



Important Dates:

General Meeting
December 12, 2019
7:00 pm, Clubhouse

Board Meeting
January 2, 2020
7:00 pm, Clubhouse

General Meeting
January 9, 2020
7:00 pm, Clubhouse

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Williamson Flying Club Newsletter December 2019

From the President's Desk by Mike Malec

2019

INSTRUCTION
21 STUDENTS
852 LESSONS HRS
2 CERTIFICATES ACHIEVED
44 STUDENTS ATTENDED GROUND SCHOOL

32 FLYOUTS

19
NEW MEMBERS JOINED THE CLUB

\$336,000
NYS DOT GRANT AWARD FOR JET-A FUEL FARM

20 SATURDAY LUNCHES

4
GUEST SPEAKERS GAVE PRESENTATIONS ON AVIATION TOPICS

NEW IN 2019
14-BAY HANGAR NEAR CONSTRUCTION
NEW ENGINE 1185X
NEW INTERIOR IN 736ES

4 CELEBRATIONS
ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST
PICNIC
THANKSGIVING LUNCH
CHRISTMAS PARTY

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: Mike Malec
Vice President: Ian Fair
Treasurer: Bob Herloski
Secretary: Steve Murray

Director, 2017: Brad Roehrig
Director, 2018: Dick Swingly
Director, 2019: Paula Sippel

Contact: bod@williamsonflyingclub.com

Medical Advisor: Dr. Pam Tarkington

Aviation Quote:

“Science, freedom, beauty, adventure: what more could you ask of life? Aviation combined all the elements I loved. There was science in each curve of an airfoil, in each angle between strut and wire, in the gap of a spark plug or the color of the exhaust flame. There was freedom in the unlimited horizon, on the open fields where one landed. A pilot was surrounded by beauty of earth and sky. He brushed treetops with the birds, leapt valleys and rivers, explored the cloud canyons he had gazed at as a child. Adventure lay in each puff of wind.

I began to feel that I lived on a higher plane than the skeptics of the ground; one that was richer because of its very association with the element of danger they dreaded, because it was freer of the earth to which they were bound. In flying, I tasted a wine of the gods of which they could know nothing. Who valued life more highly, the aviators who spent it on the art they loved, or these misers who doled it out like pennies through their antlike days? I decided that if I could fly for ten years before I was killed in a crash, it would be a worthwhile trade for an ordinary life time.

— Charles Lindbergh
The Spirit of St Louis

Member Spotlight: Tony Alesci by Chris Houston

If WFC member Tony Alesci were the subject of a VH1-style documentary, it might be titled “Behind the Grill”. Many of our members know Tony as the prime mover behind the WFC’s Saturday lunches held between June and October that culminate in the annual “Thanksgiving in October” feast. This year, Tony deep-fried four turkeys – 85 pounds worth – for the enjoyment of club members. Saturday lunches have consistently been one of the most successful Activities Committee events each year and Tony brings tremendous energy and enthusiasm to the endeavor. He has often said, “I love this club” and he definitely shows this love by keeping us well-fed while promoting community.



Member: Tony Alesci
WFC Role: Activities Committee
Ratings: PP-SEL
Endorsed: Tailwheel, high performance
Flight Hours: ~ 350
Joined WFC: 2010

Tony was not raised in an aviation family surrounded by airplanes. His earliest aviation memory is of passing Cicero Airpark north of Syracuse with his parents. He asked if he could learn to fly someday. His mother said, “Sure”. Dad was less supportive.

Years passed and in the 1990s, Tony found himself in the right seat of a Piper Tomahawk from Sair Aviation in Syracuse with a coworker. (I’ll just go ahead and say it... “Traumahawk”... you were thinking it anyway.) By the third excursion aloft, the flights had worked their intended magic.

Tony used to drive past Michael Field (previously the aforementioned Cicero Airpark) daily. One day, instead of passing, he slammed on the brakes and signed up to fly. The year was 1993. I imagine that six year old Tony, who continued on past that same airport with his parents without stopping, would have been stunned and delighted at this turn of events.

