



## Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society

# Plane Propwash

March 2024

Charter 473

**The next STARS meeting is Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 via ZOOM**

### 2024 Officers

[Mike Mueller, President](#)  
[Phil Morgan, Vice President](#)  
[Paul Volcko, Treasurer](#)  
[Jeff Wolsley, Secretary](#)  
[Jeff LaPorte, Safety Officer](#)

Directors:  
Michael Graham  
Paul Volcko 2019-2023  
Jeff LaPorte

Volunteer Staff:  
[Jeff Wolsley, Propwash Editor](#)  
[Michael Graham, Club Historian](#)  
[Paul Volcko, Webmaster](#)  
[Jim Johnson, Field Committee](#)  
[Mike O'Neill, Facebook Admin](#)

**The STARS May 2024 meeting will be at the STARS field, on May 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00. Unless otherwise notified, the monthly meetings will be held via ZOOM October through April. The STARS regular monthly meetings will return to the STARS field in May through September 2024.**

### Meetings At the Field Again!

Well, we are back at the field for our monthly meetings, as well as beginning another flying season. The field is drying out, and we have begun mowing and maintaining it. The field looks great, as we get ready for a very successful flying season. We can always use extra help with mowing, so if you are interested in assisting, let me know, and we can get you in the mowing rotation.

We have had issues with the beavers this year. They have been clogging up the drainage pipes, and preventing the field from drying. We have a trapper coming to our field, and we believe we have it under control. One beaver has been delivered to the beaver dam in the sky, so we believe the issue has been resolved.

The west end of our field with the trees has been an issue for years for many folks. I know there are people who will not fly at our field because of those obstacles. Bill Whittiker and I spent some time with some government officials from USDA (I believe it was them) recently, and we should have a solution in the not-too-distant future. There is a document that our neighbor, Al Townshend has to apply for, and then has to be approved by the USDA. Once it is approved, Al will be allowed to cut down trees. He has already informed me that we will be allowed to cut down any trees after the approval is provided in writing. That approval will probably not be until fall, or early in 2025. So this year, as the trees continue to grow taller, be careful as you approach from the west. Hopefully by next year, we will be able to clean up that approach, and not have the trees to contend with. That will be a significant improvement to our flying experience, and we believe will entice others to fly with us.

With that in mind, we have a committee formed that is looking at ways to improve our membership, and look for

additional revenue sources. We have had one very successful meeting so far, and will continue to meet to discuss, and recommend to the club ideas to improve both membership, and maybe increase revenue. We look forward to offering suggestions to the club.

I have had folks ask me about the letter from Jim Johnson. The officers will always welcome constructive criticism and suggestions on how to better run the club. We appreciate Jim's passion and enthusiasm in attempting to make our club as good as can be. The discussions had with Jim were all positive, and focused on how to improve our communication. We look forward to continued discussions with any of our members as we look for better ways to manage each and every issue in our club.

I will continue to remind folks that we are a group of flying enthusiasts who enjoy the hobby and enjoy each other's company. We have one of the best flying sites in upstate New York. Our facilities are the envy of many other clubs in our region. When you see new people at the field, make sure they feel welcome. When you are flying, be respectful of others flying with you. Let's have a great flying season. Be safe, and enjoy all we have to offer to the RC flying enthusiast.

One more quick thing: We still have about 10 blue club hats for sale at \$20 each. You can pick them up at the clubhouse, and put the \$\$\$ in the suggestion box. Let's get them sold, so we can put that revenue in our bank account!!

Thanks again for the privilege of serving our club. See you out on the field!!!!

Mike. [president@cnystars.com](mailto:president@cnystars.com),  
[mmuellerva@yahoo.com](mailto:mmuellerva@yahoo.com)  
(804) 873-8928

## ***Secretary's Report: Jeff Wolsley***

**Note:** There is a new section in the Propwash labeled **Important Links For STARS Members**. This section contains links that every STARS member should be aware of.

**The April STARS meeting was held on ZOOM. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by President Mike Mueller. There were 17 Open members, 3 Associate member, 0 Family members, 0 Youth members, and 2 Guests in attendance.**

### **Secretary's Report:**

The Secretary's report from the March Propwash was accepted as published. Motion to accept by Bill Whittaker and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Herb Moore. Carried.

### **Treasurer's Report:** Paul Volcko

Paul reported the finances. There was a pretty extensive report presented. There will be a Finance Committee formed to look at the current and possible future revenue streams for the club. Volunteers for the Finance Committee so far are Mike Mueller, Jim Johnson, Karl Price, and Mike O'Neill

Gary Brown suggested the club limit equipment at the club to the absolute necessary. There should be a full discussion regarding expenditures in meetings, followed by publication in the Propwash, etc. Club assets should be listed and available for review as in the insurance renewal.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Herb Moore and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Rowe. Carried.

### **Correspondence:**

ASDA- Al Townsend property watershed development on the Townsend property immediately to the west of the STARS property. Mike Mueller and Bill Whittaker will be the two member STARS delegation to attend the meeting on 04/16. Mike and Bill will get the information on what the project will entail and what it means to the STARS.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Safety Report:** Jeff LaPorte

Jeff says there's nothing to report so far!

Please perform a range check on your equipment before flying. It's listed the AMA and STARS club rules. Please follow them. Review your transmitter manual if you are not sure how to do this, or ask someone at the field. The test is slightly different for electric from gas/glow models. Don't forget to check and confirm the flight surface orientation- left is left, right is right, etc..

#### **AMA Report:** Phil Morgan

Phil reported on the March 30<sup>th</sup> leadership round table.

Sanctioned events waver from flying elevation to allow altitudes 1100 to 1200ft. in uncontrolled air space. Remote ID is not required at sanctioned events in designated FRIA areas. A FRIA is approved for only 4 years and is subject to proximity to an operating airport.

The FAA is checking for registration at events. Make sure the registration number is on your aircraft.

The FCC issued a notice regarding drone jamming. There are currently 12 companies that produce drone jamming equipment.

This is illegal to have/use. Here is a link to the latest from the AMA- [FAA/AMA latest news](#)

Phil noted the registration has opened for the 2024 NATS. The Aeromodelling Championships begin July 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Field Committee:** Jim Johnson

Jim reported the field has been rolled, the runway has been re-stappled, and the rocks and stones need to be put back in the driveway. The broken posts reported earlier have been replaced. The planned field cleanup event may need to be pushed because the weather is predicted to be bad for that date.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Jim Johnson Letter:** Mike Mueller

Mike reported on the letter that Jim Johnson distributed to the membership. Jim was given permission to distribute the letter to the membership by Mike and the Board of Directors. Mike summarized the letter and response.

