

WFC Flyer

Returning to the Williamson Sodus Airport at dusk, 25 Nov 2023 (Chris Houston)

Important Dates:

General Meeting
December 14, 2023
WFC Clubhouse

Board Meeting
January 4, 2024
WFC Clubhouse

General Meeting
January 11, 2024
WFC Clubhouse

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Williamson Flying Club Newsletter December 2023

From the President's Desk by Bob Fratangelo

Welcome to December!

We had a good turnout for our WFC Holiday Party this past Saturday. What a feast! The food was great, the venue – Pub on the Green at the Ontario Golf Club was awesome. We had a great private room, the amenities were terrific, and the bar was not too far away. The Activities Committee did an awesome job setting the party up this year. A special shout out to Scott Laszky who found the venue and worked hard to coordinate it all.

The Activities Committee has done an awesome job of setting up activities all year long with incredible trips planned and executed to many exciting places.

This is a real benefit to the Club and its membership by offering important aviation experiences demonstrating the versatility and enjoyment of using a private aircraft for recreation and travel!

Our flight hours are up over last year and we have a few weeks left in the year. Great job everyone! Our flight instructors have been working hard to get as many students through their curriculum to solo,

private licenses, and add on ratings! Bravo! I just heard that one of our newer students who is still in high school obtained his license recently! Great job, Matt!

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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: 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

Elections

Interested in running for a role on the Williamson Flying Club Board of Directors? It's a great way to give back to the club!

See the accompanying article on eligibility and, if eligible, reach out to any member of the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee for the 2024 election is:

- Bill Bach (chair)
- Mike Abate
- Chris Houston

Aviation Quote



“The vast loneliness up here of the Moon is awe-inspiring and it makes you realize just what you have back there on Earth. The Earth from here is a grand oasis to the big vastness of space”

- Astronaut Jim Lovell,
from Apollo 8 on
24 Dec 1968

From the President's Desk by Bob Fratangelo

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We have had much fun this year with the Apple Blossom Festival Pancake Breakfast, Tony's Saturday lunches, the Summer picnic, the Christmas party, various fly-out trips, and impromptu dinners before meetings. These kinds of things are what a flying club is all about. We are a flying club that attracts new members to join, not just to learn to fly, but for the atmosphere of camaraderie and support. We have a great family atmosphere and I am so proud to be a member of this club. As a board member, I hear the reasons why new members come here to join; by far and large the greatest is the membership atmosphere. My hat is off to all of you for making it so. Let's keep it going. If you see a new member, in-

troduce yourself and make them feel welcome. If you have a hangar, invite them in to look around. Offer them a ride!

We have had many other committees working hard to support our club; The Grounds Committee came together with several new members joining in to mow our field! The Buildings Committee has been working hard to keep our facilities well maintained. Our New Member Committee is working to acclimate our new members to the club. Mike Bjerga assists all of our committees as they learn how to support our club operations. Mike puts in countless hours of service for the club beyond his hours of flight instruction.

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WFC Elections and Eligibility by Paula Sippel

Elections for the Williamson Flying Club's Board of Directors will be held at the club's annual meeting on February 8, 2024. The roles of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary will be open. These roles have a one year term. A single Director seat will also be open for a 3 year term.

The Bylaws require that, at the January regular meeting (January 11, 2024) held one month prior to the Annual Meeting (February 8, 2024), the Nominating Committee shall make a report on nominations for officers and directors. Immediately following the recommendation of the Nominating Committee at the January member meeting, additional nominations from the floor will be made.

Eligibility rules are straightforward: any

Active or Permanent member who is in good standing and has attended at least six of the previous twelve General Membership meetings (50%) is eligible to run for any of these positions. Club instructors are excluded from eligibility. No member shall hold the office of president for more than two consecutive terms. All other officers are eligible for re-election.

A majority of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting shall be necessary for election. In addition, anyone defeated for one office at the Annual Meeting may be re-nominated at the Annual meeting for another office.

A list of eligible members follows. There are still three more opportunities (December, January, and February) to

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WFC Elections and Eligibility by Paula Sippel

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attend meetings toward eligibility.

