holiday party

Additional possible topics

* Staging / Air starts / Clusters
* 3D printing
* Steampunking rockets
* Making your own igniters

Suggestions for launch themes, contests, and events:

* Helicopter recovery
* Micromaxx                              (May)
* Clusters                                   (June)
* Kitbash                                    (Picnic in July)
* Commanche-3 Drag Race     (August)
* Staging                                    (August)
* OctoberFast                            (October)
* Snowball fight                         (November)
* Crayon rockets
* Oddrocs

Additional ideas:

Upscale/downscale - rockets that are resized from childhood classics

Themes around specific manufacturers – Semroc, Estes, Flis, Quest, etc.

Themes around odd colorations - Fluorescent rockets - or tie died ones in honor of Neal

We are 50 years after 1964 - first Gemini flight was that year (though unmanned - first manned was 1965)

*[Carol Marple]*

**February 2014 MASA meeting – Hennepin County Plymouth Library (February 6, 2014)**

The February 2014 MASA meeting was held on February 6 at the Plymouth Library.

**March 2014 MASA meeting (March 6, 2014)**

The March 2014 MASA meeting was held on the 6th at the Southdale Library. 13 people were in attendance.

**Special Recognition:**

The 2013 MASSY Award for Design of the Year was presented to Rick Vatsaas for his great work on the 3D printed MASA logo rocket.

**Kitbash Contest:**

Alan Estenson kicked off the 2014 MASA kitbash contest.  Quite a few people purchased the set of kits to participate.  For the contest info and rules, see

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-o7qlSszrV9Z1l1anJVdXYzaTVjbk5FWmIyU2diT2pmeGdB/edit?usp=sharing>

**Discussions:**

* Location of the March launch is TBD.
* The annual TARC launch at Apple Valley High School is planned for March 22.
* 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. (we could also use motor donations)  FITI rocket donations are also needed for NARAM this year.

**Show -n- Tell:**

* Rick Vatsaas brought his 2013 high power project.  It is based loosely on a LOC Minie Magg.  Has a tailcone and altimeter bay.  It flew on a J350 and a J240.

**Meeting Topic:**

Ted Cochran went through a safety briefing and also a State of the NAR presentation.

*[Carol Marple]*

**April 2014 MASA meeting (April 3, 2014)**

The April 2014 MASA meeting was held on the 3rd at the Brookdale Library.

**Glen Overby gave a presentation on rocket electronics and "dual deployment".**

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There seemed to be some interest, so I dumped the slides I used in this evening's presentation to pdf.  They don't include the ad-libbing, storytelling and passing around of electronic and pyrotechnic devices.

This file doesn't have my notes:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6tvUocASvkgZVBremZtM2RhZDQ/edit?usp=sharing>

This file has a second set of the slides that include my notes:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6tvUocASvkgYWlHYlFoWlpGaUU/edit?usp=sharing>

*- Glen Overby*

**May 2014 MASA Meeting – no report**

**June 2014 MASA meeting (June 5, 2014)**

The June 2014 MASA meeting was held on the 5th at the Plymouth Library. 6 people were in attendance.

**Launches:**

The Summer Solstice Evening Launch is scheduled for Saturday, June 21.  It will be held at the VFW soccer fields.

The regular June launch will be held on Saturday, June 28.  It will also be held at the VFW soccer fields.

**Discussions:**

* Neal went through a long list of many upcoming outreach events.
* Date of the MASA summer picnic is TBD.
* Many FITI kits were donated by Buzz McDermott.

**Nowthen Field Status Update:**

* Neal and Ted went through an update on the status of the effort to return to flying rockets at the Nowthen sod fields.
* Land is zoned for rural residential / agriculture.
* Need to get an IUP (Interim Use Permit) or an ordinance change.
* Have to provide $1000 in advance against fees, plus the actual IUP fee.
* Still hopeful to regain use of the field, but not likely to happen before September.
* Exploring joint ideas for high power launches with Tripoli Minnesota.

