

Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society



Plane ProPwash

August 2024

Charter 473

The next STARS meeting is Wednesday September 11th, 7:00 at the STARS field. This is the last meeting at the field for 2024

2024 Officers

[Mike Mueller, President](#)
[Phil Morgan, Vice President](#)
[Paul Volcko, Treasurer](#)
[Jeff Wolsley, Secretary](#)
[Jeff LaPorte, Safety Officer](#)

Directors:
Michael Graham
Paul Volcko 2019-2023
Jeff LaPorte

Volunteer Staff:
[Jeff Wolsley, Propwash Editor](#)
[Michael Graham, Club Historian](#)
[Paul Volcko, Webmaster](#)
[Jim Johnson, Field Committee](#)
[Mike O'Neill, Facebook Admin](#)

The STARS August 2024 meeting will be at the STARS field, on September 11th, at 7:00. Unless otherwise notified, the STARS regular monthly meetings are at the STARS field May through September 2024. The monthly meetings will be held via ZOOM October through April.

Many Thanks and Bylaw Changes

Our 45th Annual Airshow and Picnic is in the books. We missed the Saturday August 31st date because of the weather, but Sunday September 1st was beautiful. It was a bit windy, but the attendance was very good, considering. We "officially" tallied around 125 people or so.... Our official counting process was very "scientific". We asked folks how many people they thought were here, averaged the numbers out, and came up with 125...or so.....

Thank you to all the field crew for all you did during the week. The field was in excellent shape, including those who did a GREAT job cleaning the runway, which was a mess because of the geese. THANK YOU!!!!

The set up crew did an excellent job of creating such a wonderful festive atmosphere for us to enjoy, and it only took a little while to tear everything down, as there were many folks assisting us in tearing things down.

We had great announcer with Phil Morgan, and our control line exhibit with a world renown control line pilot was a great example of flying skills. Thanks to all the pilots who flew and those that came out to enjoy the friends, food, and fellowship. THANK YOU TO ALL INVOLVED!!!!

We have a new OPEN member, Ron Forrester, who came to us from New Jersey, and came to our show. He was so impressed with the quality of the field, and the warm reception from our members, he signed up at the show as an OPEN member.

We have a great club, great facilities, and wonderful members and their families. I am grateful to be part of it, and humbled to be leading at this time.

Just another reminder that we need more open members to be able to participate not only in the important financial decisions of our club, but we always need additional folks to serve in our leadership team. While we have the best facilities in the area, it takes a significant amount of resources to cover our expenses. Financially we are doing well this year, and the more open members we have, the more members who are able to assist in those important decisions regarding the future of our club. So please consider upgrading your membership from associate to open.

We vote on the new by-laws at our meeting on our monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 11th. The final proposed changes should now be in the hands of every open member, and we will have our final vote at the meeting. Paul Volcko has worked with many of our members in getting what we believe is the best proposal for our club. The officers and Board of Directors all believe these changes are very important to our club, and ask all our open members to vote yes.

The end of the month we have the Liverpool High School students visiting us on September 26th. We are going to attempt to have Air One at the event, and we will need help from our members. As soon as we have further information, we'll let everyone know.

Next month we have our Ringmaster Fly-a-thon on October 5th. We probably won't need much help, but it is always great to have the support of our members when we have an event at the field. Further information will follow for this also.

Thanks again to all for their support of S.T.A.R.S. We have great facilities, great members and families, and are

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looking forward to “what could be, unburdened by what has been” (quote from a very famously intelligent and beautiful person....The 1st person who can guess who this quote is from, I’ll buy an ice cream for you) .

Fly safe!!!

Mike. president@cnystars.com, (804) 873-8928
mmuellerva@yahoo.com

Secretary’s Report: Jeff Wolsley

Note: There is a new section in the Propwash labeled Important Links for STARS Members. This section contains links that every STARS member should be aware of.