After training with Michael “Mickey” Michael, who ran Michael Field along with his father Bill Michael, Tony earned a Private Pilot certificate in 1994 flying Cessna 172s. Mickey was not a fan of controlled airspace and avoided it, so Tony wisely sought-out experience in Syracuse flying a Warrior out of Sair Aviation.

Tony went on to earn a tailwheel endorsement with Mickey in a tailwheel-converted Cessna 150 (a so-called “Texas Taildragger”) and a high performance endorsement flying a Piper Arrow from Sair.

When life got in the way, Tony put flying aside for nearly seven years. But the bug was still there, and it nagged him every time he passed by the Williamson Sodus Airport while commuting to work. With encouragement from his supportive wife Kathy, Tony returned to the fold by joining the WFC in the fall of 2010. Club instructor John Lauster brought Tony’s flying

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Member Spotlight: Tony Alesci by Chris Houston

(Continued from page 2)

back up to snuff and he has been with us ever since. I think this is one reason that Tony loves the club as much as he does, because the WFC brought him back to aviation. He also enjoys the variety of members and the lack of cliques. "A lot of people join a club to own an airplane," Tony explains. "Our club is not that way" in that we actually interact with one another and do things together as a club.

After joining, Tony jumped right in by helping strip One Delta Tango prior to her current paint job. He has worked on the Buildings & Grounds Committee as well as serving as the founding chair of the Activities Committee.

Like all aviators, Tony has his share of memories. He described being ramp checked at Dunkirk (KDKK) while on his long cross country flight as a student. Many of us have been flying for years without ever being ramped, but Tony got to experience it prior to certification. It was a beautiful day and the FAA inspector was wrapping up something else at the airport when he saw Tony arrive. He waved Tony over and they both discovered that Tony was outside of his 90 day solo endorsement period. Tony was not disciplined, but his instructor needed to fly out in another airplane to bring Tony home.

A couple of years ago, Tony flew Eight Five X-Ray to Laurens County Airport (KLUX) in South Carolina to visit friends. Many of us have had a long cross-country experience that transformed the way we think

about managing weather and flying long distances. This was Tony's. He landed several minutes ahead of a thunderstorm in South Carolina and learned the value of an iPad as an in-flight resource.

Tony is an air show junkie and one of his favorite things is flying into airshows, most recently the New York Airshow at Stewart (KSWF) in July of 2017 with members Mike Malec, Tim Isbell, and Chris Houston. Tony emphatically agrees with Tim's assessment of the experience: "This is why I joined the club."

Another moment in time that stands out for Tony was a 2014 Activities Committee fall flight to Lake Placid. He describes finishing lunch at the Lake Placid Pub & Brewery and looking across the table to see long-time WFC member and former Treasurer Doc Malchoff smiling ear to ear in absolute delight. Sadly, we lost Doc just three years later. The fact that this memory stands out so strongly for Tony speaks directly to his appreciation of the WFC and its members.

By day, Tony works for Ruffalo Appliance as an Appliance Technician doing field service. He has broad experience in plumbing, heating, sales, property management, transmission repair (for a significant part of his career), and auto body work.

When the summer of 2020 rolls around, be sure to stop by the airport on Saturday for lunch and greet the man behind the grill. He'll be glad that you did.

Contribute to the Newsletter!

Do you have anything that you want to share with the WFC membership?

- Destinations?
- Favorite flying photo?
- Trip reports?
- Great experiences?
- Opinions?

