



### Important Dates:

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

**Board Meeting**  
 May 2, 2019  
 7:00 pm, Clubhouse

**General Meeting**  
 May 9, 2019  
 7:00 pm, Clubhouse

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## Williamson Flying Club Newsletter

**April 2019**

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

#### Don't Fear the BATd

Our club has a valuable training tool available to students and pilots, but I feel that it is utilized by only a few. This is the FTS TouchTrainer simulator, more properly known as the BATd (Basic Aviation Training Device). Using the simulator could be a way to speed up your training time, improve your skills, and help a pilot practice techniques that are newly learned or weak.



I have been using the simulator for several weeks and it has proven to be quite useful for practicing flight maneuvers. After the initial 1 on 1 training with an instructor, it was necessary to schedule an additional solo practice session to get the feel for the controls for flying the simulated aircraft and become comfortable manipulating the knobs and buttons on the aircraft panel. Beyond learning the basic controls, addi-

tional time is needed to discover the location and use of the various environmental controls that can be tweaked before and during a flight. Fortunately, the simulator has enough "eye candy" for the pilot to recognize local airports and landscape for the scenery to be used as a reference to an actual training flight. It should be recognized, however, that some of the capabilities of the tool are not an exact replica of the real world, but it is good enough for many operations.

The power of the simulator lies in the ability to change your position to help reduce the time spent in the device. For example, when practicing a hold in IFR training, the pilot need not waste time flying to reposition the aircraft to repeat a hold entry. The simulator has the capability to pause the action to change position, speed, altitude,

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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](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

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*The next time you need to cancel a flight lesson due to weather or you want to practice what you learned, your time would be well spent to come to the airport use the BATD.*

#### Aviation Quote:

“Everyone has oceans to fly, if they have the heart to do it. Is it reckless? Maybe. But what do dreams know of boundaries?”

– Amelia Earhart

## From the President’s Desk by Mike Malec

*(Continued from page 1)*

and direction. This feature allows the pilot to focus a session on practicing a single task several times, if necessary.

Perhaps the most valuable use of the simulator is to help the pilot visualize a maneuver and practice it repeatedly to build proficiency. This is where the simulator can be most effective. Once an instructor demonstrates a maneuver in flight, the simulator can be used to practice in between flight lessons.

Another feature of the simulator is the ability for the pilot to work on the flow of piloting an aircraft, and building good habits. Simple tasks like using checklist, takeoff, landing and emergency procedures can be practiced as well. If something is not correct or uncomfortable, the simulator can be paused to allow for review, correction, and retry.

I also discovered that the simulator can be an invaluable tool for leaning electronic flight bag applications. It is much easier to fly the simulator while learning the various menus in a tool like ForeFlight than it is to try learning ForeFlight while in the air. I used the simulator to organize maps and charts to get a layout in ForeFlight that is right

for me. Incidentally, it is possible to connect the simulator to ForeFlight, although I haven’t performed that exercise.

Beyond the ability to practice flight maneuvers, our simulator can connect to a live but simulated ATC. You can practice your communication techniques by talking to a live controller in traffic. The ATC simulation is in California, but the experience is as real as flying in any controlled airspace.

The next time you need to cancel a flight lesson due to weather or you want to practice what you learned, your time would be well spent to come to the airport use the BATD. I think you will find the tool will help accelerate your training or allow you to practice maneuvers that you haven’t had performed in long while. You will find that when you have the opportunity to get back into the air, you will be more prepared to demonstrate techniques and maneuvers easily.

Let’s go flying!



## Cool Places To Fly by Chris Houston

**Destination:** Beaver County Airport (KBVI), Beaver Falls, PA

**Distance:** 208 nautical miles, direct

#### Why It’s Cool:

Beaver County Airport is a towered field located north of Pittsburgh on the outer edge of Class Bravo airspace. It



Chris' Warrior at Beaver County Airport

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## Cool Places To Fly by Chris Houston



The Air Heritage Museum's "Thunder Pig", the only C-123 Provider still flying in the world

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is home to an ATC training program and multiple flight schools. Training activities have been quite active every time I have visited, including my most recent trip on April 1, 2019. Beyond this healthy General Aviation activity, the field has a couple of interesting things going for it.

