

WFC Flyer

Rainbow over the Williamson Sodus Airport on 17 September 2023 (Scott Lasky)

Important Dates:

General Meeting
September 14, 2023
WFC Clubhouse

Board Meeting
October 5, 2023
WFC Clubhouse

General Meeting
October 12, 2023
WFC Clubhouse

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Williamson Flying Club Newsletter September 2023

From the President's Desk by Bob Fratangelo

Happy September!

Where did August — and for that matter July — go? Good grief. We have been doing a lot of flying and the Activities Committee has been keeping everyone busy with several awesome fly-outs! (More on that later in this issue.) There have also been several pilots who have soloed, obtained their Private, Instrument and Commercial Ratings in the last couple of months!

Great stuff. Saturday lunches went over very well again — Tony must be smiling. Although the planned Saturday lunches have drawn to an end, Tony's Thanksgiving in October will be coming soon. The Activities Committee will have more on that soon.

We will readjust our efforts for an Open House to next year, this year got away from us. This will be awesome as a second event for us at the airport. We will start planning early in the coming year.

We have a few projects to complete before the end of fall. This will include hanging hangar doors on our semi-enclosed hangars. If you have the will and capability to help with that effort please let myself fratangelo@rochester.rr.com or Dave Perricone (dperricone@yahoo.com) know. A crew of 5-6 and someone who knows what they are doing will make light work of these doors!!

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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

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Recommended Reading



The September / October 2023 edition of [FAA Safety Briefing](#) magazine includes articles on an update on the Airman Certification Standards (ACS), explore the important role of the FAA's Compliance Program, and offer a personal account of an airmen's pathway to a private pilot certificate.

Aviation Quote

"And let's get one thing straight. There's a big difference between a pilot and an aviator. One is a technician; the other is an artist in love with flight."

— Elrey Jeppesen

From the President's Desk by Bob Fratangelo

(Continued from page 1)

It would be great to get some blacktop sealer and crack sealer spread. Let me or Dave Perricone know if you can assist there as well!

John Rubio (jcrubio1283@gmail.com) is still looking for people to help mow!

Mike and Dave Spoleta have entered into a land lease with the WFC to build a hangar and that work has started. It is being built north of the east driveway out to Centenary Rd, a bit past the east end of the north row of hangars. They are very excited to build a hangar better designed for their needs and we are delighted to have them do so here.

I was honored to be asked by the daughter of late WFC member Wes Sommerville's if we could do a "fly-by" for his private celebration of life at B Foreman Park in August. It was a bit windy that Saturday, but I am proud to

say that we made that happen for Wes and his family.

We will have at least three prospective members attending our next general membership meeting to be voted into membership. We will need you there to help them join the club! Please come, we need a quorum of active voting members.

I have had some folks ask me about my trip out to Oshkosh in the Mighty Charlie One Five Zero, so I may surprise you and do a short presentation about that trip at the end of our next meeting.

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), grab an instructor and get fresh again!

See you at our next Membership meeting Thursday 9-14-23 at 7pm!!!

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Cool Places to Fly: Tangier Island Airport (KTGI) by Chris Houston



Destination:

Tangier Island Airport (KTGI),
Tangier, VA

Distance:

328 nautical miles (direct)

Why It's Cool:

- A unique and cloistered community remotely sited in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay.
- Fresh seafood for lunch

I have a fascination with landing on islands. This is particularly true when the island is remote, culturally unique, tiny, and offers abundant fresh seafood. Places like Ocracoke (W95, see [Cool Places to Fly, WFC Flyer August 2018](#)) or Block Island (KBID, see [Cool Places to Fly, WFC Flyer May 2018](#)) come immediately to mind.

Tangier Island, home to a cloistered seafaring community set in the middle of Chesapeake Bay, epitomizes these characteristics. Access to Tangier is only granted by boat or aircraft. Most tourists arrive by ferry, crossing 15 miles of brackish Chesapeake Bay water between Onancock, VA and Tangier between May and September. When arriving by air, the airport is impossible to miss and occupies most of the western shore of Tangier Island with 2426 feet of pavement. The runway was once closer to 3700 feet long, but the

southern third has fallen into disrepair and runway 2 now features a significant displaced threshold. Tangier's secluded community of roughly 400 people is established in the "soft shell crab capital of the world" and subsists off the bounties of the Chesapeake. The small community is so isolated that the local dialect is uniquely colored by what some claim to be lingering vestiges of Elizabethan accent from the community's forebears. Naturally, being the "soft shell crab capital of the world" comes with an abundance of fresh seafood, a bounty for those with a hankering for crustaceans.