Submit your photos and stories, to the newsletter by emailing:

Newsletter@williamsonflyingclub.com



Tony (left) with the WFC at KLKP, October 2015



Tony (3rd from left) with the WFC at KELM, June 2015



Chris Houston and Tony Alesci, KFZY, August 2019

Cool Places To Fly by Chris Houston

Destination: Benton Airport, Benton, PA (PA40)

Distance: 126 nautical miles

Why It's Cool:

[Benton Airport](#) is a 2,200 foot long private grass strip tucked amid the hills of northeast Pennsylvania and located about 24 nautical miles east of Williamsport. Annually, on the third Saturday of October, Benton hosts a barbecue lunch. This year's event was titled, "Fly-In, Pig Out" and, if you don't believe me, it says so right on the T-shirts given free to arriving pilots:



I first learned about Benton after a couple of encounters between the WFC and the Bloomsburg Flying Club at various fly-in breakfasts. 2019 was my first experience at Benton and I was accompanied by a few WFC members including Tom

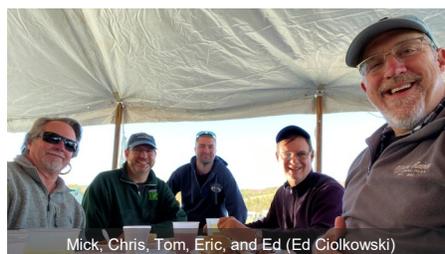
Carter (who flew with me), Ed Ciolkowski and Eric Mehserle in Ed's Archer II, and Mick McKee in his Cessna 152-II. As a relatively short grass strip, take-off and landing is somewhat challenging for those of us used to longer asphalt (or even [ice](#)) runways. Those flying Champs and Cubs will feel right at home.



As turf runways go, Benton's is in excellent condition; smooth, flat, and mowed short on the day of the fly-in. Runway orientation is 03-21. Except on the day of the fly-in, prior permission is required for landing (call Bob Brewington, airport manager, at 570-204-1977). Considering that he lives at the airport, Bob is also well-positioned to provide field condition reports. He was very responsive to me on the morning



Overflying Benton Airport. 40+ aircraft were already on the ground and two more rows of parking were added.



Mick, Chris, Tom, Eric, and Ed (Ed Ciolkowski)

of the fly-in when I called. Although not indicated on the chart, Benton uses 122.8 as CTAF. While the approach to runway 21 is relatively clear, departures off of 21 may need to follow a valley to the southeast to manage rapidly rising terrain to the south.

WFC pilots interested in flying a club plane to Benton will require 150 hours and a grass check-out with a club instructor. A higher-powered aircraft than the WFC's Cherokee 140s is recommended.

The small field hosted 105 aircraft for lunch this year, parked in three rows in an adjacent field otherwise used for parking at the Benton Rodeo ("The Best APRA Rodeo East

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A marginal departure from runway 21 by a Cherokee 140



Benton was my 200th airport! (Tom Carter)



A few of the 105 aircraft parked on the field

Welcome, New Members!

The WFC extends a warm welcome to our newest members from November 2019!

- Matt Carpenter
- Troy Cady
- Derek Six
- Brian Smith

Cool Places To Fly by Chris Houston

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of the Mississippi!”). Lunch was available for the price of a donation and T-shirts for the fly-in were available for purchase. Hay rides and cider pressing were ongoing throughout the day. Lunch consisted of pork barbecue, baked beans, corn casserole, coleslaw, a dazzling array of homemade desserts, and homemade ice cream (which we all completely overlooked to our immense disappointment).

Benton hosts a great fly-in! Excellent food, lots of interesting aircraft to see, classic cars, and a unique setting among the hills. More photos of the event can be found at my [blog](#). The next fly-in is planned for October 17, 2020.

Tips:

- As a reminder, the field is pri-

vate use and permission is required prior to landing except on fly-in day. Call 570-204-1977 for permission. When the fly-in is not being held, food can be found in town.

- The turf runway is 2200 feet long. Grass proficiency is recommended. Club members wishing to fly club airplanes will need 150 hours and a grass check-out.
- Benton Airport does not offer any services.