One is the [Air Heritage Museum](#), which is modest aviation museum actively working to restore multiple aircraft. Perhaps its best known aircraft is the world's only remaining airworthy Fairchild C-123 Provider cargo aircraft, the aptly named "Thunder Pig". The airplane is large enough that the museum



Thunder Pig does not fit in the hangar particularly well

cannot keep the whole ship under roof (see photo at lower left).

Six years ago, the museum acquired a WWII veteran C-47 that had been serving as a mosquito sprayer in Fort Myers, FL. With a little research and a new paint job, the team at *Air Heritage* have returned this WWII veteran to her glory days as "Luck of the Irish". She recently received an airworthiness certificate in the Experimental category. I really like what *Air Heritage* has done with Luck of the Irish. She is not just an anonymous old airplane. She has a story and a crew. She is a veteran. She is unique. *Air Heritage* has resurrected her from anonymity.

Other ongoing projects include restorations of a Fairchild 24 and a rare 1930s Funk Model B, both high wing tube and rag single engine airplanes.

This is not a slick, fancy museum like the Air Force Museum in Dayton. Clambering through this muse-

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### Contribute to the Newsletter!

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

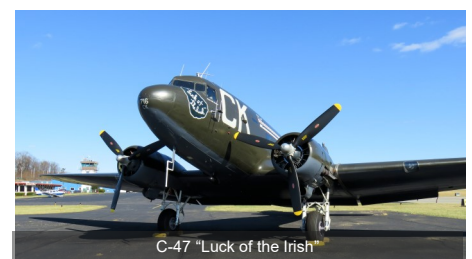
- Destinations?
- Favorite flying photo?
- Trip reports?
- Great experiences?
- Opinions?

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

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



F4-Phantom and C-123 "Thunder Pig"



C-47 "Luck of the Irish"



"Sorry Goose, but it's time to buzz the tower"



## Cool Places To Fly by Chris Houston

(Continued from page 3)

um is akin to exploring someone's attic. It's a low pressure museum; I was able to wander as I pleased and there is no admission fee (donations are appreciated, though).

The other draw for Beaver County Airport is across the street from the main airport entrance: [Sal's Ristorante and Bar](#). I learned about the place from the AOPA Forums (known colloquially as the "Red Board") where many pilots praised the quality of Sal's calzones. I concur, the calzone I chose ("The Boss", filled with ham, pepperoni, salami, sausage, and hot pepper rings) was absolutely fantastic. It was just as good in 2019

and the one I had on my first visit in 2013.

If you ever find yourself flying near the northern Pittsburgh Bravo, stop in to Beaver Falls for outstanding calzones and, while you're there, take a moment to explore the modest museum and restoration center located on the north side of the field.

### Tips:

- This is an uncomplicated towered field, but quite active with training traffic each time I have visited.
- Full service fuel is currently priced at \$5.25/gal from both FBOs: AirQuest and Moore Avi-



Sal's Ristorante and Bar



"The Boss" calzone from Sal's

ation. AirQuest has a fuel truck and will come to you wherever you park.

## Breakfast Assessment by Steve Murray

On March 14, 2019 the membership was notified that three changes impacting your assessment and monthly dues will be brought to the floor during the April 11, 2019 membership meeting.

**The proposed bylaw changes are as follows:**

**Eliminate Breakfast assessment:** The first vote eliminates the breakfast assessment (\$65/yr) for active members beginning 1 May 2019. This vote shall be contingent on passing the measure to raise active membership dues to \$35/month.

**Raise active membership dues to \$35/month:** The second vote will be to raise the active membership dues from \$30/month to \$35/

month.

**Raise associate membership dues to \$8/month:** The final vote will be to raise the associate membership dues from \$7/month to \$8/month.

