

## Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society



# Plane Propwash



January 2026

Charter 473

**The next STARS meeting is Wednesday February 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 on ZOOM.**

2026 Officers:

[Mike Mueller, President](#)  
[Tom Polovick, Vice President](#)  
[Paul Volcko, Treasurer](#)  
[Jeff Wolsley, Secretary](#)  
[Darrel Eckhard, 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](#)

**The next STARS 2026 meeting will be on ZOOM, on February 11<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 2026.**

So... How's Your Winter Going?

Well, it seems like this winter is like what we had 20 or so years ago. It is very cold, and we've had more snow in Syracuse than we have had in many years. I think I read that we are close to 30 inches more than usual with over 118 inches of snow this season already. Last year at this time, we had 68 inches of snow. This past weekend we had highs of 5-10 degrees, and lows from -15 to minus 5 degrees. So certainly not much flying is being done.

Most people are hunkered down inside and drinking hot chocolate with maybe an adult additive to make the days seem warmer. And that is your weather information for today, prosperity, history and humanity.....in 20 years, they will look at this and wonder.... "Who is that person writing about weather in our monthly Propwash"?

With all that said, it has been cold, and very snowy this year, and there hasn't been much going on at all at the field. I know of many of our members who are diligently working on their planes and helicopters, getting them ready for the upcoming season. I've accomplished quite a bit this year, including rebuilding my 85" Zero that had a "mishap" with one wing destroyed. I have found that attempting to repair wings are very difficult. To get the tips of the wings to be symmetrical with

the other side, both front to back, and up and down is quite challenging. You fix one, and the others go out of sync. At some point one just decides it is as good as it is going to get, and will laugh as level flight ends up being at a 30 degree angle to level ground....hahahahaaaa..... But that is the "fun" of repairing aircraft, isn't it?

On a more serious note, one of our members, Peter Lanno had a health emergency in October of last year, and recovery is taking a very long time. Peter hopes to be back flying by summertime. If you want to send some encouragement to Peter, you can look at our roster and send him a note, or an email of encouragement.

So keep working on your planes, and let's hope the snow will abate, and we'll be able to get back to flying again....oh, don't forget our Annual Snow Fly.....March 1<sup>st</sup> from 11 to 4. Always fun to see who can brave the weather. I normally won't walk out the door with a plane unless it is 50 degrees out.....exception is the 1<sup>st</sup> day of winter "party" and the Snow Fly. Come on out everyone and see what other "flyers" are willing to brave the weather. Be safe out there!!!!

Mike Mueller, president  
Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society  
[president@cnystars.com](mailto:president@cnystars.com), (804) 873-8928  
[mmuellerva@yahoo.com](mailto:mmuellerva@yahoo.com)

2026 STARS dues are due. There is a \$20.00 late fee after the February meeting. Please contact the Treasurer if you need to defer for some reason. Dues can be sent to the Treasurer. (Paul Volcko, 5237 Kasson, Syracuse, NY. 13215) Or, the 2026 dues can be paid online through PayPal. See the renewal forms at the end of the Propwash.

## **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 Field Improvement/Long Term Planning has been moved to a new section that will appear after the Meeting Minutes. Here you can track the progress of our improvements and any changes to long term planning for the club.

**The January STARS meeting was held on Zoom, a week later than planned. Some technical difficulties with a nationwide Verizon network outage and our technical director forced the meeting to January 21<sup>st</sup>. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by President Mike Mueller. There were 12 Open members, 2 Associate member, 0 Family members, 0 Youth members, and 0 Guests in attendance.**

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

The Secretary's report from the November Propwash was accepted as published. The motion to accept the Secretary's Report was made by Tom Furgeson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Herb Moore. Carried.

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

The year end Treasurer's Report was posted on line by Paul in anticipation of not being in the meeting.

Motion to accept by Mike Graham and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Warren Clough. Carried.

### **Correspondence:** Paul Volcko

No other correspondence reported.

### **Committee Reports:**

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

The FCC has come out as being anti drone. If you disagree, please contact your local federal government representative(s) and voice your opinion.