The August STARS meeting was held at the STARS field. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by President Mike Mueller. There were 14 Open members, 3 Associate member, 0 Family members, 0 Youth members, and 0 Guests in attendance.

Secretary’s Report:

The Secretary’s report from the July Propwash was accepted as published. Motion to accept by Mike Graham and 2nd by Mike Amie. Carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Paul Volcko

Paul reported the credit card bill is currently open. Looking at membership upgrades- Associate to Open. The revenue from HeliJam is in. It was a money maker this year.

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

Correspondence:

No correspondence reported.

Committee Reports:

Safety Report: Jeff LaPorte

No Jeff this month.

AMA Report: Phil Morgan

Phil was here but didn’t have any updates from the AMA to report.

See the AMA safety handbook here-
[100.pdf \(modelaircraft.org\)](http://100.pdf(modelaircraft.org))

Field Committee: Jim Johnson

Jim reported the field is wet.

Jim said he was approached to put a center line down the runway. He brought it up to the membership. It would be a dashed line. There was discussion as to how the strip would be created. Different ideas were put forth. Finally it was decided to put a temporary line down to try it out. Jim will get cost of

materials and present. It was suggested to “X” one end to avoid confusing full-size aircraft.

The field equipment is holding up well.

Despite Jim’s note that the field is wet, it continues to look fantastic!

There was some vandalism at the field that occurred the previous Sunday morning around 0630-0800. A transient looking individual was seen on the field cams looking through the windows and attempting entry into the clubhouse. The individual settled on spraying some graffiti inside the port a potty. The port a potty will be replaced.

Old Business:

STARS Website:

Paul reported in previous meetings that he will be updating/revamping the website. He’s looking at a new main page and camera page. The other pages will come over.

STARS Facebook: Mike O’Neill

Nothing to report.

Real Estate Committee:

No report given.

Flight schools:

Fixed Wing and Heli-

Flight school is not just for beginners either. If you have ever been interested in picking up some advanced maneuvers such as 3D, the instructors can help you with that. Okay flying west to east, but not east to west? Maybe you have trouble with landing on the runway, or avoiding the runway? The instructors can help with that too.

Fixed Wing- 2 youth students are progressing well. As reported in the previous Propwash, the Eamer’s have moved south to Florida.

Heli- No report

Jet Night- Bob Rowe reported there were lots of flyers at the last event. the event was fun.

Big Bird- Mike Amie and Mike Mueller

Control Line- Mike O’Neill

By-Law Amendment:

The proposed By-Lay amendment was circulated to the club membership through the club mailer system. This was sent on August 8th.

There was a request to clarify some of the pronouns in the proposed changes and to replace them to specifically say “STARS” instead of implying this.

There was discussion regarding contact with outside entities having an interest in using the STARS facilities. Mike Mueller said there was nothing formal discussed. It was casual contact only.

The emphasis was the proposed changes are nothing more than providing a structure that would allow the club to make a more informed decision. There was a question asking when the changes would go into effect following the vote. The membership has the opportunity to say YES, or NO. Following the vote, if YES, the changes go into effect immediately.

The voting must be 2/3 in favor of the changes to pass. Any less than a 2/3 majority and the vote fails.

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Jim Johnson withdrew his proposal to increase the number of directors on the board. He previously suggested increasing the number from the current three to five.

There was a motion made by Paul Volcko:

Subject to revisions made between Paul and Gary Brown, to proposed changes will be published 7 days prior to the next STARS meeting. The motion was 2nd by Mike Mueller. There will be a vote at the next meeting.

Public Relations:

The intent is to increase membership and increase revenue through increased awareness. Different venues- Zoey Advertising, John Murphy, the estate planning guy, gets about a 15-minute radio spot that can advertise our events. TV- WSYR Your Stories segment, On your side, Bridge Street- community interest segments on the afternoon news. Part of the Gold Leader club is to engage in public outreach.