### Questions & Answers:

**Does this impact the breakfast being held Sunday, May 19, 2019?** No. This vote does not impact the breakfast being held this May.

**How does this impact my billing?** Currently the \$65 breakfast assessment is being billed monthly. It shows up as \$5.01 charge on your invoice. This amount is taxable, adding \$0.40, which nets out to \$5.41 each month. This assessment will be replaced with a \$5

increase in your dues. You would see these changes in your May bill, which you will receive in June.

**How does this impact the number of tickets issued for the breakfast?** Starting with the 2020 breakfast, the committee and the board will determine the number of complimentary tickets to be issued for each breakfast. For the 2020 breakfast it is anticipated that each active member would receive 8 complimentary meal tickets and each associate member would receive 1 complimentary meal ticket.

**Do I need a ticket to eat at the breakfast?** Any member or volunteer who works the breakfast will be awarded a complimentary

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## Breakfast by Steve Murray

*(Continued from page 4)*

meal. For members who do not work the breakfast the board requests that you purchase a meal or use one of your meal tickets.

Members and volunteers who work the breakfast should sign in with the breakfast committee so that they can be properly counted.

**Does a breakfast ticket have an associated value?** Complimentary meal tickets issued to members will no longer have a value associated with them and cannot be resold. The membership can distribute their complimentary meal tickets to family and friends as they see fit.

Additional pre-sale meal tickets will be available for purchase. Meal tickets will be available for the public to purchase at the door. The cost of these tickets will be set by the breakfast committee and board. It is anticipated that a small increase in the meal price will occur for the 2020 breakfast.

**We encourage all members to attend the April meeting. If there are any questions, please contact any of the [board members](#).**

### Welcome, New Members!

The WFC warmly welcomes our newest members that have joined since January 2019!

- Xavien Burgunder
- George Newsome
- Rachel Owens
- Michael Cruz

## Member Spotlight by Chris Houston



Member: Mike Malec  
 Role: President  
 Ratings: PP-SEL  
 Hours: 260  
 Joined: 2008

Spend any time with Williamson Flying Club President Mike Malec and you will quickly realize that contact with other aviators is an important part of his passion for aviation. While he enjoys seeing the airplanes at Oshkosh as much as we all do, he will emphasize, “Just talk to people. There’s a whole different world out there.”

Like many of us, Mike always wanted to fly, citing episodes of *Sky King* as early inspiration. His first GA flight occurred out of Ledgesdale (7G0) with a coworker in an aerobatic homebuilt. When Mike took the controls and his new-found mentor assured him that he was a natural, the hook was set. The barrel roll and loop he experienced on that first flight only set that hook deeper.

Mike earned his

Private Pilot certificate from the Ledgesdale Flying School run by Davy Merritt, but after Merritt’s crash in 2008, he needed to find a new place to fly. After visiting a few flying clubs in the area, he clicked with the friendly atmosphere at the WFC. Mike explains that “the ability to make more of flying than just renting an airplane” made a significant difference for him. He found the club to be well-organized, affordable, and supportive. WFC club members benefit from the other members around them—from their knowledge, experience, encouragement, and ideas for new places to fly. At the WFC, he felt that he was no longer on his own. “We are the envy of other clubs,” he notes. Our size, cost-structure, and the fact that we own the airport are significant differentiators.

Fortunately, Mike survived his first WFC solo when a loud “TWANG” from One Delta Tango announced the departure of the trim cable from its pulley. Though he needed to “bench press the yoke” to bring the airplane back to Earth, a mantra of “fly the airplane” served him well. Since then, Mike has served on the Board of Directors, the Future Planning Committee for SDC/

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Mike with WFC members at KIPT, June 2017



## (Re)Introducing the Activities Committee by Chris Houston

The Williamson Flying Club Activities Committee formed in 2013 to organize group activities for the club. In short, our goal is to help the club function like...well...a club.

