

FAHS Meeting Minutes May 6, 2018 - SPMH

Attending: Mary Fletcher, Dr. Warren Brown, Barbara Strachen, Eric Orford, Neil Cosentino, Bill Barnes, Bill Buston, Dave Wilgus, Ron Streicher, Clive Newcomb and Rui Farias.

Meeting called to order at 10:35 a.m.

Secretaries Report: The Tampa Downtown Hilton has been chosen for the 2018 Tony Jannus Award Banquet December 13th. April meeting notes indicated the event to be held at the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel but the need for more seating to hear speaker Capt. Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger necessitated the change. April notes accepted after this change.

Treasurer's Report: Barbara Strachen along with Mary Fletcher and Dr. Warren Brown are listed on the FAHS bank account signature card to manage club business. There will be no bulk mail charges for this months *Happy Landings* newsletter. Much work has been done to update our database to identify members with elapsed dues but until this work is completed all members since 2014 will still be receiving the newsletter. Anyone with quality pictures of Russell St. Arnold please contact Terri Griner.

Artifacts – Recent Donations: Dr. Brown brought in a part from a WWII German V1 rocket given to him by his father-in-law from the Netherlands. The occupied Dutch people trying to sabotage these critical parts did it at risk of death. Past President Chris Fiore (deceased) has left a large number of aviation books. There are also a couple of B17 bomber auxiliary engines. Ron Streicher will temporarily be storing these items in his hanger. The *Swift as an Arrow* book has been donated to the Largo Public Library by Barbara Strachen with a FAHS bookplate as donor.

Clearwater Air Park Activity: There was a successful event held to acquaint Girl Scouts with aviation and experiencing communicating on Walkie Talkies, firing Alka Seltzer rockets and a number of other clever projects. The 99's event, helped by the Clearwater CAP hopefully can be repeated in the future. EAA 282 had about 65 youths participating in a March 17th Young Eagle event.

St. Petersburg Museum of History-Pier:

Rui Farias Director of the museum briefed members on museum and pier construction time lines and concerns. Pier access, including parking, will be curtailed until its predicted completion in late 2019. The muse-

um will remain open and we will be able to have our July 14 meeting to dust the Benoit there but only pedestrian access will be available. Once construction begins for the museum it too will be closed for 18 months losing one half million in revenue. It was disappointing to hear that the museum was not a part of the 3.5 million dollar Pier Project. They will have to provide their own funding through donations. It seems critical that the present ten year lease be extended by the city for the future of the museum. When this referendum comes before the city it would be helpful if a number of supporters would attend the meeting to show support. A new historical group has emerged in our area working to authenticate Panfilo de Narvaez landing as the first settlement in the New World.

Thoughts of a monument for the first black slave is under consideration. What a boon that would be for the St. Petersburg tourist industry...Older than St. Augustine?

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. Next meeting June 2, AWAPS
Clive Newcomb, Secretary



Rui Farias, St. Petersburg Museum of History Director updated members.

