

WFC Flyer



Lower Manhattan photographed during a WFC flight around New York City on September 5, 2020 (Chris Houston)

Important Dates:

General Meeting
September 10, 2020
WFC Maintenance
Hangar

Board Meeting
October 1, 2020
WFC Clubhouse

General Meeting
October 8, 2020
WFC Maintenance
Hangar

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Williamson Flying Club Newsletter September 2020

From the President's Desk by Randy Christian

You know, with all of the doom and gloom in the world, I feel it's time to look on the bright side of life this month. Let's start by looking at our new hangars, yet again another successful project that is coming to completion. This project should make all club members proud and happy as well. This will become a new home for many of our birds on the field and also open up other opportunities for area pilots to take a look at the Williamson - Sodus airport and our fine club. If you haven't seen them, the bright overhead lighting and concrete floors make for a nice upgrade. Members have already begun moving in.

Next, let's take a look at the upcoming Jet-A project that is starting to move

along as well. In the works for about a year, this vision put forth by club leadership will bring yet another option for local as well as distant flyers that have a thirst for Jet-A. We also anticipate added revenue for the club / airport. Along with that, we will become another option for Jet-A other than the larger airports around us.

Let's also not forget our strong membership base that has always allowed the club and the airport to be solid and grow. As you can see from our new members in the last two months, we are still doing something right in a time where GA has seen a decline in numbers.

And finally, let's also take time to appreciate

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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:	Randy Christian	Director, 2018:	Dick Swingly
Vice President:	Brad Roehrig	Director, 2019:	Paula Sippel
Treasurer:	Bob Herloski	Director, 2020:	Lesly Jean-Louis
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Contact: bod@williamsonflyingclub.com

Medical Advisor: Dr. Pam Tarkington

“As you can see from our new members in the last two months, we are still doing something right in a time where GA has seen a decline in numbers.”

Aviation Quote

“I guess I ran the whole plane for a minute, but I let the machine take care of itself. I always said airplanes would fly themselves if you left them alone.”

- Orville Wright

Orville Wright's final flight occurred on April 26, 1944 aboard a prototype Lockheed Constellation with Howard Hughes and Jack Frye (the president of TWA) at the controls. The pair had just set a transcontinental speed record flying between Burbank, CA and Washington, DC and were on the return trip.

From the President's Desk by Randy Christian

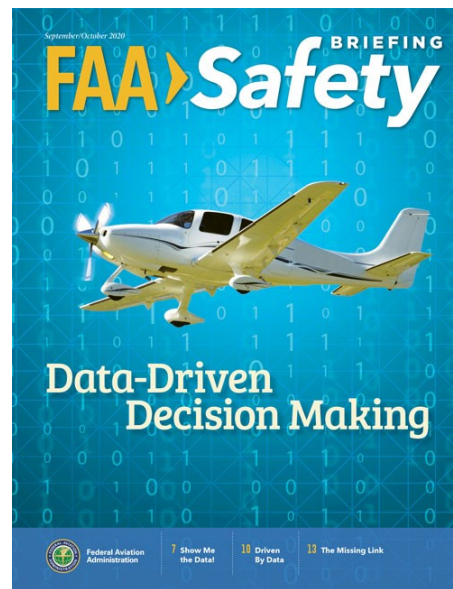
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ciate the efforts of our membership to not only keep the club interesting (Activities Committee) with many fly outs, parties and picnics over the years. This year is no exception with all that they are working on. See this month's membership meeting minutes for details, but I will say for this fall there are already (4) fly-outs planned.

Thank you so much for your time this month, be proud of your accomplishments as part of this wonderful club, stay safe, and enjoy life to the fullest.

Blue skies!

Recommended Reading



Welcome, New Members!

The Williamson Flying Club extends a warm welcome to those who joined our ranks in August, 2020!

- Patrick Rae
- Jacob Wilson

The September / October edition of [FAA Safety Briefing](#) focuses on the gathering, analysis, and use of data to drive more-informed decision making and improve safety.

Cool Places To Fly by Chris Houston

Destination: Greenwood Lake Airport (4N1), West Milford, NJ

Distance: 177 nautical miles, direct

Why It's Cool:

While planning for the WFC fly-out to New York City (see Outings, p. 5), we were scouting places that would make good fuel stops on the way to the Hudson River near the Tappan Zee Bridge. In that search, we

discovered [Greenwood Lake Airport \(4N1\)](#). With fuel at a relatively inexpensive \$4.49 for the greater New York City metropolitan area and an on-field restaurant called Smoke Shack BBQ & Burgers, my interest was piqued.

