

Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society

# *Plane Propwash*

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June 2011

Charter 473

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**The General Meeting will be at 7:00 at the STARS Field on July 13**

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**2011 Officers**

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

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

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

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**The next STARS meeting will be July 13 at 7:00.**

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

**The July meeting will be held at the STARS Field**

**Will The Next Carl Moore(s) Please  
Stand Up**

June 2011 - President's Perspective

Well we got a weather break and Heli Jam 3 was a resounding success. Thank you to all who volunteered their time and effort to make this a great event. We had 35 registered pilots including two of the best in the country - Kyle Stacy and Art Hughes. In addition we had excellent attendance from our club members who showed up to see the fun. Thanks again to all.

As some of you have seen, we have the new flight stands in place and all of the hardware is installed - so come on out and fly.

I would like to extend a enthusiastic thanks to Herb Moore and Dave Jewell for stepping up and helping to keep the field looking great. Super job guys! With that thought in mind we need to begin the process to transition Carl Moore into STARS retirement. Carl has indicated that he will not be able to continue as head of the field committee next year. In order to maintain the field and equipment to

the high standards Carl has established, we will need the membership to stand up and help fill the void. Please give some thought as to the best way we can accomplish this difficult task. I would appreciate any thoughts and constructive input.

Both flight schools are doing quite well despite some adverse weather conditions. We still need a couple more flight instructors for the fixed wing flight school to help out.

As a last thought for this month, please note that we have implemented additional safety requirements for LIPO battery charging in the club house. It is now mandatory that all LIPO batteries be contained in explosion proof bags or containers. Furthermore all chargers used for LIPO charging must be balance chargers. All of us must be diligent and aware of the dangers - so if you see an issue while at the field, please bring it to the attention of the member or guest.

Chuck

## **Secretary's Report:**

The June 2011 STARS regular meeting was called to order by STARS President, **Chuck LeVine**, at 6:59 pm. There were **13** Full members, **7** Associate member, **0** youth members, and **1** guest in attendance.

**Secretary's Report:** The Secretary's Report from the May meeting was submitted. Motion to approve by Peter Seiffert and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Graham. Carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bob Rowe

Treasurer's Report from the May meeting was submitted. Bob noted that there are three (3) full members that have not renewed for 2011. Motion to approve by Phil Morgan and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Graham. Carried.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Field Committee:** Carl Moore

The field has dried out enough so committee is now able to mow the entire field at a crack. The beavers are gone for now.

Carl will not be back for the 2012 field committee. A new field committee leader is needed. Please volunteer.

Volunteers are needed for the Field Committee. Please contact Carl at 668-1684 or [carl32609@aol.com](mailto:carl32609@aol.com) if interested.

**AMA:** Peter Seiffert, AMA District II, AVP

No news on the FAA at this time. The weight for large aircraft was increased to 125#.

**MoST:** Peter Seiffert

Peter reported that there were over 100 Girl Scouts at the MoST for the flying presentation. This was the last meeting at the MoST until October. Thank you very much to the volunteers that helped with the presentations. Send Peter an e-mail at [pseiffel@twcny.rr.com](mailto:pseiffel@twcny.rr.com) if you would like to volunteer.

**Flight School:** Bob Rowe

Fixed Wing Flight School is under way. A lot of rain on Thursdays so far. Instructors and field help are needed. 5-6 students are signed up for fixed wing instruction.

Heli School is off to a great start. There were 14 students last night. We are seeking a volunteer cook for Heli nights.

**Safety Report:** Peter Seiffert

All is going well (as of the meeting). Please note that there was a LiPo fire at the field during charging. The damage was pretty well contained by the LiPo safety bag. The battery, LiPo bag, and the charger were ruined by the fire. BE AWARE there are new charging rules at the field.

**STARS Web Site:** Howard Blair

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

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

## **Old Business:**

**HELI JAM:**

The Heli-Jam is the 25<sup>th</sup> of June. There are 36 pilots registered so far. We have received donations from the vendors. Help is needed to start setting up on Friday night. Volunteers are needed for assorted positions- parking, cooking, raffles, field marshaling, etc. Contact Chuck [clevine5@twcny.rr.com](mailto:clevine5@twcny.rr.com) for an assignment.

