



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

March 2008

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STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

On the 18th of February, a meeting was held in Bradford, PA, to examine the future direction of this model aircraft club. Called by President Gary Fitch, a dozen members were able to be on hand at Label.com (Randy's place of business) for this brainstorming session. Present were Randy Bittinger, Bob Brown, Gary Fitch, Ed Flicker, Clark Follett, Jim Goodemote, Walt and Ida Hibbard, Kip Karn, Tad Manske, Scott Rose, and Don Wehlage.

Gary began the meeting by noting that although "thirty years ago the STARS was a vibrant organization", things have changed. He had called the meeting because it was "time to consider developing a long term strategy" for the club. After some comments from others on our membership, and Bob Brown on AMA membership trends in general, Gary opened the floor for discussion of options and directions, noting that there were "no bad responses"- any and all ideas were welcome.

Over the course of the evening, thirty-one ideas were brought forth and recorded. Many solicited a response from others, although it was noted that this was "not the time nor place" for detailed discussion- we were there to brainstorm. The ideas listed could be categorized, basically, in the following six areas of concern: (1) our "Physical Plant"; (2) Events- both Past and Future; (3) Fund Raising Ideas and Opportunities; (4) Relationship Development- both Within and Without the Club Membership; (5) Advertising and Self-Promotion Issues; and (6) Membership Issues.

The Evening ended with all agreeing that we had accomplished quite a bit in the short time we'd been together. Many excellent ideas had been brought out; actually more than Gary had expected. A pop-and-pizza break halfway through, an informal (and very interesting) tour of his plant by Randy, and some terrible weather to drive home in... completed the evening.

Walt Hibbard agreed to head a committee to look into all the ideas mentioned, and to make recommendations to the club. He will be talking more about this at the March general meeting, and will be looking for "a few good men" to volunteer to serve on this board.

PRINCIPLES OF FLIGHT by Walter Hibbard

The new STARS President, Gary Fitch, has asked that I write a column for the club newsletter. This I am happy to do as it gives me an opportunity to address certain aspects of aircraft flight which I have often found to be unknown to or misunderstood by many modelers. I have seen beautiful models needlessly destroyed because of a pilot's lack of knowledge of how and why an aircraft behaves the way it does and of what it can and cannot do.

*A new feature!
enjoy!*

In future issues, I will try, using Air Force training sources, to provide information which you may find useful and helpful. We will look at the physics of flight including: Lift, Drag, Thrust, Stability, and many other things that affect how an aircraft will perform. Maybe we can save some future aircraft from an early demise.

'Til next time, May your skies be blue and the winds be calm.

Model Aviation Principles 101... "Flying": (from the verb form- to fly) defined as the transitional stage between building and repairing.

MEMBER BIO OF THE MONTH



'Ol "Full Throttle" himself!

Continuing in our feature interviews of STARS members, we will be presenting Dave Pratt in this month's column. I looked forward to doing this interview since Dave is my flight instructor. Although he has signed me off as a pilot, I will always regard him as my teacher. Dave is the guy who misses very few meetings, and is usually the first to show up when work needs to be done at the field. He's always ready to pitch in.

Dave makes his home in Friendship, New York with his wife of 42 years, Laura. The children include David who lives in Connecticut. David works for the Electric Boat Company building submarines. Daughter Lori Jo is married with four girls. They make their home in Kansas. Son Jeff, located in Utah, has been with the Air Force for twelve years, and has three sons making Dave a proud grandparent.

Dave "...really enjoys building..."

Dave is a retired inspector from Dresser Rand, who also worked with various pieces of equipment. This probably contributed and led to his expertise in model building. Dave "... really enjoys building... there is a feeling of accomplishment to see it (the plane) fly." He doesn't really care for ARFs since they aren't

built as well as they should be, in his opinion. "Almost all kits have weak points" Being able to see those points during the kit building process will allow the modeler to make reinforcements and/or improvements. "You can't do that with the ARFs." Dave also feels the ARFs all look the same... construction, color scheme, etc.

In addition to his STARS and AMA memberships, Dave belongs to the WASPS of Wellsville, and was a charter member. He has flown with Milt Bond, who was his instructor, and with John LeFleur. Dave has been with the STARS for about four years, and is our current head of flight instruction. Although he was involved with R/C boats for a time. Dave' recreational energies are now solely with model aircraft. He has a genuine love of building, flying and teaching. "The boats were a little too expensive". This seemed odd to this writer since boats don't "crash", do they? Dave explained the problem was in the "launch". You have to throttle up and literally throw the boat into the water since there was so much angle to the prop. There's no way to start out slowly.

