



The WFC's Warrior 816 was flown to Westchester County Airport by Gilead Biggie and Mike Abate on October 28 in pursuit of the Headless Horseman. (Chris Houston)

### Important Dates:

**General Meeting**  
November 9, 2023  
WFC Clubhouse

**Board Meeting**  
December 7, 2023  
WFC Clubhouse

**General Meeting**  
December 14, 2023  
WFC Clubhouse

### Inside This Issue:

- President's Desk, p1
- Tony's Thanksgiving in October, p2
- Cool Places to Fly, College Park, MD p3
- Fly-outs: Sleepy Hollow via HPN, p6
- Annual Holiday Party, p7

## Williamson Flying Club Newsletter November 2023

### From the President's Desk by Bob Fratangelo

Hard to believe it's November!

Tony's Thanksgiving in October went very well this year. Great big shout out to Scott and Kim Lasky for preparing all of that wonderful turkey! Also, thanks to all who came and brought some very delicious dishes to pass! What a feast it was!

We are having our Christmas Party on Dec 9th at the Ontario Golf Club this year. I am really looking forward to it! Please get your reservations in as soon as the Activities Committee gets it set up! More details are on the back page of the newsletter.

We lost a club member this past month, Bill Hughes. He and his wife Diane were WFC members and donated a lot of their

time to the CAP (Civil Air Patrol). We offer our most sincere condolences to Diane and their kids. His obituary is located [here](#).



Winter is fast approaching now. Let's get out to the FAA FFAST site and brush up on some of their training materials for winter operations! In fact, the latest FAA Safety Brief contains some helpful articles on winter flying (see the next page). For those with

hangars, now is a good time to prep your hangar for winter! Remember, **no salt** or ice melt should be used on the ramp. These substances are very corrosive to aircraft. There is a special product with

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Williamson Flying Club

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

Find us on the web at:  
[www.williamsonflyingclub.com](http://www.williamsonflyingclub.com)

### Board of Directors

President: Bob Fratangelo  
Vice President: Dave Lowry  
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Treasurer: Bob Herloski

Director, 2021: Dick Swingly  
Director, 2022: Gilead Biggie  
Director, 2023: Dave Perricone

Contact: [bod@williamsonflyingclub.com](mailto:bod@williamsonflyingclub.com)

**Medical Advisor:** Dr. Pam Tarkington

## Recommended Reading



The November / December 2023 edition of [FAA Safety Briefing](#) magazine includes articles focused on safe winter flying operations.

## Aviation Quote

“A feeling of amazement gripped me, that I, alone, should have been given such keys to the paths of heaven, should have found my way to this undreamed-of paradise of night: more marvelous, more serene, than an earthly landscape under the garish blatancy of day.”

- Cecil Lewis, WWI RAF ace on night flight in *Sagittarius Rising* (1936)

## From the President’s Desk by Bob Fratangelo

*(Continued from page 1)*

urea in it that can be safely used, but it is very expensive. The bottom line: do not put anything down on surfaces inside the airport fence unless you first check with Mike Bjerga, our airport Manager.

Winter is a great time to fly! I’m sure that the Activities Committee will have some more fun fly outs. There is nothing better than crisp clear skies and

smooth air! Sure, runways can be slick at times, so exercise caution, especially on windy days. Pulling your aircraft out of the hangar may well be better done with those slip on ice cleats (e.g., YakTrax) that slip over your boots.

Come on out to the club! Go flying! See you there!

## Tony’s Thanksgiving in October—October 15, 2023

On Saturday, October 15, we held the annual Tony’s Thanksgiving in October celebration, so-named in honor of late member Tony Alesci who started the tradition. Thanks to Scott Lasky (pictured far right) for taking charge of this event, including deep frying four turkeys to mouth-watering perfection! This is not to mention the mashed potatoes and stuffing he provided. But this was not a one-man show! Thanks also to all members who brought dishes to pass or helped with setup/tear down. It was a wonderful time for great food and great fellowship!



Dave Perricone dishes up lunch under Scott Lasky’s expert supervision. Photo by Chuck Mangos.



Mike Bjerga indulges his sweet tooth. Photo by Bob Fratangelo.



The whole gang enjoying an excellent lunch in the WFC maintenance hangar. Photo by Bob Fratangelo.

