

WFC Flyer

Sunset over Lake Ontario in July of 2020 (Chris Houston)

Important Dates:

General Meeting
November 12, 2020
WFC Clubhouse

Board Meeting
December 3, 2020
WFC Clubhouse

General Meeting
December 10, 2020
WFC Clubhouse

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Williamson Flying Club Newsletter November 2020

From the President's Desk by Randy Christian

I know that my timing may not be the best, but my topic this month will be our upcoming Club elections. Holding a position on the WFC Board is an honor and a privilege and I encourage all eligible members to throw their hats in the ring for a 2021 role on the board.

Normally I would wait another month to broach this topic; however, with all of our challenges this year, I thought it would be wise to shed some light on the Williamson Flying Club's electoral process sooner than later.

While our long-term members will be familiar with the process, I would like to lay out some details for those who might be newer to our Club or less familiar with how board members are elected.

So, here goes. The offices up for election this year are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Each of these officers is elected for a one year term. There is also a Director seat open this year. Director seats have a three year term.

To be eligible to run for office, you need to have attended 6 member meetings in the year leading up to the February annual meeting and election. You also need to be in good standing. You can reach

out to the Bob's — Clark and Herloski — to see if you meet the requirements.

I have to say, this has been the most challenging year. It was challenging not only for me, but for the board as a

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Williamson Flying Club

Williamson-Sodus Airport (KSDC)
5502 State Route 104
Williamson, NY 14589

Find us on the web at:
www.williamsonflyingclub.com

Board of Directors

President:	Randy Christian	Director, 2018:	Dick Swingly
Vice President:	Brad Roehrig	Director, 2019:	Paula Sippel
Treasurer:	Bob Herloski	Director, 2020:	Lesly Jean-Louis
Secretary:	Bob Clark		

Contact: bod@williamsonflyingclub.com

Medical Advisor: Dr. Pam Tarkington

From the President's Desk by Randy Christian

"I always champion the idea of new people on the board."

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whole. But it has also been most rewarding, knowing that we have met these challenges head on and overcome so much.

I always champion the idea of new people on the board. I would also like to remind the membership that, if you are thinking about it or even just curious about what is involved, you should reach out to anyone on the board to ask questions (all board members are listed on the front page of the newsletter). I would also encourage you to look at attending a board meeting. Yes, as a member, you can sit in and see what

is involved. You are restricted to being a spectator at these meetings and could be asked to leave the room at certain times, but you would gain exposure to what it takes to keep the lights on at your Club.

This is getting a little long winded, so I will close by adding that I will be assembling a nominating committee shortly. If you are interested, please contact me and let's see where it goes.

Take care, stay safe, and enjoy each and every day. Blue skies, everyone!

Aviation Quote

"And let's get one thing straight. There's a big difference between a pilot and an aviator. One is a technician; the other is an artist in love with flight."

- Elrey Jeppesen

Recommended Reading



Welcome, New Members!

The Williamson Flying Club extends a warm welcome to those who joined our ranks in October, 2020!

- Gilead Biggie
- Jessica Pruss

The November / December edition of [FAA Safety Briefing](#) focuses on CFIT (controlled flight into terrain), one of the leading causes of general aviation accidents. Learn about tools, tips, and best practices for CFIT avoidance.

Cool Places To Fly by Chris Houston

Destination: Sky Acres Airport, Lagrangeville, NY (44N)

Distance: 176 nautical miles, direct

Why It's Cool:

If you're going to build an airport on the side of a hill, take a lesson from ancient Peruvians and make good use of terracing. Those who created [Sky Acres airport](#) certainly did. One needs to taxi uphill from the runway to reach the parallel taxiway and each parking area is set at progressively higher elevations. I am not trying to claim that Sky Acres is the Machu Picchu of airports, but I think the Incas would have been impressed.

Sky Acres is a public use general aviation airport set among the roll-

ing hills of downstate New York about 7 miles east of Poughkeepsie and 10 miles west of the Connecticut border. It is home to [SkyGeek](#), the online pilot shop. For many years, it was also home to a popular \$100 hamburger destination, Tail Winds Café. Sadly, Tailwinds Café closed its doors (as well as Tail Winds Café West at nearby KPOU described in the July 2018 edition of WFC Flyer) after the tragic death of owner Hope McLucas in June 2019.

