

Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society

Plane Propwash

July 2011

Charter 473

The General Meeting will be at 7:00 at the STARS Field on August 10

2011 Officers

Chuck LeVine, President
Ralph Kyle, Vice President
Bob Rowe, Treasurer
Jeff Wolsley, Secretary
Peter Seiffert, Safety Officer

Directors:
Roy Fields, 2010
Peter Seiffert, 2007-08
Scott Erich, 2006

Volunteer Staff:
Jeff Wolsley, Propwash Editor
Michael Graham, SYG Administrator
Howard Blair, Webmaster
Carl Moore, Field Committee

The next STARS meeting will be August 10 at 7:00.

As a reminder, the meeting is always the second Wednesday of the month.

July 2011 - President's Perspective

From last month: *Carl has indicated that he will not be able to continue as head of the field committee next year. In order to maintain the field and equipment to the high standards Carl has established we will need the membership to stand up and help fill the void. Please give some thought as to the best way we can accomplish this difficult task. I would appreciate any thoughts and constructive input.*

Having had no membership input, here is my thought: Create four working groups comprised of 3 to 5 members to accomplish the necessary tasks to maintain the club functions without any undo effort on the part of any one member.

Group 1. Field Maintenance - comprising grass cutting, trimming.

Group 2. Field Equipment Maintenance - Keep mowers, trimmers in working order and available to be used at all times. Keep propane filled and available for cooking and heat.

Group 3. Food Services - Arrange to have food, soda and condiments available for our two flight schools, cook for the schools. Keep the refrigerator stocked with soda.

Group 4. Club House Maintenance - Keep the club house organized and clean, including table, chair replacement as needed.. This includes trash removal, empty can return, electrical service, and flight stand maintenance as needed. Annual lock numbering and change.

Event chairman will have total responsibility for the complete organization of their events.

I am sure that there are more details that may be needed to be added to each group as we move forward. What will be needed to accomplish is for the membership to come forward and volunteer some of their time and effort as it should not be burdensome to any one member.

Chuck

Secretary's Report:

The July 2011 STARS regular meeting was called to order by STARS President, **Chuck LeVine**, at 6:58 pm. There were **9** Full members, **5** Associate member, **0** youth members, and no guests in attendance.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's Report from the June meeting was submitted. Correction requested to add the Mountain R/C modelers Old Forge Fun Fly to the agenda. Motion to approve by Peter Seiffert and 2nd by Phil Morgan. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Rowe

Treasurer's Report from the June meeting was submitted. Motion to approve by Phil Morgan and 2nd by Mike Graham. Carried.

Committee Reports:

Field Committee: Carl Moore

Thanks to everyone who worked the Heli Jam.

The tractors have been serviced.

Volunteers are needed for the Field Committee. Please contact Carl at 668-1684 or carl32609@aol.com if interested.

AMA: Peter Seiffert, AMA District II, AVP

The MAM website has many improvements. Please visit <http://www.modelaircraft.org/>

Dave Mathewson's appointment to AMA Executive Director shuffled many of the positions at AMA. Look for new names coming for the elected posts.

Flight School: Bob Rowe

Fixed Wing Flight School is under way. There will be an instructor shortage at next Thursday's session. Volunteer instructors are needed.

Heli School is off to a great start. There are 15-20 students at each session.

Safety Report: Peter Seiffert

BE AWARE there are new charging rules at the field.

STARS Web Site: Howard Blair

Please check out the STARS site. Give your feedback to Howard for continued improvements.

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

Old Business:

Air Show:

Safety Officer Report: Peter Seiffert

From the AMA- ***EMERGENCY SAFETY ALERT***

Start thinking about the Air Show. Planning starts at the next meeting. Need list of last years registrants.

STARS Hats: Bob Rowe

Bob is taking orders for new club hats. The price is \$ 15.00

Long Range Projects:

- **Flight stand project completed.**
If you haven't been to the field lately, the new tables are available for use. Thanks to Al Rahalski for making the tail holds. Top notch quality and will last for many years to come.
- **Look at upgrading electrical service in building.** Looking to increase to 200amp service. There are new requirements requiring electrical service and the available circuits have been maxed out.

