

MASA PLANET

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
MINNESOTA AMATEUR SPACEMODELER ASSOCIATION



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July/August 2013

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NAR Section #576

Established 1998

The Tradition Continues – Sixteenth Annual MASA Summer Picnic!

MASA will continue its tradition of hosting an exciting summer picnic this year on Saturday, August 3, at the VFW Soccer Fields in Otsego. MN. As usual, rocketeers will fly rockets from 3:00 until 5:00 P.M. In between flights members can be found sitting and shooting the breeze, always centered around rockets and other related topics.

The enjoyment continues at 5:00 when we delve into the scrumptious food that is brought by the members. A grillmeister will be busy cooking those burgers and hot dogs to perfection. Then a bit of silence falls on the fields as the eating begins.

After the eating is finished the tradition continues with the drawing of names for door prizes. Excitement fills the crowd as names are drawn and prizes are given from the abundant trove of prizes provided by generous businesses and members. Pickup and clean up follows and then we all head off on our own ways thinking of rocket flights, good food and conversation, and how much fun it all was.



Upcoming Events:

- **Launch:** Saturday
July 27, 9-4
Nowthen Sod Fields
- **16th Annual MASA Summer Picnic:**
Saturday
August 3, 3-8
VFW Soccer Fields,
Otsego
- **Launch:** Saturday
August 24, 9-4
Nowthen Sod Fields
- **Meeting:** Thursday
September 4
7:00-8:45 (TBD)
- See page 9 for more events and details



Photos from 2009 picnic

You can get all the details at <http://www.masa-rocketry.org/news/2013/2013-02.htm>.

There you can sign up the food item you are bringing and see all the information about the day's events and door prizes.

We hope to see you there! (Unfortunately, the editor's niece is getting married. Maybe I can fly a rocket at the wedding?)

LOC Forte-8: A Work in Progress.....

By Jeff Taylor

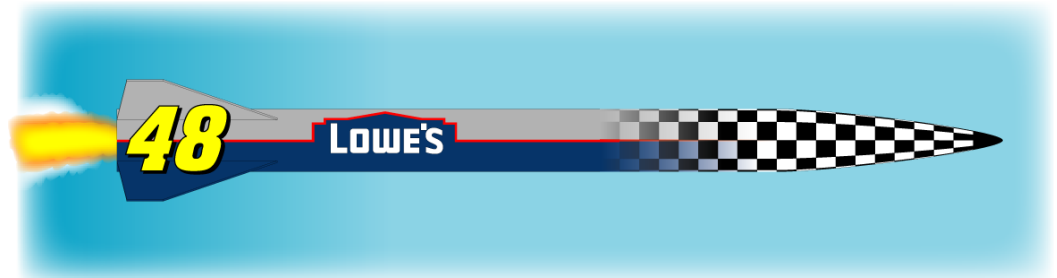
I am in the process of finishing a LOC Forte to the theme of Jimmie Johnson's Lowe's #48 race car.

The construction is completed with a few deviations from the instructions such as (A) mounting a u-bolt to the forward bulkhead instead of using the LOC shock cord mount, (B) mounting an eye-bolt to the nose cone instead of using the LOC mount, (C) using tubular nylon instead of the LOC elastic shock cord, and (D) adding rail buttons instead of using the LOC launch lug.

The first picture shows the design concept of how it "should" look when it is done. The second picture shows how the nose cone looks so far. The third picture shows how the fins look so far. I sprayed fluorescent yellow and put down the first paint mask before spraying the black. The next mask will define the black area around the yellow numbers. The little cross hair patterns are registration marks so I can get the second mask aligned with the first mask.

To make the painting masks for the yellow center and black outline of the "48" and the Lowe's logo, I cut the masks of Frisket film using my Silhouette Cameo electronic cutting machine (think: desktop plotter but uses a cutting blade instead of a pen). The Cameo is my newest toy, and allows me to make perfect masks up to 12" wide. I can also use it to cut vinyl stickers and cut around printed decals.