The BOD is already aware of some issues regarding how voting is conducted as outlined in the current By-Laws and is working on changes to improve them.

Jim also mentioned how the food pricing was handled.

Mike took comments and limited the response to 2 minutes.

Bob Rowe- AMA coverage does not cover commercial operations under rule 107. The letter should not have been sent to the club. There should be an apology for this to the membership.

Jim Johnson- The letter was meant to criticize the way we are doing business. More people need to get involved. Only a small group is making decisions for the club.

Tom Polovick- Doesn't see the issue. AMA has clubs that are thriving by putting out more press releases to get more members.

Paul Volcko- Mike Mueller, as the new President, was thrust into this situation. He is handling it well.

The discussion was concluded here. There will be a BOD meeting immediately after the monthly meeting to discuss the letter with Jim in more detail.

### **STARS Website:**

Paul reported that he will be updating/revamping the website. He's looking at a new main page and camera page. The other pages will come over.

### **STARS Facebook:** Mike O'Neill

Nothing to report.

### **Real Estate Committee:**

No report given.

### **Flight schools:**

Phil Morgan's flight logs will be distributed to the students attending flight school. Phil will take care of reproducing the logs and getting them to the students. The student is responsible for filling out the log, the flight instructor will review and initial.

**-- Continued--**

Fixed Wing- Bod Rowe. Starts April 18 with Pre-Flight Workshop. Regular night from May 2 thru September 12. See flyer attached below.

Flight school is not just for beginners either. If you have ever been interested in picking up some advanced maneuvers such as 3D, the instructors can help you with that. Maybe you have trouble with landing on the runway, or avoiding the runway, the instructors can help with that too.

No report given for any of the special interest groups.

Heli Night- Bob Fisk

Jet Night- Gary Natali

Big Bird- Mike Amie and Mike Mueller

Control Line- Mike O'Neill

Mike Graham has new flyers for Heli Night and Big Bird night.

### Events Planning:

#### **STARS Family Picnic**

The survey was not meant to be a vote for or against the picnic. The goal is to keep the event, and get creative with was to fund it for everyone, at no cost to the club. Paull V., Karl P., Mike M. will contribute \$300.00 to the club to fund this year's picnic.

Karl made a motion to hold the picnic, Bob Rowe 2<sup>nd</sup>. 21 YES, 1 abstention.

### Field Improvements- Long Term Planning:

**Future Funding-** Look at ways of creating revenue streams to help fund the club. Grow our existing revenue generators. As reported in the Treasures report, volunteers for the Finance Committee so far are Mike Mueller, Jim Johnson, Karl Price, and Mike O'Neill

In a previous meeting, Mike O'Neill mentioned the new Micron Plant starting up in Clay. There will be a flood of tech people and population growth in our area. We should be thinking of ways to promote our club.

#### **CONTINUE FIELD SMOOTHING-**

Continue to improve the field. Fill the low spots and grade off areas that attract standing water.

#### **AED MACHINE UPGRADE/STORAGE-**

Phil Morgan requested a heated storage box for the AED so it can be kept at the field year-round. Nothing too elaborate. A 6" x 14" x 14" box with a 100watt lightbulb should be sufficient.

**Repair clubhouse siding-** There are several areas near the ground that need attention.

**Flight line table replacement-** There are four new tables ready to go in the red shed..

**Internet Access-** Paul is looking at cost reduction at the field. He is testing a possible replacement for the internet at the field now. This will replace Spectrum and yield significant savings if it works. If you see the equipment, do not touch it as it is highly sensitive.

**Food Pricing-** Value vs cost. The BOD has met and looked at raising food prices. Currently the cost is not being covered. Some of those reasons have been discussed and will be addressed by tightening up control of sales. There is approximately a 20% increase across all food items. There was a lot of opposition to raising the cost of water so the price will remain at 1.00.

**Taxi way-** There is a lot of opposition to this and has been expressed in previous meetings. Jim Johnson has a way of doing this without expending any money or adding any kind of possible impediment. Both of these issues have been points of contention in the past. He has experimented with and demonstrated that a simple change in the mowing method can create a "taxi way".

**Port -a-potty-** Keeping current vendor. The unit will be delivered later this week.

### New Business:

#### New Members:

Rick Wilson- Associate member.

Motion by Phil Morgan to accept and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Herb Moore. Carried

Steve Dwyer- Associate member.

Motion by Bob Rowe to accept and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Herb Moore. Carried.

#### Club Hat Order:

Club hats are available. They are 20.00 each. Put your money in the soda bank in the fridge before you take a hat. The white hats are already gone. See Paul V. about custom embroidery on the hat. The embroidery starts at \$8.00.

#### Adjournment:

The April 2024 regular monthly meeting of the STARS was adjourned at 8:03.

***Secretary, Jeff Wolsley***

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## **STARS Special Board of Directors Meeting**

A special STARS BOD meeting was called for after the April STARS meeting to discuss the letter that STARS member Jim Johnson presented to the entire membership.

### **Members in Attendance:**

Jim Johnson-	STARS Open Member
Mike Mueller-	President
Phil Morgan-	Vice President
Paul Volcko-	Director
Mike Graham-	Director
Jeff LaPorte-	Director
Jeff Wolsley-	Secretary

The meeting addressed Jim's concerns that he expressed in his letter that was distributed to the STARS membership.

The meeting members discussed the issues that Jim raised and the obligations of the Board of Directors and the STARS Officers, to address those issues.

The Board and Officers recognized Jim's concerns with regard to issues he felt were vital to addressing the club members. We all had an honest, frank, and very professional discussion of Jim's issues. Jim was thanked for bringing his concerns to the attention of the club.

The meeting focus was on respect towards the membership and towards the Officers and the Board. In other words, respect to everyone. It was stressed that this is not an us and them situation, it's always an "all of us" situation. It is the responsibility of every club member to listen to everyone and respect their opinions, their needs, wishes, and desires. The opinions, needs, wishes, and desires are acted upon by the rules outlined in the STARS Constitution and By-Laws, and a loose interpretation of Robert's Rules of Order.

