

2006 NAR Medium Section of the Year

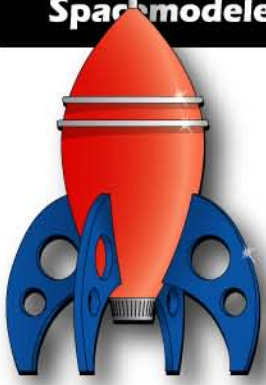
2007 NAR Medium Section of the Year

MASA

Planet

Minnesota Amateur
Space Modeler Association

Special Edition
April 2008



mn-rocketry.net

MASA

Established January 1998
NAR Section 576



NARCON 2008 Special Edition

NARCON 2008

Looking back / PAYING FORWARD

MASA Section 576 Hosts NARCON 2008

NARCON 2008 was held at the Kahler Grand Hotel in Rochester, Minnesota from March 14 through March 16. The weekend devoted to the hobby of sport rocketry was hosted by MASA for the second year in a row. A staff of MASA members planned what they had hoped would turn out to be a great event, as the first of three National events during this historic year. 2008 marks the first 50 years of the NAR, and the 50th anniversary of the beginnings of Estes Industries.

The theme for this year's event "Looking Back / Paying Forward" was played out by hosting many events that ranged from listening to Vern and Gleda Estes reminisce about their historic early days to teaching teachers how to promote rocketry in their schools.

The event drew people from around the country, and a favorite place to be was in Vendor Hall, where prominent rocketry vendors sold their latest and greatest creations and chatted with NARCON attendees.

This Special Edition of the MASA Planet is intended to provide some details of this historic National Event.

NARCON 2008 Special Guests: Vern and Gleda Estes



NARCON 2008 Featured Event



Special Guests
**Vern & Gleda
Estes**



Founders of Estes Industries



Gleda and Vern pose by the NARCON sign



NARCON's Featured Event was a presentation on Saturday night by Special Guests Vern and Gleda Estes, the original founders of Estes Industries. Seated in front of a packed house wearing their leather flight jackets full of various patches, Vern and Gleda shared special moments with us as they retold the history of Estes Industries from its humble beginnings fifty years ago.

They shared old stories and old black and white movie clips explaining how they started the company that ultimately started this hobby. They even shared a letter from one of their daughters about what it was like as a small child "growing up Estes", and more excerpts from Vern's upcoming book, "Dear Mr. Estes". They shared stories of how Vern built Mabel (the original rocket engine machine) from whatever old parts he could find, and the chilling story of the accident in 1959 that put one of their first employees and dear friend Jim Berns in the hospital and nearly ended the hobby before it began. Many of the stories, pictures and movie clips that they had shared were never before seen or heard, which made their presentation all that more memorable and historic.

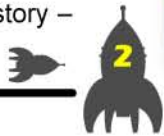
After their presentation and a standing ovation, Vern and Gleda graciously signed autographs on rockets, program books, motors, or anything else that a long line of NARCON attendees brought. Their presentation was the highlight of NARCON 2008, and they are truly two of the most down-to-earth gracious people you could ever meet. Gleda explained to Carol Marple and Jeff Taylor at lunch the next day, "We had no idea we were making history – we were just trying to make a living."