Your suggestions are needed. Please bring them with you to the next meeting, or e-mail them to any of the STARS Officers

SPECIAL: Chuck LeVine

Carl is retiring from the field committee. Suggested groups to cover the field duties. Make this a multi-person effort so the club is not completely dependant on one person to cover all of the duties. We need to put a plan together that can be implemented next year.

New Business:

Invitation:

We received an invitation from Dave Welsh of the Cortland County Aviators (CCA) to provide an R/C flight demonstration on July 16, 2011 (rain date is 07/17).

Thanks to Art Hughes and Dennis Gerber for representing the STARS at the event.

New Members:

No new members.

Adjournment:

The July regular monthly meeting of the STARS was adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Secretary, Jeff Wolsley

Lithium Battery Fires

Lithium batteries are becoming very popular for powering the control and power systems in our models. This is true because of their very high energy density (amp-hrs/wt. ratio) compared to NiCds or other batteries. With high energy comes increased risk in their use. The principal risk is FIRE which can result from improper charging, crash damage, or shorting the batteries. All vendors of these batteries warn their customers of this danger and recommend extreme caution in their use. In spite of this, many fires have occurred as a result of the use of Lithium Polymer batteries resulting in loss of models, automobiles, and other property. Homes and garages and workshops have also burned. A lithium battery fire is very hot (several thousand degrees) and is an excellent initiator for ancillary (resulting) fires. Fire occurs due to contact between Lithium and oxygen in the air. It does not need any other source of ignition, or fuel to start, and burns almost explosively. These batteries must be used in a manner that precludes ancillary fire. The following is recommended:

1. *Store, and charge, in a fireproof container; never in your model.*
2. *Charge in a protected area devoid of combustibles. Always stand watch over the charging process. Never leave the charging process unattended.*
3. *In the event of damage from crashes, etc, carefully remove to a safe place for at least a half hour to observe. Physically damaged cells could erupt into flame and after sufficient time to ensure safety, should be discarded in accordance with the instructions which came with the batteries. Never attempt to charge a cell with physical damage, regardless of how slight.*
4. *Always use chargers designed for the specific purpose, preferably having a fixed setting for your particular pack. Many fires occur in using selectable/adjustable chargers improperly set. Never attempt to charge Lithium cells with a*
5. *charger which is not specifically designed for charging Lithium cells. Never use chargers designed for Nickel Cadmium batteries.*
6. *Use charging systems that monitor and control the charge state of each cell in the pack. Unbalanced cells can lead to disaster if it permits overcharge of a single cell in the pack. If the batteries show any sign of swelling, discontinue charging and remove them to a safe place outside as they could erupt into flames.*
7. *Most important: NEVER PLUG IN A BATTERY AND LEAVE IT TO CHARGE UNATTENDED OVERNIGHT. Serious fires have resulted from this practice.*
8. *Do not attempt to make your own battery packs from individual cells.*

These batteries CANNOT be handled and charged casually such as has been the practice for years with other types of batteries. The consequence of this practice can be very serious resulting in major property damage and/or personal harm.

Safety Committee
Academy of Model Aeronautics
5161 E Memorial Drive
Muncie, IN 47302

Hi Art;

The Poly-4 is not a balancing charger and there was no balancer attached. We got lucky this time as there was someone in the building to call the alarm. Here are the pictures from last night:



On 6/22/2011 10:38 AM, Art Hughes wrote:

Glad to hear the fire didn't cause any serious damage or injury. Quick question about the equipment being used.... is the Poly-4 charger a balancing charger? If not, was an external balancer being used during charging?

On Wed, Jun 22, 2011 at 7:44 AM, Chuck LeVine

<clevine5@twcny.rr.com> wrote:

As some of you know we had a Li-Po fire at the field in the clubhouse last evening. The details are that the battery had been used and recharged during the day. The three cell battery pack was being charged using a Poly-4 Li-Po charger when it burst into flames. Fortunately the battery was being charged in a Li-Po bag and the bag contained the fire. When the fire was discovered we opened a window close to the fire and threw the battery and Li-Po bag out on the grass. The battery was burned completely, the charger was ruined and there is some damage to a table. The good news is that the Li-Po sack contained the fire so the damage was minimal.

The Club officers have been recommending charging in Li-Po bags for quite a while now. Last fall we even purchased some Li-Po charge bags that are available at the club field for charging. **With this in mind I will recommend that charge bags be mandatory for all Li-Po charging effective immediately!** If you are using Li-Po batteries and do not have a Li-Po bag, get one immediately.

