Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society

Plane Propwash

October 2026 Charter 473

The next STARS meeting is Wednesday November 11th, 7:00 on GOOGLE MEET.

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 Droner- YouTube Moderator

The next STARS 2026 meeting will be on GOOGLE MEET, on November 11th, at 7:00. The STARS regular monthly meetings will be held via GOOGLE MEET, October through April. The STARS regular monthly meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month except December.

The Holidays Are Upon Us!

Thanksgiving is almost her, and I know we are all thankful for all we have been given. By all measures, it has been a good year at our club, and we are excited for opportunities for the coming year.

We have our Christmas Party on December 1st, and our Winter Fun Fly, on December 21st, which is the 1st day of winter……or something like that. Bring warm clothes, and a plane to fly……..we'll have popcorn…..maybe pizza….we'll see.

Elections will be completed at our meeting this month. The slate has been agreed to, and without any objections, they will be elected by affirmation at the meeting. A reminder that 2027 will be my last year as president. I think you will all have had enough of me after 4 years!! The slate for 2027 is as follows:
Mike Mueller, president
Tom Polovick, vice president
Paul Volcko, treasurer (no, you didn't get out of it…heheee)
Jeff Wosley, Secretary
Darrel Eckhard, Safety Officer

Darrel Eckhard will be taking over as Field Marshall for the upcoming year. I am confident that Darrel will do an outstanding job in 2027. And with that said, it looks like it is time to begin to look for a replacement for the Simplicity mower. It has blown 2 head gaskets over the past month, and to have it fixed properly, would cost more that the mower is worth. We will discuss this issue at our meeting this week. If you are interested in this topic, make sure you come to the November meeting.

With an update to the John Everson fund, we have given away 2 Timbers, 3-4 other planes, some transmitters, and currently have $1,100 in our student fund. I have asked Gary Natali, who is our Flight School Chief to bring ideas to the club as to how we might best utilize these funds. I still have some additional planes to sell. I would imagine another $3-500 will get added before it is finished.

Shout out, again this year, to Gary Natali and his son for another wonderful donation of our drinks for the year. The fact all of our drinks are donated means that 100% of the revenue goes to our club.

S.T.A.R.S. CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY PARTY Let us remember that our Christmas/Holiday Party is at RHH Hide-A-Way's this year. Invitation and menu was sent out a week or so ago. Looking back, it seems like I didn't put the date on the email. The party will be on Tuesday December 1st. 5 PM for drinks, and 6 PM for dinner. I will send out another one this week. The food is always very good, and it is a wonderful time together, with our spouses, to close out the year. Please consider attending on Tuesday, December 1st.

Thank you to all for your support this year. We did a lot of great work on the field, and have some more plans for 2027. Be safe over the winter. Come to the club when we may have events, and/or when the weather is "cooperative". While there will not be a December meeting, there will be one more Propwash this year. Hope to see you all safe and sound soon.
Be safe out there!!

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

2027 STARS dues are due. There is a $10.00 late fee after the January meeting. Dues can be sent to the Treasurer. (Paul Volcko, 5237 Kasson, Syracuse, NY. 13215) *Or, the 2026 dues can be paid online through PayPal. See the renewal forms at the end of the Propwash.*

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 GOOGLE MEET 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 October STARS meeting was held online via Google Meet. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by President Mike Mueller. There were 11 Open members, 1 Associate member, 0 Family members, 0 Youth member, and 0 Guest in attendance.

Secretary's Report:

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

Motion made by to accept Paul Volcko and 2nd by Herb Moore. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Paul Volcko

Dues are starting to come in. Plane donations are coming in the Ringmaster event generated income through food sales.

Money went out to cover taxes and field committee expenditures.

The move to Google Meet was due to cost of Zoom at $120-140.00/month.

Motion to accept by Herb Moore and second by Darrel Eckhard. Carried.

Correspondence: Paul Volcko

Liverpool School District CTE ribbon cutting is 10/21. This is the former Wetzel Road Elementary School.

