

Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society



Plane Propwash



February 2026

Charter 473

The next STARS meeting is Wednesday March 11th, 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 March 11th, 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. Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month except December.

Spring is Knockin'

Well, it looks like the weather had taken a HUGE change for the time being. Daylight savings time is here, and the 2 feet of snow that has been on the ground is all gone. In fact, there is a rumor that we will have been flying this week, as it will be in the mid 60's for a couple of days. What an incredible change a week might make. So let's take advantage of it.

I would imagine that many of our members and friends have been working on their "winter projects" diligently throughout the past couple of months, and getting things wrapped up so they are ready to re-re-re- maiden their planes.....or maybe that is just me. I have been in the process of putting together the Zero that met a very untimely demise over the past season. Fuselage is in very good shape, and while the wing had extensive damage and in multiple pieces, it currently is getting ready to have the monokote replaced, and the wing ready to go. I enjoy repairing.....but wish I had to do less of it....and more flying.....haha.....

We had a great time at our winter fun fly the first of March. The pavilion was full, planes were flying, and the pizza was as good as usual, although it was very cold outside. I continue to wonder why we abuse ourselves like this. I am a "under 50-don't fly" kind of guy, and the 19 degree day was a bit

much, but it is always fun to get together with other members. We all have fun together, and we are all better because of our friendship.

We are about a month away from getting back into the swing of things, with our spring cleanup over a couple of weekends in mid-April. We will have a day to complete our tree cleanup in the west woods, and then another day to put things out for the season of flying. We will then see folks we haven't seen in 6 months, and get back to enjoying the spring weather. Hopefully our field will dry out sooner this year than last, and won't be so wet. We installed some drainage tiles around the pilot stands last fall, and we are anxious to see if it will make any difference.

Hope to see as many folks at the field as possible this year. We look forward to another season of flying.

Be safe!!!!

Mike Mueller, president
Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society
president@cnystars.com, (804) 873-8928
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 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.

Secretary's Report:

The February STARS meeting was held on Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by President Mike Mueller. There were 13 Open members, 2 Associate member, 0 Family members, 0 Youth members, and 0 Guests in attendance.

Motion to accept by Herb Moore and 2nd by Mike Graham. The January report was accepted as published.

Treasurer's Report: Paul Volcko

Paul's treasury report was posted on line. Paul provided an excellent report of the 2024 year end Treasury. Taxes have been paid. We have a small state and federal tax obligation.

Motion to accept by Mike Graham and 2nd by Rick Wilson. Carried.

Correspondence: Paul Volcko

No other correspondence reported.

Committee Reports:

AMA Report: Phil Morgan

Liverpool High School CTE night was about 3 weeks ago. Lower attendance than past events. 75 drone students will get their part 107 certifications.

The latest AMA Air was held with new AMA President Greg Stone. Greg touched on education and encouraging the younger generation just coming into the hobby. See here- [A Message From Your AMA President - Academy of Model Aeronautics Blog](#) and [AMA Air // Get to Know AMA President Greg Stone](#)

Safety Report: Darrel Eckhard

Darrel reported that he is new to the Safety Officer position and can use what ever help he can get is greatly appreciated. He is excited to how the new drainage works. He would like to add a drain near the pump to collect some additional water that may be from a spring.

Field Committee: Herb Moore

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, but sadly Jeff La Porte has resigned his membership from the club.

Last minute news:

Gary Brown discussed the FAA survey that's going around at the February meeting. Most/all of us members should have received at least one email from the FAA to complete their survey. Some of us have received more than one email. You only need to complete it once. They are asking some pretty specific questions regarding your flying habits and the type of aircraft we fly. Some of these questions are repeated in the survey.

SnoFly is March 1st!

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

Adjournment:

The February regular monthly meeting of the STARS was adjourned at 7:30.

Secretary, Jeff Wolsley

STARS BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING February 2026

Attendees

Phil Morgan
Dan Williams
Mike Graham

Darrel Eckhard
Mike Mueller
Jeff Wolsley

The STARS Board of Directors Meeting was called to order at 7:31 immediately following the regularly scheduled February STARS general meeting.

Herb Moore is in charge of maintenance. Look for possible successor? Maybe Darrel is interested. Gary Brown needs help with the east wall of the pavilion.

Mike Mueller mentioned adding about 75ft. to the Geotech runway. In addition, the hump that has developed at the end needs to be removed.

