



## Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society

# Plane Propwash

October 2025

Charter 473

**The next STARS meeting is Wednesday November 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 on ZOOM.**

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2025 Officers:

[Mike Mueller, President](#)  
[Tom Polovick, Vice President](#)  
[Paul Volcko, Treasurer](#)  
[Jeff Wolsley, Secretary](#)  
[Phil Lamkay, Safety Officer](#)

Directors:

Michael Graham  
Paul Volcko 2019-2023  
Dan Williams

Volunteer Staff:

[Jeff Wolsley, Propwash Editor](#)

[Michael Graham, Club Historian](#)

[Paul Volcko, Webmaster](#)

[Herb Moore, Field Committee](#)

[Mike O'Neill, Facebook Admin](#)

Public Relations Director- OPEN

Robert Droner- [YouTube Moderator](#)

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**The next STARS 2025 meeting will be on ZOOM, on November 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00. The monthly meetings will be held via ZOOM October through April. The STARS regular monthly meetings are at the STARS field May through September 2025.**

### 2025 Summed Up

Well, here we are, almost the last Prop Wash for the year. I believe we had a great year at the field, and the improvements we made throughout the year will help us to continue to be so proud for the facilities we are able to provide for all to enjoy.

It was a typical wet spring, even into the late part of June. By early July, it seemed like the field dried out, the grass cutting crew got into full motion, and the field was beautiful throughout our season. All of our events were very successful, including our airshow which produced an exceptional profit with many thanks for the donations of beautiful planes from Mo Clayton. We are so grateful for all those that helped with all of our events, and provided what we needed to ensure success throughout the summer.

We also lost a cherished member of our club, Maynard Beehler. Maynard was such an accomplished builder. I actually have two of his planes..... I am restoring his Henschel 129, and expect to have his A26 flying in 2026. While I didn't see Maynard fly much, I remember him being at the field often, with his huge planes, checking and re-checking his engines. We will all miss his wonderful spirit and kindness at our club.

We have our last club meeting of the year this coming Wednesday November 12<sup>th</sup>. It is a Zoom meeting, and the information to log in can be found on our website: [www.cnystars.com](http://www.cnystars.com). We will be completing the 2026 officer election process, so if you have anything important you want to add, please show up for our last meeting of the year.

We have our Christmas party at RFH's Hide-A-Way on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Come at 5 for drinks, and 6 PM for dinner. It is a great way to close out the year, and celebrate the friendships we have developed over the years. Anyone who has ever flown at our club, is certainly welcome to enjoy the food and friendship. If you have not received the information about food choices, please call me, or email me at [president@cnystars.com](mailto:president@cnystars.com), and I'll get that information to you. Of contact any member, and they should be able to help you.

And what about upcoming events? We have our Winter Fun Fly on the first day of winter, which is December 21<sup>st</sup>. We have our Annual Snow Fly, which is generally in March. Information on that will obviously follow. And as we made great improvements to our field this year, we already have plans for next year that will be discussed in the spring.

I am humbled to have served another year as your president. It has been an honor and privilege to lead this group of very diverse and accomplished pilots, builders, repairers, and yes, those that "crash" their planes.....myself included. I look forward to what might be next year, and to another flying season. Let us all be thankful for all we have throughout this year, and remember the "reason for the Season" throughout the last few months of the year. May we all be blessed abundantly.

Mike Mueller, president

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

[mmuellerva@yahoo.com](mailto:mmuellerva@yahoo.com)

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

**Note the section in the Propwash labeled Important Links for STARS Members.** This section contains links that every STARS member should be aware of including the ZOOM meeting instructions and the link to the most recent Propwash and past issues of the club newsletter.

**The October STARS meeting was held on Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 by President Mike Mueller. There were 14 Open members, 1 Associate member, 0 Family members, 0 Youth members, and 1 Guests in attendance.**

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

The Secretary's report from the September Propwash was accepted as published. A request was made to remove the information about the club hats as they are not available at this time. The motion to accept the Secretary's Report was made by Mike Graham, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Herb Moore. Carried.

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

Bills are all current. Paul discussed the treasury details. There are already dues coming in.

