

STARS REGULAR MEETING of May 14th, 2014

The meeting began at 7:05PM at the Club field in Cuba, with the Pledge of Allegiance by all in attendance.

In Attendance: Gary Baker, Randy Bittinger, David Conklin, Brad Davis, Ed Flicker, Clark Follett, Ramona Follett, Fred Fowler, Dan Haines, Walt Hibbard, Thomas Jackson, Ben Kirk, Tad Manske, Bill Messer, Tom Orcutt, Dave Pratt, Dick Say, and Don Wehlage; for a total of eighteen.

Minutes: The minutes of the April 9th meeting were read by Tad. Two corrections were made. Before the meeting President Clark told me that he, not Fred, had read Don's Treasurer's Report. Don had given it to him at the April planning meeting. Following the reading, Randy informed me he had said he'd like STARS' pilots ready and able to fly both Saturday and Sunday of the Rally... not just Sunday afternoon. Both corrections were made. As corrected, the minutes were approved by vote, following a motion and second of Ramona and Tom respectively.

Treasurer's Report: Don reported having written checks to National Grid, Fred Fowler and Steve Kockler during the past month. He also deposited dues paid. He then read the current balances of the checking, savings and tractor accounts. Don's report was accepted after motion of Dave, second of Walt, and vote of those present.

Membership: Ed had nothing new to report.

Web Site: Clark reminded all that we're still looking for someone to take over the web site. Bob Bush has been great about keeping it up, but he has been ready for quite a while now to turn it over. Let's hope one of the members steps forward soon.

Instruction: Walt announced that our training aircraft is up, running and ready... now all we need are some students!

The President's Corner: Clark began by talking about three topics that had occupied most of last month's planning meeting.

First- the new safety rules, are done.

Secondly, new signage was brought up. The planning committee would like to see a new sign welcoming visitors placed on the south end of the fence. Also, four “procedure” signs for visitors, one at each end of the runway, and two more next to the breaks in the fence around the flagpole and memorial pillar. Another sign should also be installed close by the track. Before our next meeting, Clark will contact Jim Goodemote to see if he’d like to do them. Some discussion was held on other possible sources, sizes, etc. but no long term decisions were made.

Thirdly, it seems that new fire extinguishers are in order. The ones we currently have are old, and with the advent of the new powerful electric batteries, a different type may be needed as well. This topic was discussed at some length, but no decisions were made. All agreed however that “something needs to be done”.

President Clark asked if there was anyone who had not heard about the new lawn tractor Dewey had given us- a BRAND NEW Cub Cadet. All he took in return was the old one. A hearty and loud round of applause of Dewey’s generosity followed.

A round of applause also followed for Fred and his efforts; in thanks for the beautiful job he has done building tables, benches and protecting them all with a urethane coating.

Lastly, applause followed our president’s thanking of Brad, Steve and Lowell Putnam for the excellent job they’d done taking care of the piles of refuse in the area.

Vice President’s Corner: Dick brought up the subject of ice cream sales at the rally, and Tom reported that the Skunk Works ladies are more than willing to take on that along with their other duties. It will become part of the food tent offerings.

Speaking of eating... Dick has planned a Memorial Day Weekend picnic at the STARS field for Saturday, the 24th. The picnic will be at 5:00PM. If all goes well, Dick will organize more over the course of the summer. The club will supply meat and rolls. Those coming who would like to are encouraged to bring a dish to pass. Those that can’t do that are asked to bring chips, snacks, pickles or condiments. The president thanked Dick for organizing this.

Dick would also like to go back to the pleasant habit of a “Friday night out” once or month or so, for any and all members and significant others who would like to share a good time with each other as they spend “fish fry night” together.

The 2014 Rally: Randy read out the rally duty list, to make sure all positions were covered, and that each committee head knew his place.

