



## Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society

# Plane Propwash

June 2026

Charter 473

**The next STARS meeting is Wednesday July 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 at the STARS field.**

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 July 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month except December.**

*The CNY weather attacks again!!!!*

Well, no sooner have we gotten into summer, then CNY weather attacks the field and surrounding area. With winds consistently throughout the weeks at 15-25 mph, along with a week of 90+ degree temperatures it has been a challenge to fly. Thursday night training classes have been postponed for 4 weeks in a row now. Even "seasoned" pilots won't fly in that weather. Because of this weather, our Family Fun Day was postponed for a week. The following weekend the weather was great, but numerous folks were not able to participate. Those that were able to attend had a great time, and enjoyed each other's company. We even got a demonstration from Steve Hamilton, who is a Futaba ambassador. We so much appreciate Steve coming and showing us his piloting skills.

The field has been a bit of a challenge this year, because of the rain and the hot weather. The field looks great now, and we expect to be able to stay on top of it. Of course HUGE thanks to those that have stepped up this year to mow. We have a bunch of new crew, and they are doing an excellent job of keeping the field in shape.

With a bit more temperate temperatures, we anticipate more people coming out to the field. I have heard from numerous folks that the weather, and their busy lives have prevented them from getting to the field as much as they would like.

Let's hope that will change through the rest of our season.

Our 17<sup>th</sup> annual HeliJam is on July 18<sup>th</sup> from 9AM to 5PM. We will have heli pilots come from all over the state to fly their helicopters at our field. There will be some excellent exhibitions, with every different kind of helicopter you can imagine. Everyone is welcome to attend, and if you have a helicopter, bring it and fly!!! We anticipate a fun day for all!!! Hopefully we'll have some decent weather.

We also have had numerous new members join our club. If you see someone you don't know, make sure to greet them, shake their hand, and get to know them. I just met a couple from South Africa who have come to the US because of discrimination in that country. They will be looking for a place to live in the Syracuse area, and I anticipate we'll see them at the field in the future. New faces bring new opportunities to meet others. So let's all get to the field, fly your planes, helis, or whatever you have. And enjoy the exceptional field we have to enjoy our hobby!!! Thank you all for making our club the best it can be. We look forward to continued support from everyone as the season continues. Everyone 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)

## ***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 June STARS meeting was held at the field. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 by President Mike Mueller. There were 11 Open members, 0 Associate member, 0 Family members, 0 Youth members, and 3 Guests in attendance.**

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

The Secretary's report from the May meeting was accepted by the membership in attendance.

Motion made by to accept Mike Graham and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick Wilson. Carried.

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

Paul reported that all the bills have been paid.

Motion to accept by Mike Graham and second by Dan Williams. Carried.

### **Correspondence:** Paul Volcko

No correspondence reported.

### **Committee Reports:**

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

No Phil tonight.

#### **Safety Report:** Darrel Eckhard

New members should review the club rules and AMA Safety Code.

When working at the field or on your aircraft, use the right tool for the job. Don't be lazy and take a short cut.

#### **Field Committee:** Mike Mueller

Everything can be reel cut at this time. The John Deere tractor barely pulls the 5 gang reel set. They have been brush hogging the tall grass. Looking at increasing frequency to reduce wear on the equipment. After the air show, plan on beginning continuing the drainage project and dirt to the northeast end of the field.

The Simplicity mower is still running. It will best serve the club if it is run until it no longer runs.

New sign posted announcing flight training at the club.

Mike mentioned that Gary Fitch's club is donating a couple of HiTech transmitters to our club. These can be used for the club owned trainers.

A general announcement was made regarding alkaline battery disposal. Wegmans and other stores are no longer taking these for disposal. These can be disposed of in the regular trash now.

### **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** Flight school is just about full based on current instructor to student ratios. His is excellent turnout.

### **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:**

#### **Contest Directors:**

Mike Mueller is signing up for the AMA CD program and is encouraging others to do the same. Please see Mike if you have any questions. **--Continued--**

#### **New Members:**

Rod Savilla- just learning, Associate membership  
Bill Griggs- Heli pilot, Associate membership  
Luke Giroux- sport pilot, Associate membership  
Galen (AJ) Giroux- sport pilot, Youth membership

All members were voted on and carried unanimously by the membership in attendance.

