



Official Publication of the **February 2008**
Southern Tier Aero Radio Society
AMA Gold Leader Club - Charter #563

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"IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT..."

A few days after Christmas, a pair of STARS members decided they had to get at least one day of flying in during the month of December. So... off they went to the field. They found it "a bit windy", but the wind was up and down the runway, so they (intrepid aviators that they were) decided to give it a go. The first flight was a bit choppy but nevertheless, "somewhat successful". So after checking the aircraft over, a second flight was deemed in order. This time it was not pretty. The leading edge of the wing began to lift the dowel that held it in place out of its locating hole, causing the pilot to have to put in more down elevator trim. In just a little while the wing ripped off, causing the fuselage to emulate a missile, and... "crash and burn" (what a bummer!). Luckily for the pilot involved, his wife had bought him a brand new trainer for Christmas- so all was NOT lost! *Contributed to a grateful editor by "Full Throttle" Pratt.*

A NEW FEATURE ARTICLE by Jim Keough

As the *STARS DUST* takes on a little different look, we'd like to bring you up to date with a new article that will be included each month. This article will be a feature on a club member. Not only do we hope to reacquaint each other with our veterans, but this will serve to introduce our new members as well.

I have started at the beginning of the roster, and will make my way through in time. I will contact each of you at some point, initially by email. Look for the address coolbet@aol.com with a subject line about the newsletter. Along with the message will be a questionnaire attached. We wish to respect your privacy so if you feel you'd like to delete any questions/answers please do so, or if you'd like us NOT to interview you, just say the word. Our first installment is with Gary Baker. Look for his interview (and a photo opportunity) later on in this issue.

TRAVELING... WITH LITHIUM BATTERIES

A word to the wise...

WASHINGTON- To help reduce the risk of fires, air travelers will no longer be able to pack loose lithium batteries in checked luggage beginning Jan. 1, the Transportation Department said Friday. Passengers can still check baggage with lithium batteries if they are installed in electronic devices, such as cameras, cell phones and laptop computers.

If packed in Plastic bags, batteries may be in carry-on baggage. The limit is two batteries per passenger. The ban af-

fects shipments of non-rechargeable lithium batteries, such as those made by Energizer Holdings Inc. and Proctor and Gamble's Duracell brand.

"Doing something as simple as keeping a spare battery in its original retail packaging or a plastic zip-lock bag will prevent unintentional short circuiting and fires," Krista Edwards, deputy administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, said in a release.

The Federal Aviation Administration has found that fire-protection systems in the cargo hold of passenger planes can't put out fires sparked in lithium batteries.

The National Transportation Safety Board earlier this month said it could not rule out lithium batteries as the source of a cargo plane fire at Philadelphia International airport last year.

Model Aviation Principles 101... No model pilot ever crashed because of an "excess of altitude". More likely, it was an "excess of attitude".

MEMBER BIO OF THE MONTH

Our first STARS member to be featured is none other than Gary Baker of Friendship, New York. Other than flying, Gary has interests in stock car racing, having raced himself until about four or five years ago. Now he keeps track of his brother's racing, and is happy just being an observer. Gary is the proud grandfather of twelve children, and great grandfather to three. He has five children, four who live in Olean and one in Geneva, NY. Gary, you've been busy!

When not flying or playing with the grandkids, Gary spends his time at his job - caretaker for the Maple Grove Cemetery. He has held this position since April of 1988.

When asked how he got interested in flying, Gary remarked that it was some time ago... back in the early 80s with buddy Jim Goodemote.

They met at the Midway Airport. Gary started out just observing, but then Jim took him under his wing (no pun here) and taught him to fly. Then Jim went on to build airplanes for Gary. His favorite plane to fly is his three-year-old 1/3 scale Piper Cub. Gary has now gone on to putting ARFs together on his own.