The Officers and Board provide the structure and means to act on the opinions, needs, wishes, and desires of the membership, in an

orderly fashion to keep chaos at bay. The regularly scheduled monthly STARS meeting is the structure and means for the entire membership to present their opinions, needs, wishes, and desires. It is the obligation of the entire membership to be present at those regularly scheduled meetings. The Officers and Board provide the means to act on what was presented, working within the framework of STARS Constitution and By-Laws, while also providing direction to preserve the viability of the STARS in the short and long term.

[As a side note, the Officers and Board recognize that everyone may not be comfortable expressing themselves in a group. Means are provided so that they can contact any of the Officers or Board members by email or by phone.]

An issue surfaced during this meeting regarding voting structure and procedure that has been carried out in previous meetings. This will be addressed by a pending change that has been in process for a while, to the STARS By-Laws. The entire STARS membership will get to review the proposed changes crafted by the Board, taking into account the content of this meeting, comment on, then vote on, the proposed changes.

Finally, the members in attendance brought up Jim's volunteering to be the head of the Field Committee and the work ethic he brings to the STARS. It is a characteristic that is difficult to find in an all-volunteer organization, and for this, Jim was recognized. He should be proud of the job he and his crew do at the STARS field. We all see it every time we are there and have come to depend on it even when we aren't.

Respectfully Submitted-  
Club Secretary, Jeff Wolsley

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The following is an essay for the next Prop Wash, thought out in the wake of Paul's financial report.

#### ~~W~~ants and Needs+

In consideration of the STARS Treasurer's recent financial report... it was good news to hear that we are, at this time, on a reasonable financial footing. However, it's now time to build on, and enhance that position.

~~W~~ants and Needs+ in the future must be carefully considered. ~~W~~ants+ should only become ~~N~~needs+ with the support of fully justifiable rationale, and ample opportunity for membership review. Past ~~W~~ants+ that too hastily turned into questionable or expensive ~~N~~needs+ are cause for serious consideration for abandonment. Such might be the case for the internet connection if a very cheap alternative does not perform. A penny saved is a penny earned.

We should make every attempt to confine our overhead costs and operating expenses within our usual, annual revenue stream, ~~before~~ searching for additional income. Outside sources of income will only add entangling complications of administration. Distractions from our prime mission of Recreational Model Aircraft activities are sure to follow.

The purpose of this exercise will be to stave off a dues increase for as long as possible. Nobody likes a dues increase. It won't attract new membership, and may serve to discourage renewals. We need to consider the future.

How will we hand off the STARS to future generations? Much of the current, active members are retirees well into ~~senior status+~~, like myself, and most of our time to enjoy the STARS is behind us. Not in front of us.

The STARS should be an organization focused on the basics of Recreational Model Aircraft activities to include property, buildings and equipment kept in a neat, and functional condition, devoid of extraneous equipment, and expenses which contribute nothing to the enjoyment of an afternoon of flying.

See you at the field.

Gary Brown

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## Calendar of Events

***NOTICE: EVENT DATES MAY CHANGE OR CANCELLED OUTRIGHT.***

### **Calendar of Events for January and beyond:**

*Editor's Note- Check with the event sponsor for actual date and time. These dates are accurate at the time the Propwash was published. New events are added all the time.*

Model Aircraft Forum- **Cancelled**

May 2- Fixed wing Flight School. First Night.

May 4- [Maker Faire NYS Fairgrounds](#)

May 18- STARS 2<sup>nd</sup> Control Line Fun Fly (*sanctioned event*)

June 7- (tentative) Liverpool High School field trip

June 15- STARS Family BBQ

July 20- STARS Heli Jam (*sanctioned event*)

August 31- STARS Air Show (*sanctioned event*)

October 5- STARS Ringmaster Fly-a-thon

For additional events, click here → [AMA DII Event Listing](#)

## **STARS Flight Schools- Flight School is back for 2024!**

**Fixed wing- Pre-flight workshop April 18<sup>th</sup>, 5pm to 7. Fixed Wing Flight School starts May 2 and runs to Sept. 12, 5pm to sunset. See the attached flyer below.**

**Heli/Multi Rotor- Meet Tuesday nights, April 30<sup>th</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>.**

-- Continued--



## Indoor Flying –

The Indoor flying schedule is winding down.

Indoor flying at Sacred Heart Church Cicero was forwarded to me by Tim Smarzo of the Voltaires.

**Mondays 1:30 to 4:00 and Thursdays 12:30 to 3:30 (as of 11/29/23).**

The church has become more security conscience. All doors are locked except the main door. The gym lighting switch has changed. The new key is in the same place as always, the cabinet in the kitchen, attached to a piece of aluminum bar. Unlock (If locked) pull up the plate, and flip the switch. All doors have alarms except the Gym door. This means that once a member comes in the front door we can use the gym door to haul gear in and out. We need, as always, to make sure the lights are off and doors are closed all the way before the last person leaves.

The following needs confirmation-

[Underground R/C Destiny USA](#). Tuesday evenings/nights 315-715-4508

Manlius Pebble Hill- So far is listed as no flying this winter (as of 11/29/23).

[Camillus Indoor Aviators \(CIA\)](#) Indoor flying at First Baptist Church located at 1960 State Route 5 in Elbridge 11/18 thru ?, on Friday evenings. If enough interest is generated, flying possibly permitted on Saturdays as well.

[CNY Indoor Flying Society](#) No group contact available.

[Walt's Hobbytown](#)- NO INDOOR FLYING THIS SEASON

[MexAir R/C](#) NO INDOOR FLYING THIS SEASON



Advertisements:

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(585) 872-4990 -- 15 W Main St. Webster, NY. 14580 -- [Performance-hobbies.com](http://Performance-hobbies.com)

### HOURS

MONDAY..... 11 - 6 pm  
TUESDAY..... 11 - 7 pm  
WEDNESDAY..... 11 - 6 pm  
THURSDAY..... 11 - 7 pm  
FRIDAY..... 11 - 6 pm  
SATURDAY..... 11 - 6 pm  
SUNDAY..... 11 - 4 pm



### Store Hours:

Monday/Friday: 9:00am-9:00pm -- Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday: 9:00am-6:00pm -- Saturday: 10:00am-5:00pm -- Sunday: 11:00am-5:00pm

### Phone Number:

(315) 453-2291

[waltshobby.com](http://waltshobby.com)



**Open 10-7 Tuesday thru Sunday.**

**315-532-6826**

[www.mexairrc.com](http://www.mexairrc.com)

[www.facebook.com/mexairrc](https://www.facebook.com/mexairrc)

**Winner of AMA 2015 Hobby Shop Award  
for signing up new AMA members.**

## **Classified Ads-**

### **FOR SALE:**

This Mike O'Neill's website to check out- <http://www.flyboyzblog.com/>

This site has articles pertaining to both full scale and model aircraft. Check it out.