Safety is everyone's concern!
Peter Seiffert, Safety Officer

Calendar of July-September Events: *Editor's Note- Also watch your e-mail for sudden changes to events like cancellations or re-scheduling due to weather.*

July 16-17 Southern Tier Rally and Air Show,
Cattaraugus Cty Olean Airport

July 23, Phelps Air show, Phelps, NY

July 30, Batavia RC Club Fun Fly

July 30, Mountain R/C Modelers Old Forge
Fly In and Fun Fly

August 12-14 Empire State Free Flight
Championship- Geneseo, NY

August 19-21 IMAA DII Mini Fest Johnstown, NY

August 20-21 Pattern in Paradise Westmoreland,
NY

August 20-21, Great Electric Fun Fly Brockport, NY

<http://www.rccr1957.com>

September 4, STARS 32nd Air Show

September 16-18 NEAT Fair

Indoor helicopter flying at Walt's- Has closed for the 2011 season.

For any additional information contact Walt's Hobby
453-2291

Flight Schools- 2011 STARS Flight Schools are under way-

Fixed Wing Flight School runs Thursday nights starting at 5:00

Heli Flight School runs Tuesday nights starting at 5:00

MOST Volunteer Schedule- Please contact Peter Seiffert to volunteer. The MoST is on vacation until the fall.

Please visit the AMA District III website or the Event Section in the back of Model Aviation for additional information on these and other events.

Indoor flying at the Oswego YMCA Armory- Indoor flying has closed for the season.

Advertisements:

Items FOR SALE:

From Peter Seiffert:

I am selling my Hanger 9 ShowTime 50 ARF. I bought this used a few years ago but find I will never get around to flying it and need to reduce my fleet. The price includes all servos, Futaba S3003 on elevator rudder and throttle, JR-DS537 on ailerons and with instruction book. The model is rated for 2 stroke .40-.52 and 4 stroke .56-.82. This is still a current model with Hanger 9 so all parts are available. The aircraft has a very long tail moment so it should be a real nice flier. The condition is very good but has a scratch on the cowl. The sell price is \$150.00.

I also have an OS .60FX ball bearing engine in excellent condition mounted in the ShowTime with muffler, muffler extension, 15X4 APC prop and TruTurn spinner, \$250 takes everything.

Peter Seiffert 635-6370

FOR SALE: *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@ix.netcom.com. Please put STARS ADVERTISEMENT in the subject line.*

how to build a rc jet B-1 Bomber # 173 pt 1

hornitpilot 404 videos  [Edit Subscription](#)



A REALLY COOL WEBSITE- *Thanks to Rick Colvin for pointing this out at the June 2009 meeting-* For those of you who ever wanted to learn how to make a fiberglass plug and molds, this is the guy to check out. Even if the plane in the project doesn't interest you, the education from the process may. If the YouTube hyperlink doesn't work, copy the following URL into your browser line and click go. It's up over 1200 videos now. Bob is currently building 5 kits for the successfully flown and now proven F-105 on commission to help fund the B-1 project.. How To Build A B-1 Bomber 10 Minutes At a Time
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqTKJU6PlkA&feature=channel_page
This is the link to the web site- <http://www.b1modelproject.com/>

Tom Catalino pointed out this site recently. An excellent site for Lipo battery info-
<http://sites.google.com/site/tjnguytech/charging-how-tos/balance-connectors>

Peter Seiffert sent along the following web site- www.servodatabase.com/servos/all

Mike Graham has a torque conversion chart-



Servo Torque
Conversion Chart.pdf

The Link for the AMA is:

<http://www.modelaircraft.org/>

The link for the AMA DII Calendar is:

http://www.amadistrictii.org/amajoom/index.php?option=com_events&Itemid=56&task=view_month&month=6&year=2011

The link for the club yahoo users group is:

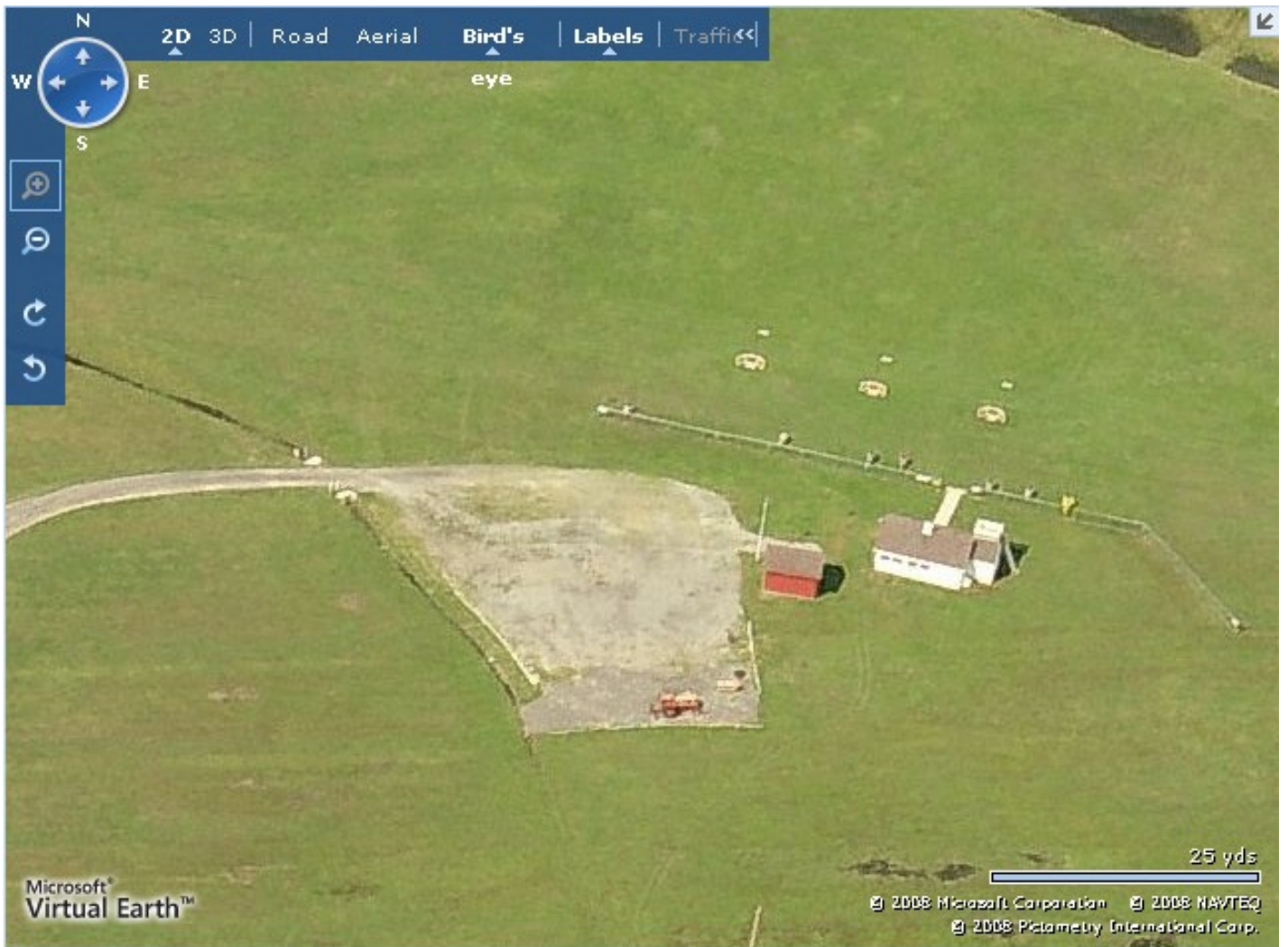
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stars_club_members/ (Don't forget to sign in)

The link for the STARS club home page at DII is

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

The Propwash News Letter is also available at YAHOO GROUPS. The current news letter and previous years/months are viewable and printable from there.

Please contact Mike Graham tanjmg82@aol.com to join the STARS Yahoo group. Send Mike an email asking to join from your preferred email account. Mike will then reply with an invite to join the group. The invitation contains the links and instructions necessary to join.



STARS Field Satellite photo



AMA Sanctioned

S.T.A.R.S.



32th Annual

MODEL AIR SHOW

Flying Radio Controlled Model Aircraft

at the

STARS Field in Phoenix, NY (See map on back)



Pilots - All types of aircraft are invited!! If you bring it, fly it!!