In today's update, I would like to introduce the 2019 Activities Committee, provide an update on our plans for 2019, and give some guidance on how a lot of these activities work.

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

Feedback and questions may be addressed to any committee member.

Some basic rules for how we operate:

- Events are open to all members. Student participation is welcome and encouraged!
- Events (except Saturday lunches) will be announced through the WFC aSoS system and Event Calendar.
- If you want to participate,



WFC members at the Oswego County Airport Fly-In Breakfast, July 2017

simply RSVP through the calendar. Bringing guests? You can add the appropriate number. If you're not comfortable with the Event Calendar system, contact the event organizer.

- **It is important that you RSVP so that we get an accurate headcount** in case we need to make reservations anywhere. This also lets us know who to contact if there is a change or weather cancellation.

### Social Events:

**Saturday "Coffee Can" Lunches:** On every Saturday (unless notifications go out to the contrary) starting June 1, WFC's top chef Tony Alesci will be serving up lunch in the club's enclosed hangar. Lunch-

es will run through the summer and conclude in October with Tony's famous "Thanksgiving in October" feast of deep fried turkey. End date is TBD.

Saturday lunches are funded by donations. Simply drop your donation (\$5 is typical) into the coffee can situated near the food and enjoy. All members, their friends and families, and transient pilots flying in are welcome.

**Summer Picnic:** We are planning a more grandiose picnic for mid-summer. Details are coming. This is being planned by Tammy Bebernitz, Scott Lasky, and Tony Alesci.

Historically, the picnic has been paired with Mike Bjerga's Flour Power event (flour bombing and spot landing contest). That will be a separate event in 2019, probably paired with a seminar from Mike, and is scheduled for June 22.

**WFC Christmas Party:** Last year's Christmas party was one of the best attended in recent memory. Rather than mess with that formu-

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WFC members at the Elmira Corning Regional Airport, August 2017

## (Re)Introducing the Activities Committee by Chris Houston

(Continued from page 6)

la for success, we have re-booked The Golf Club at Blue Heron Hills for Saturday, December 7. Local comedian Sky Sands has been hired for entertainment. Tammy Bebernitz is coordinating the party.

### Learning Activities:

We are negotiating to have Rochester Air Traffic Controllers visit the WFC to give a presentation in the coming months. This will be a great opportunity to meet the people behind the voices and ask them questions. Stay tuned for a date.

Additionally, we are also negotiating for group tours of the ROC ATC facility. Dates are pending, but we are pushing for spring.

Considering the level of interest in the ice runway at [Alton Bay \(B18\)](#), Chris Houston will be working with Mike Bjerga in November to present on the experience of flying to the ice runway in combination with Mike's usual winter flying seminar. Tentative date is November 8.

### Fly-Out Activities:

These are usually our most popular events because they involve actual flying! There are some general principles to keep in mind for these events:

- **They are open to all members.** You do not need to be a 10,000 hour ATP to fly on these trips—they are intentionally chosen to be accessible to any member with a private pilot certificate.

- Are you a student? We definitely want to invite you to ride along. This is your opportunity to see what practical General Aviation flying is all about beyond training. Each event will have an organizer—simply reach out to that person if you're looking for a seat.
- Fly-outs will be cancelled in marginal or IFR weather. All trips are intended to be flown safely VFR with suitable cloud clearances. Even VFR legal, but low ceilings, will generally result in a cancellation. Cancellations will happen—its just the nature of recreational flying.

Here's the line-up for 2019:

- **Saturday Breakfast Fly-outs:** During good weather, a group organized by Mike Shippers flies out to local breakfast spots (Dansville, Oswego, and Whitfords are common). Destinations and wheels-up times will be announced a day prior to each Saturday via aSoS.
- **May 11: NYC / Hudson River Flight.** Matt Palmer is organizing a flight along the Manhattan skyline. There was a lot of enthusiasm for this event in 2018, but it was scuttled by weather last year. Details are coming. Rain date is June 8.
- **May 12: Pancake Breakfast, EAA-486 at Oswego County (KFZY).** First of the season! Organized by Chris Houston
- **May 31: Evening flight to [The Aviator Restaurant in Glens Falls \(KGFL\)](#).** A nice date night opportunity! Organized by Chris Houston. Rain date is June 21.