### **WANTED:**

*If you want to list modeling items for sale, R/C services offered, or a really neat R/C web site, this would be a good spot. Free for members. Send your advertisement by e-mail to [jwolsley@verizon.net](mailto:jwolsley@verizon.net). Please put STARS ADVERTISEMENT in the subject line.*

## **Important Links For STARS Members-**

### **STARS Website:**

The STARS website- [cnystars.com](http://cnystars.com)

### **STARS Webcam:**

The STARS webcam- <https://www.cnystars.com/cameras.php>

### **STARS ZOOM Meetings:**

STARS meetings will be held on-line via ZOOM October to April or in case of bad weather. Watch for notification prior to the meeting start time.

The ZOOM meeting credentials are on the STARS web page, and are sent out with the fall/winter/spring Propwash email.

ZOOM Meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88488515371?pwd=c2ZiRWhkMkIrbGZ5WENDaE12SIB5Zz09>

To join from the STARS web page, go to [cnystars.com](http://cnystars.com). Then click on the club events tab. On the club events page, in the lower right under Club Meetings, click the red text that says [online via ZOOM](#). This will take you to the ZOOM meeting. Click on the Launch Meeting button. You will enter into the meeting, or you may see a dialog box that says, "Please wait for the host to start the meeting".

If you don't already have ZOOM installed on your computer for the first time, below the Launch Meeting button, it says- "Don't have Zoom client installed? Download Now". Click on the "Download Now" text and follow the prompts to set up ZOOM on your computer.

### **Facebook:**

The STARS Facebook page- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/amastars/> There are 289 members currently. [Mike O'Neill](#) is the administrator.

Paul Volcko talked about setting up a business page. Events can be set up here and allow us to do some advertising.

### **Attention New Members:**

Please take the TRUST test if you haven't already. This is a 100% pass test.

TRUST- The Recreational UAS Safety Test

The test can be found here-

<https://trust.pilotinstitute.com> or here-

<https://trust.modelaircraft.org/>

Note there are scam websites also, so use the above links.

-- Continued--

Start by registering on the site. Your name is required and so is a password. These will be asked for/created before entering the site to take the test.

The test is a pass/pass. It is given in four parts. Each of the four sections begins with a lesson immediately followed by questions. The number of lessons and questions differ in each section. There are a couple of questions that are poorly worded so it's likely to get these wrong. Not to worry though, you get to correct it until you get it right! You will score 100% in each section, guaranteed.

Download and save your certificate. I had to download mine twice before it downloaded. DO NOT leave the download webpage until your certificate has been successfully downloaded and saved. You get to do the test again from scratch if you miss this step.

Print out the certificate and keep it in your wallet or your flight box. There's a registration/authentication number on the certificate that you might want to add to your aircraft ID label..

### **Academy of Model Aeronautics:**

[Academy of Model Aeronautics \(modelaircraft.org\)](http://modelaircraft.org)

The AMA Government relations blog- [AMA IN ACTION](http://ama.gov)

The complete AMA safety handbook is available here- <http://www.modelaircraft.org/files/100.pdf>

This is a link to some FAQ from the AMA regarding remote ID- [Remote-ID-FAQ-Feb2023.pdf \(modelaircraft.org\)](http://www.modelaircraft.org/files/RemoteIDFAQFeb2023.pdf)

### **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA):**

This is to set up or renew your FAA registration. Renewal is every three (3) years. You will or already have received your renewal email. The email is from [uas.faadronezone@faa.gov](mailto:uas.faadronezone@faa.gov). Entry or renewal is \$5.00.

[FAADroneZone Access - Home](#)

### **Phone Apps:**

[UASidekick – The Ultimate UAS Pilot Assistant](#)

This is an app for your phone that gives weather conditions, club locations, FRIA locations, and event schedules for UAS pilots. This is for recreational pilots as well as commercial drone pilots.

B4UFLY- Download this app to your cell phone. FAA uses this to alert pilots to possible stoppage in your flying area.

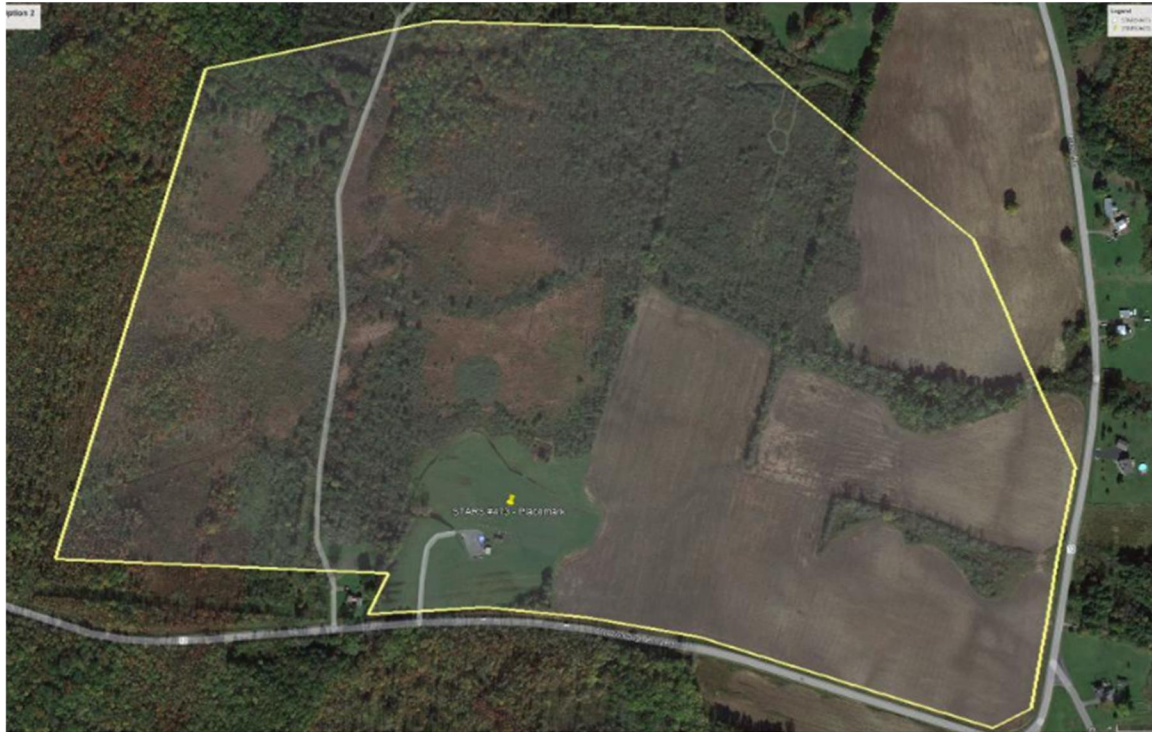
Air Control- Download this app to your phone. This is to set up your flight if you are flying outside of a FRIA.