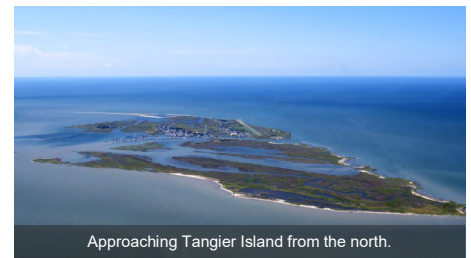
Another part of Tangier's mystique is that it is gradually disappearing. Since 1850, the island has lost 67% of its landmass to a combination of erosion and sea level increases. This is reflected in the population. In 2023, there are just over 400 permanent residents on the island, down 300 from 2010. Extrapolations of sea level rise suggest that the island may need to be vacated entirely by mid century. Even today, the airport sits at a mere 5 feet MSL and the road to it often floods.

At the end of July, a group of WFC pilots stopped at Tangier Island en route to First Flight Airport in Kill Devil Hills, NC. (See [Fly-Outs, WFC Flyer August 2023](#).) It was a first visit for everyone and this article captures our experience there.

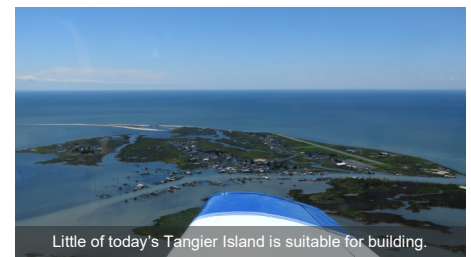
With a tailwind, the flight to Tangier in four Cherokees required 2.5 hours. We arrived from the north, flying over a chain of marshy islands terminated by Tangier. Ap-



Marshy islands in the Chesapeake north of Tangier.



Approaching Tangier Island from the north.



Little of today's Tangier Island is suitable for building.



Final, runway 2, Tangier (Tom Carter)

proach services are provided by Patuxent Approach. The island's AWOS advised a stiff 21 knot breeze running more-or-less right down runway 2 that kept the rollouts short.

From the pattern, we could see that the community is shoehorned into a limited habitable space surrounded by marshland. Town is a brief walk due east from aircraft parking. There are very few conventional cars or trucks on the is-

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Cool Places to Fly: Tangier Island Airport (KTGI) by Chris Houston

(Continued from page 3)

land, most residents rely on golf carts and bicycles for transportation. This is reflected by narrow roads just wide enough for two way golf cart traffic.

[Lorraine's](#) is the best known destination for fresh seafood, though it was closed when we arrived. Instead, we found lunch at Four Brothers Crab House and Ice Cream Deck.

After lunch, we each paid \$5 for a golfcart tour of the island. The obligatory gift shop is also available, filled with T-shirts emblazoned with pithy sayings like, "I Got Crabs on Tangier Island". Your mileage (and taste) may vary. For those who want to experience more of the island's culture, bed and breakfast establishments offer overnight lodging.

Overall, this was a very worthwhile stop while we were flying in the region. The island is breathtakingly remote, the views on approach stunning, the people friendly, and the community is like a step back in time to an earlier, simpler era. Check it out – while it is still here.

Tips:

- Airport closed from sunset to sunrise daily. The beacon is out of service indefinitely and there is no runway lighting.
- Tangier Island is surrounded by restricted airspace and the water of Chesapeake Bay. Plan your route accordingly.
- Runway 2 requires a right pattern due to R-6609 immediately west of the island extending

from ground level to FL200. It is a live fire area.

- The southern third of the runway is no longer usable. New markings have been painted to indicate the new threshold.
- Cell service is poor to nonexistent on the island. During our visit, we received the strongest signal (which was still very marginal) from the airport's parking ramp. This challenges flight planning and flight plan

filing.

- A landing fee donation of \$10 is requested to support the facility. A drop box is available at the fence line near aircraft parking.
- Before venturing to Tangier Island, check the hours for your planned destinations. Some are only open seasonally or may have limited hours.
- There is no aviation fuel at KTGI.



WFC on Tangier Island in July 2023.



WFC negotiating Tangier's narrow roads by foot.



Downtown Tangier viewed from the harbor.



Tangier Island water tower with Tangier's K-12 school.



Fisherman's Corner did not survive the pandemic.



Lorraine's is considered the best lunch option on the island.



