

The WFC Flyer

FEBRUARY 2011



Important Dates

General Meeting

February 10, 2011
7:00 PM Clubhouse

Board Meeting

March 3, 2011
7:00 PM Clubhouse

Club Officers

President

Joe Ebert
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Vice President

Lance Merritt
piperlance@gmail.com

Treasurer

Bob Herloski
herloski@rochester.rr.com

Secretary

Bob Cournoyer
rcourno999@aol.com

Directors

Bill Bach
bbach@frontiernet.net

Tom Henderson
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Chris Karpenko
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Last month's quiz.
The spinner and prop on Delta Tango are colored black. Why?

A black disc (rather than grey) is more visible when spinning (thanks Ed). However DT's prop was painted black because that is the color the painters preferred.

February Quiz.

When is the Apple Blossom Fly In Breakfast?

How many breakfast's has WFC held?

See Breakfast Chairman Bill Bach for answers.

From the President

As my tenure as President of the Williamson Flying Club comes to a close, I reflect on why I wanted to be President and more importantly what I have learned. For me, it's been a remarkable two years. Over the years as president and previously as secretary, I have learned in detail what the club has become. We are still guided by our original charter: to be a not-for-profit organization offering the ability to learn aviation and fly at the lowest a cost as possible, However along with the advantages, the responsibilities assumed as a reliever airport make the overall airport management far more complex. We certainly cannot operate as though we are renting a corner office and some hangar space at the county airport.

My intention as President was to take a "10,000 foot" perspective and put tools in place that would help address this complexity and the challenges of declining active membership, declining flight hours and with those, declining revenues.

These issues had to be addressed. Thwarting resolution was that we didn't have a detailed operational budget in place to see where our revenues came from and what expenses were allocated against those revenues. There was a need to answer a number of questions posed by members such as whether or not the "hangar revenues support the flying activities". We formed a Finance Committee.

During my 2 year term, our Finance Committee has been examining every club transaction from an "operational finance" standpoint. The committee has been diligently reviewing 1800 pages of individual transactions from 2009 and 2010 and has created a tool for this and future Directors to use to track revenues and expenses in four different categories; Aircraft, Airport, Flight Instruction and Membership.

I will leave it to Bob Fratangelo, the Finance Committee Chair, to describe how this tool will help the club. Although still in development, questions are already being answered by this breakout. For instance, airport (hangar) revenues *do not* underwrite the cost of flying and maintaining the club aircraft. The aircraft operations roughly broke even in 2009 and 2010. will be putting \$15,000 into funds for future use.

Annual Meeting Feb 10, 2011 Elec-

The Williamson Flying Club will hold its annual membership meeting at the club house on February 10, 2011 at 7:00 PM.

The election of officers and members of the board of directors will take place at the February meeting. At the January General Meeting, the Nominating Committee provided a list of candidates for the offices that are open for election. Nominations from the floor were made for the positions of President and Vice President.

The candidates for each office are as follows:

President:	Duane Sims, Jake DeGroot
Vice President:	Randy Christian, Chris Karpenko
Treasurer:	Bob Herloski
Secretary:	Bob Cournoyer
Director:	Ed Wilkonski

From the President (continued)

Revenue from Membership (dues, insurance portion of dues and new membership fees) brings into balance the Airport and Flight Instruction areas of operation, to realize an overall balanced Profit & Loss. That is as it should be, since all members, not just hangar renters, enjoy the benefits the airport offers.

The Williamson Flying Club ended 2010 with about \$25,000 in net cash from operations and we will be putting \$15,000 into funds for future use.

During my tenure, active membership has increased, flight hours are at above-average levels and we have generated revenues to cover projected shortfalls for 2009, 2010 and now 2011.

The good news for 2011 is that we will be moving forward with a balanced budget despite an earlier forecast of a five-figure shortfall. We have done this without raising hangar rents, dues or aircraft rental rates, or using cash-on-hand. The Williamson Flying Club is in excellent financial shape and the tools are in place to keep it that way. It's up to us, now, to do the things to meet that budget, which means fly, get instruction, add new members and promote our airport.

What did I learn along the way? I learned that to find true solutions to challenges the club faces, I had to listen to members. After all, it's from the members that we get the ideas, knowledge and skills to meet future challenges.

I thank the members of the Williamson Flying Club for electing me President in 2009, and for re-electing me in 2010. It has been an honor to be your President.

Flight Rx by Dr. Pam Tarkington

SPATIAL DISORIENTATION (Part I)

This will be a two part article.

In Medicine, we often want to know how much a person is "with it". This involves asking simple questions as to the date, who and where the patient is. In aviation we assume (?correctly?) that the pilot knows the date and who they are.

Spatial orientation is knowing where you are in relation to the earth. Various systems in our bodies orientate us as to where we are and it does this via our eyes, vestibular system and proprioceptive reflexes. It is only when these systems are perfectly coordinated, do we know where we are.

Lets go over this. Unless there is some sort of visual defect (or hallucination), what you see is what is out there.

Proprioceptors are tiny "sensors" within our bodies (usually in the joint and spine) that tell our brain our position relative to the environment.

The vestibular system: the inner ear controls - (with the help of two other systems) - our sense of balance (equilibrium). Some of you may have experienced an inflammation of the inner ear that produces something called vertigo: with any motion of your head, you will feel as if the room is spinning uncontrollably. You will feel as if you are off balance. There is another condition called Meniere's (a medical disqualification) in which you will feel dizzy with nausea and vomiting and an associated hearing loss - this is a much more serious condition.

Within the vestibular system are the semicircular canals (of which there are three) and a couple of bony structure called the saccula and the utricle. The semicircular canals detect changes in angular acceleration while the other two detect changes in gravity and linear acceleration. These two systems together tell our brain where our bodies are relative to any movement as well as the static position. The semicircular canals orientate us as to pitching, yawing and rolling. Each of these three canals are filled with a fluid (called endolymph). There are hairs in each canal that detect motion. These hairs, as well as the endolymph, move according to angular acceleration. If the head doesn't move and the plane is straight and level, the endolymph does not move and the hairs stand up straight. Movement of either the plane or your head will cause movement of the canal but not the fluid. The hairs will move in the opposite direction of the acceleration. The movement of the hairs causes the brain to sense that the head has turned.

Now, here is where spatial disorientation starts: in a constant rate turn for more than 20 seconds, the fluid will start to move and the hairs will stand up straight - this makes the brain think that the turn has stopped but in reality you are still turning. If you go out of the turn and go back to straight and level, the fluid will continue to move and the hairs will point in the opposite direction. The brain will falsely believe that you are turning in the opposite direction.

Again, spatial disorientation is the inability to know where you are relative to your environment; we are unable to position ourselves with respect to our true situation. As you can see, this can be very serious.

The vestibular system can be negatively affected by hyperventilation, motion sickness, vascular problems, trauma, toxics (CO, alcohol, drugs), metabolism (diabetes, starvation), vestibular illusions, flicker vertigo (spinning propeller), etc.