Mike Mueller noted that there was money spent on dirt. The quote for the seamless gutters was approved. Equipment rental and materials to put in the drainage that was discussed previously through the pilot area. Several cash and material donations were made that covered most of the expenditures and projects including the paint donated by Mike Amie. Gary Brown donated materials and labor to make the repairs to the clubhouse.

The port-a-potty will be picked up soon.

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

### **Correspondence: Paul Volcko**

No other correspondence reported.

### **Committee Reports:**

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

AMA Scholarship nomination and applications are open.

Grants are open for application at this time.

Please get your ballots back to the AMA. Eric Williams is running for AMA President. DII will lose a terrific representative but the AMA will gain a great president for the AMA.

#### **Safety Report: Phil Lamkay**

Phil officially signed off from the Safety Officer position. Darrel Eckhard will be taking over.

Please secure you wet fueled aircraft when servicing. If one of the tables is not available, or a stooge is not available, please ask one of your fellow flyers for help to hold the aircraft so it doesn't get loose.

#### **Field Committee: Herb Moore**

The field is easy to take care of now the regular growing season is over. Ted made repairs to the steering on the Simplicity mower. DO NOT pull on the Simplicity steering wheel to get on or off the seat.

Darrel and Joe Eckhard built the flight tables for the cub. They will be delivering two more on 10/11.

### **Old Business:**

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

Nothing to report. There are 371 Facebook members now.

#### **Real Estate Committee:**

No report given.

#### **Flight schools:**

**Fixed Wing** Has pretty much wrapped up for the season with one more formal session to go. There were eight (8) students and one (1) has graduated. Phil Morgan commented on how quickly the young kids picked up the lessons.

There are currently three high school students attending. Instructor coverage for tomorrow's class will be coordinated to make sure there is enough coverage.

**Heli/Multi Rotor** Runs every Tuesday night thru Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Special Interest Nights:**

Special interest nights have concluded for the year.

**Monday Night Jets** Thank Gary Natali for promoting Jet Night. This has been the most attended special interest group night this year.

**Big Bird Night** Runs every Wednesday night thru Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. Weather has been a factor. Small attendance.

#### **Field Improvements- Long Term Planning:**

2025- Most projects will be resumed after the flying season cools down.

**Tree Removal-** A good job has been done. Need to finish cutting up what has been taken down and pulled out of the woods. Wait until fall for the overgrowth to recede to make the job easier.

**Openings in The Fence Line-** Discussion continued from the last meeting regarding openings in the fence line. The discussion concluded with the AMA not going forward. Keep Al Townsend in the loop on our progress and completion plans.

**Add On To Runway-** A suggestion was made to add 100ft. to the east end of the runway. For the time being the low spot at the end will be filled.

**Runway West End Improvement-** Do one or both of the following, 1- Look at bringing in about 50yrd of fill topsoil to raise it. 2- Put in a drainage ditch.

**Control Line Drainage-** Mike O'Neill asked to fill the depression in the control line circle.

**Drainage Improvements-** Paul Volcko, Herb Moore, Mike Mueller, Bill Whittaker, and Josh Weaver met to discuss the drainage situation at the field. After the Family BBQ, move some dirt around to control ponding on the field and the control line circle. Other options are being explored.

**Activity Sign-** Mike Mueller is following up on the activity sign by the driveway entrance to attract spectators/future members. The sign will announce our events to the public and improve our community relations. Mike G. and Dan W. are working on banners for the signage.

**-- Continued --**

**Public Relations-** We are actively seeking a PR leader that can direct and expand our exposure in the community. The intent is to increase membership and increase revenue through increased awareness. Different venues- Zoey Advertising, John Murphy, the estate planning guy, gets about a 15-minute radio spot that can advertise our events. TV- WSYR Your Stories segment, On your side, Bridge Street- community interest segments on the afternoon news. Part of the Gold Leader club is to engage in public outreach.

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.

**YouTube Channel-** The club has started a YouTube channel to promote our activities. John McMakin volunteered to be the channel moderator. In addition to John, Robert DeNova (Droner) will be assisting.

**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, Karl Price, and Mike O'Neill. The committee is currently brainstorming and planning another meeting.

