

Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society



Plane Propwash



August 2026

Charter 473

The next STARS meeting is Wednesday September 9th, 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 September 9th, 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.

2026 Airshow Results

Well, the 2026 Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Society's 2026 Airshow is in the books!!!

By all measurements, it was a resounding success. We had more vehicles than last year. We had more kids this year. We had more PEOPLE than last year. We sold a lot of food, and with the Swap Shop, parking, and raffles, we increased our profits this year by over 25%, and probably more.

With all that said, the profits are very important for our continued existence, but what I observed most was people enjoying themselves. It was a beautiful day, and even though the Fair was down the road, our parking lot was full!! It was a very different atmosphere, where kids could sit and enjoy themselves, watch model airplanes fly, and not cost the family a fortune to eat a good lunch. I saw so many people with huge grins on their faces, mouths wide open, and looking into the sky at what so many people had never seen before. I saw families that were here last year and came back because they enjoyed it so much. And so many new people were here for the first time, that never heard of us or our hobby before our show.

The candy drop was my favorite, watching all of the children running out to the runway with their paper bags gathering up their "winnings". It really is all about the kids, you know.....no matter what their ages are!!! There was a family with a pair of teenage girls sitting on a blanket drawing pictures, who really had no clue what was going on. They weren't paying any attention to the planes. They were just having a really good time away from the phones, and the fast pace of life. I met a couple a month or so ago from South Africa

who have emigrated to the US, and came back to enjoy the show. He said he wants to learn to fly, and will be back in the spring. We had an incredible pilot from PA who came to fly his beautiful bi-plane he built. We had a whole group from Rochester R.A.M.S. flying club that came to fly with us. And the control line pilots had a great day also.

There were so many people who came out of curiosity to see what this "model airplane hobby" is all about. There were at least two people who came to me wanting to join the club that very day. There were at least four or five others who said they want to join the club, and others wanted to learn to fly, and will start flying next spring. People found the Airshow to be an exciting event, and observed the wonderful people of our club showing the true spirit of who we are as a club.

Which brings me to the most important premise of my thoughts. We have incredible members of our club who actually enjoy serving others. I can't thank folks individually, because there are just too many to mention. But the field crew has worked tirelessly all year to keep the field up to our standards, and I had more comments from folks saying how great the field looked. The field crew mowed Friday morning and ended up setting up everything we needed for the show. We usually set up in the afternoon, but it was done by noon. The food crew, both cooking and serving, the parking crew, the folks manning both raffles and swap shop all did an incredible job taking care of our guests throughout the day. I went through the crowds, and everyone commented on how they enjoyed not only the flying event but how nice the people were when they needed food, or help

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throughout the day. A great day was had by all who attended our event!!!!

So THANK YOU ALL for serving to make the Airshow an incredible success. Officers will look at what we did right, what we can improve, and how we can continue to make the S.T.A.R.S. model flying club that best possible place to fly and to visit. It is an honor and privilege to serve you as president.

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 August STARS meeting was held at the field. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by President Mike Mueller. There were 11 Open members, 0 Associate members, 0 Family members, 0 Youth member, and 1 Guest in attendance.

Secretary's Report:

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

Motion made by to accept Mike Graham and 2nd by Herb Moore. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Paul Volcko

Paul provided the treasure update. All bills are current.

Motion to accept by Mike Graham and second by Herb Moore. Carried.

Correspondence: Paul Volcko

No correspondence reported.

Committee Reports:

AMA Report: Phil Morgan

There will be a 10.00 increase in AMA dues if you want the magazine mailed to you.

Please see the AMA Government Action page at [Comments Requested: Two FCC Proceedings Could Affect Model Aviation - AMA IN ACTION Advocating for Members](#). This list current and future government actions that impact our hobby.

Phil also pointed out the YouTube page. An R/C giant scale aircraft carrier with r/c planes flying off of it.

Safety Report: Darrel Eckhard

Darrel restated clean up any debris that you have created. It's important to prevent damage to another aircraft or to anyone on the field.