All drones have been banned if they haven't already been approved. Protectionism has been blamed for the situation. Domestic manufacturers have been lobbying hard to prevent the import of the technology from China that threatens them. Now the manufacturers are back tracking because now they themselves can't get the parts they need to produce their products.

Phil gave the following statistics-

There 1.7mm drone pilots in the US.

A very high percentage is DJI equipment

Approx. 52% are business users

Approx. 43% are photography users.

Approx. 11% are for recreation.

Some business users may close due to the ban. DJI hired a third party to study the problem and present an unbiased report to the FCC, but due to DoGE cuts, there isn't anyone available to receive and act on the report.

See the report here from the AMA- [FCC Foreign UAS & UAS Component Decision - AMA IN ACTION Advocating for Members](#)

**Safety Report:** Darrel Eckhard

No Darrel tonight.

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

[The snow is too deep to mow. It is assumed the field looks great... At least it did the last time we saw it.]

Much thanks to Bill Whittaker for plowing the driveway and parking area. Thanks, Bill!

### **Old Business:**

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

Nothing to report. There are still 371 Facebook members.

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

No report given.

#### **Flight schools:**

**Fixed Wing** Pre flight work shop has been scheduled for 04/23/26. Classes will start 05/07 and run through 09/10/2026.

**Heli/Multi Rotor** Not scheduled at this time.

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

Special interest nights have concluded for the year.

**Monday Night Jets** – 05/04-09/28/2026

**Big Bird Night**- 05/06-09/30/2026

### **New Business:**

#### **Club Dues:**

Dues are due. Paul has PayPal available for payments as an alternative. He sent out a clubmailer notice on 10/18. Note there is an additional service fee for the PayPal payment. See attached 2026 Renewal form and the PayPal form at the end of the Propwash. Use @cnystars as the payee at PayPal.

#### **New Members:**

No new members

#### **Last minute news:**

Tom Polovick is completing the grant writing to the AMA. Waiting for approval.

There will be a BOD meeting immediately after the February STARS meeting.

**Peter Lanno** is back home recovering from some serious health issues suffered last October. Please send some well wishes and encouragement to Peter. We would like to see him at the field this year!

**Gary Brown** would like to discuss the FAA survey that's going around at the February meeting.

#### **Adjournment:**

The November 2025 regular monthly meeting of the STARS was adjourned at 7:39.

**Secretary, Jeff Wolsley**

## Field Improvements- Long Term Planning:

2026- Pick up where we left off

**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.

**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.

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.

**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.

**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.



I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DRIVE BY THE Evansville, IN. RC club on my way back to Louisville, KY this past Saturday 02/07. It's only 786 miles and 12hrs from Syracuse. Looks like a nice little club from the highway. [Evansville Radio Control Model Aircraft Club – RC Airplane Club](#)

This is all I could see from the highway (Rt.69) at 75mph (SL=70). My view had snow in it. Nobody flying.



This is the arial view- with an inset blow up of the facilities. That's some flat land!



Jeff Wolsley.

## Calendar of Events



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

### **Calendar of Events for January 2026 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*

March 03- STARS SnoFly STARS Field  
April 18, 25- STARS Spring cleanup, Trees First  
April 23- STARS Flight School Workshop  
April 25- FLAPS RC Swap Meet  
May 04- STARS Monday Night Jets 1<sup>st</sup> night  
May 06- STARS Big Bird 1<sup>st</sup> night  
May 07- STARS Fixed Wing School 1<sup>st</sup> night  
May 16- STARS Control Line Fun Fly  
June 20- STARS Family BBQ  
July 18- STARS Heli Jam  
Sept. 05- STARS Air Show

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

## **We're Back!**

### **STARS Flight Schools 2026-**

**Fixed wing- April 23, 2026 Flight School Workshop- Bring your airplane out for a ground check to make sure it's ready for the first night of flight school. Flight School runs May 7 thru Sept. 10**

**Heli/Multi Rotor- Not scheduled**

## **Indoor Flying –**

The Indoor flying schedule is in full swing.

