

Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society



Plane Propwash

August 2025

Charter 473

The next STARS meeting is Wednesday September 10th, 7:00 at STARS field.

2025 Officers:

[Mike Mueller, President](#)
[Tom Polovick, Vice President](#)
[Paul Volcko, Treasurer](#)
[Jeff Wolsley, Secretary](#)
[Phil Lamkay, Safety Officer](#)

Directors:

Michael Graham
Paul Volcko 2019-2023
Dan Williams

Volunteer Staff:

[Jeff Wolsley, Propwash Editor](#)

[Michael Graham, Club Historian](#)

[Paul Volcko, Webmaster](#)

[Herb Moore, Field Committee](#)

[Mike O'Neill, Facebook Admin](#)

Public Relations Director- OPEN

Robert Droner- YouTube Moderator

The next STARS 2025 meeting will be at STARS field, on September 10th, at 7:00, weather permitting. The monthly meetings will be held via ZOOM October through April. The STARS regular monthly meetings are at the STARS field May through September 2025.

Fall is Just Ahead

Well, here we are, the Airshow is over, fall is upon us, and it's getting cold outside!!! We generally say that come Labor Day, fall is in the air, and this year is no exception. It has truly gotten cold out, with 40s at night, and last flights are now getting close to 7 PM. We had a very good year, and while it was very wet at the club before July and things dried out, and we had a great time flying. There is still time to finish up any builds (my Zirolu P51 is still on the bench, working on some new retracts), and get them into the air. But time is not on our side. Get it done, and put the plane in the air!!!!

As mentioned, the Airshow was a huge success. We were profitable in a very good way this year, with people coming to the club who have never seen radio-controlled flying before. Our marketing campaigns were very successful, and thanks to Mo Clayton donating numerous planes and gliders, our swap shop received more revenue than ever before. The field was in excellent condition, and we are thankful for all the help in getting the field set up for the show, and torn down afterwards. Thank you to all who worked so hard to make this the most successful and profitable show in the club's history (well, at least in a long time.....I think.....). We look forward to next year, and see if we can improve on that.

We've had two new members since the show, and I am aware of at least one more person who is going to join because of the show and how welcoming he felt

with all the members he spoke with. So all in all, a very successful event!!

And now we look towards our fall clean up. We have a very full day planned, with painting, repairing, and so much more. We will know the date after our meeting this week. We have painting, clean up, and much more planned, so please look at your schedule, and consider helping out.

We have our Liverpool High School students coming to the field September 18th, and we will need some volunteers to help with this event. There will be vendors, and others supporting also, so we will need help from our members.

Our annual Ringmaster fly-a-thon is scheduled for Saturday October 4th. While we don't have many from our club that fly control line planes, come and support the event. Flying will be open for others to fly also. We anticipate food for lunch and a great time overall.

Our last meeting at the clubhouse will be this coming Wednesday, September 10th at 7 PM. Come on out and see what we have accomplished, and plan for the future. If you haven't come over the summer, how about attending to celebrate the success of our club. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday night.

Again, thanks to all for the hard work this year. We look forward to seeing you all at the field.

Be safe out there.

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

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 August STARS meeting was held at the Stars field. 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 2 Guests in attendance.

Secretary's Report:

The Secretary's report from the July Propwash was accepted as published. The motion to accept the Secretary's Report was made by Paul Volcko, 2nd by Herb Moore. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Paul Volcko

Bills are all current. WE'VE HAD SOME DONATIONS COM IN. Some from sales of Moe's and Heinze's stuff. The proceeds from Heli Jam is in.

Motion to accept by Mike Mueller and 2nd by Tom Polovick. Carried.

Correspondence: Paul Volcko

It was reported that Ken Kadish is not going to continue to provide tax services to STARS. For those that don't know, Ken is a past STARS member and has continued to assist us in legal and tax matters since.

