

MASA PLANET

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
MINNESOTA AMATEUR SPACEMODELER ASSOCIATION



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Calendar



June 2014

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NAR Section #576

Established 1998

Launch status for the Nowthen Sod Fields

As many of you know, MASA President Neal Higgins, Jeff Taylor, and Ted Cochran (sorry if I missed anyone else!) have been attending meetings of the Nowthen City Council, trying to get approval for our use of the Fricke Sod Farm for launches.

Neal sent the following email on May 15 notifying us of our status for launching at the Nowthen Sod Fields:

We both received a call from the Nowthen city attorney with very bad news. He was not in attendance at the council meeting so he did not have all of details but here is what we heard from him.

The Nowthen council changed their minds and decided to require us to either apply for a IUP or an ordinance change. Both options cost \$1000 as an escrow from which they pay the city planner's hourly fee.

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Upcoming Events:

- **Meeting:** Thursday
April 3
7:00—9:00PM
Hennepin County
PlymouthLibrary

Meeting Astronauts and the future of Space Exploration

By Dale Newton

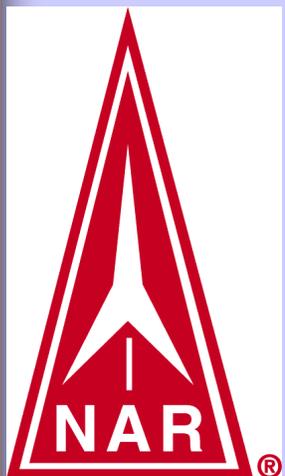


INSTALLMENT ONE

Should I attend the first MASA launch in months or pursue an opportunity to meet Apollo astronauts from the first and last moon landings? This was the choice presented to me when the Go Boldly Expo was offered by AirSpace Minnesota on Saturday, April 26, 2014. Sorry, MASA, it was no contest

My daughter Holly, who will start her college education as an Aerospace Engineer this fall, and I immediately signed up for tickets. Book signings would be offered with Dr. Buzz Aldrin and Dr. Harrison Schmitt for those who bought their books, so I quickly ordered *Mission to Mars: My Vision for Space Exploration* by Aldrin and *Return to the Moon: Exploration, Enterprise, and Energy in the Human Settlement of Space* by Schmitt. Even if the books had blank pages, they were worth the price for a personal visit with these legends.

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Meeting Astronauts, continued

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THE EXPO

The event took place in Hangar 750 at the Downtown St. Paul Airport and featured a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Career Showcase with more than 20 exhibits from industry, public, and educational organizations linked with aerospace, aeronautics, and aviation. Shuttling from the parking lot was provided by Jefferson Lines "Rocket Rider" buses. (Clever, but we didn't break Mach 1 getting to the conference site.)

At the Expo, exhibits of Air National Guard medical assistance equipment and student rocketry, CanSat, helicopter, and space-suit testing garments from the University of Minnesota mingled with booths by Sun Country Air, Women in Aviation, Cirrus Aviation, and MN/DOT Office of Aviation, to mention a few. You can see photos at <http://airspace-mn.org/news-events/>.

FROM MINNESOTA TO THE MOON

Presentations began with David Gillette from Twin Cities Public Television presenting four videos showing the Minnesota connection with early flight and with the Apollo missions to the moon. These videos were produced in partnership with AirSpace Minnesota. (You can see them at <http://airspace-mn.org/go-boldly/>)

Four panelists from General Mills (first space foods), Mayo Clinic (pressure suits and emergency oxygen supplies), University of Minnesota (early high-altitude exploration and Apollo recovery parachutes), and UTC Aerospace Systems (aviation instrumentation) discussed Minnesota's aerospace and aeronautic history.

Details of the day's presentations by Apollo astronauts Buzz Aldrin and Harrison Schmitt, retired Space Shuttle pilot Curt Brown, and Space Shuttle and International Space Station astronaut Karen Nyberg will be covered in future installments of this article.

AirSpace Minnesota is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created to chronicle Minnesota's great aerospace and aviation legacy and equip a new generation to write the next chapter of the innovation story. (airspace-mn.org) (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Airspace-Minnesota/453548138061203>)

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Nowthen Sod Farm, continued

The IUP has an additional fee (he didn't recall how much). Both options require Fricke being involved. Both options require public hearings and time.

The bottom line is the temporary use has been revoked and we will not be able to launch on the Fricke sod fields until this is resolved.

