

## Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society



# Plane Propwash

September 2024

Charter 473

**The next STARS meeting is Wednesday October 9th, 7:00 on ZOOM.**

### 2024 Officers

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

Directors:  
Michael Graham  
Paul Volcko 2019-2023  
Open

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

**The STARS October 2024 meeting will be on ZOOM, on October 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00. The monthly meetings will be held via ZOOM October through April. The STARS regular monthly meetings are at the STARS field May through September 2024.**

### Seasons Change

On September 26<sup>th</sup>, we had the Liverpool High School students visit us. I won't get into all the people who were involved, but we had NuAir, Onondaga County Sheriff's Department, Lemoyne College as vendor/supporters, as well as many members who came to support 18 students who are enrolled in a 3 year program to learn about drones, and how they might be applicable to their lives. Each of them will graduate from the program with an FAA Part 107 certificate with the potential of employment throughout the Syracuse area.

For those of you that are not aware, the Syracuse, NY area is host to one of only three sites in the country that are hosting international drone companies for training and testing of their equipment. I believe STARS has an excellent opportunity to continue to be involved in community activities with the exceptional facilities we own. We hope that might lead to additional interest in our hobby, new members, and quite possibly additional revenue to our club.

The RingMaster Fly-A-Thon took place on October 5<sup>th</sup>. It was an exciting time with Mike O Neil and his compadres flying around in circles ..over and over and over again. Even Michael Graham took to the circular skies ..was quite an exit from the concrete circle though ..would have made a great You Tube video ..The weather was beautiful with 31 flights, using 11 Ringmaster planes, and 8 pilots. and I would bet they filled multiple sheets of flights to record for the event. Thanks to all for providing an excellent field for control line flying, with plenty of food and assistance from the club members to provide for an excellent day of flying. A story from the members: Bob Rowe maiden a brand new, jet (T33), and after about 40 seconds or so, went down way beyond the road to the west of the field. Bob

Simms had his wife come and deliver his drone to the club, and after charging, sent it out to find it. After a short while the plane was located about 200 yards beyond the road to the west.

The call went out to attempt to retrieve it, with Karl Price the first to attempt at retrieval, but was unsuccessful in his endeavor. After getting boots full of swamp water, and wet up to his waist, had to turn back. It is our understanding that after getting back to his truck, he had to strip down and drove home in his skivvies. In the meantime, I reached out to a couple of folks, and Phil Knapp was preparing to come out to the field to attempt retrieval. While that was happening, Jordan Dunn volunteered to go out, and with the help of Bob Simms drone, and Jordan's swamp maneuvering, actually retrieved the jet.

Everyone is willing to take the time and effort to help others. This is why we are growing our membership, and hopefully will continue to be a vibrant and relevant AMA club for many years to come. THANKS TO ALL!!!!

Looks like things are winding up for the year. All the special event nights are behind us, as are the planned events at the field. While the field was extremely wet this year, our field staff has done an incredible job maintaining our field, and even when we needed to wear boots to fly, it has been a fun year at the field. We are looking to cut down trees at the west side of the Geotech runway soon, and might even be able to get to the trees at the north side of the field at some point in the future.

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Thanks again for the support of S.T.A.R.S. We have great facilities, great members and families, and are thankful for a great flying season, although very wet this year, we all had great times together.

Fly safe!!!

Mike. [president@cnystars.com](mailto:president@cnystars.com), (804) 873-8928  
[mmuellerva@yahoo.com](mailto:mmuellerva@yahoo.com)

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## ***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 September STARS meeting was held at the STARS field. The meeting was called to order at 6:59 by President Mike Mueller. There were 19 Open members, 1 Associate member, 0 Family members, 0 Youth members, and 0 Guests in attendance.**

### **Secretary s Report:**

The Secretary s report from the August Propwash had an error regarding the vote majority required to pass the proposed By Law amendment. The Propwash stated that a 2/3 majority is required when it is a ¾ majority required. The motion to accept the amended Secretary s Report was made by Jim Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Polovick. Carried.

### **Treasurer s Report: Paul Volcko**

Paul reported the National Grid bill, credit card, school taxes, and porta-potty bills are all paid.

The Air Show was a good money maker despite that it was held a day later.