I hope to have this painted and flying by the next launch.



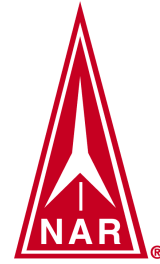
Photos by Jeff Taylor



Views from a BAR

By Brian Uhlenkamp

NAR 39505 SR



Der Red Max Family

As a BAR, I remember as a youngster looking at the Estes Der Red Max, I thought the decals and style were unique. I never had the funds to purchase one or I had other kits as a priority, but last year I finally picked one up and decided to build this classic model. Then Estes came out with the “Mini Max”, which I purchased for Lukas, and then when I saw the Estes Pro Series II “MEGA Der Red Max”, I had to get that as well. How unique, doing the standard “classic”, a mini downscale, and an upscale MEGA, all at once, and all in kit form-the Der Red Max family.



I first built the 18mm classic. I did upgrade with a kevlar + elastic shock cord and also installed a water bottle cap engine retainer-just for something different to try. Lukas built the 13mm mini, stock except for an upgrade on the shock cord as well. I built the 29mm MEGA, again upgrading the shock cord with a 1/8” Kevlar base and then adding the kit supplied elastic shock cord. On the MEGA, which has a plywood core and balsa laminated fins was unique. I applied epoxy fillets to the fins since some extra strength might help on those landings. Extra work was required on filling the grains on those huge balsa laminated fins as well. I routed the edges of the thick 3/8” fins to make a nice rounded fin.



All builds were fun and it was worth noting that the big BT-60 (1.6”) tube on the classic kit, makes it easy to pack in the parachute-one thing I like about anything larger than a 1.25” tube. Even on the mini, the BT-50 (1”) tube makes it easy for a child to pack the streamer. On the MEGA, which is a 4”, I did end up a bit heavier than the kit placard of 31oz., finishing at 34 7/8 oz. I checked my stability on RockSim to make sure I didn’t add too much rear weight. I was fine at 1.1 caliber or better. So I had upgraded the 30” kit supplied red parachute to a 36” “army green” LOC parachute I had on hand and I cut a 6” spill hole in it. I wanted to make sure I don’t damage those large fins. I also added a Nomex chute protector and used rail buttons instead of the kit 1/4” lugs.

We’ve launched the classic and mini twice already, all perfect flights. We recently launched a nice flight for the MEGA on an Aerotech G53FJ. The black smoke fits the Der Red Max nicely. The chute color

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Estes QCC Explorer

By Andy Heren, NAR 71711

If you have ever attended a MASA Holiday Party, you know how absolutely CRAZY the gift exchange can be! In case you have never been to one, here is how it works: Everyone participating draws a number. Number 1 chooses a wrapped gift and opens it. Number 2 can take that one or choose a new one. Number 3 either takes one of the previous opened ones or takes a new one. And on and on it goes. It can get pretty wild with some gifts being the more popular that get taken over and over again. It is not for the faint hearted who set their hearts on a certain gift, only to lose it before you can get too attached. It can be further complicated when whole families get involved and gang up together. It is always such a great time and that is part of the fun.

When I walked out of the party, I was the proud new owner of the Estes QCC Explorer. It is the one I was hoping for and I actually got. I was excited to end up with this. I like the larger kits, even though I haven't ventured on to high power yet. I've noticed that since Estes was bought by Hobbico in Champaign, IL, in 2010, they have been adding new kits as well as adding more in the higher skill levels. The QCC Explorer is a skill level 4.

My first reflective thought to this kit is that if you are a fanatic for filling and sanding, this is the kit for you! (Are there such people?)