Gleda and Vern pose with MASA members
McKenna Taylor and Caroline Andrews



Gleda and Vern signing autographs



NARCON 2008 Official Program Book

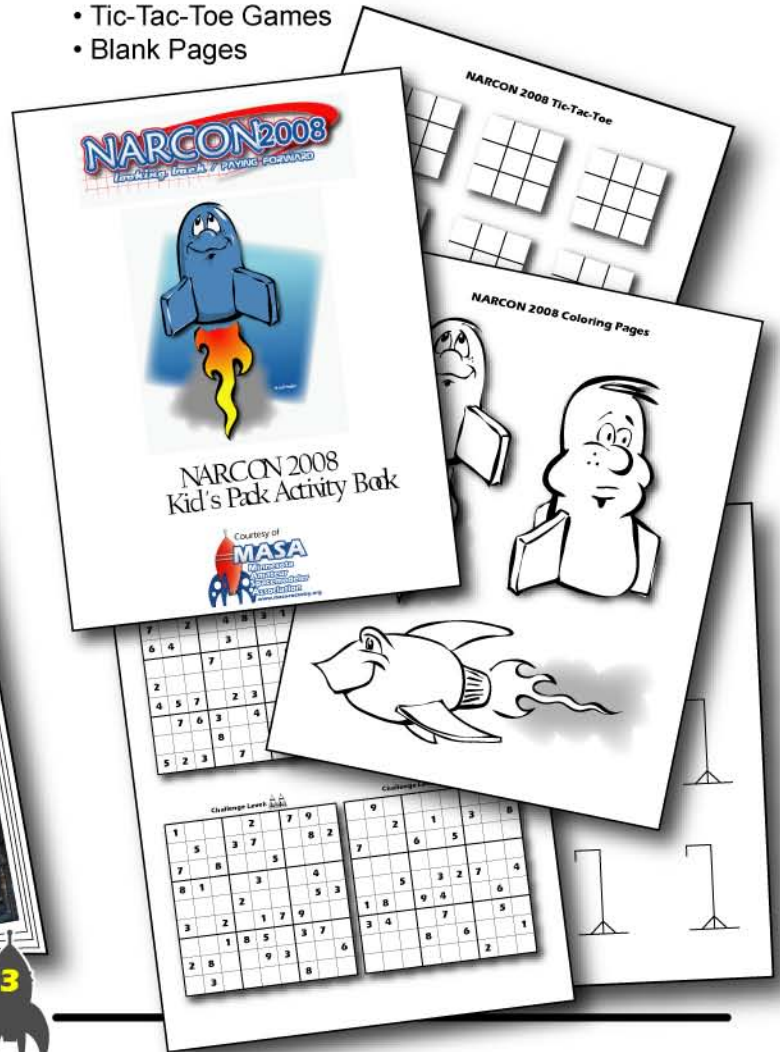
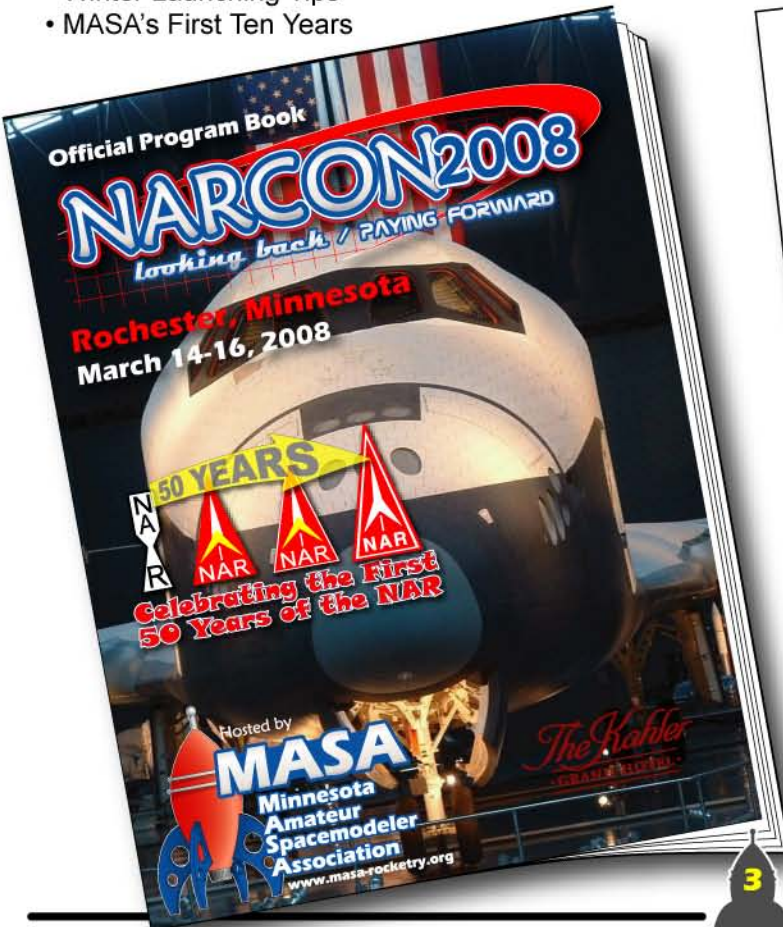
NARCON attendees received a 36 page color and black & white Official NARCON 2008 Program Book with their paid registration. The Program Book was the official guide and included everything they needed to know about NARCON 2008. The Program Book included:

- Vendor Ads
- A Welcome Letter from NARCON Event Director
- General Information about NARCON 2008
- NARCON 2008 Staff Listing
- Map of the Kahler Grand Hotel
- NARCON Event Schedule
- NARCON Event Descriptions
- Vern and Gleda Estes Bios
- Life 50 Years Ago
- Map of 2008 NAR National Events
- Excerpts from three chapters of "Dear Mr. Estes"
- List of Attending Vendors
- List of Supporting Vendors
- TSM Sport Launch Information
- Winter Launching Tips
- MASA's First Ten Years

A NARCON 2008 Original: Kid's Pack Activity Books

Thanks to Carol Marple, McKenna Taylor and Jeff Taylor, NARCON 2008 Kid's Pack Activity Books were put together to give some of the younger attendees something to do during their down time. Kid's Packs were free to anyone who wanted one, and they were available at the Registration Booth along with packs of crayons. Many adults were even seen grabbing their own copy. The Kid's Packs included:

- Sudoku Puzzles
- Hangman Games
- Word Search Games
- Word Scrambles
- Coloring Pages
- Wuzzles
- Tic-Tac-Toe Games
- Blank Pages



NARCON 2008 Sport Launch

Submitted by David Donovan

TSM Prefect



The 2008 NARCON sport launch was a beacon to summon folks with true rocketry hearts. Those rocketeers braved the elements at Maple Island to fly some birds on a 'balmy' Minnesota spring day.

The Launch started off with a nice looking X-15 by Dakota Hanson. Its first flight speared the ground with deployment issues, however, the wet ground was kind to X-15 and it found its way to the pad again.

Elsewhere in the low power flights, Andrew Allas had an Alpha that enjoyed a nice flight on a C6-5 but was hard to track after deployment and folks thought it might be sacrificed to the rocketry gods, but in a stroke of real good luck, Andrew returned to the range head with the Alpha. I think he might have lost his shoe temporarily to the gods, however they returned his shoe, his rocket, and a muddy Andrew back to the range head.

One rocket that did go missing was Carl's Arreaux, flown on a G40 white lightning. The Arreaux took off and soon lost tracking by the folks at the range head. Last sighted, it was north and perhaps a little east of the range head. Hopefully, the Arreaux might turn up by the April launch.

John Cieslak certified Level 1 in a great flight of his Mole-1 on a H123W to 2000 feet. A very fine looking flight! Congratulations!

Karen Ingmundson gave John a little competition in a flight by her Canadian Arrow on a D12 with a recovery very close to the road - which was welcomed by all flyers who didn't have to sample too much of the wet fields.

David Graper certified Level 2 with his Diablo 5.5 on a J180 to 2700 feet in a fine flight. Based on the recovery conditions, David and his Diablo were very brave in the L2 attempt and it all worked out great! David also flew his 38 Special on a H-123W in another great flight with close to road recovery.

