

# Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society



# Plane Propwash

October 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](#)  
[Phil Lamkay, Safety Officer](#)

Directors:  
Michael Graham  
Paul Volcko 2019-2023  
Open

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

**The STARS November 2024 meeting will be on ZOOM, on November 13<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.**

### Election Season

I might call this the election newsletter.....and other things.....

We are going to be voting on officers and a Board member at the meeting this week. We have put forth a slate of officers that are willing to serve next year. They are as follows:

**Mike Mueller**- President      **Tom Polovick**- Vice President  
**Jeff Wolsley** – Secretary      **Paul Volcko**- Treasurer  
**Phil Lamkay** – Safety officer      **Dan Williams**- Board of Directors

I want to thank Phil Morgan for all of the assistance he provided to me this year as vice president. I asked him specifically to help me maneuver around the club history, and the AMA, and was invaluable helping me. It is time that Phil got to enjoy the club without the responsibilities, and decided not to run again. Thanks so much Phil for all you have done for the club over the years!!

Tom Polovick has very graciously accepted my request to be vice president this year. I'm looking forward to working with him as we tackle another year as leaders of our club.

Jeff Wolsley has been secretary for MANY years, and has been willing to continue with that role. We ALL appreciate him putting together the Propwash each month, and taking minutes at our club meetings and at Board of Director's meetings.

Paul Volcko has been such a great help to me this year. I appreciate how he has assisted my transition as President. As treasurer, he has put some major controls on both income and expenses, and his leadership has led us to have an excellent balance in our accounts. We will end

the year in a very strong financial position.

Jeff LaPorte has decided that he wants to focus his efforts on flying in the coming year, and is stepping down in his leadership position with the club. We are thankful for his work as our safety officer. He has done an exceptionally good job in what is generally a thankless position. I am also very appreciative of the input from Jeff all year as a Board member. He brought a perspective that the officers needed, in my opinion. Thank you Jeff for all you have done this year.

Dan Williams has accepted a nomination to replace Jeff on our Board.

We will be voting on this slate of officers by acclamation, if there are no other candidates for any of these officers. Please take the time to be at our November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting so you can vote to affirm the slate of officers for this coming year.

Tree cutting: : This past weekend we had about 10 of our members come out to pull cut down trees from the west woods. We didn't have enough members come out to pull all the trees, so we currently have almost 20 more that need to be brought out of the woods. I'd like to cut a bunch more, but can't do it until we remove what we have. We expect to wait till spring to have another day to work.

Associate member dues: Setting dues for next year for Associate members is done at the November meeting. At the present time, we do not believe that we need to increase dues for any of our members. So we will keep dues for associate members at \$75 for the year. If we need to make any changes, we can do that in the future.

-- Continued--

2025 STARS dues are due. There is a \$10.00 late fee after the January meeting. Dues must be sent to the Treasurer.  
(Paul Volcko, 5237 Kasson, Syracuse, NY. 13215)

CHRISTMAS PARTY: We had a great time last year at our Christmas party. The food was great, and we all got to wind down, and spend some time before the new year together. The party is on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. 5 PM for drinks, and dinner at 6. There will be no gift exchange, but corsages for our ladies will be provided!! Please come out and enjoy our last fling together before the end of the year. Party form has been sent to all in emails. If you haven't received your invite, please let me know.

One more thing: The field crew has done an excellent job this year, both mowing and maintaining equipment. Next year, we would like to have more folks involved, so we don't burden the few who have been working. We will be

looking for a couple of leaders for next year. One to manage the maintenance of the equipment, and one to organize the mowing of the field. If you have the capabilities, and interest in helping with these issues, please let me know. I'll post more in the future about this.

Thanks again for your support of S.T.A.R.S. We have great facilities, great members and families, and are thankful for a great flying season.

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 the section in the Propwash labeled Important Links for STARS Members.** This section contains links that every STARS member should be aware of including the ZOOM meeting instructions and the link to the most recent Propwash and past issues of the club newsletter.