We've all had flying "experiences", and Gary is no stranger to this. He explains he had a close call once when he was flying his "Katana Profile". He was bringing it out of a flat spin 20-25 feet from the ground, and thought it had "...bought the farm...". All ended well, however, and the plane was good to fly another day. His flying events have not all been positive. Once, he and Dave Pratt were flying, and the wing folded up on his old "Katana" The results should be obvious. This author knows first hand what happens when the wing does not cooperate. Even the engine got ruined. Gary explains that the old design was not a good one. The new wings have a wing tube, which prevents the previous "wing folding events" from happening.

There have been many debates over glow vs. electric. Gary prefers glow engines. "You can fly longer times, and I like the sound." However, he does own a small



here's Ol' "Shake and Bake" himself!

electric and plans to fly it next summer at the cemetery... on break, of course.

When asked about 3D flying, Gary replied that he's a sport flyer. He likes to watch 3D, but is happy doing loops and rolls.

His advice to new pilots: "Fly as much as you can."

'til next month... Jim Keough

STARS Minutes of the General Meeting of: 1/09/08

Attendance:

Gary Baker, Brad Davis, Gerid Bittinger, Randy Bittinger, Bill Burkett, Bob Bush, Jamie Bowen, Charlie Cappellino, Gary Fitch, Ed Flicker, Clark Follett, Ramona Follett, Fred Fowler, Walt Hibbard, Kip Karn, Jim Keough, Bob Means, Tom Orcutt, Jay Pistner, Rupert Pistner, David Pratt, Dick Say, Don Wehlage, Mike Zias

Minutes:

The minutes of the December meeting were read by Secretary Jamie B. approved by Gary B. and seconded by Bob B. All were in favor.

Treasurers Report:

Tom O. gave the monthly report. Motion to approve by Don W. and seconded by Walt H. All were in favor.

Field Maintenance:

None at this time.

Member illness or other:

Keith Miller's mother has past away.

WebSite:

Bob B. requested pictures.

Newsletter:

Members present thanked Gary F. for publishing the January newsletter. Tad M. has agreed to act as the primary editor. Jim K. has also volunteered as the secondary editor. Newsletter will

also include building articles as well. Please provide your flying experience while at the field to also be included in the news.

Flight Instruction:

Dave P. has volunteered to lead the flight instructors.

Airshow/Rally:

Jim G. will need to send letter to Olean Mayor to request the use of the Olean Airport.

Winter Party:

Date: Jan 19

Cocktails- 5PM

Dinner- 5:30PM

Winter Party Committee Members - Tom O. Kip K.

Dave P. and Clark F.

Cost \$25/person

Two rooms- one for the buffet, one for socializing
Special Awards will be included during the party.

Ramona F. reported that winter party committee met this week and will investigate if the Old Library has a certain head count to see if we can offer a refund for folks who can't attend, but paid.

Old Business:

Defibrillator:

Ramona F. will further investigate and provide a status update sometime after the winter party. Gary F. also requested board members to discuss this topic during the next planning meeting and report out sometime in March.

New Business:

First Aid:

Ramona F. reported our field first aid kit is in need of new supplies. Randy B. has volunteered to restock these supplies.

Pin Box:

Ed F. reported our field pin box combination has been changed.

STARS Patches:

Tom O. asked the members present if we should restock the supplies of STARS patches as we only have 12 patches left. Randy B. has requested Tom O. obtain cost and report to the members prior to purchasing additional patches.

Financial Report:

Tom O. presented financial reports for both 2007 actual and 2008 proposed budget. Randy B.

SOME WINTER PARTY PICTURES...



JIM KEOUGH WINS THE SIG RASCAL EP!



THE GOLDEN PROP AWARD GOES TO DON WEHLAGE, AND WELL DESERVED



MR. BONEHEAD OF THE YEAR, DAVE PRATT!

Suggested STARS look into obtaining our fixed club expenses should the Rally not do well.

