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HE WILL BE SORELY MISSED

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

By now most of you probably know that the STARS in particular, and the entire RC community in general, has lost a treasure with the passing of James Messer. Jim was a prime mover in the development of today's Giant Scale RC aircraft movement, and the sparkplug that helped catapult the STARS into worldwide prominence during the 1970s and 80s.

Not only was Jim a fine modeler, he was a great guy. I was not a member of the STARS during those glory days, but Jim treated me almost as if I had been. He was always willing to discuss any RC problems one might have, and would share his vast knowledge freely with anyone who needed assistance. Rest in peace Jim, you will be missed.

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JANUARY 24TH!
DON'T FORGET THIS DATE;
IT'S THE WINTER PARTY AT
THE OLD LIBRARY. COME
AND ENJOY GREAT FOOD,
FUN, AND THE BEST
COMPANY YOU'LL FIND
ANYWHERE!



CLUB BIO OF THE MONTH



Although this month's "interviewee" said he didn't talk much, or wasn't much of a talker, I found him to not only be very interesting, but that we have a lot in common.

Ed Flicker retired in 1994 from Dresser Rand as a marketing engineer. He started in 1952 as a draftsman, then on to a cost estimator, and spent his final 25 years there in marketing.

He and Gerrie just celebrated 50 years of marriage, and have six children to prove it.

"We can thank Jim Messer for getting Ed interested in flying..."

Their oldest, Ed Jr., works at Dresser. Daughter Shelly is retired from the Olean police force, while son Steven is retired from the Dover, DE police force. The next offspring in line is John who is self-employed

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MODEL AVIATION PRINCIPLES 101: "Flying is the second greatest thrill known to man; landing is the first."

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as an appliance repairman (Flicker's Mechanical) in Boiling Springs, PA. Chris lives in Olean working for Mazza sheet metal and does HVAC, and Mike is out in Missouri as a night manager in a motel.

Ed has been a member of the Olean Rod and Gun club for 30 years. He used to shoot in the pistol league. He also belongs to the local airport support group, and takes care of their website...the same job Bob does with our site.

"I don't know that I have any best... I have a lot of worst... can't think of a 'best'"

Other interests and hobbies of his include hunting; years ago when the boys were of age. He's also a big-time salt water fisherman. Ed goes down to Delaware every month in the summer to fish with Steven and John. Their destination is the bay or ocean. "It's more about family getting together than about the fishing," he remarks. "We have good luck fishing, too...sometimes trout, flounder, sharks... biggest shark was about four feet long, but we

(PRESIDENT Continued from page 1)

Now on a brighter note, indoor flying season started last month and attendance has been very good. Eleven members attended the first session and nine the second. I was not able to attend the third session, but was told all went well. If you have never tried or seen indoor flying, you do not know what you are missing. We fly in Cuba Elementary School gym every Sunday between 1 and 4pm, through the 22nd of March. Visitors are also welcome!

Finally, don't forget the winter party on January 24th. Please contact Ramona Follett about your reservations. If you have already done so... See You There!!!

Walt Hibbard



cut all of them loose. You never know what you're going to pull up. One guy caught a huge sea turtle...we had to cut that loose, too."

We can thank Jim Messer for getting Ed interested in flying. The two worked together for years, and Jim was always talking about flying. Ed got interested, and as soon as he had more time and money, he got into the hobby in '88.

Ed's favorite plane to fly has to be the Sukhoi, but it crashed early last summer and he's not going to rebuild.

"I do enjoy a good, talented pilot... someone who can really make that plane.. dance..."

"I don't know that I have any best...I have a lot of worst...can't think of a 'best'... just always enjoyed getting up and down in one piece", is how Ed describes his "best" flying experience(s). However, his worst flying experience, without a doubt, was that with the infamous Piper Cub with the mounted camcorder due to the expense of the camcorder. "I think what happened when the plane went straight nose down was the elevator linkage failed...I'm pretty

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sure that's what happened. I never trusted that linkage, it always seemed spongy...something snapped maybe due to the extra weight of the camcorder."