**The October STARS meeting was held online via ZOOM. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 by President Mike Mueller. There were 15 Open members, 1 Associate member, 0 Family members, 0 Youth members, and 3 Guests in attendance.**

### **Secretary's Report:**

The Secretary's report from the September Propwash was accepted as published. The motion to accept the Secretary's Report was made by Mike Graham, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Herb Moore. Carried.

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

All bills are current. Some 2025 dues have started to come in. Rick Wilson has upgraded his membership to OPEN. A former member has re-joined.

Motion to accept by Mike Graham and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Phil Lamkay. Carried.

### **Correspondence:**

Warren Wagner let us know that Rose had passed away. He thanked the STARS for their donation.

Mike Mueller has sent the letter to Jim Johnson revoking his STARS membership.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Safety Report: Phil Lamkay**

Phil has taken the Safety Officer spot for the balance of 2024. He will be on the officer slate for 2025.

#### **AMA Report: Phil Morgan**

Remote ID is still a requirement for those not flying is a designated FRIA.

Remote ID transmitters are available for around \$80.00 with less expensive ones becoming available all the time now.

Phil suggested using the app AirHub® Portal from Airspace Link Inc. It's available for download on your cell phone. The app site says it's FAA approved.

Phil also suggested the Ruko R111 FAA compliant remote ID module. [This is available from several sites including Amazon. Amazon has it for 34.99.] It says it has a 5hr battery life. A 600-meter (~ 6.5 football fields) range. It takes 40min. to charge on a type C USB cable. Will also help locate your aircraft if the signal is lost.

Phil commented on the effectiveness of the AED and how it can be improved by placing the patches on the front of the person, over the heart, and on the back of the person, over the heart. [This is referred to as Anteroposterior AED pad placement, this is the method recommended for small children but is very effective on anyone]

See the AMA safety handbook here-  
[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:**

The STARS website has been updated and is running.  
[cnystars.com](http://cnystars.com)

##### **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.

Mike made sure to thank the leaders and participants of each of the Flight Schools and the Special Interest nights.

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## 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.

## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Ringmaster Fly-a-thon:

Mike O'Neill provided a summary of the event- Best weather yet! There were 9 pilots, 8 got official flights recorded. 11 different Ringmasters flown. 31 official flights logged. The pilots flew until 4:00. Michael Graham also flew in the event and logged an official flight. [As of 10/17/24, the total tally for the world-wide event was 11164 flights logged and 607 pilots]

## Liverpool High School Open House Event:

Thanks to Paul V. and the team for putting this event on. The LHS drone program is 3 years long. At the end, the students receive their part 107 certificate.

## 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-**

For now, the AED is in Phil's car. He is making a heated box for it so it can last over the winter.

**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.

**Tree Removal-** There is strong desire to do something about the tree growth at the west end of the field. The club has met with Al Townsend. All has given his blessing to allow us to trim the trees. Set a date in November to start trimming.

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

**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      Tom Polovick- Vice President  
Paul Volcko- Treasurer      Jeff Wolsley- Secretary  
Phil Lamkay- Safety

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.

### STARS Christmas Party:

Phil Morgan and Phil Knapp. Stars will hold the 2024 Christmas Party at RFH's Hide-A-Way. Phil Knapp will get the venue. Please see the attached flyer in the Propwash. The completed flyer form must be returned with payment to Phil Knapp by November 25<sup>th</sup>.

### STARS 2025 Events:

The events for 2025 will be scheduled soon. The sanctioned events need to be submitted to the AMA soon.

### New Members:

Robert DeNova- Associate  
Jim Van Cise- Associate (former member)  
Carried by the membership in attendance.

### 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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## 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**



Advertisements:

---

**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](https://www.facebook.com/mexairrc)

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



(585) 872-4990 -- 15 W Main St. Webster, NY. 14580 -- [Performance-hobbies.com](http://Performance-hobbies.com)

### HOURS

MONDAY..... 11 - 6 pm  
TUESDAY..... 11 - 7 pm  
WEDNESDAY..... 11 - 6 pm  
THURSDAY..... 11 - 7 pm  
FRIDAY..... 11 - 6 pm  
SATURDAY..... 11 - 6 pm  
SUNDAY..... 11 - 4 pm

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>

### STARS Propwash Newsletter:

The STARS Propwash- <https://www.cnystars.com/newsletter-archive.php>

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## **STARS ZOOM Meetings:**

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

The link for the ZOOM meeting is located at the top of the cameras page on the STARS web site.