The following members already meet or exceed the eligibility requirements:

- Caldwell, Gary
- Clark, Robert
- Foti, Ron
- Fratangelo, Bob
- Fuller, Jack
- Herloski, Bob
- Lowry, David
- Mangos, Chuck
- Mehserle, Eric
- Perricone, David
- Rohner, Bonnie-Jean
- Sims, Duane

- Sippel, Paula
- Snyder, Steve
- Weiner, Howard

The following members have attended 5 meetings and need to attend one additional meeting in either December, January or February to be eligible:

- Englund, Frances
- Isbell, Tim
- Singly, Dick

The following members have attended 4 meetings and need to attend two additional meeting in either December, January or February to be eligible:

- Bach, Bill
- Houston, Chris
- Laskey, Scott
- Spang, Mike

The following members have attended 3 meetings need to attend the next three meeting in December, January and February to be eligible:

- Black, William
- McKee, Mick
- Norris, Brian
- Probst, Daniel
- Stellrecht, Rainer
- Verbridge, Alan
- Whitmer, Jerry



Destination:

Rockcliffe Airport (CYRO),
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Distance:

148 nautical miles (direct)

Why It's Cool:

- General aviation access to the Canadian capital in Ottawa
- Home to Canada's national aviation museum, the Canada Aviation and Space Museum filled with rare and unusual aircraft

Cool Places to Fly: Rockcliffe (CYRO) by Chris Houston

In 1920, the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) established Ottawa Air Station directly on the Ottawa River at the outskirts of the Canadian capital. Military flight activity ceased in 1964 and the field eventually transitioned to civil use as the Rockcliffe Airport. Since then, the former airbase has seen its runways either truncated (9-27), deleted (15-33), or transformed into taxiways (4-22). Today, it is home to the [Canada Aviation and Space Museum](#) (part of the broader Ingenium collection of museums in Ottawa) housed within a 1988 facility built along former runway 22 (taxiway D). The museum is consolidated from three separate aircraft collections: the National Aviation Museum that was focused on bush flying and early Canadian

aircraft manufacturers, the Canadian War Museum's collection of World War I to Cold War military aircraft that included a number of rare war trophies from European conflicts, and the RCAF collection from Rockcliffe focused on aircraft that flew in defense of Canada. Because it is located directly on a public use airport, CASM welcomes fly-in visitors.

In October 2023, I flew from the Williamson Sodus Airport to Rockcliffe to visit the museum. Naturally, the logistics of international flying applied and I have described these previously. See *Flying to Canada...What's Required to Cross the Border* in the [June 2022 WFC Flyer](#) or the more up to date [checklist for](#)

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Cool Places to Fly: Rockliffe Airport (CYRO) by Chris Houston

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[flying to Canada](#) on my website.

Rockliffe is directly on the Ottawa river across from Quebec. Although it is on the outskirts of Ottawa, it is overlaid by airspace associated with Ottawa's primary airport, MacDonald-Cartier International (CYOW). Two restricted areas lie due west of Rockliffe around Canadian government building, CYR-537 and CYR-538. Topping out at 3,000 feet, these restricted areas surround Parliament Hill and Rideau Hall, respectively. Although these is airspace to be navigated here, it is not so onerous as the SFRA/FRZ airspace around Washington DC.

On landing at Rockliffe, pilots are instructed to contact the Rockliffe Flying Club on Unicom (123.5) to indicate that they are parking at the museum. The Rockliffe Flying Club should contact the museum by telephone to arrange an escort into the museum from the ramp. Parking for the museum is on taxiway D. The museum is an imposing structure to park beside. Imagine having such access to the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum in Washington DC!

The Canada Aviation and Space Museum is open Thursday to Monday, 9:00 am–5:00 pm. Adult admission is CA\$16.25. Purchase of advance tickets is recommended. In addition to the main museum, hour long guided tours to the Reserve Hangar can be purchased on site at 11:30 am or 2:30 pm for CA\$8. This is the museum's overflow facility and is packed with treasures in various states of res-



toration. A small café, *The Collective*, is on site with a slim, but adequate selection of sandwiches to tide a hungry aviator over to dinner.

This facility is truly world-class and worthy of being counted among the cadre of national museums. It presents aviation history through a distinctively Canadian lens, including an emphasis on early bush planes so critical to keeping people connected in the sparsely populated northern regions of the nation. Many of the aircraft on display are designs from Avro, Bristol,

and De Havilland that may be less familiar to US pilots. Several aircraft are rare or unique. A few example of the treasures I saw include:

- The 1947 original prototype of the quintessential Canadian bush plane, the De Havilland DHC-2 Beaver.
- The sole surviving example of a German multiengine bomber from World War I, a 1918 A.E.G. G.IV (where "G" stands for Grossflugzeug or "large airplane") twin engine bomber.

