

Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society



Plane Propwash



April 2026

Charter 473

The next STARS meeting is Wednesday May 13th, 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](#)
[Mike Mueller, Field Committee](#)
[Mike O'Neill, Facebook Admin](#)
[Public Relations Director- OPEN](#)
Robert Dronner- [YouTube Moderator](#)

The next STARS 2026 meeting will be at the STARS field, on May 13th, at 7:00, weather permitting. The STARS regular monthly meetings are at the STARS field May through September. The monthly meetings will be held via ZOOM October through April and when the weather doesn't permit the meeting at the field. Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month except December.

Depending On The Weather...

Well, spring is well under way with typical Syracuse weather, which is cold, rainy, windy, and occasional sun and warmer temperatures. But with that said, the field is actually in very good shape. The drainage pipes we put down in the fall seem to be working very well, and the area around the pilot's stands is actually very dry. There are still wet areas, especially around the control-line field, and past the Geotech on the west end, but we will continue to work to see what we might do to dry things out. It is tough being on a swamp, and attempting to dry things out quickly. The beavers are back, but at this time, not really affecting us. We have asked our trapper to come and assist in managing them.

The woods work went well this past month. We accomplished quite a bit. Although we didn't get the number of people out to help as we would have liked, those that were there removed many trees. Unfortunately, the ground was so soft, it became impossible to remove all of the pieces, so they were stacked in the woods, and we'll come back to finish the job when things are drier.

We have some activities coming up this month with the Control Line Fun Fly on May 16th. If you are interested in learning more about control line flying, come on out to see what it is all about. Or if you just want to support Mike O'Neill and his "compadres", come on out to watch. The flying field should be open, so you can bring your own planes to fly, and enjoy the day.

We also have our session with the Liverpool High School Drone classes. This is a wonderful time to support high school students as we reach out to our community. This event will be on May 18th, from 10 till 2, and will include 11th and 12 grade students. We have corporate support including the Onondaga Sheriff's drones that will demonstrate their products and services. If you are available, come on out to support our youth.

Our Thursday night training has been going very well. We are just about at capacity with students, but if you know of someone who might be interested in learning to fly, please invite them. We provide instructors, planes and transmitters. All you need is some interest, and enthusiasm for our hobby. We provide the rest.

As the weather gets warmer, and pilots start coming to the field to fly, remember to be safe. Follow the flying rules, and have a great time. We are excited to provide an exceptional field for our hobby. Take care of the facilities, your flying equipment, and others flying with you. If there is anything you need, contact me or other officers. We look forward to seeing you at the field.

Be safe!!!!

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

Secretary's Report: Paul Volcko, Mike Mueller, 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 April STARS meeting was held on Zoom. The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 by President Mike Mueller. There were 12 Open members, 1 Associate member, 0 Family members, 0 Youth members, and 1 Guests in attendance.

Thank you to Paul Volcko and Mike Mueller for providing the meeting minutes for the April meeting. No thanks to me.

Secretary's Report:

The Secretary's report from the March meeting was corrected as noted- The LHS field trip will be between May 18 and May 22, not May 18 or May 22. The exact date has not been set yet. The ball is rolling. Look out for a request for volunteers, once the date has been selected.

A vote was not taken to accept the minutes due to the last-minute absence of the STARS Secretary.

Treasurer's Report: Paul Volcko

The treasury is in excellent shape for this time of year.

Motion to accept by Phil Morgan and second by Herb Moore. Carried.

Correspondence: Paul Volcko

We received another offer to buy the property. Our unspecified number has still not been met.

Committee Reports:

AMA Report: Phil Morgan

This is the 100th anniversary of the NATS.

A flight school incentive plan was discussed. Recommended not to get involved.

There is a club growth seminar on April 16th.

Safety Report: Darrel Eckhard

Given, but no content.

Field Committee: Herb Moore

Herb is stepping down as Field Honcho. Mike Mueller will fill in while a new recruit is found. Thank you for your service, Herb.

Old Business:

Business:

Food pricing and items- No changes needed, In Paul's opinion. Are there any requests for new items or changes?