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

ZOOM Meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88488515371?pwd=c2ZiRWVkMkIrbGZ5WENDaE12SIB5Zz09>

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- 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..

## **Academy of Model Aeronautics:**

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

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

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

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

### **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA):**

This is to set up or renew your FAA registration. Renewal is every three (3) years. You will or already have received your renewal email. The email is from [uas.faadronezone@faa.gov](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.

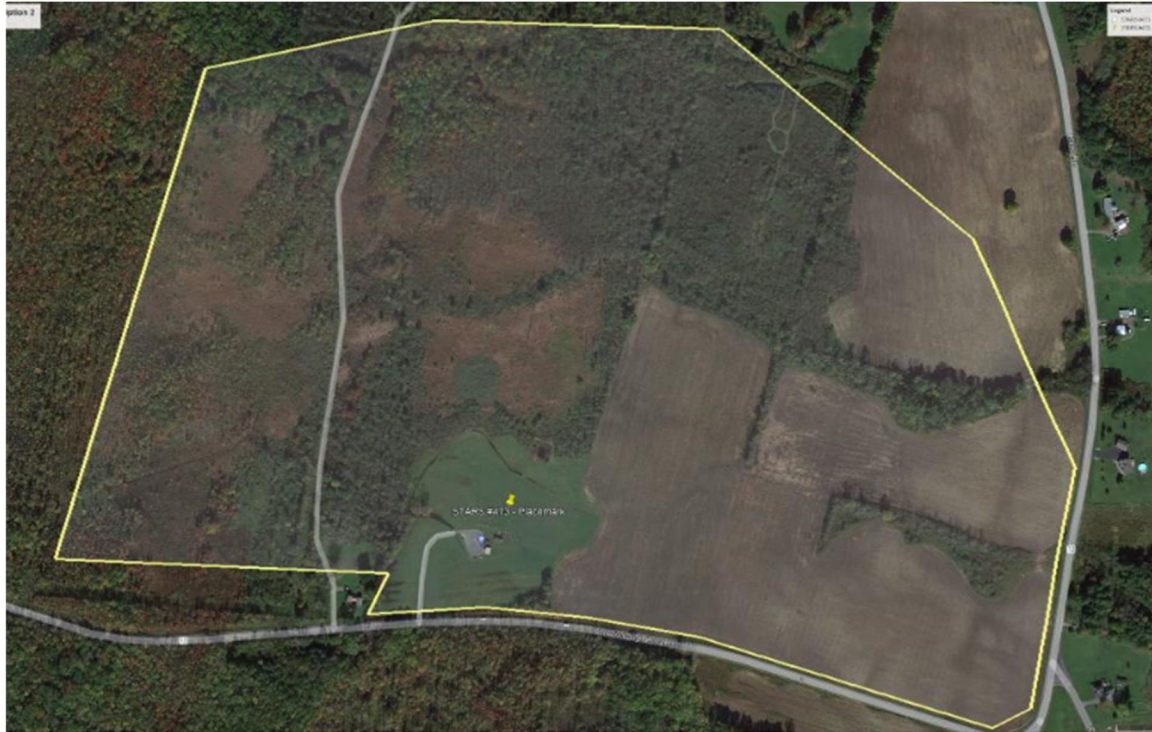
[B4UFLY](#)- Download this app to your cell phone. FAA uses this to alert pilots to possible stoppage in your flying area.

