

WFC Flyer



"We are the Champions!" Aircraft from KSDC at the 2023 Re-Dun Memorial Day fly-in, including Lee Shippers' Colt (hiding), Mike Shippers' Champ, and Alan Verbridge's Champ (Chris Houston)

Important Dates:

General Meeting
June 8, 2023
WFC Clubhouse

Board Meeting
July 6, 2023
WFC Clubhouse

General Meeting
July 13, 2023
WFC Clubhouse

Inside This Issue:

- President's Desk, p1
- In Memoriam, Mike Heckler, p2
- Cool Places to Fly, Grove City PA, p3
- Fly-outs: Dinner at Bradford Regional, p4
- Pancake Breakfast Photographs, p5
- Hangar Talk, Rick Iekel, p7
- Congratulations, p8
- Calendar, p8

Williamson Flying Club Newsletter

June 2023

From the President's Desk by Bob Fratangelo

Welcome to June!

Wow, have we been busy! We served over 1462 breakfasts this year! That's a lot of eggs, sausage, pancakes, coffee, juice, cleaning tables, moving trash, and flying rides! So many new members came out and mixed with long term members and all had a great time. The set-up went extremely well, with many hands doing tons of work, followed by a bodacious chicken dinner lunch by Scott and Kim Lasky! The breakfast went very smoothly with so many people stepping up to help, especially with Tim Isbell being out due to an emergency surgery on his knee! He is back and doing fine, however! A huge thank you to all for all of your hard work



and effort! This is our signature community event and they love it so much! All of those happy faces! At one point the line was as long as the hangars - I asked several folks as they came up how long they waited and they replied 20-25 min but the line kept moving!

Wes Somerville's daughter came wearing Wes's flight jacket and spread some of his ashes on the runway - very moving.

On June 3, we had Rick Iekel, author and well known aviation personality for the Rochester Airport having held several positions in airport leadership as well as the Airport Director for many years to

(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
Vice President: Dave Lowry
Secretary: Paula Sippel
Treasurer: Bob Herloski

Director, 2021: Dick Swingly
Director, 2022: Gilead Biggie
Director, 2023: Dave Perricone

Contact: bod@williamsonflyingclub.com

Medical Advisor: Dr. Pam Tarkington

Recommended Reading



The May / June 2023 edition of [FAA Safety Briefing](#) magazine focuses on how the FAA is working to accommodate the needs of commercial spaceflight.

Aviation Quote

“Even on fine days Rochester demands alertness because clear weather brings out the small training planes of which Rochester has an uncommon share. They must be watched with the greatest solicitude, for if there is one solid, deep-rooted, ever-present fear known to all airline pilots, it is the hanging sword of midair collision. No other prospect except structural failure, which is so rare as to be virtually ignored, can render a pilot so entirely helpless.”

— Ernest K Gann,
Fate Is the Hunter

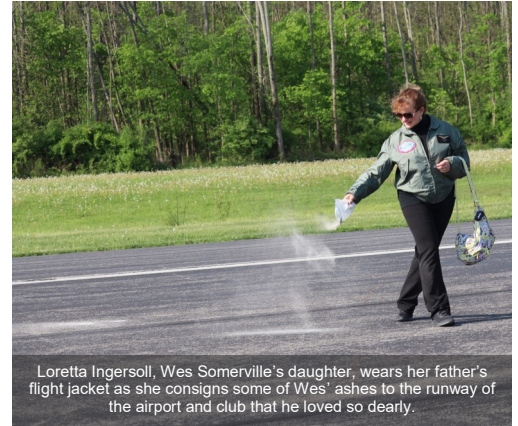
From the President's Desk by Bob Fratangelo

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give us a presentation on the history of the Rochester Airport and to autograph and sell his book about it. Great presentation! Immediately following Scott Lasky and Mike Abate organized the inaugural Saturday lunch for 2023.