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

**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.

**Porta-potty-** Keeping current vendor.

### New Business:

#### Club Officer Elections:

The following slate of officers was put forward:

Mike Mueller- President

Tom Polovick- Vice President

Paul Volcko- Treasurer

Jeff Wolsley- Secretary

Darrel Eckhard- Safety Officer

Dan Williams will continue with the BOD.

None of the positions were challenged. The officers will be voted on at the November meeting.

#### Christmas Party:

Phil Knapp will be heading up the Christmas Party. RFH Hideaway is the location. Phil Morgan will get the usual flowers for the ladies. More to come...

#### Fall Clean Up: Mike Mueller

Mike has asked for volunteers to assist in a fall cleanup to occur in the near future. The date is October 11 and October 18. That's right, two days.

Add drainage through the pilot stations.

Paint the red shed

Repair the T1 siding around the shed, garage, and club house.

Paint the pavilion.

Add the 12" square blocks around the club house foundation

Put gutters on the club house. Darrel has someone to do this.

East end field drainage improvement. There are already materials for this project.

Need stone, geo-fabric, and topsoil to fill in the low spots.

Reel mower storage needs to be rebuilt. This can be delayed if the reel units are picked up for service over the winter to have them ready for spring. Need to get the price for the rebuild service.

#### Event Reminder:

#### Fall Field Cleanup Day :

10/11 and 10/18- Starts at 9:30.

#### Club Dues:

Dues are due. Paul is working on using PayPal as an alternative. Paul will update when this becomes available.

#### New Members:

Stan Sawicki- Associate member.

Dan Williams and Phil Lamaky put up Stan for membership. The membership in attendance unanimously voted for the new members. Welcome to the STARS!

#### Adjournment:

The October 2025 regular monthly meeting of the STARS was adjourned at 7:37.

***Secretary, Jeff Wolsley***

## Calendar of Events



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

### **Calendar of Events for December 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*

December 21- STARS Winter Fun Fly

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

**STARS Flight Schools-** Flight Schools have ended for the 2025 season. Look for them to return in April 2026.

**Fixed wing-** Another successful flight school has wrapped up for 2025. Congratulations to all of the pilots that soloed. We look forward to the returning 2026 student pilots who worked hard all this summer.

**Heli/Multi Rotor-** See you all back at the field in 2026.

### **Indoor Flying –**

The Indoor flying schedule will be starting up again soon. I will start adding locations and dates and time as they become available or confirmed.

**CNYIFS 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 (Confirmed for 2025-26 season). No Fly Dates- 09/01, 11/27, 12/08, and 12/25. 2026- 01/01, 04/02, and 05/14. CNYIFS dues are 12.00/yr. Garret Wikoff is the Treasurer.**

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 for the 2025-26 indoor season-**

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

**[Camillus Indoor Aviators \(CIA\)](#)** Indoor flying at First Baptist Church located at 1960 State Route 5 in Elbridge 11/18 thru ?, Wednesdays 1:00-4:00. If you plan to attend, call Herb Ziegler 315-857-6266 so Herb can unlock the doors.

Camden- Tuesday nights





(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



**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.

### The Aviation Historical Society of CNY

412 Dunning Drive Camillus, NY. Open Sundays, noon to 4:00.

[Home](#) | [Aviation Historical Society of Central New York](#)

This museum is dedicated to aviation history in CNY- Amboy Airport in Camillus starting in 1926.

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.

### Classified Ads-

**FOR SALE:** Clear out your hanger now!

### **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.*

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# **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 Propwash Newsletter:**

The STARS Propwash- <https://www.cnystars.com/newsletter-archive.php>

## **STARS YouTube Channel:**

The STARS Propwash- [Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society - YouTube](#)

## **STARS ZOOM Meetings:**

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

The link for the ZOOM meeting is located at the top of the cameras page on the STARS web site.

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=c2ZiRWhkMkIrbGZ5WENDaE12SlB5Zz09>

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 341 members currently. [Mike O'Neill](#) is the administrator.

## **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.**

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.

**-- Continued--**

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://www.modelaircraft.org)

The AMA Government relations blog- [AMA IN ACTION](#)

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 \(modelaircraft.org\)](#)

### **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](#)

Don't let your FAA registration number lapse. If you do, it will cost the full amount to re-register and you will receive a new registration number. Your aircraft label must be updated with the new FAA number. Look for the renewal email from the FAA. [Check your status- FAADroneZone Access - Login After logging in, a text box appears in the upper left with all of your information including your registration expiration date.]

