

WFC Flyer



WFC Activities Committee destination in May 2024: Mackinac Island, MI. Photographed from left downwind, runway 26, May 2023. (Chris Houston)

Important Dates:

General Meeting
May 9, 2024
WFC Clubhouse

Board Meeting
June 6, 2024
WFC Clubhouse

General Meeting
June 13, 2024
WFC Clubhouse

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Williamson Flying Club Newsletter

May 2024

From the President's Desk by Scott Lasky

As the warmth of spring envelops us, we are excited to get in some nice weather flying. Hopefully the days of scraping frost off the wings with a credit card are behind us until next winter.

Here are some updates on past and upcoming events:

Solar eclipse, April 8th: Although the clouds did not cooperate that day, we still had a great time at the airport. Quite a few visitors remarked how impressed they were with our facility and our members. Thanks to Mike Bjerga and his crew of volunteers we had no issues with accommodating all the planes flying in for the event and everything went smoothly.



Bradford Regional Airport Fly-Out, April 26th: Ten of us ventured out for our annual dinner trip to the Runway Bar and Grill at Bradford Regional Airport (KBFD). Dinner and service were excellent as usual. We were remembered from past years and told that, "the owner always looks forward to all of you flying in." Thanks to Gilead Biggie for organizing this trip.

General membership meeting, May 9th: Please come to our general membership meeting this month. We have important information to discuss and member feedback plays a key role in helping the board chart the course of our club. Every club member

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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: Scott Lasky
Vice President: Dave Lowry
Secretary: Paula Sippel
Treasurer: Bob Herloski

Past President: Bob Fratangelo
Director, 2022: Gilead Biggie
Director, 2023: Dave Perricone
Director, 2024: Bill Black

Contact: bod@williamsonflyingclub.com

Important Pancake Breakfast Dates and Times

Grill Setup:

Sat, May 11, 9:00 am

Breakfast Setup:

Sat, May 18, 8:30 am

- BBQ chicken lunch served afterward!

Pancake Breakfast:

Sun, May 19

- Arrive before 6:30 am for access from 104.
- Sign in at clubhouse.
- Safety briefing in the clubhouse at 7:00 am. This is intended for the Aircraft Parking volunteers, but open to all.

Questions? Reach out to Bill Bach.

Aviation Quote

"I learned that danger is relative and that inexperience can be a magnifying glass."

— Charles A Lindbergh

From the President's Desk by Scott Lasky

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has a voice and your voice is important to the board.

Montauk Long Island Fly-Out May 11th: The Activities Committee is planning a trip out to see the lighthouse/museum and have lunch at George's Lighthouse Grill. Invitations have gone out by aSoS. Reach out to Dan VanHusen if you are interested in joining.

Apple Blossom Pancake Breakfast Fly-In, May 19th: Join us for our much-anticipated annual fly-In pancake breakfast at the Williamson Sodus Airport! For new members who may be less familiar with the breakfast, it is our premier community outreach event when we invite the public to our airport to experience general aviation and enjoy a terrific pancake breakfast cooked up by an army of WFC volunteers. It's the perfect opportunity to mingle with fellow aviators, indulge in delicious food, and share stories from the cockpit. Please join us the day before to help set up for the event. A BBQ chicken lunch will be provided for all those helping with the setup. Details on

dates and time for volunteer activities are given in the sidebar to the left.

Fly-Out to Mackinac Island, May 26-28: Get ready to spread your wings and embark on an unforgettable three day fly-out adventure from May 26th - 28th. Whether you're dreaming of soaring over picturesque landscapes or exploring new destinations, this fly-out promises to be an epic adventure for all. [Details on our destination and itinerary](#) are available through aSoS. Reach out to Chris Houston if you're interested in joining.

Unfortunately, we lost long time member and beloved aviator John Creatura on Sunday, April 28. On behalf of the Williamson Flying Club, I wish to offer my condolences to his friends and family. John's life and his positive impact on the WFC are well worth celebrating and you can read more about John later in the newsletter.

Blue skies and tailwinds,

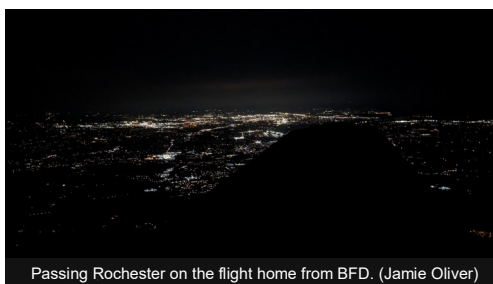
Scott Lasky



Scott Lasky arriving at Bradford Regional Airport in Warrior 816 for our fly-out dinner on April 26, 2024. (Chris Houston)



On the ramp: at Bradford Regional: John, Gilead, Dan, Dan, Steve, Ted, Chris, Jamie, Scott, and Kim. (Chris Houston)



Passing Rochester on the flight home from BFD. (Jamie Oliver)



Please hurry up and take the photo so we can eat! (Jamie Oliver)

Activities Committee 2024 Update by Chris Houston

Welcome to May! Thanks to all who participated in our first fly-out of the year for dinner at the Runway Bar & Grill on the field at Bradford Regional Airport.