The facility was renovated and reopened under new management as the [Hangars Café](#) in November 2019. One year later, the restaurant is doing strong business with lots of drive-in patrons (a critical metric for the success of any airport diner, in my opinion). On a

Sunday morning at 9:30 am, the restaurant was doing brisk business with people dining both inside and outside. The staff were extremely friendly, the kitchen fast, the food undeniably excellent, and the ambiance unique. After all, how many airport terminal buildings are actually repurposed dairy barns complete with a silo?

Throughout breakfast, new arrivals continued to land and taxi uphill to various transient parking areas. The apron directly in front of the terminal / restaurant is also the location of the self-serve fuel pump. At a fuel price of \$3.99 / gallon, aircraft were lined up on both sides of the fuel island to take advantage of some of the least expensive fuel in the region.

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Sky Acres from the left downwind of runway 35



An uphill taxiway seen from the end of runway 35



Terminal building and FBO ramp from transient parking



Turning base for runway 35



View from the transient parking ramp



The Sky Acres terminal is a former dairy barn!



Note how high the rest of the airport is above the runway



Uphill taxi to the transient parking ramp



Fuel farm on the FBO ramp

Cool Places To Fly by Chris Houston

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During my short visit, it was clear that Sky Acres is a favorite destination of those who love airplanes regardless of whether they arrived by air or ground. Small children clung to the fence along the edge of the ramp, watching a great diversity of aircraft come and go; basic Cessnas and Cherokees, a Citabria, a Swift, a SeaMax amphibian. When the SeaMax pilot saw WFC member Ed Ciolkowski and I examining his experimental seaplane, he hurried over to give us a gracious tour.

This is a great place for food and camaraderie. Besides, where else in New York state can you taxi around like an Incan?

Tips:

- Fuel prices are usually low for the region: \$3.99/gal in November 2020.
- The fuel farm is an island that can accommodate aircraft on both sides to expedite fueling.
- If you have designs on breakfast, plan to arrive early to beat the crowd. Sky Acres and the Hangars Café are popular!
- Check out the taxiway map available at right to understand the layout before you go ([from the Sky Acres website](#)). The fuel farm is located on the ramp immediately in front of the terminal. The terminal is easy to recognize because it's a large red dairy barn with an attached silo. Additional parking is available on the western



edge of the main ramp.

Activities Committee Update by Chris Houston

I've said it before and I'll say it again: 2020 has been tough for all of us. The Activities Committee had grand plans for 2020 and, though most of those ideas went unfulfilled, we still managed to have some fun.

Unfortunately, the most recent casualty was our annual Christmas party originally scheduled for December 5. After polling the membership, we only had 11 people interested in going with many more responding that they were not interested. As a result, we decided to cancel the party due to lack of interest.

Happily, we have re-booked with the Golf Club at Blue Heron Hills for Saturday, December 4, 2021.

The venue was kind enough to roll our current deposit over to next year, so we did not lose any money with the cancellation. So mark your calendars for 2021! You heard it here first.

By way of a recap, 15 members enjoyed lunch at Nick's Family Restaurant in the happier days before COVID-19. At the end of February and going into early March, we had a pair of successful breakfast fly-outs to St Mary's (OYM) and Dansville (DSV). We enjoyed a pair of socially distanced picnics, one in June at Perry-Warsaw (OG1) and another in September at Piseco (K09) with a combined total of 34 participants! From July to August, there were three weekday evening flights to

Dansville for ice cream at Ice Cream Island.

September was clearly the highlight of the year for events. We took four aircraft through the New York Bravo to circle the city followed by lunch at Cherry Ridge. We flew to Lake Placid and enjoyed lunch at Big Slide. We finally made it to Penn's Cave – and it was worth the wait!

With the cancellation of the Christmas party, we have no additional plans for 2020. Best wishes to everyone and we'll hope to see more of you in 2021!