**Food & Fun for the Entire Family
50/50 Raffle & Swap Shop, too!**

Sunday, September 4, 2011

10 AM to 4:30 PM

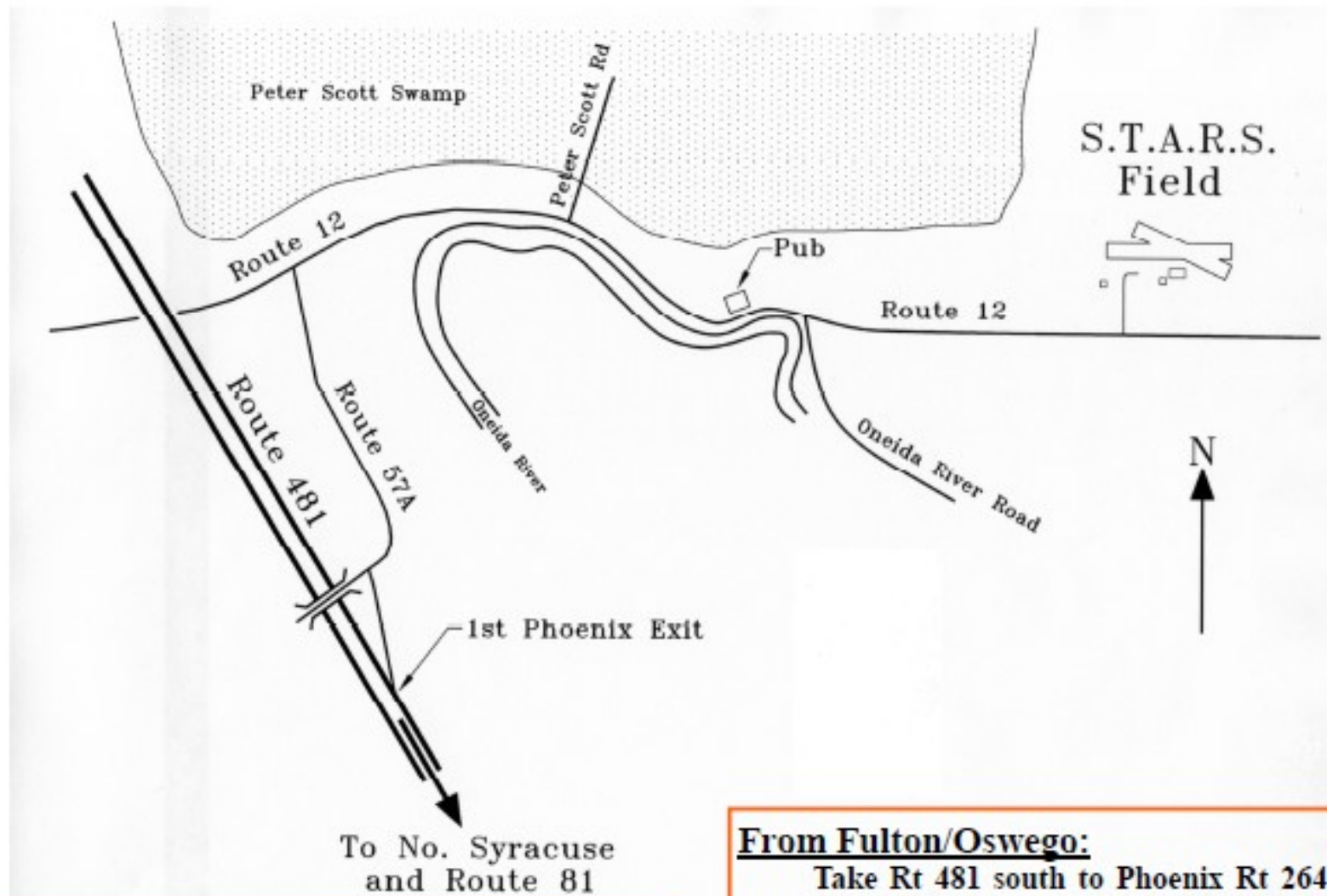
Donation of \$3.00 per car



A complete, ready-to-fly, trainer aircraft with radio gear and engine will be raffled at the Air Show!!