Coming in May and June are:

May 11, Montauk (KMTP)

Join us for a flight to the east end of Long Island for lunch in the beautiful community of Montauk. On arrival, we will Uber to the Montauk Lighthouse/Museum and have lunch at George's Lighthouse Grill.

For more information about Montauk, see Cool Places to Fly in the [September 2022 edition of the WFC Flyer](#).

Event calendar invitations have already issued through aSoS. Contact Dan VanHuben with questions or ride requests.

May 26-28, Mackinac Island (KMCD) and Sleeping Bear Dunes

Our 2024 annual overnight trip is planned for [Mackinac Island](#) in northern Michigan. We described this trip in detail last month, aSoS invitations have already issued, and the [itinerary can be found attached to the event calendar](#). For more details about Mackinac Island and Sleeping Bear Dunes, see Cool Places to Fly in the [March 2024 edition of the WFC Flyer](#). An article about WACO Kitchen can be found in the [August 2022 WFC Flyer](#).

Please be sure to RSVP so that we know you're going! Contact Chris

Houston with any questions or ride requests for this event.

June 9, Manhattan Skyline Flight

An aerial jaunt around the island of Manhattan with sightseeing of the NYC skyline has become an annual tradition for the WFC, though a combination of marginal weather and poor visibility from Canadian wildfires scuttled multiple attempts in 2023.

We will venture into NYC class bravo airspace to fly the published "Skyline Route". This allows us to fly southbound within the lateral boundaries of Hudson River, with a turn east at the Statue of Liberty to fly along the East River with a transition back to the Hudson River northbound over Central Park. We'll plan for lunch somewhere fun like Hangars Café at Sky Acres (44N).

Stay tuned for more details later in May. Rain date will be Saturday, June 15. Anxious about managing the airspace and the controllers? We will coach you through it. This is a wonderful opportunity to fly through a very different environment. Some homework will be required beforehand!

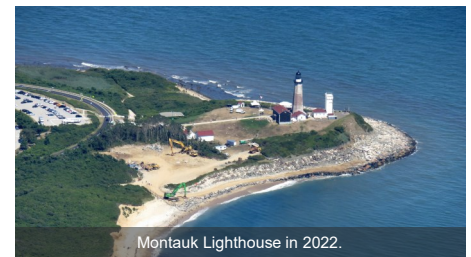
June 22, Piper Aviation Museum at the William T Piper Memorial Airport (KLHV) in Lock Haven, PA

Let's face it, the WFC is undeniably a Piper club! On June 22, we will make an overdue visit to the former home of Piper Aircraft in Lock Haven, PA.

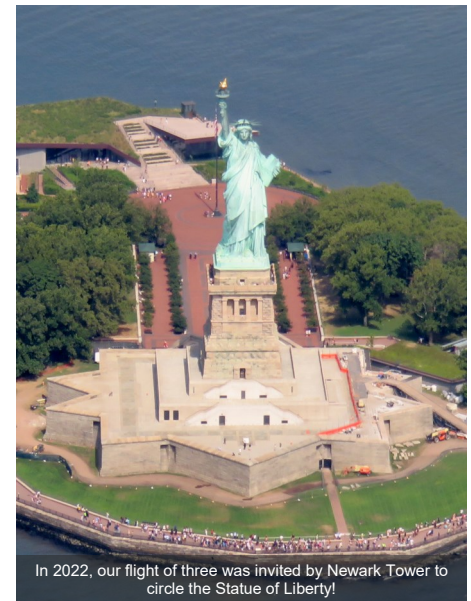
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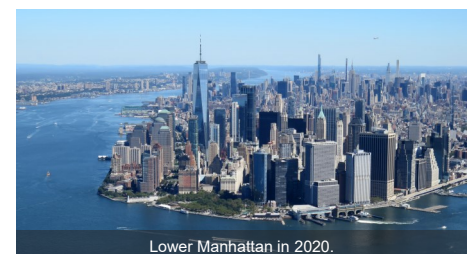
Montauk Airport, KMTP.