Do not let your FAA Part 107 license expire. If you do, you will have to retake the exam and pay all of the licensing fees.

### **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.

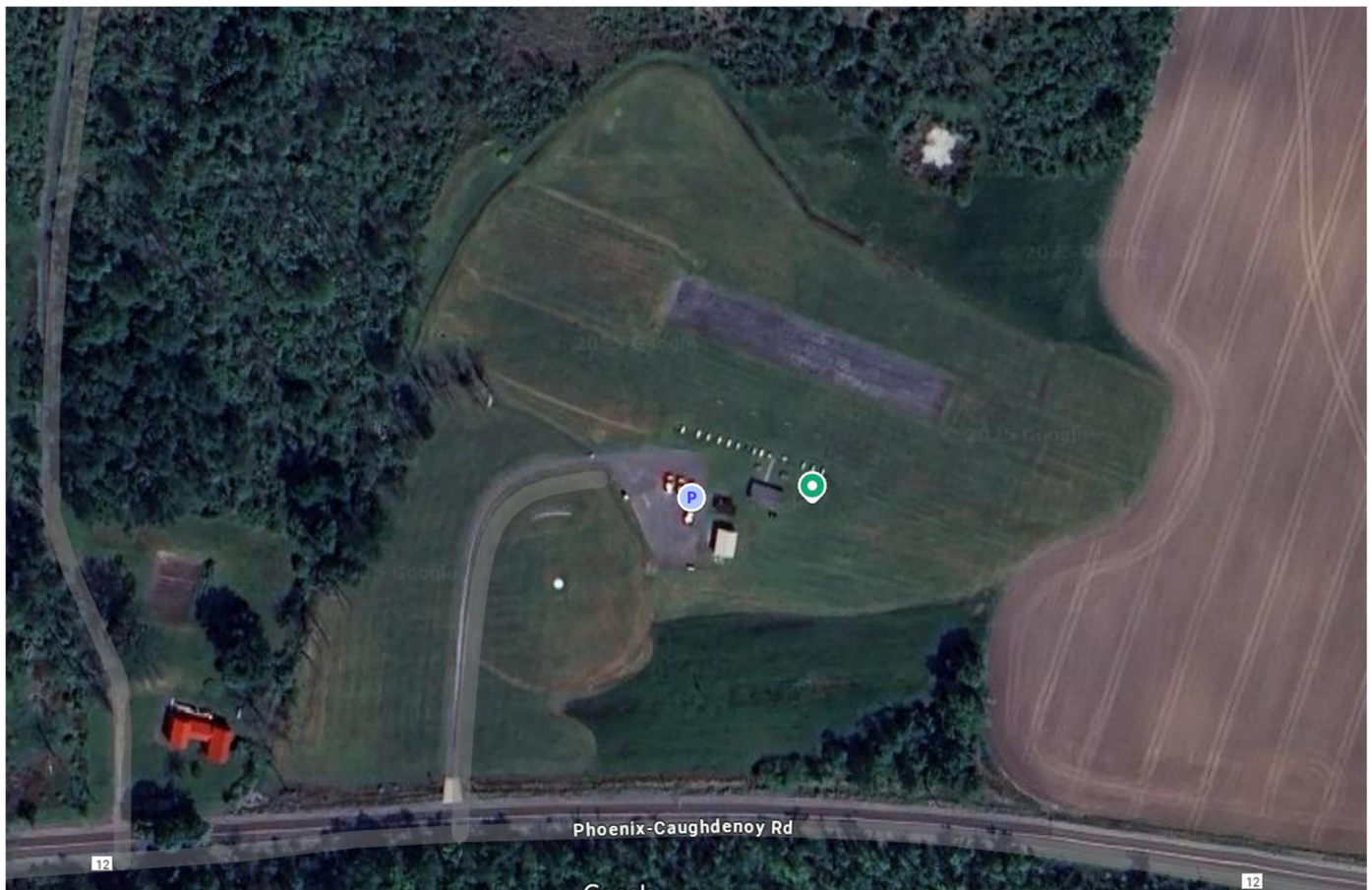
Click on the QR code to download the maiden flight check list for new aircraft.



