



On September 3, several members flew to Niagara Falls International to tour the Commemorative Air Force's B-29 *Fifi* and B-24 *Diamond Lil* (Chris Houston)

Important Dates:

General Meeting
September 8, 2022
WFC Clubhouse

Board Meeting
October 6, 2022
WFC Clubhouse

General Meeting
October 13, 2022
WFC Clubhouse

Inside This Issue:

- President's Desk, p1
- Fly-Outs: Dansville, p2
- Fly-Outs: Manhattan Skyline Tour, p3
- Fly-Outs: Eagles Mere Aviation Museum, p4
- Fly-Outs: CAF, p5
- Cool Places To Fly: Montauk, NY, p6
- Stearman Project, p7
- Calendar, p8

Williamson Flying Club Newsletter September 2022

From the President's Desk by Bob Fratangelo

Welcome to September! Where did August go? I'd like to thank those who helped with lunches throughout the late spring and summer: Dave Lowry, Mick McKee, Don Baker, Scott and Kim Lasky, Mike Abate, and the many members who simply lent a hand for preparation and table set up! Dave and Julie Lowry continue to grill food for some pre-meeting camaraderie! Thank you all so very much.

The Activities Committee is planning to host a "Tony's Thanksgiving Luncheon" on Saturday, October 1st. Put it on your calendar, please come, bring a side to pass! Scott Lasky reports that it will be a feast just like Tony enjoyed hosting!

We have had members step up without being asked to clean north facing hangar doors; Mick McKee for the center hangar row and this past weekend Mike Heckler and Chris Karpenko cleaned those of the north section of hangars! Mike Heckler removed a ton of moss and saplings from the sides of the hangars as well. Our grounds crews and hangar maintenance crews have been hard at it all Summer; Dave Perricone (grounds), Lou Clemente (hangar maintenance), Lee Shippers, John Rubio, and Dick Swingley (mowing plus).

(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

Board of Directors

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| President: | Bob Fratangelo | Past President: | Randy Christian |
| Vice President: | Scott Lasky | Director, 2020: | Lesly Jean-Louis |
| Treasurer: | Bob Herloski | Director, 2021: | Dick Swingley |
| Secretary: | Paula Sippel | Director, 2022: | Gilead Biggie |

Contact: bod@williamsonflyingclub.com

Medical Advisor: Dr. Pam Tarkington

“We have six prospective members who hope to be voted in at our next meeting this Thursday. Active members are needed to vote them in, so please come on out for the meeting.”

Aviation Quote

“Flying might not be all plain sailing, but the fun of it is worth the price.”

— Amelia Earhart

From the President’s Desk by Bob Fratangelo

(Continued from page 1)

We are now looking at Fall which is like someone flipped a switch after Labor Day weekend and it’s here. Yikes! So, if you need to get some currencies done, do it now while we still have a few long evenings left! Or If you need to get another plane wash in before it’s too cold to do so, put it on your calendar.

Our Activities Committee is doing a marvelous job of setting up exciting places to fly to for a visit. If you have not had a chance to do a trip or to take someone with you on the trip, please do! I heard that Lesly had a plane full going to Niagara Falls International this past weekend and there were several aircraft that flew out! See page 5 for pictures from that fly-out. Re-Dun and the War Plane Museum in Gene-seo had breakfasts on Labor Day, but

alas the weather fouled that up. There will be a few more, watch the back page of the newsletter for information.

We have **six** prospective members who hope to be voted in at our next meeting this Thursday. Active members are needed to vote them in, so please come on out for the meeting. If you may be a little late we vote on new members at the end of the meeting. I have heard a rumor that Dave and Julie Lowry are doing something a little different for grilled food prior to the meeting starting at 6:00 pm!

Come on out to the Club and go flying!! See you at the club membership meeting this Thursday at 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm for grilled food!

Vote on Dues Increase Passed by Membership

As reported in this space last month, the WFC Board of Directors proposed a \$5 increase to monthly dues. This proposal was presented at the August membership meeting and following a significant decision was approved by a

membership vote.

Members will see the \$5 increase reflected in invoices recently distributed by the club treasurer.