**Meeting Topic:  Clusters and Multi-Staging**

Those present held an informal discussion about rockets that use clusters of engines or multiple stages.

*[Carol Marple]*

**MASA summer picnic 2014 (August 9, 2014)**

[from the September/October 2014 issue of the MASA Planet newsletter, check out the article for photos from the picnic]

The 2014 MASA Club Picnic was held on Saturday August 9 at Columbia Park picnic shelter in Columbia Heights. Approximately 36 MASA members were in attendance on a day that alternated between sun, clouds and sporadic light drizzle.

The picnic shelter turned out to be adjacent to a nice playground that kept the little one entertained. Lawn darts (not the kind you are thinking of), sidewalk chalk, Frisbee and blowing bubbles kept a great many more of us enter-tained. A special thanks to Art and Stuart for manning the grill keeping up with the demand of burgers and hot dogs.

The picnic marked the unveiling of the 2014 KitBash Kontest, where participating members were to build anything they wanted using parts from an Estes Cosmic Explorer and Vector Force based on anything Star Trek. About a half dozen members debuted their creations at the picnic.

This is the first time the picnic has been held at that location. In past years it has seemed to me that the launch portion of the picnic is typically not well attended, so this year I had suggested that we not do a launch and instead have the picnic at a location that is more centrally located to most of the club members. In hindsight this may have been a misjudgment on my part since most members did in fact want to fly. The picnic grounds did have a tree-lined soccer field, and many members brought some Micro Max rockets, although none were flown.

After we were all fed, Neal awarded door prizes.

**Prizes!**

Thanks to 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) Prize Winners:

* Hannah Fischer - Phoenix Bird
* Jadon Beard - Photon Probe
* Ethan Erpelding - Hornet
* Amelie Isom - Photon Probe
* Darrien LaRose - Plasma Probe
* Jennifer Jones - Cosmic Explorer
* Malcolm LaRose - Payloader II
* Davis Isom - Space Eagle
* Jace Flansberg - Vector Force

Group 2 (Age 15 and up) Prize Winners:

* Trudy LaRose - Orion
* Carol Marple - E9-6 engines
* Phillip Gibbens - E16-6 Engines
* Jon Isom - Aero Dart
* Todd Carpenter - Black Star Voyager
* Art Gibbens - Minataur
* Renee Gibbens - MIRV
* Stuart Lenz - US Tog
* Holly Newton - Xarconian cruiser

*(Jeff Taylor)*

**November 2014 MASA meeting (November 4, 2014)**

The November 2014 MASA meeting was held on the 4th at the Brookdale Library. 9 people were in attendance.

**Upcoming Events:**

**MASA Holiday Party
Date:** **Saturday, January 3, 2015
Time:**  5pm to 11pm **Location:**  [Eagle Lake Community Building at Thoresen Park](http://www.maplegrovemn.gov/parks-and-recreation/pavilion-reservations/eagle-lake-community-building/), 6259 Eagle Lake Drive, Maple Grove, MN 55369**;**[**google maps link**](https://www.google.com/maps/place/6259%2BEagle%2BLake%2BDr%2C%2BMaple%2BGrove%2C%2BMN%2B55369/%4045.0702447%2C-93.4101395%2C14z/data%3D%214m2%213m1%211s0x52b337b0f1f6df71%3A0xf55c41435f0b330e?hl=en)

I am looking for 1 or 2 volunteers to help out with planning the party. If you interested in helping please let me [Neal] know.

**Meeting
Date:**  **Thursday, January 8
Time:**  7:00 to 9:00 pm **Location:**  Hennepin County Ridgedale Library, 12601 Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55305  [Google maps link](https://maps.google.com/maps?q=Hennepin+County+Library,+12601+Ridgedale+Drive,+Minnetonka,+MN+55305&hl=en&ll=44.964555,-93.439676&spn=0.005337,0.010289&sll=44.9646,-93.440182&sspn=0.021346,0.041156&hq=Hennepin+County+Library,+12601+Ridgedale+Drive,+Minneto)
The meeting will be held in the Ridgedale RHR (Robert H. Rohlf) meeting room on the first floor.
**Topic: Officer Elections & 2015 Schedule Planning**

**2015 National Events**

* NARCON – Feb 20-23, 2015 – Seattle, WA
* NSL – May 23-25, 2015 – Orangeburg, SC
* NARAM57 – July 25-31, 2015 – Tucson, AZ
* TARC Finals – May 9, 2015 – The Plains, VA
	+ Sean Flynn has 1 team that has already had 1 qualifying flight.
	+ Art Gibbens informed me that Hope Christian Academy will not have a team this year.