**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.**

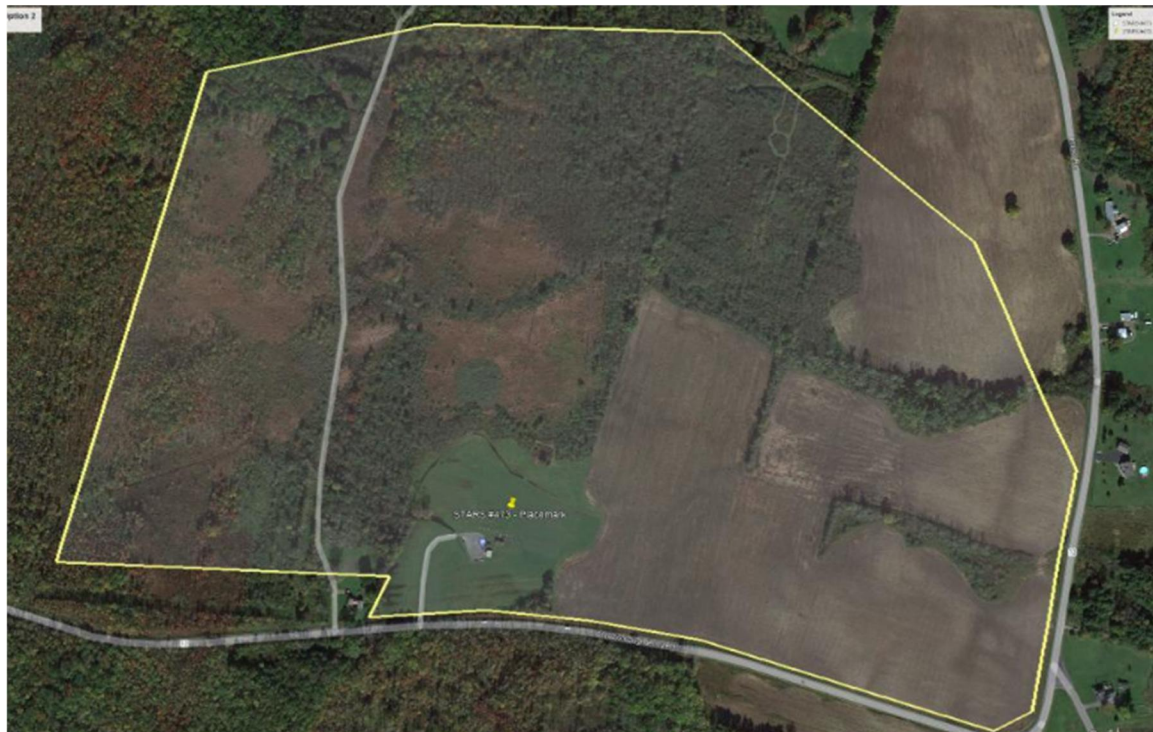


*When's the last time you checked the balance of your aircraft?*



**The latest satellite photo**

**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.



**Saturday fall work party October 11 and 18. All pictures courtesy of Mike Graham-**

**Go here for all my photos on the STARS Field Work conducted on 11 and 18 October:**

**<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/64i34j6bsp1vbt149y7wt/APrF6VIZVXX-hSqV1AnA9lo?rlkey=zkluntgj0nn6ffko7nzib9ofs&st=n64kzrre&dl=0>**



















**Mike took these pictures from the STARS 2025 Ringmaster Fly-a-thon.**

**I finally whittled down my 2025 STARS Ringmaster Fly-a-thon photoset and included it here:**

**<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/7r0iak884ovb01juwgx3k/ADA-4CxTBZ0dcqvNjSOZPW8?rlkey=xafblsqp7waff73us88hnjxe3&st=qnr9rc&dl=0>**

























Mike Graham's field report from 10/03/2025-

Here's Gary Brown's *Spitfire* on the ready table with chocks:



Jordan Dunn arrived with his sporty *Scrappy*:





**And here's Gary flying while the Jordan's *C-17* waits:**





**And here's Bob Simm's gift of top soil waiting to be used on Saturday, 11 Oct 25:**



**Here's Jordan's *C-17* being prepared for flight:**



## **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, cowls, 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.