Events Planning:

Event Promotions

The events are being promoted on Channel 9, Spectrum, and through Oswego County

Air Show

The STARS annual show is in 2 weeks. There is a signup list for open positions being circulated during the meeting. Setup will be Friday afternoon. There will be a pilot dinner after. Dishes to pass were requested to anyone attending the dinner.

No Air One demo at the event.

Events discussed are tape combat- this is a vcr tape that is towed around with competing planes trying cut it. The control line event at the circle and on the main field for a demo.

Ring Master Fly-A-Thon

The Fly-A-Thin is on for October 5th.

Ring Master Fly-A-Thon

The Liverpool High School fun fly will be in September. Paul is working on that with the school administration.

ARCS Fun Fly

The ARCS Fun fly is postponed until the following weekend.

Field Improvements- Long Term Planning:

Future Funding- Look at ways of creating revenue streams to help fund the club. Grow our existing revenue generators. As reported in the Treasures report, volunteers for the Finance Committee so far are Mike Mueller, Jim Johnson, Karl Price, and Mike O'Neill. The committee is currently brainstorming and planning on another meeting.

In a previous meeting, Mike O'Neill mentioned the new Micron Plant starting up in Clay. There will be a flood of tech people and

population growth in our area. We should be thinking of ways to promote our club.

CONTINUE FIELD SMOOTHING-

Continue to improve the field. Fill the low spots and grade off areas that attract standing water.

AED MACHINE UPGRADE/STORAGE-

Phil Morgan requested a heated storage box for the AED so it can be kept at the field year-round. Nothing too elaborate. A 6" x 14" x 14" box with a 100watt lightbulb should be sufficient.

Repair clubhouse siding- There are several areas near the ground that need attention.

Flight line table replacement- There are four new tables ready to go in the red shed..

Internet Access- Paul has experimented with a hot spot since the last meeting. If using Wi-Fi, it is noticeable slower than Spectrum. The camera updates are running slower.. Paul will keep an eye on this. Paul will donate the service up to 2025. We will look to discontinue Spectrum. The cost of the hot spot is approximately 10.00/ month which is a significant savings over Spectrum.

The motion was restated in the June meeting to discontinue Spectrum in favor of the hot spot internet connection. Motion carried

Food Pricing- Mike reviewed the new food pricing at the opening of the June meeting. The new pricing has been in effect and there were no objections or dissent when asked.

Taxi way- Jim Johnson seems to have perfected the taxi ways.

Port -a-potty- Keeping current vendor. The unit is at the field.

New Business:

New Members:

No new members at the meeting

Club Hat Order:

There are just ten (10) Club hats left. They are 20.00 each. Put your money in the soda bank in the fridge before you take a hat. The white hats are already gone. See Paul V. about custom embroidery on the hat. The embroidery starts at \$8.00.

Adjournment:

The August 2024 regular monthly meeting of the STARS was adjourned at 7:51.

Secretary, Jeff Wolsley

Proposed Bylaw Changes

The final version of the proposed By-Law changes was sent to the membership on September 4th.

Rationale In Oct 2023, a number of issues and objections were raised following the consideration and vote to approve a proposal by a commercial drone services company wanting to host two trial sessions with us, to see if it was feasible to eventually negotiate longer term rented use for hosting Part 107 commercial operator training/testing activities. Several of those questions were considered and answered in that meeting and in follow-up communication. The request was eventually withdrawn and so the prior vote to approve the trial activities became void. However, issues in our process for evaluating that proposal remained unresolved. Two of those issues were:

- 1) There was a lack of notice, lack of time for consideration, and a lack of proxy voting by the membership on the proposal.
- 2) We're a recreational flying club. Does the membership overall even approve of this kind of use in general? Do our rules allow for it?

This amendment is intended to address both concerns. First, it gives the opportunity to the membership to vote if it wants to allow consideration of special events (beyond our normal AMA events) and contracted use of facilities, including those that may involve non-AMA, non-Club members flying on our property. And second, it sets out procedures for consideration and votes on such proposals, to protect the membership from accidental or intentional fast-tracking.