Gary Natali's son will be arranging a donation of soda and water again this year. We are thankful to Gary and his soon for this!

STARS Facebook: Mike O'Neill

Nothing to report. There are still 371 Facebook members.

Real Estate Committee:

No report given.

Flight schools:

Gary Natali asked to add Mike Amie as an additional instructor. STARS members are encouraged to come out and cheer the new students on and help out.

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:

New Members:

Bailey Large- Associate. Dues paid and AMA verified. He is a former youth member looking to reengage and get flying again this year. Look for Bailey at Flight School. Thanks and welcome back!

Last minute news:

The port-a-pottie will be back at the field by April 18.

Adjournment:

The April regular monthly meeting of the STARS was adjourned at ? No time given.

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.

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.

YouTube Channel- The club has started a YouTube channel to promote our activities.

Robert DeNova (Dronner) will be managing the YouTube channel. Contact Dronner if you have any additions you would like to see on the channel.

Calendar of Events

NOTICE: EVENT DATES MAY CHANGE OR CANCELLED OUTRIGHT.

Calendar of Events for March 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

May 16- STARS Control Line Fun Fly

May 18- Liverpool HS students at the STARS Field.

June 20- STARS Family BBQ

July 15-18- Flying Aces at Geneseo

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- Flight School runs May 7 thru Sept. 10

Heli/Multi Rotor- Not scheduled

-- Continued--

Indoor Flying –

The Indoor flying schedule is winding down for the season. Call ahead to make sure they are still flying.

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:

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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!

Located in Clay, NY, Contact Jim Weigner at 315-657-4855. Jim is a former Midstate member.

Planes for Sale

I am thinning down my fixed wing collection as I don't fly much fixed wing anymore. The following are what I currently have available:



Parkzone Sport Cub with 51 inch wingspan, 34 inches long with manual and 5 batteries, RX ready, very good condition.

\$50



Hobbyzone Conscendo S powered glider with a 51 inch wingspan and 40 inch length, RX installed with Spectrum DX4e radio and four 2s batteries, manual. Good condition, does have a tail repair.

\$50



Flyzone Cessna 182 Skylane, 48" wingspan, 39" length, includes 1 battery but it's not the best, will need a new battery. RX ready with manual

\$40

-- Continued--



Tower Hobbies P-51D Mustang, 40 inch wingspan and 34 inch length, RX and Tactic TTX600 radio included, RX needs to be installed. The main issue is the tail wheel is broken and needs some repair. I have the wheel but haven't gotten around to fixing it. There are also a few dents in the foam, apparently something was sitting on it in storage. Cosmetic, still in great flying condition. Includes one battery and manual

\$70

Located in Clay, NY, Contact Jim at 315-657-4855.

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.

Important Links For STARS Members-

STARS Website:

The STARS website- 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=c2ZiRWVkMkIrbGZ5WENDaE12SIB5Zz09>

To join from the STARS web page, go to 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".

-- Continued--

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.

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.

-- Continued --

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



Charter 473 AMA Sanctioned

S.T.A.R.S.

www.cnystars.com

www.facebook.com/cnystars

Presents the 17th Annual

CNY Heli-Jam

Saturday, July 18, 2026

(Rain date: Sunday, July 19, 2026)

9 AM to 5 PM



At the STARS Field located at north of Phoenix, NY, on County Route 12
(See map on back)

Ample room for parking & overnight camping - no hookups
Food and beverages available



STARS events

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

AMA Required



FB HeliJam event

Gate opens at 8 AM - Pilot's meeting at 8:50 AM

For more information, contact Paul Volcko, at 315-708-2009 or email helijam@cnystars.com



Charter 473 AMA Sanctioned

S.T.A.R.S.

www.cnystars.com

www.facebook.com/cnystars/

Presents the 47st Annual

Model Airshow and Picnic

Saturday, September 5, 2026

Rain date: Sunday, September 6, 2026

At the STARS Field located at north of Phoenix, NY, on County Route 12
(See map on back)

Ample room for parking & overnight camping - no hookups
Swap shop and 50/50 raffles



STARS Events

10 AM to 4:30 PM

Food and beverages available to all

Pilots - If you bring it, fly it!!