When asked if he has an opinion on glow vs. electric, Ed states: "No, I like the electric because it's clean, much easier to maintain, but I like both. I'm happy with the engines, too, because that's what I have. I'd consider getting an electric. I like new things...always willing to try things once they're tested and proven. I wait until they're tested fully before I get into it".

"I don't have any interest in it. It's fun to watch for a while, then it gets boring" was Ed's answer to 3D flying. "I do enjoy a good, talented pilot...someone who can really make that plane or copter dance...that's amazing. Do I have any desire in doing? No, it would only be by accident"!

Ed's always thought of himself as a jack of all trades, master at none. He never hired anyone, generally...he always did his own maintenance. He learned some electronics..."just enough to be dangerous"!

Any advice for the rookie/newbie pilot? "No, I guess I don't...just keep on flying".

As you can see from this interview, Ed Flicker is one very interesting member. Personally, I have found Ed to be approachable, friendly, and very mindful of others. On behalf of the club, thanks Ed, for your time and energy.

Until next month....
Jim Keough

STARS Minutes of the General Meeting of: 12/12/08

Attendance:

Gary Baker, Jamie Bowen, Dewey Barron, Brad Davis, Gary Fitch, Randy Bittinger, Bob Bush, Ed Flicker, Clark Follett, Romona Follett, Jim Goodemote, Walt Hibbard, Kip Karn, Jim Keough, Tom Orcutt, Dave Pratt

Treasurers Report:

Tom O. gave the monthly report.

Jim Messer:

Jim Messer one of the long time STARS member who helped develop giant scale aircraft passed away last Friday. Gary F. spoke on Jim's achievements. Jim would always travel up from Florida to attend the STARS Rally. RC Universe also has several comments about Jim, which can be found, on the giant scale forum.

Funeral: Thursday 7-9PM, Friday 2-4PM and 7-9Pm at Guenther Funeral Home.

Membership:

Ed F. Reported none at this time.

Web Site:

Bob B. has posted Ed F. movie taken from his large scale Cub. Bob also reported the web-site has had over 14,000 hits. Gary F. also reported AMA district II can also host our site for no cost to the club. Bob B. will investigate.

Winter Party:

Date: 1/24/09

Location: Old Library

Cocktails: 5PM

Dinner: 6PM

Please inform Tom O. or Romona F. if you plan to attend.

Rally:

Jim G. will have a sketch of the airport to help plan the layout for the activities at the next Rally committee meeting scheduled for

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HAVE YOU EVER... Mixed Part A epoxy with Part A epoxy!?

IN MEMORIAM



(MINUTES Continued from page 3)

December 28th, 1PM at Jim's place.

Walt's Christmas Bash

Gary F. reported on Walt's Christmas Bash in which fun was had by all who attended. Activities included indoor flying and \$8,000 worth of merchandize giveaways.

Old business:

Club liability: Tom O. Reported the club insurance only covers fire liability. Walt H. suggested we might want to investigate alternate insurance.

Power Supply: Clark F. reported a 12 volt power supply can be purchased between \$80 to \$175 depending on the amperage required. These prices would be for a 12 and 20 amp power supply.

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(MINUTES Continued from page 4)

Electric: Tom O. reported the electric company would not bill us during the winter months if we pull the main breaker. All were in favor of doing so. Dewey B. volunteered to unload the freezer and pull the breaker.



tional tail wheel. Jamie B. presented a sign and gear, which were made with his scratch built CNC router. Table can allow up to a 4' by 8' sheet to be fully routed.

Meetings:

Next Planning Board Meeting will be sometime in January.

Next Regular STARS Meeting will be at JCC,

January 14th, starting at 7:00pm.

AMA District II Vice President:

Gary F. thanked STARS members present who voted for him to become District II Vice President.

Yes, STARS Rally time will be here soon enough; and this year, bigger and better than ever (what with the addition of our District II Fun Fly!)