He also repeated the warning regarding placing a canopy over an aircraft prep table due to the upcoming Airshow. The reduced

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

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.

The AMA safety rules were touched on. Darrell emphasized no flying while under the influence of any intoxicants. Also be aware of the heat. Avoid becoming dehydrated. Make sure to wear sunscreen, a hat, and sunglasses. Please fly away from spectators and other aircraft.

Field Committee: Mike Mueller

The reel rollers have been successfully rebuilt. The gear boxes need to be rebuilt too.

Mike commented on the drainage project around the runway. The projected cost of the drainage project is around \$1500.00. The project will be done this year, after the Airshow. Voting on the expenditure was discussed. The membership present was polled and were positive about the project. Mike would discuss voting after the meeting.

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:

Airshow:

Mike Mueller- CD for the show. Phil Morgan will do the announcing.

New food items will be available- Popcorn and french fries. Mike will provide the popcorn machine.

The raffle will be a Valient donated by Mike. Advertising has already started. Mike will appear on the radio show to talk about the event.

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Volunteers are needed for all positions. The clipboard was passed for signups. More will be needed.

Going to introduce a new event. A T-28 all up will take place at noon.

New Members:

George (Scooter) Youst - Joining as an OPEN member.

Motion made to accept. Unanimous among the membership in attendance.

Adjournment:

The July regular monthly meeting of the STARS was adjourned at 8:05.

Secretary, Jeff Wolsley

08/26/2026 Special Meeting- Vote on Field Drainage Expenditure

The special meeting was called to order at 7:06 by President Mike Mueller. The meeting had been announced via email on 08/14/2026. The meeting was held via ZOOM.

There were 14 OPEN members in attendance and 0 Associate members. Per STARS Constitution and Bylaws, this satisfied the minimum requirements for this vote.

The Proposal was:

SHOULD THE CLUB ALLOW THE EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$1,500 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PUTTING DRAINAGE PIPE TO

THE SOUTH AND WEST OF THE GEOTEK IN ORDER TO IMPROVE DRAINAGE OF THE FIELD?

Mike made the motion, 2nd by Herb Moore. The vote was 14 YEA and 0 NO. Carried.

The special meeting was adjourned at 7:15.

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.

Michale Graham provided this update regarding the impact of tariffs on our hobby:

On August 13, 2026, the White House issued a [Presidential Proclamation](#) under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, imposing new import tariffs on UAS and core UAS components following a Department of Commerce investigation into domestic supply chain security.

Q & A: Practical Effects on the Hobby

Q: Will this affect traditional RC airplanes, helicopters, and other models?

A: Yes, any complete UAS under 55lbs, including completed RTF or ARF aircraft imported from foreign suppliers, will be subject to the 25% tariff starting September 3, 2026. Individual kits and unpowered airframes are not directly mentioned but will likely see price changes as suppliers adjust their inventory.

Q: How does this affect individual components for repair or builds?

A: Standalone components—such as brushless motors, ESCs, flight controllers, receiver hardware, and battery packs—fall under the 25% component tariff taking effect on February 9, 2027. This delayed deadline gives manufacturers and hobby distributors time to adjust inventory, as well as time for AMA and other stakeholders to engage Federal offices for regulatory relief; however, builders should expect higher retail prices on imported electronics in early 2027 if tariffs are enacted as written.

On Aug 18, 2026, at 11:01 AM, Gary Brown added this comment-

Or,...a good time to learn to build a model (fixed wing) from a balsa kit or a set of plans.
The cold weather (I.E. building season) will be here sooner than you think !

GB

Calendar of Events



NOTICE: EVENT DATES MAY CHANGE OR CANCELLED OUTRIGHT.

Calendar of Events for August 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](#)

Oct. 3- STARS Ringmaster Fly-A-Thon

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

STARS Flight Schools 2026-

Fixed wing- Flight School runs May 7 thru Sept. 10. Flight school is getting to the end for 2026. The final class for 2026 is coming up soon.