Mike mentioned that he would like to get a description of what each of the officers do at the club. This is in an effort to make assigning roles easier so everyone is doing the job expected of them. He is struggling to keep that part straight and wants to make sure that there is a smooth transition in the future ie., post officer elections. In addition, Contest Directors (CDs) should be listed for reference. Like Mike Graham is the STARS Historian. This is a volunteer position and should be defined as well as all the other volunteer positions. Mike is grateful that the club is doing well but it could be better. He would like to define a plan of succession.

Mike went on to say that he may not be doing everything he should be doing because he doesn't know what he's missing.

Phil Morgan mentioned there used to be a book that had the officer expected officer duties defined.

The succession plan would avoid harm to the club should there be a sudden loss in the leadership at the director or officer level.

The April field clean up should concentrate on removing the trees that are already down on the neighbor's property. We need to stay friends and don't want them calling us to do something we already said we would do.

The reels will go to be sharpened in the spring. Herb M. is going to handle this chore.

So long as the Simplicity tractor keeps going, there is no immediate need to replace it. Run it until there isn't anything left.

Motion made by Mike Mueller to adjourn the meeting at 7:54. Carried.

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.

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.

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

Porta-potty- Keeping current vendor.



Calendar of Events



NOTICE: EVENT DATES MAY CHANGE OR CANCELLED OUTRIGHT.

Calendar of Events for February 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

April 18 and/or 25- STARS Spring cleanup,
Trees First!

April 23- STARS Flight School Workshop

April 25- FLAPS RC Swap Meet

May 04- STARS Monday Night Jets 1st
night

May 06- STARS Big Bird 1st night

May 07- STARS Fixed Wing School 1st 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

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

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. Please put STARS ADVERTISEMENT in the subject line.

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. 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.

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.cnvstars.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:

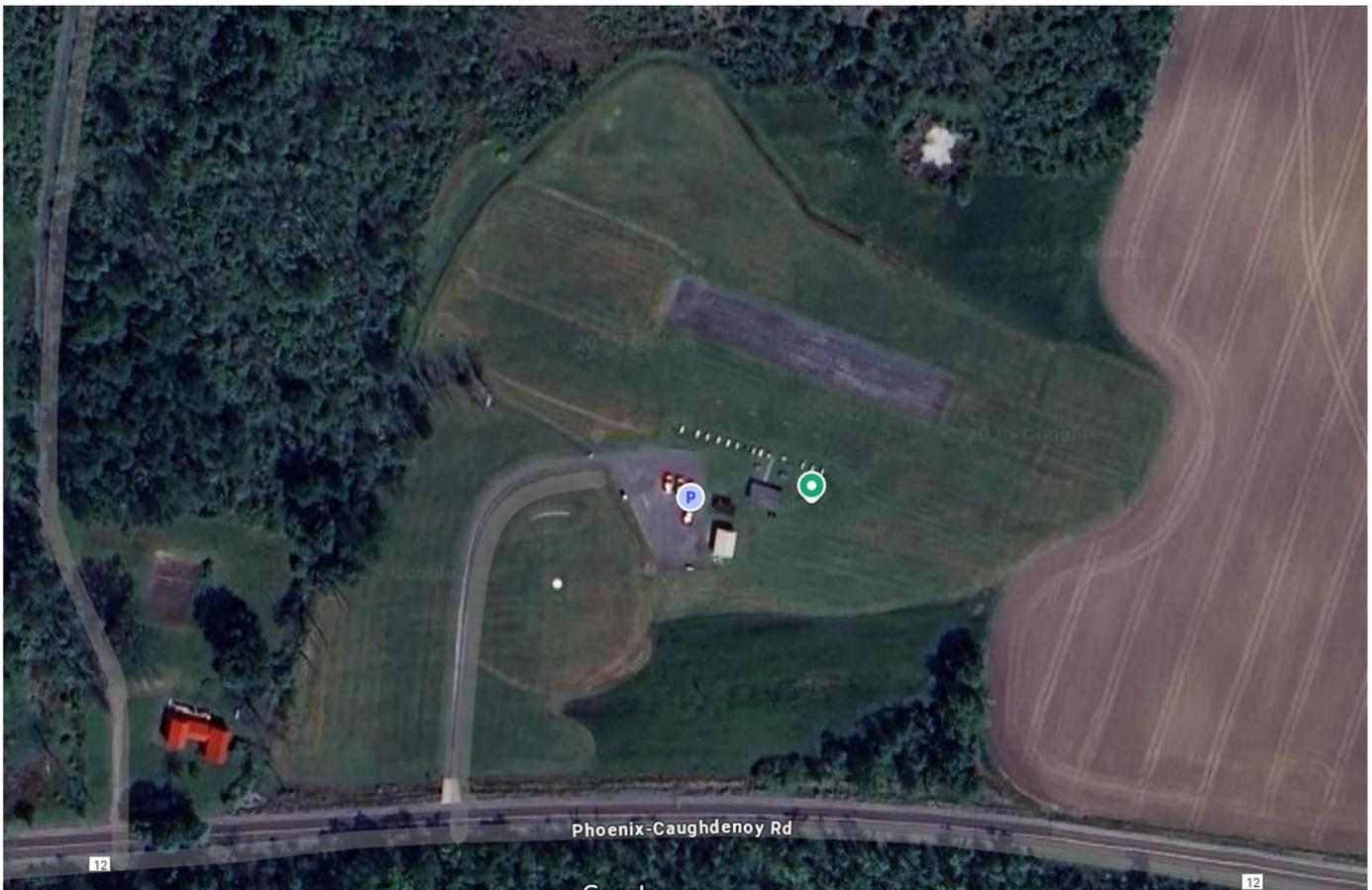
**35 Water St, Seneca Falls, NY
13148**

AMA Gold Leader Club #101

Visit us on Facebook

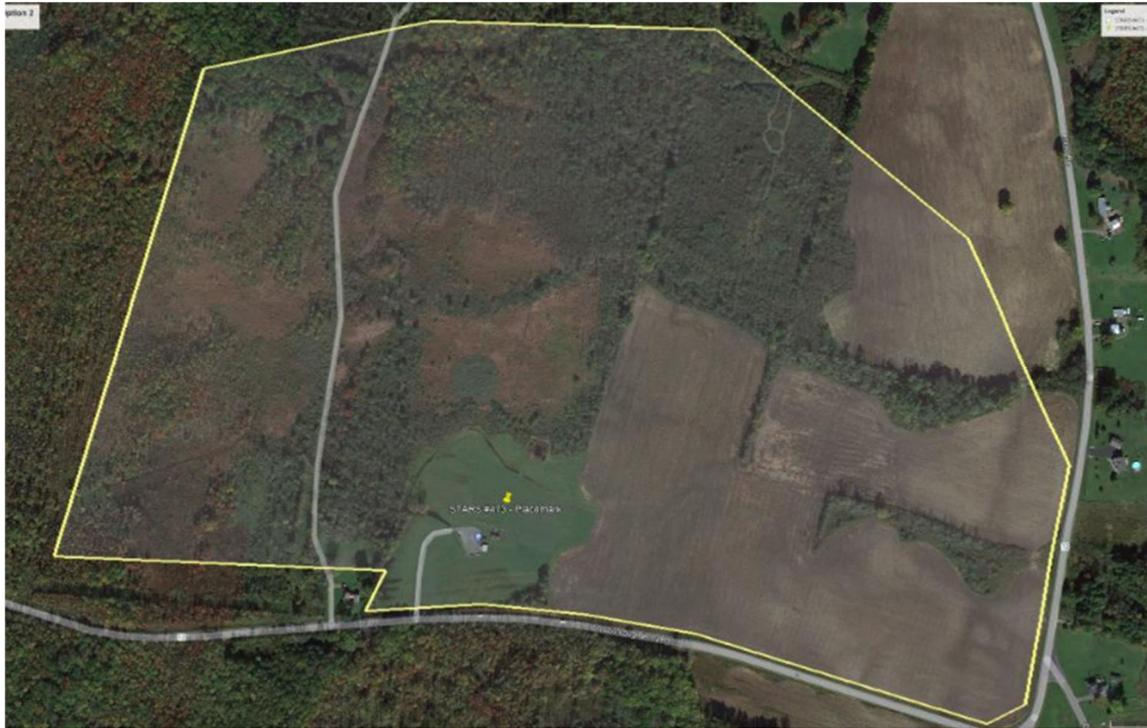


Join Us for a Good Time!



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.

