



Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society

Plane Propwash

July 2026

Charter 473

The next STARS meeting is Wednesday August 12th, 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 August 12th, 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.

The CNY weather attacks again!!!!

Well, believe it or not, we are getting towards the middle of the summer. We've had HOT, WET, and WINDY weather....everything except SNOW, I guess. That makes it hard to fly, especially with the wind. We actually had to cancel 4 weeks in a row of training on Thursday nights because of the wind and heat. But it is Central New York, so we can expect just about anything.

This year's Helijam went very well, even though we had to postpone for a day, because of the WEATHER!!! While we didn't have a large number of pilots, it was encouraging to see and hear those that come from out of town saying how much they appreciate our event. We'll continue to next year, and look forward to another great day of flying.

For those of you that don't know, Gary Natali and his son, who works for Pepsico, has provided us with soda for the past few years. They have been so very generous again this year, and we are very thankful for their contribution. This is a huge advantage for us, and really helps with our fund raising. Thank you Gary!!!!

A shout out to Gary Brown for donating materials to replace the east wall of the pavilion. Gary and his crew replaced the wall in a day and we appreciate the upgrade to the building.

We are constantly working on our mowing equipment in order to keep our field in great shape week after week. I want to thank the crew working on our equipment. They are out there almost every day working on something. It is great to have folks with the skills to keep our equipment operating.

We can still use more people willing to mow. Currently there seems like there are only 4-5 people able to help, and we could certainly use a few more. We appreciate all

who help us. It takes less than 2 hours to mow the entire field with both reels and the extra mower. But with the work being done in the mornings usually, I'm sure it limits those that might be able to help. Let us know if you might be able to help in any way. I want to thank those that have been dedicated each week to help us keep the field in the great shape it is in.

We will also be working on a plan for drainage ditches around the Geotek, and the control line field. With the field on top of a swamp, the best we can do is attempt to dissipate water quicker. It was after June 1st this year again, before the field even began to dry out. We want to see if we can get the field dryer a bit quicker.

The Airshow is coming up in less than a month. We are going to need people to help this year with parking, prizes, swap shop, cooking, cleaning, and everything else. We expect 300 people this year, and are praying for good weather. With this number of folks coming, we will need many volunteers. Will also need pilots to fly their planes.....come and work, fly, and enjoy all that come to see our club. We want to be as welcoming as we can be.

So help us with volunteering for the Airshow on September 5th. If you are able, come help with mowing. But most importantly, come to the club and fly your planes!!!! That is what we spend all of our time and efforts to keep the field as nice as possible. We are very proud of what we have to offer our members. Let's keep it up.

Thanks again to all. Let's be safe out there!!

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

Secretary's Report: Jeff Wolsley

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

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

The July STARS meeting was held at the field. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 by President Mike Mueller. There were 10 Open members, 5 Associate members, 0 Family members, 1 Youth member, and 1 Guest in attendance.

Secretary's Report:

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

Motion made by to accept Mike Graham and 2nd by Bob Simms. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Paul Volcko

The family of Peter Lanno donated his club share back to the club.

AR and AP is all up to date.

Motion to accept by Mike Graham and second by Darrel Eckhard. Carried.

Correspondence: Paul Volcko

No correspondence reported.

Committee Reports:

AMA Report: Phil Morgan

Phil reported on the FAA UAFR (Unmanned Aircraft Flight Restriction) §2209. This applies mainly to flying off of or outside a FRIA.

§2209 identifies boundaries around and above critical infrastructure where drone flying will be prohibited. See [FAA UAFR](#). This identifies 16 critical sector infrastructure classifications such as chemical, military, or other related manufacturing. Municipal electrical sub stations and control centers, Government buildings, etc.

Commenting is open until August 5th. See [FAA-2026-4558](#). Do not send form letters. This site has examples of letters written to oppose the proposed legislation. Use a search like UAFR 2209 to see additional information. Skip the AI leads at the top of the search as this has some hallucinations in it.