**2015 MASA Officer Nominations:**

Nominations opened for 2015 club officers.  Nominations will remain open until the end of the 2014 Holiday Party. Nominations can be made by email or to me at any upcoming launch or meeting.

The current officers are:

* President – Neal Higgins
* VP – Jeff Taylor
* Treasurer – Carol Marple

[Click here to see the 2015 officer nominations.](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Crocke%5COneDrive%5CDesktop%5CMASA%20website%5COld%20website%20from%20Alan%5Cmasa%5Cnews%5C2014%5C2014-02.htm)

**Discussions:**

* The FITI box is on need of more rockets. I brought a bunch of kits for members to take and build. There are a still a few left. I will have them with at the next launch. Jeff Taylor also has a dozen or so Alpha kits from Ken Jarosch that need building. Last year Sean Flynn donated a kit that was painted white and with it a pack of markers so the kid could decorate it themselves. That is a great idea for those of us who are terrible at painting.
* With the loss of the Fricke field we are now on the lookout for a new launch field. We will be checking with Nowthen residents now that we have the ordinance changed. We are also going to look at other sod farms in and around the metro area.
	+ On Monday I spoke with the Nowthen City Offices about our escrow money that we paid in for the IUP/Ordinance change. I was told at that time that all charges were accounted for and that we would be receiving a $904 refund. The plan is to fully reimburse all of members who donated to the cause.
	+ **[UPDATE]  I received a call from the City of Nowthen today and it turns out that the final invoice for the IUP charges had not been sent out to me. There were an additional $1167.00 charges for the zoning ordinance rewrite. This means we still owe the city an additional $263.00. The MASA leadership will be discussing this and coming up with a plan on how best to handle the extra charges and how to reimburse the members who donated the extra funds for the Nowthen issue.**

**Thanks for understanding.**

* Jeff Jones brought up the idea that MASA should not focus so heavily on the HPR field but adjust our focus on outreach especially in ways to get more girls involved in the sport. A few suggestions were the upcoming Girls in Science event at the Science Museum on the 15th, helping groups build payloads for ULA flights, assisting with USLI teams, etc. A lively discussion ensued and in the end we all agreed that MASA does a great job with outreach but can find more ways to get our name out there so we will be asked to help. I think in the end we all agreed we still need a field capable of at least G motors but that HPR is probably necessary to keep some members interested in MASA.
* Todd Carpenter was asked if MASA would be interested in returning to the STEM Expo in 2015 and I brought up this at the meeting. I know of 1 teacher who after the expo earlier this year has incorporated rockets into her curriculum with help from MASA. We all felt this is a great event and I have told Todd to let them know we would like to return.
2015 MPS STEM and Career Exploration Expo, Wednesday Feb 11th, 8am to 4pm, Minneapolis Convention Center, Exhibit Hall B

**Meeting Topic:  Silhouette Cameo**

Brian LaRose gave a great presentation on the Silhouette Cameo cutter. He showed us all the use of the design software and how he has translated band, car and other logos into cut patterns. He also let us see the machine in use as it cut out his Starman logo out of vinyl. Lastly he showed us how to transfer this cutout onto the rocket using a couple tools and the transfer paper. The Silhoutte software is available to download for free and use. With this you can design your own decals and for a fee Brian would be willing to cut them for you. If you have any questions send to them to the MASA email and I am sure Brian, Jeff or anyone else with the Silhouette would answer them for you.

Great presentation Brian and thanks for giving it.

*[Neal Higgins]*