For more information, contact Bob Rowe at 474-8428 or visit us at our website: www.amadistrictiistars.org



From Syracuse:

Take Rt 481 north to first Phoenix exit, turn right off exit onto Rt 57A. At the end of Rt 57A, turn right onto Co Rt 12. Follow Co Rt 12 for three miles east to field.

From Fulton/Oswego:

Take Rt 481 south to Phoenix Rt 264 exit, turn right onto Rt 264 south. Continue south on Rt 264 1.5 miles to Rt 57 intersection. Turn left onto Rt 57 and continue to next light on Lock Street. Turn left at stop sign. Lock Street turns into Co Rt 12. Follow Co Rt 12 for 3 miles east to field.

THE GREAT ELECTRIC FUN FLY



**Saturday & Sunday
August 20th & 21st 2011
Site: Northampton Park
Field, Brockport NY.**

**10:00AM - 5:00PM Sat
10:00AM - 3:00PM Sun**

Matt Kirsch CD, PH:585-317-3752



THE 9TH ANNUAL NORTHEAST MODEL HELICOPTER JAMBOREE

SEPTEMBER 2, 3, 4

LABOR DAY WEEKEND 10AM TO 5PM

Brought to you by the

ROCHESTER
RC MODELING
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GREAT PLANS

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Free Admission!
Free Parking!
Full Concessions!
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RC Heli Flight training!

Featuring
The world-class
flying of
Nick Maxwell

Also appearing
Bobby Watts
Bert Kammerer
Kyle Stacy

RAMS Model Flying Field
2529 Macedon Center Rd
Macedon, NY 14502
(2mi East of Rte. 350 and 31F)

Don't miss our
Night Flying
Fireworks
Show!
Saturday, 9:30pm

AMA Sanction #: 11-0711
\$20 landing fee includes event shirt & Saturday dinner!

S.T.A.R.S.

Flight Training Program

2011



When?

Every Thursday evening from 5:30 PM to Sunset
May 12, 2011 through September 08, 2011

Where?

At the S.T.A.R.S. field in Phoenix, New York

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 a nationally recognized model aircraft association in order to fly.

PreFlight Workshop

Held at Walt's Hobby
Thursday April 28, 2011 at 7 PM

Interested?

Contact:

SENIOR FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR: Bob Rowe (474-8428)



Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society
Phoenix, NY

2011 Helicopter Flight School

*All skill levels welcome but must be a current AMA
Member and provide your own outdoor Helicopter*

**Tuesday evenings – April 19 to October 11
5:00 pm until dusk**



Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society



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

Membership Application Form

Date: _____

Membership: Open (\$220.00 share+dues) Extra Family member (\$30.00)
 Associate (\$75.00) Youth (< AMA age 19 - \$5.00)
 Park Pilot - Associate (\$75.00) Park Pilot - Youth (< AMA age 19 - \$5.00)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

AMA: _____ DOB: _____

RC Channels Used: _____

STARS Member(s) Contacted: _____

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

Other Club Affiliations: _____

Desired Name on Nametag: _____

Email Address (for newsletter and notices): _____

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 04/10/09

STARS Field Safety 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.

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. Impound: All pilots, students, and flying guests must place their transmitter(s) in the impound area immediately upon arriving at the field.

D. Vehicles: Vehicles will not be permitted on the flying field.

E. 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.

F. Trash: All members will take home their own trash.

G. Alcoholic Beverages: Members will not consume alcoholic beverages prior to, nor during, participation in any modeling operations.

H. Smoking: Smoking will not be permitted in the pit area or on the flight line.

I. Mowing: Flying on the field will not be permitted if the field is being mowed or maintained.

J. PPMP: 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 80 mph. They must be electric or rubber powered, or of any similar quiet means of propulsion.

2. Transmitters:

A. Frequency Control (**For non 2.4 GHz transmitters only**): All members, students, and guests must make use of the field frequency control system. Each pilot will obtain the correct frequency flag (or pin) from the impound board and attach it to his/her transmitter before attempting to fly.

B. Range Checks: Each pilot will conduct a successful radio equipment ground range check 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 cilencer (except for small displacements of .88 cubic inches or less).

B. When running an engine in the pits, keep neighboring personnel behind the prop arc.

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, 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.

Plane Propwash

Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society
Monthly News Letter
July 2011