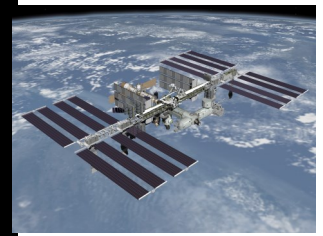


# MASA PLANET

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
MINNESOTA AMATEUR SPACEMODELER ASSOCIATION



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January/February 2014

Volume 17, Issue 01

NAR Section #576

Established 1998

## Officers for 2014

At the January 2014 MASA meeting the following officers were voted in for the year 2014. We thank Neal and Jeff for continuing in their positions and Carol for stepping up as Secretary/Treasurer.

President—Neal Higgins  
Vice President—Jeff Taylor  
Secretary/Treasurer—Carol Marple

Other continuing volunteers for the year are Alan Estenson as webmaster and stats keeper and Andy Heren as editor of *The Planet*.

## Upcoming Events:

- **Launch:** Saturday  
January 25, 9-4  
**Location:** McMurray  
Field, located at  
Lexington and Como  
in St Paul
- **Meeting:** Thursday  
February 6  
7:00—8:45 PM  
**Location:** (TBD)

## Membership Renewal

Our membership application is in the process of being updated. An email will be sent when the new application is ready for use.

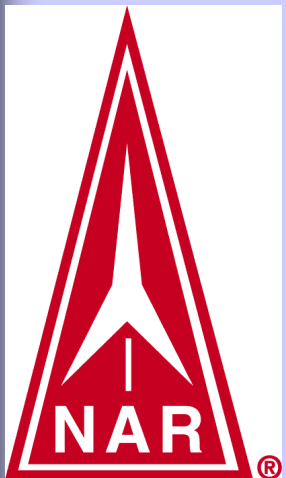
## Todd Carpenter's "Baby Bircha"

I have a new rocket, "Baby Bircha," which was recently grown in the Sylvan Nursery for Rockets (SNR). SNR produces the new Elvish rocket series from the Alternate Reality Rocket Group ARR(tm). (All of which are complete fabrications, if that isn't clear).

The main tube is wrapped with outer bark. The bark was from a log at least 10" in diameter. To wrap it to the small BT60 size I had to steam it to prevent it from cracking. Yellow glue, then wrapped with Saran Wrap and electrical tape to compress it down. The fins are covered with inner bark peeled from larger pieces. Yellow glue again (I tried super glue with lousy results), then clamped flat with sheet metal to stay flat until dry. Jeff Taylor gave me the idea for the pine tar seams. I used Kirby's Pine Tar thickened with beeswax, applied with a syringe to the seams, then lightly flamed to flow. The nosecone is planed balsa with polyurethane on it to darken it so it's closer to birch coloring.



In case you didn't see it at a launch, last year's SNR rocket was the BrightStar.



# NSL Photos

MASA member Carol Marple shared these photos from the National Sport Launch 2013 at Hudson Ranch in Pueblo, Colorado. A few great shots of MASA member Glen Overby with his L2 certification flight and MASA member and NAR President Ted Cochran getting his L3 certification. Congratulations guys!



Glen Overby ready for flight.



Nice recovery!



Ted prepping



Another successful flight!

## Other NSL Photos



# Semroc's Snake Jumper

By Andy Heren

NAR 71711

As a kid growing up in the 70's one of my favorite celebrities was the daredevil, Evel Knievel. I watched his jumps on ABC's Wide World of Sports. I saw the movie with George Hamilton (I even own it. I found it at Dollar Tree!) I had the toys. I was fascinated with his attempt to jump the Snake River Canyon.

Fast forward to 1995 when this late bloomer entered the hobby of model rocketry. As I got more and more into it I started looking at older kits. Then I saw the Evel Knievel Skycycle starter kit by Centuri. (How did I miss this great hobby when I was a kid?) I have seen them on eBay, but never had the funds to buy one.

Then, on July 19, 1013 I nearly jumped out of my chair when I got the email from Semroc announcing their Snake Jumper. Woo-hoo! I am FINALLY going to get the Sky cycle, or close enough to it. From what I can tell the parts are identical to the original. The only difference I can see is the name and decal. Close enough!

I ordered mine the week before Labor Day. If you have ever dealt with the McClawhorns of Semroc, you know what a great family they are and how great their customer service is! The box was shipped the night I ordered it. Sadly, it was soon after Carl passed away. For those of us who have met him, his death is truly a loss for the hobby and his wonderful family.