[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.**





# Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society

Phoenix, NY

Charter 473

## *STARS Annual Christmas Party*

Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Where: RFH's Hideaway Restaurant

Time: 5:00PM for drinks and socializing, dinner at 6:00PM

### MENU CHOICES:

|   |   |         |
|---|---|---------|
| 1 | Prime Rib Dinner, 12oz cut  | \$37.00 |
| 2 | Seafood Platter Dinner (Broiled or Fried: Haddock, Scallops & Stuffed Shrimp, no Lobster) | \$33.00 |
| 3 | Chicken Parmesan Dinner   | \$31.00 |
| 4 | Haddock Dinner (Broiled or Fried)   | \$27.00 |

All dinners include: Salad Bar, Baked Potato, Rolls & Butter, Dessert and Coffee or Hot Tea. The prices above include Sales Tax and Gratuity.

Please mail your dinner choices and your checks to Phil Knapp by November 25<sup>th</sup>. Phil's address is: 17 Finch Path, Liverpool, NY, 13090.

Please make checks payable to S.T.A.R.S. Thank you.

Unlike prior years, we will not be doing a gift exchange. However, corsages for the ladies are still in the plans!

..... Return with your payment .....

I \_\_\_\_\_, will attend the 2024 STARS Christmas party.

No. of guests: \_\_\_\_\_

My dinner choice is: 1 2 3 4 \_\_\_ (Circle number, write B or F on the line if selecting 2 or 4)

Guest's dinner choice is: 1 2 3 4 \_\_\_ 1 2 3 4 \_\_\_ 1 2 3 4 \_\_\_ 1 2 3 4 \_\_\_

Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mike Graham provided a field report for 16 October:**

**Last evening was another 1 percenter!! 76 F at 2 kts.....**

**Tom Polovick wanted the shed unlocked in order to find the leaf blower, if there was one. I asked him why he wanted a leaf blower.**

**This is why:**



**Yup, we shoveled and swept the Geotextile runway after we couldn't find a leaf blower....**

**Trevor and his Dad showed up, with their *T-28*, and Trevor helped sweep the runway with a new push broom from his truck. When he was done, his Dad gave that same push broom to the STARS to use at the field!!**



**We had a visitor that wanted help with his *FMS Ranger*:**



**Tom acted as instructor and the young man received three instructive flights... after a mechanical adjustment to the elevator...**



**It looks like Tom may have recruited a new member to the Club!!**

**That's about it for Monday evening at the Field.**

**Thanks.**

**Michael**

**Mike Graham provided a field report for 22 October:**

**Last evening was another 1 percenter!! Actually, maybe a 1/2 percenter!!**

**Tom Polovick returned with his leaf blower and cleared the runway of bird pooh.**





**When Tom laughed while completing a turbine tail slide, you know he was having fun!!**



**Trevor returned with his *T-28* and completed the Mueller Maneuver on his first landing:**



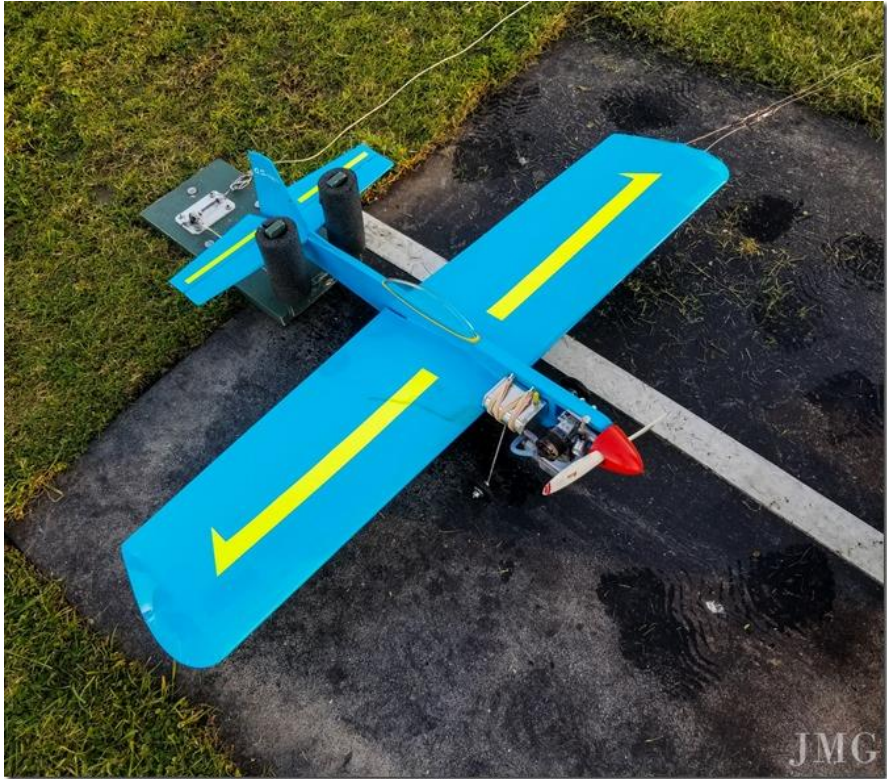
**Here is the original Mueller Maneuver results on flight station 4 in Sep 23:**



