

# WFC Flyer



Aircraft from the Williamson-Sodus Airport gathered on the ramp at Bradford Regional for dinner on April 30, 2022 (Dan Probst)

## Important Dates:

General Meeting  
May 12, 2022  
WFC Clubhouse

Board Meeting  
June 2, 2022  
WFC Clubhouse

General Meeting  
June 9, 2022  
WFC Clubhouse

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## Williamson Flying Club Newsletter

May 2022

### From the President's Desk by Bob Fratangelo

Happy May, everyone!

The Williamson Flying Club Apple Blossom Breakfast will soon be upon us! Sunday May 22!

Active Membership breakfast tickets have been handed out or mailed to all active members. Some have already asked for more to sell. Active member or not, if you would like some pre-sale tickets to sell, or if you need more please let us know and we will get them to you! Pre-Sale tickets will be sold at the airport Saturdays from 0900-1200 on May 14 and May 21. We need volunteers to sit in the club house to sell pre-sale tickets to the public these consecutive Saturdays! Interested? Let me, Paula Sippel, Scott Lasky, Bill Bach, or Kim



Christian know! A reminder to all who can help, the **grill set up this year will be Saturday May 14th, starting at 0830!** Tim and Bill will send out another reminder email as well. We will have lunch that day!

Our breakfast set up morning is **Saturday May 21 starting at 0830!** The Breakfast is an all hands event! We start with the Saturday field set up, setting up tables, chairs, supplies, staking out the field and running lines between them, parking, signs, cleaning up around the field and much, much more. Scott Lasky is planning lunch for us that Saturday! Sunday May 22 is breakfast day! We close the Rt 104 entrance at 0630, after which members will have to park off

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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: Bob Fratangelo  
Vice President: Scott Lasky  
Treasurer: Bob Herloski  
Secretary: Paula Sippel

Past President: Randy Christian  
Director, 2020: Lesly Jean-Louis  
Director, 2021: Dick Swingly  
Director, 2022: Gilead Biggie

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

Medical Advisor: Dr. Pam Tarkington

*“Lastly, remember to keep Tony Alesci and his family in your prayers. He will be sorely missed around the Club.”*

## Aviation Quote

“Flying has always been to me this wonderful metaphor. In order to fly you have to trust what you can’t see. Up on the mountain ridges where very few people have been I have thought back to what every flyer knows. That there is this special world in which we dwell that is not marked with boundaries; that’s not a map. We’re not hedged about with walls and desks. So often in an office the very worst thing that can happen is you could drop your pencil. Out there’s a reminder that there are a lot worse things that can happen...and a lot greater rewards.

— Richard Bach,  
Television interview

## From the President’s Desk by Bob Fratangelo

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of Centenary Rd. **Please plan** on coming out to help starting before 0630 and stay until the last tables and chairs are picked up. This is our **big public event** and our greatest opportunity for all club members and their families to come on out to the club and enjoy each other’s company while working together for our greater good! It is great fun and very rewarding! If you have not been assigned a duty, there will be rosters at the Clubhouse for you to view after this month’s meeting to sign up for a position.

**We will have a cookout/member social prior to the Membership Meeting on May 12; Chef Dave Lowry will be cooking up something for us starting at 6pm!** If you don’t have time for dinner, get to the airport before the meeting and enjoy! Donations appreciated. We will continue to have a 15 minute FAA FFAST safety talk at the end of membership meetings with Mike Bjerga.

The survey is out to our membership to see what talents our membership have that they may be willing to share to help run and or maintain our club/airport. This is our airport, our field, and buildings. We rely on our club’s talent to keep it up and maintained. We always have. **Please watch your email for a link to the survey and please complete it.** There is no greater joy than working around the airport, especially not having a need to make excuses to come to the airport to hang out otherwise. We are looking for people to serve on committees for:

- Grounds (mowing, snow plowing, field work, and runway/taxiway work)
- Buildings

- Administrative duties
- Aircraft detailing
- Membership support

We are also looking at other options to replace the current system of recognizing one’s efforts for your volunteer work on the various committees. More on that in a couple of months.