Committee Reports:

AMA Report: Phil Morgan

Digital Flight Authorization is coming. See H.R. 3334. [Text - H.R.3334 - 119th Congress \(2025-2026\): USCP Empowerment Act of 2025 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#) Phil reported that due to world events, weaponization of drones, and a recent collision between a drone and a helicopter, we will eventually need to go online to file a flight plan for authorization to fly. More on this topic to come. There was a question regarding flying and filing requirements in a FRIA zone.

DJI has removed fencing from their drone firmware.

Eric Williams is running for AMA President. DII will lose a terrific representative but the AMA will gain a great president for the AMA.

Safety Report: Phil Lamkay

CHECK YOUR FAIL-SAFE PROGRAMMING!

Phil has asked to step down from the Safety Officer position due to his family commitments. Thank you for your participation, Phil.

STARS is looking for a volunteer to become the Safety Officer.

Field Committee: Herb Moore

The groomsmen were able to get out and mow yesterday. Despite the weather setbacks, the field continues to look good.

The condition of the field equipment was reviewed briefly.

- 1- The Simplicity tractor is the oldest in the fleet. Approximately 2000hrs on it. Maintenance seems to

be more frequent and more involved. There is concern for availability and cost of parts for it.

The rest of the equipment was reviewed as well. A replacement plan was discussed briefly with no decision being made.

There are two new field tables. These will handle a .40 to 1.20 sized plane. These were donated. Having more built was discussed. Materials are estimated at 175.00 ea. Maybe make a smaller version? If any more are built, STARS offered to pay for the materials.

A motion was made by Phil Morgan to have two (2) more tables built. The motion was seconded by Rick Wilson. 12- YES and 0- NO. Carried.

While on the subject of the field, the modification of the fence line came up. Adding an egress in the fence line was discussed at the last meeting. The position and size of the proposed opening was discussed and determined the best place for it so it would not compromise the integrity of the line.

A motion was made by Darrel Eckhard to put in the opening along the fence line, as discussed. The motion was seconded by Bob Simms. 11- YES, 3- NO. Carried.

Old Business:

STARS Facebook: Mike O'Neill

Nothing to report.

Real Estate Committee:

No report given.

Flight schools:

Fixed Wing Runs every Thursday night thru Sept. 11th.

There are currently three high school students attending. Instructor coverage for tomorrow's class will be coordinated to make sure there is enough coverage.

Heli/Multi Rotor Runs every Tuesday night thru Sept. 30th.

Special Interest Nights:

Monday Night Jets Runs every Monday night thru Sept. 29th. The event is running well. 6-7 jets are showing up regularly.

Big Bird Night Runs every Wednesday night thru Oct. 1st. Weather has been a factor. Small attendance.

Field Improvements- Long Term Planning:

2025- Most projects will be resumed after the flying season cools down.

Tree Removal- A good job has been done. Need to finish cutting up what has been taken down and pulled out of the woods. Wait until fall for the overgrowth to recede to make the job easier.

Openings in The Fence Line- Discussion continued from the last meeting regarding openings in the fence line. The discussion concluded with the idea not going forward. Keep Al Townsend in the loop on our progress and completion plans.

Add On To Runway- A suggestion was made to add 100ft. to the east end of the runway. For the time being the low spot at the end will be filled.

-- Continued --

Runway West End Improvement- Do one or both of the following, 1- Look at bringing in about 50yrd of fill topsoil to raise it. 2- Put in a drainage ditch.

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

Drainage Improvements- Paul Volcko, Herb Moore, Mike Mueller, Bill Whittaker, and Josh Weaver met to discuss the drainage situation at the field. After the Family BBQ, move some dirt around to control ponding on the field and the control line circle. Other options are being explored.

Activity Sign- Mike Mueller is following up on the activity sign by the driveway entrance to attract spectators/future members. The sign will announce our events to the public and improve our community relations. Mike G. and Dan W. are working on banners for the signage.

Public Relations- We are actively seeking a PR leader that can direct and expand our exposure in the community. 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.

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.

YouTube Channel- The club has started a YouTube channel to promote our activities. John McMakin volunteered to be the channel moderator. In addition to John, Robert DeNova (Droner) will be assisting.

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 another meeting.

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

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.

Porta-potty- Keeping current vendor.