I have to make a few calls to get all of the details including the ordinance that banned us from flying in the first place, Once I have them I will see if it is worth it or not to attend another council meeting and plead our case.

The next council meeting will be in June after our next club meeting.

At the next meeting we can as a club discuss our options and make a decision on whether or not we want to continue down this path or find another field.

I know we all have questions and comments but please save them for the next meeting or at least until I have all of the details.

Thanks and sorry everyone,
Neal

Meeting Astronauts, continued

INSTALLMENT TWO

THE APOLLO 11 STORY

The first keynote speaker was Buzz Aldrin, astronaut on Apollo 11 and second man on the moon. After showing video highlights of his historic moon landing, the 84-year-old Aldrin began by reminding the audience, "When people work together, you can sometimes accomplish the impossible. Apollo could never have happened without the cooperation and efforts of many people working together for a shared goal. What we accomplished in one decade was unprecedented. But I know, with determination and the will to do great things, we can do these things again. Consider this, mankind dreamed for centuries of reaching space, the moon, and even the stars, but it wasn't until the twentieth century that man took his first powered flight. In 1903 on a windy morning at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the Wright Brothers' *Flyer* took their first flight, defying gravity. My mother, Marion Moon, was born that same year. Only 66 years later, Neil and I stepped on the moon fulfilling the dreams of millions."



Aldrin then described the steps taken to achieve the moon landing and his role in devising the "Manned Orbital Rendezvous" technique for docking spacecrafts in orbit, which became crucial for the success of the lunar landings.

In the years since Apollo, people sometimes question the need for manned space exploration, and Aldrin responds, "By venturing into space, we improve the life for everyone here on earth. The scientific advancements and innovations that come from this type of research create products and technologies we use in our daily lives and provide even more convenience to people all over the world. For example, cell phones." Aldrin dug in his pockets to produce a pair of phones. "I've got two of them," he said, "... redundancy."

MISSIONS TO MARS

Aldrin said the next bold step into space requires a leader who publicly sets a specific goal with a specific timeline. He proposes multiple missions to reach, explore, and colonize Mars. His plan is outlined in his book published by National Geographic Society. He also introduced a new video game he has helped create with a London game developer, *Buzz Aldrin's Space Program Manager*. The game is designed to spur interest in space exploration by giving players a chance to design a space program. It's in a beta-test form online now for PC and will be available soon for Mac, PC, and iPad. Updates are available at www.buzzaldrin.com.

Aldrin concluded by saying "Apollo was the story of people working together for a common goal. We started with a dream, and we can do these kinds of things again. I know because I'm living proof, along with Jack and the 24 total Americans who reached the moon, that it can be done."

In a later presentation, Aldrin expanded on his proposal to create a Mars Circulator spacecraft to reduce the cost and effort to do multiple missions to Mars.

BOOK SIGNING WITH BUZZ

Later during the book signing by Buzz Aldrin, we got to have a very brief encounter with the former astronaut. When told by my daughter, Holly, that she'd be studying Aerospace Engineering, he asked which school she'd be attending. She replied that it was the University of Minnesota. He said, "Good School." And that quickly our brush with this space hero was over. After attending public events for more than 45 years, it's understandable that Dr. Aldrin was able to complete the task with utmost efficiency.

(Details of presentations by Apollo astronaut Harrison Schmitt, retired Space Shuttle pilot Curt Brown, and Space Shuttle and International Space Station astronaut Karen Nyberg will be covered in installments three and four, which will appear in the July/August Issue.)

MASA DIRECTORY

Established 1998

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Alan Estenson — estenson@mn-rocketry.net

Club Yahoo Group

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

Space Quote

“Anyone who sits on top of the largest hydrogen-oxygen fueled system in the world, knowing they’re going to light the bottom, and doesn’t get a little worried, does not fully understand the situation.”

— John Young, after being asked if he was nervous about making the first Space Shuttle flight in 1981.



For more information, please go to the

MASA website at

www.masa-rocketry.org/events

MASA Calendar

Meeting

Date: Thursday, June 5

Time: 7:00–9:00 P.M. (Room set-up at 6:30)

Place: Hennepin County Plymouth Library

15700 36th Ave N, Plymouth, MN 55446

Topics: Nowthen flying field update and discussion.

Open Forum discussion on clustering and staging (please bring along both examples and questions!)

MASA PLANET
C/O ANDY HEREN
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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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