**The latest satellite photo with the new runway! Just need the control line circle improvements. Thanks Gary Natali**



## STARS FAA APPROVED FRIA AREA.



ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS

## FAA-RECOGNIZED IDENTIFICATION AREA

A FRIA IS A DEFINED GEOGRAPHIC AREA WHERE DRONES CAN BE FLOWN WITHOUT REMOTE ID EQUIPMENT.

**Remember: A repaired aircraft should be treated just like a new aircraft. It needs a full ground check before flying. Don't forget to inspect the areas that were not repaired. They may have hidden damage. Fly it like it's the first time in the air and will need a full functional check before flying it in front of spectators or in competition.**



# S.T.A.R.S.

## *Flight Training Program*

# 2024



### **When?**

Every Thursday evening from 5:30 PM to Sunset  
May 02, 2024 through September 12, 2024

### **Where?**

At the S.T.A.R.S. field in Phoenix, New York  
649 County Route 12, Pennellville, NY 13132  
N43.23696, W76.24550

### **Who?**

Anyone wanting to learn to fly powered R/C model airplanes!! You do **not** have to be a Club member and all lessons are free. Each student must furnish his/her own plane and radio equipment and also must hold a current membership in the Academy of Model Aeronautics aircraft association in order to fly. For those not yet finished building/assembling their trainer aircraft, the Club has a Club Trainer available that may be flown on a Buddy Box.

## **PreFlight Workshop**

**Held at STARS Flying Field in Phoenix, NY**

**Thursday April 18, 2024 at 5-7 PM**

### **Interested?**

Contact:



FB Workshop    **SENIOR FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR: Bob Rowe (315/440-1519)**    FB Flightschool

[www.cnystars.com](http://www.cnystars.com)



# S.T.A.R.S.

[www.cnvstars.com](http://www.cnvstars.com)

[www.facebook.com/cnvstars](https://www.facebook.com/cnvstars)



## 2024



## *Helicopter and Multirotor Night*



STARS Events

### **When?**

Every Tuesday evening from 5 PM to Sunset  
April 30, 2024 through October 01, 2024



FB Heli Nights

### **Where?**

At the S.T.A.R.S. field in Phoenix, New York  
649 County Route 12, Pennellville, NY 13132  
N43.23696, W76.24550

All skill levels welcome, but must be an AMA Member to fly and must  
provide your own outdoor capable helicopter or multirotor aircraft.  
Build help and flight instruction available.

### **Interested?**

**Come out and join us for fun, food and good flying!!**

**For more information, contact Paul Voleko at 315/708-2009**





Charter 473

# S.T.A.R.S.

[www.cnystars.com](http://www.cnystars.com)

[www.facebook.com/cnystars](https://www.facebook.com/cnystars)



## 2024 *Big Bird Night*



STARS Events

### When?

Every Wednesday evening from 5 PM to Sunset  
May 01, 2024 through October 02, 2024



FB BB Night

### Where?

At the S.T.A.R.S. field in Phoenix, New York  
649 County Route 12, Pennellville, NY 13132  
N43.23696, W76.24550

All skill levels welcome, but must be an AMA Member to fly.  
Open to any type of big scale or sport aircraft!!

### Interested?

Come out and join us for fun, food and good flying!!

For more information, contact Mike Mueller at 804/873-8928



Charter 473

# S.T.A.R.S.

[www.cnystars.com](http://www.cnystars.com)

[www.facebook.com/cnystars](https://www.facebook.com/cnystars)



## 2024



## Jet Night



STARS Events

### When?

Every Monday evening from 5 PM to Sunset  
April 29, 2024 through September 30, 2024



FB Jet Night

### Where?

At the S.T.A.R.S. field in Phoenix, New York  
649 County Route 12, Pennellville, NY 13132  
N43.23696, W76.24550

All skill levels welcome, but must be an AMA Member to fly.  
Open to any type of EDF or turbine aircraft!!

### Interested?

Come out and join us for fun, food and good flying!!

For more information, contact Gary Natali at 315/657-5695





Charter 473

AMA Sanctioned

# S.T.A.R.S.

<http://www.cnystars.com>

[www.facebook.com/cnystars/](http://www.facebook.com/cnystars/)

## 2nd Control Line Fun Fly

*Two flight circles  
and In-Stunt Pattern Tracing*

**Saturday, May 18, 2024**

***Rain Date: Sunday, May 19, 2024***

**10 AM to 4:00 PM**



New takeoff runway and  
pilot's concrete center pad!!

*Show off and fly your winter builds!  
Fun Fly Events through out the day!  
New Pilot flying!*



**Bring your canopies and setup at the field for a day of control-line fun!!**

**Bring your tables and chairs!!**

**Power available for charging batteries**

**Ample room for parking!!**

**No parking fee, landing fee or pre-registration!!**

**Food and beverages available to all during day**



STARS events



FB CL event

**Event Director, Mike O'Neill, at 315-720-9111**

**Contest Director, Paul Volcko, at 315-708-2009**



## **From Mike Graham- First night of Flight School**

Last evening was the first session of the STARS Flight School.

The weather was gorgeous!!

Before the students and instructors arrived, I walked the field.

Here are a few pictures taken during that walk:



There were four pilot stations:



**Here is the Geotextile runway taken from the western end:**



**Here is the west end of the Geotextile strip:**





Here are a few of the remaining pilot work benches in the pits:



We had three students, all very young. They should be back next week.

We used the *Apprentice S* trainer that had been stored aloft in the pavilion as the Club Trainer since our order for a new *Valiant* had not arrived at Walt's. It succumbed to student flight control inputs and lost it's vertical stab during flight. That ended it's use until the tail end is repaired.