Fly-Outs: Ice Cream Island, Dansville, NY (KDSV), 10 Aug 2022

Ice cream is always a good idea as these members discovered during an evening fly out to Dansville Municipal (KDSV) to visit Ice Cream Island, just across the street from the airport. Thanks to Gilead Biggie for organizing this outing! Photo provided by Gilead Biggie.



Fly-Outs: New York City Skyline with Lunch at Sky Acres (44N), 20 August 2022



Lower Manhattan just prior to overflying the East River



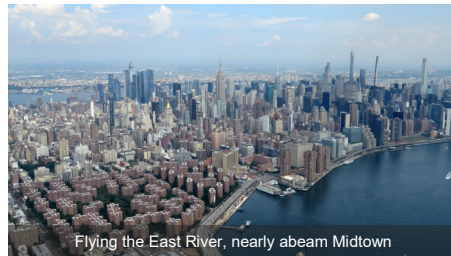
Midtown Manhattan and the Empire State Building



Newark Tower suggested that our flight of three might like to circle the Statue of Liberty, so we did!



Simon Economides (right) with his friend Scott (left) flying the Rochester Air Center's SR-20.



Flying the East River, nearly abeam Midtown



Ed Ciolkowski fueling his airplane at Sky Acres



Paul and Lisa Klingler with Chris Houston



Lunch at Hangars Café, Catelyn, Ed, Simon, Scott, Steve, Chris, Paul, and Lisa. Photo by Simon's friend, Ross.



Simon Economides navigates along the Hudson River.

The WFC takes Manhattan! On August 20, eight people in three aircraft flew the Skyline Route through the New York Bravo and were invited by Newark Tower to circle the Statue of Liberty before proceeding north up the East River and back across Central Park to rejoin the Hudson River northbound. It was one of our smoothest trips through NYC airspace yet. Although the Skyline Route procedure indicates calling LaGuardia Tower directly when approaching from the north, the bravo clearance is often granted at the last minute or not at all (to cite an example from last year). This year, we contacted New York Approach first and obtained our bravo clearances early. For future reference, this is the way to do it! By being in the bravo, we had traffic call-outs and were able to overfly the East River and Central Park.

We capped off the event with an excellent lunch at Hangars Cafe on the field at Sky Acres (44N). Participating members included Catelyn Augustine, Ed Ciolkowski, Simon Economides (with friend Scott taking his first flight in a general aviation airplane), Chris Houston, Paul Klingler (with wife, Lisa), and Steve Young. Photos contributed by Chris Houston and Simon Economides.

Fly-Outs: Eagles Mere Aviation Museum at Merritt Field (4PN7), 28 August 2022

On 23 August 2022, three members visited the [Eagles Mere Aviation Museum](#), an immaculate collection of 30+ largely airworthy aircraft from the 1920s housed in multiple hangars at Merritt Field, a private airport situated on top of a north central Pennsylvania mountain. Prior permission for landing is required and it comes with a daunting six page waiver to be signed. Once we arrived, we found the people at the museum to be very friendly and helpful. We were surprised at the number of rare and unique aircraft on display. The museum also features an entire hangar filled with an impressive collection of aviation engines, from the commonplace to the obscure. Also on site are a motorcycle museum and an automotive museum (not open during our visit). This place is truly a hidden gem. Thanks to Dan Probst for coordinating the trip, waivers and all, on behalf of the Activities Committee. Photographs provided by Chris Houston. In addition to Dan and Chris, new member Jeff Dale also participated.



Merritt Field (4PN7) sits at an elevation of 2,000 feet.



N1185X on final for runway 24R at Merritt Field.



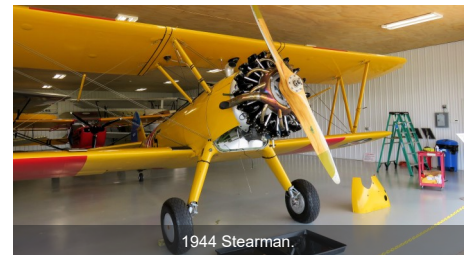
The last surviving 1928 Cessna AW, Cessna's first aircraft.



