



Denny Ankrom with a gaggle of WFC aircraft in Dansville for breakfast, February 23, 2019 (Chris Houston)

# WFC Flyer

## Important Dates:

**General Meeting**  
 March 14, 2019  
 7:00 pm, Clubhouse

**Board Meeting**  
 April 4, 2019  
 7:00 pm, Clubhouse

**General Meeting**  
 April 11, 2019  
 7:00 pm, Clubhouse

## Inside This Issue:

- From the President's Desk, Mike Malec (p1)
- Election Results (p2)
- Cool Places To Fly, Chris Houston (p2)
- Opinion, Chris Houston (p5)

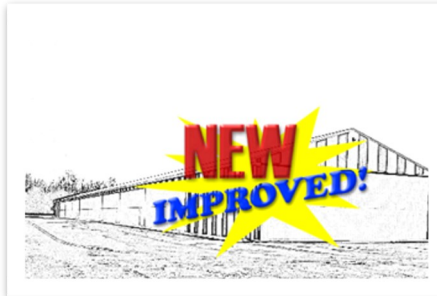
## Williamson Flying Club

## March 2019

### From the President's Desk by Mike Malec

#### Moving Forward in 2019

The Williamson Flying Club has exciting projects planned for 2019. It appears that the last hurdle for the releasing of funds for the design and construction of a new 18-bay hangar has been crossed and we are in a position to begin the project in early spring. The process for securing funding from the NY State DOT has been long and tedious, but we are hopeful that the hangar will be ready for full occupancy in the fall. At this point, the new building will be a modern, steel frame design with a concrete floor and powered by green energy solar panels.



The new hangar provides several advantages to the Club. It will relieve the wait list for hangar space for aircraft owners who wish to house their aircraft

in an enclosed bay. We anticipate that the additional space will attract new members to the Club since the lack of hangar space may have deterred some aircraft owners from joining the Club.

Along with the T-hangars, two end hangar bays will be larger and are designed to attract commercial tenants. The Club's long-range plan has included a strategy to place more commercial operations on the airport and surrounding grounds.

In addition to the new hangar, we were recently notified that our grant for a Jet-A fuel farm has been approved by NY State DOT. This fuel will be used to accommodate turboprop aircraft and helicopters whose owners have been inquiring about the availability of Jet-A on our airport. The new service may also serve

*(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:	Mike Malec	Director, 2017:	Ian Fair
Vice President:	Tom Henderson	Director, 2018:	Dick Swingly
Treasurer:	Bob Herloski	Director, 2019:	Paula Sippel
Secretary:	Steve Murray		

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

**Medical Advisor:** Dr. Pam Tarkington

*“It is our intent that these two projects will help to solidify the Williamson-Sodus Airport as an important, vibrant business and a strong contributor to the economic growth of Wayne County.”*

#### Aviation Quote:

“There are two kinds of airplanes - those you fly and those that fly you . . . You must have a distinct understanding at the very start as to who is the boss.”

— Ernest K. Gann

## From the President’s Desk by Mike Malec

*(Continued from page 1)*

as an attraction to commercial pilots and with the new hangar, they will have a reason to stop at the airport and perhaps decide to make the airport their home base.

It is our intent that these two projects will help to solidify the Williamson-Sodus Airport as an important, vibrant business and a strong contributor to the economic growth of Wayne County. We believe that the new building and

additional fuel service will be a showcase for our airport and reinforce the Club’s commitment to providing the best facilities for our members.

Let’s go flying!



## WFC Election Results

Thanks to all who participated in the elections held at the Williamson Flying Club Annual Meeting last month. For those unable to attend, the current membership of the Board of Directors is:

Present: Mike Malec

Vice President: Tom Henderson

Treasurer: Bob Herloski

Secretary: Steve Murray

Director (2017): Ian Fair

Director (2018): Dick Swingly

Director (2019): Paula Sippel

## Cool Places To Fly by Chris Houston

**Destination:** Ticonderoga Municipal Airport (4B6), Ticonderoga, NY

**Distance:** 166 nautical miles, direct

#### Why It’s Cool:

Ticonderoga, derived from an Iroquois word meaning “where the waters meet”, lies east of the Adirondacks on a portage between Lake George and Lake Champlain. As you might expect from this geography, arrivals by air are treated to magnificent scenic views.