New Business:

Special Announcement:

Walt's HobbyTown is closing. The final days of the sale are here. Shut down will possibly be the first weekend in September.

Event Reminder:

Airshow:

The STARS Airshow is 08/30. Rain date is 08/31. Taking advantage of social media including FACEBOOK, Instagram, TikTok, Channel 9, WSYR Local show, WSYR radio, etc.

Phil Morgan has the sign-up sheet for volunteers. Pictures of the donated equipment will be posted online.

New Members:

Nicholas Tabora- Associate member. Sport and scale.

Lennin Tabora- Youth member

The membership in attendance unanimously voted for the new members. Welcome to the STARS!

Club Hat Order:

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 July 2025 regular monthly meeting of the STARS was adjourned at 7:50.

Secretary, Jeff Wolsley

STARS BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING September 2025

Attendees

Paul Volcko
Dan Williams
Mike Graham
Phil Morgan

Phil Lamkay
Mike Mueller
Jeff Wolsley
Tom Polovick

The STARS Board of Directors Meeting was called to order at 7:30 on September 4th via ZOOM.

The meeting was called to discuss the Field Committee, the Air Show, future field improvements, and the Treasury.

The BOD noted the field committee is doing a good job managing the field on a day-to-

day basis. Long term planning needs to be looked at. The condition of the Simplicity tractor is of concern right now to the BOD and needs to be further investigated. When both tractors are running, with both reels, field mowing takes about 45 minutes. The Simplicity tractor cannot be used for close up mowing because it doesn't have a mower deck. That limits its flexibility for other uses.

The reel storage pallet needs to be rebuilt. The BOD decided that serious consideration should be made to have Bill Whittaker start looking into a replacement for the Simplicity. This will be reviewed.

The lawn roller was discussed. The use is way down from years past. It was noted that Dave Jewell used to roll much more frequently. Not just in the spring but also after many of the mowings. The field was like a pool table. The roller equipment and usage needs to be reviewed. It was thought that maybe it is in need of repair?

The Treasury is in excellent shape at this time. School taxes are due at this time. Dues will be coming due for 2026 shortly further increasing the balance in our account. Taxes were discussed and will be further reviewed. So was the club status as a not-for-profit vs being a 501c.

Field drainage is becoming a concern for the wellbeing of the field. A dry field increases the appeal of the field to attract new members and increases our flying capability. Adding top soil only serves to displace the water to another low area. Adding drainage and the right kind of drainage in key areas will help get the water off the field faster. This is critical due to the small difference between the field elevation vs the water table. NYS is adding additional drainage under the west road so we should take advantage of that. Paul V. is looking into cost for drainage materials.

We need to look at protecting the red shed and the club house. The siding is being

damaged by the build up around the building. This keeps the siding damp and is causing it to deteriorate. The BOD is suggesting that the grass/dirt that has built up is pulled back and flat stone added around the footer. This will improve drainage, allow air to get to the siding to keep it dry(er) and allow for quicker mowing. Gutters would be a good idea as well to control where the water from the roof goes. Mike M. will ask Gary B. to get some pricing on adding gutters.

The Airshow was a tremendous success this year. This was due to the donations that were sold in the Swap Shop. We can expect to see this again next year. Additional advertising seems to have paid off also. The BOD has looked at where the best return came from on this so more effort will be put into advertising there next year. Mike Mueller will take this on for future events.

The BOD felt the 50/50 was not the revenue generator that it could/should have been. More volunteers should have been selling the tickets. No one was available this year to go out into the crowd to sell tickets so sales were limited to booth sales only.

There were just enough volunteers this year to handle the size of the crowd that showed up. If the show is going to get bigger, more volunteers will be needed. The BOD is considering ways to increase the number of volunteers.

Mike Mueller adjourned the meeting at 8:37.

Secretary, Jeff Wolsley

Calendar of Events

NOTICE: EVENT DATES MAY CHANGE OR CANCELLED OUTRIGHT.

