

WFC Flyer



Sodus Bay, February 2024 (Chris Houston)

Important Dates:

Annual Meeting & Elections
February 8, 2024
WFC Clubhouse

Board Meeting
March 7, 2024
WFC Clubhouse

General Meeting
March 14, 2024
WFC Clubhouse

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Williamson Flying Club Newsletter

February 2024

From the President's Desk by Bob Fratangelo

Welcome to February!

We have had quite a year and it has been my great honor and pleasure to serve as your Williamson Flying Club President for the past two years. We have done much these past two years. We are a flying club that operates a small business and it has really shown. Aside from the business aspect, people are attracted to our flying club because we function as a true club and with a friendly atmosphere welcoming to our members and their families. This sets us apart from other flight schools and, frankly, many other clubs. We own our aircraft, the awesome facility that is our airfield, and we can boast a great mem-

bership that supports new and current members alike. Thanks to our terrific members who make the atmosphere around the club what it is!



It is hard to believe that this year, I will celebrate my 50th anniversary as a Williamson Flying Club Member. I am so lucky to belong to such a wonderful club, especially one that is a **flying club!** My kids and all five of my "grand aviators" love this club as much as I do. We are incredibly lucky to have such a jewel in our lives.

It is my hope that more of you will take interest in running our club moving forward. Your help is very welcome on

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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: Bob Fratangelo
Vice President: Dave Lowry
Secretary: Paula Sippel
Treasurer: Bob Herloski

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

Contact: bod@williamsonflyingclub.com

From the President's Desk by Bob Fratangelo

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many fronts, from mowing, snow plowing, building maintenance, grounds maintenance, cooking Saturday lunches, Apple Blossom Breakfast Chair Positions, committee involvement (activities, new member, finance, buildings, grounds, election), administrative duties, grants, Chairperson positions, up to and including to Board Positions! We rely on our membership to run our club and keep it the fantastic organization that it is. Volunteer, get involved, and give it your all for a while! It is very rewarding. Besides, there is no better place to spend some relaxing time! If

you are interested in serving in any position, reach out to a Board Member and they will help you get started.

We have much to share and do at our February Annual Meeting; New Members to vote in, our annual business meeting review, annual elections, and we will also be reviewing proposed by-law changes to be voted on in our March meeting. Please be sure to come Thursday night!

Come on out to the club! **Go flying!** The weather is supposed to be awesome this week! See you at the club!

Aviation Quote

"This thing we call luck is merely professionalism and attention to detail. It's your awareness of everything that is going on around you. It's how well you know and understand your airplane and your own limitations. Luck is the sum total of your abilities as an aviator. If you think your luck is running low, you'd better get busy and make some more. Work harder. Pay more attention. Study your NATOPS more. Do better pre-flights."

— Stephen Coonts,
The Intruders

WFC Elections and Candidate Statements

Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting scheduled for February 8, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Williamson Flying Club clubhouse.

During the regular meeting held on January 11, 2024 the nominating committee, appointed by the president, presented recommendations for the open positions. The nominations, accepted by the membership present,

were as follows:

President: Scott Lasky
Vice-President: Dave Lowry (incumbent)
Secretary: Paula Sippel (incumbent)
Treasurer: Robert Herloski (incumbent)
Director: Bill Black and Dick Swingly (incumbent)

During the January meeting, no addi-

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Call for Submissions

- Have you flown someplace interesting? Maybe even someplace that we could describe as "cool"?
- Did you snap a great aviation or WFC-related picture?
- Do you have a fun flying story to share?
- Would you care to be featured in a Member Spotlight article?

The newsletter is always looking for input from WFC members. If you have something to share, let us know! Don't want to write anything? We'll help! Reach out to Chris Houston through a.S.o.S. if you would like to contribute to the newsletter!

WFC Elections and Candidate Statements

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tional nominations from the floor were offered.

A majority of votes cast at the annual meeting are necessary for election. All votes will be cast by ballot, if a motion is made to vote by other means a ballot will be required to approve the motion.

Anyone defeated for one office may be re-nominated for a remaining office. The order of voting shall be as follows: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director.

Most of the candidates are incumbents; however, Scott Lasky and Bill Black do not currently hold office. By way of introduction to the membership, Scott and Bill have provided statements describing their goals.

Scott Lasky Candidate for President



Scott and wife Kim at the Sky Acres Airport for lunch.

The Williamson Flying Club has helped me achieve my lifelong goal of becoming a pilot. I have met many great people here who have helped me along the way and have since become close friends. I am very grateful for what the club has done for me. I am running for the position of club President to give back to the club that has given so

much to me.

Over the years, our club has been a vibrant community of aviation enthusiasts, fostering a love for flying and creating lasting memories in the skies. As a passionate member of this club, I have witnessed the positive impact our club has had on the lives of its members, and I am committed to ensuring its continued growth and success.

My vision for the Williamson Flying Club revolves around three key pillars: community, continued growth of our membership, and continued improvements of our airport. I believe that by strengthening our sense of community, growing our membership, and improving our airport, we can take our club to new heights.