Jeff, Chris, and Dan with N1185X at Merritt Field.



1929 Pitcairn PA-6 Super Mailwing.



1944 Stearman.



The Eagles Mere Aviation Museum fills multiple hangars.



The sole remaining 1928 Alexander Eaglerock A-4.



Rare 1928 Thunderbird W-14 once owned by Roscoe Turner



A 1917 Curtiss JN-4C Jenny.



The site also includes a motorcycle museum with a significant number on display.

Fly-Outs: Commemorative Air Force Tour at Niagara Falls Int'l (KIAG), 3 September 2022



Kim and Scott Lasky at KIAG.



Partial group photo of the WFC with *Fifi!*



Lesly Jean-Louis' beast of a Turbo Saratoga at KIAG.



B-24 *Diamond Lil* is one of only two examples still flying.



Mike Abate arrives at KIAG in N1185X



One has to envy the fellow in the seat of honor up front.



Cockpit of the B-24 Liberator heavy bomber.



B-29 overflight. Fortunately, the bomb bays were closed.



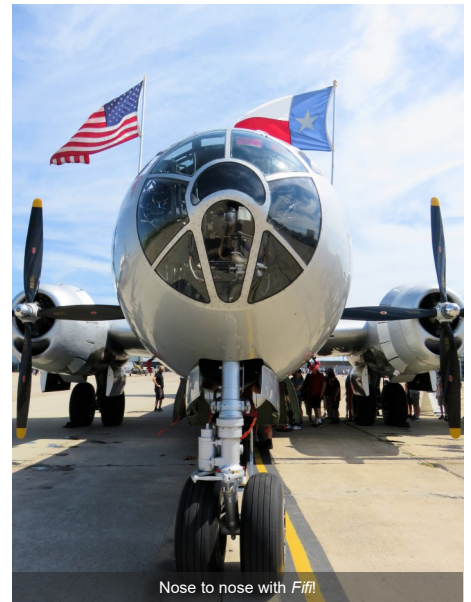
The B-29 Superfortress is an absolutely massive airplane!



CAF's P-51, *Gunfighter*.



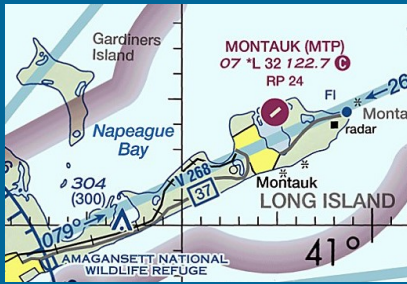
The cockpit of the B-29 Superfortress.



Nose to nose with *Fifi!*

September 3 brought several WFC members to the Niagara Falls International Airport (KIAG) to see the [Commemorative Air Force's AirPower History Tour](#), which included the B-29 Superfortress *Fifi*, B-24 Liberator *Diamond Lil*, P-51 Mustang *Gunfighter*, and a Stearman. It was the first time stepping into a B-29 or a B-24 for everyone who attended! (I think...) Participants included Mike Abate and family, Mike Bjerga, Jean Blythe, Philip Dworzanski, Chris Houston, Lesly Jean-Louis, and Scott and Kim Lasky. Thanks to Mike Abate for proposing and organizing this trip for the Activities Committee. Photos provided by Chris Houston.

Cool Places To Fly by Chris Houston



Destination:
Montauk Airport (KMTX),
Montauk, NY

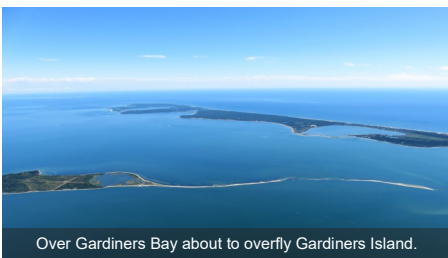
Distance:
266 nautical miles (direct)

Why It's Cool:

- Fresh seafood nearby
- Scenic location
- Easy access to the beach

Montauk is a village on the eastern end of Long Island and its eponymous airport is the easternmost airport in New York state.