Montauk Lighthouse in 2022.



In 2022, our flight of three was invited by Newark Tower to circle the Statue of Liberty!



Lower Manhattan in 2020.

Activities Committee 2024 Update by Chris Houston

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The [Piper Aviation Museum](#) occupies the former Piper engineering building right on the field. In recent years, the museum has substantially built up its collection of Piper aircraft, including some one of a kind prototypes that did not go into production. (It's tempting to say that they never got off the ground, but that would not technically be true!) While not as large or flashy as some aviation museum, this is a gem filled with Piper memorabilia sure to delight anyone with even a passing interest in Piper history. More details on this destination can be found in the [May](#)

[2023 Cool Places to Fly](#) column.

Look for more details on this trip in late May.

As always, if you have any questions or want to participate in any events, please do not hesitate to reach out to any member of the committee.

The 2024 Activities Committee is:

- Mike Abate
- Gilead Biggie
- Jonathan Fuss
- Chris Houston
- Scott Lasky
- Dan Probst (Chair)
- Dan VanHuben

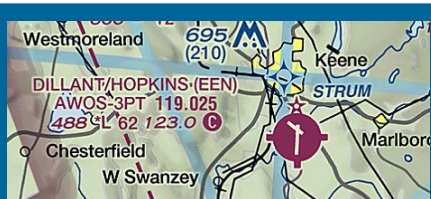


Aerial photo of William T Piper Memorial Airport (KLHV).



Airplane parking at the Piper Aviation Museum.

Cool Places to Fly: Dillant/Hopkins Airport, Keene, NH (KEEN) by Chris Houston



Destination:

Dillant/Hopkins Airport (KEEN),
Keene, NH

Distance:

214 nautical miles, direct

Why It's Cool:

- Mama McDonough's Irish Pub

Keene can be found among the modest mountains dotting the southwest corner of New Hampshire, just a few flight minutes east of the Connecticut River that demarcates the state from Vermont. Boasting an impressive 6201 foot

long main runway (02-20) and a 4001 foot long crosswind runway (14-32), the Dillant-Hopkins Airport in Keene is an first rate general aviation facility. Named for two local soldiers killed during World War II, the airport was dedicated in 1943. Though it has hosted airline operations at various times over its history, but it is currently classified as a general aviation regional airport.

The field is home to flight training in fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft flight instruction through Monadnock Aviation and Monadnock Choppers, respectively. Significant flight training activity was ongoing during the Tuesday I visited. The field is also home to some corporate turbine aircraft that came and went during my visit.

[Mama McDonough's Irish Pub](#) oc-

cupies the east end of the terminal building at the far north end of the airport. The restaurant is open 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Tuesday through Saturday and 8:00 am to 12:45 pm on Sunday. The venue offers a great view of the ramp and is clearly popular with both pilots and members of the local non-flying community. When I arrived for lunch on a Tuesday, I had to wait to get a table. Tuesday is "buy one-get one burger" day, but unfortunately, I did not bring a friend with me. Instead, I went for my Irish pub standby: fish and chips. It was absolutely outstanding and worth the wait. Service was attentive and friendly. If you ever find yourself in need of a breakfast, lunch, or dinner stop while flying in this part of the world, you would be well advised to try Mama McDonough's!

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Cool Places to Fly: Dillant/Hopkins Airport, Keene, NH (KEEN) by Chris Houston

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As an aside, Monadnock Aviation is a full service FBO. When I experienced a partial engine failure minutes after departing the area and had to make an emergency landing back at Keene, Tim and Warren from Monadnock Aviation engaged, solved the problem, and sent me on my way. The folks at Monadnock Aviation were fantastic.

On second thought, maybe it was a good thing that I did not bring a friend with me on that flight.

Tips:

- Runway 2 is the preferred calm wind runway. This was posted on the north ramp, but there was no mention of it in the FAA Chart Supplement.



I know, it doesn't look like much. Trust me! Good stuff inside!



Turbine aircraft at home on the north ramp.

- I was not charged a parking or landing fee for my time on the ramp during lunch.
- This is one of those fields with an identity crisis on CTAF. I heard everything from "Keene" to "Dillant/Hopkins" to "Dillant/Hopkins Keene" (by



Transient piston parking on the north ramp.

those who wanted to cover all their bases).

- Mama McDonough's closes early on Sundays (12:45 pm) and does not open at all on Mondays.
- Self-serve fuel is available, currently \$6.45/gal.

In Memoriam, John Creatura (1930-2024) by Bob Fratangelo



John A. Creatura
(March 3, 1930—April 28, 2024)

John Creatura flew West 4-28-24.