STARS Strategic Planning Meeting:

Gary F. asked members if a STARS strategic planning meeting should be assembled. The Purpose is to begin planning on where we would like our club to be in the next ten years. Randy B. felt this would help set a direction for the club. Charlie C. also suggested each individual could provide ideas in writing and submit at our next general meeting. Gary F. reported that this has been done in the past with little success. Several members suggested a brain storming session. Randy B. has volunteered to host the meeting at his place of business. Gary F. will also contact JCC and see if a room is available first. Additional information will be provided in the newsletter.

STARS By-Laws review:

STARS by-laws will be reviewed at the next scheduled board meeting.

Jim Messer:

Gary F. Submitted a recommendation to have Jim Messer nominated for the AMA Hall of Fame.

Planning Board:

Don W. has volunteered to fill the vacant planning board position left open by Walt H.

Show & Tell:

None at this time

Meetings:

Next Planning Board Meeting will be at Kip K.'s house Monday, Jan 14 at 7PM

Next Regular STARS general meeting will be at JCC, Feb 13, starting at 7PM.

Motion to adjourn made by Dick S., seconded by Dave P.- all in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Jamie Bowen

AH YES... THE WINTER PARTY!

This year's Winter Party was a great success; due to its committee, the work done by Ramona Follett, the "MC"ing of President Gary Fitch, and the camaraderie of all those members and "significant others" in attendance.

As one would expect, the ambiance, service and food prepared by the Old Library was of its usual sterling variety; and the awards, certificates, ladies door prizes, and raffled prizes made it even more of a special evening.

Among the special "awards" this year were those of Bob "Lefty" Means for "no right hand landings"; Jim Keough received a Pilot Patch for soloing this year- and an additional award for... (see the article IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT... on page 1), Brad Davis for "turning AWAY from the crowd- not TOWARDS it!", and "The Deficiencies of Hot Glue Award" went to Mike Zias for work on a wing center-section.

"the (not so) coveted Bonehead Award for Multiple Infractions went to none other than..."

Certificates of Appreciation for all their dedication to and hard work for the club went to Ed Flicker, Bill Burkett, Dewey Barron, and Gary Baker. Members like these make the club what it is today, and it was very special to see them all recognized.



Returning to special “awards”; we find that Dave Pratt and Clark Follett together received an award for “destroying Ramona’s plane!”, Gary Baker for “Put that antenna up!”, Tom Orcutt for excellence in “Cub Stalling”. Don Wehlage was acknowledged for his marksmanship in hitting a pilot station, Jamie Bowen won an award for “losing multiple canopies/windshields”, and the (not so) coveted “Bonehead Award for Multiple Infractions” went to none other than Dave Pratt.

‘He was given a standing ovation by those in attendance...’

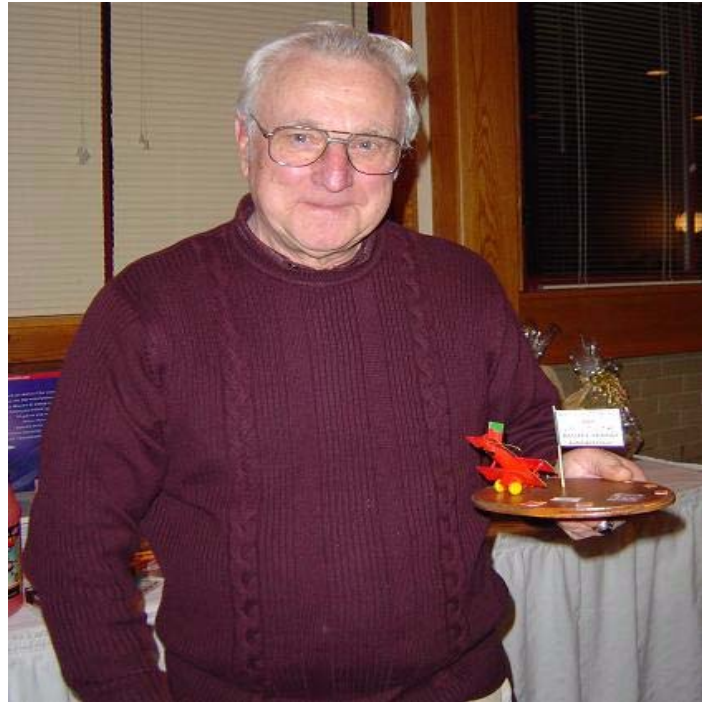
“The Golden Prop Award”, given annually to only one member- for his dedication and exemplifying what a STARS member should be...went to Don Wehlage. He was given a standing ovation by those in attendance.