Calendar of Events for January 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 4- Ringmaster Fly-a-Thon
STARS Field

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

-- Continued--

STARS Flight Schools- Flight schools will formally end in September for the 2025 season. Informally, they will continue as long as weather permits. It's never too late to join a flight school already in progress. Flight school isn't only for new flyers. It's also for experienced pilots looking to brush up on their skills, learn some new maneuvers, or lose some bad habits.

Fixed wing- Runs every Thursday night until Sept. 11th. Gary Natali is the Chief Flight Instructor.

Heli/Multi Rotor- Runs every Tuesday night until Sept 30th.

Indoor Flying –

The Indoor flying schedule will be starting up again. I will start adding locations and dates and time as they become available or confirmed.

CNYIFS Indoor flying at Sacred Heart Church Cicero was forwarded to me by Tim Smarzo of the Voltaires. Mondays 1:30 to 4:00 and Thursdays 12:30 to 3:30 (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 ?, Wednesdays 1:00-4:00. If you plan to attend, call Herb Ziegler 315-857-6266 so Herb can unlock the doors.

Walt's HobbyTown- NO INDOOR FLYING THIS SEASON

MexAir R/C NO INDOOR FLYING THIS SEASON





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

The Aviation Historical Society of CNY

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

[Home](#) | [Aviation Historical Society of Central New York](#)

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

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

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

Classified Ads-

FOR SALE: Clear out that hanger now!

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 Propwash Newsletter:

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

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

Attention New Members:

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

TRUST- 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](#)

Don't let your FAA registration number lapse. If you do, it will cost the full amount to re-register and you will receive a new registration number. Your aircraft label must be updated with the new FAA number. Look for the renewal email from the FAA. [Check your status- FAADroneZone Access - Login After logging in, a text box appears in the upper left with all of your information including your registration expiration date.]

Do not let your FAA Part 107 license expire. If you do, you will have to retake the exam and pay all of the licensing fees.

Phone Apps:

[UASidekick – The Ultimate UAS Pilot Assistant](#)

This is an app for your phone that gives weather conditions, club locations, FRIA locations, and event schedules for UAS pilots. This is for recreational pilots as well as commercial drone pilots.

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

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

Click on the QR code to download the maiden flight check list for new aircraft.



Remember: A repaired aircraft should be treated just like a new aircraft. It needs a full ground check before flying. Don't forget to inspect the areas that were not repaired. They may have hidden damage. Fly it like it's the first time in the air and will need a full functional check before flying it in front of spectators or in competition.