Then I read a comment from a ForeFlight user about a Lockheed Constellation on the field being used as...a pilot lounge?

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Cool Places To Fly by Chris Houston

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As an aviation history buff, this thoroughly captured my attention. To my mind, the Constellation represents the pinnacle of piston-driven commercial air travel. It was designed to specifications from Howard Hughes and his friends at TWA by the legendary Kelly Johnson of Lockheed. Johnson's noteworthy contributions to aeronautical design include the P-38 Lightning and the SR-71 Blackbird among many others. Melded with a distinctive triple tail, the elegantly contoured taper of the Connie's fuselage evokes the body of a dolphin, of a creature meant to glide smoothly through the dilute fluid of the atmosphere. Although it was not the first airliner with a pressurized

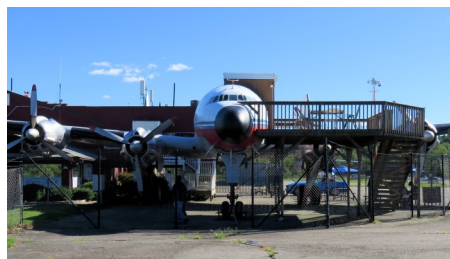
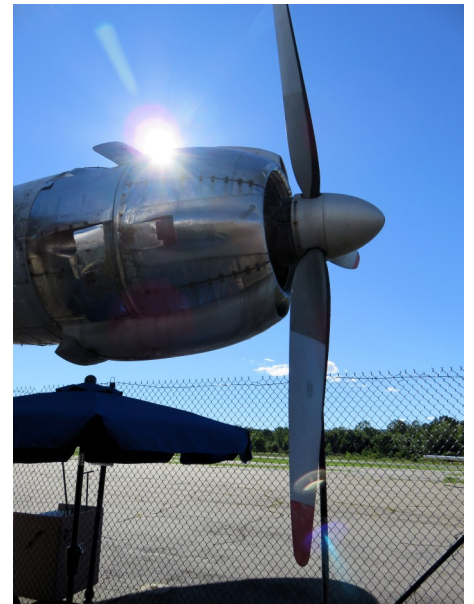
cabin (that was the Boeing 307 Stratoliner), it was the first mass-produced airliner to easily transport passengers through the rarefied air above the weather. This was a game-changer for commercial aviation that gave passengers a more comfortable ride in smoother air.

Orville Wright made his final flight aboard a Constellation in 1944, remarking that the 123 foot wingspan was greater than the distance of his first flight in the 1903 Flyer.

Originally registered as F-BAZA, Greenwood Lake's Connie was the first of four Constellations purchased by Air France. She made her first leap across the Atlantic on 9 July 1946 and regu-

larly flew the New York to Paris route until 1950. She was acquired by TWA in January of 1950 and rechristened *Star of the Azores* with a United States registration number of N9412H. She flew for TWA until September of 1959, then continued on in the service of several smaller airlines before going into storage. She was bought by Frank Lembo Enterprises for use as a novel restaurant venue at the Greenwood Lake Airport in 1976. Her landing at Greenwood Lake in July 1977 marked her final flight. Now, she counts among the last four surviving L-049 Constellations worldwide. (Though there are other surviving Constellation variants, including the *Columbine II* – also known as the original

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Cool Places To Fly by Chris Houston

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Air Force One — and the Columbine III that served as President Eisenhower's air transports.) More history on the Greenwood Lake Constellation is available [here](#).

The airport itself features a 3471 foot long runway that is surrounded by trees and terrain that result in strong, gusty crosswinds that are not necessarily detectable by the windsock or the AWOS; both regularly underreport the wind velocity. If that sounds familiar to Williamson-Sodus pilots, know that this airport is similar to ours in this regard, but worse!

The Constellation is available for viewing and is currently configured as a pilot's lounge for the flight school. Though it is partially incorporated into the terminal building, the cockpit retains its original configuration and is remarkable to see.

Though I did not dine at [Smoke Shack BBO & Burgers](#), it is well-reviewed online (4.5/5 on Yelp) and I was assured by a local flight instructor that it was good. Several patrons were dining outside at picnic tables positioned under the Constellation when I visited.