Dylan, a new student, brought his own *Valiant* to the field. It had a few assembly problems that were corrected at the field and it was eventually made ready to fly. Dylan made three flights on the aircraft without a buddy box and proved to be a very capable student.

All in all, it was a great first night in the Flight School.

Thanks.

Michael

# IMAA Big Bird Safety Checklist

## Balance

Is the longitudinal center of gravity (fore and aft) within the range shown on the plans?

Is the model balanced laterally (side to side)?

## Alignment

Are all the flying surfaces at the proper angle relative to each other?

Are there any twists in the wing?

Do the wings and removable tailplane seat properly on the fuselage every time?

Is the engine set at the proper thrust angle as shown on the plans?

## Control Surfaces

Are all control surfaces securely attached? (i.e., hinges glued, pinned). Pull on each one to test.

Are the control horns secured to the model?

## Control Linkages

Have all the linkages been checked to be sure they are secure?

Are the clevises closed? (Keepers or fuel tubing should be fitted to ensure they stay closed)

## Engine / Motor Mount Security and Operation

Are all engine mount screws tight, including mount to bulkhead if applicable?

Are the propeller bolts and/or spinner tight? If a single nut, is there a safety nut as well?

Does the throttle work without binding?

Does the throttle trim tab shut down the engine?

Has the propeller been balanced and checked for damage?

Are the propeller tips painted a contrasting color? (while not essential it makes the propeller much easier to see)

Has the engine been thoroughly test run? (engine idle and throttle up properly)

Is the fuel tank installed correctly? (i.e., carburetor at the same height as fuel tank, fuel tank clunk in proper position and moving freely, fuel lines in good condition and connected to the engine correctly)

## Radio Equipment

Are the receiver and the battery securely mounted and padded with foam to protect from vibration and shock?

Are all the electrical connectors secure?

Is the receiver antenna fully extended and in good condition?

Are the batteries charged and in good condition (check under load with a voltmeter if unsure)?

Are all servos securely fastened to the rails or trays?

Are servo arms firmly attached with screw in place?

Are all push rods firmly secured in servo arms (again keepers or fuel tubing should be fitted)?

Are the control throws in the correct direction with proper amount of deflection (as per plan)?

Rudder & tail wheel: Left stick should move the rear of the rudder and tail wheel to the left.

Nose wheel: Left stick should move the front of the nose wheel to the left

Aileron: left stick should move left aileron up and right down.

Elevator: Pulling back on the stick should move the back of the elevator up.

Canard: Pulling back on the stick (elevator) should make the front of the canard move up

Throttle: With trim set fully forward, pushing the stick forward should open throttle fully. With trim set fully backward, pulling the stick back should fully close the throttle.

Has a full range check been performed? (see below)

**Undercarriage (where fitted)** Is the undercarriage firmly attached to airframe and the wheels securely retained?

Does aircraft taxi in a straight line?

## General

Is the covering tight with no visible signs of damage?

Are the retaining bolts in place and secure?

Are any hatches, cowlings, and canopies secure?

Are all components structurally sound?

Is your name and contact details marked on the model somewhere easily visible? (in case it's lost)

## Range Checking the radio

Verify frequency is available and mark it as yours if necessary.

Turn on transmitter check the correct model is selected (if applicable) and then turn on the receiver.

Important: make sure the transmitter aerial is down fully.

Ask someone to help and walk away from the model until signs of loss of control are apparent. If electric powered ensure that the range is not worse with the motor running.

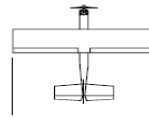
## Before EVERY flight:

Check the receiver battery pack to ensure enough charge for the flight intended.

Check for damage and the control throw direction of all surfaces.



# S.T.A.R.S. Field Rules



## 1. General:

- A. License: All pilots, students, and flying guests *must* have a current membership in a nationally recognized model aircraft association in order to fly. Those pilots participating in the Park Pilot Membership Program must fly models that weigh two pounds or less and be incapable of reaching speeds greater than 60 mph. They must be electric or rubber powered, or of any similar *quiet* means of propulsion.
- B. Spectators: Only those people essential to flight operations will be permitted in the pit area; all others will remain on the spectator side of the fence.
- C. Vehicles: Vehicles will not be permitted *on* the flying field.
- D. Crash Debris: Pilots must retrieve all pieces of their aircraft after a crash. Particularly, attention must be made to obtaining all pieces of aircraft that land in the neighboring fields under cultivation *or from the mowed areas that might cause damage to mowing or farming equipment.*
- E. Trash: All members will take home their own trash.
- F. Alcoholic Beverages: Members will not consume alcoholic beverages prior to, nor during, participation in any *modeling* operations.
- G. Smoking: Smoking will not be permitted in the pit area or on the flight line.
- H. Mowing: Flying on the field will not be permitted if the field is being mowed or maintained.

## 2. Transmitters:

- A. Frequency Control: *2.4 GHz technology is prevalent in the hobby. In general, transmitter impound and channel flagging is no longer necessary. Pilots using a non-2.4 GHz transmitter system or FPV video transmitter should make all efforts to determine if others present are also using one and self-manage frequency separation prior to powering up their transmitter. Event Managers and Contest Directors may establish a transmitter impound or channel frequency control policy for their event, if deemed necessary.*
- B. Range Checks: Each pilot will conduct a successful radio equipment ground range check, *including any FPV equipment*, before flying a new or repaired aircraft and prior to each flying session.

## 3. Engines:

- A. All internal combustion engines run at the field will have a silencer (except for small displacements of .09 cubic inches or less).
- B. When running an engine in the pits, keep neighboring personnel behind the prop arc. *Restrain fuel powered airplanes with stakes, starting stand, or helper prior to starting the engine(s).*
- C. *Electric motors and fuel engines are not to be run in*

*spectator/pavilion areas or anywhere behind pit area fencing or designated test stand/hover areas, unless propellers/blades are removed. Model electronics (receivers, servos, etc.) can be powered up in spectator areas as long as electric motors are disconnected or propeller/blades are removed.*

- D. *Remove or secure all necklaces, straps, loose clothing, hoodie ties, etc. prior to starting a fuel engine powered model. Long hair should be tied back or secured so it cannot get caught in a spinning propeller or rotor.*

## 4. Flying:

- A. Boundaries: Flying over the pit area or the spectator side of the fence is prohibited, unless beyond the control of the pilot(s).
- B. Taxing: Taxing is prohibited in the pit area!
- C. Flying:
  - (1). Pilots will initiate their first turn after takeoff away from the pit and spectator areas.
  - (2). Engines will not be started before 9 AM Monday through Saturday and 11 AM on Sunday (electrics may start at 10 AM), unless approved by the Event Director.
  - (3). No more than three aircraft will be permitted in the air at one time.
  - (4). All flying will be conducted from the designated flight boxes.
  - (5). Hand launching of aircraft is prohibited from the pits.
  - (6). Flight operations will cease during electrical storms.