***...a P40 Warhawk... in his basement
for nineteen years...***

What or who got Dave interested in flying? "I've always been interested since I was a kid", Dave said. His first plane was a CL Warhawk Cox. Later on, he bought a model from Ken Koepple, a former STARS member, who helped him build it. He flew it in his back yard for four or five years, then joined the STARS.

Dave's favorite plane to fly is his P51. His first plane was a Falcon 56 trainer. Then he got a Top Flight P51 that he thought he was ready for. It lasted about 10 seconds back in '72. He didn't have enough ground speed, it wasn't ready to fly. Dave is excited about a recent purchase last Fall of a P40 Warhawk from a gentleman who had it in his basement for nineteen years. Dave got in one flight last Fall, and was very pleased with the performance.

When asked about his best flying experience, Dave remarked seeing one of his students perform a successful solo takeoff and landing. (In my own experience with Dave, I can attest to his enthusiasm when

**STARS Minutes of the General Meeting
of 2/13/08**

this occurs.) Conversely, Dave had a Cessna 182 1/6th scale “all decked out...” with all the bells and whistles, lights, etc. Note the operative word, “had” in the previous sentence! Dave explains that he took off into the wind, but then the wind did a 90 degree shift, which caused the plane to lose lift and altitude. The result was not pretty. It hit the only rock pile in the field and was subsequently totaled.

Glow vs. electric flying elicited a response from Dave. He really prefers glow planes. “They’re more realistic”, he feels. He feels batteries are expensive, and there’s a lot of them. You have to consider additional specs with motors, chargers, etc. “There’s less enjoyment in the flying”. They’re okay, down at school, but he’s been a glow man ever since he started.



*Another Happy Award
winner from the Winter
Party- Tom Orcutt!*

Dave enjoys watching the 3D flying, but doesn’t feel he could ever master it. He thinks his reflexes have slowed down. (One might disagree after seeing Dave do some stunt maneuvers.) “More power to them”, he remarks.

Dave’s advice to the rookies: Get a good trainer and someone to help you. Listen to your instructor and enjoy the hobby.

In closing, I would feel remiss if I didn’t remark on Dave’s abilities as my instructor. He was always on time and available. He arrived at the field with clear objectives in mind. Dave seemed to sense when I was ready to move on to the next level. He made me “stretch” without sacrificing safety. His comments were always positive, even when I failed at a particular maneuver. Enough cannot be said of anyone willing to devote the time and energy (and gas money) to instruct a new pilot!

‘til next month... Jim Keough

Attendance: Gary Baker, Brad Davis, Randy Bittinger, Bob Bush, Jamie Bowen, Gary Fitch, Ed Flicker, Clark Follett, Jim Goodemote, Walt Hibbard, Kip Karn, Tom Orcutt, Jay Pistner, Rupert Pistner, Scott Rose, Dick Say, Don Wehlage

Minutes: The minutes of the January meeting were read by Secretary Jamie B., motion to approve by Don W., seconded by Jim G. All were in favor.

Treasurer’s Report: Tom O. gave the monthly report. Motion to approve by Dick S., seconded by Randy B. All were in favor.

Field Maintenance: None at this time.

Membership: Motion by Gary B. to have Scott Rose elected as a new STARS member was seconded by Walt H. All were in favor- Welcome Scott.

Member illness or other: Ramona F. Dave P.

Website: Bob B. added photos of Hamburg and STARS rally to the sight.

Newsletter: January newsletter was done by Tad M. Dick S. and members present think

the newsletter was outstanding.

Flight Instruction: Gary F. reported AMA will elect two to three clubs to receive an award for entering the TAG program. However, Gary B. has a copy of the AMA flight instruction for this program.

Airshow/Rally: Jim G. sent sanctioned letter to AMA.

Winter Party: All present stated the party went very well and the Old Library was great.

Old Business: Defibrillator- Scott R. volunteered to check with the fire department to see what is involved in training and associated costs for this formal training. Scott R. also reported he has already been trained in using these devices.