Paul presented some slides illustrating the club financials for the looking back at 2023 and comparing to 2024. The graphs show the financial outlook is good for the club.

Phil Morgan discussed the AED at the field and noted that it needed a new battery and pads. It was better to replace the AED than refurbish the old. The replacement device was 100.00.

It was noted that the donated soda courtesy of Gary Natali s family and Pepsi Co. helped our bottom line a lot this year. Even though Gary wasn t at the meeting, the club thanked Gary for the donation

Motion to accept by Jeff LaPorte and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Graham. Carried.

### **Correspondence:**

No correspondence reported.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Safety Report: Jeff LaPorte**

Nothing to report this month. Please perform range checks as part of your pre-flight check out. It could at least save your aircraft and better yet prevent an accident.

#### **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

Mowing goes on when possible. The field continues to look great. The committee was recognized for the fantastic condition for the Air Show.

### **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:**

Flight schools have wrapped for 2024 along with the special interest nights.

Fixed wing graduated a new pilot. Trevor DeMott received his wings having successfully completed the 2024 flight school. Congratulations Trevor! Thanks to Phil Morgan as Chief Flight Instructor for 2024. Gary Natali will be Chief Instructor for 2025.

#### **By-Law Amendment:**

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

There were comments regarding the proposal and request for clarification on what the exact vote was for. What constituted special use of the club. The farmer who rents our excess land was offered as an example of special use granted to an outside party.

The motion is- Accept changes to the By-Laws as submitted in Paul Volcko s last email to the STARS Group with the club mailer and promulgated it the Propwash.

The proxy votes were tallied first- 3- YES, 2- NO.  
The polling of the membership was 15- YES, 5- NO.

This resulted in 18 total YES and 7 total NO. The vote failed with only a 72% majority.

#### **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.

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## Events Planning:

### **Event Promotions**

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

### **Ring Master Fly-A-Thon**

The Fly-A-Thin is on for October 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Liverpool High School Field Trip**

The Liverpool High School fun fly will be September 26. 10:00- 1:00. Serving lunch. NuAir is donating 100.00. No confirmation on Air 1 yet. Some STARS members are needed to help control and marshaling the field.

The event will be task oriented. The students will be required to capture video, chase-capture, acquire different shots of the field and events in progress., all to document the event. 20 to 22 students are anticipated.

## 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, 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-** The hot-spot has been in successful service at the field for a few months now. Paul will keep an eye on this. Spectrum service has been discontinued. Paul will donate the service up to 2025. The cost of the hot spot is approximately 10.00/ month which is a significant savings over Spectrum.

**Food Pricing-** The new food pricing is in effect.

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

**Porta-potty-** Keeping current vendor. The unit is at the field for another month or so.

## New Business:

### Officer Elections for 2025:

The slate of officers so far is:

Mike Mueller- President

Jeff Wolsley- Secretary

Paul Volcko- Treasurer

Phil Lamkay- Safety

The Vice President position is open. Nominees will be accepted for any officer position at the October meeting. Voting will be at the November meeting. Any OPEN member is eligible to be nominated for an officer position. Contact any current officer to nominate yourself or someone else.

### New Members:

Randy Teater- Associate

Zachary Frank- Associate

Trevor DeMott- Youth

Ron Forrester- Open

Rick Wilson- Open, upgrade from Associate

### 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 September 2024 regular monthly meeting of the STARS was adjourned at 7:27.

***Secretary, Jeff Wolsley***

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## STARS Board of Directors Meetings

The STARS Board of Directors met on three (3) separate occasions since the September regular monthly meeting. The meetings were held to discuss STARS membership issues. The issues will be presented in a separate email sent only to the STARS membership.