Committee Reports:

AMA Report: Phil Morgan

Phil had an extensive report.

The AMA National stats are online- click here.

Starting in September, the tariffs have kicked in on our hobby items- 50% on drones under 55#. 100% on drones over 55#. Tariffs will impact any hobby import including aircraft, cars, boats, trains, etc. This includes spare and replacement parts.

Phil attended an AMA Webinar on Sept. 29th regarding club building. The central theme was around engaging youth and inspiring their interest in model aircraft. Getting their parents involved is just as important. There are 100K Adult and 1750 AMA members. Most of the youth are lost quickly and may reengage later in adulthood.

Leader members are the most important membership status. You must be a leader member to run for an office at the AMA level. The AMA submits proposals to the leader members for approval. STARS Phill Morgan and Gary Brown are leader members. If you are interested in becoming a leader member, the application is here- Application

Phil reported the White House is most concerned with aircraft that are equipped with avoidance technology. This will allow them to penetrate geo-fenced defense systems that protect national security interests. The Dept. of Defense is controlling this.

The AMA is holding a meeting on 10/24 Project 360.

The AMA made an announcement to inform the membership that they have received a credible offer to sell the Muncie property. They are in the process of reviewing the offer and will look for feedback from the Leader level membership. The AMA's position on the possible sale is here- AMA Future

Safety Report: Darrel Eckhard

Now that the weather is cooling off, be aware of your clothing around your aircraft. Make sure your sweatshirt is zipped up and the hood draw strings are safely tucked away. Make sure the sleeves are tight around your wrists and are tight fitting so they don't get pulled into a spinning prop. Make sure the transmitter strap is not dangling in front of you when working around a spinning prop.

Dring the Ringmaster event, there was a situation where someone stepped into the flight circle/flight line. Pay attention to where you are or others to stay out harms way. Don't be afraid to say something if the situation needs to be addressed.

Field Committee: Mike Mueller

Mike was looking forward to seeing how well the new field drainage will work. So far, it looks promising.

The simplicity tractor motor has blown another head gasket. The tractor may need to be sent out to see why this is repeating. Ted Anderson is in favor of this.

Bill Whittaker has moved his tractor out of the hanger. Mike M. wanted to make sure that Bill was thanked for all of his help and the use of his tractor while it was available.

The sale of John Everson's equipment has helped to fund the flight school for 2027. Mike wants to come up withy a way to commemorate John some way at the field to show our appreciation.

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 has ended for the season.

Special Interest Nights:

Special interest nights have concluded for the year.

New Business:

New Members:

Dylan Thompson - Youth
Larry Calabreese - OPEN

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

-- Continued--

Officer Nominations:

The officer slate has been set and will be voted on during the November meeting.

The slate of 2027 officers:

President- Mike Mueller Vice President- Tom Polovick
Treasurer- Paul Volcko Secretary- Jeff Wolsley
Safety Officer- Darrel Eckhard

Dan Williams will continue with the BOD.

Club Dues:

Club dues are coming due for the 2027 year. Note the payment options now include electronic payment. See the form at the end pf the Propwash. Use the QRL on the form to make the payment through PayPal. This takes care of the service fee for payment to a business.

Last Minute Announcements:

Our field neighbor, Al Townsend, presented some plans for a full-scale Curtiss A3 0-1B. Gary Brown will review these. Possible submittal to the Curtiss Air Museum.



Curtiss A-3 Falcon. This was the first A-3 aircraft, later converted to O-1B.

Courtesy of Wikipedia

The First Day of Winter Fun Fly is 12/01
Christmas Party- Mike will contact Phil Knapp to see if he can take the reins on this event.

Adjournment:

The October monthly meeting of the STARS was adjourned at 7:50.

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. COMPLETED

Control Line Drainage- Mike O'Neill asked to fill the depression in the control line circle. COMPLETED

YouTube Channel- The club has started a YouTube channel to promote our activities.
Robert DeNova (Dorner) will be managing the YouTube channel. Contact Dorner if you have any additions you would like to see on the channel.