Heli/Multi Rotor- Not scheduled

Indoor Flying –

The Indoor flying schedule will be starting up for the season 2026-2027 season in the next few months. Watch this section for updates. If you have firsthand knowledge of these events with the dates and times, please let me know. As always, call ahead to make sure they are 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

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.

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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>

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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.

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.

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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?





S.T.A.R.S.

www.cnystars.com

www.facebook.com/cnystars



2026

Big Bird Night



When?

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



STARS Events



FB BB Night

Where?

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

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

Interested?

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

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



Charter 473

S.T.A.R.S.

www.cnystars.com

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?

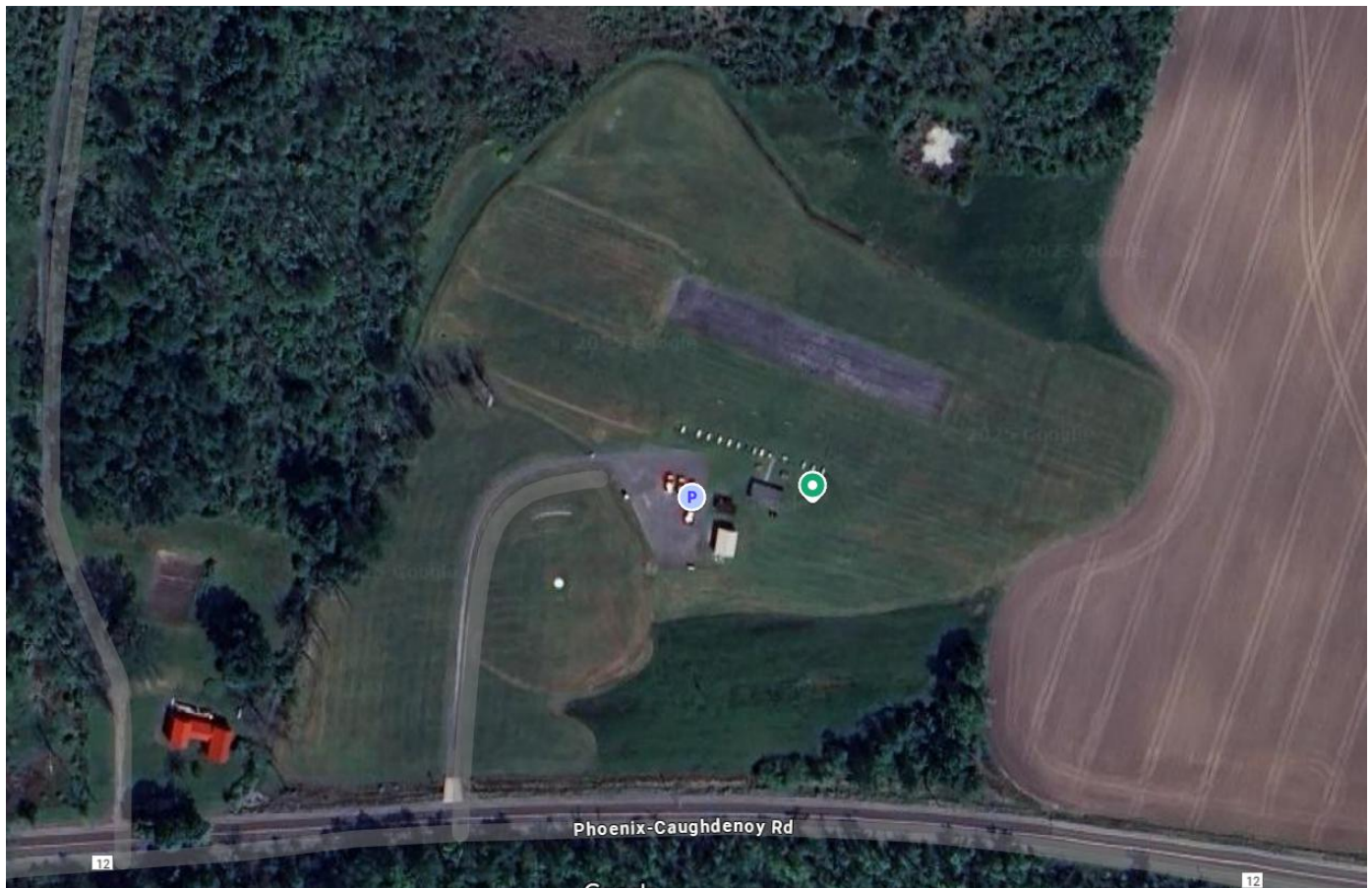
At the S.T.A.R.S. field in Phoenix, New York
649 County Route 12, Pennellville, NY 13132
N43.23696, W76.24550