**STARS Jacket Order:** Phil Morgan

Phil has placed the very last jacket order ever. Thanks to the members who have waited patiently.

**STARS Hats:** Bob Rowe

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

**Long Range Projects:**

- **Replace the flight stands.**

The new tables are under way. The Rahalski's donated materials and welding for the tail brackets. The tables look good and durable.

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

## **New Business:**

**Invitation:**

We received an invitation from Dave Welsh of the Cortland County Aviators (CCA) to provide an R/C flight demonstration on July 16, 2011 (rain date is 07/17). This would coincide with their air show/fly-in and the arrival of the restored Douglas C-54 Skymaster "Spirit of Freedom" commemorating the Berlin Airlift 1948-49.

Chuck said the he would make contact. Participants are needed.

**New Members:**

No new members.

**Adjournment:**

The June regular monthly meeting of the STARS was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Secretary, Jeff Wolsley

## Safety Officer Report: Peter Seiffert

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

#### Lithium Battery Fires

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

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

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

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

Hi Art;

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



On 6/22/2011 10:38 AM, Art Hughes wrote:  
Glad to hear the fire didn't cause any serious damage or injury.  
Quick question about the equipment being used.... is the Poly-4 charger a balancing charger? If not, was an external balancer being used during charging?

On Wed, Jun 22, 2011 at 7:44 AM, Chuck LeVine  
<[clevine5@twcny.rr.com](mailto:clevine5@twcny.rr.com)> wrote:

As some of you know we had a Li-Po fire at the field in the clubhouse last evening. The details are that the battery had been used and recharged during the day. The three cell battery pack was being charged using a Poly-4 Li-Po charger when it burst into flames. Fortunately the battery was being charged in a Li-Po bag and the bag contained the fire.

When the fire was discovered we opened a window close to the fire and threw the battery and Li-Po bag out on the grass. The battery was burned completely, the charger was ruined and there is some damage to a table. The good news is that the Li-Po sack contained the fire so the damage was minimal.

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

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

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## OBITUARY

Our club was saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our most valued members, Someone Else. Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years and for every one of those years, Someone did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever there was a job to do, a fun fly to set up, fixing up the field, one name was on everyone's list, "Let Someone Else do it." Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results; "Someone Else can work on that project."

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the most liberal givers in our club. Whenever there was a need, everyone just assumed Someone Else would take up the slack. Someone Else was a wonderful person; sometimes appearing superhuman. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone! We wonder what we are going to do. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did? When you are asked to help next year, remember -- we can't depend on Someone Else anymore.

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

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

**July 23, Phelps Air show, Phelps, NY**

**July 30, Batavia RC Club Fun Fly**

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

**August 19-21 IMAA DII Mini Fest Johnstown, NY**

**August 20-21 Pattern in Paradise Westmoreland,  
NY**

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

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

**Flight Schools-** 2011 STARS Flight Schools are under way-

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

Heli Flight School runs Tuesday nights starting at 5:00

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

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

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

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## Advertisements:

### Items FOR SALE:

Arrow 3 with OS 40 engine  
Cessna 182 with OS 40 engine  
Super Decathlon with OS 60 engine  
AeroStar 40 with OS 40 engine  
Carl Goldberg Cub, partially completed, needs covering, 79"  
wing span  
OS 70 4 cyl. Surpass engine, New in Box  
Wing jig

Assorted hardware for building, 2 flight boxes with lots of props

If anyone is interested in any of the above items, you can contact:

Keith Barnes (former member of the STARS club)  
315-622-1826  
8 Golf Lane Rd  
Liverpool, NY

#### From Peter Seiffert:

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

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

Peter Seiffert 635-6370

**FOR SALE:** *If you want to list modeling items for sale, R/C services offered, or a really neat R/C web site, this would be a good spot. Free for members. Send your advertisement by e-mail to [jwolsley@ix.netcom.com](mailto:jwolsley@ix.netcom.com). Please put STARS ADVERTISEMENT in the subject line.*

