

STARS REGULAR MEETING of January 13th, 2016

The meeting began at 7:01pm in Room 124 of the Student Center at JCC Olean with the pledge of allegiance by all in attendance.

In Attendance: Randy Bittinger, Jamie Bowen, Pat Casey, David Conklin, Brad Davis, Gary Fitch, Ed Flicker, Clark Follett, Ramona Follett, Fred Fowler, Dan Haines, Ben Kirk, Matt Kloss, Frank Leute, Tad Manske, Tom Orcutt, Dick Say, and one guest, Shelly Dietz; for a total of eighteen.

Minutes: The minutes of the December 9th meeting were read by Tad. They were accepted by vote without change or addenda after motion of Gary and second of Randy.

Treasurer's Report: Don being away, his report was read by President Follett. During the past month a check was written to National Grid, and deposits were made from the dues, hats, and donations categories. Clark also read the current figures for the checking, savings and tractor accounts. This report was also accepted by vote after motion and second of Dan and Tom respectively.

Clark next read aloud Don's annual report. Revenue-producing sections included figures in the black for the Rally, the Open House, and total budget. Negative figures came from the dues and pop and ice cream categories. Both the Spring Banquet and National Grid costs came in under budget for the year. Overall, to reiterate, the budget and actual figures showed more positives than negatives for the year.

Lastly, Clark read out the figures, both income and expenses, from our budget for the 2016 year.

Membership: No changes were forthcoming from Ed, but President Clark reminded us that we have to renew our honorary memberships annually. Randy made a motion to that effect, it was seconded by Gary, and passed by vote.

The Rally: Now known as a "fun fly" rather than scale rally, Randy was asked to add "all flyers and spectators welcome" to our advertising efforts. He said we are all cleared with AMA, and we have permission to use the Olean/Cattaraugus County Airport. He then passed around a beautifully done poster that he'll be sending out to his over three thousand e-mail contacts within the hobby. Ed

noted that he has received word that the city WILL hang our banner this year, but currently the “where” is still up in the air.

The FPV Racing Event: Matt noted that there are some problems left to be solved before the event. He noted especially an updating of our website, and work being done on a facebook page. His other areas of concern included the size we wanted the event to be; information on what and how we’d cook during the event; the need for gate keepers; a PA system; brush hog and runway mowing to be done; using the pilot shack as a headquarters; and use of the pavilion for pilot recharging (here a short discussion ensued about raising the usability of our electric system- and how it would “not be a problem”). At this point Matt explained how the races would be conducted, so as to get in as many races as possible. Lastly, he talked about the Rotor STARS- the new sixteen-member group that will be conducting the event. Matt encouraged as many as are interested to join the group, found on the internet at MultiPG.com. The event, by the way, will be known as the “Rotor STARS Quad Race”.

The President’s Corner: Dan Haines was asked to fill in the last year of Fred’s board membership, as Fred had moved on to the Safety Officer’s slot. Dan graciously accepted.

Clark mentioned the FAA drone registration, at which point Gary said that all AMA members should do so as soon as possible. Until either the 19th or 21st, registration is free- after that it will cost you five dollars. Gary then proceeded to give an update on the negotiations between the AMA and the FAA; and advised all to keep up on reading the e-mails AMA headquarters is sending out to its members.

The Vice President’s Corner: Dick had nothing this evening.

Old Business: Clark said that Rob, at the very end of the last meeting, has offered to chair the Spring Party, and he had thanked him for it.

He also reminded everyone that we’ll be going over our constitution and by-laws at the February meeting. If you still need a copy of them, please contact him ASAP.

New Business: Dan wondered if we could do something to attract to membership all those who received drones for Christmas. Maybe if we offered instruction as a “public service” we might get some takers.

A discussion was held about the recommendations of the special meeting we had held concerning our future. Out of the discussion emerged a “Community Open House” to be held on May 21st, with a rain date of May 22nd. A motion to that effect was passed by vote following presentation by Dick and second of Ramona.

Lastly, under new business, suggestions were made on gaining new members. Gary, David, Tad and others contributed to the conversation, with some of the better ideas involving presentations to local industry about the hobby, and working with the young visitors to the Space Center that Jim Keough is so involved with.

STARS’ Stuff: Tom is in the house tonight- get your tickets from him after the meeting.

Show and Tell: Beginning show and tell, Dan showed us a strobe light flashlight he’d recently purchased that was quite amazing for what it did and how it did it.

Next, David showed around and explained a tri-copter he’d built from scratch; buying all the parts individually. We enjoyed the work of a “builder”.

Lastly, Jamie exhibited a beautiful box he’d lazered the parts for, and built to house his quad copter. A very handsome as well as practical container, several mentioned that one like it would be a great prize for the Rotor STARS Quad Race!

The next planning meeting will be at Brad Davis’s home on January 25th, 7:00pm.

The next regular meeting will be here at JCC Olean on February 10th, 7:00pm.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Frank Leute, seconded by Ramona Follett, and passed by vote of the members present at 8:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tad P. Manske, Secretary