All legal AMA Aircraft Welcome!!



Parking Donation of \$5.00 per car

For more information, contact Mike Mueller, President, at 804-873-8928 or contact us at: airshow@cnystars.com



Charter 473

S.T.A.R.S.

www.cnvstars.com

www.facebook.com/cnvstars



2026

Big Bird Night



When?

Every Wednesday evening from 5 PM to Sunset
May 06, 2026 through September 30, 2026



STARS Events



FB BB Night

Where?

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

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

Interested?

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

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



Charter 473
AMA Sanctioned

S.T.A.R.S.

<http://www.cnystars.com>

www.facebook.com/cnystars/

4th Control Line Fun Fly

*Using new flying circle
with overflow on RC field*

Saturday, May 16, 2026

Rain Date: Sunday, May 17, 2026

10 AM to 4:00 PM



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



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

Bring your tables and chairs!!

Power available for charging batteries

Ample room for parking!!

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

Food and beverages available to all during day



STARS events

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

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



FB CL event



Charter 473

S.T.A.R.S.

www.cnystars.com

www.facebook.com/cnystars



2026

Jet Night

When?

Every Monday evening from 4 PM to Sunset
May 4, 2026 through September 28, 2026



STARS Events



FB Jet Night

Where?

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

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

Interested?

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

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

July 15-18

2026 FAC NATS

Geneseo, NY

National Warplane Museum Field 3489 Big Tree Ln Geneseo, NY 14454

Registration, Judging and Vendors: Wednesday July 15 12:00—5:00 in the Big Hanger of the NWM

NO PARKING WITHIN 50 FEET OF ANY AIRCRAFT!



GUILLOW'S 100th ANNIVERSARY MEET

THURSDAY July 16

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

FAC Scale

- #38 GHQ Peanut *
- #2 FAC Rubber Scale
- #3 FAC Jumbo Scale
- #4 FAC Giant Scale
- #6 FAC Power Scale
- #8 FAC NAM Rubber Scale

TOTF Scale ☆

- #12 Golden Age Multi-wing
- #72 Carrier Aircraft

TOTF Non-Scale ☆

- #21 OT Stick
- #24 Jimmie Allen

Misc. Timed Events ☆

- #76 NBM Dime Scale
- #77 NBM Embryo Endurance
- #37 Fiction Flyer

Mass Launches

- #44 WWI—10:00
- #41 Thompson Race—1:00
- #43 Goodyear / Formula —3:00

All Day Guillow's JetStream! ⇨

End of Day

- #51 BLUR Race

FRIDAY July 17

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

FAC Scale

- #1 FAC Peanut Scale **
- #2 FAC Rubber Scale
- #3 FAC Jumbo Scale
- #4 FAC Giant Scale
- #6 FAC Power Scale
- #8 FAC NAM Rubber Scale

TOTF Scale ☆

- #13 Golden Age Monoplane
- #11 Low Wing Military Trainer

TOTF Non-Scale ☆

- #22 OT Fuselage
- #79 NBM Blue Ridge Special

Misc. Timed Events ☆

- #78 NBM Simplified Scale
- #32 Dime Scale
- #36 Jet Catapult
- #71 One Design Event - Wright WP-1 ☐

Mass Launches

- #45 WWII Combat—9:00
- #42 Greve Race—1:00
- #70 WWI Peanut 9:00 ^^

All Day Guillow's JetStream! ⇨

End of Day

Final Flight Ceremony

SATURDAY July 18

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

FAC Scale events:

- #2 FAC Rubber Scale
- #3 FAC Jumbo Scale
- #4 FAC Giant Scale
- #6 FAC Power Scale
- #8 FAC NAM Rubber Scale
- #30 FAC Scale Glider