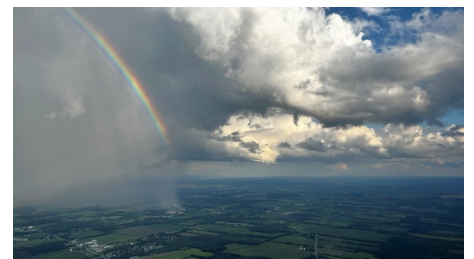
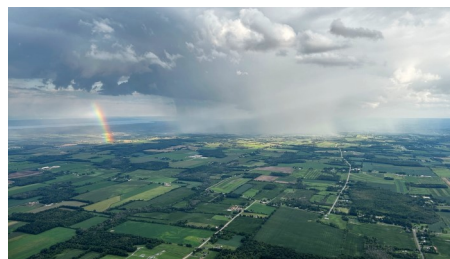
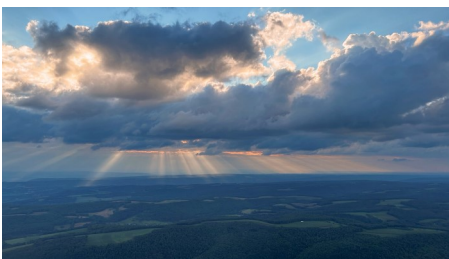
Four Brothers Crab House and Ice Cream Deck



Indeed.

Fly-Outs: Ice Cream Island, Dansville Muni (KDSV) – 17 Aug 2023

On August 17, about ten members in multiple aircraft embarked on what should have been a perfunctory run to Dansville Municipal Airport (KDSV) for dessert at Ice Cream Island. It is a rare event when ice cream is not the focus of this kind of flight. Instead, a series of isolated thunderstorms took center stage. Easily circumnavigated, the cells painted the sky with amazing beauty. And the ice cream was good too – but that was expected. Photos submitted by Alicia Carter (second row), Chris Houston (first and third rows) and Stacey Platzer (bottom row).



WFC Sightings in the Wild: National Warplane Museum Pancake Breakfast, 04 Sep 2023



Chris Houston, Dan Probst, Jamie Oliver, Mike Abate, Mike Bebernitz, and Joe Francese at the Geneseo Airport with N32816.



The NWM's D-Day veteran C-47, Whiskey 71



WACO and C-47

Dan Probst was looking for his first ride in a Searey with Jamie Oliver. Mike Abate sought a grass field check-out with CFI Mike Bebernitz. Chris Houston was just hungry. Joe Francese wanted to experience his first fly-in pancake breakfast and landing on a turf runway. All factors led these WFC members to converge



Vultee BT-13 WWII trainer.



Searey view on taxi behind Chris Houston's Warrior.

on the Geneseo Airport (D52) on the morning of September 4th for the [National Warplane Museum's](#) pancake breakfast. Missions accomplished on all fronts! Photos contributed by Chris Houston and Jamie Oliver.

Activities Committee Update by Chris Houston

Well, it has been quite a year. In addition to the usual scheduling challenges, we have faced a bizarre array of heat, smoke, and weather challenges in 2023. The goal for this column is to recap what worked, what didn't, and what is still coming.

Successes

- On May 6, we gathered 22 people at the **Runway Bar & Grill at Bradford Regional Airport** (KBFD) for an excellent

dinner and night flight home.

- The club hosted author and former director of the Greater Rochester International Airport **Rick Iekel** for a talk about his recent book celebrating 100 years of aviation at KROC.
- On June 10, 15 members toured the **ATC facility at Rochester** (KROC).
- We held our annual **club picnic** on July 8.
- Eight people flew to **Cleveland's Burke Lakefront Airport**

(KBKL) on July 15 for lunch and a visit the **Rock & Roll Hall of Fame**.

- A convoy of four aircraft carried seven members on our most ambitious fly-out since the formation of the Activities Committee in 2013: a three day journey to **Tangier Island** (KTGI), **First Flight Airport** (KFFA) and the **Wright Brothers National Memorial**, and an exploration of the **Outer Banks**. This took place from July 30—

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Activities Committee Update by Chris Houston

(Continued from page 6)
Aug 1.

Cancellations

A combination of scheduling challenges and dreadful weather caused the committee to cancel multiple events. These included trips to the **Mid-Atlantic Air Museum**, a **Niagara Falls fly-over** with a picnic afterward, **Block Island (BID)**, **Put-In Bay** in Ohio, **Castle in the Clouds** in New Hampshire, and **Gettysburg**. We actually tried to do the **Hudson River NYC Skyline** tour on four separate dates and were forced by weather to cancel every single attempt. We'll try to revive some of these next year.