Motion to adjourn

was made by Gary F. and seconded by Dave P. All were in favor.

Show and Tell:

Jim G. presented his Corsair prototype func-

FROM THE DESK OF THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR...

I trust you all had an enjoyable Christmas (and received all sorts of "RC goodies" under the tree). Ruthie bought me an E-flite Blade MCX helicopter (like the one Dave Pratt flies in the gym), so I hope to see many of you every Sunday for the rest of the winter. She enlisted

Dave's help to get it for her, so... I'd better thank him too! 'Hard to believe it's a New Year already. If you're like me, you'll continue to put '08 on checks for another month or two (is that a "senior moment" or what!?)

I didn't know Jim Messer like most of you did, but I was always in awe of him. I've always heard so much about him, especially as President Walt mentioned on the front page... his part in the Giant scale movement. I enjoyed talking to him the few times I had the opportunity; and he was always pleasant and so very knowledgeable. During the month of June past, Jim sent me a number of his "Looking Back" columns, so, at least through the month of June of 2009, we'll all continue to enjoy his reminiscences. I believe I've learned more about him from those columns than I have from any other source!

Even though it's cold and blustery outside, we can all (1) enjoy each other's company at the Cuba Elementary School gym on Sundays; (2) prepare some more aircraft for the good weather when it comes [and it will eventually]; (3) Look forward to the Winter Banquet on January 24th- and another good effort on such by Ramona; and (4) think about the Toledo Weak Signals Show- that'll be here before you know it. I hope many of you avail yourself of the opportunity to go, we always have a great time.

It doesn't seem possible to me, but this is already the twelfth issue of *STARS Dust* that I've put out... a year certainly flies pass swiftly. *Until next month then... Tad*



LOOKING BACK – 9



This will be the last issue dealing with the trials and tribulations of single channel R/C aircraft dating back to the late 1950's and early 1960's. This photograph was taken at the Line Material field in 1961, of Olean

Model Airplane Club members at that time. The year 1961 was the beginning of multi-channel Citizenship reed systems, that were used in the three deBolt Custom Live-Wire bipes, belonging to Bill Messer (9085), Jim Messer (11691), and Leonard Bosworth – (framed only). All the others are single channel. From left to right are: Easy Evans, Bob Nolder, Bill Messer, Dave Forney, Dewey Barron, Jim Messer, John Carls, Leonard Bosworth, Jim Maynard, Bob ?, and Dave Evans.

Note the little J-3 Cub – far right. I wouldn't dare to tell this story about that airplane if I didn't have these witnesses; Bill Messer, Jim Maynard, and Dewey Barron. Bill hand-launched the little Cub powered by an OS 15 engine, at the Line Material field, with just enough power to put the airplane into a shallow climb. Immediately, I realized that I didn't have any control, so the chase was on. Bill & I hopped into the car and headed up the Dugan Road in the direction of the Windfall Road. The airplane was climbing steady and straight into the wind. It didn't circle – it just went straight.

Well, those of you that know the area – where the Dugan Rd. intersects the Windfall Rd., there is a huge hill there, close to 1000 ft. high. When it got there, the airplane had gained sufficient altitude to clear the hill, and all we could do was wave "bye-bye". Bill and I returned to the field, a distance of about two miles, and announced that this one was a "gonner" for sure.

About a half-hour later, at the field, we all looked off in the direction of the Haskell Road, and there was an airplane losing altitude. It was coming at a slight angle to us, and we all realized that it was my little J-3 on its way back – gliding downwind. Since it was trimmed to fly straight, it simply flew upwind until the fuel ran out, and returned on approximately the same flight path.

The plane landed back on our flying field, and was probably closer to where it took off than it would have been under my control. A true story!

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Next Regular Meeting @ JCC - Olean Campus:
January 14th at 7:00pm

Next Planning Meeting: *TBA*

2009 Winter Party: *At the Old Library, January 24th
at 5:00pm.*

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