Neal Higgins had what I would call the coolest looking rocket out at the NARCON sport launch. He had a rocket called the Vulcan X29B which looked darn cool and had an equally impressive paint scheme. After some struggling with some technical difficulties on the pad, the Vulcan did take to the air but its rear deployed chutes didn't fire as expected for a gentle recovery and the Vulcan came in hot in a very untimely end. For the effort that went into the Vulcan it seemed very unfair. Hopefully Neal will not be swayed by the unfortunate end of the Vulcan and another might rise from the ashes! Neal also had his Moya and his Tiny Pterodactyl out for flights that went much better than the Vulcan.

Scott Emkovik has his Mini BBX out for a flight on a H-165 to an expected altitude to 2000 feet. I believe the BBX needed some fin repair - hopefully any damage will be resolved for the BBX to return again to Maple Island.

Andy had a couple flights as well at the sport launch. His 'Changed' on a G64 took a tumble recover with a broken fin that can be fixed. His Paid Assassin flew on a H-128 in a nice flight.

Continued on Next Page



3M: Minnesota March Mud

Sport Launch Continued

His Ariel looked great in this shot on takeoff. Before the day was over, Andy did take the trophy home for 'Yup My rocket took a one hopper off of Dennis' SUV', luckily the luggage rails on the SUV buffered the bounce and everything worked out. Whew!

Dennis had three rockets out to the launch. Starting with the lowest power was his Polaris on a B6-4, touchingly named after a reference in the launch reminder. The Polaris found itself with a tangled chute, but looks to fly again. Raising the power level, Dennis launched his Hawks Hobby Super Sprite on a D12-5 in a nice flight with a landing close to the road. Highest in power was the Lil' Blue Nuke that Dennis flew on a F20. I believe the Nuke started very slowly off the pad and found itself a ballistic missile landing next to the road. A big thanks goes out to Dennis for his help with the amenities! The tent and the heaters he brought were very much welcomed by the cold but determined rocketeers.

Another thanks goes out to Jerry for his help as well with the launch, and complimenting his help was a great flight of his Iris on a G38. Jerry also had a great flight with his Bullseye on a H238 to 1900. Winding down the Launch, Jerry also flew his Areo Dart on a F23 in yet another fine flight.

As always, Thanks go out to everyone who helped set up and tear down the range. Also thanks to Sue and Lauri who manned the range head with foods and flight cards. It was a fun launch on a cold March day made a success by some great help! Hope to see everyone back in hopefully some warmer weather in April!



Dakota Hanson's X-15



**David Graper's L2 Cert Flight
Diablo 5.5 on anJ180**



Neal Higgins' Vulcan X29B



Jerry's Areo Dart on an F23



Andy Limper's Ariel



NARCON 2008 Presentations

The heart and soul of a NARCON are the presentations that are put on by attendees. Twenty five presentations were made at NARCON 2008 over the three days by various individuals from around the country. These included sharing ideas on techniques and other facets of rocketry. Presentations and their presenters were:

- Aerospace Careers for Mars Colonization by Earle Kyle
- Amateur Radio on the International Space Station by Will Marchant
- Building a Winning Bowling Ball Rocket using Advanced Composite Construction Techniques by Richard Hagensick
- Coalwood to the Cape: Following Homer Hickam's Footsteps by Brad and Julie Blue
- From Wacka-Wacka to Zip-Zip: A History of Radio Controlled Rocket Gliders by Mark Bundick
- Helicopter Duration by Trip Barber
- HPR Motor Magazines: Demystifying the Red Tape by John Hochheimer
- International Competition by Trip Barber
- Introduction to Electronic Recovery by Glen Overby
- Introduction to Low Power On-Board Video by Dwayne Shmel
- Introduction to Rotary Wing Aerodynamics by Joyce Ann Guzik
- Introduction to Swing Wing Rocket Gliders by Tom Pastrick
- Life in the NAR's Oval Office: One MBA's Approach to Leadership by Mark Bundick
- Modeling NASA's Ares I Crew Launch Vehicle by Vince Huegele
- NARAM Research and Development Competition: What is it like? by Joyce Ann Guzik
- ND STRIPE - North Dakota Student Rocket Initiative Project by Tim Young
- New Aerodynamic Findings for Tubefin Rocket Builders by Larry Brand
- Progress Report: Expired Motor Testing by Ted Cochran
- One Summer's Experience with Hybrids by Glen Overby & David Whitaker
- Radio Tracking of Hobby Rockets by Will Marchant
- Rookie's Introduction to Vacuum Forming by Ray King
- Safety in Sport Rocketry by Ted Cochran
- Shoebox Full of Fun: Introduction to Micro Maxx Rocketry by Chan Stevens
- Team America Rocketry Challenge by Ted Cochran
- Update on the NARHAMS Cadet Program by Jennifer Ash-Poole



