

STARS' REGULAR MEETING of March 8th, 2017

The meeting began at 7:00pm in room 224 of the Student Center at JCC Olean with the pledge of allegiance by all in attendance.

In Attendance: Randy Bittinger, Bob Brown, Brad Davis, Gary Fitch, Ed Flicker, Clark Follett, Ramona Follett, Dan Haines, Gene Hickey, Pat Kennedy, Matt Kloss, Frank Leute, Tad Manske, Tom Orcutt, Dick Say, Don Wehlage, and two guests, Joanne Brown and Shelly Deitz; for a total of eighteen.

Minutes: The minutes of the February 8th meeting were read by Tad. They were approved by vote without change or addenda, following motion of Dan and second of Don.

Treasurer's Report: Don reported writing checks during the past month to National Grid and Matt Kloss.

Three deposits were also made; the first of dues, the second of spring party reservation monies and a donation, the third of spring party monies and dues.

Lastly, Don gave the current balances for the checking, savings and tractor accounts. This report was also accepted by vote, following motion and second of Brad and Gary respectively.

Membership: Ed reported that we have gained no new members, but have lost two who were members last year.

Web News: Clark said he'll shortly be giving some suggestions to Dale. Ed said he'd be glad to help, if needed.

Bob said that one thing that is really needed on our website is an activities page- to let visitors know what's going on, and what we are planning for the future.

Our Fun-Fly: Randy began by saying we really need better promotion (publicity) for the event... and now, not later, is the time to start!

Next he asked to be brought up to date on efforts to procure prizes. Dick said he is working on it. He wants to put appropriate information and the club logo on stationary as he sends out these requests. Everyone agreed that would be a good idea.

Clark next asked, again, for volunteers to take up the contest director's position, reminding everyone that this year will be Randy's last.

Reiterating what he had said earlier, Randy explained that December and January are really the most difficult times for the contest director.

He also repeated that publicity, on the net, through flyers and using any and all means available is crucial. Without flyers and spectators, there can really be no successful fun-fly.

FPV Event: Matt announced that Hobbico has donated a "Vusion Extreme FPV race pack" to the events. Matt wants to raffle this off, selling tickets both before and during the race. He said this is a very nice donation, as it contains everything needed to take up the hobby. Tad made a motion to that effect, it was seconded by Dan, and passed unanimously.

Matt also announced that Ready Made has agreed to be a principal sponsor. This encouraged several (including the President) to ask if we might approach the Seneca Nation casino up the road, and try to get them as a principal sponsor as well. This led to a good discussion on attracting sponsors at all levels.

Matt also put forth a novel idea... that of having a "Corn Hole Tournament" at the field as a money raiser. He said the equipment needed is easily made and it really is a lot of fun. Once the equipment is made, there really is no major effort involved in holding a tournament.

This part of the meeting concluded with a long discussion on food costs and prize money. This after it was understood by all that food and the FPV race itself will be kept separate on the books.

Clark said he'll ask at future meetings for any more suggestions the membership has on any part of the FPV event.

The President's Corner: Clark began by saying he'd also ask at future meetings if anyone had any new ideas on money-raising or membership appeals. That led to an immediate discussion on same.

Dick felt our demographics may be wrong. Maybe it's the recent retirees with money in their pockets and time on their hands that need to be approached. How many of their wives want them "out of the house!", as well. He also talked

about the possible positive effects of having our information put on diner place mats as an advertising ploy. Gene said he has done that, and it is not as expensive as one would expect.

Gary mentioned the possibilities of making presentations to groups, and as far as demographics go... he said we may want to target the “baby boomers”, even holding something like a “baby boomer weekend” as a way to drum up interest.

Matt suggested possibly giving away a free membership was a way to attract new members.

Quite a few other suggestions were also made: including getting back to a static display and hot dog sale at Walmart, holding four major events during the year rather than three, and having a corn hole tournament in the evening at the Fun-Fly.

Lastly Clark brought up the matter of needed work at the field. Should we have a work party, or try to split the work into several or more work days? No decisions were made in this regard.

The Vice President’s Corner: Dick had nothing more to say, as he said “I’ve already spoken my bit tonight”.

Old Business: Ramona announced that so far we have eleven couples attending the spring dinner at Moonwinks.

New Business: there was none.

Show and Tell: There was none this evening.

STARS’ Stuff: Tom is “in the house” this evening... see him after the meeting.

The next planning meeting will be at Fred’s home on March 27th, at 7:00pm.

The next regular meeting will be held here at JCC Olean on April 12th at 7:00pm.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Gary Fitch and seconded by Brad Davis. It was passed by vote of the members present at 8:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tad P. Manske, Secretary