Pilots inbound to Montauk will find



Over Gardiners Bay about to overfly Gardiners Island.



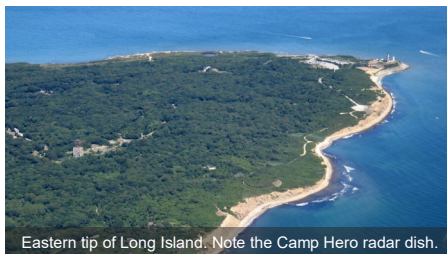
Montauk Airport.

sandy beaches surrounding the perimeter of the peninsula. The iconic 1796 Montauk Point lighthouse, one of several commissioned by the Washington Administration, stands proudly at the end. The peninsula is densely wooded and includes Montauk Point State Park and Camp Hero State Park. The latter is named for a former military base on the site that was originally home to a World War II era coastal defense battery. Today, the most prominent feature is a massive radar dish (charted!) built during the Cold War as part of a now-decommissioned early warning network. Camp Hero is subject to rumors of secret military experimentation into psychic attacks and portals through space-time that eventually inspired the hit Netflix show, *Stranger Things*. In fact, the series was originally named *Montauk* until the creators were persuaded to create a fictional setting for it.

Also in the area is Block Island, RI,



Crossing Napeague Bay.



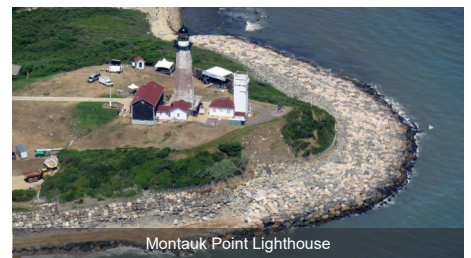
Eastern tip of Long Island. Note the Camp Hero radar dish.

located a mere twelve nautical miles off the eastern tip of Long Island. (See [Cool Places To Fly, WFC Flyer, May 2018.](#))

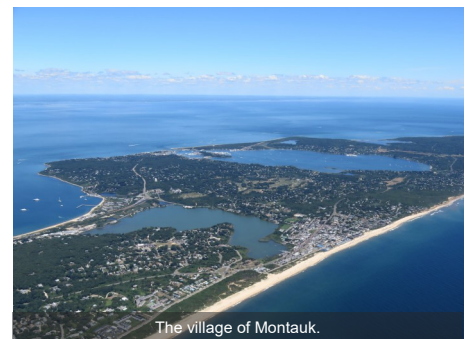
Arrivals at the Montauk Airport will be marshalled to parking on busy days. Parking is limited and a landing fee of \$40 exists as of August 1 for single engine airplanes, purportedly implemented to discourage crowds. The fee is collected through an outfit called Vector that captures tail numbers with cameras and invoices aircraft owners through the mail months after the initial landing. No fees are collected on site.

Given its proximity to money, noise abatement practices at the airport are in place. Specifically, runway 24 has a right pattern and departures from runway 24 are requested to execute a right turnout as soon as practical. This procedure is reiterated on signage that is literally everywhere at the airport

(Continued on page 7)



Montauk Point Lighthouse



The village of Montauk.

Cool Places To Fly by Chris Houston

(Continued from page 6)
and is impossible to miss.

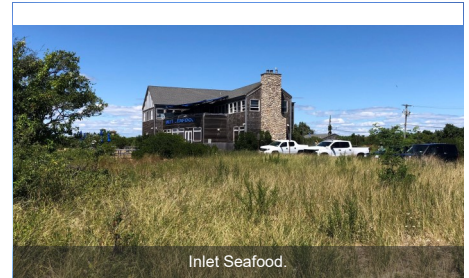
In addition to beautiful scenery on the way to Montauk, visiting pilots can expect easy access to the beach and availability of fresh seafood within easy walking distance. During my visit in August 2022, I had lunch at [Inlet Seafood](#). It was delicious and highly recommended.

Tips:

- Runway 24 has a right traffic pattern.
- Departures from runway 24

are requested to turn right as soon as practical for noise abatement.