If elected, I pledge to:

- Foster a sense of unity and camaraderie within the club, organizing regular events and gatherings to bring members together and create lasting friendships.
- I will work with our instructional staff to implement educational programs, workshops, and guest lectures to enhance our members' knowledge and skills in aviation, promoting a culture of continuous learning, safety, and improvement.
- Prioritize our growth and airport improvements while making sure the club is financially stable.

I am excited about the prospect of

leading our club and working collaboratively with all members to achieve our common goals. Together, we can make the Williamson Flying Club an even better organization that continues to inspire a love for aviation.

Thank you for your consideration, and I am eager to serve you as your next President.

Bill Black Candidate for Director



Bill with his restored Lake Amphibian Buccaneer

Hello everyone. As you may be aware, I have decided to run for the Director position which is being voted on this February. So, I thought I would tell you a little bit about myself. I have been flying since 1999, however, I got the bug much earlier. My Grandpa Black lived at the threshold of SDC runway 10 on Redman Road where I would sit out front and watch the planes come and go as a young child. Sadly, this is also where one of my brothers shot me in the leg with a BB gun because I would not

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WFC Elections and Candidate Statements

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dance in the driveway for him on command!

My Grandpa Mirguet, on my mother's side, was immersed in aviation his entire life. During WWII, he was hired by the government to give flight instruction to new recruits in the Carolinas. After the war, he continued to work for his father (Mirguet Fur and Storage in Rochester) and flew from Rochester to Canada in his float and ski plane trading with trappers for animal pelts. He went on to fly for United Airlines. My Grandpa Mirguet had a big presence about him and was someone I looked up to immensely as a young adult.

When I first started flying myself, I trained out of the flight schools of Bill Law Aviation and AirVenture Aviation. Neither are in operation today. I flew the usual trainer type aircraft: 152s, 172s, Warriors and the like. I was immersed in my training and completed the private pilot program over the course of a summer.

I took a break from flying for a while as I was blessed with twin girls in 2005. Turns out raising kids is not cheap! With my aviation fund depleted, I busied myself in my work. What do I do for work, you ask? If you asked me 25 years ago, I would have told you that I was the owner and publisher of the local entertainment publication "TymeOut Magazine". This publication ran for 15 years. Also around that time, my wife and I began to accumulate multi-family investment properties in and around the Park Avenue area in Rochester. To

date we have acquired several units and I guess I would call this my full time job. I also flip and rehab properties annually in addition to my wife and I being realtors/brokers. I enjoy my work and the flexibility it gives me to fly when I wish.

A few years back, we purchased a waterfront property up in the Adirondacks. We rehabbed it and made it our own. And of course the only natural and logical next step was to purchase a sea plane! You should have seen how excited my wife was when I told her the news! I kid, Sadly, she has only flown with me once. Her hand and nail imprints are still on the glare shield of the panel! Fortunately, one of my daughters has stepped up as copilot. A 1978 Lake Amphibian Buccaneer was what I acquired out of Burlington, Vermont. It had been flown for 10 hours in ten years and in disrepair. However, it did still float! I won't bore you with the details on the restoration, but it was a long road.

Although I have been a member of the club for only two years, I have been hangared at SDC since 2018. I have made several meaningful friendships and I see this club being part of my routine for years to come. The club is important to me because it's a place for community, flying and friendship. Now it's time for me to give back.

Why I would be good at this job? Although WFC is the club we all enjoy, it is a business first. If businesses are run poorly, people become unhappy and things don't

get done or are neglected. I am not suggesting things are currently upside down, I actually believe the club is in great shape. Everyone on the Board of Directors today is doing their part and I believe I can add to that. WFC is a fun place to spend time and I enjoy the company of its many members. So, let's keep it that way! I believe that I can bring a unique perspective to the club. I have 30+ years of experience running a couple successful businesses. In my current capacity, I work with town, county and state officials, in addition to contractors and entrepreneurs in matters related to real estate and business in general. I have several tenants to manage and that means an abundance of issues to resolve. I feel that I am an attentive listener and communicator and would actively consider all points of view before important decisions are made. In this role, I would make sure that everyone's voice on the Board is heard, in addition to the club members. I believe that my past experience in business will provide the board with a valuable perspective on many issues.

Thank you for taking the time to listen and I look forward to serving the members of Williamson Flying Club.

Cheers!

[Editor's note: The single Director position up for election this year has two candidates, Bill Black whom you've just read about, and incumbent **Dick Swingly**. Dick originally joined the WFC in 1985 and has been a Director on the board

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Congratulations!



Congratulations to Max Heil on earning his private pilot certificate on January 5, 2024!

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dating back to 2014 as well as a prime mover of the Groundskeeping Committee for many years. For those who don't already know Dick and would like to learn more about him, please see the Member Spotlight article in the [August 2021 edition of the WFC Flyer!](#)



Dick Swingly with his 1969 PA-28-140

Images by Chris Houston



After a wordy issue of the WFC Flyer, I wanted to include some eye candy. These photos were taken at the east end of Lake Ontario on the beautiful evening of Saturday, February 3, 2024. After a few dreary weeks wrapping up January, it was wonderful to get back into the air again. I hope many of you had a similar opportunity!

Do you have any great photographs to share with the WFC membership? Send them to me and I'll include them here!