Safety Report: Darrel Eckhard

AMA and STARS rules say to cleanup the field/runway after a crash. Please do so if you break a prop or leave a plug of grass on the runway.

Be careful if you place a canopy over an aircraft prep table. The reduced height can make handling the aircraft tricky under the canopy. Plan your moves out with the aircraft off/not running to get an idea of the maneuvers needed to get it out safely.

Field Committee: Mike Mueller

Most field improvement projects are slated to begin after regular flying season has ended. The approved field drainage project will begin the week following the Airshow.

At the August meeting the simple questions will be addressed- What do we want to do? and how much will it cost? will be posed to the membership.

The rollers on the gang reel mowers need to be rebuilt. The end bearings have not been rebuilt in a very long time. The components have come apart and are now in need of repair. Two (2) of the reel units were removed off of the 5 gang unit. This makes it easier for the tractor to pull.

The club is getting a load of topsoil mostly paid for by donations. The remainder will come from the surplus cash from the club picnic donations. The people who donated will be asked if this is an acceptable use of their donations.

Drainage around the clubhouse will be addressed after the wall on the east side has been repaired. There are ideas to place a crock at the corner and add a pump to get the water out of the area to the next lowest area.

The east wall of the clubhouse will be replaced on the 16th. Phil Knapp will be moving the gas line.

Old Business:

STARS Facebook: Mike O'Neill

Nothing to report. There are still 390 Facebook members.

Real Estate Committee:

No report given.

Flight schools:

Fixed Wing Flight school is just about full based on current instructor to student ratios. This is excellent turnout.

Dan Williams noted that several of the nights this past month have been rained out. He posed the possibility of adding an alternate day or schedule an extra day.

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:

Julian Pracht- Likes fun fly, scale, and sport. Joining as an Associate member. He is also in AFROTC and becoming a full size pilot.

Motion by Mike Graham and 2nd by Rick Wilson. Carried by the membership in attendance.

Family Picnic:

The picnic went well. It was moved to a new date due to weather and that may have negatively impacted the attendance.

Last minute news:

Member Request- Bill Griggs requested assistance programming a FrSky transmitter.

--Continued--

If anyone in the club is familiar with this please contact Bill.

Bill also mentioned that a member of the Oneida Lake Flyers is sick and is trying to liquidate their R/C inventory. Please contact Bill to discuss if you are interested.

Adjournment:

The July regular monthly meeting of the STARS was adjourned at 7:36.

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.

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 July 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

August 22- [ARCS](#) Annual Fun Fly

Sept. 05- STARS Air Show

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



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

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

Indoor Flying –

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

-- Continued--

CNYIFS Indoor flying at Sacred Heart Church Cicero was forwarded to me by Tim Smarzo of the Voltaires. Mondays 1:30 to 4:00 and Thursdays 12:30 to 3:30 (Confirmed for 2025-26 season). No Fly Dates- 09/01, 11/27, 12/08, and 12/25. 2026- 01/01, 04/02, and 05/14. CNYIFS dues are 12.00/yr. Garret Wikoff is the Treasurer.

The church has become more security conscience. They have gone back to the side door entrance The gym lighting switch has changed. The new key is in the same place as always, the cabinet in the kitchen, attached to a piece of aluminum bar. Unlock (If locked) pull up the plate, and flip the switch. All doors have alarms except the Gym door. This means that once a member comes in the front door we can use the gym door to haul gear in and out. We need, as always, to make sure the lights are off and doors are closed all the way before the last person leaves.

The following needs confirmation for the 2025-26 indoor season-

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

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

Camden- Tuesday nights



Advertisements:



(585) 872-4990 ~ 15 W Main St. Webster, NY. 14580 ~ Performance-hobbies.com

HOURS

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



Open 10-7 Tuesday thru Sunday.

315-532-6826

www.mexairrc.com

www.facebook.com/mexairrc

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

The Aviation Historical Society of CNY

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

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

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

-- Continued--

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. 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](#)

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>

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".

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

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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. Entry or renewal is \$5.00.