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



The latest satellite photo

STARS FAA APPROVED FRIA AREA.



ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS

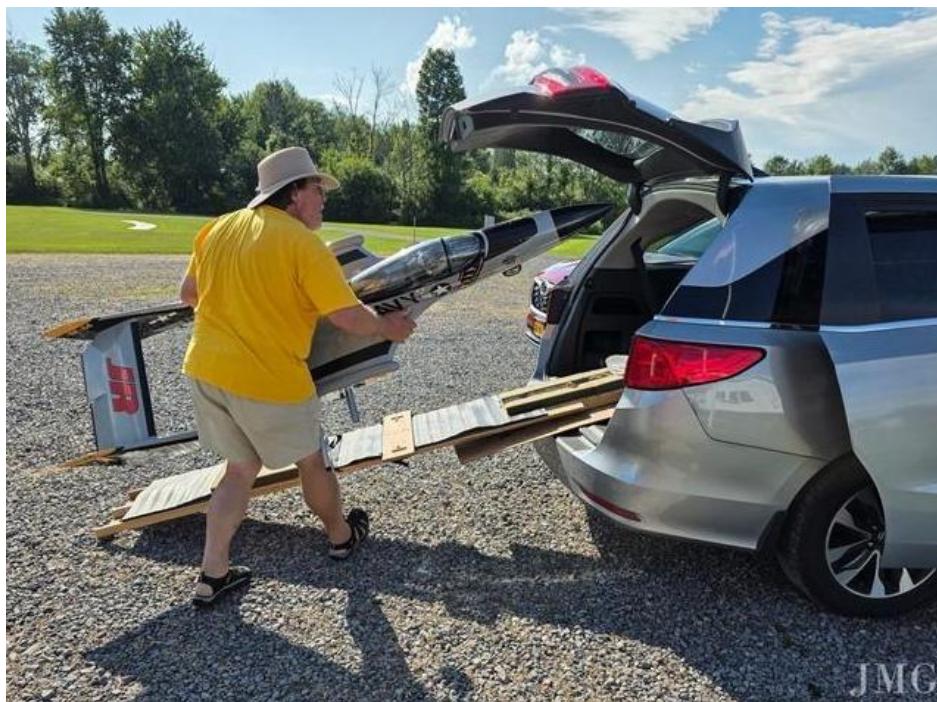
FAA-RECOGNIZED IDENTIFICATION AREA

A FRIA IS A DEFINED GEOGRAPHIC AREA WHERE DRONES CAN BE FLOWN WITHOUT REMOTE ID EQUIPMENT.

2nd Shift Pictures from Michael Graham 09/04/2026.



Here's Tom Polovick unloading and assembling his turbine in the evening of 14 Aug:





Here's Danny Williams working on his *Cub* on 20 Aug:



Here's Herb's Club Trainer battery charging station during one of our Flight School evenings:



And here's Gary ready to fly Warren's *Corsair* on 20 Aug:



And here's our President reading his electric(!) *Pitts Special* for flight on 03 Sep:



He's being supervised by Karl Price!!