WFC member Ed Ciolkowski landing at Benton

Activities Committee Update by Chris Houston



WFC breakfast at Dansville, 23 Feb 2019 (Tom Carter)



WFC breakfast at Whitfords, 18 May 2019

Here we are at the end of a very “active” year, if you’ll excuse the pun. With the annual Christmas party and our final event of the year wrapped up, I would like to use this space to express my thanks to the members of the WFC Activities Committee who pulled together some great events in 2019. But beyond those individuals who helped make 2019 so enjoyable for us all, I also want to thank the WFC membership for their participation because without your interest and enthusiasm, we would not be able to do all of these great things.

I think the best way to express what a great year we had is by recapping what we accomplished because, put simply, it was a lot.

Our strategy in 2019 was to plan many events with the understanding that there would be weather cancellations. Let’s begin by summarizing the successful events of 2019:

- **Saturday Breakfasts** (all year): Mike Shippers organized 20+ Saturday morning fly-out breakfasts in 2019. I say 20+ because even I lost track of

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Activities Committee Update by Chris Houston

(Continued from page 5)

how many we did, but I can account for at least that many.



Tailwinds Diner, KFZY, 25 May 2019

- **Fly-out breakfast at The West Wind, St Marys, PA KOYM (24 Mar 2019)**
- **Fly-out EAA pancake breakfast, Oswego County KFZY (15 May 2019):** So what if it was raining? A few of us made it for breakfast anyway.
- **Fly-out pancake breakfast at Re-Dun Field 17NK (27 May 2019):** With a 20' wide runway and an automatic pancake-making machine, what's not to like?
- **Fly-out dinner at The Aviator Restaurant, Floyd Bennet Memorial KGFL, Glens Falls, NY (31 May 2019):** Featuring fine dining and an evening/night flight.



Dinner in Glens Falls, 31 May 2019 (Tom Carter)

- **Saturday lunches (1 Jun–12 Oct, 2019):** Saturday lunches at the Williamson Sodus Airport began in June and ran through October, culminating

in "Thanksgiving in October". Special thanks to Chef Tony Alesci (see the Member Spotlight earlier in this issue) for all of his hard work in making these events happen!



Thanksgiving in October, 12 Oct 2019

- **Hangar Talks, Rochester ATC (08 Jun 2019):** We were pleased to welcome Erik Stukbauer and Steve Thompson from Rochester ATC to speak with us about air traffic control. Our members were well-engaged, pushing the Q&A an hour beyond the originally-planned duration of the seminar!
- **WFC Picnic (15 Jun 2019):** Tony Alesci, Tammy Bebernitz, and Scott Lasky saw to it that there was a great picnic spread available for members!
- **Fly-out dinner at The West Wind, St Marys, PA KOYM (21 Jun 2019):** A second evening dinner flight turned into an introduction to working around weather with ATC assistance for some of our members. A great time and learning experience was had by all.



WFC at The West Wind, 21 Jun 2019

- **Fly-out for ice cream in Dansville, KDSV (22 Jun 2019):** Kudos to Tom Carter for pointing out that there is an ice cream stand just across the street from the Dansville Airport!
- **Fly-out pancake breakfast, Penn Yan, NY KPEO (04 Jul 2019)**
- **Fly-out to Burke Lakefront, Cleveland, OH KBKL (20 Jul 2019):** Ed Ciolkowski organized this return to the always-interesting downtown waterfront airport that included a tour of a WWII submarine and a delicious lunch at Nuevo.



WFC in Cleveland, 20 Jul 2019

- **Fly-out pancake breakfast in Piseco, NY K09 (24 Aug 2019):** We had a great turnout to this annual event in the Adirondacks!