The current constitution and by-laws are at: <https://www.cnystars.com/documents/STARS-Constitution-and-Bylaws.pdf>

The Amendment

Existing By-Laws Articles 14-16 will be moved downward one spot to 15-17, with appropriate reference edits made as needed (I have not found any so far).

By-Laws

ARTICLE 14- Special Events and Contracted Use of STARS Property and Facilities

SECTION I.

Nothing in this article shall modify how the club membership considers and approves our traditional, AMA membership-required recreational flying events.

SECTION II.

The Club membership may consider and approve special events or contracted uses of Club property and facilities (herein referred to as "Special Uses"), including Special Uses during which participants are allowed to fly on Club property without AMA or Club membership, as long as the Special Use is in accordance with AMA club charter requirements, AMA guidance, and STARS Club safety rules. All member categories may present a Special Use and participate in debate on a proposal. However, only Open members may motion to approve and vote on Special Uses.

SECTION III.

Special Uses must be considered and voted upon through a three-step process: presentation, motion to approve, and vote to approve. Each of these steps must happen at a separate meeting. The presentation of the Special Use proposal may take place at a regular or special membership meeting. No motion for approval or vote for approval of the Special Use may take place at this meeting. A motion to approve the Special Use may only be advanced and seconded by two Open members at a subsequent regular meeting. Notice to the membership of the proposed Special Use shall be sent to the membership at least 7 days in advance of the regular meeting either via club newsletter, separate email, or letter. During this meeting,

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prior to a motion to approve being made, the opportunity to debate the Special Use shall be afforded. No vote to approve the Special Use may take place at this meeting. The vote to approve the Special Use may happen at a subsequent regular meeting. Notice to membership of the scheduled vote shall be provided 7 days in advance of the regular meeting at which the vote is scheduled via club newsletter, separate email, or letter. This notice shall contain known details of the proposed Special Use and any written commentary provided by members for distribution to the membership.

SECTION IV.

For the Special Use motion to be approved, the vote of the Open membership, those either present or by proxy, must pass by a 60% majority of the recorded total of yea and nay votes. Abstentions are not counted.

SECTION V.

Before any legally binding agreement(s) for the Special Use can be entered into by the President, the Board of Directors shall review and vote to approve it being signed by a two-thirds majority, at a regular or special meeting of the Board.

SECTION VI.

All legally binding agreements relating to such Special Use can only be signed or entered into by the President, on behalf of the Club.

SECTION VII.

Prior approval of a Special Use may be revoked by vote of the open membership by following the same process as described in Sections III and IV above. The President shall use his best judgment in postponing action on executing a prior approval while a revocation proposal is being evaluated and voted upon by the membership.

SECTION VIII.

The President shall execute and manage and the Board shall review and advise on Special Uses that have been approved by the membership in good faith. However, notwithstanding a prior vote to approve a Special Use, during their duties the President and Board of Directors may find cause to revoke a Special Use related agreement.

The Board and President are expected to continuously evaluate Special Uses and are authorized and expected to act as necessary on behalf of the membership to protect the Club's critical interests.

To that end, if there is a cause against critical club interests, and all reasonable, good faith efforts to remedy the cause have been exhausted, and if the process for membership revocation in section VII above will take too long to address the problem, the Board of Directors may, by a two-thirds majority vote at either a regular or special meeting of the Board, vote to revoke a prior approval of a Special Use.

END

Paul Volcko wrote this in support of the proposed amendment changes-

After a long road of listening, discussion, writing, revisions, and debate the Special Uses amendment is submitted to the membership for vote and I'm asking you to vote in favor of it.