**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. They have gone back to the side door entrance 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



Advertisements:



(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](http://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:** Start your spring cleaning 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.*

## **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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

### **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=c2ZiRWhkMklrbGZ5WENDaE12S1B5Zz09>

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?*



# S.T.A.R.S.

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

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

## Annual 2026 Snow Fly



**When?**

**Sunday, 01 March 2026**

11 AM to 4 PM

**Where?**

**S.T.A.R.S. Field in Phoenix, NY**

(See map on back)

❄️ **Admission: *NONE*** ❄️

**Open Flying - fly when you are **warm** enough!**

**Heated, enclosed pavilion.**

**Power available for charging batteries.**

**Lunch will be served.**

**Come and fly all day!** ❄️



Snow Fly FB Event

***For more information, contact:***

***Mike Mueller, President, at 804/873-8928***



**Sponsored by the Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society, Inc.**

# S.T.A.R.S.

## *Flight Training Program*



# 2026



### **When?**

Every Thursday evening from 5:30 PM to Sunset  
May 07, 2026 through September 10, 2026

### **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 23, 2026 at 5-7 PM**



### **Interested?**

Contact:



FB Workshop SENIOR FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR: Gary Natali (315/657-5695) FB Flightschool

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

The Finger Lakes Air Pirates Proudly Present:

# Our 24th Annual

# RC Swap Meet and Auction

Saturday April 25, 2026

Centrally Located Only Six Miles from NYS Thruway Exit 41

Seneca Falls Rec Center

35 Water St., Seneca Falls NY 13148

Swap Meet: 9:30 AM

Auction: 11:30 AM

*Doors open 9:00 am*

\$5.00 Admission (*ladies & children free*)

*No Auction Fees*

Tables provided at no charge.

***Finger Lakes Premier Swap Meet!***

*Raffle and Prizes*

*Refreshments available*



**From the South:**

Take Route 5&20 to Seneca Falls Just east fo the Women's Rights Museum is S Walnut St., turn south toward the canal to the SF Rec Center

**From the Thruway Exit 41**

**(Waterloo):**

Turn right on Route 414 and south to Route 5&20, turn left into Seneca Falls, right on S, Walnut St.

***Location for this year's event:***

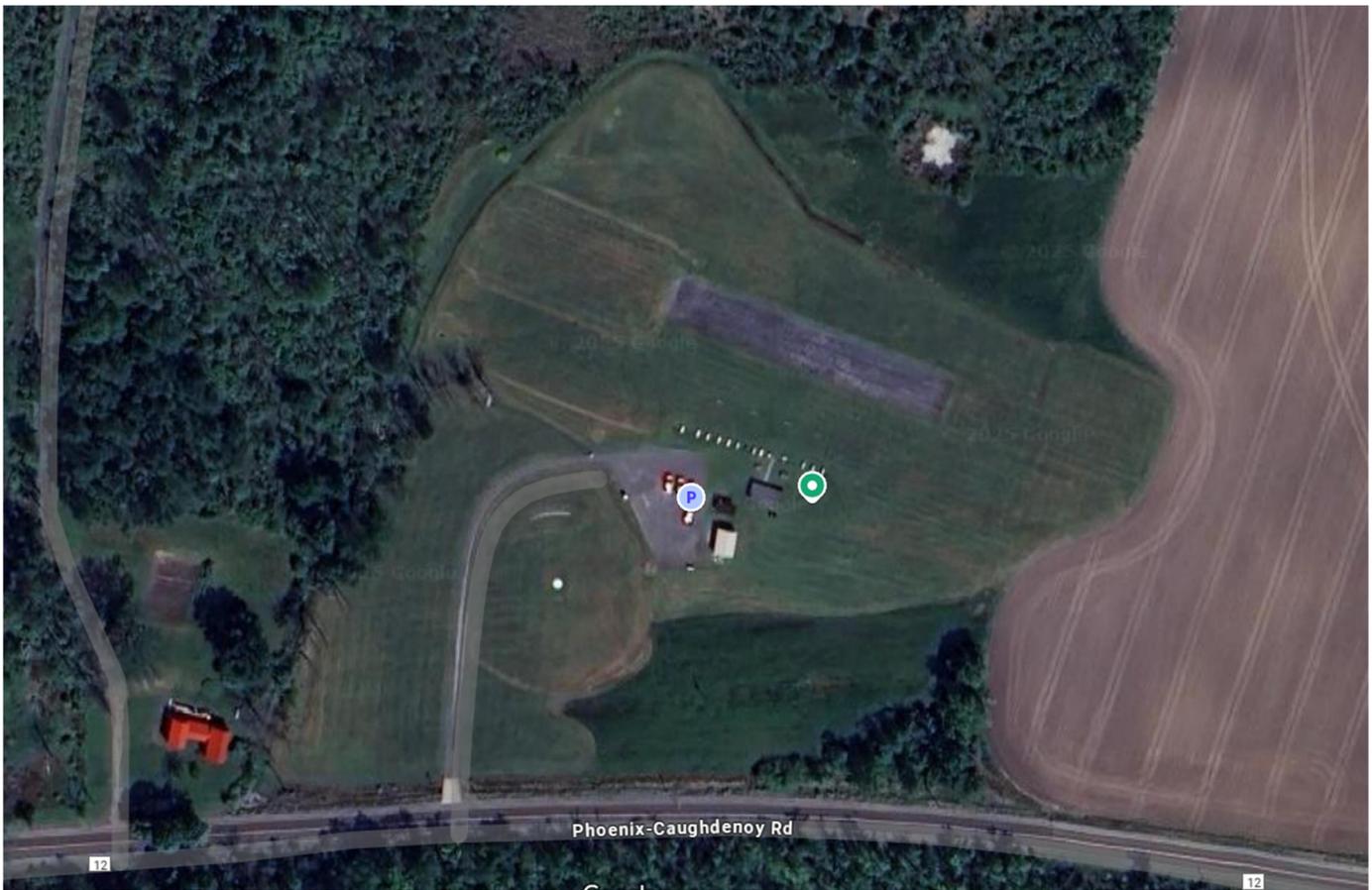
**35 Water St, Seneca Falls, NY  
13148**