From Michael Graham regarding early STARS pictures:

The STARS field early 1977:



Drainage has always been a problem.

First corner post in the ground for the pavilion in 1977:



Continuing construction of the pavilion in 1977:

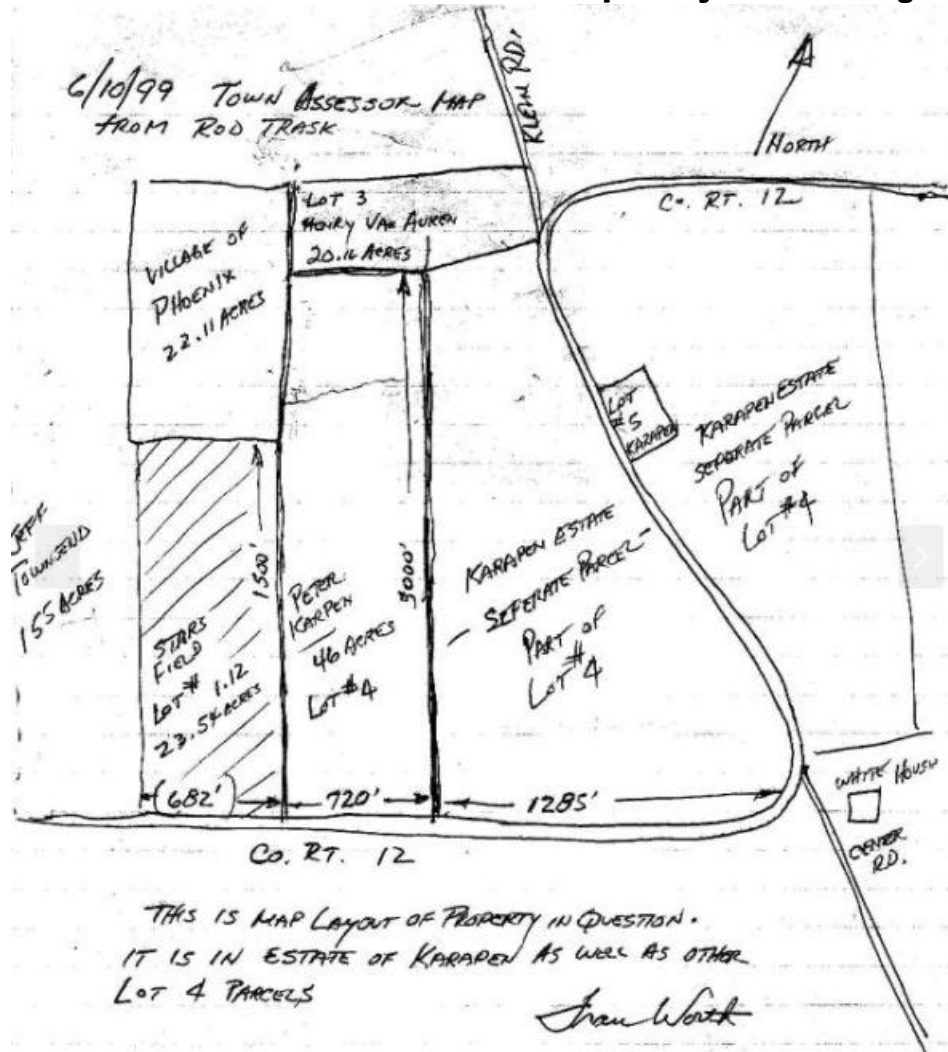


That's Lon Sauter climbing the ladder.