I noticed right away the 4 air intakes. My first thought was that they would hinder the aerodynamics, since they don't actually serve a function of taking in air for the motor. They are merely a decoration which does add to the look. They proved to be quite a task to build. Each one has 10 parts. After they are built and attached, then came the time-consuming task of finishing. All the little tab holes needed to be sanded to be sure they were flush. If they were less than flush they needed to be filled (I used Elmer's Carpenter's Wood Filler) and sanded flush. Then I filled the entire intake with some watered down Wood Filler. It dries quickly, so I was sanding again before I knew it. That is a lot of work when you have bad shoulders! After I did what I felt was a satisfactory job filling and sanding, I applied a coat of primer, which showed that my job was a little less than what I had anticipated. Sometimes it seems like you can just never get all those little pores filled. The primer filled in a little more. Just don't look too close.

After I finally got it filled and sanded, I got the primer on and then the finish coat. A wait of a few days to let it harden and then came the decals. The decals are water slide, which does take some practice, but once you get the hang of how long to let them soak and then how to slide, I feel they are much better than stick-on decals.

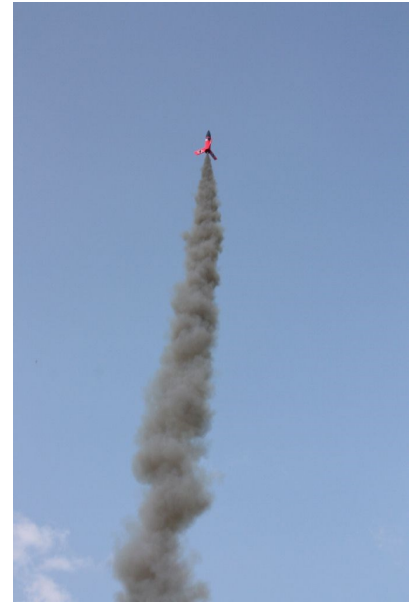
Views from a BAR, continued



Continued from p. 3

looked good and matched the uniqueness of the model in my opinion. It landed in a lonely lilac shrub about 300 ft from the pad, so not a true test on the fin fillets or parachute selection yet-but I'm ready to fly it again.

I would highly recommend any or all three of the Estes Der Red Max family, especially if you are a BAR and always wanted to build one. Now, will Estes come out with a "mid" version, about 2.2 or 2.6"?

**Continued from p. 4**

One of my few complaints with Estes is that they still do not include Kevlar as part of the shock cord. I buy it from HUB so I can add it to every kit which has no Kevlar. As I mentioned earlier, I really like some of the new kits, such as the Mega Mosquito and I am hoping so much that I can attend the September launch for the Mega Mosquito Drag Race! I need to choose the colors though — it I still white.

To whoever brought this kit to the party, I thank you. It was a labor intensive kit, but much filling, sanding, painting and 30 decals later, it turned out pretty darn cool!



Rockets with Kids

By Andy Heren, NAR #71711

HOME SCHOOL LAUNCH IN THE COUNTRY



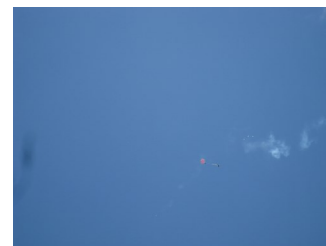
For the second year now I have built and launched rockets with home schoolers. The mother in charge is someone I used to teach with at Eau Claire Lutheran School. Melanie first asked me in the spring of 2012 if I would come out and lead a lesson in rockets. How could I turn down such a question, especially since that was the first school year in 15 years that I didn't do rockets as part of my science classes.

This year we had kids whose ages ranged from 7 to 12. Some of them had built rockets the previous year, but who ever turns down a chance to build another? I still had an assortment of leftovers from my years teaching. We had quite a variety: the Estes Generic E2X, Viking, and Alpha, the Quest Astra, Quasar, and Starhawk. Also a Custom Freedom. Quite a mix to build at once! I'm glad some parents were there to help.

On May 24 we built them and they took them home and painted them. The following Friday we launched. The launches were successful, with only a couple that had to be retrieved from a tree and barn roof.

Melanie asked if I would come back next year and do it again.

Silly question, Melanie, silly question.