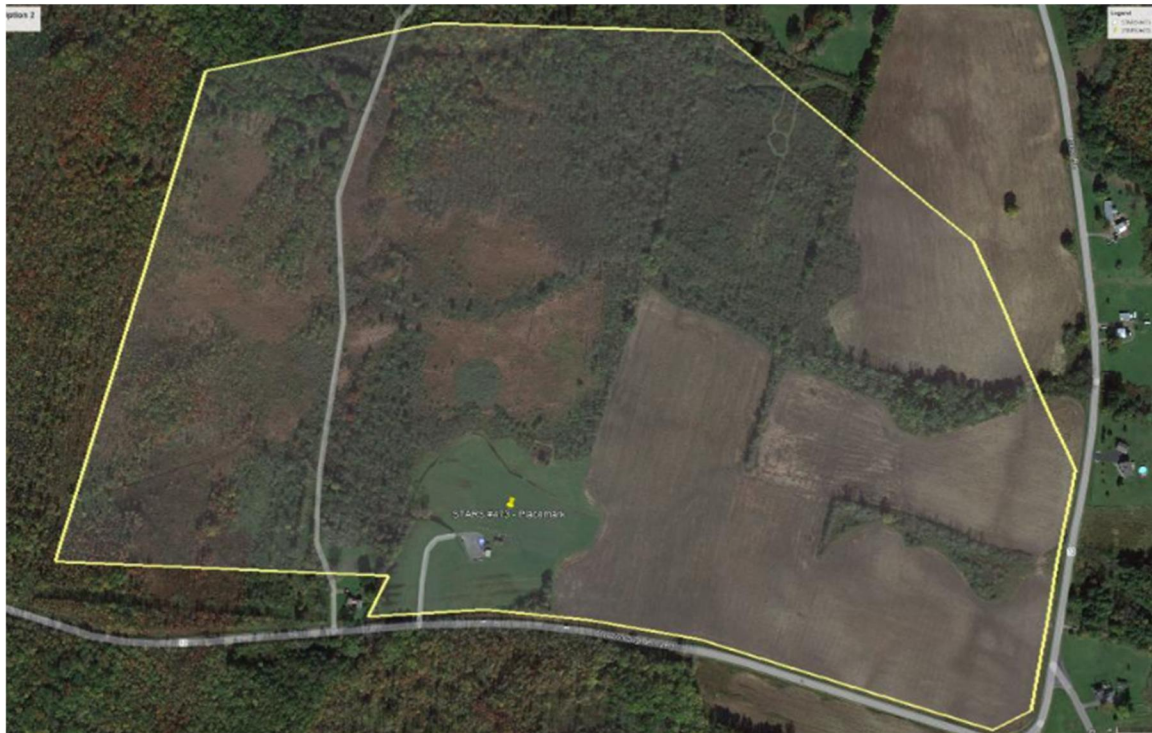


When's the last time you checked the balance of your aircraft?



The latest satellite photo

STARS FAA APPROVED FRIA AREA.



ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS

FAA-RECOGNIZED IDENTIFICATION AREA

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

STARS 2025 Airshow Pictures. All pictures courtesy of Mike Graham.

I spent about three hours at the Airshow taking pictures.... and have edited those pictures and they are here:

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/0kcidvyyhx1an7w5eqm36/AMIJpv-A0v_WwKtBgKgR5Dk?rlkey=weq1avjghm8odf95b8mref0x5&st=ltrs5h7v&dl=0













If anyone has additional pictures to add to the STARS Archive, please have them contact me.

Thanks.

Michael

S.T.A.R.S.

Flight Training Program



2025



When?

Every Thursday evening from 5:30 PM to Sunset
May 01, 2025 through September 11, 2025

Where?

At the S.T.A.R.S. field in Phoenix, New York
649 County Route 12, Pennellville, NY 13132
N43.23696, W76.24550

Who?

Anyone wanting to learn to fly powered R/C model airplanes!! You do **not** have to be a Club member and all lessons are **free**. Each student must furnish his/her own plane and radio equipment and also must hold a current membership in the Academy of Model Aeronautics aircraft association in order to fly. For those not yet finished building/assembling their trainer aircraft, the Club has a Club Trainer available that may be flown on a Buddy Box.

PreFlight Workshop

Held at STARS Flying Field in Phoenix, NY

Thursday April 17, 2025 at 5-7 PM



Interested?

Contact:

FB Workshop SENIOR FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR: Gary Natali (315/657-5695) FB Flightschool

www.cnvstars.com



Charter 473

S.T.A.R.S.

www.cnvstars.com

www.facebook.com/cnvstars



2025

Jet Night



STARS Events

When?

Every Monday evening from 4 PM to Sunset
April 28, 2025 through September 29, 2025



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



Charter 473

S.T.A.R.S.

www.cnvstars.com

www.facebook.com/cnvstars



2025



Helicopter and Multirotor Night



STARS Events

When?

Every Tuesday evening from 5 PM to Sunset
April 29, 2025 through September 30, 2025



FB Heli Nights

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 and must provide your own outdoor capable helicopter or multirotor aircraft.
Build help and flight instruction available.

Interested?

Come out and join us for fun, food and good flying!!

For more information, contact Paul Volcko at 315/708-2009



Charter 473

S.T.A.R.S.

www.cnvstars.com

www.facebook.com/cnvstars



2025

Big Bird Night



STARS Events

When?

Every Wednesday evening from 5 PM to Sunset
April 30, 2025 through October 01, 2025



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

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.

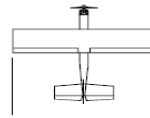
Ask someone to help and walk away from the model until signs of loss of control is apparent. If electric powered ensure that the range is not worse with the motor running.