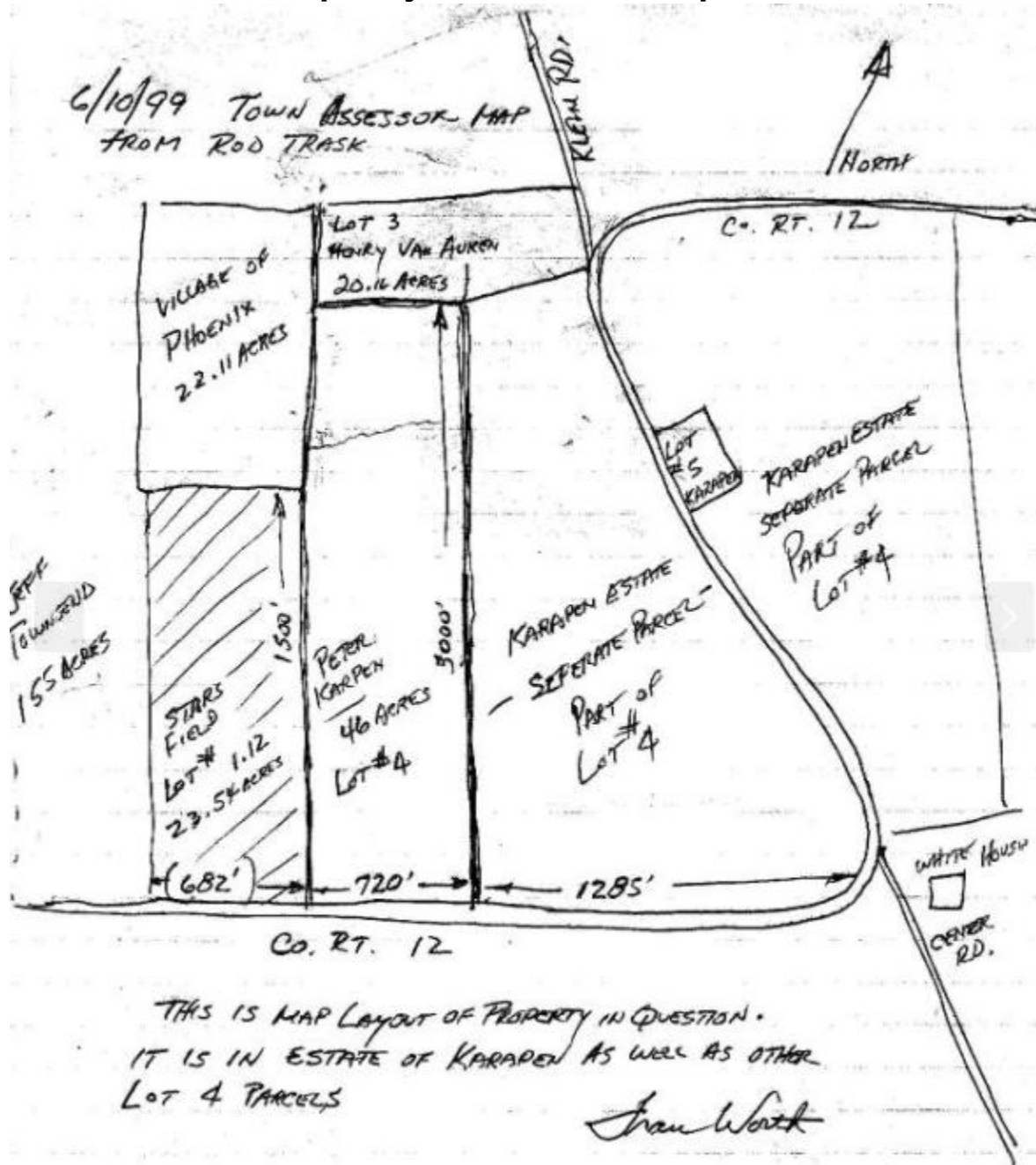
Here's the finished project in late summer 1977:



Here's Fran Worth's notes of the 1999 plot layout with neighboring lands:

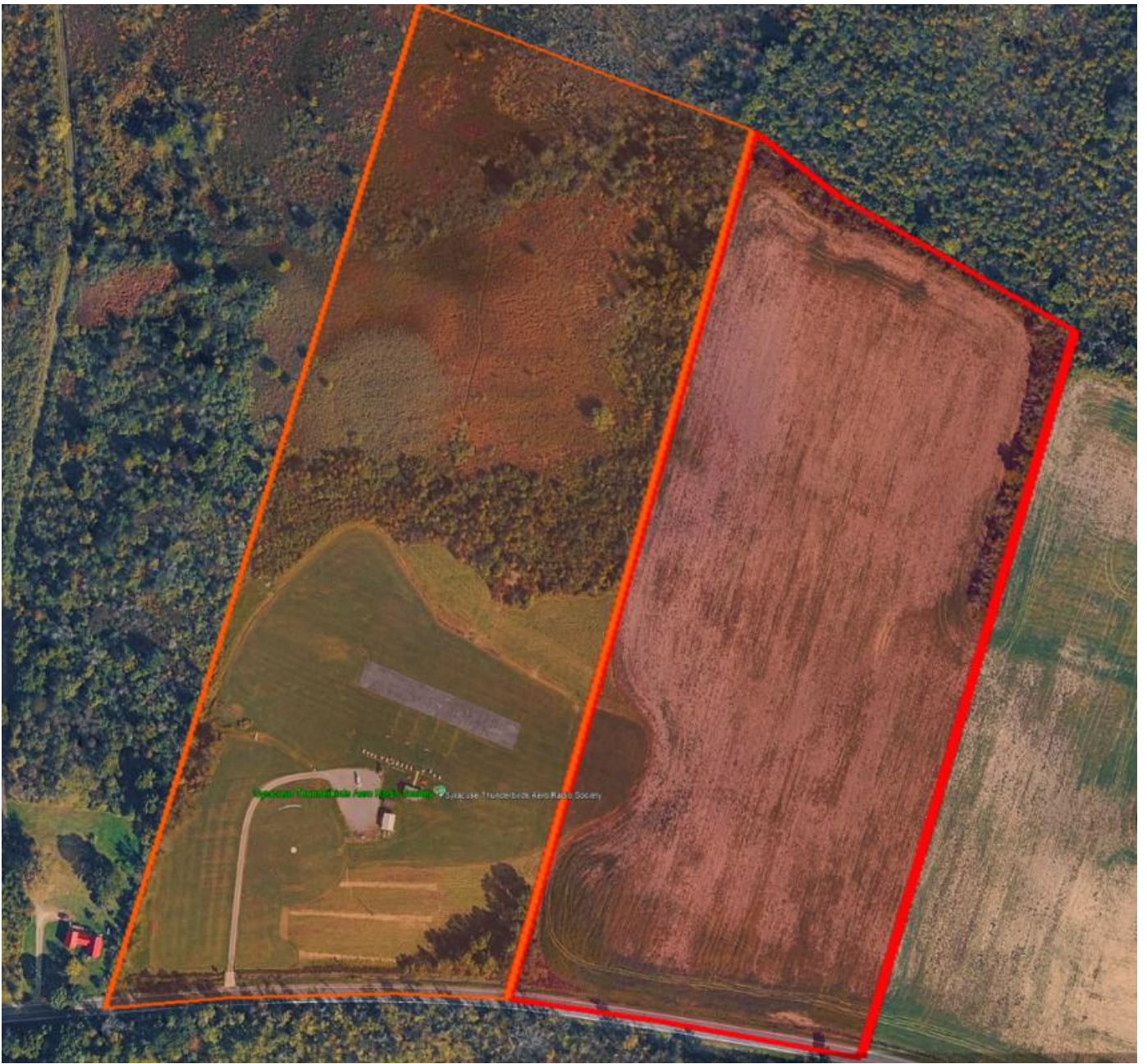


Here's Fran's modified plot layout for the new field purchase in 2002:



The STARS final acreage plan in 2004:





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.

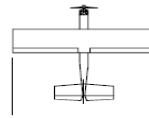
Ask someone to help and walk away from the model until signs of loss of control is apparent. If electric powered ensure that the range is not worse with the motor running.

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.