[FAADroneZone Access - Home](#)

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

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

Phone Apps:

[UASidekick – The Ultimate UAS Pilot Assistant](#)

This is an app for your phone that gives weather conditions, club locations, FRIA locations, and event schedules for UAS pilots. This is for recreational pilots as well as commercial drone pilots.

[B4UFLY](#)- Download this app to your cell phone. FAA uses this to alert pilots to possible stoppage in your flying area.

[Air Control](#)- Download this app to your phone. This is to set up your flight if you are flying outside of a FRIA.

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



Remember: A repaired aircraft should be treated just like a new aircraft. It needs a full ground check before flying. Don't forget to inspect the areas that were not repaired. They may have hidden damage. Fly it like it's the first time in the air and will need a full functional check before flying it in front of spectators or in competition.



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

Michael Graham

Here are a few images taken over the last several weeks of field activities on 2nd shift:

John McMakin with his pattern bird, *Acuity*, on 16jun26:



Flight school on 09jul26:



Tim Stalloch under instruction from Paul Volcko:



The mowing of the ditch weeds to help make the STARS' signs more visible on 11jul26:



Low spots being reworked with new top soil – 13jul26:



Here's the status of the test drainage ditch from the pavilion on 13jul26:



Notice that the ditch is drying... and that work has started on east side..

Gary Brown reworking the east side of the pavilion 16jul26:





Note the smoke filled sky!!

Tim Stalloch again under instruction, this time with Gary Natali on 16jul26:



Paul and his student, Kellan Barnaby, on 16jul26:



And here's Hudson Barnaby with Paul, same date:



Windy!! Note flag... AQI at 143.

Pictures from Michael from the 17th HeliJam event- Click the link below

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/lo5jhtdk6k5ulwbmsfm05/AI4WcWAwk1jkZmF1xYt_gHQ?rlkey=4g0hqwy18a0m20kl2e7fqg0yw&st=qy8z748d&dl=0













More pictures taken by Mike Graham-

Here again are an assortment of images taken during the second shift at the STARS field.

Here's Warren Baldwin with his EDF on 17jul26:





That's Bob Simms waving in the back ground with his EDF!!

Here's the work done to the rain gutter downspouts/drainage field on the pavilion:





Here's Tim Stalloch under instruction with Gary Natali during flight school on 23jul26:



Dan Salis under instruction with Paul Volcko the same night:



Here's Kellan Barnaby receiving his wings from Gary Natali:





Congratulations Kellan!!

More pictures from Michael dated 30Jul26:

Here are a few more pictures from the 2nd shift at the field.

Here's the newly painted east wall of the pavilion and the status of the new pavilion drainage system:



Here's Karl Price and his fun biplane out for an evening of fun!!



Mike Amie was there with his big P-47:



The last evening of July was a 'one percenter'. Temp was 77, winds were 3-5 kts from the west, and humidity was 51%. And the sky was blue!



What a sky!!



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!!



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

S.T.A.R.S.

Flight Training Program

2026



When?

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

Where?

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

Who?

Anyone wanting to learn to fly powered R/C model airplanes!! You do **not** have to be a Club member and all lessons are **free**. Each student must furnish his/her own plane and radio equipment and also must hold a current membership in the Academy of Model Aeronautics aircraft association in order to fly. For those not yet finished building/assembling their trainer aircraft, the Club has a Club Trainer available that may be flown on a Buddy Box.

PreFlight Workshop

Held at STARS Flying Field in Phoenix, NY

Thursday April 23, 2026 at 5-7 PM

Interested?

Contact:



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



S.T.A.R.S.

www.cnystars.com

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

www.facebook.com/cnystars



2026

Jet Night



STARS Events

When?

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



FB Jet Night

Where?

