

## STARS REGULAR MEETING of August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**The meeting began at 7:37PM with the pledge of allegiance by all in attendance.**

**In Attendance:** Randy Bittinger, Jamie Bowen, Dale Butts, Brad Davis, Gary Fitch, Ed Flicker, Clark Follett, Fred Fowler, Walt Hibbard, Mike Karnuth, Jim Keough, Tad Manske, Dave Pratt, Dick Say, Don Wehlage, and two guests, Rob and Thomas Jackson; a total of seventeen.

**Minutes:** the minutes of the July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting were read by Tad. A correction was made, as Walt's name had been left off of the attendance list. With that correction the minutes were passed by vote after motion of Randy and second of Brad.

**Treasurer's Report:** Don presented us the totals for the checking, saving and tractor accounts, and listed the following checks he's written during the past month. They were prepared for Dale for gas, Ed for gas and parts, Service store for food for the Rally, Fred for table materials, Dave for gas, Malcolm Sortore for the track, Casella for the waste bins, and for insurance and National Grid. He also made five deposits reflecting dues, the rally and donations during the same period. Don's report was also approved by vote after motion of Gary and second of Walt.

**Membership:** Ed introduced Thomas and Rob Jackson. Rob has run RC cars for years, and Thomas would like to join the club tonight. He's been here flying with members already. Rob may be a future member. Dale brought up the application of his friend, Walter Jackson (no relation) of Greenwood, who has also been here before and met several of the members. He has already filled out his application and paid his

membership dues. Unfortunately, he wasn't able to make the meeting tonight. Dick suggested we skip Walt's requirement for being present (as he had already completed his paperwork and paid up front). At that point, Thomas and Walter were voted into membership by acclamation. Welcome to both of you!

**Web Site:** Bob was not here tonight but Dick mentioned that many snapshots have been send to Bob, and we may expect them shortly on the website. He thanked all who had sent photos.

**Flight Instruction:** Walt says he has inspected and charged the club trainer, and it's all ready to go. Now we need more new members to fly it! Dave Pratt said he was planning on bringing a trainer to the open house, so (combined with the club trainer) some of our guests may be able to experience the joy of flight.

**The 2013 Rally:** Don gave a report on the finances of the rally. He listed out all of the major categories in terms of both expenditures and receipts, and also many of the minor ones. He and others said we made a profit, and the two days of good weather coupled with the hard work of all, especially the Skunk Works, made for success. Randy, speaking as a businessman, said the percentage of profit realized was quite good.

Looking forward to next year, it was brought up that we could use more advertising, and new signage would help as well. An increase in spectators is something we always look for as a need, and this year was no exception. Randy gave some examples of what the Flying Knights of Hamburg have done to increase their attendance. Some of our problems stem from the fact that the airport is in the middle of nowhere, and we don't have a major metropolitan area to draw from... like the knights- but that shouldn't keep us from trying to improve. Walt brought up the fact that more display aircraft are needed from

club members next year. This year's turnout was especially meagre. Other suggestions were also batted around, and some may be adopted next year.

**The President's Corner:** President Clark brought up a problem we seem to have to discuss every year at this time... "How do we get more members to participate in the Rally and Open House?" At this year's rally, some *didn't* work, and some *wouldn't* work. After quite a discussion, it was decided to send all members a letter explaining the extreme importance of these two events to the club; reminding them of the obligations they took upon themselves when they became members; and urging them- in a positive way- to be more involved. With many of us getting on in years, maybe we can't be much more "active", but we all can be more "involved". Most seemed to feel that this type of mailing, being to all members, and positive in tone, was superior to singling out the "offenders" and berating them through individually sent epistles.

Clark also publically thanked both Gary Fitch and Dan Lai for their generous donations to the Geotex project. This was followed by a spontaneous round of applause for both men.

**Old Business:** Clark opened old business asking if anyone would step forward to chair the Geotex project. We need someone to "be in charge", to make sure everything gets done, and everyone working on it knows what they're supposed to be doing. Failing in this effort to get a volunteer, Dick said he'd co-chair the effort, if Clark would work with him.

Clark led the assembled membership in a round of applause for Jim Keough for the wonderful job on the right side of the barn floor. Another round of applause was for the great work Kip did in scrapping the floor to level it. Everyone working on this project thus far is to be

commended for a "job well done". Jim asked for some help in moving items around after tonight's meeting... so they can be prepared to do the left or south side of the floor area.

Dave announced that the platform has been built for the track area, and we now need to determine what pipe is needed. Bill Messer has offered to supply it. Also needed at this site is the building of the steps up to the platform.

Randy said we really need to send a thank you letter to Tom and Rosemarie, and all those who worked in the Skunk Works during the Rally. Without their efforts, our profits would be exponentially less. Tad volunteered to write the letter, and send a draft to Clark for his approval.

**New Business:** Dick and Clark announced a work party for Saturday morning at 10:00am. This effort will be to lay out the dimensions and shape of the Geotex runway area, and to mark and spray the grass killer inside the area. Dick, Brad, Walt, Dale, Clark and Fred said they will be there.

Dave announced a work party at the track area for this Sunday at 1:00pm. All those who can, please show up to help. We're getting close now, a good push or two will get it done!

Vice President Say thanked Fred for all his work on the tables, and remarked how good looking and sturdy they are. He led a round of applause for Fred and his efforts. Fred said he was happy to have done it, and asked if we would extend his project to construct two new tables for under the pilots' shelter. He pointed out that they are old, rickety, and at times almost in danger of collapsing. He's already figured out what he needs in terms of materials. A motion was put

forth by Dick, seconded by Dave and passed by those present, to have Fred build the two tables he has proposed.

**Show and Tell:** there was none:

**STARS' Stuff:** Since Tom O. was not here, there was none.

**Adjournment:** Gary Fitch had a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Dave Pratt, and passed without dissension at 8:39PM.

**The next regular meeting will be held at the field on September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM. The next planning meeting will be held at the field on August 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Tad P. Manske, Secretary