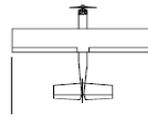
Ask someone to help and walk away from the model until signs of loss of control is apparent. If electric powered ensure that the range is not worse with the motor running.

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.

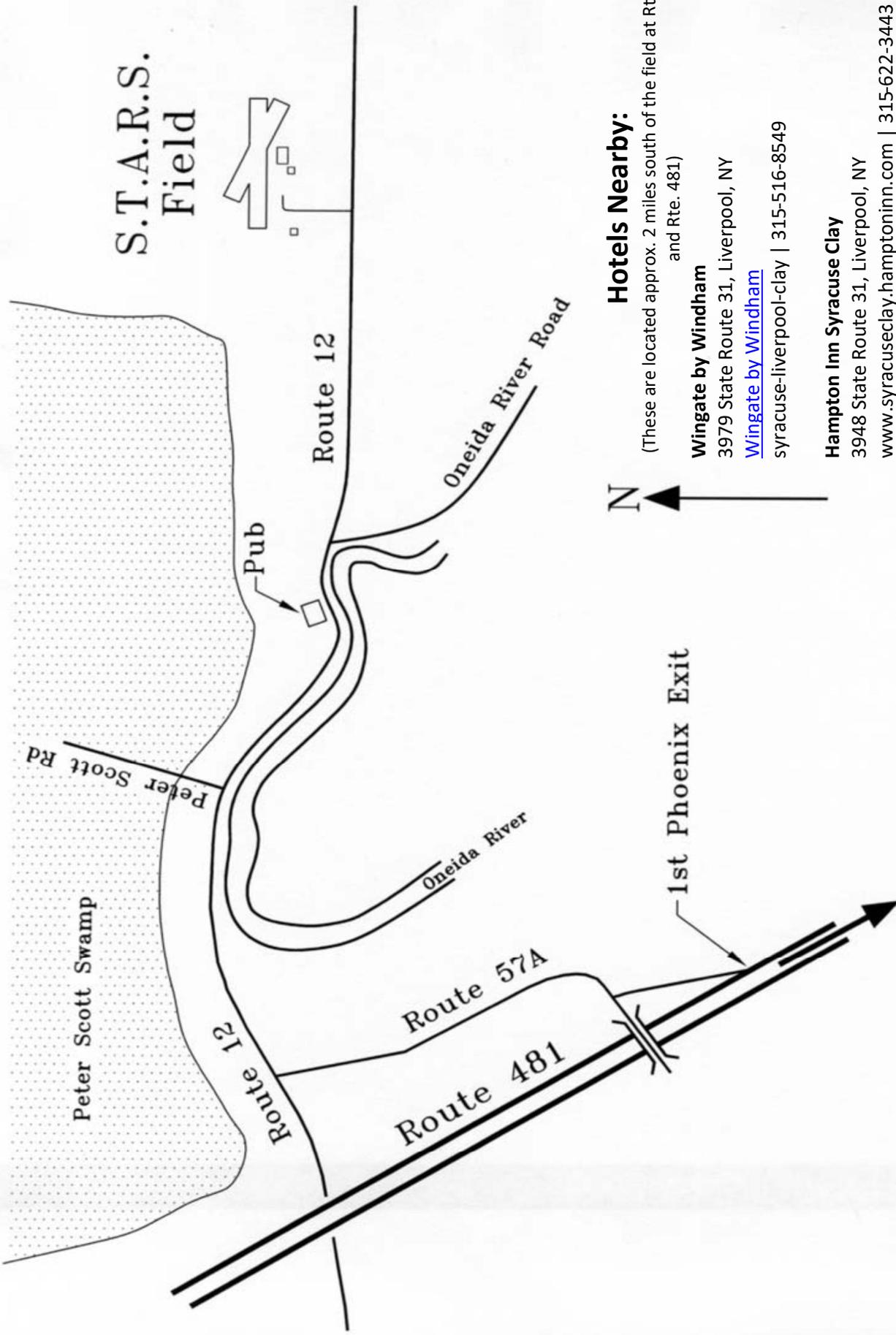
5. Replacement Courtesy:

- 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.wingate.com)

syracuse-liverpool-clay | 315-516-8549

Hampton Inn Syracuse Clay

3948 State Route 31, Liverpool, NY

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 th 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 with your updated information.