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

hornpilot 404 videos  Edit Subscription



***A REALLY COOL WEBSITE-*** *Thanks to Rick Colvin for pointing this out at the June 2009 meeting-* For those of you who ever wanted to learn how to make a fiberglass plug and molds, this is the guy to check out. Even if the plane in the project doesn't interest you, the education from the process may. If the YouTube hyperlink doesn't work, copy the following URL into your browser line and click go. It's up over 1150 videos now. Bob is currently building 5 kits for the successfully flown and now proven F-105 on commission to help fund the B-1 project.. How To Build A B-1 Bomber 10 Minutes At a Time  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqTKJU6PlkA&feature=channel\\_page](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqTKJU6PlkA&feature=channel_page)  
This is the link to the web site- <http://www.b1modelproject.com/>

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

Peter Seiffert sent along the following web site- [www.servodatabase.com/servos/all](http://www.servodatabase.com/servos/all)

Mike Graham has a torque conversion chart-



Servo Torque  
Conversion Chart.pdf

The Link for the AMA is:

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

The link for the AMA DII Calendar is:

[http://www.amadistrictii.org/amajoom/index.php?option=com\\_events&Itemid=56&task=view\\_month&month=6&year=2011](http://www.amadistrictii.org/amajoom/index.php?option=com_events&Itemid=56&task=view_month&month=6&year=2011)

The link for the club yahoo users group is:

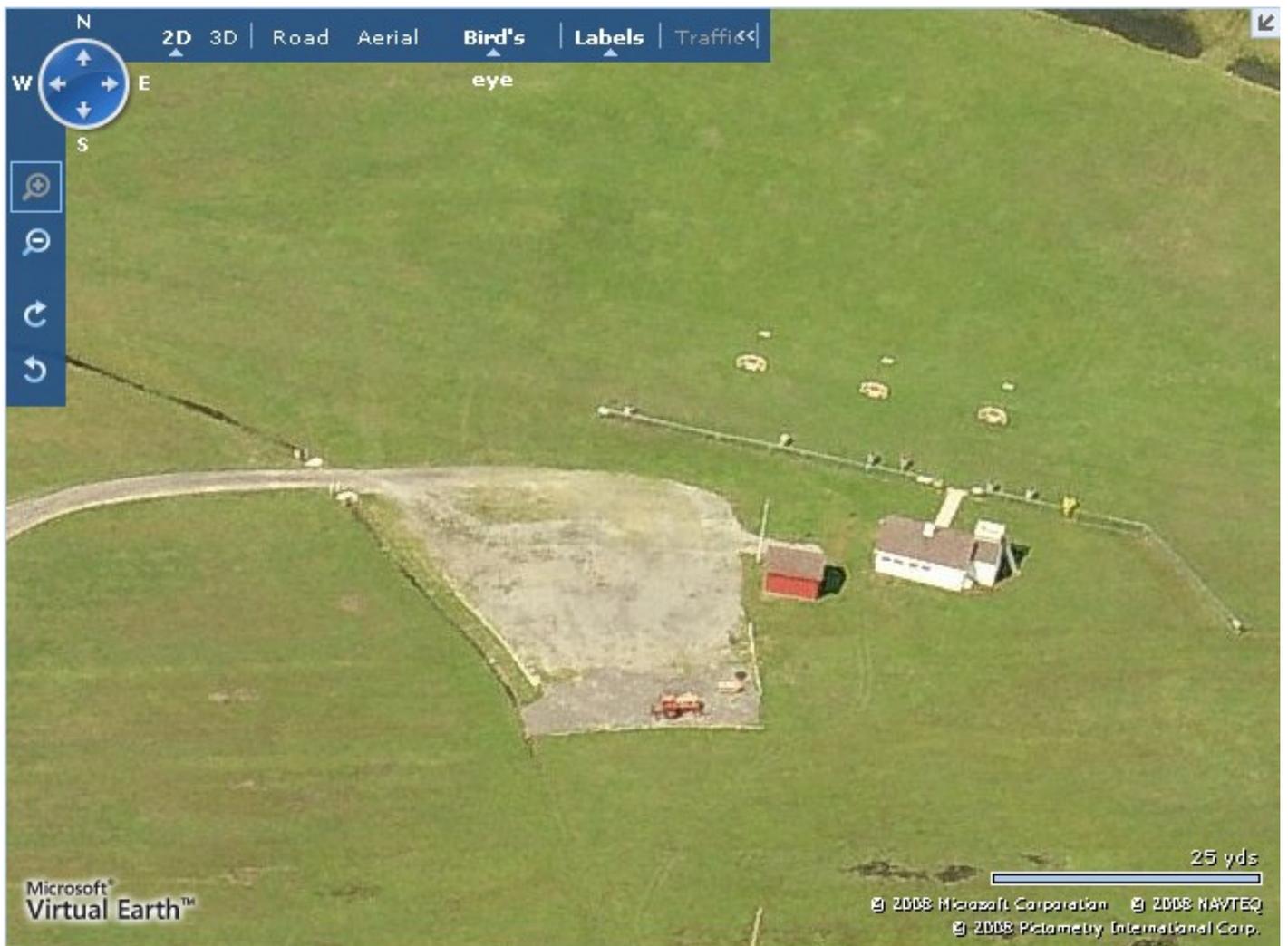
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stars\\_club\\_members/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stars_club_members/) (Don't forget to sign in)