Larry Brand



Dwayne Shmel



Tom Pastrick



Jennifer Ash-Poole



Mark Bundick

Ted Cochran

Congratulations Grand Prize Winners!

Numerous door prizes were handed out to lucky winners throughout the entire weekend. But Saturday night after Vern and Gleda's presentation, the Youth and Adult Grand Prizes were handed out to two VERY lucky NARCON attendees. Vern and Gleda drew names out of a box for the Grand Prize winners.

Michael Wise from Hudson, WI won the Youth Grand Prize - a huge box full of various rocket kits and accessories! The Youth Grand Prize was donated by Hub Hobby in Little Canada, MN. Thank you Hub Hobby, and Congratulations Michael!

Brad Blue from Big Lake, MN won the Adult Grand Prize - a gift certificate donated by Sheri's Hot Rockets! Brad traded in his gift certificate for Sheri's 1/48th Scale Saturn 1B kit. Thank you Sheri, and Congratulations Brad!



SHERI'S HOT ROCKETS

Thank you to all NARCON Presenters!!



NARCON 2008 Hosted Three Forums

Three open forums, including a Vendor's Forum, an Educator's Forum and an Old Rocketeer's Forum were held at NARCON 2008.

The Vendor's Forum was moderated by the NARCON Vendor Coordinator Mark Thell. Mark introduced each of the NARCON Attending Vendors after the Welcome Speech Friday night. Vendors were able to get in front of the audience and show off their stuff, including their latest released products and what they are working on for future releases.

The Educator's Forum was moderated by Vince Huegele on Saturday. Vince is the Chairman of the NAR Education Board and works at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. This forum included long-time education advocate Jim Flis and a group of 17 teachers from the Minneapolis C2C Program as well as other teachers and youth leaders. This open forum was designed to allow educators to share their ideas on how to introduce rocketry curriculum into schools and youth groups.

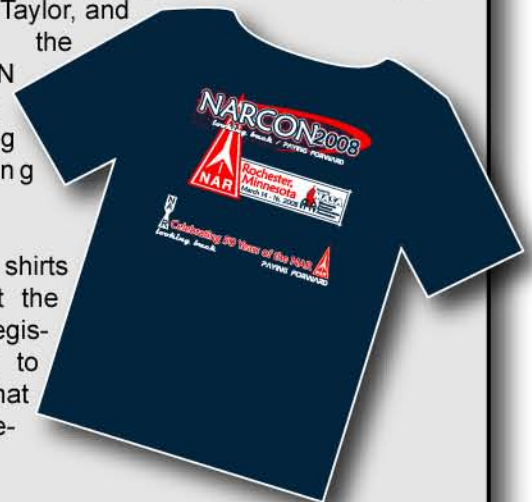
The Old Rocketeer's Forum was hosted by Bob Kaplow from Dundee, Illinois in Heritage Hall II shortly after the Educator's Forum. Bob shared much of his own personal rocketry memorabilia that he has collected from over the years with all that attended. This was truly a "looking back" event for all who attended.

NARCON 2008 Commemorative T-Shirts and Sweatshirts

NARCON attendees were able to pre-order commemorative T-Shirts and Sweatshirts prior to the event.

