



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

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# STARS Written Up...

I don't know how many STARS members receive "**Cloud 9**", the publication of the National Model Aviation Museum... but whatever the number is- I for one, wish it were more. **Cloud 9** is sent to supporters (members) of the museum on a quarterly basis, and reports on all the latest happenings concerning this, "your" AMA museum. If you'd like to become a contributor / a member, you can simply check off the block on your annual membership renewal and increase the size of your check correspondingly; or you can send a check in any amount to "National Model Aviation Museum, 5151 E. Memorial Drive, Muncie, IN 47302" at any time during the year. I personally have been a member for a number of years now, at the "Patron" level; costing only \$25 per year. As an old retired History teacher... I consider it a good investment in the past, and one also helpful and useful to our hobby. Why not join me in membership!?!

The reason I bring up this topic right now is an article in the current edition of the publication (Summer 2008 Vol. XIII No. 2). On page five, entitled "From the History Vault" are two articles ("biographies") concerning two AMA clubs. One is the GCRCC, the "Greater Cincinnati Radio Control Club"; the other (complete with illustrated logo) is the Southern Tier Aero Radio Society or STARS.

I thought you might be interested in what it had to say, so have

*(MUSEUM Continued on page 2)*

## MEMBER BIO OF THE MONTH

This month's interview will be with Clark Follett, one of our newest pilots to solo. You will recognize Clark as one of the hardest working members of the club.

Clark began work in the electrical field, doing 20 years at the Cooper Plant in Olean. He then did 12 - 13 as an independent contractor, and finished up at Chattanooga Labeling Systems in Pennsylvania. Chattanooga made the labels for Arbor Mist wine; they gave the frosted look to the bottles by an acid etching technique.

He married Ramona in 2004, and between them they have five children and seven grandchildren. All are grown except Keshia.

In the past, Clark has been a member of the Allegany County Civil Defense and the Weston Fire Department. Other interests and hobbies include hunting and fishing, and he used to do a lot with model trains...HO scale...he even has some of the old steam engines.

When asked who got you interested in flying, Clark remarks,

*(BIO Continued on page 2)*

*Model Aviation Principles 101- Rule #1 for Takeoffs... When in doubt- ABORT; don't let your desire overcome your common sense!*

(MUSEUM Continued from page 1)

copied it verbatim below (for your reading pleasure).

*“One of the first model clubs in the United States, the Southern Tier Aero Radio Society (STARS), was founded in 1935. The club members began flying at Clapp Field, named after member George Clapp, in Olean, New York. (The AMA recognized the field with its National Aeromodeling Historic Landmark Award in 2005.)*

*Starting in 1975, the group was a leader in Giant Scale RC aircraft development. The group created a 1/4-scale Bristol Scout from scratch, because there were few parts available for Giant scale models at the time. Members flew a squadron of six at the Rhinebeck Jamboree in 1977 and 1978. Pictures and/or documentation of the Scout with STARS members showed up in many RC magazines.*

*In the 1980s, the STARS purchased and moved to a new field off of West Lake Road in Cuba, New York. Money was raised through its annual Radio Controlled Model Aircraft Scale Rally at the Olean Municipal Airport, held every July since 1977. Since its purchase, the club has added a runway, storage/meeting building, shelter, well and bathroom, as well as electricity to the site.*

*Currently, the club is comprised of more than 50 members. The members’ main goals are to design, build, and fly Radio Control model airplanes, and the club provides space to do that. They have an educational training program to help their new members learn how to fly correctly and safely.”*

Among others, the current issue of **Cloud 9** contains articles entitled “Museum Lobby and Store Remodeling”, “Control Line Exhibits”, “Acquisitions New to the Museum”, “Fun and Games”, “Fox Engine Research”, “New: Northrop OQ-19 Barrier Wall”, and “New: Education Collection”. Join, and “check it out”!

(BIO Continued from page 1)

“Ramona. She always wanted to fly, but never took the step. We went to an open house, talked to Gary Fitch, joined the club along with Ramona, and she got me into it.”



His favorite plane to fly is the Alpha 60, but next year he’s going to try the semi-symmetrical. He hopes to build a kit this winter.

Clark’s best flying experience was the first time he soloed including take off, figure eights, and landing. However, his worst flying experience was with Ramona’s Alpha 60 . Last year, when making a turn, it was too far out. The plane was getting away from him and it nosed right into the ground.

Clark’s opinion on glow vs. electric? “I like the real engines. Electric is good, but the gas engines are little more realistic to me”. He’s not really interested in 3-D flying. Clark feels he is still learning, each flight is a learning experience. “Hopefully, in a couple of years I’ll be able to do more”.

Advice for the rookie/newbie pilot: “Take your time, and don’t expect to do everything in a hurry...patience”.

**A THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Everyone has a photographic memory; it’s just that some don’t have any film.**

## STARS Minutes, General Meeting- 9/10/08

**Attendance:** Gary Baker, Jamie Bowen, Bob Bush, Ed Flicker, Clark Follett, Romona Follett, Walt Hibbard, Kip Karn, Jim Keough, Bill Messer, Tom Orcutt, Mike Zias

**Minutes:** The minutes of the September meeting were read by Jamie Bowen. Motion to approve by Clark F. and seconded by Gary B. All were in favor.

**Treasurers Report:** Tom O. gave the monthly report. Motion to approve by Romona F. and seconded by Kip K. All were in favor.