### Attendees at the 09/15 meeting:

Jeff LaPorte Phil Morgan

Paul Volcko Mike Graham

Jeff Wolsley Mike Mueller

### Attendees at the 09/22 meeting:

Paul Volcko Phil Morgan

Mike Graham Jeff Wolsley

### Attendees at the 10/04 meeting:

Paul Volcko Mike Mueller

Mike Graham Phil Morgan

Jeff Wolsley

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## 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 closed for the 2024 season.**

**Fixed wing- Fixed Wing Flight School will be back in 2025. Chief Flight Instructor Gary Natali.**

**Heli/Multi Rotor- See you in 2025.**

## **Indoor Flying**

The Indoor flying schedule will be starting 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](http://waltshobby.com)



**Open 10-7 Tuesday thru Sunday.**

**315-532-6826**

[www.mexairrc.com](http://www.mexairrc.com)

[www.facebook.com/mexairrc](http://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](http://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](mailto:jwolsley@verizon.net). Please put STARS ADVERTISEMENT in the subject line.*

## Important Links For STARS Members-

### STARS Website:

The STARS website- [cnystars.com](http://cnystars.com)

### STARS Webcam:

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

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### **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=c2ZiRWVkMklrbGZ5WENDaE12SIB5Zz09>

To join from the STARS web page, go to [cnystars.com](http://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 324 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- **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 \(modelaircraft.org\)](http://modelaircraft.org)

The AMA Government relations blog- [AMA IN ACTION](#)

The complete AMA safety handbook is available here- <http://www.modelaircraft.org/files/100.pdf>

This is a link to some FAQ from the AMA regarding remote ID- [Remote-ID-FAQ-Feb2023.pdf \(modelaircraft.org\)](#)

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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](mailto: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.**





**Pictures from Mike Graham s field report 16 Sept, 2024.** *Photos courtesy of Michael Graham*







**Mike s field report from 17 and 18 Sept. 2024**











**Ringmaster Fly-athon 5 Oct. 2024**



**Mike O:**

**I have completed my editing of the pictures I took at the STARS 2024 Ringmaster Fly-A-Thon.**

**Go here for the pictures at**

**Dropbox: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/rbjgmu4biagdwfo02orqp/AHcYF-txnKpM0zkif94jZzk?rlkey=1nvv44d1cau7rwr33lgx7o01e&st=919xmsb7&dl=0>**

**Here are four videos that Paul took during the Fly-A-Thon:**

**[https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/j818rj5ifknm1pnouykam/STARS-20241005\\_1.mp4?rlkey=wll7336mo48xm4r9ubvhufg2s&st=bh7n2r7r&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/j818rj5ifknm1pnouykam/STARS-20241005_1.mp4?rlkey=wll7336mo48xm4r9ubvhufg2s&st=bh7n2r7r&dl=0)**

**[https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/9z2tin91xhrgqhs5owm2s/STARS-20241005\\_2.mp4?rlkey=sjzd0getki9qnf19ancrctag2&st=xw1w7hvn&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/9z2tin91xhrgqhs5owm2s/STARS-20241005_2.mp4?rlkey=sjzd0getki9qnf19ancrctag2&st=xw1w7hvn&dl=0)**

**[https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/n5zvkaigmdv4f4ovobwbr/STARS-20241005\\_3.mp4?rlkey=8c22rcwsaejihbo687tpj1y9w&st=oz6g17qq&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/n5zvkaigmdv4f4ovobwbr/STARS-20241005_3.mp4?rlkey=8c22rcwsaejihbo687tpj1y9w&st=oz6g17qq&dl=0)**

**[https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/hes3bfi7aa8twhwj42ws9/STARS-20241005\\_4.mp4?rlkey=4209vmrqfy27o0bfzjz0f50b&st=zce8d0kh&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/hes3bfi7aa8twhwj42ws9/STARS-20241005_4.mp4?rlkey=4209vmrqfy27o0bfzjz0f50b&st=zce8d0kh&dl=0)**

**Pass them on to anybody that be interested.**

**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 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.

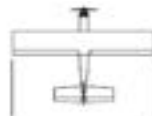
Ask someone to help and walk away from the model until signs of loss of control are apparent. If electric powered ensure that the range is not worse with the motor running.