Several of the ladies received beautiful baskets and/or gift certificates, and seemed quite pleased with the efforts of the committee. I think that in at least several cases, they also enjoyed the special “awards” of their guys as much or more than the other members did!

Among the nicer of the winnings from the raffle were those going to Jim Keough (a SIG Rascal EP ARF), Charlie Cappellino (a Supertiger 45 2-stroke) and Bob Means (who won both the Groovy 50 ARF and

the 50/50 raffle!).

It may be a hackneyed phrase, but I think we can truly say that... “a good time was had by all”.



**BOB “LEFTY” MEANS
DISPLAYS HIS AWARD!**

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR’S DESK:

As I’m sure you can all guess from this effort; I’m really no whiz when it comes to the computer, although I will try to improve. I do have some experience in this job however... having been newsletter editor of the Wellsville Area Small Plane Society (WASPS) for a ten year period back in the 80s and 90s. Gary asked me to try it again, so- I’ll give it my best.

Thankfully, Jim K. (as you witnessed on pages one and two) is writing a column for us; and Walt H. , and Jimmy G. have agreed to write columns for the newsletter from time to time. But that doesn’t preclude any of the rest of you from writing. Any and all efforts on behalf of YOUR newsletter will be appreciated (by yours truly especially!)

Many of you may have the wrong e-mail address for me, as I changed providers last year. My new e-mail is tpmram@frontiernet.net. Feel free also to send me any suggestions on how we, as a club, can improve this newsletter. The suggestion box is always open!

Like any other human being, I’m not especially fond of criticism, but if you see something you don’t like... let ME know (rather than talking about it behind my back). An editor is just exactly what the title implies- he’s not the “owner” of anything.

I will apologize to you ahead-of-time for not seeing you more often at meetings. As Gary knew when he asked me to do this job, my other “STARS” (the Order of the Eastern Star- in which Ruthie and I have been very actively involved for many years- even being state officers four times) meets the same night as the club does, so I’ll probably see you only at meetings during the months of July and August (when O.E.S. doesn’t meet).

I think Gary is giving both you (as readers) and me (as editor) a “trial period”, so...let me know what you think!



THE PREZ SEZ:

I want to congratulate Ramona Follett and her husband Clark for an enjoyable Winter Party. She made all of the arrangements and worked with Tom Orcutt, Kip Karn and her husband for the Special Awards. She also made the table centerpieces, and did a great job of putting it all together! The food was excellent and I think it was a fun evening. Now if we can only convince her that public speaking is fun, we will be all set for next year. Ramona, from all the STARS members who attended, thank you for your efforts! We appreciate what you did! I hope everyone who attended enjoyed themselves.

You will note that we have a new STARS Dust editor in Tad Manske. He has done a super job with this, his first issue, and I appreciate the effort he has put forth to make this a great publication. I also want to thank Jim Keough and Walt Hibbard for their contributions. Lets grow on what they have started. Each member has the option to submit an article, piece, line or Ad. Great start Tad!

The STARS Strategic Planning meeting will be held Monday evening, February 18th, at Randy Bittinger's business called Label.com in Bradford, PA starting @ 6:00P.M. We will have some pizzas delivered so bring what you want to drink, and most importantly- bring a chair to sit in, as Randy doesn't have seats available. This should be a fun evening.