***AMA Gold Leader Club #101***

***Visit us on Facebook***

***Join Us for a Good Time!***





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.

# 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.

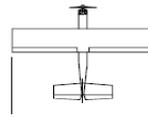
Ask someone to help and walk away from the model until signs of loss of control is apparent. If electric powered ensure that the range is not worse with the motor running.

## 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.

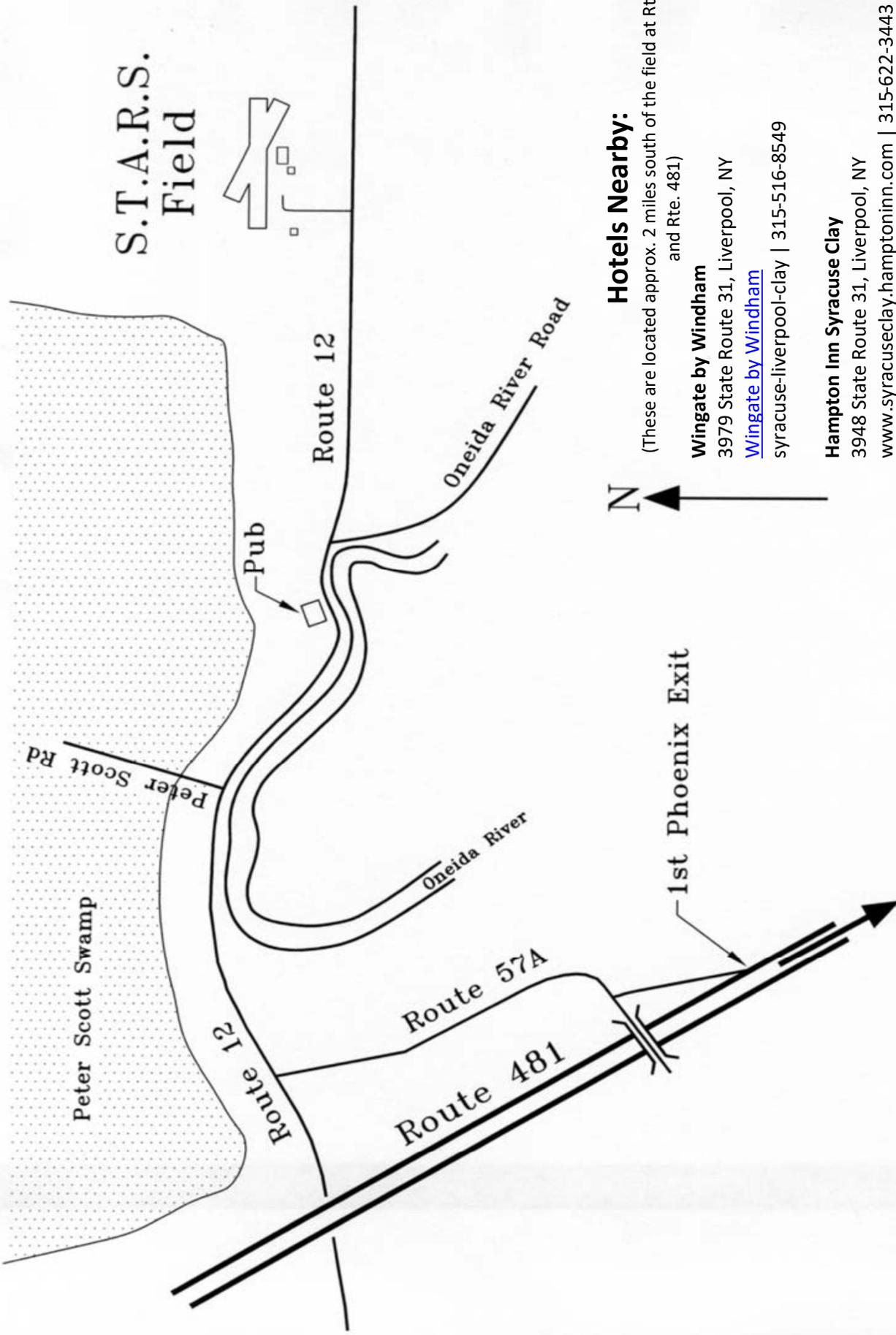
### 5. Replacement Courtesy:

- 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.

## **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)

### Wingate by Windham

3979 State Route 31, Liverpool, NY

[Wingate by Windham](http://www.wingatebywindham.com)

syracuse-liverpool-clay | 315-516-8549

### 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*



# Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society



<https://www.cnystars.com>

## Membership Renewal 2026

Return renewals to our Treasurer, Paul Volcko, via mail to: 5237 Kasson Road, Syracuse, NY, 13215. Please fill in your name, mark your membership type, and include your check/payment made out to: S.T.A.R.S. **Electronic payment options available, see back for information.** *Do not mail cash, only checks.* Cash can be used only for direct in-person payments.

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, 2025. 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. Purchased share certificate 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 are required to renew by the end of January. Open member late renewal penalties can be waived at Treasurer's discretion. If you need an extension please contact Treasurer in January or before. If you wish to change your membership, such as upgrading from Associate to Open, please contact Treasurer or another club officer.

Review your roster entry. If your info has changed, please provide your updated information below.

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

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

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

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

# Electronic Renewal and Payment Options

You may renew your membership via the club's PayPal account.

PayPal transactions through this account incur transaction fees so you must send additional money compared to paying by check or with cash (in-person).

## PayPal Renewal Costs

Membership Type	Cash/Check Price	PayPal Price
Park Pilot	\$75	\$77
Associate	\$75	\$77
Open	\$60	\$62
Extra Family	\$30	\$31

Using the PayPal app or website, you can send money to [@cnystars](https://www.paypal.com/@cnystars) or you may use the QR code below.



Use the "PayPal Price" column prices when filling in the amount to send to the club's account.

Please include "2026 Renewal - YOUR NAME" in the optional note field you can fill in before sending the payment. I may or may not be able to recognize the payee info that is attached to the incoming transaction, so this note field is important for me to be able to associate your payment with your roster entry. I will contact you when I process your payment and mark your roster entry as paid up. Check your junk mail folder. If you do not get contacted within 3 days of payment, please reach out to me to make sure things were processed.

Review your roster entry. If your contact info has changed please send email to [treasurer@cnystars.com](mailto:treasurer@cnystars.com) with your updated information.