Greenwood Lake is a cool, unusual airport. The next time I go, I'm getting barbecue!

Tips:

- The field is subject to strong, variable gusts. If you don't want to be beat up in the pattern (like I was), plan to go on a calm day and have a backup destination in ready to go just in case.
- The windsock and AWOS may not reliably represent what the wind is actually doing. The AWOS is a DigiWX model that reports METARS to outlets like ForeFlight, but does not have a discrete frequency. Key the mic twice on UNICOM (122.9) to activate. It is also useful to monitor other weather reporting stations around the area to understand the big picture:
 - ◆ Sussex, 13 miles west: 118.525, 973-875-0859
 - ◆ Caldwell, 15 miles south: 135.5, 973-575-4417
 - ◆ Morristown, 20 miles south: 124.25, 973-290-0135
- There is a gate code needed to access the ramp from the FBO. Unlike many places, there is no aeronautical riddle posted to solve for the code. You'll need to ask for the code. Or contact me, I can provide it before you go.
- Note that runway 6 requires right traffic.

Contribute to the Newsletter!

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

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

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

Newsletter@williamsonflyingclub.com

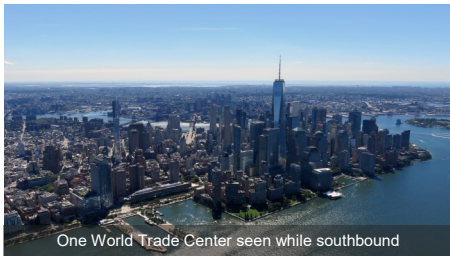


Outings: Flight to Ice Cream Island in Dansville, NY (KDSV), August 20



With the days getting shorter, it's more difficult to fit an after-work run for ice cream into the day, but we managed to get nine aircraft down to Dansville on August 20. Photos contributed by Dan Probst.

Outings: Manhattan Skyline Flight and Lunch in Cherry Ridge, 05 September 2020



One World Trade Center seen while southbound



A unique choice for a turn around a point



Midtown from over the East River



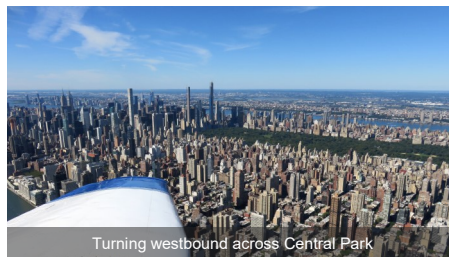
Jess and Dan with N701DT



Eman, Ziad, and Matt with N736ES



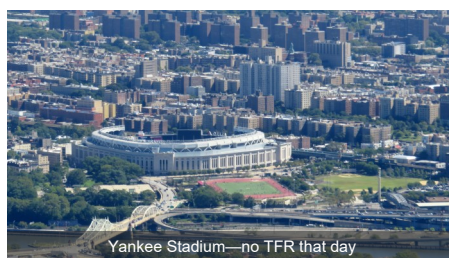
Lower Manhattan from the south



Turning westbound across Central Park



Chris, The Bear, and Lee with N21481



Yankee Stadium—no TFR that day



Brad's friend, Brad, Barry, Tom, Kim, Scott, and Barry's friend posing at Cherry Ridge with Barry's Seneca

After two weather cancellations thanks to Hurricane Laura, four WFC aircraft flew the Skyline Route around Manhattan. Participating aircraft flew southbound along the Hudson River on a bravo clearance at 1500 to 2000 feet as assigned by ATC, turned eastbound south of the Statue of Liberty, flew northbound over the East River, then transitioned back to the Hudson River over Central Park to depart the bravo airspace to the north. Those aircraft were joined by a fifth WFC aircraft for lunch at the Cherry Ridge Airport Restaurant (N30). Participants included Matt Palmer, who organized the trip, in N736ES with Eman and Ziad Safadi; Dan Probst with his sister Jess in N701DT; Barry Holtz with Scott Lasky and fiancée Kim, and Tom Mueller in Barry's Seneca; and Chris Houston with his daughter and Lee Shippers in Chris' Warrior. Brad Roehrig and a friend got a late start in Brad's Cirrus, but still joined us at Cherry Ridge to make 15 people for our 12:30 lunch reservation. Photos contributed by Dan Probst and Chris Houston. As the pictures show, it was truly a beautiful day for this sort of event and well worth the wait.