I wish that every STARS member in particular and every AMA member in general, could take the time to visit AMA Headquarters in Muncie, IN. The facilities are first rate and the flying fields are world class. The most impressive thing is how great the people are. They truly want to help the membership and they have a real understanding that what they do is customer service. Many modelers think of AMA as an "Ivory Tower", but this is a down-to-earth organization staffed by real people- just like us. The museum is terrific. Muncie is only just over eight hours away by car. We ought to consider heading out for the NATS to see what they are all about.

Speaking of heading out... there are a couple of events on the horizon. First is the WRAM Show this month on the 23rd, 24th and 25th. Toledo is only two months away. Let me hear from you if you are planning on going.

See you at the meetings on Wednesday, February 13th, and Monday, the 18th!

Gary Fitch

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Two interesting items of correspondence were received recently; the first by Bob Bush from a gentleman in New Zealand, the second by Dick Say from a modeler in Quebec. Each is printed in its entirety below.

(1) Dear Mr. Bush, you may not know me, but I am Colin Wilson Jr., the son of the late Colin Wilson Sr. from Paris, Ontario Canada. I now live in New Zealand as did my father who passed away here three years ago. I was

thrilled to see a pic of his 1911 Avro bi-plane on your website. It brought back a lot of memories of the summers we spent down at your rally, and all the fellows, the late "Woody Clapp" and George Privateer, the Messer brothers and all the guys.

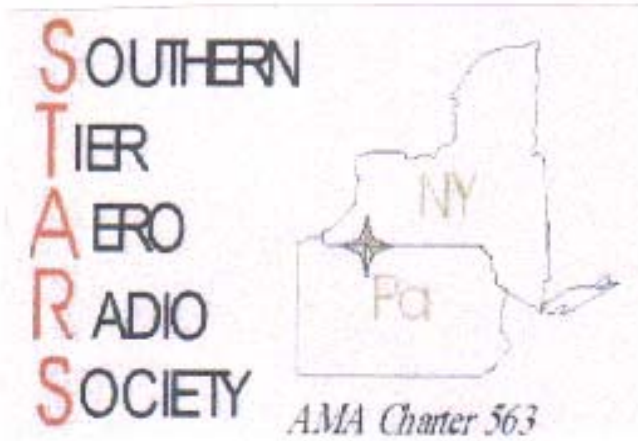
I feel very honored that you used a pic of my dad's plane, and it always amazes me how the internet can preserve so many things. Once again thank you, Colin Wilson Jr.

(2) Please forward this message to your club members. Who not visit Montreal June 21 and 22 2008?

On behalf of the Amidair Club, we would like to invite you to participate in the 1st Warbird Funfly held at the Amidair Club on June 21st and 22nd 2008. You may print the subscription form from the amidair.qc.ca web site. This event will be held at our club and we will be hosting exclusively participants with "Warbird" models. Some participants from neighbouring clubs, provinces and as far as Michigan will join us. You are also invited to join us for the "Gala Dinner" that will be held on June 21st in the evening. Entrance to the field is free to the club members and invited participants. You are welcome to delight yourself with the view of some of the fantastic Warbird models and airshow our guests and members will put on. Do not hesitate to tell your friends; Now is the time to tell them to come and see this! And better if you have fellow modelers you wish to invite, but all means tell them to subscribe. We reserve our members the first call on ticket reservations to the "Gala Dinner" until the 29th of February due to the limited quantity of places at the hall. Please make your check or money order to

Amidair and hand it over to any members of the committee or by mail. Your tickets and agenda will be mailed to you with no delays. Accompanied by your better half or not, we wish this evening and week-end will be some of your best memories for 2008. So get those Warbirds ready and join us on June 21st and 22nd.

Thank you, Normand Ouellette, Secretary AMIDAIR CLUB (450 668 7711 / 800 898 2292 / cell: 514 895 8200)



Next Regular Meeting @ JCC - Olean Campus:
Wednesday, February 13th, 7PM

Next Planning Meeting: *Monday, February 25th,*
7PM, Gary F.'s house

STARS Strategic Planning Meeting: *Monday,*
February 18th, 6PM, Randy B.'s business

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