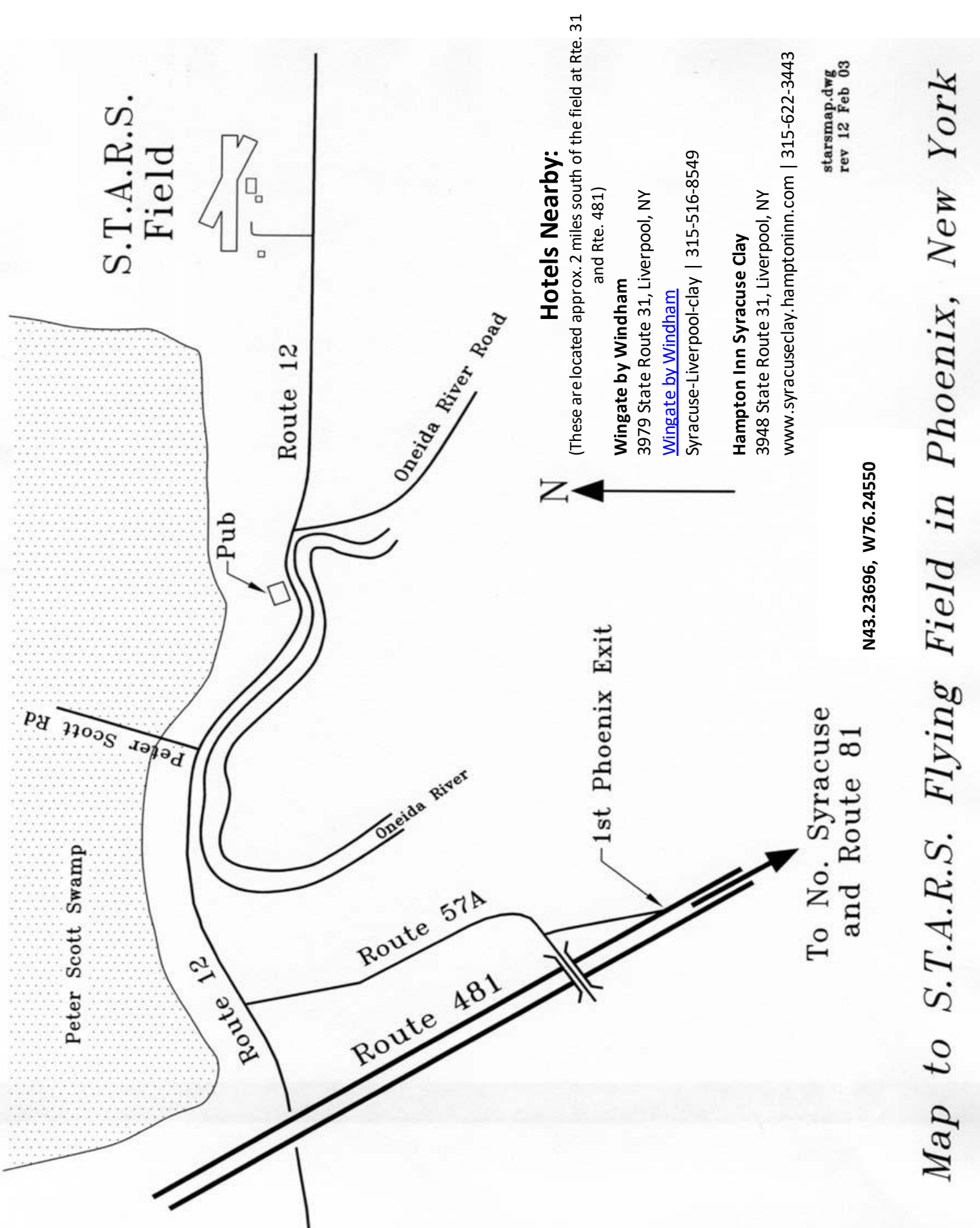
5. Replacement Courtesy:

- 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





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.