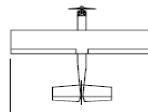
Ask someone to help and walk away from the model until signs of loss of control is apparent. If electric powered ensure that the range is not worse with the motor running.

## 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.

06jan21

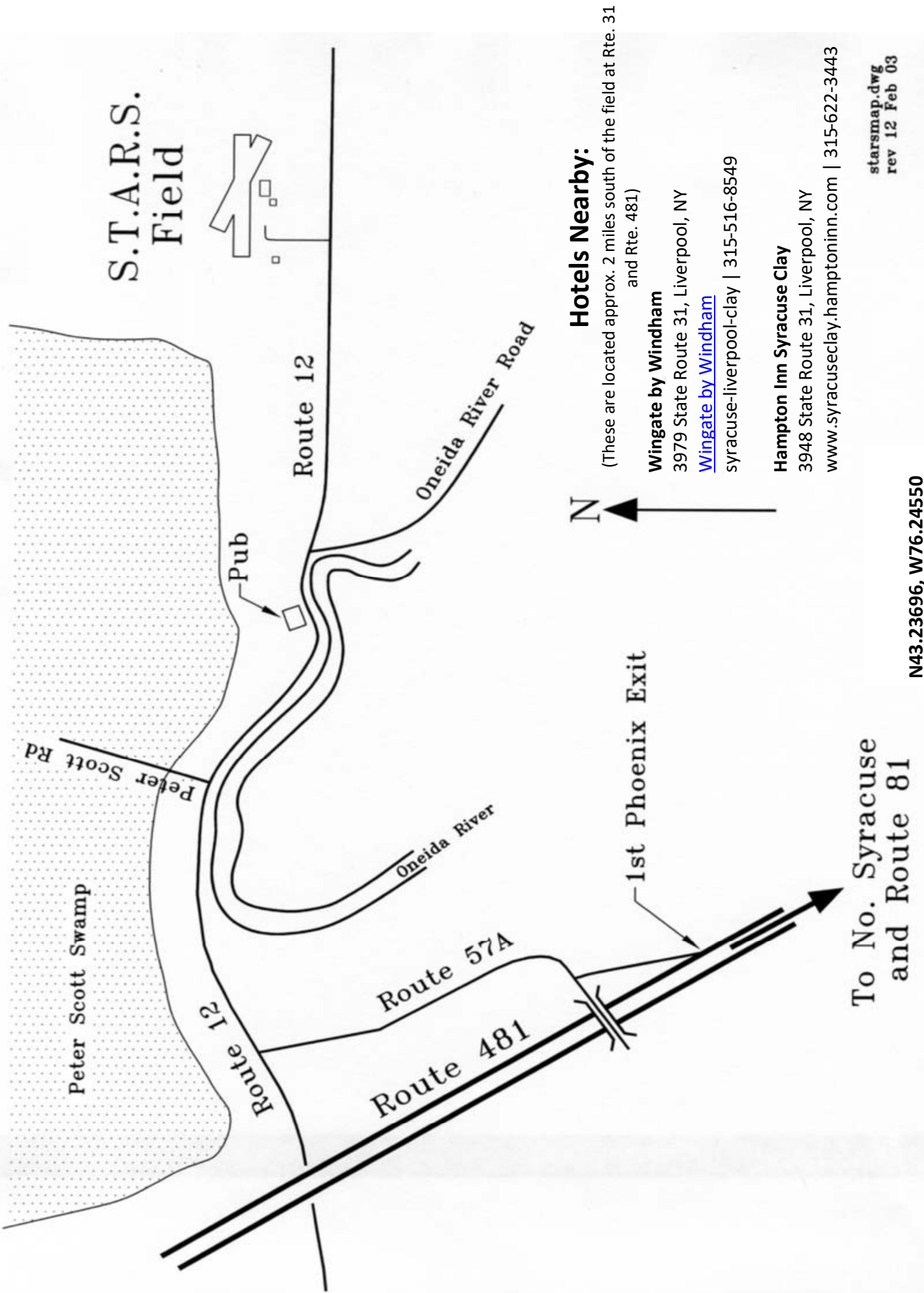
## **STARS POLICY REGARDING PHOTOGRAPHY**

- 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



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