## Cool Places to Fly: College Park Airport (KCGS) by Chris Houston



### Destination:

College Park Airport (KCGS),  
College Park, MD

### Distance:

255 nautical miles (direct)

### Why It's Cool:

- The oldest continuously operating airport in the world.
- The only General Aviation airport with convenient access to the Washington DC Metro system and a perfect General Aviation gateway to our nation's capitol.
- Home to the College Park Aviation Museum that chronicles the fascinating history of this "field of firsts".
- One of the MD-3 airports in the FRZ surrounding Washington DC.

College Park Airport (College Park, MD) in metropolitan Washington DC is a worthy flying destination for multiple reasons. First, it is the home base of WFC member Chris Karpenko and who wouldn't want to visit with him? For aviation history buffs, the field was the site of several early aeronautical milestones. It is also home to the [College Park Aviation Museum](#) that celebrates this fascinating history. But most practically, College Park is the only General Aviation airport located adjacent to a stop on the DC Metro (subway). Convenient Metro access makes College Park a perfect General Aviation gateway to our nation's capitol; once within the system, one can get just about anywhere in the greater DC metropoli-

tan area. In fact, landing at College Park puts an aviator a mere 7 nautical miles from the US Capitol Building. While on final approach, I could see the Washington Monument towering above other city landmarks.

A historical marker standing near airplane parking extolls the historical virtues of the field. It reads:

### College Park Airport

"Oldest Continually  
Operated in the World"

-- First Military Airfield  
in the United States --

What follows is a bulleted list by year of the many events that occurred at this "field of firsts":

- 1908 - Oct 8, Wilbur Wright instructed first flying officers of the Signal Corps, U.S. Army
- 1909 - Oct 29, Mrs. Ralph H. Van Deman first woman passenger in

America

- 1911 - July 3, First army flying school established
- 1912 - First flight surgeon, Lt. John P. Kelly
- 1912 - First group cross country flight originated here, first long distance flight - 42 miles, destination, Chevy Chase, MD
  - First bombs dropped from an aircraft utilizing a bombsight
  - First machine guns fired from an aircraft
  - Early experimentation with radio signals sent from an aircraft
  - Altitude record set by Lt. "Hap" Arnold, 6450 feet
- 1918 - Aug 12, Washington terminus, first regular airmail service
- 1920 - Early helicopter experiments by Emile Berliner
- 1922 - First successful flight of a helicopter by Henry Berliner
- 1933 - First "blind flying" cross country flight by James Kinney

*(Continued on page 4)*



Satellite photo of the College Park Airport with walking directions to the College Park Metro Station

## Cool Places to Fly: First Flight Airport (KFFA) by Chris Houston

(Continued from page 3)  
and Harry Diamond

The [College Park Aviation Museum](#) is a small museum that focuses on the contributions of the field to aviation, detailing how the US military established its first flying school there and recruited none other than Wilbur Wright to instruct the first military pilots in a 1909 Wright Military Flyer (on display at the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum). A mere \$5 entry fee allows visitors to explore the fascinating history presented in this Smithsonian-affiliated museum.

There are some noteworthy aircraft on display here, including the one-of-a-kind Berliner Helicopter No. 5 that conducted what is acknowledged as the first successful flight by a helicopter on February 24, 1924. Built from a repurposed Nieuport 23 fighter fuselage and configured as a triplane, it bears little resemblance to a modern helicopter.

Another noteworthy aircraft is Gus McLeod's Stearman biplane. Although these airplanes were built in large numbers and are not particularly rare, this one is unique as the only open cockpit airplane ever flown to the North Pole (April 2000).

I was impressed by the quality of the small museum. There is much to read, but doing so is worthwhile. Placards throughout the facility detail fascinating historical footnotes of early aviation pioneers who passed through and made an impact at College Park.

But the College Park Aviation Museum was not my primary interest in visiting. My real interest in landing at College Park was easy access to Washington DC. On my first trip, for example, I visited the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum on the National Mall.

The College Park Metro station is a ten



Main gallery of the College Park Aviation Museum.



Gus McLeod's Stearman that flew to the North Pole.



Sculpture outside of the National Air & Space Museum.



The America by Air exhibit featuring early air travel.

minute walk from the field and the National Mall a mere 25 minute subway ride away.