After the Airshow 2026 Add drain pipe to the field to the south and west of the geotek runway to improve drainage.

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

12/01- STARS First Day of Winter Fun Fly

For additional events, click here→ AMA DII Event Listing

STARS Flight Schools 2026-

Fixed wing- Flight School has ended for the season. Here are the results for 2026 compiled by Mike for Gary Natali:

Number of flight sessions	= 19
Cancelled flight sessions	= 5 (20 May; 11,18,25 Jun; 02 Jul)
Total number of recorded flights	= 334
Total number of students	= 27
Total number of solo'd students	= 2 (AJ Giroux, Kellan Barnaby)
Most number of flights in a single session	= 10 (Twice by Larry Calabrese)
Most flights by single student	= 94 (Tim Stalloch)

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:

Performance Hobbies
"OUR EXPERIENCE MAKES THE DIFFERENCE"

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

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



Open 10-7 Tuesday thru Sunday.
315-532-6826
www.mexairrc.com
www.facebook.com/mexairrc

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

The Aviation Historical Society of CNY

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

Home | Aviation Historical Society of Central New York

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

Mike O'Neill's website to check out- http://www.flyboyzblog.com/

This site has articles pertaining to both full scale and model aircraft. Check it out.

Classified Ads-

FOR SALE: 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~~ ONLINE Meetings*: MOVING TO Google Meet Platform October 2026**

STARS meetings will be held on-line via Google Meet, starting October 2026 to April 2027. Watch for notification prior to the meeting start time.

The link for Google Meet meeting is located in the box at the top of the home page on the STARS web site.

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

Google Meet Meeting link:

https://meet.google.com/rgv-minf-yxn

To join from the STARS web page, go to cnystars.com. The meeting link is in the box at the top of the page. Once you click the link, you will immediately go to the Google Meet page. Click on the "Join now" button. You will enter into the meeting. No software appears to need to be installed on your computer for Google Meet to work.

***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- **T**he **R**ecreational **U**AS **S**afety **T**est

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)

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)

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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?



The latest satellite photo

STARS FAA APPROVED FRIA AREA.

