

## **STARS REGULAR MEETING OF April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**The meeting began at 7:02pm in Room 124 of the JCC Olean Student center with the Pledge of Allegiance by all in attendance.**

**In Attendance:** Randy Bittinger, Bob Brown, Dale Butts, Brad Davis, Gary Fitch, Ed Flicker, Clark Follett, Ramona Follett, Fred Fowler, Dan Haines, Walt Hibbard, Jim Keough, Frank Leute, Tad Manske, Tom Orcutt and Dick Say; a total of sixteen.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting were read by Tad. The minutes were accepted by vote without change or addenda following a motion and second of Gary and Walt respectively.

**Treasurer's Report:** Don being on vacation in the Caribbean, Clark presented this report. Don listed deposits from both dues and Spring Party payments, as well as checks written over the past thirty days to National Grid, Moonwinks and Ed's Sporter Shop. Clark also read the current balances of the checking, savings and tractor accounts. The report was accepted after a motion of Ramona, second of Jim and a positive vote of those present.

**Membership:** Ed had nothing new to report, but Clark has received an application inquiry from a Bill Greene of Endicott, NY, a member of the Aero Guidance Society, who summers in our area. Clark asked if we should send him an application. Following Randy's suggestion, and after little discussion, the club seemed to think that a prospective member needs to appear in person before he can be allowed to petition.

**Web Site:** Nothing new here, but Bob is still looking for pictures...

**Instruction:** Nothing new from Walt on this topic.

**Rally 2015:** Randy asked if we thought he should buy some more roadside signs. Of the fifty we bought last year, both he and Clark believe there are 34 to 36 left. There was general agreement that the answer was yes. Randy also thought Ed's idea of signing out signs this year was worth trying.

A rather long and complex discussion ensued on whether we should sell hats at the Rally this year. Quite a few members spoke to the issue (including quite a bit of talk on actual hat design, colors and price). No decisions were made, but with

the size of our rally, no one seemed to think this would be an especially good moneymaker.

Bob Brown had quite a bit to say about the future of the rally. He feels that we need to make changes if it is to continue to succeed. He also said we have to get out to other clubs' events if we expect them to come to ours. Other people chimed in on the topic and a long discussion ensued. No ideas were immediately adopted, but much brainstorming occurred.

Dick brought up the topic of our tent and trailer for the announcers' booth. Randy said he's prepared to use his tent and trailer. Dick also gave us the particulars on how we can get our announcement on channel six, the local free advertising access channel for civic organizations in Olean.

Jim said that he has been contacted, and this year we will be receiving a one thousand dollar grant from the Cattaraugus County Department of Tourism for use in advertising this year's rally. A round of applause followed Jim's announcement.

**Safety Officer:** Dale said he will shortly be checking out the condition of the field first aid kit, and also talked about safety in regards to electricians. Dick mentioned that staying in the pattern is vitally important at the field, and we should remind those who choose not to do that they must change their habits.

**President's Corner:** Clark says the tractor is currently apart at the repair facility, but there is no current estimate of when it will be fixed and returned. It was mentioned that the field needed to be rolled quite soon, and we currently have no tractor available big enough to handle the job.

Lastly, President Clark said the Bolivar Lions had contacted him about some sort of event or program they will be hosting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of May, but that he'd have to contact them to get particulars.

**Old Business:** Ramona said the spring Party had been a success - with 25 in attendance, and Clark noted that Fred Fowler had been given the Golden Prop Award for all the extra, above-the-call-of-duty work he has been doing the last several years. Fred was given a round of applause.

Dale mentioned that he and Linda were giving a gift certificate for some Dahlia plants to be planted around the sign at the field. Clark thanked him for this appreciated gift, and said they will add a lot to the looks of our entrance.

**New Business:** The next topic consumed by far the largest portion of the evening. The clubs who will be hosting this year's District II Fun Fly have requested the use of the STARS radios for that event. The contacted Randy with the request, and Randy contacted President Clark about it. As the planning meeting had already passed, this request was discussed by planning board members over the phone at some length, and the feeling of the board was that we should not lend them out. There were two reasons for this. Clark felt we'd set a bad precedent for the future, in that we have a current policy saying only members can borrow equipment, and then only tables and chairs. Tad and others felt the cost of replacement was too high; as the individual radios cannot be replaced - a whole set would have to be purchased if any of them came back not working. This board recommendation was put before the club. Bob, Randy and Gary especially disagreed with this recommendation, and berated the board for their attitude. Members spoke for and against both sides of the issue, and at times the discussion grew quite heated. Finally, Jim called for the question and stated that he would pay to replace the whole set if they came back damaged. This pretty much settled the argument, and with his motion made and seconded by Frank to allow them to borrow the radios, eleven yes votes were cast. The motion carried.

**Show and Tell:** Dan has bought a radar device that will allow him to ascertain the speed of models flying at the field. He's looking forward to working with it this season.

**STARS Stuff:** Tom is in the house - see him after the meeting!

**Our next planning meeting will be at Dale Butt's at 7:00PM on April 27<sup>th</sup>.**

**Our next regular meeting will be at the field in Cuba at 7:30PM on May 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**Adjournment:** Gary Fitch made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Brad Davis and passed without discussion at 8:24PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Tad P. Manske*, Secretary