

STARS REGULAR MEETING of January 8TH, 2014

The meeting began at exactly 7:00PM in Room 124 of the JCC Olean Student Center, with the pledge of Allegiance by all in attendance.

In Attendance: Randy Bittinger, Dale Butts, Brad Davis, Shelly Deitz, Gary Fitch, Ed Flicker, Clark Follett, Ramona Follett, Fred Fowler, Walt Hibbard, Jim Keough, Ben Kirk, Matt Kloss, Tad Manske, Tom Orcutt, Dick Say, Don Wehlage and Mike Zias; for a total of seventeen members and a guest.

Minutes: The minutes of the December 11th meeting were read by Tad. After motion of Gary and second of Jim, they were approved without change by vote of those present.

Introduction of Guest: President Follett introduced a guest, Ben Kirk of Wellsville. Ben is known by many of our members as he has flown at our open house and at the Rally,

Treasurer's Report: For the period of the previous month, Don reported writing one check- to National Grid; and making one deposit of dues and donated monies. He then presented the current figures for the checking, savings, and tractor accounts. This report was accepted by vote following a motion by Ramona and second of Brad.

Installation of New Officers for 2014: At this point Clark asked Brad Davis to swear in this year's new officers, who were asked to rise...

Safety Officer- Dale Butts

Secretary- Tad Manske

Treasurer- Don Wehlage

Vice President- Dick Say

President- Clark Follett

That action being successfully completed, it was time for the...

Annual Treasurer's Report: Don reported and listed dollar amounts of income from the following sources: dues, the Rally, the Open House, donations, pop and ice cream sales, the Spring Party, the Walmart display and the AMA Grant. He likewise reported figures from the following areas on the expense side of the ledger: maintenance, National Grid, field improvement, AMA charter, taxes, Spring Party, the Rally, the Open House, the Walmart display, pop and water, insurance, and miscellaneous.

Don then presented a budget for the 2014 year. His calculations were based, in most cases, on the averaging of figures from the past five years. The budget projections included figures for the income side in the areas of dues, Rally profits, the Open House, donations, the Spring Party and pop and ice cream sales. His numerical projections for the expenses to be incurred included the areas of maintenance, National Grid, AMA Charter, taxes, the Spring Party, the Rally, the Open House, pop and water and insurance.

Don was thanked by President Clark for such complete and detailed reporting, and this was followed by a round of applause.

Another round of applause, initiated by several members, followed the thanking of Gary Fitch, Dan Lai and Jim Keough for their very generous donations to the club over the course of 2013.

Membership: Clark brought up the fact that, annually, we have to continue or end our honorary memberships. We currently have three: Dave Mathewson, Keith Miller and Charlie Scholeno. The continuation

of all three by vote took place after motion to that effect by Gary and second of Ramona.

Ed announced that Ben Kirk has applied for membership in the STARS. Ben is both an AMA and WASPS of Wellsville member, and has been flying for quite a few years. He comes by modeling naturally enough... his dad Jerry being a ship modeler who has exhibited locally, nationally, and won at the Toledo Show. Ben's primary interests include gas powered warbirds and his two jet models. At this point, Ben was sent briefly into the hall while he was elected to membership by those STARS members present, following a motion and second to that effect by Ramona and Jim. He was then welcomed back into the meeting, given a STARS packet by Ed, and welcomed again with a round of applause for our newest member.

Web Site: Bob was not in attendance this evening.

Instruction: Walt had nothing new to report.

The President's Corner: Clark informed us of two upcoming events: the RCCR Swap Meet, and the Events at Dart Field in Mayville. To this Gary added the Syracuse Symposium that also will soon be here. Clark will send this information to Bob for posting on the website.

The Vice President's Corner: Dick explained to the club that he's changed his mind on the advisability of having a static display at the Olean mall. Unlike years past when the STARS had great success with mall shows, the mall currently has no manager, no one seemingly or actually in charge, and according to employees- so "little traffic" that Dick's enthusiasm for the idea has got up and went.