TOTF Scale ☆

- #14 Modern Civilian
- #15 Modern Military

TOTF Non-Scale ☆

- #23 2-bit + 1 OTR
- #26 Half Wakefield ^

Misc. Timed Events ☆

- #31 Simplified Scale
- #33 No Cal
- #35 Embryo Endurance

Mass Launches

- #74 All Eras Carrier Launch!
- #40 National Air Races—11:00
- #73 Guillow's Scale Flying Horde

All Day Guillow's JetStream! ⇨

End of Day - 4:30

On-field BBQ / Awards ceremony

- Events marked **NBM** are for Non Blue Max holders **ONLY!**
- #2 FAC Rubber Scale - Air Marshall and above (50+ Kanones) only!
- #8 FAC NAM Rubber Scale - Contestants with fewer than 50 kanones only!

FAC Scale events #1-5 and #8 will be Three Flight Average, traditional time factoring.

FAC Scale models judged at previous Nats / Non Nats are not required to be re-submitted for judging. NEW FAC Scale models or old models that have been substantially reworked or rebuilt must be freshly scale judged.

☆TOTF Non Scale / TOTF Scale / Misc. Timed Event times must be turned in by 4:30 Thurs-Fri, by 3:30 Sat, to allow time for settling ties.

* #38 GHQ Peanut Scale: Any peanut, any configuration. No carry-over scale scores from previous years - GHQ models must be freshly scale judged each event.

** #1 FAC Peanut Scale: Any Peanut, any configuration.

^ Half-Wakefield models - Models must be weighed on registration day; no carry over from previous years. Min. weight 1oz. w/o rubber.

☐ Wright WP-1 One Design Event sponsored by the Detroit Cloudbusters - winner gets a free ride at the 2026 Muncie Outdoor Champs! Short kit available from Volare Products: <https://volare-products.myshopify.com/products/wright-wp-1-dime-scale-laser-cut-short-kit>

^^ WWI Peanut - Open to any aircraft that saw active service over the front in WWI—monoplanes and observation aircraft included. Training aircraft and non-serving prototypes are excluded.

Guillow's 100th anniversary tribute - See rules. Guillow's models can fly in any event for which the model would normally qualify. Top scoring Guillow's models in each class will receive a Kanone. We will also award a "Best in Show" for the most admirable Guillow's build!

⇨ **Guillow's JetStream:** No mods except light sanding and your choice of rubber. Unlimited attempts. Highest single time wins!

VENDORS are invited to set up on registration / judging day in the Big Hanger. You may start to set up at 10:00AM. Please limit your tables to Four (4). If you supply your own tables there is no fee. If you need to rent they are \$10 each. Contact Dave Mitchell ASAP if you want to rent tables! cinc@flyingacesclub.com



2026 FAC NATS CONTEST REGISTRATION GENESEO, NY JULY 15-18
EACH CONTESTANT (including Jrs.) MUST USE A SEPARATE FORM. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

NAME _____ CONTESTANT # (GHQ will assign) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

AMA # (required) _____ CELL PHONE _____ - _____ - _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT /PHONE _____

WAIVER: I hereby release the FLYING ACES CLUB, INC., the the STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK (Geneseo), The National Warplane Museum, and all other persons and organizations connected with this contest from any liability whatsoever for accidents or injury incurred while participating in the 2026 FAC Nats competition. I also agree to abide by all flying and field rules in force at this contest, INCLUDING that I specifically understand and agree not to park any vehicle within 50 feet of any full-size aircraft.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

ON-FIELD BBQ — Saturday, July 18th, 4:30 PM after the day's events
 Pulled pork / chicken, beans and a salad. Water /soda a-la-cart, or BYOB. We'll eat in the Livingston building if the weather is bad.

NOTE! If you plan to enjoy the BBQ cookout, all contestants and non contestants **MUST** register on this form at this time!
 Tickets will not be available on the field during or after the contest.

