

# MASA PLANET

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
MINNESOTA AMATEUR SPACEMODELER ASSOCIATION



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## Upcoming Events:

- **Meeting**  
Thursday, June 4  
7:00–9:00 p.m.  
Location: Maple  
Grove Library
- **Summer Picnic**  
Saturday, July 11  
Launch 1:00-4:00  
Picnic 4:00-8:00  
Location: Elk River/  
Otsego VFW Soccer  
Fields



June 2015

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Established 1998

## FITI—Paying Forward

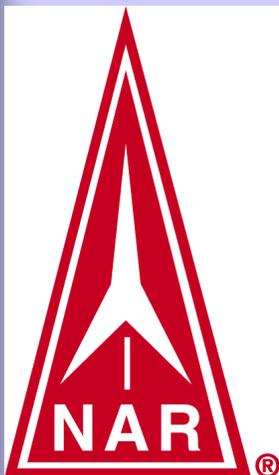
by Jeff Taylor

Did you know that MASA sponsors a program that helps introduce kids to rocketry? Several years ago, Carol started MASA's FITI program where members build rockets and donate them to kids. FITI stands for Fly It/Take It, and it has been a huge success. Kids who attend a MASA launch that have never built or flown a rocket are able to pick out a rocket, get help learning how to prep and fly it, and then they get to keep the rocket. FITI works because of the generosity of MASA's members.

Please consider donating a rocket or two to this worthy cause. The only restriction is that it be a simple single stage/single engine rocket that flies on 18mm A, B or C engines. Members are also encouraged to donate engines to the program too to keep the rockets flying.

It's also a great way to practice a new building or painting technique that you have wanted to try.

The FITI rockets shown include an Estes Super Alpha, an Estes Twister, a Semroc Starfire and an Estes Fusion X25.



## Where in the World is the *MASA Planet*?

by Andy Heren, Editor

Where has the *MASA Planet* been the past few months? Unfortunately, in my busy life, the *MASA Planet* had taken a back seat. But things are changing! I have been very blessed and instead of three part-time jobs I now have one job, a job that I never imagined I would have. I am an Office Associate at the UW-Extension office in Eau Claire county (I LOVE it!). I am now choosing to do the things I WANT to do, not what I HAVE to do. One of those wants is getting back to being active in the hobby of model rocketry and getting back to MASA activities.

The other problem that has kept the *MASA Planet* at bay is a lack of articles. As I work the newsletter every two months, it is necessary for me to get submissions from the members to make it happen. Please, as we get back into summer, consider writing a kit review, building product review (such as Jeff's review on the next page) or other experience with rockets. Submit a photo for the MASA Showcase to show off your building skills.

The *MASA Planet* for the members, written by the members. I just put it together.

## May 26, 2015 Launch Photos

Photos by Carol Marple



## Elmer's Color Change Wood Filler

Product Review by Jeff Taylor

I use Elmer's Wood Filler on nearly every rocket project to fill the seams in body tubes, fill balsa grain and gaps, and to create smooth fin fillets. I don't use this product as-is out of the container, but rather I dilute it slightly with water. I scoop out a small amount (about a spoon full) and place it in a small re sealable container. Then I add a very small amount of water and stir thoroughly. I like to get it to about the consistency of pancake batter, so I add small amounts of water until I get it how I like it. Diluting it gets the air bubbles out and makes a creamy mixture that is easily applied, and after it is dried it sands smooth.



During a recent stop at the hardware store to pick up some more Elmer's, I came across a new version called Elmer's Color Change Wood Filler. The Color Change Wood Filler starts out purple, and dries white to let you know when it is ready to sand, paint or stain. I only needed a small container of wood filler, and the smallest one on the shelf at that particular store just happened to be an 8 ounce container of the Color Change Wood Filler, so I took it home to give it a try.

I am currently building an Estes Dark Silver kit, and when it came time to sand and prep the fins, I opened up the Color Change Wood Filler container and scooped so out to dilute it. Right out of the container it looks something like purple Play-Doh. Diluting it to a thinner consistency seemed to be no different than the standard Elmer's Wood Filler, and it made a nice smooth mixture. I spread a thin layer over the sanded balsa sheet to fill the grain, and it didn't take long for it to start turning white as advertised. Although I didn't do a side-by-side comparison, I would venture to guess that it dried in about the same amount of time that the standard wood filler does.

When it came time to sand the next day, the Color Change Wood Filler sanded away very easily. If anything I might say that is sanded a little easier than the standard wood filler, but again, without a side-by-side comparison that is a subjective statement at best. It also seemed like the sanding dust was maybe a little bit finer, almost like a fine talcum powder.

I had a few spots that needed a reapplication, so I opened the container that had the diluted mixture in it and was surprised to see that it too had turned white. It still had the smooth creamy pancake batter consistency of the watered-down wood filler, so whatever is in this product to change from purple to white when dry also changed it from purple to white when it was watered down.

The bottom line is that this product works as well or slightly better than the standard wood filler does. To me, the ability to change color when it is dry is not a huge selling feature since I usually wait a day before I sand anyway. And since the watered down product also turned white over time, the color change

### 2015 Estes Catalog

The PDF of the 2015 Estes catalog is available for download from the Estes web site.

Click on the catalog cover at the right to get linked to Estes.



*See your article or pictures here!*

*Submit an article or picture for the MASA Showcase to*

*[planet.article576@gmail.com](mailto:planet.article576@gmail.com)*

## MASA DIRECTORY

Established 1998

Founding President: Russ Durkee

### 2014 President

Neal Higgins—nthiggins@gmail.com

### 2014 Vice President

Jeff Taylor— fatboy55448@gmail.com

### 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

### Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, June 4

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Maple Gove Library

Main St. Meeting Room

Maple Grove, MN

7:00-9:00 p.m. (room open at 6:30 for setup)

**Topic:** Open forum discussion of rocket building technique for all rockets, especially for L1, L2, and L3.

### Summer Picnic

**Date:** Saturday, July 11

**Time:** Launch 1:00-4:00, Picnic 4:00-8:00 p.m.

**Location:** [Elk River / Otsego VFW soccer fields](#), [Google Maps Link](#)



### Activities Disclaimer

Scheduled dates, times and launch sites are subject to change due to weather and/or field conditions. Check the MASA Web Site ([www.masa-rockeetry.org](http://www.masa-rockeetry.org)) or MASA Yahoo Group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/masarocketry>) for up-to-date changes.

All MASA Launches are “Misfire Alley” (bring your own launch pad and controller), however, community pads are usually set up for everyone’s use.

For more information, please visit the  
MASA website by clicking

[here.](#)

**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](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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