This amendment establishes a multi-meeting process to hear and consider Special Use proposals. Special Uses would, for instance, cover the National Grid land rental and easement agreement a couple of years ago, the Liverpool High School Drone Tech Field Trip we started a couple years back, or the Groundpoint

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type of proposal from October of last year. It slows things down and affords ample opportunity for debate and for all voices to be heard. It puts in place strong notification requirements, above and beyond even those required for by-laws amendments. It also sets a higher, super-majority vote threshold in order for a proposal to be approved, compared to the simple majority that's currently required. Additionally it spells out the process for membership revocation of a prior approval and the very strong preference for that option to be used instead of a last resort Board of Director option for revoking an agreement in the event some critical club interest is going to be compromised imminently.

- If you were upset with the one meeting process in Oct of last year with regard to the Groundpoint proposal and vote, you should vote in favor of this amendment. It makes it so that any future proposal of that sort must happen in a minimum three meeting process, with new notification and debate requirements.
- Maybe you were in favor of the Groundpoint proposal and had no problem with the process given the limited nature of the ask and vote. Consider a hypothetical future where the leadership of the club does want to push a use proposal through fast to avoid debate and scrutiny. You should vote in favor of this amendment to put in place protections against that being possible.
- If you are against the club striking agreements with commercial entities, or commercial drone flying companies in particular, then you too should vote in favor of this amendment. It makes it more difficult for such a proposal to be approved and guarantees you ample opportunity to make your voice heard in debate ahead of any vote.
- If the 60% vote threshold is your sticking point, please consider that this percentage was arrived at through several revisions and is a compromise between those who thought 66% was good and those who wanted a simple 50%+1 majority threshold. It's high enough to protect against marginal majority approvals, but low enough that it isn't an undue burden to be met by an otherwise clear majority in favor of a proposal. Vote yes, accept the compromise, and get all the other clear benefits of the amendment. If the percentage proves to be a bad compromise, it can be amended later.
- If you think this is all a bunch of unnecessary BS and you just want to fly, I totally get that too. However, the last special use proposal generated a lot of strife in the club and there's every reason to believe that at some point another opportunity will come to us and be presented (I know of no such proposals). Before that happens, adopting this amendment will go a long way to avoiding the high levels of strife that happened before. Your vote in favor of it is the best option for moving forward and continuing to rebuild some broken morale and camaraderie.
- Lastly, some members have provided feedback that some of these provisions would make sense in other areas of club policy, such as to enhance the by-laws amendment process or to institute new rules governing spending club funds. Amendments are best kept as tightly focused as possible, so the matter under consideration is as clean and clear as possible to the membership. Assuming you support this amendment as it is, vote in favor of it and then work to get the other changes you want into a separate amendment proposal. I believe this amendment addresses the process concerns over special use proposals that were brought up over the past year. I hope you agree it is worthy of your support and that you'll vote in favor of it at the September meeting. If you're an open member and can't attend the meeting, please arrange a proxy to cast your vote for you. In closing, I want to thank Chuck LeVine, Michael Graham, Bob Rowe, Herb Moore, Mike Mueller, and all others who provided feedback to me during the revision and debate process. In particular, I want to thank Gary Brown and Ken Kadish for their many reviews and considerable constructive feedback.

See you at the meeting, Paul Volcko

Calendar of Events

NOTICE: EVENT DATES MAY CHANGE OR CANCELLED OUTRIGHT.

Calendar of Events for September 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.

October 5- STARS Ringmaster Fly-a-thon

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

STARS Flight Schools- Flight schools are drawing to a close for the 2024 season.

Fixed wing- Fixed Wing Flight School started Thursday May 2 and ends on Sept. 12.

Heli/Multi Rotor- Meet Tuesday nights, April 30th to October 1st.

Indoor Flying –

The Indoor flying schedule will be winding up soon.

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 (Need confirmation for 2024-25 season).

The church has become more security conscience. All doors are locked except the main door. 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 2024-25 indoor season-

Underground R/C Destiny USA. Tuesday evenings/nights 315-715-4508

Manlius Pebble Hill- So far is listed as no flying this winter (as of 11/29/23).