- There are no services provided by the airport. Plan fuel stops appropriately.
- A \$40 landing fee will be collected for single engine aircraft with direct billing to the owner.
- With careful altitude planning, it is easy to cross Long Island Sound while maintaining easy gliding distance to shore.



Inlet Seafood.



Street entrance to Inlet Seafood.



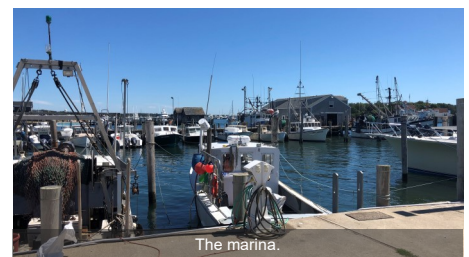
Path to Gin Beach



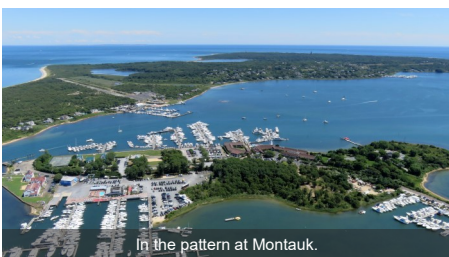
Montauk Airport photographed on departure.



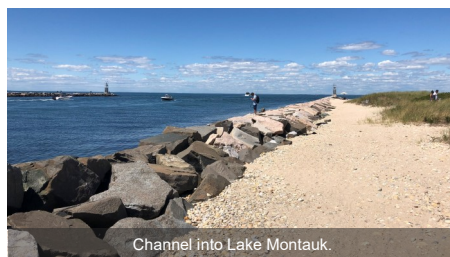
Lake Montauk



The marina.



In the pattern at Montauk.



Channel into Lake Montauk.

A New Stearman Project at KSDC photographs by John Griebisch and Chris Karpenko

If you have not poked your head into the Williamson Aeronautical Services hangar lately (more commonly referred to as “Jake’s hangar”), you should. There is a new project taking shape there, the restoration of a Stearman, the storied biplane used for primary training of most American flight cadets during

World War II. The project comes from Midlakes Airport (92G) just east of Canandaigua Lake. A group of members has come together to drive this project forward, but help is always welcomed. For more information, please reach out to Chris Karpenko.

(Continued on page 8)



Stearman Project

(Continued from page 7)



Upcoming WFC and Local Events

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Saturday September 10 | Fly-in pancake breakfast, Kline Kill Airport (NY1), West Ghent, NY, 8:00 am–11:00 am. Turf only. About 5 miles NE of Columbia County Airport (1B1). |
| Sunday September 11 | WFC Fly-Out to Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome for the WWI dog fight airshow. Will land at Kingston-Ulster Airport (20N) and Uber/Lyft to Old Rhinebeck. Invitations have already been sent to the club, see the Event Calendar to RSVP. Plan to arrive at 20N by 10:00 am. |
| Sunday September 11 | Fly-in pancake breakfast, Finger Lakes Regional Airport (0G7). 8:00 am–noon. |
| Sunday September 11 | Fly-in pancake breakfast, Oswego County Airport (FZY). 7:30 am–11:00 am. |
| Saturday September 17 | Fly-in pancake breakfast, Cooperstown-Westville Airport (K23), Cooperstown, NY. 7:30 am–11:30 am. Field is turf only. |
| Saturday September 24 | ** New Date! ** WFC Fly-Out to Lake Placid. Rain date, October 8. Details coming. |
| Saturday October 1 | ** New Date! ** WFC Thanksgiving in October feast. Noon at the WFC maintenance hangar. Bring a dish to pass! Donations to the food fund are always appreciated. |
| Sunday October 2 | 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. |
| Saturday October 15 | WFC fly-out to Benton Airport [PA40] for the annual “Fly In and Pig Out” BBQ. Details coming soon. See the WFC Flyer, December 2019 issue, “Cool Places To Fly” article for more information about this annual event. Benton is 2200’ long turf runway. Grass check-out required to fly a WFC aircraft there. |

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



Photos on this page are courtesy of John Griebisch