John Creatura was an Aviator's Aviator, an active Williamson Flying Club member for 54 years, active Pilot until he passed, an adventurer, husband, father, doting grandfather, scientist, and a cherished friend to many. John served the Williamson Flying Club in many capacities over his years of membership in leadership positions, operations positions, and as Chief Pilot for over 12 years. He was involved with many flying organizations including QB's (Quiet Birdmen ROC Hangar), USCG AUXAIR Aircraft Commander, a Certified Flight Instructor - CFII, and an avi-

ation mentor to many.

John welcomed me to the Williamson Flying Club when I joined at 15 years of age. He was always willing to help me understand the intricate operations of a Piper Colt, talk through maneuvers, and offer encouragement. John was a great friend to a new kid who knew few at the club.

Over the years I have always enjoyed his counsel, his wit, his experience, his instruction, his welcomed constructive criticism. He served with me on the WFC finance committee, providing in-

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In Memoriam, John Creatura (1930-2024) by Bob Fratangelo

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credibly valuable insight. He sponsored me in the QB ROC Hangar. He and Louise were great participants in our hangar gatherings, our flights together were always memorable, and I always learned something new. I was honored to sponsor him for his FAA Master Pilot Award in December 2021, the most coveted aviator award offered by the FAA.

I was stunned to learn his age. He was so healthy and sharp that I never thought of him being beyond his early 70's...uh...for 20 years. Even when 92 years old, he flew like any of us. He never wanted to broadcast his age. He never said so, but I'm sure he didn't want to be treated like an "Old Guy"—because he wasn't one! He sold his aircraft in 2021, saying simply that "its time, I can still fly club aircraft". He and I flew in 2022 in my C150. He was delighted to fly, even in a 150! He simply loved to fly, in anything, at any time.

As part of the FAA Master Pilot's Award package that I submitted to the FAA, I needed an aviation re-

sume from John and wanted to get one without tipping him off he was being nominated for the award. I learned he originally started flying with a neighbor who had a cub in a grass field near where he lived. He was actually soloed off that grass field long before his actual recorded solo flight. He said it wasn't a big deal back then to record your flights in a log, so it was never recorded. As a result, he actually had maybe 15 years more than 50 years recognized by the FAA award.

John will be sorely missed. All of us, especially those who flew with him, cherish the time we had with John. We are all better aviators for having the privilege of his wisdom. John was one on my aviator mentors in life.

He is reunited once again with his beloved Louise, who was his faithful co-pilot on many aviation adventures in their Mooney M20C, as well as many other adventures without the Mooney.

Over 14 WFC members were present at his funeral service in Webster on May 2 and many attended

the graveside service in Pultneyville NY. I do not know what ended John's life so quickly. Though he frequently visited the club on Saturdays, he was absent for the past 2-3 weeks. As testimony to his great genes, he was always sharp as a tack and still had his medical and the ability to fly until his passing at 94.

John's official obituary can be found [on-line](#). John sat down with the WFC Flyer in 2021 for an interview about his flying experience shortly after earning the FAA Master Pilot Award. That story can be found in the [January 2021 edition of the WFC Flyer](#).

However, perhaps the best accounting of John's aviation experience comes directly from John himself. John didn't like to talk about himself, he was very modest. It took a lot of work to get him to commit his tale in his own words on "paper" (an email):

"Became obsessed with aviation at a very early age, my pre-teen years were filled with thoughts and fan-

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John (far left) with new QB initiate Dave Lowry (center) on April 7, 2008.



Last photo of John with his Super Cub, sold and flown away from SDC on June 12, 2021.

In Memoriam, John Creatura (1930-2024) by Bob Fratangelo

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ties involving airplanes and with pioneer and military aviators. I was fortunate to live near a farm that based a couple of planes (Champ and Cub) in one of the fields. I went there often and during my mid teens succeeded in getting a good many rides with the Champ owner.

In my late teens (~1948/49) I enlisted in the NYS National Air Guard 139th Fighter Squadron based at the Schenectady Co. Airport. Spent much time as possible there begging rides. Had a fair number of hours in the rear seat of T6's. The squadron was flying P47's at the time; pretty exciting. I was in college at the time getting my two years required prior to applying for Pilot Cadet enlistment and training. Did the two years, but was not accepted for pilot training; other offers/options were offered but held no interest. I joined the regular Army.

After being discharged from the army, I resumed and continued my education, got married, had children and worked on a career.

Began flight training in the early '60s. Soloed after 11 hours at Sussex Airport, Sussex, NJ. 1964. Awarded Private Certificate in 1967.

