

**Overview**

*Type:* southwest facing, eastern mountain site, near Chemung, NY

*Geography:* short forested ridge looking up the Chemung River valley and dropping off both sides

*History:* opened 1976 by FSF, flown continuously

**Launch**

*GPS Coordinates:* 42.029411, -76.639702

*Elevation:* 1600' MSL (750' AGL)

*Glide to LZ:* 5:1

*Minimum Ratings & Skills:* H2/P2 (new H2/P2 w/ supervision) and FL

*Best Wind direction/speed:* WSW (250°), 10-15 mph (rotor/sink likely beyond 230°-270° range). Can be safely flown in smooth straight-in (240°-260°) wind to 15-20 mph with gusts to 25 mph, smooth 30° crossed wind to 12 mph.

*Description:* wide open grassy slope, starts at moderate steepness then drops off quickly, ideal for first mountain flights

*Hazards:* crowding due to topographical saddles on each side of launch effectively limiting the number of gliders using ridge lift; a high-tension powerline runs up the north side of the valley, about ¼ mile from launch

*Access:* across lawn then via dirt logging road, 2WD marginally sufficient when dry, 4WD w/ clearance when wet/rutted.

*Parking:* large clearing behind launch and setup area, space sufficient for eight to ten vehicles

*Setup:* area immediately behind launch, along both side tree lines, space sufficient for eight to ten gliders

*Control:* property is privately owned, launch is maintained by FSF, use is regulated by FSF, subject to terms & conditions of landowner agreement; landowner contact required beforehand

**Landing Zone**

*GPS Coordinates:* 42.027270, -76.652823

*Description:* at a distance ¾ mile from launch; a level field in front of mountain, of sufficient size to be within nearly everyone's flight envelope; bordered by a road on one side, a tree line on the side toward launch, and adjacent fields on the other sides

*Hazards:* telephone poles and powerline run along roadway on south side of LZ field; a high-tension powerline runs up the north side of the valley, about ½ mile from the LZ; crops may limit landing in summer to alternate fields available

*Access:* paved 2-lane public roadway bordering one side of field

*Parking:* along shoulder of paved roadway, comfortably accommodating six vehicles on one side

*Teardown:* area along south side of field away from main landing area, adjacent to roadside parking

*Control:* property is privately owned, LZ is maintained by owner and usually planted in crop, use is regulated by FSF, subject to terms & conditions of landowner agreement

**Protocol**

Visiting pilots/new members must be accompanied by Board-designated LOCAL members for access, site briefing, and flight activity. Convene in parking area alongside LZ, plant a windsock in its center, transfer equipment (carpool as convenient to minimize traffic). In order to fly the privately-owned site, landowner Rick Stroman must be contacted for permission, typically obtained by lead vehicle stopping at his house enroute to launch access road. Consistent with restrictions noted, do not disturb during hunting season. Avoid spinning tires and rutting trail during wet or muddy conditions (if tires spin, walk it in). On launch, place wind indicators in the slot. If the completion of flying and vehicle retrieval occurs after dark, trailing vehicle should notify landowner that everyone is down.

**XC Options**

XC potential is good. An abundance of fields (potential LZs) behind the mountain make it easy and fun to XC from here, the longest flight to date reported to be 84 miles. Aside from the 5-mile distant hop over the back to Blue Swan airport (now closed), XC flights have been so infrequent that no defined route options, waypoints or LZs for landing out have been established.

**Restrictions**

The site is closed – without exception - for NY hunting season from the end of November through the beginning of December. The site may be occasionally closed should crops occupy alternate fields in addition to the primary LZ.

**Contact**

*Safety Director:* Jim Kolynich, 435 Draht Hill Rd, Elmira, NY 14901 (607-732-0034)

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