Camillus Indoor Aviators (CIA) Indoor flying at First Baptist Church located at 1960 State Route 5 in Elbridge 11/18 thru ?, on Friday evenings. If enough interest is generated, flying possibly permitted on Saturdays as well.

CNY Indoor Flying Society No group contact available.

Walt's Hobbytown- NO INDOOR FLYING THIS SEASON

MexAir R/C NO INDOOR FLYING THIS SEASON



Classified Ads-

FOR SALE:



Store Hours:

Monday/Friday: 9:00am-9:00pm -- Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday: 9:00am-6:00pm -- Saturday: 10:00am-5:00pm -- Sunday: 11:00am-5:00pm

Phone Number:

(315) 453-2291

waltshobby.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.



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

This 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.

WANTED:

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

Important Links For STARS Members-

STARS Website:

The STARS website- cnystars.com

STARS Webcam:

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

STARS ZOOM Meetings:

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

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=c2ZiRWVkMkIrbGZ5WENDaE12SIB5Zz09>

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

Paul Volcko talked about setting up a business page. Events can be set up here and allow us to do some advertising.

Attention New Members:

Please take the TRUST test if you haven't already. This is a 100% pass test.

TRUST- The Recreational UAS Safety Test

The test can be found here-

<https://trust.pilotinstitute.com> or here-

<https://trust.modelaircraft.org/>

Note there are scam websites also, so use the above links.

Start by registering on the site. Your name is required and so is a password. These will be asked for/created before entering the site to take the test.

The test is a pass/pass. It is given in four parts. Each of the four sections begins with a lesson immediately followed by questions. The number of lessons and questions differ in each section. There are a couple of questions that are poorly worded so it's likely to get these wrong. Not to worry though, you get to correct it until you get it right! You will score 100% in each section, guaranteed.

Download and save your certificate. I had to download mine twice before it downloaded. DO NOT leave the download webpage until your certificate has been successfully downloaded and saved. You get to do the test again from scratch if you miss this step.

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

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Academy of Model Aeronautics:

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

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.

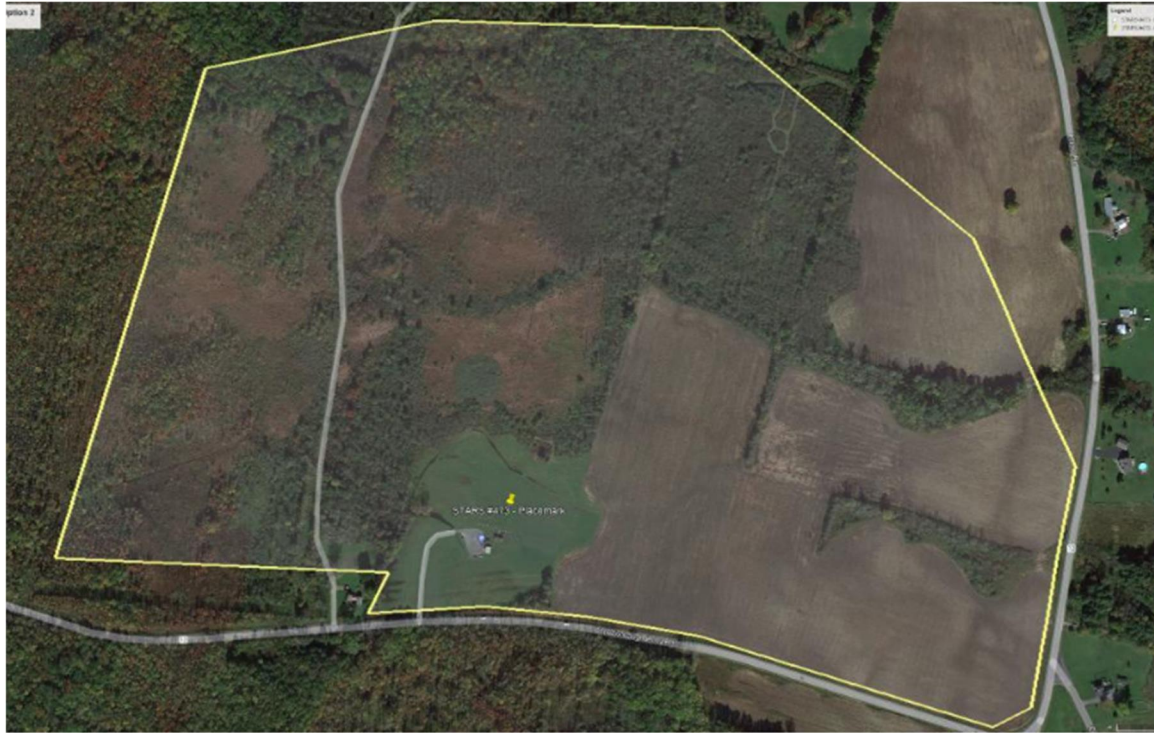
[B4UFLY](#)- Download this app to your cell phone. FAA uses this to alert pilots to possible stoppage in your flying area.