Ed will handle the dumpsters

Tad and Dick will be the announcing team

Jake will take care of the electric lines

Don’s in charge of finances

Dale will run the flight line

Ed will be in charge of generator maintenance

Jamie will take care of headsets

The kitchen crew will handle the ice cream sales

Walt will occupy the information tent

Clark and Tom will set up the PA system

Shelly will be asked to handle the 50/50 raffles

Tom Jackson is in charge of parking

Tom will order the porta-johns

Dave will secure the transmitter impound area

Jim K’s in charge of promotion

Don and Ramona will man registration

Ed and Fred will see to it that gas is available for the generators

Randy asked if anything had been done to secure door prizes this year. The general answer of those in attendance was that nothing had been done, and it was now too late in the year to attempt it. Someone suggested that if we do it for

the 2015 Rally, we will have to send out the letters in December of this year. Shortly after that, sponsor “freebies” have all been spoken for.

Dick asked if we could make a better registration sheet, or ask all the pilots to do a better job of filling them with detail that he and Tad can talk about. In the past, too many have been practically blank. Ben said the problem, from the pilot’s point of view, is that they take time to fill out, especially if you’re registering more than one plane. Pilot’s want to fly, not fill out forms. At that, Dick and Tad asked if they could at least take a look at the current form and try to make changes that would help them, without making any more work for the registering pilots. Dan then came up with an excellent point, asking whether we’d ever allowed and/or encouraged “on-line” registration. Well no, we hadn’t, but it sure sounded like a great idea. This way the registrants could complete their sheets on line, at their leisure, and that way have much more time to do a thorough job of filling them out.

Next Randy asked if there were any major “tent problems” we should address before July. Someone, I believe it was Ed, said that some of the tent poles need a good “straightening out”, because they do not fit well together. We might look at doing that beforehand, as those poles are all within easy reach in the shed.

Looking into the matter of having a banner stretched across North Union in Olean, the chamber of Commerce is willing to give a monetary contribution towards the project. We would probably have to foot the bill for putting it up, but that cost isn’t very high. Fred will talk to Jim G. on this, because he is supposedly designing the banner. The actual construction of the banner is being done by Mike Burke.

Randy passed around examples of the cards he’s had prepared to give out to prospective pilots and spectators. Some members took some to place around in their home towns as advertising.

Old Business: As regards the driveway, a round of applause followed the announcement that, in return for allowing their equipment to sit on our property during their paving of the road, the company involved- at the suggestion of Dave, Gary and Dewey, put down a macadam apron at the road edge of our driveway (for free)! Dick and Ramona will be checking prices for the fill required for the project of stabilizing this area, and getting rid of the spring “water hazard”. They feel that they’re looking at an area of approximately 275’ x 14’.

Don't forget! On the 17th at the Hinsdale American Legion, we will be putting up a display during their Lung Cancer Benefit. We need volunteers to staff during the day. Randy has made a display he'll bring to tell people about the STARS and encourage questions. All who can show up to talk and smile- please do so! Tom Jackson thinks he'll be able to bring a simulator (which would be a great addition to the display!) Ed suggested we might want to sell hats at the benefit- we certainly have plenty!

New Business: Ed said we really need a work party to get done some of this working we've been talking about forever- like the ditch below the track for instance. As so much dirt needs to be moved, Don volunteered to bring his tractor with loader. Those who can come to work, please bring your own tools (like shovels, rakes, tree saws, brush clippers, etc.) and you'll be put to work. After minimal discussion, it was decided to hold the work party on the 24th, hopefully starting at 9:00AM.

Lastly, Tom J. brought up an electrical problem at the field. After some discussion, it sounded like this could be handled in-house with available talent, and would be soon.

STARS Stuff: Yes, Tom O. is "in the house" tonight, see him immediately after the meeting.

Adjournment: Brad Davis made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Tom Jackson and passed without dissension at 8:55PM.

The next regular meeting will be at the field, June 11th, at 7:30PM

The next planning meeting will be at the field, May 26th, at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tad P. Manske, Secretary