#### **Control Line Fun Fly:**

The Control Line Fun Fly was well attended. Pilots came from as far away as Philadelphia. The show even attracted some of the regular club R/C pilots and got them to try out control line.

#### **Liverpool High School Field Trip:**

LHS Field Trip was a success. The drone program there continues to grow. There were many demonstrations throughout the day. CNY Drone Solutions brought a large nearly 500lb. drone.

The club received a drone donation that includes a light array.

### **Last minute news:**

#### **Upcoming events:**

June 20 will be the Family Picnic. Need volunteers to support food services. We are expecting maybe 30 people at the event. Please bring a dish to pass.

July 8 is the STARS Heli Jam. Make sure to notify RCCR of the event.

Some work needs to be done on the entry bridge due to winter-related damage to the guard rail. A discretionary expenditure

was approved for the repair.

The club needs to look into a new weather station to replace the existing one when it finally dies. The new camera is here, just needs to be installed.

Our neighbor, Al Townsend has complained to the STARS about how bright our yard light is. The club is looking at adding a motion detector and possibly a shade to help Al out. The east wall of the club house is slated for demo and

replacement to continue the updates already in progress. Volunteers are needed to help out with this phase. There will be further discussion on this at a later date.

#### Adjournment:

The June regular monthly meeting of the STARS was adjourned at 7:38.

**Secretary, Jeff Wolsley**

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## **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.

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## **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*

July 10-11- [Southern Tier STARS Fun Fly](#)

July 15-18- Flying Aces at Geneseo

Aug. 28-29- [Southern Tier STARS Open House and Auction](#)

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. We are happy to announce we are experiencing high turnout at this event. Please come early and be prepared to fly when it's your turn.

**Heli/Multi Rotor-** Not scheduled

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## 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:



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

### HOURS

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



**Open 10-7 Tuesday thru Sunday.**  
**315-532-6826**

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

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

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## **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:** List your equipment here-

## **WANTED:**

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

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

### **STARS Website:**

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

### **STARS Webcam:**

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

### **STARS Propwash Newsletter:**

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

### **STARS YouTube Channel:**

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

### **STARS ZOOM Meetings:**

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

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

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

ZOOM Meeting link:

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

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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.

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

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

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

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

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.

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## **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?*

**Mike Graham 2<sup>nd</sup> shift field report for 4 and 8 June:**  
**Mike Amie's big bird on training night, 04 June:**



**Bob Simms working on a glider after flying an EDF aircraft:**



**AJ Giroux receiving his wings at flight school:**



Trench work at the corner of the pavilion on 08 June:



Mitch and his *F-4* EDF:



Mitch with his C-47 and Bob Rowe's with his F-86 EDF:



**Paul Volcko conducting work on the weather station:**



**Mr. President, Mike Mueller, with his A-10, twin EDF:**



**It was a truly gorgeous day!!**

STARS Picnic pictures. *Pictures courtesy of Michel Graham*

Go here for a few pictures taken at the STARS 6th Annual BBQ/Picnic:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/passvk17xgb46xtvk92hg/AClikMCxRmVENE1VdxLZxo?rlkey=xfp27omul7447jzlx0g23s73&st=e47ty975&dl=0>

Here are a few examples from that picture set:











I'll also add these to the STARS FB website.

Thanks.

Michael



Charter 473 AMA Sanctioned

# S.T.A.R.S.

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

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

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



Charter 473 AMA Sanctioned

# S.T.A.R.S.

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

[www.facebook.com/cnystars/](https://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!!**



FB Airshow Event



**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](mailto:airshow@cnystars.com)



Charter 473

# S.T.A.R.S.

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

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



## 2026

### *Big Bird Night*



STARS Events

### When?

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



FB BB Night

### Where?

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

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

### Interested?

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

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



Charter 473

# S.T.A.R.S.

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

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



JMG



## 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](mailto: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.

|                              |                                                  |                                                   |       |                                              |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Contest Registration:</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Jr. (17 and under)      | FREE                                              |       | Jrs please fill out a separate reg. form!    |
|                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. / Open              | \$ 45.00                                          | _____ |                                              |
| <b>BBQ Cook-out:</b>         | <input type="checkbox"/> Indicate how many _____ | x \$22.00 =                                       | _____ |                                              |
| <b>T-Shirts:</b>             | 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) | _____ |                                              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                 |                                                  |                                                   | _____ |                                              |

Hey kid! Want a T-shirt, but can't make the meet? We can ship it to you! Note- shipping cost is PER SHIRT!!