Come on out to the club! Go flying!

If you are rusty, get up with an instructor, grab some right seat time with someone else (split the gas or buy lunch) or grab an instructor and get fresh again!

Lastly, remember to keep Tony Alesci and his family in your prayers. He will be sorely missed around the Club. We will have a memorial luncheon in his honor later this year.

See you at our next membership meeting! Come early for a dog or burger!

## Apple Blossom Pancake Breakfast Reminders

### Saturday, May 14

- Grill set-up day
- Begins 0830
- Lunch after

### Saturday, May 21

- Breakfast set-up day
- Begins 0830
- Scott Lasky is planning lunch for all who volunteer

### Sunday, May 22

- Breakfast day!
- Arrive prior to 0630 — NY-104 airport entrance closing after

## In Memoriam: Tony Alesci by Chris Houston



Tony at the helm of N1185X

Long time Williamson Flying Club member [Anthony \(Tony\) Alesci flew west on May 2, 2022 after a brief bout with cancer](#). He is survived by his wife Kathy; son Anthony Alesci; stepdaughters Katie Dewine, Kris Dewine, and Kelly Dewine; grandson Freddie Dewine; and brothers Donald (Lora) Bracy and Michael (Gina) Alesci.

Tony was an automotive mechanic for much of his career and performed appliance repair in more recent years. He was never shy about discussing his passions, which included a love of dogs, Star Trek, and aviation.

Tony earned his Private Pilot certificate in 1994 with tailwheel and high performance endorsements, but had to put aviation aside for a number of years. His love of flying



In Lake Placid with the WFC in 2015

was rekindled when he joined the Williamson Flying Club in 2010 with encouragement from his wife Kathy.

"I love this club," Tony often said of the WFC. He brought great passion and enthusiasm to planning events that brought pilots together. He was the founding chair of the Activities Committee in 2013 and was best known for his many years behind the grill during his famous Saturday lunches. Each season culminated with "Thanksgiving in October". Tony deep fried up to four turkeys while rallying the rest of the WFC to contribute dishes to pass. Few events at the WFC drew large numbers of people together quite like these Thanksgiving celebrations.

Always willing to help, Tony was also active in the Buildings and Grounds Committee and even participated in the stripping of N701DT before she received her current paint job.

Tony possessed a pure vision of the Williamson Flying Club as a community that went way beyond a means of co-owning aircraft. To Tony, the people of the WFC mattered deeply. His enthusiasm for and contributions to our community will be dearly missed.



Visiting the Star Trek Set Tour in 2021



On the bridge of the Enterprise in 2021



Climbing aboard N736ES in Lake Placid, 2017



With Scott Lasky in Ticonderoga, NY



Tony always greeted the dogs he encountered



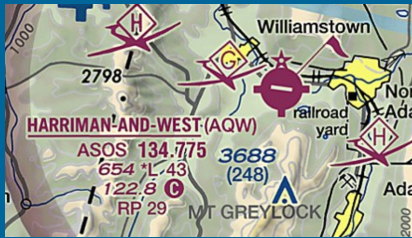
At a 2015 pancake breakfast in Elmira, NY

## Outings: Dinner at The Runway Bar & Grill, Bradford Regional Airport (Kbfd)



On 30 April 2022, twenty people in seven airplanes flew from Sodus, NY to Bradford, PA for dinner at The Runway Bar & Grill. Participants included WFC members old and new, student and certificated pilots, KSDC based pilots, friends, and family. It was the inaugural Activities Committee fly-out of the year and one of the most successful in recent memory. An evening of excellent food — especially the prime rib — was capped by a beautiful night flight home. Thanks to Gilead Biggie for organizing this event! Photographs contributed by Jamie Oliver and Dan Probst.