Contest Registration:	<input type="checkbox"/> Jr. (17 and under)	FREE	_____	Jr.s please fill out a separate reg. form!
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sr. / Open	\$ 45.00		
BBQ Cook-out:	<input type="checkbox"/> Indicate how many _____	x \$22.00 =	_____	
T-Shirts:	small _____ med _____ large _____ xlarge _____	@ \$15.00 ea. =	_____	T-Shirts will be distributed at the contest.
(Please indicate how many)	xxlarge _____	@ \$17.50 ea. =	_____	
	USA _____	@ \$5.00 per shirt =	_____	
	Canada _____	@ \$8.00 per shirt =	_____	
	International _____	@ \$14.00 per shirt =	_____	
	National Warplane Museum Contribution (Voluntary)		_____	
	TOTAL		_____	



IF ORDERING A TEE-SHIRT—you must remit all fees with registration form by JUNE 15, 2026.
GHQ will NOT be able to refund cancellations after July 1, 2026.

Make check out to: **FLYING ACES CLUB**. Mail this form and payment to:
FLYING ACES CLUB 997 Woodcliff Drive, Franklin Square, NY, 11010-1022

Checks are preferred for payment. However, if you need to pay by PayPal:

1. Fill out this registration **FIRST**; scan or photograph it and e-mail to contests@flyingacesclub.com
2. When you receive confirmation of your registration by e-mail, you will receive your **Pilot Number** and a **PayPal link**.
3. Follow the **PayPal link** to make payment. Be sure to include your **Pilot Number!**

THIS IS A REPRINT from Pat Tritle's Small Field Column in the April 2026 Model Aviation. Gary added some missing detail to the column.

What's on Tap From Readers This Month?

This time around, we have some beautiful airplanes that were sent in by some terrific modelers, plus a special treat at the end.

First up is Gary Brown's 44-inch wing-span Spitfire Mk 1. The model was built from enlarged plans in a *Model Builder* magazine publication titled *Flying Scale Models of WWII*.

The original plans were enlarged and marked up for RC with a .15 glow engine. The model was ultimately completed with electric power and set up with E-flite 10- to 15-size retracts and finally flown in the fall of 2025. The test flights went flawlessly, and since then, the model has logged more than 56 flights. Gary didn't mention what covering was used, but the finish, including all of the markings, are hand-painted.

Next up in the realm of small-field models is the Dumas Ercoupe from Jeff Fozard. The kit was built basically stock but with the addition of a steerable nose wheel and a



Gary Brown built his Spitfire Mk 1 from enlarged *Model Builder* plans. The RC conversion is electric powered with retractable landing gear from E-flite.

Gary commented:

I forgot to remember (?) to mention to Pat that it was covered with Polyspan, followed by four coats of thinned clear nitrate to seal the Polyspan, and 3 or 4 coats of colored butyrate dope.

The roundels and other markings were painted with Testors or Tamiya enamel paints.

Polyspan is a white (only) heat shrinkable material that is easily applied to the air frame with Deluxe Materials Cover Grip.

It can also be sealed with polyurethane, as I believe John McMakin does with some of the excellent work he turns out.

For anyone contemplating wooden open frame construction, I highly recommend trying Polyspan.

I applied the roundels and markings soon after test flying it on 09/30/2025.

I was a little skeptical of its flight characteristics with those "pointy" wing tips and did not want to waste a lot of painting effort if it was not going to be

a reasonably stable design. However, It turned out to be a very good flyer without any nasty habits.

The markings are copied from an actual WW2 Mark 1 Spitfire that was recovered, restored, and is still flying today,.... # X4650.

Thanks for your interest,.... see you at the field !





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.

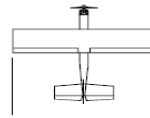
Ask someone to help and walk away from the model until signs of loss of control is apparent. If electric powered ensure that the range is not worse with the motor running.

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.