**IF ORDERING A TEE-SHIRT**—you must remit all fees with registration form by **JUNE 15, 2026.**

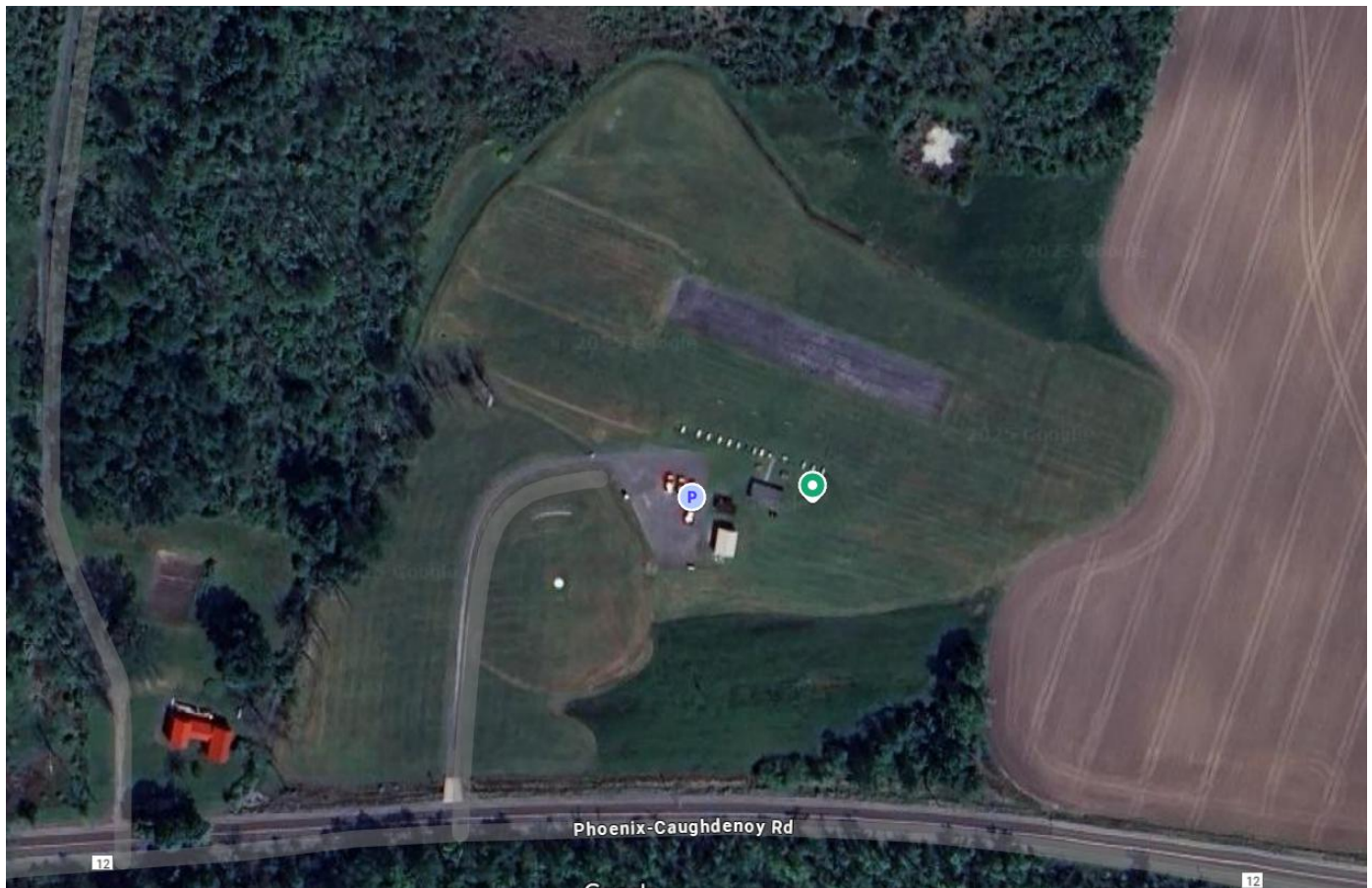
**GHQ will NOT be able to refund cancellations after July 1, 2026.**

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](mailto: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**!