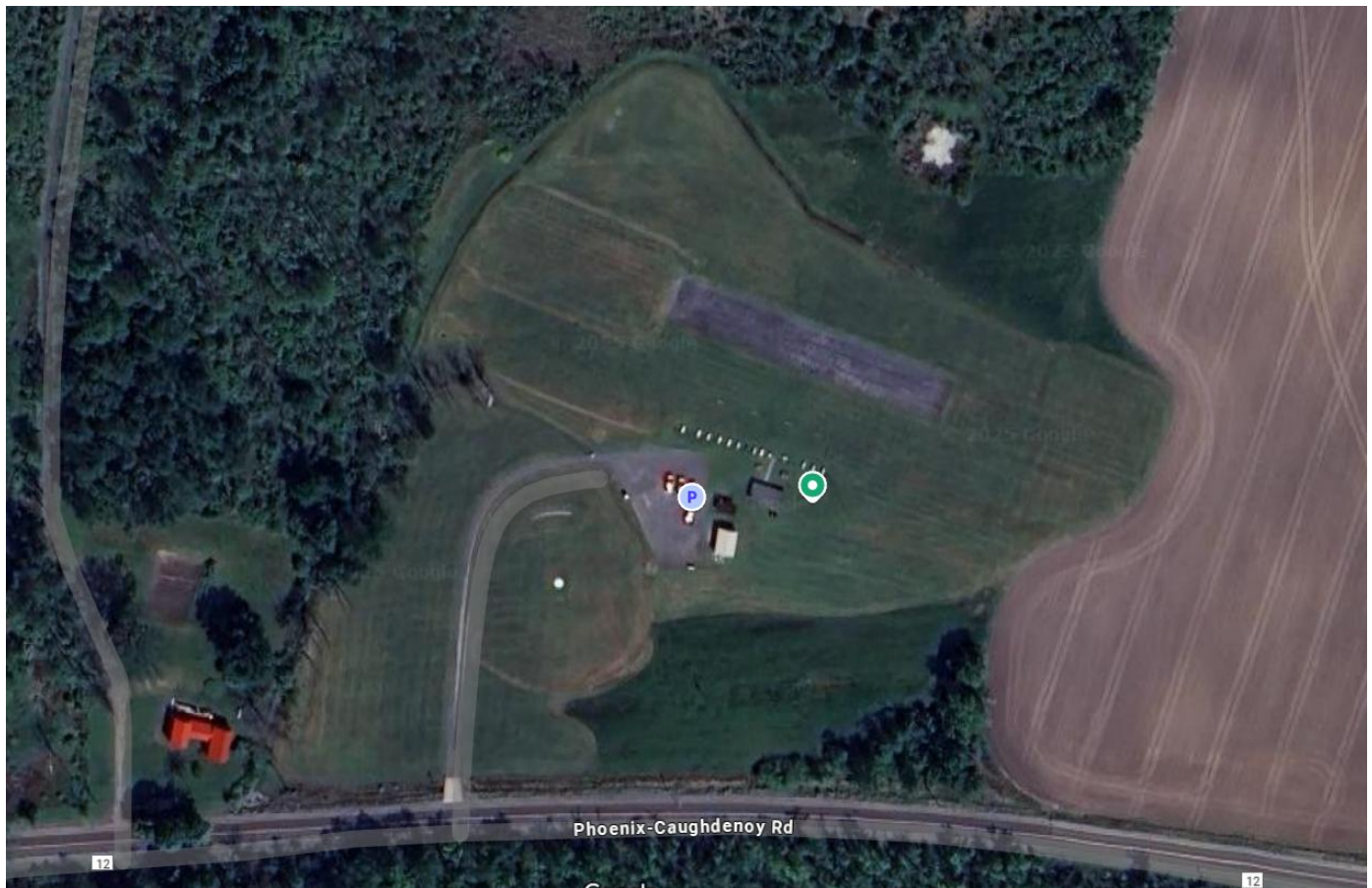
At the S.T.A.R.S. field in Phoenix, New York
649 County Route 12, Pennellville, NY 13132
N43.23696, W76.24550

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



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.

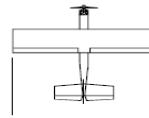
Ask someone to help and walk away from the model until signs of loss of control is apparent. If electric powered ensure that the range is not worse with the motor running.

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.