Through a mistake of mine, it got shipped to the school where I used to teach (which is now an early childhood center) and I had to do some extra work to get it. By the time I rescued it on September 3, I had just finished my Estes Black Star Voyager and was itching to get into the Snake Jumper.

I had copied the directions for the Centuri Sky Cycle years ago from Jim Z and got them out to compare. As usual, Semroc did a great job in their reproduction of the directions and kit materials, keeping it true to the look of the Sky Cycle. All parts are laser cut. I was surprised the fins were not balsa, but the paperboard. The kit was easy to assemble, but some of the larger decals were a challenge. They are water-slide, though, which I prefer.

I soon completed the Snake Jumper and it is ready for launch.



## Where Can I Get A Rocket?

Look for the names of the 25 companies listed below. They are names of companies, both past and present. Words run up, down, horizontal, diagonal, forward, and backward. Sorry if I missed one of your favorites!

T B D R Z O O C H E H Y X N Y  
 P E R B O F N U Q R E H B T Q  
 W M A D C O W U M A R G L M Z  
 D O W F D A E H T E K C O R F  
 H A N O G S Y H V V P D C P M  
 S V U O T F G I X S E H G U A  
 U F S Q U I R R E L W O R K S  
 I H X K L D U C I Y W L C H D  
 R C F R E O A N M L S V U B N  
 I E A R O P G C O R M E S E O  
 S T I K S I L F N V R R T Z M  
 S O N O T R E B M E P S O S D  
 B R R K M O G E W F F O M B E  
 N E U G O R A I R U T N E C U  
 A A D P H W J O V G K E Y K V

AEROSPACE SPCLTY  
 AEROTECH  
 APOGEE  
 CENTURI  
 CUSTOM  
 DR ZOOCH  
 EDMONDS  
 ESTES  
 FLISKITS  
 HOLVERSON  
 LOC  
 MADCOW  
 MPC

SUNWARD  
 STARLIGHT  
 SQUIRRELWORKS  
 SIRIUS  
 SEMROC  
 ROGUE  
 ROCKETHEAD  
 REDRIVER  
 QUEST  
 QMODELING  
 PEMBERTON  
 OFF WE GO

## MASA DIRECTORY

Established 1998

Founding President: Russ Durkee

### 2014 President

Neal Higgins—nthiggins@gmail.com

### 2014 Vice President

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

### 2014 Secretary/Treasurer

Carol Marple— MASA576Treasurer@gmail.com

### MASA Planet Newsletter Editor

Andy Heren—planet.editor576@gmail.com

### MASA Planet Online

[www.masa-rockeetry.org/planetonline.htm](http://www.masa-rockeetry.org/planetonline.htm)

### Club Website

[www.masa-rockeetry.org](http://www.masa-rockeetry.org)

### Webmaster

Alan Estenson — [estenson@mn-rocketry.net](mailto:estenson@mn-rocketry.net)

### Club Yahoo Group

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

## MASA Calendar

### Launch

**Date:** Saturday, January 25

**Time:** 10:00 A.M. — 2:00 P.M.

**Place:** McMurray Field, located at Lexington and Como in St Paul

### Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, February 6

**Time:** 7:00—8:45 P.M.

**Place:** TBD

**Topic:** TBD

## Space Quote

NASA was going to pick a public school teacher to go into space, observe and make a journal about the space flight, and I am a teacher who always dreamed of going up into space.

—Christa McAuliffe

(Thanks, Christa—Editor)



### Things to do:

1. Write an article for the next issue of *The MASA Planet* and/or choose photos to submit to MASA Showcase.
2. Email them to Andy at [planet.editor576@gmail.com](mailto:planet.editor576@gmail.com).



For more information, please go to the  
 MASA website at  
[www.masa-rockeetry.org/events](http://www.masa-rockeetry.org/events)

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

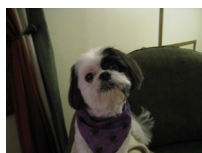


Mailing Label Here

## **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](http://www.nar.org)) You can find more information on the MASA web site, [www.masa-rocketry.org](http://www.masa-rocketry.org), or email us at [masarocketry@rocketmail.com](mailto:masarocketry@rocketmail.com).

**For more information, or to join MASA ,go to [www.masa-rocketry.org](http://www.masa-rocketry.org)**



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