Moved to the Rochester, NY area around 1968. Owned a Citabria at the time. Other planes I've owned over time are: PA 12, J5, EAA Biplane (I was the builder), PA 18, Mooney.

Worked on ratings over time, Commercial SEL MEL, CFII SEL, INSTR; Joined the Williamson Flying Club, Chief pilot 12 yrs, AUXAIR Pilot, member close to 50 years. Was active in social activities, operations management and ground and flight instruction and continue to a degree at present.

Have flown over 5000 hours, and most of the USA, mostly in the Mooney. In all, it's been great!!"

John and Louise – May you have Blue Skies and Favorable Tail Winds.

Bob Fratangelo



John (left) and Bob (right) defying gravity in Bob's Cessna 150, June 16, 2022.



John (fifth from right) receiving his FAA Master Pilot Award, December 9, 2021.



Bob and John with John's FAA Master Pilot Award, December 9, 2021.

Congratulations!



Upcoming WFC and Local Events

Saturday May 11	WFC fly-out to Montauk (KMTP) for lunch. Stay tuned for details. Contact Dan VanHuben with questions or ride requests. Rain date: Sunday, May 12.
Saturday May 11	Fly-in breakfast, Wellsville Municipal Airport (KELZ), Wellsville, NY. 8:00 am–noon. All you can eat pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice, and coffee. Adults \$10, children under 5 free.
Saturday May 18	Fly-in breakfast, Kline Kill Airport (NY1), Ghent, NY. 8:00 am–noon. Pancakes, eggs, sausage, OJ, coffee. \$10. Turf only, 4000 feet.
Saturday May 18	Fly-in breakfast, Cooperstown-Westville Airport (K23), Cooperstown, NY. 7:00 am–11:00 am. Turf only, 2300 feet.
Saturday May 18	Fly-in coffee break, Canandaigua Airport (KIUA), Canandaigua, NY. 8:30 am–10:30 am. Free donuts and coffee (juice, water, milk) for all! Start the flying season off in style.
Sunday May 19	58th Williamson Flying Club Apple Blossom Festival pancake breakfast fly-in. WFC members will be expected to volunteer for this event.
Wednesday May 22	Steak and baked potato fly-in, Ledgesdale Airport (7G0), Brockport, NY. 6:00 pm–9:00 pm. \$25 for steak, baked potato, salad and soft drinks. Reservations recommended but not necessary. Please send e-mail to ledgedaleairpark7G0@gmail.com Rain date is Thursday, 23 May, under wing camping available.
Sunday May 26	Fly-in pancake breakfast, Perry Warsaw Airport (OG1), Perry, NY. 8:00 am–noon. \$10 adults, \$5 kids under 12.
Sunday May 26	Fly-in pancake breakfast, Whitford's Airport (B16), Weedsport, NY. 7:30 am–noon. \$10 adults, \$5 children under 12, free for children under 5.
Sunday– Tuesday May 26–27	WFC fly-out to Mackinac Island (KMCD) and the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. More details on this trip available earlier in this issue. Please RSVP by the aSoS Event Calendar so that we can get an accurate headcount. Contact Chris Houston with questions of ride requests.
Monday May 27	Pancake breakfast fly-in, Akron Jesson Field (9G3), Akron, NY. 8:00 am-noon. Pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee, and juice. Adults \$10, kids 5-12 \$5, kids under 5 eat free.
Sunday June 2	Fly-in pancake breakfast, Elmira-Corning Regional Airport (KELM), at the EAA Chapter 533 hangar. 8:00 am –11:00 am. \$10 adults, \$6 kids 12 and under.
Saturday June 8	EAA 44 Open House, Ledgesdale Airpark (7G0), Brockport, NY. 10:00 am–4:00 pm. Aircraft and activities will showcase the fun of building, restoring and flying airplanes for their recreational and educational value. Their Baby Ace restoration project is nearing completion and will be on display along with homebuilt, restored, and production aircraft. Classic Car cruise-in parking. Family-friendly, everything free except grill food for purchase
Sunday June 9	WFC Fly-Out to the Manhattan Skyline. Expect details later in May. Reach out to Chris Houston with questions.
Saturday June 22	WFC Fly-Out to the Piper Aviation Museum at the William T Piper Memorial Airport (KLHV), Lock Haven, PA. Expect details in late May. Reach out to Jonathan Fuss with questions. (Note: This date may change, overlaps with Sentimental Journey).

Ever upward! From Eric Lofgren's first solo on May 3 to John Rubio earning his Commercial Pilot rating on May 5 to Paula Sippel becoming a Certified Flight Instructor on April 29, WFC members have been busily honing their skills as aviators!