Mike Heckler passed away after a short, valiant battle with an illness that was unexpected. Chris Karpenko helped Mike's wife Kim with a celebration of life at Chris' hangar. There was a tremendous community and WFC club turnout for Mike and his family. Blue skies, Mike!

I am amazed at how much is going on around the club and delighted by the



Loretta Ingersoll, Wes Somerville's daughter, wears her father's flight jacket as she consigns some of Wes' ashes to the runway of the airport and club that he loved so dearly.

member camaraderie on display! Saturday lunches are back on! Come on out and fly!

See you at the club.

In Memoriam, Mike Heckler by Bob Fratangelo



Mike Heckler and his wife Kim were pilots and long time members of the WFC. Mike's father, Rene Heckler, was a well known flight instructor and member

of the WFC as well. I have fond memories of Mike and Kim loading up their Mooney with 5 gal buckets, clam rakes, and flying off to Ocracoke to dig clams and fly them back for a clam bake. What a great use of the Mooney and awesome fun to boot!

Mike is most recently known for his homebuilt, single seat, yellow Hummel Bird! What a crowd pleaser it is! He had a great wit and great stories about his unique experiences - and they

were all true. An unexpected illness abruptly ended a beautiful life.

Chris Karpenko assisted Kim with a celebration of life at his hangar (Jake's Hangar) on May 27 with the Hummel Bird and an L Bird arranged out front. The entire parking lot was overflowing with cars. A tremendous turnout was had for Mike and his wonderful family. He had to be smiling. Blue skies, Mike.

Obituary (from the Rochester D&C):

Michel Rene Heckler, an avid aviator, hunter and fisherman, passed away at home in Sodus, NY on May 13th, 2023. Mike was 79 years old. He is survived by his wife Kim Braun, daughters Bonnie Safyurtlu, Holly and Anna Heckler, granddaughters Elena and Lauren Safyurtlu, sister Sherry Smith, nephews Chris and Tim Smith, brother

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In Memoriam, Mike Heckler by Bob Fratangelo



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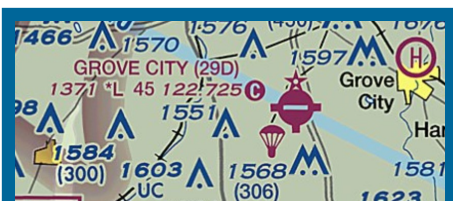
Charles Heckler, niece Lyndsey and nephew Shawn Heckler and his loyal beagle, Hazel. He was preceded in death by his son Michael. Mike endured over a year of

Glioblastoma.

Photographs from the May 27 memorial service at KSDC are courtesy of Bob Fratangelo.



Cool Places to Fly: Grove City (29D) by Chris Houston



Destination:
Grove City Airport (29D),
Grove City, PA

Distance:
185 nautical miles (direct)

Why It's Cool:

- Short walk to lunch at the [TimberCreek Tap & Table](#)

The airport in Grove City is a single strip (10-28) 4,500 feet in length with jug-handle loops on either end for performing run ups. A relatively compact ramp hosts multiple tie-downs and few hangars. The facility is even home to some turbine aircraft. An active sky-diving busi-

ness operates from the field.

[Author's note: Uncomfortable flying into airports with active jump operations? Here's the cardinal rule: **do not overfly the airport** because that is where the jumpers will be. For an accurate, if sarcastic take on the subject, check-out Paul Bertorelli's recent video for AVweb entitled, "[How to Avoid Having a Skydiver as a Hood Ornament.](#)"]

A short walk through the airport gate brings itinerant flyers to the [TimberCreek Tap & Table](#), a brewpub and restaurant with a diverse menu of hearty offerings. A group of six WFC pilots visited on June 4, 2023 and thoroughly enjoyed lunch. All participants identified Tap & Table as a place worth revisiting. The area is also known for a large outlet mall and hotels near the airport.