Gary Brown just made his 392nd flight on his *Nieuport 16* sesquiplane when this picture was taken:



**Mike O'Neill couldn't resist the perfect weather and brought this to fly on the beautiful grass CL circle:**







**And a perfect sky ending the day...**



**That's about it for last evening.**

**Thanks.**

**Michael**

**Mike also got a bunch of pictures from the LHS field trip to STARS. These are just a few-**

**Good Afternoon, Central New York!!**

**Mr. President:**

**Here is another look at the STARS Hosting LHS 27sep24, this time from the view of Rick Wilson's camera.**

**Go here: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/dgzl2a9ucbpvbp1o6upxq/AlSstF4YT1jobL-8mN3-gAk?rlkey=xvg9514v2m5mm3e1fy195n1ap&st=tmd8qgo5&dl=0>**

**I will also post these on our FB account.**

**Thanks.**

**Michael**







**Michael has some shots of the tree cutting party-  
Here are two pictures that Phil Morgan sent me concerning the STARS Tree Work Party on Saturday:**





**Cool drone shots, eh??**

**And here is the “after” photo by Mike Mueller that I gleamed from FB:**



**If any body else has pictures of the tree trimming work, please forward them to me.**

**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.

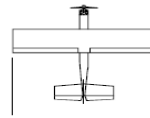
Ask someone to help and walk away from the model until signs of loss of control is apparent. If electric powered ensure that the range is not worse with the motor running.

## Before EVERY flight:

Check the receiver battery pack to ensure enough charge for the flight intended.

Check for damage and the control throw direction of all surfaces.

# S.T.A.R.S. Field Rules



## 1. General:

- A. License: All pilots, students, and flying guests *must* have a current membership in a nationally recognized model aircraft association in order to fly. Those pilots participating in the Park Pilot Membership Program must fly models that weigh two pounds or less and be incapable of reaching speeds greater than 60 mph. They must be electric or rubber powered, or of any similar *quiet* means of propulsion.
- B. Spectators: Only those people essential to flight operations will be permitted in the pit area; all others will remain on the spectator side of the fence.
- C. Vehicles: Vehicles will not be permitted *on* the flying field.
- D. Crash Debris: Pilots must retrieve all pieces of their aircraft after a crash. Particularly, attention must be made to obtaining all pieces of aircraft that land in the neighboring fields under cultivation *or from the mowed areas that might cause damage to mowing or farming equipment.*
- E. Trash: All members will take home their own trash.
- F. Alcoholic Beverages: Members will not consume alcoholic beverages prior to, nor during, participation in any *modeling* operations.
- G. Smoking: Smoking will not be permitted in the pit area or on the flight line.
- H. Mowing: Flying on the field will not be permitted if the field is being mowed or maintained.

## 2. Transmitters:

- A. Frequency Control: *2.4 GHz technology is prevalent in the hobby. In general, transmitter impound and channel flagging is no longer necessary. Pilots using a non-2.4 GHz transmitter system or FPV video transmitter should make all efforts to determine if others present are also using one and self-manage frequency separation prior to powering up their transmitter. Event Managers and Contest Directors may establish a transmitter impound or channel frequency control policy for their event, if deemed necessary.*
- B. Range Checks: Each pilot will conduct a successful radio equipment ground range check, *including any FPV equipment*, before flying a new or repaired aircraft and prior to each flying session.