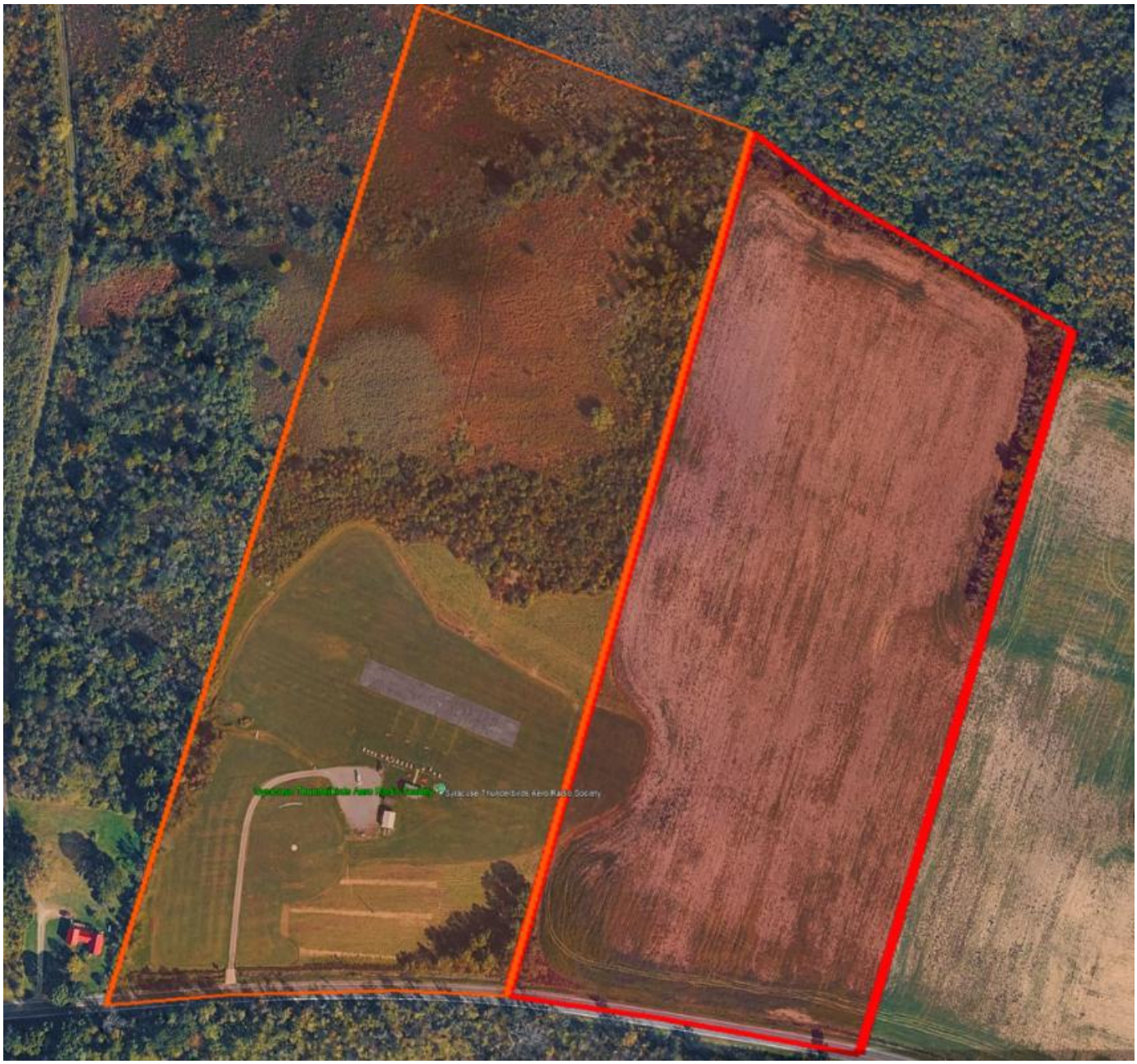


AMA FRIA

ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS

FAA-RECOGNIZED IDENTIFICATION AREA

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



STARS Boarders.