The link for the STARS club home page at DII is

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

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

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



**STARS Field Satellite photo**

# **S.T.A.R.S.**

## ***Flight Training Program***

# **2011**



### **When?**

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

### **Where?**

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

### **Who?**

Anyone wanting to learn to fly powered R/C model airplanes!! You do not have to be a Club member and all lessons are free. Each student must furnish his/her own plane and radio equipment and also must hold a current membership in a nationally recognized model aircraft association in order to fly.

## **PreFlight Workshop**

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

### **Interested?**

Contact:

SENIOR FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR: Bob Rowe (474-8428)



*Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society*  
Phoenix, NY

# 2011 Helicopter Flight School

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

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



## **STARS Field Safety Rules**

### **1. General:**

A. License: All pilots, students, and flying guests must have a current membership in a nationally recognized model aircraft association in order to fly.

B. Spectators: Only those people essential to flight operations will be permitted in the pit area; all others will remain on the spectator side of the fence.

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

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

E. Crash Debris: Pilots must retrieve all pieces of their aircraft after a crash. Particularly, attention must be made to obtaining all pieces of aircraft that land in the neighboring fields under cultivation.

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

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

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

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

J. PPMIP: Those pilots participating in the Park Pilot Membership Program must fly models that weigh two pounds or less and be incapable of reaching speeds greater than 80 mph. They must be electric or rubber powered, or of any similar quiet means of propulsion.

### **2. Transmitters:**

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

B. Range Checks: Each pilot will conduct a successful radio equipment ground range check before flying a new or repaired aircraft and prior to each flying session.

### **3. Engines:**

A. All internal combustion engines run at the field will have a cilencer (except for small displacements of .88 cubic inches or less).

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

### **4. Flying:**

A. Boundaries: Flying over the pit area or the spectator side of the fence is prohibited, unless beyond the control of the pilot(s).

B. Taxing: Taxing is prohibited in the pit area!

C. Flying:

(1). Pilots will initiate their first turn after takeoff away from the pit and spectator areas.

(2). Engines will not be started before 9 AM Monday through Saturday and 11 AM on Sunday, unless approved by the Event Director.

(3). No more than three aircraft will be permitted in the air at one time.

(4). All flying will be conducted from the designated flight boxes.

(5). Hand launching of aircraft is prohibited from the pits.

(6). Flight operations will cease during electrical storms.

### **5. Guests:**

A. All guests must have a current membership in a nationally recognized model aircraft association in order to fly.

B. Guests may fly at the field only with the approval of a member in good standing and only as long as a sponsoring member remains at the field. Guests will not fly unattended.

C. A local guest will be allowed to fly at the field on three (3) separate occasions and then will be asked to join the Club.

D. An out-of-town guest may make arrangements with the Club to fly at the field while visiting the area. The Club Officers and the Safety Officer will handle each out-of-town visitor on a case-by-case basis.

E. All guests are required to extend every courtesy to current members sharing the same flying frequency. But when there is a conflict over who shall fly, the Club member will have the first option to fly. Both the guest and the members should use common sense while sharing the flight line or using the same radio frequencies.

**Plane Propwash**

Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society  
Monthly News Letter  
June 2011