A few notes about the [Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum](#) (NASM) on the National Mall. For the last several years, the NASM has been under renovation and all of its exhibits reimagined. Only 50% of the building is currently open and features eight transformed exhibits. The full building is expected to reopen in 2026. Although admission to the museum re-



The unique 1924 Berliner No. 5 Helicopter.



L'Enfant Plaza Metro Station near the National Mall.



1909 Wright Military Flyer at the Smithsonian.



Columbia, in which the Apollo 11 crew returned to Earth.



The restored 1903 Wright Flyer, same bones, "new" fabric.

mains free, limited capacity for visitors requires obtaining free timed-entry passes in advance. These are available through the [NASM website](#).

(Continued on page 5)

## Cool Places to Fly: First Flight Airport (KFFA) by Chris Houston

(Continued from page 4)

To my mind, the two stand-out exhibits were *The Wright Brothers & the Invention of the Aerial Age* and *Destination Moon*. The Wright Brothers exhibit does a great job of contextualizing the Wrights' contributions to the study of aeronautics and controllable, powered flight versus the efforts of their predecessors and contemporaries. Its centerpiece is the restored 1903 Wright Flyer that made history outside of Kitty Hawk, NC. *Destination Moon* tells the story of landing mankind on the moon, featuring key artifacts like Alan Shepard's tiny *Freedom 7* Mercury capsule, the Gemini VII spacecraft that participated in the first orbital docking with Gemini VI, the *Columbia* that returned Apollo 11's crew to Earth after the moon landing, and Neil Armstrong's spacesuit worn on the moon. Exhibits are well-lit and augmented with multimedia displays that engagingly tell their tale.

Although College Park is undoubtedly the best General Aviation gateway to Washington DC, there is one hurdle to overcome. College Park is one of the Maryland-3 (MD-3) airports that were trapped in the Flight Restricted Zone (FRZ or "freeze") created around Washington DC in the wake of 9/11. Access to this airport requires that the Pilot in Command of the arriving aircraft possess a unique PIN. The application process is well-described on the [College Park website](#). It requires taking the [FAA DC-SFRA course](#) and completing TSA Form 418 (MD-3 Application). As a note, Form 418 requires a FSDO signature for aircraft owners, but that is no longer required.

After submitting the application and copies of the required credentials (FAA DC-SFRA completion certificate, FAA airman certificate, FAA medical certificate, and a government-issued photo ID), College Park will conduct a Facetime/Skype/Zoom call with the

applicant to verify that they resemble their photo ID. The next step is getting fingerprinted. If done at an official NATACS collector location, the process is expedited significantly. From start to finish, 8 days elapsed between my submission of Form 418 to receiving my PIN.

In order to land at an airport in the FRZ, a FRZ flight plan needs to be filed by phone directly with Washington Center. This is where the pilot's PIN is given to verify that he or she is authorized to fly into the FRZ. Step-by-step procedural details are provided by the "[Inbound and outbound IFR/VFR procedures](#)" webpage.

Although the process intimidates some pilots, with PIN in hand, the procedures are not that onerous. My first flight into and out of College Park came off flawlessly and everyone I interacted with was friendly and helpful. This was particularly true of Lee Sommer, College Park Airport's manager. He is an excellent ambassador for the field and enthusiastically helps pilots through the procedures as necessary. When I met him during my first visit, he said to me, "How was your flight in? Piece of cake?" When I agreed that it was, he responded with, "Great! Tell your friends!"

Was it worth it? Absolutely. Give it a try! Contact me with any questions!

### Tips and Reminders:

#### College Park Airport

- Parking at College Park Airport is free for the first four hours, then \$10/day (including overnight).
- Aircraft parked at College Park require prop locks. The airport will provide these.
- Fuel at College Park is currently \$6.80/gallon.
- College Park Airport is surrounded

by noise-sensitive areas. See this [map](#) from the airport website.

### Inbound/Outbound Procedures

- FRZ flight plans are filed by phone (no electronic filing!) with Washington Center at 1-703-771-3476.
- [FRZ flight plans use the domestic flight plan form](#). Because there is no date field on the form, flight plans can only be filed less than 24 hours prior to departure. If within these time constraints, both inbound and outbound flight plans can be filed during the same call to Washington Center.
- **Aircraft in the FRZ/SFRA cannot squawk 1200 while airborne.** Arrivals to College Park need to keep their squawk code to the ground.
- [Departure clearance and squawk code are obtained by calling Potomac at 1-866-599-3874](#) on the ground. If IFR and weather conditions are suitable for a VFR departure, inform Potomac you are able to depart VFR to avoid release and/or void times.
- IFR routes from CGS to SDC may be circuitous. Do next expect a direct route.