## 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.

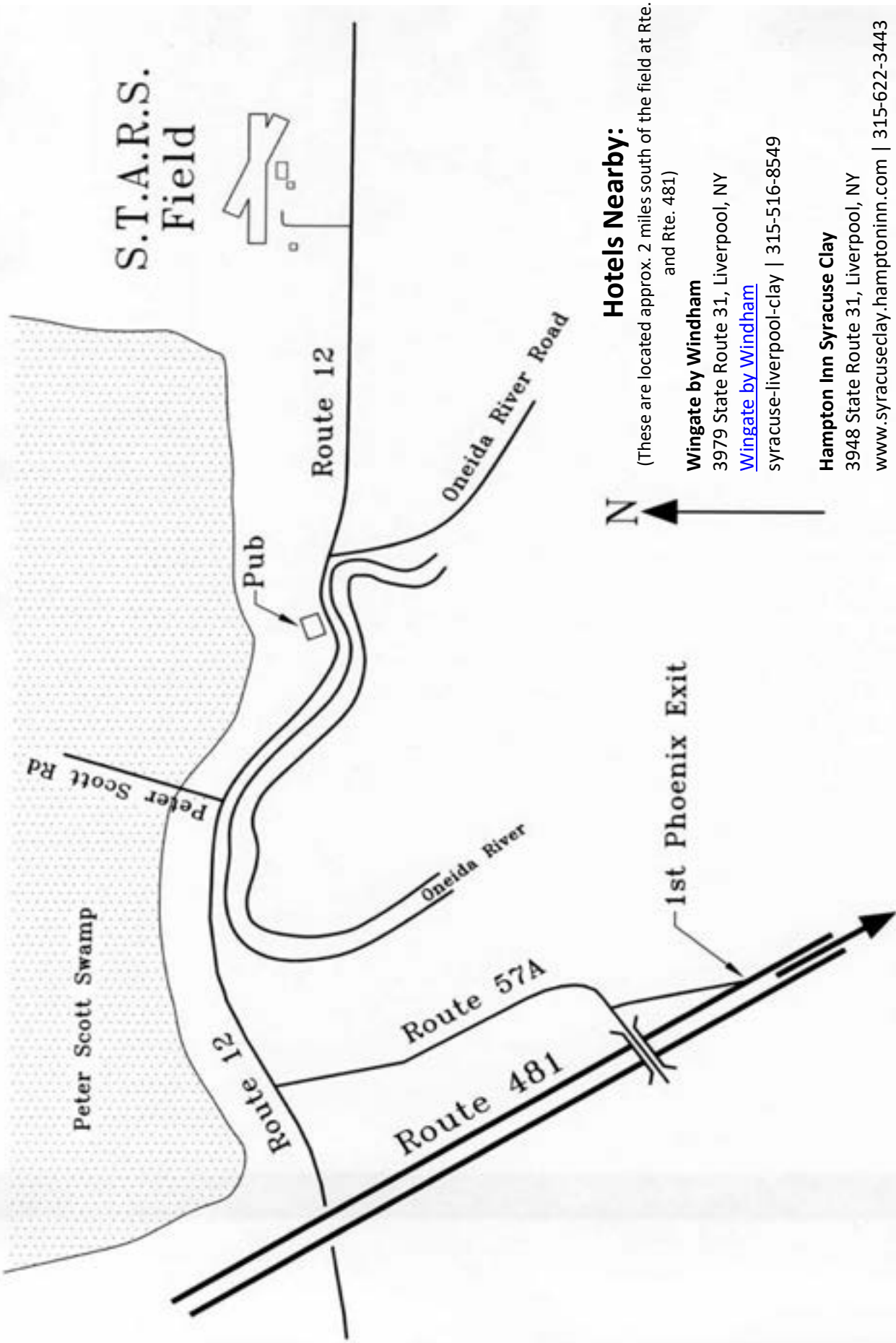
### 5. Replacement Courtesy:

- 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



## 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](http://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:       Open (\$160 share+\$60 dues)       Extra Family member (\$30.00)  
                          Associate (\$75.00)                               Youth (< AMA age 19 - \$0.00)  
                          Park Pilot - Associate (\$75.00)       Park Pilot - Youth (< AMA age 19 - \$0.00)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
                         \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (for roster): \_\_\_\_\_

AMA: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

STARS Member(s) Contacted: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email Address (for newsletter and notices): \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

You must be a current member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) in order to join the STARS. Please show your AMA card to the Officer given this application or include a photocopy of the application for the license.

*"I have read and agree to abide by the STARS Field Safety Rules." (on back)*

Submit this form to a Club Officer

Rev 16aug17