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



The latest satellite photo with the new runway! Just need the control line circle improvements. Thanks Gary Natali

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.

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.



Mike Graham's field report filed September 7, 2024-

All pictures courtesy of Mike Graham-

Here are a few pictures taken from the last few flying evenings at the STARS field. Here is Trevor DeMott receiving his wings at the last Thursday's flight session.

Congratulations, Trevor!!



Here's the pavilion just as the sun is setting:



Friday evening was overcast but had very light winds:



Bob Simms was successfully flying his wing off a launching cradle:



Here's that launching cradle picture I took at the air show:



Mike O'Neill was out and flew his rubber powered bird. Here he is winding the motor:



I have video of Mike's flights that I will forward separately in other email.

Thanks.

Michael

More on Mike O'Neill's rubber powered flight-

Here is my Dropbox link to Mike O'Neill's rubber powered airplane at the STARS Field:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/6hf89u8ow06cwo1bxj5d8/AKJKofNjeVPYGN801kxKNPM?rlkey=hxof4m5w03v6m81ca465swgar&st=lltg5dv2&dl=0>

Mike: I reduced the files to 1280x720. If you want them in the original 1920x1280 format, let me know.

Here are a few frames from those videos:



Almost landed on the Geotextile runway!!

Thanks.

Michael



Charter 473

S.T.A.R.S.

www.cnvstars.com

www.facebook.com/cnvstars



2024 *Big Bird Night*



STARS Events

When?

Every Wednesday evening from 5 PM to Sunset
May 01, 2024 through October 02, 2024



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



2024



Jet Night



STARS Events

When?

Every Monday evening from 5 PM to Sunset
April 29, 2024 through September 30, 2024



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

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.

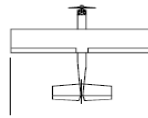
Ask someone to help and walk away from the model until signs of loss of control are apparent. If electric powered ensure that the range is not worse with the motor running.

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.