The navy blue Gildan® shirts with white and red silk-screening were printed by the promotional and advertising company Albrecht & Co. in Golden Valley, MN. The artwork was designed by NARCON graphic designer Jeff Taylor, and it featured the N A R C O N 2008 theme of "Looking Back/Paying Forward".

A few extra shirts were sold at the NARCON Registration Booth to attendees that did not pre-order.



Educator's Forum



Carl McLawhom
Semroc



Jim Flis
FlisKits



Bob Kaplow at the Old
Rocketeer's Forum

MASA Planet

NARCON 2008 Special Edition

Host Hotel for NARCON 2008

The Kahler

• GRAND HOTEL •

NARCON 2008 was held at the Kahler Grand Hotel in Rochester, Minnesota, which was also the site of NARCON 2007. In 2006, MASA was approached by the Rochester Chamber of Commerce asking if they would be interested in bringing a national rocketry event to Rochester, hence NARCON 2007. Because of the success of NARCON 2007 and the close working relationship between MASA and TSM, NARCON 2008 planners decided to return to the Kahler Grand for NARCON 2008. Many NARCON attendees enjoyed a discounted nightly room rate at the Kahler Grand Hotel, and were able to go from their hotel room to the convention and many food and shopping locations without ever having to go outside, which is a definite plus in Minnesota when March is still winter.

Opening in 1921 at a then-price tag of \$1.75 million dollars, the 87 year old hotel features 691 guestrooms and 25 suites, a fitness center, domed recreation area, salon, complimentary shuttle service, a selection of dining services, convenience to nearby shops and boutiques, and 24-hour room service. The Kahler Grand is right across the street and directly linked to the Mayo Clinic via a climate-controlled pedestrian subway.

NARCON events were held on the lower subway level of the Kahler Grand Hotel. Vendor Hall was located in the 2,420 square foot Heritage Hall III, and was one of the most popular places to be throughout the weekend. Welcome speeches, the Vendor's, Educator's and Old Rocketeer's Forums, Vern and Gleda's Presentation and the Make it/Take It Sessions were held next door in the 2,365 square foot Heritage Hall II. The NARCON Registration/Information Booth was set up in the foyer right outside these two great halls. Presentations were held all weekend in the three Windsor Hall rooms just around the corner. Just upstairs from the Heritage Halls was Victoria's Ristorante & Wine Bar, a favorite Italian dining location for NARCON rocketeers.

For more information on the Kahler Grand Hotel, visit www.thekahlerhotel.com



The Kahler Grand Hotel Lobby Photo from www.thekahlerhotel.com



The Kahler Grand Hotel Pool Photo from www.thekahlerhotel.com

Who's Who at NARCON 2008

Each registered attendee at NARCON received a badge to wear all weekend. Your badge was your ticket to all of the NARCON events and activities. Badges told everyone else your name, what city you are from, and your local flying club name. Badges were also color-coded for easy identification of your affiliation with NARCON. For example, the vendors had a black stripe on their badges, staff members had blue stripes, attendees were red, and one-day only badges were green.



NARCON 2008 Make It/Take it Sessions

Make It/Take It Sessions are opportunities for attendees to build model rockets at NARCON. The builders were assisted by the Make It/Take It presenter, and at the end of the session they took home their creations.

NARCON 2008 held two separate Make It/Take It Sessions, one was held for all NARCON youth, and was presented by MASA's Andy Heren. Quest Aerospace donated Starhawk kits for the youth to build. This kit is a skill level 1 rocket with streamer recovery. The 13 inch tall .79 inch diameter rocket with a single piece plastic fin can flies on A6-4 and B6-4 engines.

The second Make It/Take It Session was held for the Minneapolis C2C Teacher Group, and was presented by FlisKits' Jim Flis. FlisKits donated Pheord X-150 kits for the teachers to build. This kit is a skill level 2 flying saucer with featherweight recovery. The 3.2 inch tall "redneck" style saucer with spring loaded landing gear flies on B6-0 and C6-0 engines.