The airport itself is bare-bones, though

*(Continued on page 3)*



Ticonderoga Airport



## Cool Places To Fly by Chris Houston



Aerial view of Fort Ticonderoga, taken June 1, 2014

*(Continued from page 2)*

self service fuel has been added since my first visit in 2014. However, it's what the town has to offer that makes landing at Ticonderoga particularly interesting.

### A Step Back Into History

[Fort Ticonderoga](#), site of the first Colonial victory in the Revolutionary War, is a beautiful example of a restored 18th century French "star" fort. A plaque at the main gate reminds visitors that they walk in the footsteps of greatness: George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Ethan Allen, and many others who played key roles in the American Revolution all passed through that portal.

This is a terrific flying destination for families who enjoy exploring historic structures and learning about the history of New York State. Volunteers perform musket-firing demonstrations and give

tours in period uniforms. Craftsmen, also volunteer, fabricate clothing and maintain the structure using 18th century tools and techniques. There are several exhibits including actual 18th century military uniforms (stored in a special, climate-controlled room) and weapons. We spent a full, enjoyable day at the fort and still did not see everything (for example, we did not tour the King's Garden).

In 2019, admission is \$24 for adults, \$22 for seniors (ages 65+), and \$12 for children (ages 5-15). There is also a AAA discount available. Considering that the fort is solely supported by these admission fees, we thought that the prices were reasonable. Food is available on site at the American Fort Café, which is of better quality than I remember museum food being when I was a kid. In 2019, the fort will be open from May 4—October 31. Check the [website](#) for

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Contribute to the Newsletter!

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

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

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

[Newsletter@williamsonflyingclub.com](mailto:Newsletter@williamsonflyingclub.com)



My wife and daughter in the main fort entrance



Interior courtyard of Fort Ticonderoga



View of Lake Champlain from Fort Ticonderoga



## Cool Places To Fly by Chris Houston

(Continued from page 3)

hours, details, and special events: ([www.fortticonderoga.org](http://www.fortticonderoga.org)). More photos and details from my family trip to the fort are available on my [blog](#).

### Experience the Future!

(As envisioned in the 1960s)

Gene Roddenberry's vision of the Twenty Third Century—or at least its physical aesthetic—is alive and well in Ticonderoga, NY. Exact reproductions of the original Star Trek Enterprise interiors were constructed in Ticonderoga from original blueprints by superfan James Cawley. Ever wanted to sit in Captain Kirk's chair? Now you can. Because the original sets were destroyed, visiting the [Star Trek Original Series Set Tour](#) in Ticonderoga is the best way to make that dream a reality. The attraction is fully licensed by CBS and permanently located in downtown Ticonderoga. Sets include the iconic Enterprise bridge, transporter room, conference room, corridors, engineering, and sick bay.

In fact, Captain Kirk himself (or a much older William Shatner, depending on your point of view) will be present this summer on June 7 and 8th.

Admission costs: adults (ages 14-54) are \$22.50, seniors (ages 55+) are \$20, and children (ages 5-13) are \$11. Visit the website for additional information on family packages. Large group tours should call ahead at 518-369-9967. Photography is permitted in most areas. Tours last about an hour.

Full disclosure: I have not had the opportunity to visit the Star Trek Original Series Set Tour, but I am a fan of the show and it has received high marks from friends of mine that have been to see it. I foresee an Activities Committee event for 2019...

### Tips:

- Ticonderoga Municipal is a no-frills facility with a 4,041' paved runway (02-20).
- Self-service fuel became available circa 2015, currently reported at a competitive \$4.75/gal).
- The direct flight from KSDC will take you over the Adirondacks and through the Lowville and (potentially) Tupper South MOAs; as always, be cognizant of the terrain and special use airspace when planning your flight and choose your route accordingly.
- Because a security fence surrounds the airport, be sure to note the reentry code prior to exiting the ramp.
- For ground transportation, we used Adirondack Cab (518-585-2222). Adirondack Cab in Ticonderoga appears to still be operating whereas Adirondack Cab in Glens Falls has shut down. Call in advance to ensure availability, this is a small operation. Cy from Adirondack Cab charged a one-way fare of \$6 to reach the fort (in 2014). He was waiting for us when we landed and gave us a nice driving tour of town on the way back to the airport. Alternatively, a quick check with the Uber app shows that Uber is available in the region.