4-H CAMP

I have been judging rockets at the county fair for at least 13 years. This year the 4-H agent called me and said that one of their sections for 4-H Camp would not be able to make it and someone suggested I do rockets. I did some looking and found the Estes Make-It, Take-It, which is a slightly modified and better colored (in my opinion) Alpha III. They come in bulk packs of 25 at a cost of slightly more than \$2 per kit. Can you beat that?

On June 19 I packed my stuff out to the Beaver Creek Reserve near Fall Creek, WI, and set up to build rockets with about 80 kids. They came in 4 separate groups. There were some experienced rocketeers in the group as well as many first timers. We had 45 minutes, which was just perfect for building the Make-It, Take-It with some time in between for some history of model rocketry. I'm not sure if they will remember names such as Orville Carlisle, G. Harry Stine, Vern Estes, and Mabel, but they were attentive. I always say how great 4-H kids are. They are just great. If anyone else judges rocketry in 4-H, you know what I am talking about. It is so much more than cows, pigs, and chickens.

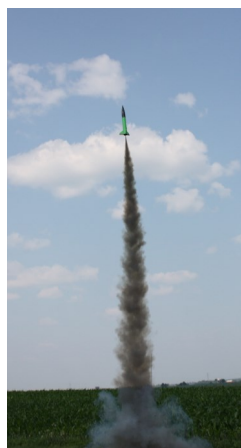
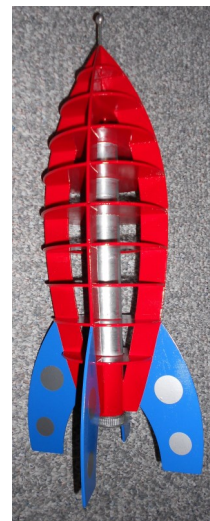
Unfortunately, it was the last day and we didn't really have any time to launch them or even do a demo launch.

Space Quote "I don't know what you could say about a day in which
you have seen four beautiful sunsets." — John Glenn



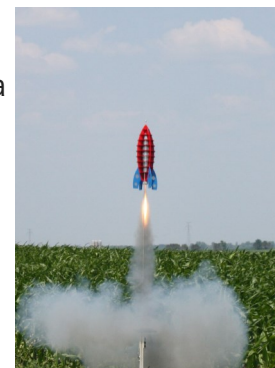
MASA SHOWCASE

This is the section of our newsletter that showcases recent builds by MASA Members. Thanks again to the Uhlenkamp family for their contributions of some of their fleet. This section can be expanded, so please consider submitting pictures of your recent builds, or not so recent builds for this section!



Julia Uhlenkamp-Estes Curvilinear. Painting help from dad. Customized with a 9" Purple nylon chute to match. Great 13mm flier-2 flights so far.

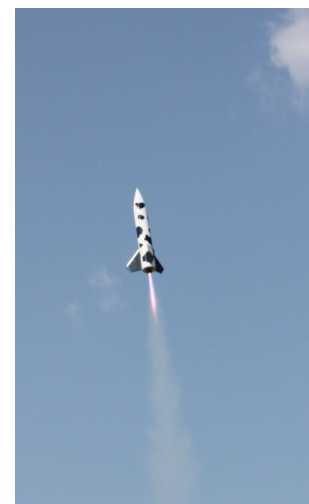
Brian Uhlenkamp- Mercury Engineering Grave Danger. Kit built with additional Estes 29mm retainer. Flown once on a F23FJ.



Brian Uhlenkamp-Rocketarium "Mega MASA Rebel". New odd roc kit, custom paint job and top "spire" to mimic the MASA logo rocket! Built originally with a gatorade retainer, but due to a mistake not allowing an RMS case to fit properly, modified with a new Estes 24mm retainer. One flight so far on a E18W-awesome kit and flier.



Brian Uhlenkamp-Madcow Cowabunga. Modified with from a 38mm mount to a 29mm mount with Estes Retainer. Flown on a HPR H128W and a midpower G80T thus far.