Tips:

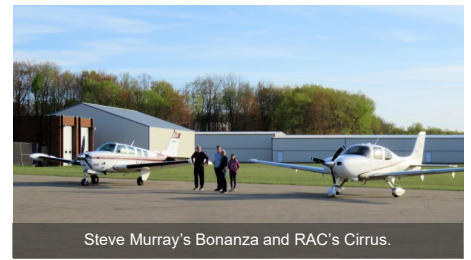
- Watch out for skydivers!
- Self serve fuel is available, currently at \$6.65/gal. The fuel pump is unusually configured with an on/off switch on the back. Just keep looking, it's there.



Fly-Outs: Runway Bar & Grill at Bradford Regional Airport (KBFD), 06 May 2023



WFC aircraft 1DT and 85X at Bradford.



Steve Murray's Bonanza and RAC's Cirrus.



Paula and Steve Sippel arrive in their Cherokee 180.



Chris Houston's Warrior at Bradford after sunset.



On the evening of Saturday, May 6, 22 members, friends, and family flew ten airplanes to dinner at the Runway Bar & Grill at Bradford Regional Airport (KBFD). It was a beautiful evening to fly and we attracted plenty of attention from ATC and restaurant patrons alike. We enjoyed excellent food, terrific company, and saw a strikingly red moonrise from the air. We were welcomed back home by a call from Rochester Approach, "So, how was the prime rib?" Thanks to Gilead Biggie of the Activities Committee for organizing this trip. Photographs are courtesy of Gilead Biggie, Chris Houston, and Dan Probst.

Going FAAST!

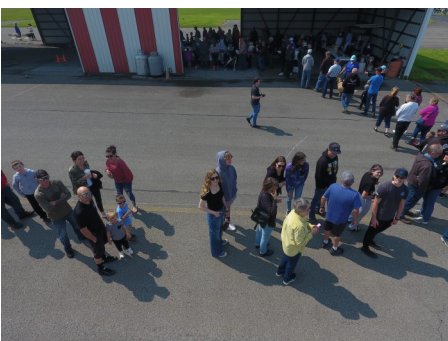


As FAAST Team members, Mike Bjerga (center) and Bob Frantangelo (right) were asked by the FAAST Program Manager Bill Abbott (left) to support the booth at the National War Plane Museum on Sunday 6/4/23. There were presentation materials on a variety of FAAST team programs with subjects available for pilots and maintenance technicians. They brought several back for WFC members to peruse.

2023 Pancake Breakfast contributed by Gilead Biggie, Mike Bjerga, and Bob Fratangelo



Thanks!

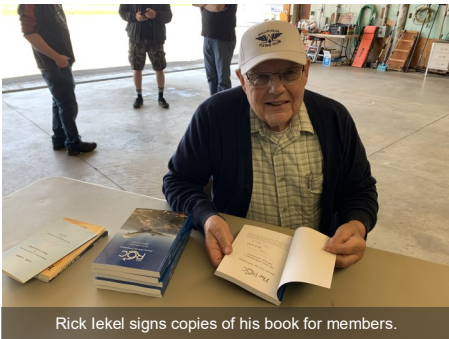


Dave Lowry, Bill Black, Dave Pericone, and Don Baker all assisted Bob Fratangelo with installation of breakfast line sidewalk pavers.

2023 Pancake Breakfast contributed by Gilead Biggie, Mike Bjerga, and Bob Fratangelo



Hangar Talk: Rick Iekel, 03 June 2023



Rick Iekel signs copies of his book for members.



Rick presents on the history of KROC to the WFC.



Rick and Jackie Iekel with the WFC.

On Saturday, 03 June 2023, the WFC hosted Rick and Jackie Iekel for a presentation to club members followed by lunch afterward. Rick is an author and former director of the Frederick Douglass / Greater Rochester International Airport. His latest book, "The ROC: Journey thru the 20th Century" recounts the 100 year history of KROC from municipal to international airport. Rick provided an entertaining overview of how the airport developed complete with amusing stories and vintage photographs. Rick's book can be purchased at independent local businesses such as Parkleigh (Park Ave), Another Chapter (Fairport), Yesterday's Muse (Webster), and even Taste of Rochester in the ROC terminal.