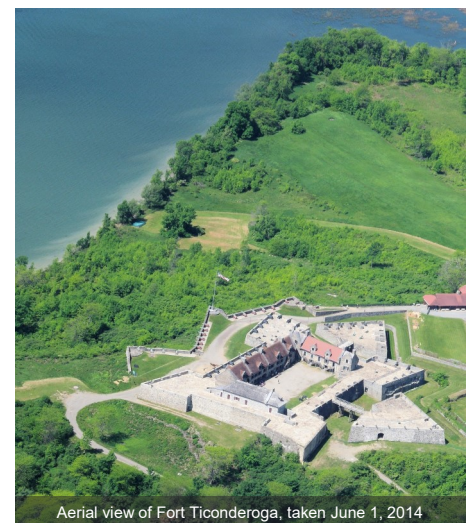
Outside the main gate of Fort Ticonderoga



My daughter entering Fort Ticonderoga proper



Canon protecting the southern approach on Lake Champlain



Aerial view of Fort Ticonderoga, taken June 1, 2014

## Opinion: ADS-B by Chris Houston

By now, many of our members are flying with ADS-B In capability delivered wirelessly to their tablets via a portable receiver such as a Stratus (either personally owned or by the one available for check-out to club members) or through a panel-mount solution (such as the transponders in N1185X and N736ES).

Most of us learned to fly in an era before such “gadgets” was available. I say “gadgets” somewhat dismissively because we all learned to fly by looking out the window, relying on “see and avoid” and “keeping our heads on a swivel”. Is traffic displayed on a tablet a gimmick? Something that appeals only to the screen-obsessed? Worse yet, is it a crutch? Does it interfere with a pilot’s ability to see and avoid by keeping him or her too focused inside the cockpit?

Over the last few years, I have come to regard the traffic display as a useful tool. It is not without flaws. Sometimes, traffic appears and disappears. Aircraft that only appear to ATC as primary targets (i.e., without a transponder that squawks altitude) are not displayed at all (they are deliberately filtered out of the ADS-B uplink because they have no associated altitude data).

ADS-B traffic display once saved my family and I from an aircraft that literally dropped into the pattern from above while we were on downwind. There was no radio broadcast and it approached from a blind spot (directly above). The early warning allowed for a preemptive maneuver that avoided a mid-air collision with an aircraft that I would not have known about otherwise.

Recently, I flew with a gaggle of six other aircraft to Dansville and back for breakfast. They ranged from a relatively slow Champ (that did not appear on the traffic display because it was not transponder equipped) to a speedier Piper Comanche. The traffic display (see image at right) allowed me to keep track of the other airplanes, particularly those overtaking me. It allowed me to plan ahead, to “see” those that were in my blind spots, and visually acquire them almost immediately once they entered my field of vision. Our eyes can only see so much and, while the traffic display cannot replace them (nor should it - look out the windows, people!), it is a wonderful tool to enhance situational awareness.

## Upcoming WFC and Local Events

Saturday Mar 30	FLY-IN CHILI-FEST, 11:00 - 1:00. Lt. Warren Eaton Airport [OIC] Norwich, NY. Sponsored by EAA Chapter 1204. All are welcome. Pot luck serving, no charge. Visitors are encouraged to share their favorite chili or side dish. For more information call 607-373-9195.
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Items in **bold** are sponsored by the WFC Activities Committee

## Cool Places To Fly by Chris Houston

(Continued from page 4)

- Ticonderoga is close to several other featured flying destinations including [Basin Harbor, VT \(B06\)](#) and [Lake Placid \(KLKP\)](#).

### Postscript: Recommended Reading

In *Cool Places To Fly*, I try to feature worthwhile cross country destinations to encourage our membership to venture beyond the pattern and immediate local area. You don’t need to be “Super Pilot” or instrument rated to have these kinds of flying adventures. A recent Dave Hirshman article for AOPA entitled [“Long-Range VFR Adventures: 12 Tips for Cross-Countries That Cross the Country”](#) is relatively brief, to the point, and captures some excellent advice for flying beyond the local area whether you have an instrument ticket or not. Check it out!

[Note: An article on Ticonderoga originally appeared in the [October 2014 WFC Flyer](#)—it has been updated to reflect current pricing, the new Star Trek attraction, and addition of a fuel farm to 4B6. Thanks to Scott Lasky for inspiring the update.]