MASA Directory

Established 1998

Founding President: Russ Durkee

2013 President

Neal Higgins—nthiggins@gmail.com

2013 Vice President

Jeff Taylor— jeff.taylor@mn-rocketry.net

2013 Secretary/Treasurer

Chris Feld — christopher.feld@my.uwrf.edu

MASA Planet Newsletter Editor

Andy Heren—planet.editor576@gmail.com

MASA Planet Online

www.masa-rocketry.org/planetonline.htm

Club Website

www.masa-rocketry.org

Webmaster

Alan Estenson — estenson@mn-rocketry.net

Club Yahoo Group

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/masarocketry>

MASA Calendar

Launch

Date: Saturday, July 27, 2013

Time: 9:00 A.M. — 4:00 P.M.

Place: Nowthen Sod Fields

Launch

Date: Saturday, August 24, 2013

Time: 9:00 A.M. — 4:00 P.M.

Place: Nowthen Sod Fields

Theme: 15th Annual Great UFO Drag Race, 12th Annual Comanche-3 Drag Race, 4th Annual Back to School Crayon Drag Race

MASA Summer Picnic

Date: Saturday, August 3, 2013

Time: Rocket Launching 3:00 — 5:00 P.M.

Eating and Socializing 5:00 — 8:00 P.M.

Place: VFW Elk River & Rogers Post 5518, Otsego

Please go to <http://www.masa-rocketry.org/news/2013/2013-02.htm> for all the details

Meeting

Date: Thursday, September 5

Time: 7:00—8:45 P.M.

Place: TBD

Topic: TBD

MASA Family Fun Night

Date: TBD

Build (and Bull) Session in the garage: 5:00pm to 8:30pm

Arcade Fun: 7:30pm to 9:30pm

Location: Alan Estenson's house, Maple Grove, MN

Details:

Free rocket kits for kids to build, refreshments, and classic video arcade and pinball game fun!

For more detailed information, please go to the MASA website at

www.masa-rocketry.org/events

MASA PLANET
C/O ANDY HEREN
3711 BRIAN ST.
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701

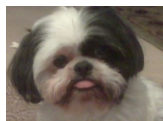


Mailing Label Here

MASA

Minnesota Amateur Spacemodeler Association, founded in 1998, is an active rocketry club with members from the Twin Cities and surrounding areas of Minnesota and western Wisconsin. MASA is dedicated to the safe and enjoyable pursuit of the rocketry hobby. MASA is a registered section (Section #576) of the National Association of Rocketry (NAR). MASA has been recognized by the NAR as “Medium-Sized Section of the Year” in 2006 and 2007, has received the NAR’s North American Rockwell Trophy for best newsletter in 2008, 2009 and 2010, and has hosted NARCON (the NAR’s Annual National Convention) in 2007 and 2008. MASA has an official club launch on the 4th Saturday of each month (weather dependent) year round at one of several different flying sites located in Nowthen, White Bear Lake and Otsego. We also hold monthly club meetings on the 1st Thursday of each month, typically held at the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul. We host a Club Picnic in July and a Holiday Party at the end of the year. MASA also participates in numerous rocketry-related outreach activities including Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, schools, 4H, TARC and USLI to name a few. Visitors, spectators, and prospective members are always welcome to join us at club events! MASA welcomes rocketeers of all ages and experience levels. MASA members share their building and flying experience to help you hone your skills and become a better and safer rocketeer. Flying in a club environment keeps you in touch with the latest rocketry techniques and products, as well as offers encouragement and support through camaraderie of fellow club members. You do not need to belong to the NAR (National Association of Rocketry) in order to join MASA. However, we do encourage you to consider NAR membership. (Find out more about the NAR at www.nar.org) You can find more information on the MASA web site, www.masa-rocketry.org, or email us at masarocketry@rocketmail.com.

For more information, or to join MASA ,go to www.masa-rocketry.org



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