Thank you to Quest Aerospace and FlisKits for donating these wonderful kits and supporting NARCON 2008!
Thank you to Andy Heren and Jim Flis for presiding over these fabulous sessions!



NARCON youth and Quest Starhawks



Some NARCON youth preferred the squishy rocket



NARCON youth and Quest Starhawks



C2C Teachers building Flis Pheord X-150s



Finished Quest Starhawks



C2C Teacher and
Flis Pheord X-150



thank you NARCON 2008 Staff

Event Director, Facility, and Registration Coordinator

Carol Marple - MASA Vice President
carol.marple@mn-rocketry.net

Graphic Design, Program Book, and Advertising Coordinator

Jeff Taylor - MASA Member and MASA Planet
Newsletter Editor
jeff.taylor@mn-rocketry.net

Presentation Coordinator and Webmaster

Alan Estenson - MASA President
estenson@mn-rocketry.net

Vendor Coordinator and Door Prize Wrangler

Mark Thell - MASA member
mark.thell@mn-rocketry.net

Publicity and Media Relations

Ted Cochran - MASA Member/NAR Trustee
ted.cochran@mn-rocketry.net

Sport Launch Coordinator

David Donovan – TSM Prefect
ddonovan@mayo.edu

MiTi Coordinator

Andy Heren - MASA Member
andy.heren@mn-rocketry.net

Ethan Erpelding - MASA's Youngest Member



Thumbs up
and thanks to
TSM for
hosting the
NARCON
Sport Launch
and providing
the NARCON
Squishy
Rocket
Keychains

MASA would like to thank:

- Mark Bundick and Trip Barber from the NAR for giving us the opportunity to host NARCON 2008
- TSM for hosting the Sport Launch
- Vern and Gleda Estes for making NARCON 2008 so special
- All the vendors that supported NARCON
- All the presenters and attendees
- The NARCON 2008 Staff



Vern and David Donovan



John Hochheimer



Gleda, Vern and Carol

NARCON 2008 Vendor Support

Without the generous support of all the vendors, NARCON 2008 would have been nothing more than be a bunch of weird people standing around chatting about rockets. On behalf of all NARCON attendees, the planning staff would like to thank each vendor who contributed to the success of NARCON 2008.

Vendor Hall proved to be a popular place to be all weekend, and the reason for that was the fabulous vendors that traveled from near and far to attend NARCON. Attending Vendors included:

- Gary Rosenfield – AeroTech Consumer Aerospace – Utah
- Bill Saindon – Balsa Machining Services – Illinois
- Caleb and Don Boe – Chutes by Boe – Minnesota
- Jim and Kathy Flis – FlisKits – New Hampshire
- Mark Mayfield and Deb Martin (unfortunately had to cancel) – LAUNCH Magazine – New York
- Layne Pemberton (unfortunately had to cancel) – Pemberton Technologies – Arkansas
- John Dyer and Charles Russell – Red River Rocketry – Texas
- Tim Young and Tricia Johnson – Rocket Technologies – North Dakota
- Carl, Sheryl and Bruce McLawhorn – Semroc – North Carolina
- David and Evie Miller – Sirius Rocketry – Wisconsin



NARCON 2008 also had many Supporting Vendors who donated door prizes, giveaways and offered other support to NARCON. These included:

- Aerospace Specialty Products
- Apogee Components
- ARA Press
- Dr. Zooch Rockets
- Excelsior Rocketry
- Hawks Hobby
- Hub Hobby
- Madcow Rocketry
- Q Modeling
- Quest
- Sheri's Hot Rockets
- Space in Miniature
- Starlight Model Rockets



Thank You to ALL of our Vendors!



MASA Planet

NARCON 2008 Special Edition



Carl and Bruce McLawhorn,
Chan Stevens and Jeff Taylor



TRF Dinner



Mark Bundick and Carol Marple



John Dyer
Red River Rocketry



Mark Theil

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c/o Jeff Taylor
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Coon Rapids, MN 55448

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