

# WFC Flyer

Departure from the Williamson Sodus Airport on a foggy morning (Chris Houston)

## Important Dates:

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

**Board Meeting**  
December 5, 2019  
7:00 pm, Clubhouse

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

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## Williamson Flying Club Newsletter November 2019

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

#### Elections for 2020

Do you have new and better ideas on how the Club could be run? Would you like your voice to be heard? Perhaps you should join the Club Board of Directors. Now is time for members to announce their intentions for 2020 Club officers and Board of Directors positions. Any Active or Permanent member who is in good standing and has attended at least six General Membership meetings from February 2019 – January 2020 is eligible to run for any of these positions.

The Board is looking for new leaders who can take the Club forward with a vision to make our Club the best in the nation. While it is true that being an officer is a commitment of time and some work is needed to prepare for meetings and committees, there are many benefits to these positions. Most members have ideas that can improve the Club

and putting those ideas into action can be rewarding. Additionally, Board members get a clear picture of how the Club is run and get a better understanding of the many factors that drive decisions.

Some of these decisions are difficult, but your input can help to make the right decision for the Club and its members.

Each Club officer has specific duties and obligations that will cover all areas of airport and Club operations.

The organizational structure and duties of our Board are:

**President** – provides oversight of the Club vision and sets long-term goals. This officer provides guidance and direction for the board, prioritizing issues for action, lead meetings for the board, and Club meetings.

**Vice-President** – Serves in place of the

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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:	Brad Roehrig
Vice President:	Ian Fair	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

## From the President's Desk by Mike Malec

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President when necessary and is knowledgeable of all Board issues to act when needed.

**Treasurer** – Manages the Club and airport budget; P&L; billing; invoices; taxes; membership accounts; Club and aircraft insurance; and interfaces with Club attorneys for legal issues. In addition to the financial tasks, the Treasurer acts as the voice of the Club with State and Federal government officials.

**Secretary** – Maintains documentation and correspondence for the Club. The duties include writing and publishing of all meeting notes, letters to Club members, public officials and external agencies. The Secretary also manages the library of documentation for the Club.

**Directors** – Help guide the direction of the Club, and provide a voice of the membership in the discussion for resolution of issues. The Directors may be assigned to a committee to oversee the progress of the committee, help and guide committee when needed. A Director will report back to the board the status of the committee or any issues that need to be addressed.

As of the October General Membership meeting, the following members are eligible to run for office or need to attend a one or more additional meetings to meet the eligibility requirements.

The following members are currently eligible:

Bebernitz, Michael	McCutchan, Rick
Caldwell, Gary	Mehserle, Eric
Fair, Ian	Murray, Steven
Foti, Ronald	Rohner, Bonnie-Jean
Fuller, Jack	Shippers, Lee
Herloski, Robert	Sippel, Paula
Kendall, Ralph	Swingly, Richard
Malec, Michael	Verbridge, Alan

The following members need to attend the corresponding number of meetings before February to be eligible:

Adams, Dan	2
Allen, Richard	3
Bach, William H.	2
Barlis, Glenn	2
Black, James	1
Christian, Randy	2
Clark, Robert	2
Davenport, Richard	3
Isbell, Timothy	2
Mangos, Charles	3
Marchionda, Dick	1
Niles, John	2
Roehrig, Bradley	2
Shaw, Dennis	3
Sims, Duane	1

The chairperson for this year's nomination committee is Eric Mehserle. Serving with Eric is Bonnie-Jean Rohner and Gary Caldwell. If you are interested in running for any Board positions, please contact a member of the nomination committee before January 2020. The announcement of the nominees will be made at the January 2020 General Membership meeting and the election of officers will take place at the Club's February 2020 Annual Meeting.

Let's go flying!



*If you are interested in running for any Board positions, please contact a member of the nomination committee before January 2020.*

### Aviation Quote:

“There is really nothing nicer than flying in a good airplane over pretty country on a beautiful day.”

— Louise Thaden  
*High, Wide, and Frightened*

Louise Thaden was the first woman to win the Bendix Trophy

## Flight Rx by Dr. Pamela Tarkington

### The Pilot and Pot



Many states have legalized marijuana for medical and recreational use. It should be noted that federal law — not state law — governs FAA medical and pilot certification.