## 5. Guests:

- A. All guests must have a current membership in a nationally recognized model aircraft association in order to fly.
- B. Guests may fly at the field only with the approval of a member in good standing and only as long as a sponsoring member *remains at the field*. Guests will not fly unattended.
- C. A local guest will be allowed to fly at the field on three (3) separate occasions and then will be asked to join the Club.
- D. An out-of-town guest may make arrangements with the Club to fly at the field while visiting the area. The Club Officers and the Safety Officer will handle each out-of-town visitor on a case-by-case basis.
- E. *All guests are required to extend every courtesy to current members sharing the same flying frequency. But when there is a conflict over who shall fly, the Club member will have the first option to fly. Both the guest and the members should use common sense while sharing the flight line or using the same radio frequencies.*

**STARS Club Rules- End 06jan21**



*Photo courtesy Mike Graham archives*

The STARS pavilion goes up c.1977.  
Mike identified the person on the ladder as Lon Sauter. Not sure who the others are.

# STARS

## Field Protocol

Dedicated to responsible  
RC fun with safety by  
choice, not chance.

### 1. General:

- A. Civil and courteous behavior is required at the field at all times.
- B. Safety is paramount and everyone's business. Use common sense in all matters.
- C. It is strongly recommended that you do not fly alone.
- D. Learn where the First Aid station is located and inform the Field Committee if material has been issued from it.
- E. When opening or closing combination locks, *always* set the wheels to 0000.
- F. Last member out must close and lock the refrigerators, pavilion, and main gate.
- G. **Limited use of cell phones and mobile devices on the flight line to photography/videography or integrated use with model systems. Talk, text, and browse from the pits or spectator areas.**

### 2. Engine Courtesy:

- A. Long term tuning and initial break-in should be conducted away from the pits and spectators (usually at the engine break-in stand).
- B. Do not direct prop wash at other modelers, their aircraft, equipment, or bystanders behind the pit fence. Kindly inform those bystanders near the fence that you intend to start an engine before you do so.

### 3. Flying Courtesy:

- A. Any person wishing to enter an active flying field or runway to cross same or to retrieve an aircraft, must loudly announce their intention to all fliers on the flight line.
- B. A "landing" aircraft has the right of way over an aircraft "taking-off".
- C. A "dead stick" aircraft has the right of way over all others.
- D. All take-off and landing attempts must be announced to other pilots on the flight line. Take-offs are normally announced by saying "taking off", and landings are announced by saying "landing" or coming in". Dead stick landings are announced clearly to all pilots in the pits and on the flight line by saying "dead stick".
- E. A pilot having difficulty in controlling his/her aircraft must announce to all in the pits and on the flight line that he/she is experiencing radio or mechanical problems. Pilots on the ground preparing to fly will turn off their transmitters and wait for the problem to be resolved before continuing to fly. Fliers in the air will stay clear of the aircraft in distress and will land, if possible, as long as it does not contribute to the crisis. All personnel near the pit area must be alerted to the situation.
- F. If a crash occurs on the field or in the pits, all flying will stop until the accident has been investigated and the debris has been cleared from the field.
- G. Normal flight duration is 10 minutes. Obviously, flight time may be extended if there are no other pilots waiting to fly or waiting for a particular radio channel.
- H. When you have finished flying, please return your transmitter to the impound.

### 4. Good Earth Policy:

- A. Place recyclables in the appropriate container in the pavilion.
- B. Turn off all pavilion lights when departing the field for the night.
- C. The field does not have a trash removal service. If you carry anything to the field, carry it back out.
- D. If a pilot or guest brings a pet to the field, he/she will be responsible for supervising the animal's conduct while at the field. Please observe all appropriate Field Rules.
- E. If you smoke, please place all cigarette butts in the butt cans in the field.
- F. Do not **dispose of trash in the outhouse/port-a-potty pit.**
- G. **DO NOT DRINK THE WELL WATER.** Well water is to be used for washing only.

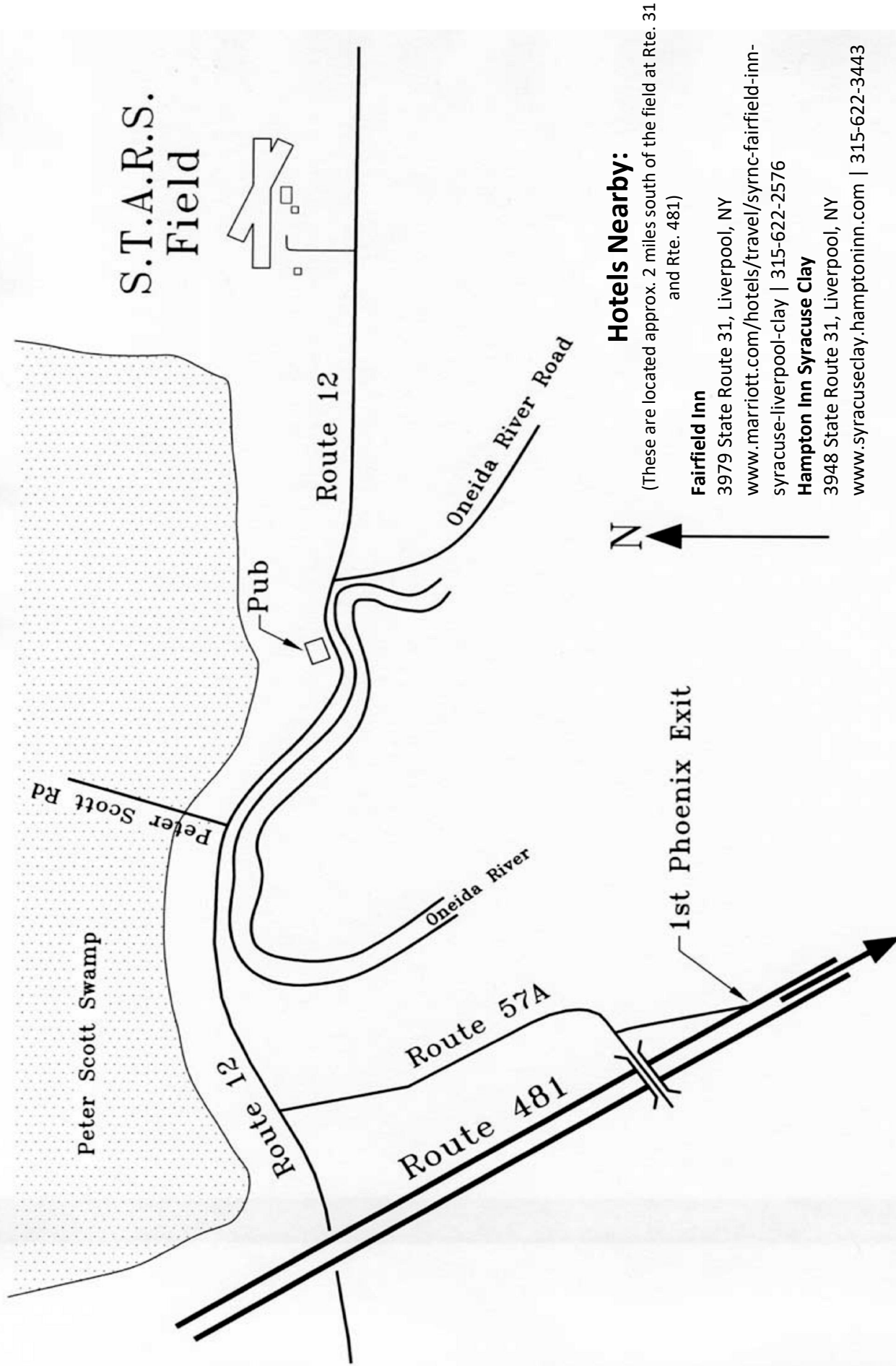
### 5. Replacement Courtesy:

- A. Where an individual's plane or property is damaged by the actions of another individual, it will be the responsibility of the two parties to resolve the situation in an appropriate manner.

## **STARS POLICY REGARDING PHOTOGRAPHY**

- STARS is a membership organization organized under the laws of the State of New York.
- The STARS flying field, located in Phoenix, New York, is owned by STARS, and as such, is privately owned property.
- The purpose of this policy is to limit and restrict the reproduction of images, in any form, of the STARS property and the activities which occur thereon.
- While the STARS property is privately owned, members, guests, and the general public are welcome at the field during published field hours of operation. Members, guests, and the public must adhere to all rules imposed by STARS regarding entry upon and/or the use of STARS property, including the STARS policy on photography.
- The reproduction of images of the STARS field or the activities thereon, in any form, is a privilege and not a right.
- Except as provided below, the reproduction of images of the STARS field or activities thereon in any form, including, but not limited to film and digital still photography, and video photography in either film or digital form, is strictly forbidden.
- Violation of this policy will result in immediate expulsion of the violator from the STARS premises, and may subject the violator to criminal and/or civil sanctions and penalties.
- Members in good standing of STARS shall be exempt from the above requirements so long as any images or video produced on the STARS premises or the activities thereon are for personal and non-commercial use.
- Guests and the general public may be permitted to photograph or video the STARS property and activities thereon, but only for personal and non-commercial use, and only with the prior written consent of the Club's executive board.

# Map to the STARS



## Hotels Nearby:

(These are located approx. 2 miles south of the field at Rte. 31 and Rte. 481)

### Fairfield Inn

3979 State Route 31, Liverpool, NY

[www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/sync-fairfield-inn-syracuse-liverpool-clay](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/sync-fairfield-inn-syracuse-liverpool-clay) | 315-622-2576

### Hampton Inn Syracuse Clay

3948 State Route 31, Liverpool, NY

[www.syracuseclay.hamptoninn.com](http://www.syracuseclay.hamptoninn.com) | 315-622-3443

To No. Syracuse  
and Route 81

N43.23696, W76.24550

starsmap.dwg  
rev 12 Feb 03

*Map to S.T.A.R.S. Flying Field in Phoenix, New York*



Est. 1965

# Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society

Online at: <http://www.amadistrictiistars.org>



Charter 473

## Membership Application Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: ☐ Open (\$160 share+\$60 dues) ☐ Extra Family member (\$30.00)  
☐ Associate (\$75.00) ☐ Youth (< AMA age 19 - \$0.00)  
☐ Park Pilot - Associate (\$75.00) ☐ Park Pilot - Youth (< AMA age 19 - \$0.00)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (for roster): \_\_\_\_\_

AMA: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

STARS Member(s) Contacted: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Interests (Sport, Scale, Pattern, Fun Fly, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (for newsletter and notices): \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

You must be a current member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) in order to join the STARS. Please show your AMA card to the Officer given this application or include a photocopy of the application for the license.

*"I have read and agree to abide by the STARS Field Safety Rules." (on back)*

Submit this form to a Club Officer

Rev 16aug17





# Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society

<https://www.cnystars.com>



## Membership Renewal 2024

Return renewals to our Treasurer, Bob Rowe, via mail to: 211 Sedgwick Drive, Syracuse, NY, 13203.  
Please fill in your name, mark your membership type, and include your payment made out to: S.T.A.R.S.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

	Type	Description	Cost
<input type="checkbox"/>	Youth	Full use of club facilities, age 19 or under, 20 <sup>th</sup> birthday on or after July 1, 2024. Limited voting rights.	\$0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Park Pilot	Operates under the model restrictions of a Park Pilot AMA membership (electrics, <2lbs, <60mph). Limited voting rights.	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/>	Associate	Full use of club facilities. Limited voting rights.	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/>	Open	Full use of club facilities. Holds ownership share with full voting rights. Late renewal penalties of \$10 per month after January.	\$60
<input type="checkbox"/>	Extra Family	Full use of club facilities. Someone in household has an Open or Associate membership already. Limited voting rights.	\$30

All flying conducted under AMA rules and guidelines. Active AMA membership or allowed exemption required to fly. All members are encouraged to renew their memberships at the beginning of the year, but only Open memberships have a late renewal penalty. Open member late renewal penalties can be waived at Treasurer's discretion, please contact Bob in January, or before, if you need an extension. If you wish to change your membership type, such as upgrading from Associate to Open, please contact Bob or another club officer.

Please provide your updated contact information below.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_