New Business: Club Fixed Expenses- The club's "fixed expenses to survive" were discussed during the meeting. Tom O. Volunteered to call our electric company and see if STARS can obtain a cost reduction in our monthly billing rate based on minimal use during the winter months.

Club Patches- Tom O. reported patches could be obtained in the following quantities; 50 for \$162.50 or 100 for \$225. Ed F. volunteered to check with Sports Locker as an alternate resource. Scott R. also volunteered to check on additional places to obtain them and will report next month.

STARS Strategic Planning- Date: 2/18/08, Location: Label.com, purpose: Discuss STARS goals for next ten years and new club members and risks. Approximately ten members plan on attending. Please remember also to

bring your own chair

Overhead Door Lock- Ed F. reported Bob B. suggested a garage door opener with keyless entry. Ed F. also reported Gene H. was willing to install a garage door operator with keyless entry system in place of his annual membership fee. Gary B. asked if it was possible to have another one installed for the tractor bay. Motion to accept Gene H.'s offer by Dick S., seconded by Gary B. All were in favor.

STARS By-Laws- Gary F. reviewed the STARS by-laws with suggested modification and additions by the planning committee. Randy B. and members present suggested Article VII section 3 be modified to state "For any member joining after August 1st, dues will be one half of the normal amount levied." Don W. also suggested that we should add the required duties of the Safety Officer. Don W. volunteered to propose suggested wording on this for the next planning committee meeting. Voting on the suggested changes will then take place in March.

Historian- Ed F. stated we should once again have a STARS historian. This will be discussed at the next planning meeting.

Gold Leadership- Don. W. submitted the application.

Wal-Mart- Charlie C. talked with Wal-Mart and STARS can pick up an application for a Wal-Mart donation. Scott S. volunteered to pick up the application and will bring to the strategic planning meeting.

First Aid- Randy B. reported the first aid kit has been restocked.

Mower- Gary B. reported the mower blades have been re-sharpened.

Show & Tell: Jim G. displayed his scale master crafted cockpit.

Up-Coming Events: RCCR auction next Saturday / RAM Show next week in White Plains, NY / RC Air Crafter auction in March.

Meetings:

Next Planning Board Meeting will be at Gary F.'s house Monday, February 25th at 7pm.

Next regular STARS General Meeting will be at JCC, March 12th, starting at 7pm.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made by Gary B. second was made by Jim G., all were in favor.

PROPELLER SAFETY TIPS

1. *Select the correct propeller size*
2. *Remove any flash along the edges of a new propeller by scrapping with a pocket knife or sandpaper.*
3. *Always balance a new prop- taking any excess weight off the back of the blade.*
4. *Install with the airfoil side forward, securely tighten and check after EACH flight.*
5. *Start with a chicken stick or electric starter (no fingers!)*
6. **NEVER FLY BY YOURSELF.** *If you should be seriously cut by a rotating prop, you could easily go into shock and bleed to death- long before you could get yourself to a hospital.*
8. **ALWAYS remember- safety FIRST, flying second!**

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S DESK

I'd like to thank you all for the many kind words I received about the February newsletter... so I decided to do another! (What's that Gary- I'm supposed to do it EACH month, one after another?!?)

I sincerely thank Walt H. for his new column- it should be both interesting and informative (especially for a klutz like me). As highly organized as you'd expect him to be... Walt has already given me the next two installments! Another "Thank You!" goes out to Jim K. and his series on Club Member Biographies. 'Bet you never thought you'd know so much about Dave P., did you?

I'd like to start a new column next month, if anyone is interested. It'll be called "Check It Out" and it will feature items that any member wants to sell, trade or buy. If you send me any info (either e-mail me, or give me a call on the phone), I'll put it in the very next newsletter. Who knows? it just might become popular as a way to have our own "in-house" swap meet!

Last, but not least, if you have any computer-based pictures you'd like put in the newsletter, send them to me as well. I think photos add a lot to a publication... and I'd love to include yours. And remember... articles, comments, editorials, etc. from ANY member are always welcome...



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Next Regular Meeting @ JCC - Olean Campus:
March 12th, at 7pm

Next Planning Meeting: TBA

Coming up in the next month:
RAM Show in White Plains, NY
RC Air Crafters Auction

STARS DUST NEWSLETTER - Official Publication
of the Southern Tier Aero Radio Society

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