Marijuana contains several compounds that are absorbed when smoked or eaten.

The DEA has declared that THC (tetrahydrocannabinol, the primary psychoactive component of cannabis) is a class 1 drug defined as “a drug with no currently acceptable

medical use and a high potential for abuse.”

Lately there have been a lot of folks on CBD that does not share the euphoric properties of THC. Last year the FDA approved cannabis edibles for the treatment of only a very rare form of seizures. This is very highly regulated whereas CBD oil is not regulated and could contain THC, especially if the label states ‘broad spectrum’.

It is known that marijuana can affect the brain acutely as well as chronically. This is especially true in younger persons. It is also well known that today’s marijuana is more potent than that of a few years ago.

To date, the FAA has not granted a special issuance for the use of medical marijuana.

### 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:Newsletter@williamsonflyingclub.com)

## Member Spotlight: Randy Christian by Chris Houston



Member: Randy Christian  
 Ratings: PP-SEL  
 Hours: ~ 400  
 Joined: 2008

A pilot complaining about their spouse’s lack of interest in flying is a common enough trope that many of us have heard it before. WFC

member Randy Christian is not one of those pilots with that problem. In fact, it was his wife, Kim, who pushed him into aviation in the first place. That’s right. This is all her fault.

Randy vividly remembers a day in May of 1998 when he and Kim attended the annual Apple Blossom Festival Pancake Breakfast at the Williamson Sodus Airport. Though he was very focused on the breakfast line, Kim was pushing him toward a red V-tailed Bonanza instead. To his surprise, he learned that she had bought rides for them. As he climbed into the right seat, Randy did not quite

know what to think. He did not grow up around airplanes. In fact, his family never flew at all, not even commercially. But on take-off, upon reaching a lofty altitude of 15’ AGL, Randy knew that he was born to fly. He laughs fondly, recalling Kim’s “What did I start?” moment of realization. Those were the most expensive pancakes they ever bought.

Randy’s road to the Private Pilot certificate was a long one, lasting nearly ten years and encompassing four flight schools and seven instructors. After spending some time at Bill Law and Air Venture Aviation, both at Rochester, he did

## Member Spotlight: Randy Christian by Chris Houston

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the bulk of his flying out of Canandaigua. Despite the changes in schools and instructors, despite that unintentional spin in one of Canandaigua's Cessna 172s that occurred while practicing power-on stalls, Randy stuck with it. He finished up his training in a Piper Warrior with Brad Newboldt out of Rochester and earned his Private Pilot certificate on September 17, 2007.

It was Joe Ebert who brought Randy into the Williamson Flying Club. They "met" on the now-defunct AOPA Forum known colloquially in the pilot community as the Red Board. Randy had grown frustrated with the availability of rental aircraft now that he was a certificated pilot and, when Joe suggested he check out the WFC, Randy quickly realized that joining was a "no brainer".

Every pilot recalls a handful of flights that stand out as particularly meaningful. One of those experiences for Randy was his first time flying with Kim. They slipped out of work for a long lunch, rented an airplane out of Rochester, and had lunch at Bradford Regional (Kbfd) in northwest Pennsylvania. As an experienced skydiver, Kim was ac-

customed to flight in light aircraft, but actually landing in one was a new experience for her. The pair returned to work, gleefully confusing their colleagues by answering "Pennsylvania" in response to questions about where they went for lunch.

He recalls his first real flying trip, taken in WFC Cherokee Five Five Whiskey, across Ontario to Port Huron, MI (KPHN). But it was a family flight in Eight Five X-Ray from the Williamson Sodus Airport to Albert Whitted Airport (KSPG) in St. Petersburg, FL where he truly earned his cross country stripes. Club member and CFI John Lauster helped Randy with the planning, another example of the way WFC pilots are always willing to help other members. Randy describes reaching the Gulf coast in the evening and seeing the golden sunlight of the setting sun simultaneously reflecting from the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico. Like most aviators on their first multi-state cross country adventure, Randy met some interesting people, visited some interesting places, and received a crash course in practical weather management for VFR pilots. Rather than recount Randy's story here, you can read it in Randy's own words in the May and June issues of the 2012 WFC Flyer. (Links: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#)) His key learning from the adventure was that travel by general aviation can be enjoyable and rewarding, but that it requires flexibility. There is no room for "get-there-itis".