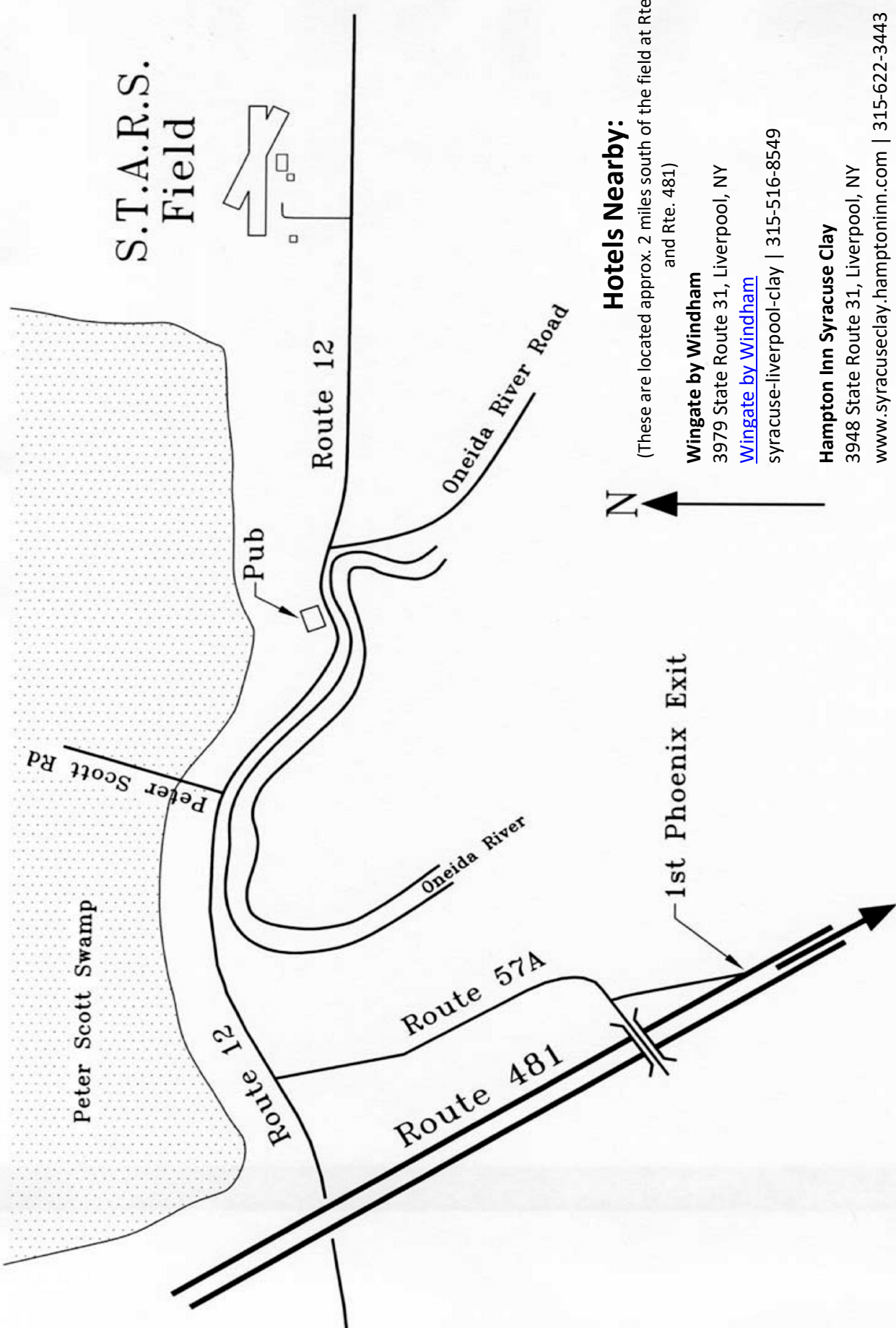
5. Replacement Courtesy:

- 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



S.T.A.R.S.
Field

Route 12

Oneida River Road

Pub

Peter Scott Rd

Peter Scott Swamp

Route 12

Oneida River

Route 57A

Route 481

1st Phoenix Exit

N

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

To No. Syracuse
and Route 81

N43.23696, W76.24550

starsmap.dwg
rev 12 Feb 03

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



Est. 1965

Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society

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



Charter 473

Membership Application Form

Date: _____

Membership:	<input type="checkbox"/> Open (\$160 share+\$60 dues)	<input type="checkbox"/> Extra Family member (\$30.00)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Associate (\$75.00)	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth (< AMA age 19 - \$0.00)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Park Pilot - Associate (\$75.00)	<input type="checkbox"/> 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