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## Activities by Chris Houston

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- July 20: Flight to [Cleveland, Burke Lakefront \(KBKL\)](#) to tour the [William G Mather](#), a restored 1920s freighter. Other accessible attractions include a [WWII submarine \(really cool\)](#), the [Rock & Roll Hall of Fame](#), and one of the [coolest approaches around](#). Organized by Ed Ciolkowski, rain date is July 27. This is a re-do from 2018—the Mather was closed due to fire when we went last year.
- August 4: [Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome](#)—a flying WWI-era museum that does airshows every Saturday and Sunday throughout the summer. We'll be flying-in to Kingston-Ulster (20N) and driving over. Organized by Chris Houston, rain date August 31.
- August 24: **Fly-in breakfast, Piseco, NY (K09)**. Organized by Mike Bebernitz.
- October 5: Fall fly-out to [Lake Placid \(KLKP\)](#). Always popular! Organized by Ed Ciolkowski with a rain date of October 12.

There are also a number of events planned with dates still pending:

- **Ticonderoga (4B6)**: As featured in the [March newsletter](#). Organized by Scott Lasky.
- **Penn's Cave (N74)**: As featured in the [September 2018 newsletter](#). Organized by Mike Shippers.
- **Lycoming Factory Tour, Williamsport, PA (KIPT)**: Lycoming offers tours of the factory that built many of our engines. We're still trying to connect with them about how to make this happen. Organized by Tom Carter.
- **Empire State Aerosciences Museum (KSCH)**: We've been trying to work-in a visit to an aviation museum each year. This year, we're planning the ESAM. Organized by Chris Houston.
- **Ice Cream!** As a companion to our Saturday lunches, we will be organizing post-lunch fly-outs to **Dansville (KSDV) for ice cream at Ice Cream Island**. Stay tuned for dates! Tom Carter organizing.

Finally, as the summer fly-in schedule develops, we will look for opportunities to attend fly-in breakfasts or visit popular fly-in restaurants such as [The West Wind](#) (St Marys, PA, KOYM) or the [Cherry Ridge Airport Restuarant](#) (Honesdale, PA, N30). More to come in the following months!

## Upcoming WFC and Local Events

Saturday May 11	<b>WFC Fly-Out: New York City Skyline / Hudson River flight.</b> Details coming.
Sunday May 12	<b>WFC Fly-Out: Mother's Day pancake breakfast.</b> EAA-486, Oswego County Airport. Details coming.
Saturday May 18	WFC Apple Blossom Breakfast set-up day. Details coming.
Sunday May 19	WFC Apple Blossom Breakfast Details coming.
Friday May 31	<b>WFC Fly-Out: Evening flight for dinner at The Aviation Restaurant, GFL.</b> Details Coming.
Saturday June 1	<b>WFC Saturday lunches begin! Noon, WFC enclosed hangar at KSDC.</b>

Items in **bold** are sponsored by the WFC Activities Committee. Saturday lunches will run every Saturday at noon starting June 1 and into October (end date TBD).

## Member Spotlight by Chris Houston

(Continued from page 5)

WFC, and most recently as President. He reflects fondly on his first WFC Christmas party and how much he enjoyed meeting other members, an experience that reinforced his reasons for joining the WFC in the first place.

Professionally, Mike began his career as a bench chemist at Kodak, but eventually migrated toward information technology. Now retired, he does business software consulting for small companies. It might not be obvious from his soft spoken manner, but in college, Mike played guitar and bass in various rock bands. He declined to show me any photos of his hair from his wilder days.

Clearly, our President is a man of many talents!



Some familiar faces from the Williamson Sodus Airport were spotted in Florida for Sun 'n' Fun 2019!