At the WFC, Randy has exemplified volunteerism. Shortly after joining, he pitched right in and helped to

repaint the fuel farm and do sod repair. Randy is a firm believer in joining the cause if you have ideas to make things better. Randy served on the Board of Directors for eight years, including two years as Vice President and two years as President. During his time as President, he was involved in highly successful efforts to save Six Echo Sierra and to bring Ray Chapin (B.A.C. Services) to the airport. Randy also drove the creation of the Activities Committee during his time as President. It is clear that he has great affection for the WFC and has clearly contributed to making the club what it is today.

Randy holds an Associates degree in Data Processing (before the terms Computer Science and Information Technology became more commonplace). He worked the bulk of his career (26 years) at Paychex where he and Kim met. At Paychex, he did everything from deskside support to systems engineering where he was responsible for building the million dollar hardware platforms on which Paychex runs its business. This was quite an increase in responsibility from his first job as a mechanic at Dick Ide Pontiac! Currently, Randy is a project manager at Newcut, a photochemical etching company based in Newark, NY that primarily makes parts for the aerospace industry.

It never ceases to amaze me how one moment in a person's life — that first take-off in a V-tailed Bonanza — can send them down an entirely new and entirely unexpected path!

### Welcome, New Members!

The WFC extends a warm welcome to our newest member from October 2019!

- Jean Blythe
- Brian Norris



## Trip Report: Flight To Ben and Jerry's by Don Henry

As some club members headed towards Lake Placid on Saturday October 5th ([see Activities Committee Update, October 2019 issue](#)), my family checked-off a long-held item from our bucket list: a \$100 ice cream cone from [Ben and Jerry's in Waterbury, VT](#). This trip had us landing in Montpelier, VT (Edward F Knapp State Airport, KMPV) during the best time of the year.

As those who went to Lake Placid well know, the weather was unbelievable that day. It was one of those days that has you walking away saying, "I need an airplane!" Yikes!! I was considering 177rg's before the trip, now the itch is insufferable. I'm hoping it passes...sort of!

Anyway, the trip out to Montpelier was right at 2 hours. Enterprise rental left a car there the night before. I had called and told them I'd be earlier than when they opened in the morning, so the car would have to be delivered the night before. Seems they have a bit of a hard time remembering to drop them off based on comments in ForeFlight. However, we had no problem. As a note, if you're an Emerald Club member, there is no paperwork to complete, just grab the keys from the visor and go. (They charge the credit card you have on file later after they pick the vehicle up.) Drop off is just as easy, but I chose to give the keys to the FBO on the way out.

The ride to Ben and Jerry's is an easy 20 minutes north. Tour of the factory is about 20 minutes long with an ice cream sample at the

end. They weren't making ice cream that day, so we didn't get to see much action. The tour was fine without the ice cream making; however, that might be something to consider. There's a graveyard with tombstones for all the old flavors they have discontinued, including the pictured tombstone for "Schweddy Balls" (Yes, this was actually one of the flavors!)

There's a playground for the kids on property and, if you end up in line for the real Ben Jerry's experience of buying some ice cream, your visit ends up being around 2 hours this time of year if you meander a bit.

After Ben and Jerry's we went to [Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks](#), a maple sugar farm in Montpelier and a very pleasant tourist attraction that has great reviews on [TripAdvisor](#). If you go, take in the video at the sugar shack. The owner, Burr Morse, has a witty video that describes the process and it is well worth watching. He has a couple of books out, short stories mostly, and I bought one due to his down home sensibilities. It's been a great read so far!

There are trails in the woods. I think that would have been something nice to do, but we didn't have time due to the day trip nature of things. In the winter, those trails are used for cross country skiing. There is a country store/shop where they sell maple sugar EVERYTHING, but there are also a myriad of other things that one could find interesting as gifts or take home memorabilia.