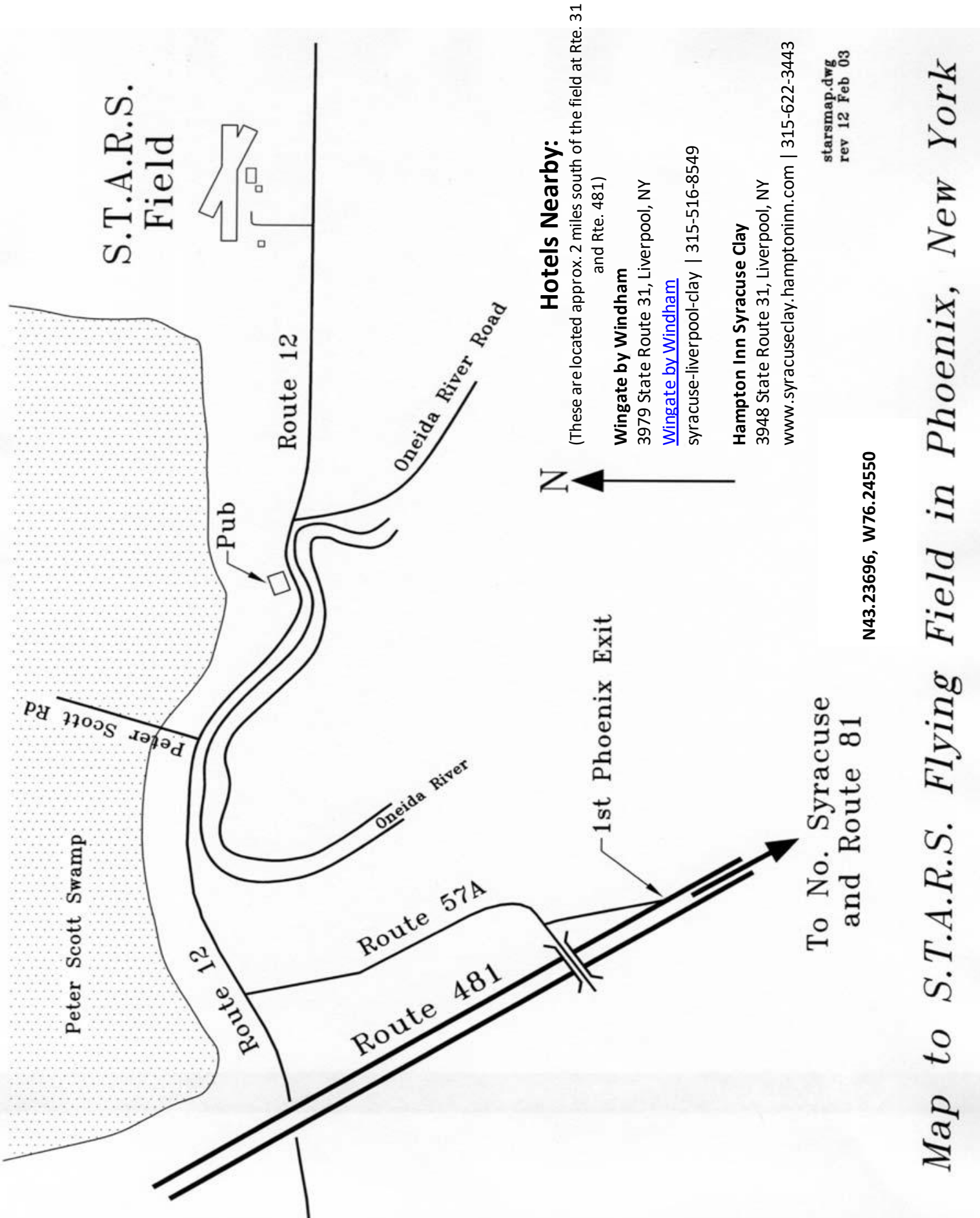
5. Replacement Courtesy:

- 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



S.T.A.R.S.
Field

Route 12

Oneida River Road

Pub

Peter Scott Rd

Peter Scott Swamp

Route 12

Oneida River

Route 57A

Route 481

1st Phoenix Exit

N

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](#)

syracuse-liverpool-clay | 315-516-8549

Hampton Inn Syracuse Clay

3948 State Route 31, Liverpool, NY

www.syracuseclay.hamptoninn.com | 315-622-3443

starsmap.dwg
rev 12 Feb 03

N43.23696, W76.24550

To No. Syracuse
and Route 81

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



Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society



<http://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.