## 3. Engines:

- A. All internal combustion engines run at the field will have a silencer (except for small displacements of .09 cubic inches or less).
- B. When running an engine in the pits, keep neighboring personnel behind the prop arc. *Restrain fuel powered airplanes with stakes, starting stand, or helper prior to starting the engine(s).*
- C. *Electric motors and fuel engines are not to be run in*

*spectator/pavilion areas or anywhere behind pit area fencing or designated test stand/hover areas, unless propellers/blades are removed. Model electronics (receivers, servos, etc.) can be powered up in spectator areas as long as electric motors are disconnected or propeller/blades are removed.*

- D. *Remove or secure all necklaces, straps, loose clothing, hoodie ties, etc. prior to starting a fuel engine powered model. Long hair should be tied back or secured so it cannot get caught in a spinning propeller or rotor.*

## 4. Flying:

- A. Boundaries: Flying over the pit area or the spectator side of the fence is prohibited, unless beyond the control of the pilot(s).
- B. Taxing: Taxing is prohibited in the pit area!
- C. Flying:
  - (1). Pilots will initiate their first turn after takeoff away from the pit and spectator areas.
  - (2). Engines will not be started before 9 AM Monday through Saturday and 11 AM on Sunday (electrics may start at 10 AM), unless approved by the Event Director.
  - (3). No more than three aircraft will be permitted in the air at one time.
  - (4). All flying will be conducted from the designated flight boxes.
  - (5). Hand launching of aircraft is prohibited from the pits.
  - (6). Flight operations will cease during electrical storms.

## 5. Guests:

- A. All guests must have a current membership in a nationally recognized model aircraft association in order to fly.
- B. Guests may fly at the field only with the approval of a member in good standing and only as long as a sponsoring member *remains at the field*. Guests will not fly unattended.
- C. A local guest will be allowed to fly at the field on three (3) separate occasions and then will be asked to join the Club.
- D. An out-of-town guest may make arrangements with the Club to fly at the field while visiting the area. The Club Officers and the Safety Officer will handle each out-of-town visitor on a case-by-case basis.
- E. *All guests are required to extend every courtesy to current members sharing the same flying frequency. But when there is a conflict over who shall fly, the Club member will have the first option to fly. Both the guest and the members should use common sense while sharing the flight line or using the same radio frequencies.*

**STARS Club Rules- End 06jan21**



*Photo courtesy Mike Graham archives*

The STARS pavilion goes up c.1977. Mike identified the person on the ladder as Lon Sauter. Not sure who the others are.

# STARS

## Field Protocol

Dedicated to responsible  
RC fun with safety by  
choice, not chance.

### 1. General:

- A. Civil and courteous behavior is required at the field at all times.
- B. Safety is paramount and everyone's business. Use common sense in all matters.
- C. It is strongly recommended that you do not fly alone.
- D. Learn where the First Aid station is located and inform the Field Committee if material has been issued from it.
- E. When opening or closing combination locks, *always* set the wheels to 0000.
- F. Last member out must close and lock the refrigerators, pavilion, and main gate.
- G. **Limited use of cell phones and mobile devices on the flight line to photography/videography or integrated use with model systems. Talk, text, and browse from the pits or spectator areas.**

### 2. Engine Courtesy:

- A. Long term tuning and initial break-in should be conducted away from the pits and spectators (usually at the engine break-in stand).
- B. Do not direct prop wash at other modelers, their aircraft, equipment, or bystanders behind the pit fence. Kindly inform those bystanders near the fence that you intend to start an engine before you do so.