What's Next?

- **Basin Harbor (B06), Sep 16.** Basin Harbor is a beautifully groomed grass runway on the Vermont side of Lake Champlain. If you like landing on turf, this is the place for you! Right next to aircraft parking is the [Red Mill Restaurant](#) that serves excellent food in an idyllic setting. Invitations have already been sent — if you missed them, check out the club Event Calendar on aSoS or contact Scott Lasky with questions. See Cool Places to Fly in the [July 2021 edition of the WFC Flyer](#) for more details about Basin Harbor.
- **Lake Placid (KLKP), Oct 7.** We try to time annual flights to this popular destination for good leaf-peeping over the Adirondack Mountains. Lunch destination TBD, but there are

many excellent options. See Cool Places to Fly in the [October 2015 edition of the WFC Flyer](#) for more details about this destination.

- **Benton Airport (PA40) Annual Fly-In BBQ, Oct 21.** Benton Airport is a private field with a 2200 foot long grass runway oriented north-south in northeast Pennsylvania. Every October, they put on a fantastic fly-in BBQ! My last visit was in 2019 when mine was one of 105 fly-in aircraft! Weather and the pandemic have prevented a return, maybe 2023 is our year! See Cool Places to Fly in the [December 2019 WFC Flyer](#) for more details.
- **Annual Thanksgiving in October, Oct 14.** This tradition, started by late club member Tony Alesci, is being continued by Scott Lasky. Late enough in the season to feel like fall, but early enough to dine in a hangar without freezing! You won't want to miss this annual event filled with great food and excellent fellowship!
- **Sleepy Hollow Cemetery Tour (via HPN), Oct 28.** Are you someone whose favorite holiday is Halloween? Us too! We're planning a downstate jaunt for a Sleepy Hollow Cemetery Tour. More details coming!
- **Annual Holiday Party, TBD.** Usually held early in December, join other WFC members in celebrating the close to a busy year of aviating! More details coming.



WFC at Bradford Regional Airport.



WFC welcoming author Rick Ikel to KSDC!



WFC at KROC after the tower tour.



WFC dining in Cleveland, OH.



WFC on Ocracoke Island in the Outer Banks.

Congratulations!



Congratulations to **Drew Hecht** on earning his Private Pilot certificate on August 29! **Ryan Zbick** soloed on August 31, not only becoming the third pilot in his immediate family, but soloing an airplane a couple of days before earning his driver's license! Well done, gentlemen!

Upcoming WFC and Local Events

Saturday September 16	WFC Fly-out to Basin Harbor (B06), Vergennes, VT. Turf only (excellent condition). Lunch at the Red Mill Restaurant . Wheels up at 9:00 am, plan for lunch at 11:30 when the Red Mill opens. Questions? Contact Scott Lasky.
Saturday September 16	Fly-in pancake breakfast, Cooperstown-Westville Airport (K23, turf only), 7:30-11:30 am.
Saturday September 16	Wings and Wheels in Hammondsport, NY. 10:00 am—4:00 pm. See link for details.
Saturday September 23	Fly-in / Drive-in BBQ and camp out, Owasco Airfield (2N4). BBQ ribs, chicken, and pulled pork 11:00 am—5:00 pm. Live music. Turf-only runway.
Sunday September 24	Fly-in pancake breakfast in support of Sentimental Journey. Piper Memorial Airport (KLHV), Lock Haven, PA. 8:00 am—noon.
Thursday September 28	Seminar: "Preflight After Maintenance", 7:00—9:00 pm at KBUF, Mercy Flight Classroom (100 Amherst Villa Road, Buffalo, NY).
Sunday October 1	Fly-in pancake breakfast, Elmira-Corning Regional Airport (KELM). 8:00 am—11:00 am at the EAA 533 hangar. No landing fee when parking at the EAA hangar.
Saturday October 7	Annual WFC Fly-Out to Lake Placid (KLKP) for leaf peeping and lunch. Details coming, watch your email for aSoS messages! Rain date, October 8.
Saturday October 21	WFC Fly-Out to the annual BBQ at Benton Airport (PA40). Turf only, 2200 feet, excellent condition. Details coming, watch your email for aSoS messages!
Saturday October 14	Annual WFC Thanksgiving in October Celebration at KSDC. Watch for details via aSoS!
Saturday October 28	WFC Fly-Out for the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery Tour via KHPN. Details should be sent by aSoS in the coming weeks.