## Cool Places To Fly: Harriman-And-West Airport (KAQW) by Chris Houston



**Destination:**  
Harriman-and-West Airport (KAQW), North Adams, MA

**Distance:**  
177 nautical miles (direct)

### Why It's Cool:

- Well-maintained, friendly, and scenic facility in the Berkshire Mountains
- Easy access to the excellent [Trail House Kitchen](#)

Harriman-and-West Airport (KAQW) in northwest Massachusetts is a picturesque field among the Berkshire Mountains. It is located southeast of where New York, Vermont, and Massachusetts come together. With Albany providing approach services, KAQW is barely in Massachusetts. Surrounded by high terrain, operations on runway 29 require a right handed traffic pattern.

First impressions of the airport are of immaculate paved surfaces with lots of aircraft tied down outside, including a number of gliders



parked on the grass between the approach end of runway 29 and the parallel taxiway.

Currently priced at \$5.43/gal, avgas at KAQW is relatively inexpensive for the region. The fuel farm features a fuel hose reel that is the same width as the fuel hose itself, making rewinding the hose *virtually* idiot-proof, almost like rewinding film.

Open hangar doors provide hints of interesting aircraft based at the airport that included a Pilatus and a beautifully restored Stearman.

Harriman-and-West is in-between administration buildings at the moment, despite two candidates being apparent from the ramp. The first, with a distinctive sawtooth roofline, was the former FBO/ administration building and is currently owned by a private enterprise. The second, a newer red building was left unfinished due to

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## Cool Places To Fly: Harriman-And-West Airport (KAQW) by Chris Houston

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the disruption of Covid-19. A pilot lounge is incorporated into a short row of T-hangars at the west end of the ramp and is where the local pilots hang out. Everyone I met at Harriman-and-West was friendly and eager to chat.

Visitors in search of food are advised to stroll off airport and seek out the [Trail House Kitchen](#), an excellent farm to table restaurant housed in a restored farm house. The restaurant has extensive outdoor seating options and is elegantly decorated inside. To reach it, walk north along Airport Road until it dead ends at Mohawk Trail (Massachusetts Route 2). Remain on the south side of Mohawk Trail, turn left (west), and walk past the

Stop & Shop plaza to reach the restaurant. I went with a basic mushroom-Swiss burger with fries and it was outstanding. Naturally, healthier options are also available.

### Tips:

- Watch out for glider activity.
- Note that runway 29 traffic uses a right pattern.
- Given the terrain around the airport, expect turbulence on windy days. (Ask me how I know...)
- Exit gates from the ramp are currently not placarded with a re-entry code, but it's the AWOS frequency (134.775). However, the locks on different gates along the fence take dif-

ferent numbers of digits. Successfully opening one may require some trial and error. For example, the keypad on the gate between the red (unfinished) and white (former) administration buildings will unlock by entering "1347#".

- Menus and reservations for Trail House Kitchen are available from their [website](#).

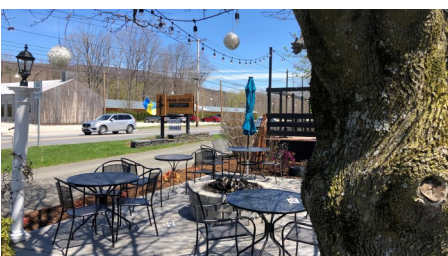
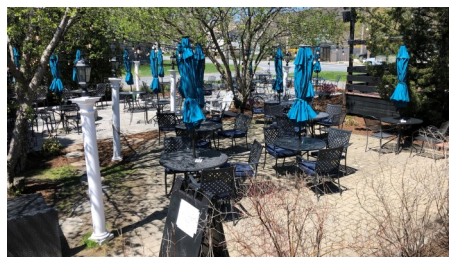
### Acknowledgement:

This destination was recommended by WFC member Larry Kaiser (see [Member Spotlight, January 2021](#)). Thanks, Larry! Good tip!

