

## **STARS REGULAR MEETING of April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**The meeting began at 7:04PM in Room 124 of the JCC Olean Student Center, with the pledge of Allegiance by all in attendance.**

**In Attendance:** Gary Baker, Randy Bittinger, Jamie Bowen, Dale Butts, Brad Davis, Shelly Deitz, Gary Fitch, Ed Flicker, Clark Follett, Ramona Follett, Fred Fowler, Walt Hibbard, Thomas Jackson, Matthew Kloss, Steve Kockler, Tad Manske, Bill Messer, Tom Orcutt and Dick Say- for a total of eighteen members and one guest.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting were read by Tad. After motion of Walt and second of Fred, they were approved without change by vote of those present.

**Treasurer's Report:** Although Don Wehlage was not present, Fred read his report for him. Over the past month there were deposits made from Spring Party monies and dues. Two checks were written, one to National Grid and the other to Ed's Sporting Shop. Fred also read the current balances for the checking, savings and tractor accounts. Don's report was accepted by vote after a motion made by Ramona, and second of Jamie.

**Membership:** Ed said there were no new members. Clark announced he'd sent out eleven e-mails, reminding those in arrears to mail their dues in as soon as possible.

**Web Site:** Clark said the wrong place for the meeting had been posted on the website, and hoped it hadn't led to any confusion. The May meeting will be the first of the new year to be held at the field in Cuba. Rally information for 2014 has been posted on the website; check it out at your convenience.

**Instruction:** Walt reported that he went to check out the plane and battery at the field but was unable to find it. It was suggested he check with Dewey- he may have taken it home for the winter.

**The President's Corner:** The board has spent considerable time looking at the proposed new safety rules. They will be perused and discussed again by all, later in the meeting.

**The Vice President's Corner:** Dick said he will be unable to handle ice cream sales at this year's rally. He reiterated that it's not really a big money maker, taking in

approximately one hundred dollars or so. The rest, if we're lucky, is sold out of the shed at the field during the season. Dick suggested that we might want to ask the Skunks' Works ladies if they'd be willing to handle the ice cream- if we decide to keep selling it. Tad also mentioned that Dick will be in the announcer's booth with him- where his assistance will be greatly appreciated.

**The 2014 Rally:** Randy passed around examples of the handouts he'd had made. Some were for prospective Rally pilots, others were for spectators. He said he'd taken 100 with him to Toledo. Everyone agreed they looked terrific, and certainly contained quite a bit of relevant information.

As Jim Keough was still in California, Randy was unable to ask him about plans for publicity and advertising, but hopes to get in touch with Jim when he returns.

Tad and Dick brought up their need for a trailer with cover for the announcer's booth... it doesn't look like Kip's pop-up can make even one more year. Several suggestions were made, and Randy will take them into advisement.

Randy said he'd like to see the STARS members be able, and ready, to fly on Sunday- especially when things start to slow down. As this would be a change from past practice, some discussion ensued. No decision was made, but most seemed to be in favor of the idea.

Matt suggested that if we attended more of the other RC events offered in our general area of Western New York (or within a four hour drive), we might be able to get more participation in ours. In the past, this had been a strength of the STARS, but as we've aged, "travelling" has tailed off quite a bit. I think everyone agreed with Matt, it just might be difficult to be made "doable".

Matt also questioned as to whether we truly need spotters at the Rally. This led to a spirited discussion. Gary mentioned that the downside of doing away with them would be that the announcers would not be able to get appropriate details concerning the planes or their pilots. The spotters wouldn't be there to relay the pertinent information.

Our last Rally discussion concerned the possibility of putting up canopies for the STARS planes- at the place they are usually viewed by the spectators.

**Old Business:** Ramona reported that thirty people had attended the Spring Party. As far as she could tell, everyone seemed satisfied with the location and food, although some had said they'd like to go back to giving out awards like we used to do at the Winter Banquet. Ramona has been thinking about this at length, and asks you to get in contact with her if you have any suggestions. Some thought that at least the Golden Prop and the Bonehead awards should be reinstated. Those making the suggestion were reminded by Dick that to get this accomplished, people should keep their eyes open- start watching what is happening at the field! He also felt that putting a committee together would improve the chances of all of this happening. Clark said that he has saved the bonehead award, and has it in his possession. A round of applause seemed to answer the question... "Should we bring these awards back? It was also remarked that we might consider giving our recognition for 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 year members.

Our next topic was Jim Keough's motion on the concrete and commemorative bricks. Some felt this should be "un-tabled" and put to a vote. A motion to that effect was made by Jamie and seconded by Brad. Beginning discussion on the motion, Gary F. asked about any other major projects we were considering for the year. The first, mentioned by Randy, was cleaning out the ditch beneath the track. The second, brought up by Ramona, on which much more discussion ensued, was work needed to repair the driveway. Dick broke in to say, he'd prefer we waited until after the Rally before deciding on anything- to have a better handle on our resources. By the end of the discussion, it seemed unanimous (or nearly so)- the roadway must be given priority, taken care of first! A motion to keep the concrete/brick project tabled was made by Gary, seconded by Ramona, and passed by vote.

Clark, Ramona, Randy and Walt all volunteered to be on a committee to look into the driveway work needed. Gary wondered if we might be able to ask the town of Ischua for some help.

**New Business:** Dale brought up the matter of safety at the field. Gary asked that the changes to be recommended be read; they were. There were a few concerns regarding definitions. The main discussion on safety rules centered around point # three, mainly on the "10 feet above ground level" part. After further

discussion, it was decided that since # two actually covers all other parts of #three, # three could be dropped. With that one change, Dale made a motion to accept the new STARS Airstrip Safety Rules. Ramona seconded the motion and it was passed by vote.

Gary talked about a letter that AMA has sent to the FAA. In it, we ask that they act soon on rules for flying drones. Over thirty others organizations have followed the AMA's lead, signing on as signatories along with AMA. As currently stated, organizations can come up with their own rules if they so desire.

Matt brought up the idea of having hot dogs on a club fly night as the Wellsville club does. It might increase the turnout at the field. Some discussion followed with the general feeling that it would probably be a good idea. Matt also asked rhetorically if we should try to attract those people from outside the club who already fly... try to get them on our membership rolls. He also suggested that possibly raffling off a complete flying machine might lead to increased interest in our club.

**Show and Tell:** Randy brought a Sky Hero quad copter with him that he picked up in Toledo. He gave quite a bit of information about it, and answered a few questions. As it currently stands, the craft is not wired nor set up to fly. Without considering the cost of batteries, the quad copter, as it sits, is available for about \$1,100.

**Stars Stuff:** Yes Tom is "in the house" tonight. See him immediately after the meeting.

**Adjournment:** Walt Hibbard made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Brad Davis and passed without dissension at 8:40PM.

**The next regular meeting will be at the field, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM.**

**The next planning meeting will be at the field, April 28<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Jad P. Manske*, Secretary