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.

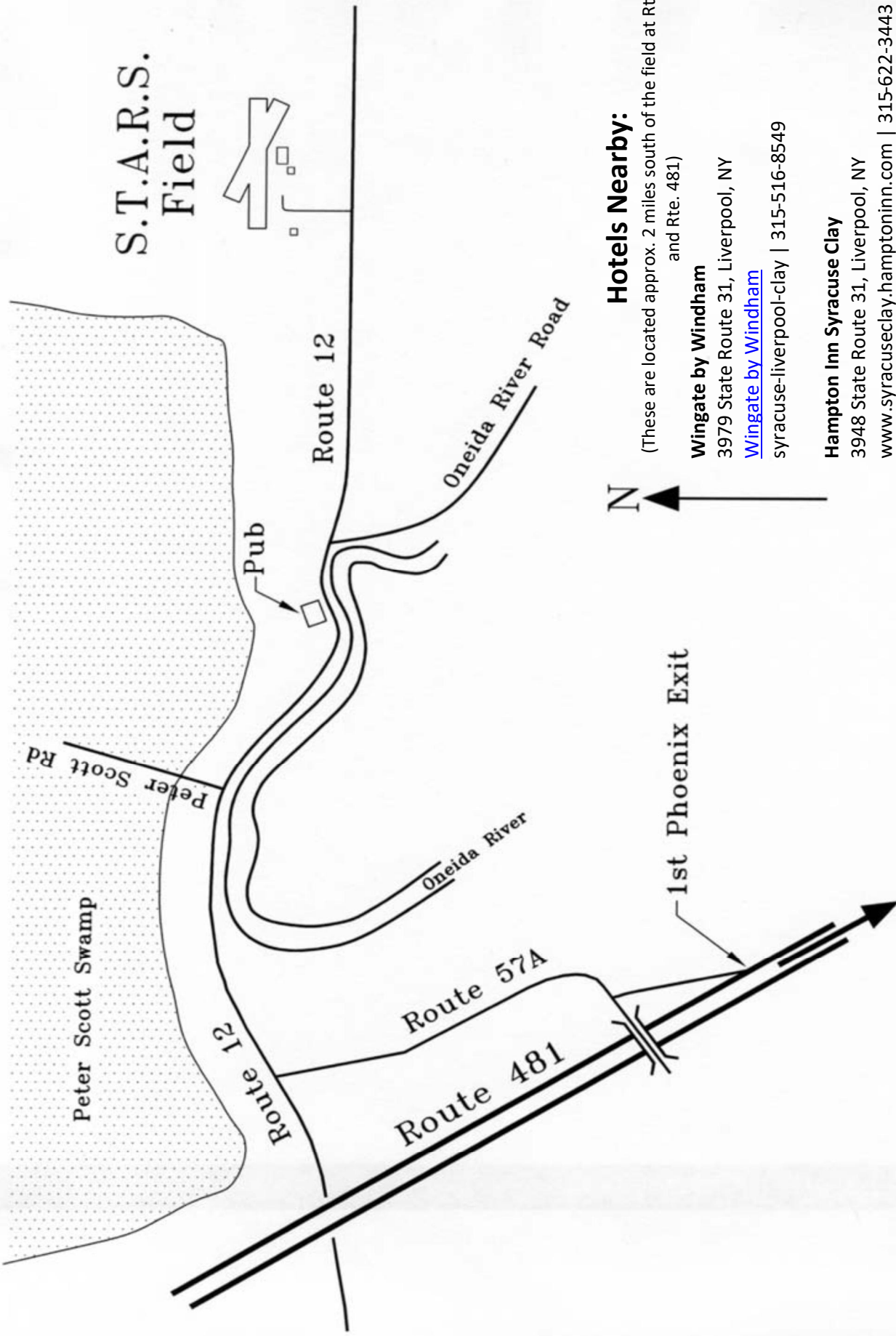
5. Replacement Courtesy:

- 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



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](http://www.wingatebywindham.com)

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