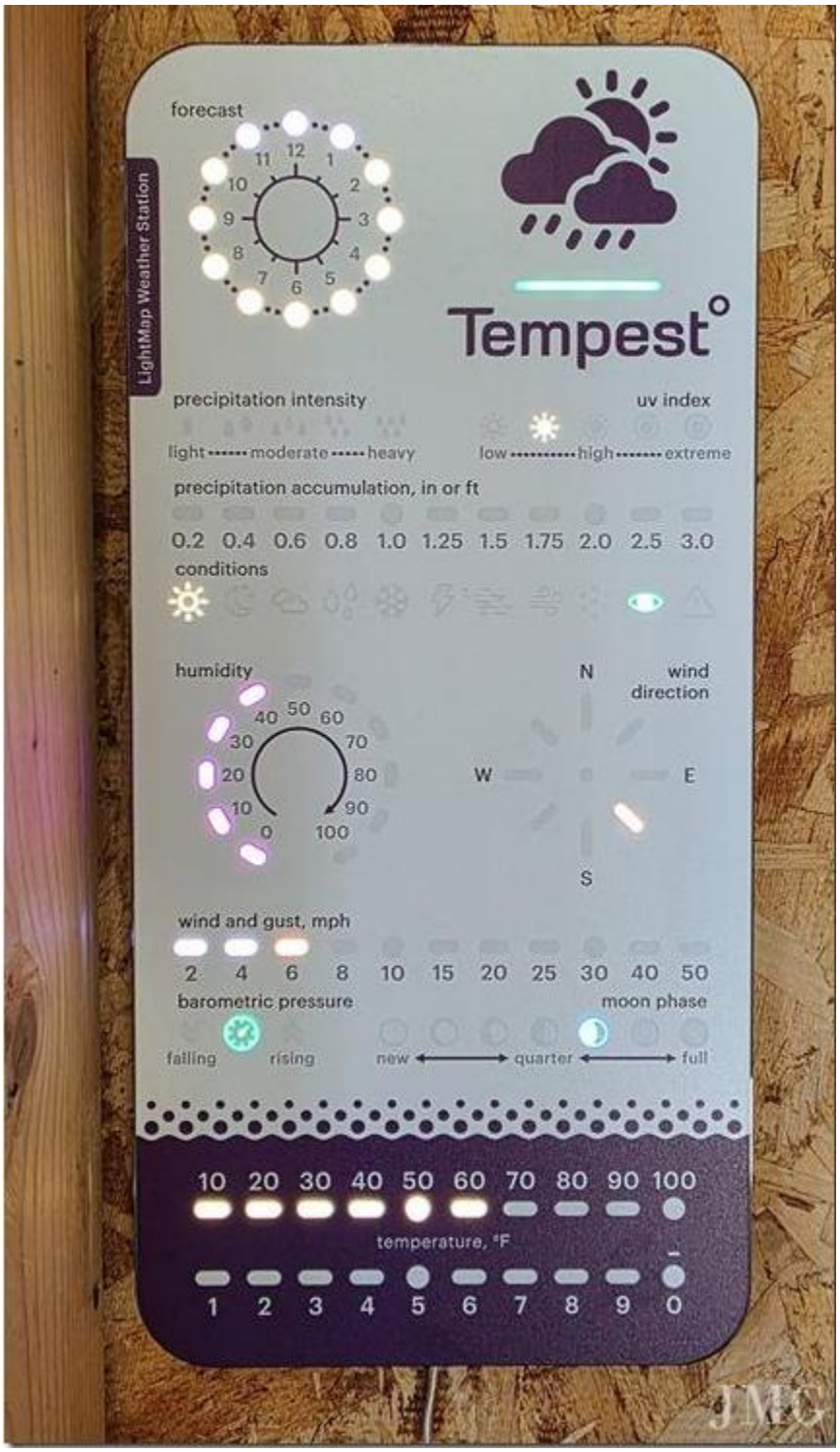
Field Report 21 Oct 26 *Courtesy of Michael Graham* [Drop Box Link]

Here are a few photos from the field activity on Wednesday, 21 Oct 26…
A bunch of people were present for an almost perfect day:





We have a new weather station!!



4 mph winds, with a gust to 6, and a temperature of 60….

PS: The colors are washed out in my Samsung Galaxy phone!!

Tom’s turbine was out to play!!



Grass takeoff:



By 2:15 PM, the field was becoming less crowded:



By 4:30, we had Mike O'Neill show up with his latest rubber powered airplane:

Since winds were light, it was time for flight!!







Of course, it would hit a field bench on landing:





That’s it for a gorgeous Wednesday….

Thanks.

Michael

Field Report 02 Nov 26 *Courtesy of Michael Graham*

Here are a few pictures taken at the field last Monday, 02Nov26.

The weather was great, especially for November!!

Here's Bob Rowe with his *F-86* EDF:



There was a large assortment of aircraft:







Bob Simms was out with his *Zeus* EDF and a smaller *Neptune* EDF:



Mike Amie was out with his big *P-47*:



Gary Brown was there with his *Spitfire*:



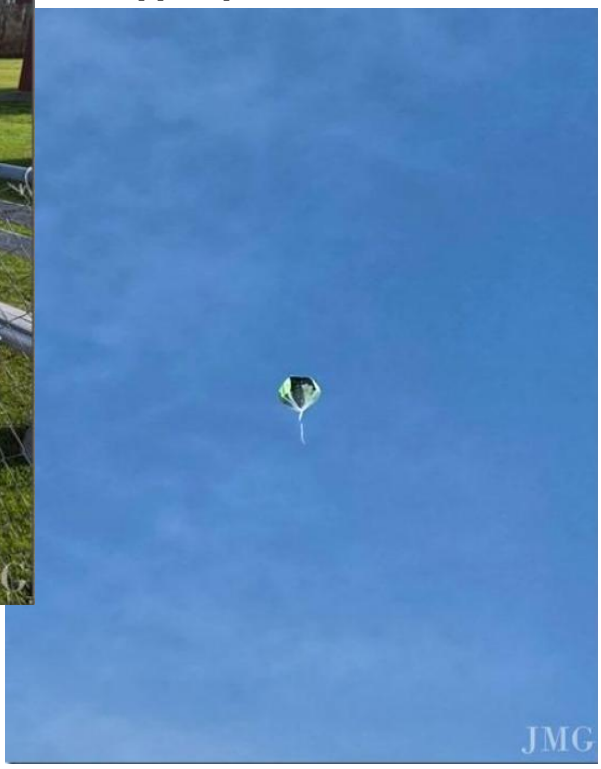
Gliders too:



Mr. President brought his *EC-1500* to play with:



It dropped parachutists….



And here is the rework we did earlier this year. The grass has grown in!!



Thanks.

Michael

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 securely 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 maintenanced.

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.

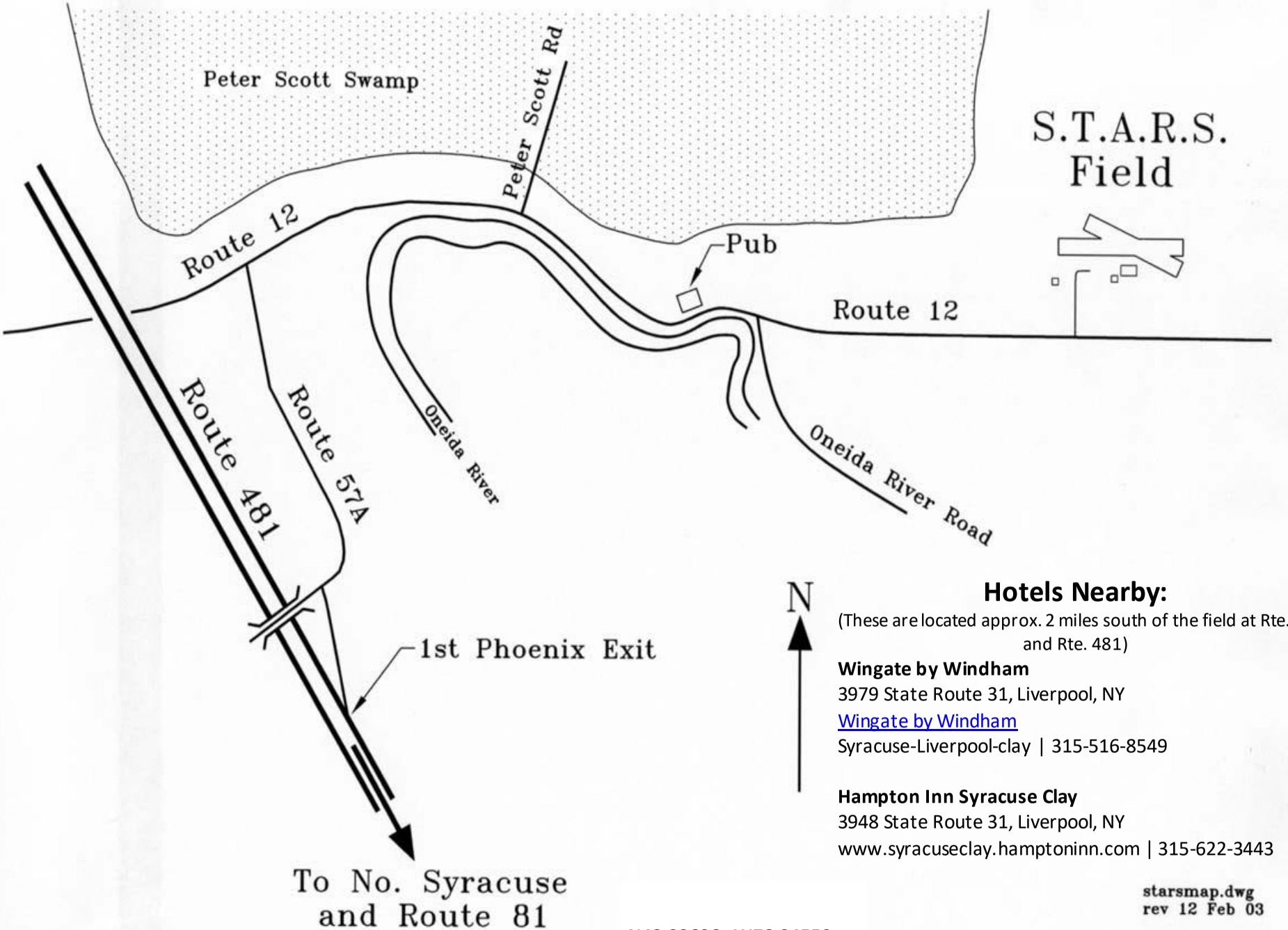
5. Replacement Courtesy:

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.

06jan21

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.



Hotels Nearby:

(These are located approx. 2 miles south of the field at Rte. 31 and Rte. 481)

Wingate by Windham
3979 State Route 31, Liverpool, NY
Wingate by Windham
Syracuse-Liverpool-clay | 315-516-8549

Hampton Inn Syracuse Clay
3948 State Route 31, Liverpool, NY
www.syracuseclay.hamptoninn.com | 315-622-3443

starsmap.dwg
rev 12 Feb 03

N43.23696, W76.24550

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

Map to the STARS

Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society

Est. 1965 | https://www.cnystars.com | Charter 473

Membership Renewal 2027

Return renewal forms to our Treasurer, Paul Volcko, via mail to: 5237 Kasson Road, Syracuse, NY, 13215. Include your check made out to: **S.T.A.R.S.** *Do not mail cash, only checks*. Cash can be used only for direct, in-person payments. **Electronic payment option available, see back for information.**

Name: _____

Type	Description	Cost
☐ Youth	Full use of club facilities, age 19 or under, 20th birthday on or after July 1, 2025. Limited voting rights.	$0
☐ Park Pilot	Operates under the model restrictions of a Park Pilot AMA membership (electrics, < 2lbs, < 60mph). Limited voting rights.	$75
☐ Associate	Full use of club facilities. Limited voting rights.	$75
☐ Open	Full use of club facilities. Purchased share certificate with full voting rights. Late renewal penalties of $10 per month after January.	$60
☐ Extra Family	Full use of club facilities. Someone in household has an Open or Associate membership already. Limited voting rights.	$30

All flying conducted under AMA rules and guidelines. Active AMA membership or allowed exemption required to fly. All members are encouraged to renew at the beginning of the year, but only Open members are required to renew by the end of January. Open members renewing after January may be assessed late fees. If you need an extension please contact the Treasurer. If you wish to change your membership, such as upgrading from Associate to Open, please contact Treasurer or another club officer.

Review your roster entry. If your info has changed, please provide your updated information below.

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Emergency: **Name:** _____ **Phone:** _____

Electronic Renewal and Payment Options

You may renew your membership via the club's PayPal account.

PayPal transactions incur transaction fees, so renewing through PayPal costs a bit more than paying by check or in-person with cash.

PayPal Renewal Costs

Membership Type	PayPal Cost
Park Pilot	$77
Associate	$77
Open	$62
Extra Family	$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 "2027 Renewal - YOUR NAME" in the optional note field you can fill in before sending the payment. 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.