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## Trip Report: Flight To Ben and Jerry's by Don Henry

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We ended up with a 6 hour stay in Vermont and this allowed us to also stop at a third place where we picked up some Vermont cheddar cheese on our way back to the airport. After topping off the car rental with fuel, we ended back at the airport around 4pm. The FBO had fueled N736ES while we were gone, so not much to do other than to pay for gas, and on our way we went.

That about sums it up. It was a one in a million kind of day where headwinds were nonexistent, the

sky was so clear you could see 60 miles in all directions, and one son learned not to drink a whole bottle of water right before you take-off. Not sure how I missed him gulping that whole thing down. (Scratching my head.) Anyway, that will be an experience he will never forget, or the value of an empty water bottle!

Hope everyone had as good a day as we did. I'm looking forward to adding more wonderful experiences like this in the future!



## Activities Committee Updates by Chris Houston



Thanksgiving in October

### Recap

Dozens of members came out for our Thanksgiving in October event on Saturday, October 12! Thanks to everyone who contributed to this outstanding meal, setup, and

tear down. Special thanks go to Tony Alesci for orchestrating it all! We consumed 85 lbs of turkey, 15 lbs of potatoes, two large trays of stuffing, 8 jars of gravy, 10 cans of corn, 4 gallons of cider, and sever-

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## Activities Committee Update by Chris Houston

*(Continued from page 6)*

al dishes brought to pass. Thanks to everyone for coming and making this such a wonderful event.

### Looking Ahead

Our final planned event of the year is the annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 7. This year, we will be returning to Blue Heron Hills. (Why mess with success?) See the inset for more details. Don't forget to bring items to contribute items for the raffle!

Note that a calendar item for the party has already been circulated to the club ([link to the Event Calendar](#)). Please RSVP on the Event Calendar or on the signup sheet in the WFC Clubhouse bulletin board. By November 27. Contact Chris Houston with any questions



Pictured above: scenes from an Activities Committee-sponsored breakfast fly-out to Whitfords on November 2, 2019. Parking was little tight that day.

### Images by Mick McKee



Mike Shippers and Lee Shippers try out bobsledding in Lake Placid. It appears that they did not get very far.

## 2019 WFC Christmas Party Saturday, December 7, 6-9 pm, Blue Heron Hills

**When:** Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019 at 6-9pm

**Where:** [The Golf Club at Blue Heron Hills](#)  
One Country Club Drive  
Macedon, NY 14502

**Cost:** \$27 per person (includes dinner, tax, tip, and entertainment)

**Times:** 6:00 pm—Cash bar cocktail hour  
7:00 pm—Buffet dinner  
7:45 pm—Raffle, all items provided by WFC members  
8:00 pm—Entertainment: [Comedian Sky Sands](#)

**RSVP (with head count):** Required by Wednesday, Nov. 27th



For invoicing purposes:

RSVP on the signup sheet in the Clubhouse  
OR  
RSVP on the [WFC Event Calendar](#)

\*\* Please do not RSVP on both. \*\*





# Congratulations!



Congratulations to Steve Young (above) for his first solo on October 9, 2019 and to Bob Cahill (below) for soloing on October 15 2019!



# Upcoming WFC and Local Events

Monday November 25	VMC CLUB SAFETY SEMINAR, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. EAA 44 Sport Aviation Center, Ledgesdale Airpark [7G0], 44 Eisenhower Drive, Brockport, NY. Each meeting starts with a video scenario produced by EAA. Afterwards, we have a "what would you do" discussion, as well as talk about anything aviation related! EAA membership not required! Free pizza too! Come join the fun and sharpen your safe flying skills.
Sunday December 7	<b>WFC Annual Christmas Party. 6:00–9:00 pm at The Golf Club at Blue Heron Hills</b> (see previous page for details). Be sure to RSVP on the Event Calendar or on the paper signup sheet in the Club-house.

Items in **bold** are sponsored by the WFC Activities Committee.

## Images by Chris Houston



A foggy sunrise over the Williamson Sodus Airport, October 26, 2019

## Recommended Reading



The Nov/Dec 2019 issue of [FAA Safety Briefing](#) focuses on resource management and error mitigation in the aviation environment.

