

STARS REGULAR MEETING of March 19th, 2014

The meeting, postponed from the previous Wednesday due of inclement weather, began at 7:01PM 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, Ed Flicker, Clark Follett, Ramona Follett, Fred Fowler, Thomas Jackson, Ben Kirk, Tad Manske, Tom Orcutt, and a guest- Steve Kockler, for a total of twelve.

Minutes: The minutes of the February 12th meeting were read by Tad. After motion of Randy and second of Ramona, they were approved without change by vote of those present.

Introduction of Guest: President Follett introduced a guest, Steve Kockler. Clark did so saying that they had gone to school together “eons ago”. Steve works for the city. He has helped Fred out with mowing at the airport in the past, and now plans to start a new hobby- RC.

Treasurer’s Report: Although Don Wehlage couldn’t be here this evening, Fred gave the report Don had prepared. During the month deposits were made consisting of dues and Spring Party monies, and one check was written- to National Grid. Fred also gave the checking, savings and tractor account balances. The report was accepted by vote after a motion made by Tom and seconded by Brad.

Membership: Ed had the paperwork applications from two prospective members, Jake Bittinger and Steve Kockler. After sending Steve out to roam the halls for a moment, a positive vote was received to a motion and second of Ramona and Brad respectively, to elect both to membership. Calling Steve back in, he was welcomed with a round of applause. Randy will inform Jake of his election.

Speaking of membership... Ed said that quite a few of our current members still owed dues. For those in arrears who do not have e-mail... Clark will call them personally.

Instruction: Walt was not in attendance this evening.

The President's Corner: Clark brought up a topic we've discussed before. We have allowed three visits to our field, track and gym in the past. He read an e-mail he'd sent out to that effect. For this winter only, it was suggested we should allow more than three gym visits- after all, the winter season will be over in two weeks. Some discussion ensued and it was decided to keep the suggested policy in effect, provided those involved are AMA members.

Clark mentioned that safety matters had been discussed at the February planning meeting, and these will be brought up for explanation and discussion during new business.

Another planning meeting subject was an idea brought up there by Walt. Working with the Scouts at our field might be an excellent idea. Not only might we get a few younger members out of the effort, but it certainly would be good publicity and get our name out in a positive light. Almost everyone seemed interested in the idea, and it will be discussed at future meetings.

Clark said that there will be no "The Vice President's Corner" this evening. Dick is at home with his wife. Sylvia had her shoulder surgery today and we all wish her the speediest of sound recoveries.

The 2014 Rally: Randy announced that he had received the insurance papers needed from AMA. He has sent the appropriate information on same to both the city and the airport.

Randy brought up the idea of getting cards printed which he could take to the Toledo Weak Signals Show and pass out to both prospective pilots and spectators. With very positive feedback, and through general agreement, he was told to go ahead. Randy is also looking into "what (and how much) can we get printed on Rally advertising signs" that we can place throughout the area. He may look into involving the Chamber of Commerce also, for their assistance with advertising. He was thinking maybe of a banner. Fred volunteered to look into this avenue.

Tom mentioned that, in regard to Rally vendors, he's already received a call from a very enthusiastic Ohio sales outfit about setting up a pots and pans booth. Also in regard to vendors, it was announced that the Birds of Prey exhibit will be at the rally again this year, on Sunday.

Tom Jackson said he and his dad are planning on starting a hobby shop, and asked... "Can we set up at the rally?" It was generally agreed he could, and he'd be welcomed. Also in regard to hobby shops... the one in the mall has moved to a larger location, and Randy says there's a new one in Bradford.

Old Business: Ramona says twenty eight have signed up for the Spring Party. Ramona herself will try to contact those she hasn't had any luck hooking up with yet.

Jim Keough's motion regarding the concrete and brick work to be done, or at least considered, at the field was discussed. As Jim is currently in California, the motion was tabled again. There did, however, seem to be many in favor of the concrete work; on the other hand- many had concern about the brick idea.

Fred brought up the idea of using urethane on the tables. He felt the whole project could probably be done with just two gallons. Everyone present felt this to be a good idea, as the tables, exposed as they are to the elements, would last much longer with the urethane coating.

Ed announced that he has changed the combination on the pin box and garage. If you were one of the early ones to get your 2014 membership card, it may have the wrong combination written on it.

New Business: Dale brought up a pair of safety issues. First of all, the whole "spectator" issue will be discussed at the next planning meeting. Secondly, he put forth ideas on the safety of using cracked propellers, and in relation to charging lithium batteries.

Next, as regards airstrip safety rules, Dale took us, in detail, through the whole process of evaluating our current set of rules. There was some limited discussion on some issues, more on others. Several changes were suggested, and some were made.

There followed a long discussion on the "no spectators beyond this point" signs.

Prior to our next meeting, Dale will send out his suggested changes/deletions/additions to the current set of rules. If anyone has suggested changes you happen to come up with after tonight... get ahold of Clark and/or Dale as soon as possible.

Dale will present us a revamped set of Airstrip Safety Rules to be discussed and voted on at the next meeting in April.

On May 17th a Gold Leader Status event (in other words a “charity” event) will be held in our area. The Lung Cancer Society will be holding a fundraiser in Hinsdale. We can participate at no cost to us! We’ll need to set up a table, maybe with a flight simulator and printed pamphlets- and be prepared to “verbally sell the hobby!” It’ll run from 10AM until 4PM, and yes... we’ll need some able-bodied help. Brad, Clark, Fred, Ramona and Randy have volunteered- but even more would help. Think about it and add your name to the list in April!

Ramona has to make the final commitment to Moonwinks tomorrow, so if you want to go to the Spring Party- see her tonight!

Star’s Stuff: Tom Orcutt is in the house- see him!

Adjournment: Ramona Follett made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Brad Davis and passed without dissension at 8:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tad P Manske, Secretary