### College Park Aviation Museum

- Adult admission is \$5. Hours are Tuesday–Sunday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm (closed Monday).

### DC Metro

- A parking structure next to the Metro stop is a great landmark when walking from the airport.
- Click [here](#) for a map of the DC Metro rail system. To get to the National Mall, take the Green Line from College Park to the Archives or L'Enfant Plaza .
- Payment is by [SmarTrip card](#) (can be purchased in Metro stations) or by adding a [pass to your smartphone wallet app](#).

## Fly-Outs: Sleepy Hollow, Westchester Co. Airport, NY (KHPN) - 28 October 2023

In the latest Activities Committee outing, the WFC pursued the trail of the legendary Headless Horseman in Sleepy Hollow, NY. Due to weather in Sodus at the time, participants consolidated into three aircraft capable of departing IFR. They landed at the busy and fancy Westchester County Airport (HPN), borrowed a Mercedes courtesy car, and ventured to the final resting place of author Washington Irving in Sleepy Hollow. This trek included visits to several sites featured in the famous story. Lunch was at JP Doyle's in Sleepy Hollow. Some participants even took an excursion down the Hudson River! Thanks to Mike Abate for proposing and organizing this trip. Photos are courtesy of Mike Abate, Alicia Carter, Chris Houston, and Kim Lasky.



Alicia and Tom Carter in flight.



Final approach, runway 34, Westchester County.



Tom Carter on the Million Air ramp at KHPN.



Million Air—Westchester FBO.



Inside Million Air—Westchester.



Lunch at JP Doyle's.



Irving family plot in the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.



Washington Irving's gravesite marked with US flags.



Southbound down the Hudson River in NYC.



Between layers.



The view flying home from downstate NY.



## Announcing the Williamson Flying Club Annual Holiday Party!



- When:** Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023 at 6-9pm
- Where:** Ontario Golf Club  
2101 Country Club Lane, Ontario, NY 14519
- Cost:** \$35 per person (members, significant others, children)  
\$45 per person (guests of WFC members)  
Pricing includes dinner and gratuity!
- Times:** 6:00 pm—Cash bar cocktail hour  
7:00 pm—Buffet dinner  
8:00 pm—Raffle, all items provided by WFC members  
9:00 pm—End of evening

### RSVP (w/ head count) required by Saturday, Dec 2nd

For those who sign-up for the party, the costs will be added to your monthly WFC invoice.

To ensure an accurate headcount:

RSVP on the signup sheet in the Clubhouse

**OR**

RSVP via the a.S.o.S. system  
(watch for calendar invitation by email)

**\*\* Please do not RSVP using both methods! \*\***

**Questions:** Contact Chris Houston or Scott Lasky

## 2023 Annual Holiday Party

We are a month out from our annual WFC holiday party! These gatherings are always a great opportunity so visit with other members outside of the airport environment! Treat your spouse or significant other to a nice night out with a great dinner! Please consider joining us this year!

There are a few changes this year:

- We are bringing the party back into Wayne county for 2023 and trying a new venue: the **Ontario Golf Club**.
- A **\$35 member rate** applies to members, significant others, and children of members. Other guests are welcome to join at the **\$45/person non-member rate**.
- Based on feedback from last year, we have not scheduled any outside entertainment for 2023. Come prepared with your most scintillating conversational skills!

As always, you can sign up using the sheet at the clubhouse **or** through the a.S.o.S. system. (Do not use both methods!) Watch your email inbox for the invitation.

Finally, the **raffle**. This long-standing club tradition is sometimes puzzling to new members. Participation is purely voluntary. Those members coming to the party who wish to share the holiday spirit with other members are welcome to bring a gift. Common choices are bottles of wine or gift certificates, but you are welcome to exercise your creativity. At the party, we will pass out raffle tickets for a random drawing. The member-donated gifts will be raffled off until they are gone. It's a fun way to share some generosity with other club members!

Any questions? Contact Chris Houston or Scott Lasky.

