

STARS REGULAR MEETING of August 10th, 2016

The meeting began at 7:33pm in the pavilion of the STARS Cuba Club field with the pledge of allegiance by all in attendance.

In Attendance: Dewey Barron, Randy Bittinger, Bob Brown, Alan Covert, Brad Davis, Gary Fitch, Clark Follett, Fred Fowler, Dan Haines, Pat Kennedy, Frank Leute, Tad Manske, Dick Say and Don Wehlage; for a total of fourteen.

Minutes: The minutes of the July 13th minutes were read by Tad. They were approved by vote without change or addenda after motion and second of Randy and Dan respectively. Randy asked that Tad send him an e-mail copy of the minutes, as he wanted to save the Fun Fly information recorded therein for use next year.

Treasurer's Report: Don reported making deposits of Fun Fly food and FPV Race food monies. He reported on checks written to National Grid, Dave Pratt, Adams' Services, Ramona Follett, Erie Niagara Insurance and Bradford Publishing. One purchase was also made during the month past using the club debit card. He then read off the current figures for the Checking, Savings and Tractor accounts.

Randy asked a question of the cost of the porta-potties, as it seemed a hundred dollars higher than last year. Questions were also asked about the effectiveness of the advertising monies we spent, most specifically in regard to Bradford Publishing, and advertising that it did in the Bradford Era and Olean Times Herald. Discussions on both topics ensued. As regards the porta potties, it was decided to look into a different supplier for next year. No decision was made regarding the advertising expenditures, although most in attendance seemed to be in favor of changes there as well- possibly dropping Bradford Publishing from our budget next year. Lastly in relation to advertising, mention was made by several members of the excellent job The Cattaraugus County Tourist Bureau did with their monies spent in Allegany County papers.

Membership: As Ed was not in attendance, there was no report. Dick reported that Gerrie Flicker is not doing well health-wise.

Web Site: Bob has expressed a desire to talk to Fred about the new website. Fred will contact him regarding same.

Instruction: As Jim was not here, there was no report this evening.

The President's Corner: Clark began with several questions, all of which were answered by the club in the affirmative. Firstly, should we open one half of the garage for airplane storage during this month's Open House? Secondly, do we want to ask him to request of Cuba-Rushford Central School that the Sundays of April be added to the indoor flying season? Lastly- should we keep the month of May on the schedule of winter meetings at JCC Olean?

President Follett then brought up the subject of replacing our grills before next year's flying season. They are not working well, and the Skunk Works especially had major problems with the stainless steel one this year- both as regards efficiency and safety. The stainless, by the way, is the better of our two grills! The consequent discussion following was most concerned with the best time of year to buy them, what sizes were needed, and whether to get "industrial-strength" grills or "back yard barbecue" varieties. The general consensus seemed to be to get a better quality grill (possibly a Blackstone brand which Randy looked up on line), and Fred said he would look into the particulars of it.

The Vice President's Corner: Dick began by noting that he has already contacted JCC Olean concerning our use of their facility at the Student Center for our monthly meetings over the winter months of October through May. He went to his usual contact, and he expects to hear from her soon. If he doesn't, he will contact her prior to our September meeting.

He also reiterated that we need to put our FAA registration number on each of our aircraft, in a place where it can be viewed without the use of any tools.

Old Business: Don began by stating that we have kept our insurance with Erie Niagara, as two other companies he contacted could not give us a better rate. He has decreased our cost however, but raising our deductible significantly.

Dan wondered if the SHARKS would have their fun fly this coming Saturday, as the projected weather did not look too encouraging. Hopefully they will let us know if they change it.

Tad announced that the WASPS fun Fly will be the following Saturday, the 20th, and encouraged all to come. He said they'd be surprised at how the WASPS' Nest has been spruced up.

New Business: Although she couldn't be here this evening, Clark said that Ramona would like to know, as soon as possible, what we plan on bringing to the Open House. Clark had a list of needs that he passed around to those who already knew. Ramona will be sending out an e-mail to club members soon, so that you can reply directly to her.

Bob Brown was thanked by President Follett and received a round of applause from all in attendance for the new AMA flag he presented to the club. He said he was able to procure it because he "knows somebody" at AMA headquarters. Following up on that, Clark says he now has all the flags, including backups for some. No one should have to ask "who has the flags?" anymore.

Clark then brought up a major proposal that resulted in a very long discussion. Some of the members want to set up a "drone/multi-rotor/helicopter" flying site within our field parameters that would be restricted to those types of aircraft. This, however, would not preclude them from using the main runway/flying area that fixed-wing aircraft use. He explained, in detail, where the area would be, using a graphic aid and answered questions from those members present. Finally, a straw vote of those present was taken, and the majority were in favor of this change in field usage. Detailed explanations of the safety line, a buffer line, and a "no fly area" seemed to sway most of those "on the fence" or not initially in favor. Clark, Brad and Fred will set up the area as explained.

Gary told the club about the latest from the FAA. If I understand correctly what Gary said, they have in effect stated that AMA members should fly by the safety rules established by the national organization, and the FAA won't complicate things.

STARS' Stuff: As Tom was not in the house tonight, there was none.

The next Planning Meeting will be here at the field on August 29th at 7:00pm.

The next Regular Meeting will be here at the field on September 14th at 7:30pm

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Brad Davis, seconded by Dewey Barron, and passed by vote of the members present at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tad P. Manske, Secretary