### 3. Flying Courtesy:

- A. Any person wishing to enter an active flying field or runway to cross same or to retrieve an aircraft, must loudly announce their intention to all fliers on the flight line.
- B. A "landing" aircraft has the right of way over an aircraft "taking-off".
- C. A "dead stick" aircraft has the right of way over all others.
- D. All take-off and landing attempts must be announced to other pilots on the flight line. Take-offs are normally announced by saying "taking off", and landings are announced by saying "landing" or coming in". Dead stick landings are announced clearly to all pilots in the pits and on the flight line by saying "dead stick".
- E. A pilot having difficulty in controlling his/her aircraft must announce to all in the pits and on the flight line that he/she is experiencing radio or mechanical problems. Pilots on the ground preparing to fly will turn off their transmitters and wait for the problem to be resolved before continuing to fly. Fliers in the air will stay clear of the aircraft in distress and will land, if possible, as long as it does not contribute to the crisis. All personnel near the pit area must be alerted to the situation.
- F. If a crash occurs on the field or in the pits, all flying will stop until the accident has been investigated and the debris has been cleared from the field.
- G. Normal flight duration is 10 minutes. Obviously, flight time may be extended if there are no other pilots waiting to fly or waiting for a particular radio channel.
- H. When you have finished flying, please return your transmitter to the impound.

### 4. Good Earth Policy:

- A. Place recyclables in the appropriate container in the pavilion.
- B. Turn off all pavilion lights when departing the field for the night.
- C. The field does not have a trash removal service. If you carry anything to the field, carry it back out.
- D. If a pilot or guest brings a pet to the field, he/she will be responsible for supervising the animal's conduct while at the field. Please observe all appropriate Field Rules.
- E. If you smoke, please place all cigarette butts in the butt cans in the field.
- F. Do not **dispose of trash in the outhouse/port-a-potty pit.**
- G. **DO NOT DRINK THE WELL WATER.** Well water is to be used for washing only.

### 5. Replacement Courtesy:

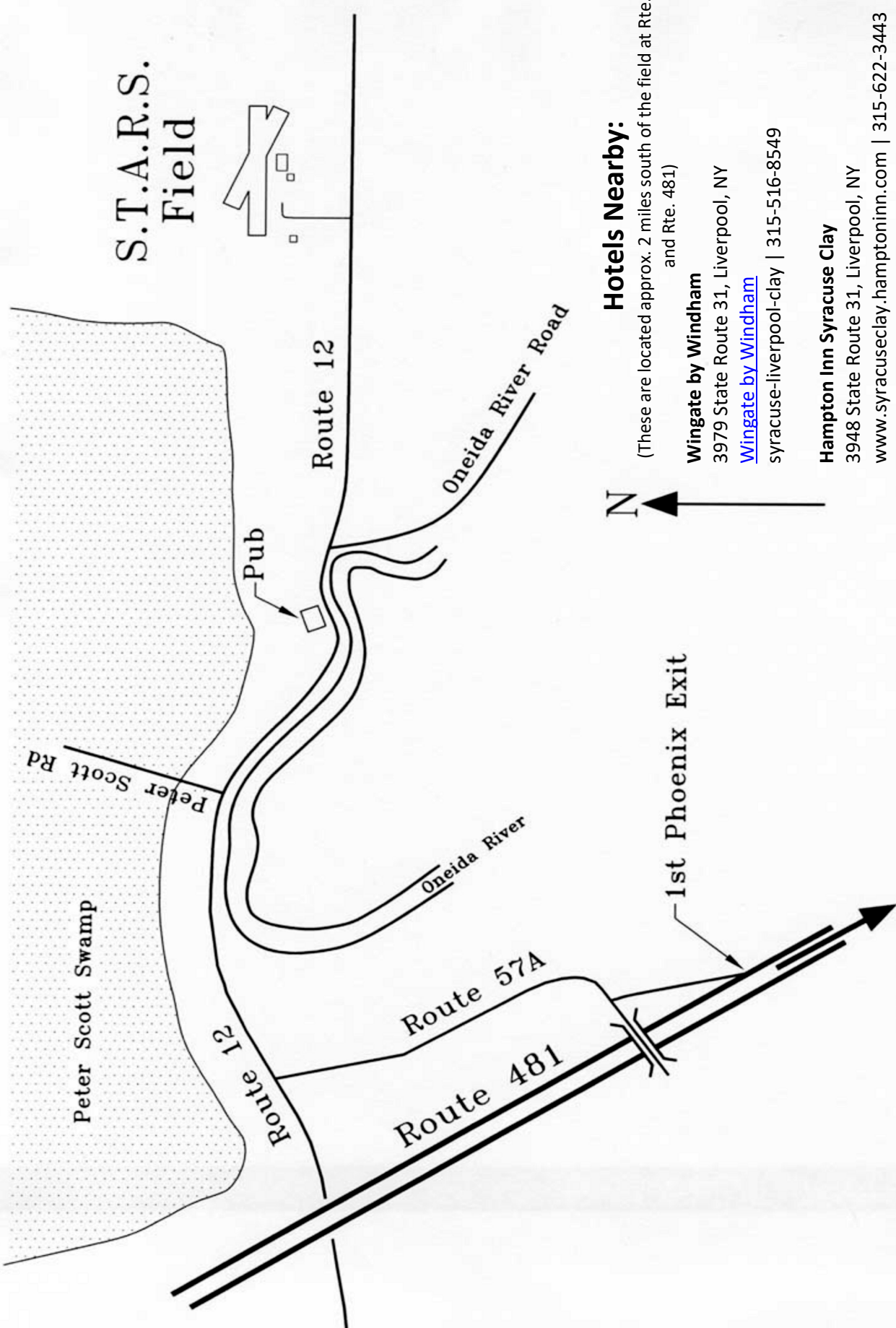
- A. Where an individual's plane or property is damaged by the actions of another individual, it will be the responsibility of the two parties to resolve the situation in an appropriate manner.



