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COMMISSIONER

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SARATOGA COUNTY AIRPORT ADVISORY

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recently conducted a review of proposed Rules and Regulations for the Saratoga County Airport. In a letter dated November 14, 2011, the FAA advised that the current Glider Staging Areas located adjacent to the runways, as shown on this Karner Blue Habitat Management Plan, violate FAA design standards.

Specifically the FAA has taken the position that the current Glider Staging Areas are located partially or entirely within the Object Free Areas (OFA), which, according to FAA Advisory Circular 150/5300-13, is/are defined as "An area on the ground centered on a runway, taxiway, or taxilane centerline provided to enhance the safety of aircraft operations **by having the area free of objects, except for objects that need to be located in the OFA for air navigation or aircraft ground maneuvering purposes.**" The Runway Object Free Area is 500 feet wide (250 feet from runway centerline) for Runway 14-32, and 800 feet wide (400 feet from runway centerline) for Runway 5-23.

The glider staging and assembly/disassembly activities currently being carried out within the Runway 5-23 and 14-32 Object Free Areas violate these FAA standards. Pursuant to the design standard definition, these activities are not required for air navigation or ground maneuvering purposes. However, the FAA did clarify that the only allowable activity within these areas would be the towing of the glider by a powered aircraft prior to take-off or, the removal of the glider from the runway immediately after landing.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that effective immediately, no glider or other activities which violate the criteria identified herein will be allowed within the Object Free Areas at the Saratoga County Airport. Assembly, disassembly and actions other than towing the aircraft immediately prior to take off or the removal of the glider immediately after landing must take place within the areas leased by Saratoga Soaring Association and the Adirondack Soaring Group.

Dated: February 8, 2012

JOSEPH C. RITCHEY, Commissioner
Saratoga County Department of Public Works