This led to some discussion on special "charity" events. Dick had thought of having a special community only open house, and sending any money made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Gary brought up the

fact that last year's AMA National Model Aviation Day, where hundreds of clubs took part, raised \$74,000 for the "Wounded Warrior" project. Further ideas put forth led to the realization that this whole topic definitely deserves more discussion in the future.

Old Business: Ramona reported on the Spring Party. After she had explained the choices again, as she did last month, those in attendance seemed overwhelmingly in favor of the served, sit-down dinner. That being the case Ramona repeated the four choices available. If anyone can't remember them, simply go on line to the December minutes where they are explained in detail. Cocktails at Moonwinks will be at 5:30PM followed by dinner at 6:00PM on Saturday, the 29th of March. All dinners are \$25. Please get your entrée choices e-mailed to Ramona ASAP, and your checks for the dinner mailed to Don as well.

Tad brought up an old business item of board business. Your board had talked some time ago about looking into special safety rules for helicopters. Tad went ahead and talked with Jeff Fuller, President of the Rochester RAMS club. They put on one of the largest heli shows in the northeast- the Northeast Heli Jamboree, every year at their field in Macedon, NY. Jeff said his club has no special heli rules, and they generally find that heli pilots are more safety conscious than fixed wing ones. They do clear the air when someone wants to do a 3-D heli routine, but that's more out of common courtesy than anything else.

Matt has been to that particular Jamboree, and stated that they usually have at least one hundred pilots, and a couple hundred spectators. Considering how small their facility is, that's unique. Both he and Gary mentioned that they are able to attract the top regional and national names to the event... and that makes a big difference in the number of spectators. Gary challenged us to see if we can come up with ways to increase our crowd size for the Scale Rally. Several ideas

were pushed around, and this topics seems assuredly to be brought up in the near future.

New Business: Jim has put considerable thought and effort into a proposal he wants to put forward on field improvement. Although he formally made the motion, and it was seconded by Brad, he almost immediately asked to table it... he wants people to think hard on his idea, and then get back to it in February. His motion as stated says "Moved that the STARS expend up to \$980 (includes materials, labor and tax) to construct a 20' x 25' concrete pad under and in front of our present flight shack." As envisioned, this pad would project out ten feet in front of the flight shack. Jim also talked about a way to pay for at least part of the project's cost. He'd like the club to advertise and sell engraved decorative bricks to be used somewhere on the field. Significant discussion ensued, but everyone came back to Jim's first idea... let's discuss this again in February and even subsequent meetings if need be.

Gary brought up safety concerns. He talked about insurance payments AMA has been involved in, how a lack of safety can cause those large payouts, and felt that by devoting part of the first meeting we have this spring back at the field to safety concerns, a review of our current rules, and any comments deemed appropriate by Dale, our new safety officer, we can get everyone thinking safety and safely- certainly a worthwhile goal.

Asked by Clark for general comments for the good of the club...

Dale said he'd like to see if cell phone numbers could be put on the membership listing Ed puts out. Ed says it's getting very crowded, and he doesn't want to decrease the font size yet again, but he will look into the feasibility of doing something.

Matt said he was at the field just before all the snow descended, and he said the it looked very good- especially the geotex. He said it was drum tight for the most part.

Gary wondered if we might put geotex on the RC track. Just something to think about, for now at least. Others noticed that the track still doesn't have many users yet. Let's hope this improves this year!

Show and Tell: nothing this evening

STARS Stuff: Tom has it available! Ramona acted as his cheerleader.

The next regular meeting will be held in room 124 of the Student Center, JCC Olean at 7:00PM on February 12th

The next planning meeting will be held at Dick Say's home at 7:00PM on January 27th.

Adjournment: Gary Fitch made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Mike Zias and passed without dissension at 8:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tad P. Manske, Secretary