**Vice President Nominations:** Walt nominated Clark Follet as VP. Vote will be held next general meeting.

**Safety Report:** None at this time.

**Membership:** None at this time.

**Member illness or other:** None at this time.

**Website:** Bob B. requested more photos be sent to him for posting on the web.

### Old Business:

**Buildings:** Clark F. reported roof shingles are now \$29 a square and the pilot shelter

roof is is 26'x14.5' or a little less than 4 squares would be required.

Motion by Walt to purchase roof shingles and nails and seconded by Gary B. All were in favor.

Work party scheduled for Sept 20th, 10AM.

**Rally:** Tom O. reported on Rally expenses and profits.

**Open House:** Tom O. reported on Open house expenses and profits.

### New Business:

**Field Winterization:** Ramona F. has volunteered to head up this task.

Work party scheduled for Sept 20th at 10AM.

**Pot Luck Dinner:** Location: At the field / Date: Sunday October 12th @ 2 PM. / Ramona F. will send a mail and call.

### Meetings:

Next Planning Board Meeting will be at Walt H., Sept 29th at 7PM.

Next Regular STARS general meeting will be at JCC, Oct 8th starting @ 7:00PM.

Motion to adjourn made by Bill M. and seconded by Ramona F. All were in favor.



Hey, it's "Ol Ugly" with two beauties! (taken 9/21/08)

## FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S DESK...

'Hope you noticed the nice little write-up on Page 9 of the October "Model Aviation" magazine. Congratulations Jim, and a nice dose of publicity for the STARS! I know I sound like a broken record, but again... a big "thank you" to Jamie Bowen, Jim Keough, and Jim Messer- I couldn't do this without you guys! Speaking of "thank you"... how about one for Ramona and all she does!?! Sorry about the picture caption "Ol Ugly"- it really is a nice picture, Gary. Keep enjoying this Fall, everyone. We have Autumns in the Southern Tier that rival New England. Keep'em flying while you can!



## LOOKING BACK – 6

This month we are traveling back to the year 1943 when U-control models became popular. The beauty of these is that we could fly them in our side yard, whereas for the



free-flight models we had to travel to a large open field. The Olean Model Airplane Club embraced U-control right quick, and most everyone got involved with building and flying them. The first ones were all converted free-flight models, like the Buccaneer B-Special belonging to Bob Messer. I designed a scale model of the Stinson 105 in 1944 at age 14, shown in picture #2. As the need for speed became apparent, I designed a racing type model

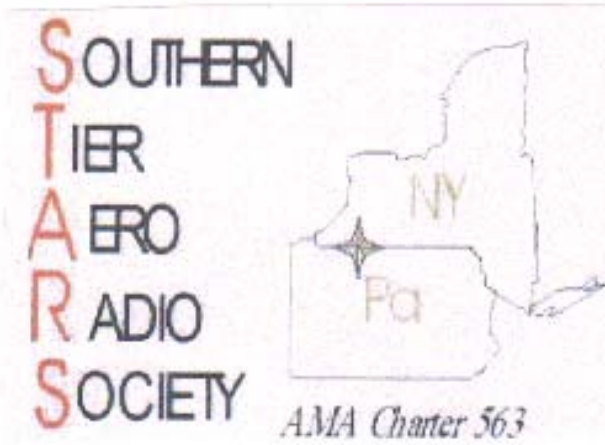


that won several prizes, and that is the one Gerry Brown is holding in picture #3. It, as was the Stinson, powered by a .45 Tiger Bunch engine. By 1947 we were flying small wingspan models with big engines. Picture #4 is me with my deBolt "Speedwagon" powered by a Hornet .60.

**"Fast Model Airplanes Described at Club"** - those were the headlines in the Olean Times Herald: *"Gasoline model airplanes controlled by a tether at speeds of 100 mph were described for the Exchange Club by Kenneth Koepfel, local model plane builder and member of the OMAC. He displayed a model called a U-control plane with a motor capable of 10,000 revolutions per min. Mr. Koepfel related the history of the model club and said several competitions are planned in this area."*

**"200 See First U-Control Model Air Meet"** – OTH headline for the first U-control meet held in Olean in 1946. *"Approx. 200 spectators witnessed Olean's first U-control model plane meet at Bradner Stadium Sunday afternoon. James Messer, Knapp Creek, won the only award made – a model plane kit donated by the OMAC, sponsors of the meet. Mr. Messer's plane was clocked at 73 and 63 mph on the only official flights made. Tricky wind currents kept many of the gasoline-powered planes on the ground, and caused several crack-ups. Among those that entered planes were: Elmer Evans, Lewellyn Barnaby, George Shields, Capt. Dewey Ballard, and Kenneth Koepfel"*

We participated in many U-control meets in the late 1940's and throughout the 50's. Competition was stiff, with Harold deBolt being "Top Dog" in all U-control events. Right behind him was Leonard Wagner, (both from Buffalo). Those two persons consistently won the first and second prize at any meet, and they were impossible to beat. The rest of us battled to win third place on down to as far as the prizes extended. It was quite a ride for as long as it lasted. (Next month – the start of R/C)



**Next Regular Meeting @ JCC - Olean Campus:**  
***Wednesday, October 8th at 7:00PM***

**Next Planning Meeting:** *TBA*

**Also Coming Up:** *Pot Luck at the Field, October 12th at 2PM*

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

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