WFC in Piseco, 24 Aug 2019 (Alicia Carter)

- **Fly-out pancake breakfast, Oswego County Airport, Fulton, NY KFZY (11 Aug 2019).**

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Activities Committee Update by Chris Houston

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Curtiss Jenny flying at Old Rhinebeck, 31 Aug 2019



WFC at Kingston Ulster Airport, 31 Aug 2019

- **Fly-out to Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome** via Kingston-Ulster Airport, 20N (31 Aug 2019): After one cancellation, we finally made it. We saw some amazing pioneer and golden age-era aircraft and, more importantly, witnessed some of them actually flying. In the words of WFC member Eric Mehserle, Old Rhinebeck is a national treasure. I was amazed by this place.
- **Fly-out — New York City Skyline Flight** (07 Sep 2019): Matt Palmer organized this bucket list worthy circumnavigation of Manhattan. In addition to planning the flight, Matt provided a preflight briefing to ensure that all participants understood the airspace rules around NYC.



Matt Palmer with the Langenbahns at Sussex, 07 Sep 2019

Lunch was at the Airport Diner in Sussex, NJ (KFWN).



View of Lower Manhattan, 07 Sep 2019

- **Fly-out pancake breakfast at Finger Lakes Regional Airport OG7** (15 Sep 2019)



WFC at Finger Lakes Regional Airport, 15 Sep 2019

- **Fly-out tour of the Lycoming Engine Plant, Williamsport, PA KIPT** (17 Sep 2019): Persistence paid off for Tom Carter who negotiated with Lycoming for a tour, planned the flight, identified the excellent Moon & Raven Public House as a lunch venue, and played chauffeur around town for club members (which was no small feat—that van should have required a type rating).



WFC at Lycoming, 17 Sep 2019

- **Tour of the Rochester Air Traffic Control Facility KROC** (20



WFC at the Rochester ATC facility, 20 Sep 2019

and 21 Sep 2019): After one cancellation and numerous delays, twenty WFC members toured the facility and engaged in an educational dialog with our local controllers.



WFC in Lake Placid, 05 Oct 2019

- **Annual fall fly-out to Lake Placid, KLKP** (05 Oct 2019): As we do every year, the WFC swarmed the ramp in Lake Placid, saw some spectacular fall color over the Adirondacks from the air, and enjoyed a great meal at Lisa G's. Thanks to Ed Ciolkowski for organizing.
- **Fly-out breakfast at The West Wind, St Marys, PA KOYM** (13 Oct 2019).

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Congratulations!



Private Pilot 11-26-2019

Congratulations to Dan Probst for completing his Private Pilot certificate on November 26, 2019!

Activities Committee Update by Chris Houston

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- **Winter Flying Safety Seminar and Alton Bay** (09 Nov 2019): Mike Bjerga, Mike Bebernitz, and Chris Houston collaborated on a combined winter flying seminar plus an informational session about flying into [Alton Bay, the only FAA-recognized ice runway in the lower 48 states](#). Did you miss Chris' presentation or wish you'd taken better notes? You can find it at this [link](#) and the video of landing at Alton Bay can be found [here](#).
- **Fly-out breakfast at Cherry Ridge**, Honesdale, PA N30 (16 Nov 2019).



WFC at Cherry Ridge, 16 Nov 2019

- **WFC Christmas Party** (07 Dec 2019): Fifty-five WFC members and their guests enjoyed an excellent dinner at the Golf Club at Blue Heron Hills. Sky Sands, a western NY native and nationally-known comedian with a penchant for magic had everyone roaring with laughter. Special thanks to Tammy Bebernitz for all she did to organize this event—it was a wonderful evening out.

Some of our plans did not come to fruition. We attempted flying to [Penn's Cave](#) and the [Star Trek Original Series Set Tour](#) twice each only to be weathered out every time. A planned trip to the [Empire State Aerosciences Museum](#) also did not come to pass. We'll try these trips again in 2020.

The 2019 Activities Committee was: Tony Alesci, Mike Bebernitz, Tammy Bebernitz, Tom Carter, Ed Ciolkowski, Chris Houston (chair), Scott Lasky, Matt Palmer, and Mike Shippers.

As always, please contact Chris Houston with any feedback or suggestions. See everyone in 2020!