## Recommended Reading



The [May / June 2022 issue of FAA Safety Briefing](#) focuses on tools and technology to help pilots avoid or mitigate weather risks, including tips on turbulence avoidance, weather product interpretation, and improving preflight self-briefings.



## Congratulations!



It's great to see members meeting milestones again! Congratulations to Gilead Biggie (IFR, top), Steve Snyder (1st solo, middle), and Stu Blount (1st solo, bottom). Well done, everyone!

## Upcoming WFC and Local Events

Friday May 13 – Saturday May 14	WFC overnight road trip to London, Ontario to visit the Diamond Aircraft factory. Details available on the WFC Event Calendar. Please RSVP if going. Contact Dan Probst with any questions.
Saturday May 21	WFC pancake breakfast set-up, 9:00 am. Lunch will follow for volunteers participating in the set-up.
Sunday May 21	WFC Annual Apple Blossom Pancake Fly-In Breakfast (KSDC). We hope to see all of our members out there assisting with this beloved event finally back after a two year hiatus. If you do not already have a volunteer role, contact Bill Bach or Kim Christian.
Saturday May 28 – Sunday May 29	<b>WFC fly-out to Dayton, OH to visit the National Museum of the United States Air Force. Trip will be an overnight. Rain dates, June 4-5.</b> Schedule: <b>May 28:</b> KSDC—KKSGH, arrive midday. Lunch, visit the museum. <b>May 29:</b> More time at the museum. Evening events. <b>May 30:</b> Fly home. Posted to the Event Calendar with additional details. Please RSVP for planning purposes. Contact Dan Probst with questions.
Sunday May 29	Fly-in pancake breakfast, Whitford Airport (B16), Weedsport, NY. 7:30 am—12:00 pm.
Sunday May 29	Fly-in pancake breakfast, Perry-Warsaw Airport (01G), Perry, NY. 8:00 am—12:00 pm.
Monday May 30 Memorial Day	Fly-in pancake breakfast, Akron-Jesson Field (9G3). 8:00 am—noon. All you can eat pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee, and juice.
Saturday June 4	Fly-in breakfast, Kline Kill Airport (NY1). 8:00 am—11:00 am. Pancakes, eggs, sausage, OJ, and coffee: \$8. Southeast of Albany, turf-only field.
Sunday June 5	Fly-in pancake breakfast, Elmira-Corning Regional Airport (KELM). EAA 533 ramp. 8:00 am—11:00 am. If you taxi directly to the EAA ramp, no ramp fees will be collected.
Sunday June 5	Fly-in pancake breakfast, Frankfort-Highland Airport (6B4), Utica, NY. 8:00 am—11:00 am.
Saturday June 12	EAA 44 Open House, Ledgesdale Airport (7G0), Brockport, NY. 10:00 am — 4:00 pm. Focus on recreational building, restoring, and flying airplanes. Grill food available for purchase.
<b>Saturday June 18</b>	<b>WFC fly-out to Piseco (K09) for a picnic. Hiking will be available afterward for those interested. Details pending. Rain date, June 19.</b>
Saturday June 18	Fly-in pancake breakfast, Cooperstown-Westville Airport (K23), Cooperstown, NY. 7:30 am—11:30 am. Field is turf only.
Sunday June 19 Father's Day	Fly-in pancake breakfast, Genesee County Airport (KGVQ), Batavia, NY. 7:00 am — noon.
Sunday June 19 Father's Day	Fly-in pancake breakfast, Marcellus Airport (NK71), Marcellus, NY. 8:00 am—12:00 pm. Field is turf only.
Sunday July 3	Fly-in pancake breakfast, Elmira-Corning Regional Airport (KELM). EAA 533 ramp. 8:00 am—11:00 am. If you taxi directly to the EAA ramp, no ramp fees will be collected.
Monday July 4	Fly-in pancake breakfast, Penn Yan (KPEO), Penn Yan, NY. 6:30 am — 11:30 am.

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