Outings: Club Picnic at Piseco Airport (K09), 06 September 2020

The Williamson Flying Club Activities Committee planned a fly-out picnic to the Adirondack Mountains and Piseco Airport (K09) on Sunday, 06 September 2020. 16 people flew in 5 airplanes for an hour to get there. What most of us did not realize, was that there was a contest going on between Tom and Alicia Carter and Brad and Melodie Roehrig over who could be the most “fancy”. Ironically, this contest was held at a rather rustic airport and one might think that simply arriving in a Cirrus would be fancy enough, but one would be incorrect about that. Lots of laughs on this trip. Photos by Ed Ciolkowski and Chris Houston.



Eman Safadi, Stacey Platzer, and Ed Ciolkowski



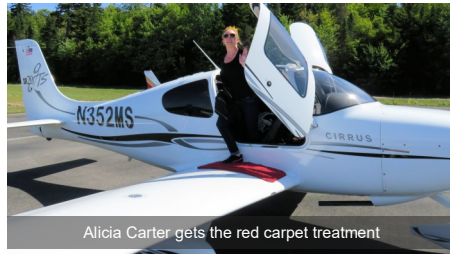
Stacey Platzer and Ed Ciolkowski



Alicia and Tom Carter up their picnic game with sushi



Ziad Safadi and Chris Houston



Alicia Carter gets the red carpet treatment



Brad Roehrig cultivated an atmosphere of exclusivity



Eman and Ziad Safadi enjoying lunch



Melodie Roehrig shows off her tiara



Very fancy, indeed, Brad!



Dan and Mary Dorschel



Scott Lasky and fiancée Kim



The consensus: both ladies were too fancy for Piseco



Piseco makes for a nice picnic spot surrounded by mountains; the ambulance was not for us!

Activities Update by Chris Houston

After a slow start due to COVID-19, we have organized a few events this year that are still possible in the age of social distancing. Weather continues to be a challenge: we've cancelled the trip to Penn's Cave more times than I can count and the flight around Manhattan did not occur until the third attempt. This has always been a challenge of the committee. We scheduling events in advance to help people plan, but so many of our activities are weather dependent that cancellations are bound to happen. Still, the flight to Manhattan (p. 5) and the picnic in Piseco (p. 6) were both great fun and very well-attended.

Upcoming Events:

- Saturday, September 12, Penn's Cave (N74):** [Penn's Cave](#) in central PA is open to visitors. It's a cave that can only be toured by boat. See ["Cool Places To Fly", WFC Flyer, September 2018](#) for details about this destination. We will plan to arrive at N74 by 11:45, eat a picnic lunch, and walk to the cave for our 1:20 pm tour. As of this writing, there are still three spots left. Contact Tom Carter with questions and/or ride requests. The rain date for this event will be 09/19.



The entrance to Penn's Cave (Chris Houston)

Upcoming WFC and Local Events

Saturday, September 12	WFC Fly-Out To Penn's Cave (N74): See Activities Committee Update in this issue for details. More information will be coming shortly. Contact Tom Carter with questions or ride requests. Rain date is Saturday, September 19.
Saturday, October 3	Annual WFC Fall Fly-Out To Lake Placid (KLKP): Tentatively plan for an 11:00 am arrival with lunch anticipated at the Big Slide Brewery and Public House. More details coming. Contact Tom Carter with questions or ride requests. Rain date is Saturday, October 10.
Saturday, December 5	Annual WFC Christmas Party: Scheduled at the Golf Club at Blue Heron Hills. Stand by for more information on this evening event.

Items in **boldface** indicate WFC Activities Committee-sponsored events. Saturday lunches, which normally start in June, are on hold until further notice.

- Saturday, October 3, Lake Placid (KLKP):** One of our most popular fly-outs each year is a leaf-peeping tour of the Adirondacks followed by lunch in Lake Placid. This year, we're contemplating lunch at the Big Slide Brewery and Public House located adjacent to the airport. More details will be coming. Contact Tom Carter with questions or to request a ride. The proposed rain date for this event is Saturday, October 10.



Lake Placid, October 2015 (Chris Houston)

- Saturday, December 5, Christmas Party:** The Golf Club at Blue Heron Hills is already booked. We're watching the situation to determine if this event can move forward.