Lunchtime!

Thanks to Rick and Jackie for their time and to all who came out to see the presentation. Rick and Jackie also helped us inaugurate Saturday lunches for the 2023 season. Thanks to Mike Abate and Scott Lasky for cooking!

At the conclusion of the event, Jackie said of our club and airport, "This is a great place! You can just feel it!" We could not agree more!

Photos contributed by Bob Fratangelo (with thanks to Kim Lasky for the group photo).

CFI Milestone



Congratulations to CFI **Mike Bebernitz** for successfully guiding his first student, **Joe Francese** to a private pilot certificate! The reviews are in and they're positive, Mike!



Congratulations!



Upcoming WFC and Local Events

Saturday June 10	WFC visit to the Rochester ATC facility. 1:00 pm. Sign-up already full. Contact Chris Houston if you want a second date planned.
Saturday June 10	EAA Chapter 44 Sport Aviation Open House, Ledgesdale Airport (7G0), Brockport, NY. 10:00 am–4:00 pm. See website for details.
Saturday June 10	Fly-in Airport Community Day, Lt. Warren C Eaton Airport (OIC), Norwich, NY. Breakfast beginning 7:00 am. BBQ chicken beginning 10:30 am. Whiskey-7 and CAF Red Tail Squadron “ Rise Above ” exhibit.
Saturday June 17	WFC Fly-Out to the Manhattan Skyline! Popular annual event to fly the skyline and enjoy lunch in the NYC metro area (TBD). A great opportunity to get comfortable with busier airspace and fast talking controllers! Details coming, including a pilot briefing.
Saturday June 17	AOPA Rusty Pilots Seminar, OnCore Aviation / AvFlight Rochester Building, 1205 Scottsville Rd. 9:00 am–12:30 pm. More details and registration at this link .
Saturday June 17	Fly-in pancake breakfast, Cooperstown-Westville Airport (K23, turf only), 7:30-11:30 am.
Sunday June 18	Father’s Day fly-in pancake breakfast, Marcellus Airport (NK17, turf only), 8:00 am-noon.
Sunday June 18	Father’s Day fly-in breakfast, Genesee County Airport (GVQ), 7:30–11:00 am.
Sunday June 18	Father’s Day fly-in pancake breakfast, East Hill Flying Club, Ithaca Tompkins International Airport (ITH), 7:00 am–noon.
Tues-Sat June 20-24	Sentimental Journey Fly-In, William T Piper Memorial Airport (LHV), Lock Haven, PA. See website for details including an agenda.
Sat-Sun June 24-25	New York Airshow at the Orange County Municipal Airport (MGJ), Montgomery, NY. See website for details.
Sunday June 25	Fly-in pancake breakfast, Wellsville Municipal Airport (ELZ), Wellsville, NY. 8:00 am–12:30 pm.
Sunday July 2	Fly-in pancake breakfast, EAA 533 hangar, Elmira-Corning Regional (ELM), 8:00-11:00 am. Landing fees will not be charged unless you go to the FBO.
Tuesday July 4	Fly-in pancake breakfast, Penn Yan (PEO). Times do not appear to be posted, but last year’s event was 6:30 am–11:30 am.
Saturday July 8	Annual WFC Picnic. Details coming.
Saturday July 15	WFC Fly-Out to Cleveland, Burke Lakefront (BKL). Details coming.
Saturday July 15	Fly-in pancake breakfast, Cooperstown-Westville Airport (K23, turf only), 7:30-11:30 am.
Sun–Tues July 30-Aug 1	WFC Fly-out to Tangier Island (TGI) and on to First Flight Airport (FFA) with possible excursion to Ocracoke Island (W95). Itinerary is under development.

At left, congratulations to **Tim Dostman** (top) for his first solo on May 9, **Joe Francese** (middle) for earning his private pilot certificate on May 18, and **Jacob Wilson** (bottom) for earning his private pilot certificate on May 21! It looks like 55W had a busy month in May! Great job, all!