## **STARS POLICY REGARDING PHOTOGRAPHY**

- STARS is a membership organization organized under the laws of the State of New York.
- The STARS flying field, located in Phoenix, New York, is owned by STARS, and as such, is privately owned property.
- The purpose of this policy is to limit and restrict the reproduction of images, in any form, of the STARS property and the activities which occur thereon.
- While the STARS property is privately owned, members, guests, and the general public are welcome at the field during published field hours of operation. Members, guests, and the public must adhere to all rules imposed by STARS regarding entry upon and/or the use of STARS property, including the STARS policy on photography.
- The reproduction of images of the STARS field or the activities thereon, in any form, is a privilege and not a right.
- Except as provided below, the reproduction of images of the STARS field or activities thereon in any form, including, but not limited to film and digital still photography, and video photography in either film or digital form, is strictly forbidden.
- Violation of this policy will result in immediate expulsion of the violator from the STARS premises, and may subject the violator to criminal and/or civil sanctions and penalties.
- Members in good standing of STARS shall be exempt from the above requirements so long as any images or video produced on the STARS premises or the activities thereon are for personal and non-commercial use.
- Guests and the general public may be permitted to photograph or video the STARS property and activities thereon, but only for personal and non-commercial use, and only with the prior written consent of the Club's executive board.

# Map to the STARS



S.T.A.R.S.  
Field



Route 12

Oneida River Road

Pub

Oneida River

Route 57A

Route 481

1st Phoenix Exit

To No. Syracuse  
and Route 81

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](http://www.syracuseclay.hamptoninn.com) | 315-622-3443

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



# Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society



<https://www.cnystars.com>

## Membership Renewal 2025

Return renewals to our Treasurer, Paul Volcko, via mail to: 5237 Kasson Road, Syracuse, NY, 13215. Please fill in your name, mark your membership type, and include your payment made out to: S.T.A.R.S. Electronic payment options available, contact Paul for information.

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

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

All flying conducted under AMA rules and guidelines. Active AMA membership or allowed exemption required to fly. All members are encouraged to renew their memberships at the beginning of the year, but only Open memberships are required to renew by the end of January. Open member late renewal penalties can be waived at Treasurer's discretion, if you need an extension please contact in January or before. If you wish to change your membership, such as upgrading from Associate to Open, please contact Paul or another club officer.

Please provide your updated contact information below.

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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