

The WFC Flyer – June 2013



Monthly Hanger Flying Safety Meeting
Weight & Balance and Airplane Preflight
Fulton, NY

Important Dates

Board Meeting

July 2nd 2013
7:00 PM Clubhouse

General Meeting

July 11th, 2013
7:00 PM Clubhouse

Club Officers

President

Joe Ebert
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Vice President

Randy Christian
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Treasurer

Bob Herloski
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Secretary

Steve Murray
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Directors

Jake DeGroot
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Mike Shippers
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Tom Henderson
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From the Presidents Desk

Excerpt from conference call with the FAA NYADO and the NYS DOT.

The purpose of the conference call was to respond to “Phase 2” of the airport classification project that the FAA is doing. As you all may know, we were classified as an “unclassified” airport. At risk is the loss of funding from the FAA AIP and ACIP programs, and NYS DOT matching funds, and NYS DOT programs that fund non-airspace/movement area development, such as hangars, security fencing, etc.

The conversation covered a wide range of topics, from the number of based aircraft, to the number of operations, flight training, international flights, to community outreach and participation and the use of the airport by other agencies, such as NYS Dept. of Corrections, local police, Mercy Flight, CAP and DHS/USCG. There were a no surprises on the questions and topics I was asked, but some of the responses I provided surprised both the folks from the FAA and the NYS DOT.

One of the things that surprised them was the increase in activity at the airport. While I could not quantify the number of “operations”, or “takeoffs and landings”, I did let them know that in club aircraft alone, and flight instruction in particular, we have seen nearly a doubling of flight hours from 2009 to 2012, from about 700 to over 1400 hours. We had a conversation about “how we did that”, and I explained to them that we are using modest, but purposeful techniques to increase our student pilot starts and recruit new tenants to the airport. They stated they were impressed, and agreed that we were bucking the trend in GA.

One thing they had no idea about was that Naval Air Station Detroit has a depot at our airport, and uses us as a base for SAR for missions from eastern Lake Erie to the St. Lawrence River. I explained to them that we are halfway between Detroit NAS and Cape Cod's NAS and we are centrally located on the southern shore of Lake Ontario. Approximately 60 missions per year are flown by local USCG pilots, and that we host the NAS Detroit Dauphin helo about 6 times a year. In addition to that, local USCG crews fly missions for DHS.

I also noted that our airport is used by Customs and Border Patrol and Mercy Flight and that we also get fairly routine landings by Chinooks from NY ANG Rochester and probably Ft. Drum as well.

We also discussed businesses that use the airport as base for travel. Seneca Foods uses us to a limited extent, Motts/Dr. Pepper uses us frequently, Pace Electronics and many locally-based pilots use their aircraft for business purposes as well.

We discussed the number of direct jobs that the airport provides, and the economic impact the airport has on the local community. They were impressed that I had numbers based on FAA data as well as NYS studies. They were also impressed with the relationship we have with the local communities.

I described to them the good relationships we have with Senator Nozzolio, Assemblyman Oaks and Senator Schumer (and that he used our airport regularly). I also explained the outreach programs we have done to educate our county government and local towns about the airport. They asked if there were any events or activities that offered the public a chance to see the airport and I described the history of the pancake breakfast and that it's "more a community event" than something the airport does out of need, and that we're pleased we're such an important part of a local tradition.

I described our Scout/Aviation badge programs, and that our Full Time flight instructor is also a NYS Certified teacher. I also mentioned our new scholarship program. They stated they were very impressed, and even surprised at some of the things we're doing to promote aviation in general and our airport in particular.

They asked about our relationship with airports in the region, and our "latest projects". I explained to them that our relationships with airports in the region were collegial, and that we didn't feel it was productive to raid another airport to gain tenants. I told them about our recent replacement of the Fuel Farm pumps and CC system and that we offered our old system to D38 to help them improve their situation. I told them about our cooperative project with the NYS DOT gas/water line project and how we were able to work with the Town to get the residents around us a water district and the opportunity to get gas so they could get off wells and propane. They liked that "win/win"

I guess in summary, I gave them as accurate a description as I could of the level of activity, the relationship we have with our neighbors, and the value the airport provides to the community.

At the end of the conference call, the FAA and DOT folks said that they learned valuable information about our airport that was not contained in the FAA data.

They asked me which classification I thought fit our airport, and I said that our current data puts us easily into either the "Basic" or "Local" airport classification. They indicated that either of those would make sense.

Headliners

Steven Malin – Solo

Aaron Preston – Private Pilot

Greg Arserio – Private Pilot

Jason Robin – Commercial Pilot

A welcome to our latest new members

James Oliver – Webster

Tim Valentine – Rochester

New fuel price:

\$6.29 non-member

\$6.09 member

New Aircraft rental rates

37R,55W,1DT: \$77

85X,6ES: \$91

Engine Replacement for 85X has been completed

Pancake Breakfast

Bill Bach

This year's breakfast was a big success. The weather was good, the turnout was great (we had quite a line mid morning)and we served just over 1900 breakfasts. Initial figures indicate we did well financially. Thanks to all who participated and helped make this another great event for our club.

Bill Bach

Breakfast Chairman