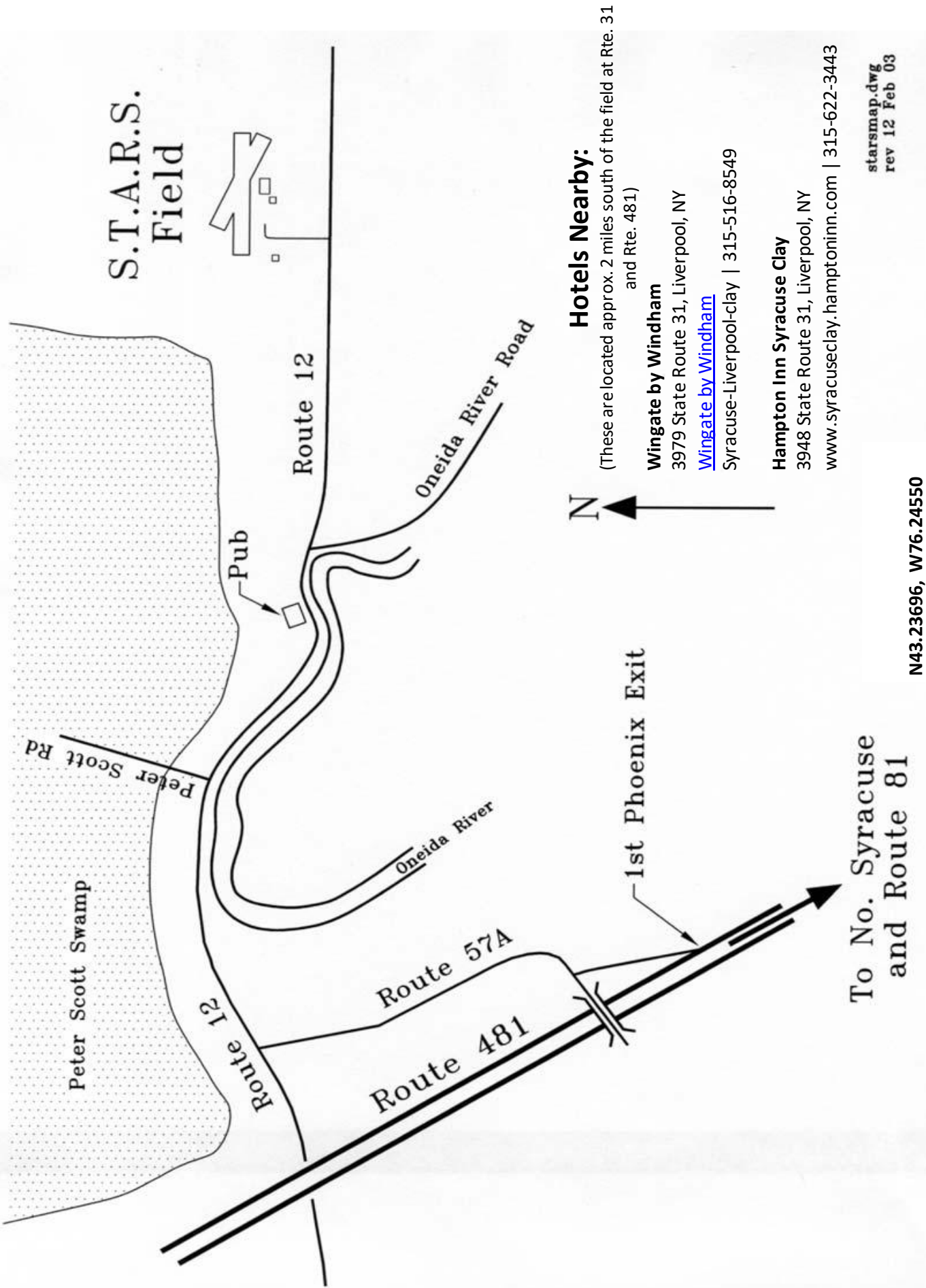
5. Replacement Courtesy:

- 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 with your updated information.