Plane Talk - Shooting Star

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On Saturday, Jun 3rd, at 1 PM we will hold our next meeting at the Florham Park Diner. After the lunch, we will recognize our two Teachers of the Year. The first is Mrs. Diana Muench, a K-8 STEM teacher at the Harding Township School, New Vernon, NJ. The second is Dr. Michael Gottfried, a 9-12 Earth Science, Physics, and Aviation teacher at the Roxbury High School, Succasunna, NJ. These are two outstanding teachers, so please plan on attending to hear how they incorporate STEM into their respective course curriculums.

Mrs. Muench works with K-8 students on a variety of hands-on projects including building CO2 cars, rocket launches, shadow boxes, skyscraper design, lessons on coding with Beebots, isometric sketching, bridge challenges, crash egg cars, circuitry, creating flashlights, and hydroponics and urban farming. These cross curricular units emphasize computer science skills, design, and often use equipment such as the Glowforge Laser Engraver, 3-D printers and wood working tools.

Dr. Michael Gottfried stated he never believed five years ago that I would be teaching Aviation and preparing for his Private Pilot check-ride. And yet, here he is stating that launching into the world of Aviation has been one of the best things that's happened to him. When he became a teacher 10 years ago, his main focus was to make a difference. He wanted to help students find their place in the world, grow as individuals, develop leadership skills, and promote STEM. Little did he know, He'd be able to do this so tangibly through AOPA's

Aviation curriculum, as well as teaching Geophysical Science and Physics.



At our last meeting on Apr 25th, we sponsored a talk by Captain Andrew J. Fosina, US Navy, Retired, President Bill Fosina's brother, who talked primarily about his two tours in Vietnam. The first one in-country from June 1967 to July 1968 (TET Offensive) leading Harbor Security Forces and supporting the US Marines of the Third Marine Amphibious Force. The second in 1972, when he returned to Vietnam on the USS Joseph Hewes and supported the US Marine Forces in Northern Vietnam from the gun line. In case you missed it, it can be viewed on our new website at: Link

Also, at the end of the video Bill mentioned that this year is the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War and was one of the reasons to have Andy give us his talk about his Vietnam service. He also mentioned that during a luncheon after the Vietnam Moving Wall at the Morris County College, Army and Marine vets expressed their appreciation for the Air Force's gunships in support of ground troops. It started with the AC-47 Spooky (also nicknamed "Puff, the Magic Dragon") and then the AC-130 Hercules airframe was selected to replace it.

So please join us on Sat., Jun 3rd, at 1:00 PM, at the Florham Park Diner to meet our STEM Teachers of the Year and please distribute this email to family and friends who may be interested. You do not need to be a member to attend.