**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.

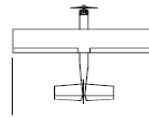
Ask someone to help and walk away from the model until signs of loss of control is apparent. If electric powered ensure that the range is not worse with the motor running.

## 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.

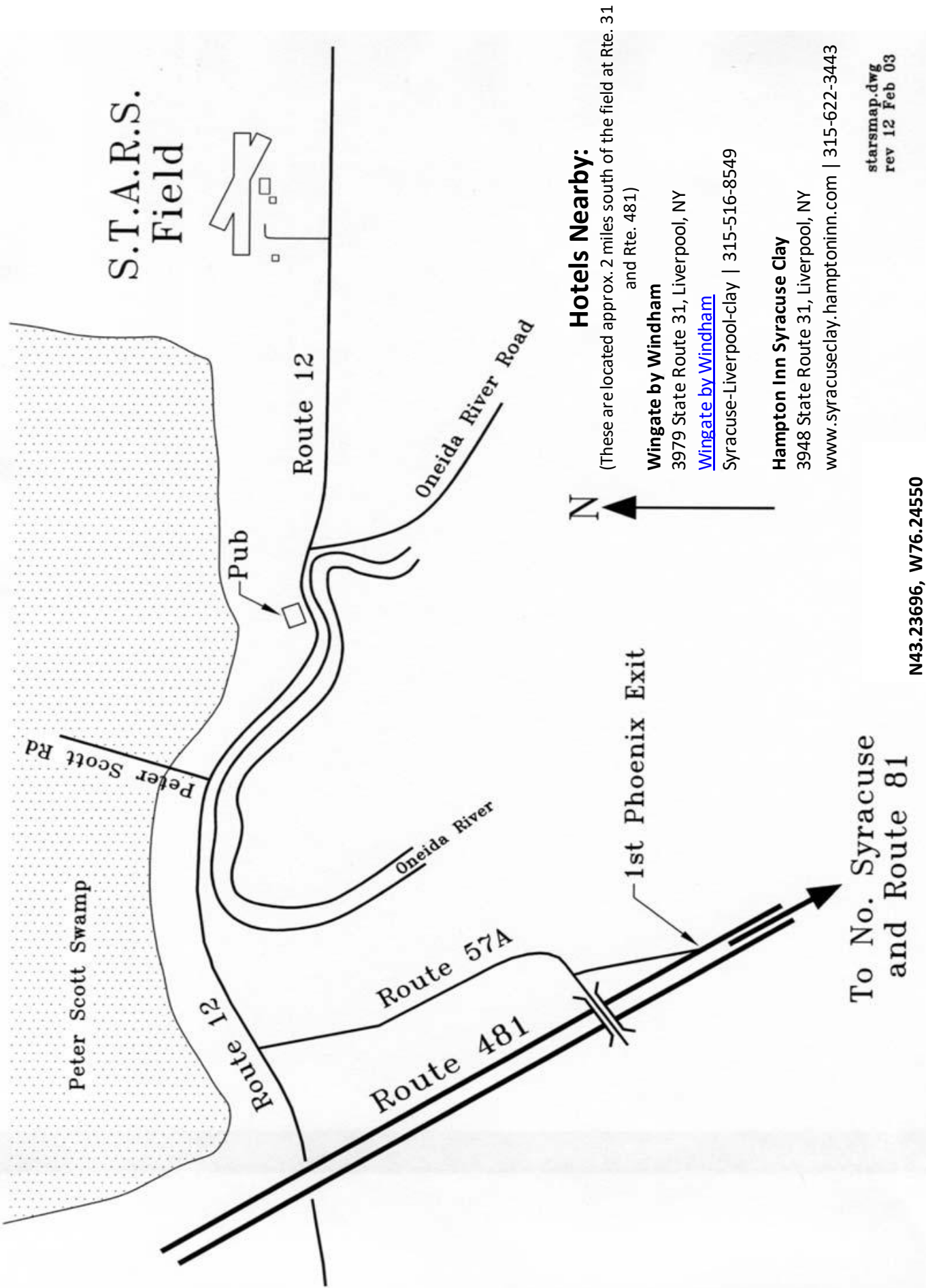
### 5. Replacement Courtesy:

- 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



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



Est. 1965

# Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society

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



Charter 473

## Membership Application Form

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Submit this form to a Club Officer

Rev 16aug17

# 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** 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.