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Cool Places to Fly: Rockliffe Airport (CYRO) by Chris Houston

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- A 1918 Junkers J.I, an early example of a warplane that used a metal frame with steel plate armored skin at a time when most aircraft were fabricated from wood and fabric. It is the only surviving example of its kind.
- A 1918 Avro 504K biplane that became the first aircraft ever equipped with a variable pitch propeller. Invented by Wallace Rupert Turnbull and first successfully demonstrated on this aircraft at Camp Borden in Ontario, Canada in 1927, the patent was sold to Curtiss-Wright in 1929 where it was basis of Curtiss-Wrights famous electric propeller

After visiting dozens of aviation museums over the last two decades, the ones that stand out to me are the ones filled with unique or impactful artifacts. With an such incredible collection, the Canada

Aviation and Space Museum handily meets those criteria; it is one of the best I have ever visited. Coincident with my trip, I was reading *Sagittarius Rising*, the memoir of British WWI fighter ace Cecil Lewis who describes an array of aircraft that I had never heard of or seen before. I found many on display in Ottawa, which added a tangible reality to my reading.

This museum is highly recommended! For those interested in more pictures of the aircraft on display, a sampling is provided on my [blog](#).

Tips:

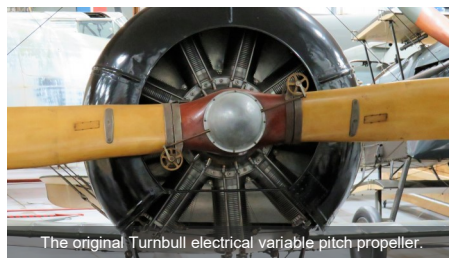
- Rockliffe Airport is an Airport of Entry (AOE), but only for those enrolled in the [CANPASS Private Aircraft program](#). I chose to clear customs in Kingston (CYGK).
- When approaching Rockliffe from the west, navigating from the Ottawa VOR (YOW) will

avoid the CYR-537/538 around the Canadian government buildings.

- Fuel is sold by the Rockliffe Flying Club at CA\$3.11/L.
- Runway 27 at Rockliffe uses a right traffic pattern (over the river). The 45° pattern entry to the downwind is not a recognized method of pattern entry in Canada. Instead, aircraft enter on a midfield crosswind (preferred) or an extended downwind (less preferred, but acceptable).
- The Canada Aviation and Space Museum is open Thursday to Monday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Reserve Hangar tours are an additional fee, are first-come first-served, and run at 11:30 am or 2:30 pm. The Reserve Hangar is a must for aviation history aficionados. All key visitor information is available at the Ingenium [website](#).



My Warrior parked outside the museum



The original Turnbull electrical variable pitch propeller.



A 1918Junkers J.I, the sole surviving example of its type.



Replica of the Silver Dart that made the first flight in Canada.



1918 A.E.G. G.IV, a German WWI bomber.



1945 Avro Lancaster heavy bomber.

Celebrating the Holidays with the WFC!



The final WFC Activities Committee event of the year was our annual holiday party. This year's event was held on 09 December 2023 at the Pub on the Green at the Ontario Golf Club. Special thanks to Scott Lasky for leading the effort to organize this year's party. A buffet meal with salad, pasta, roasted vegetables, Chicken French, and roast beef was met with rave reviews by all attendees. Stay tuned for more Activities Committee outings in 2024! Photos courtesy of Bob Fratangelo.

Tango Whiskey Aviation at the Williamson Sodus Airport by Chris Houston

If you have noticed an increased presence of aerobatic aircraft at the Williamson Sodus Airport recently, there is a reason for that. Tango Whiskey Aviation, a Rochester-based flight school specializing in tailwheel, spin, upset recovery, and aerobatic training has moved their Pitts S2B and Extra 300L to our airport!

Tango Whiskey Aviation is owned by Reuben Alconero and WFC-member Don Henry (see Member Spotlight in the [January 2020 WFC Flyer](#)). Together with a team totaling eight passionate flight instructors with diverse experiences, Reuben and Don train students to venture where docile tricycle gear aircraft fear to tread. To make that possible, the school has three aircraft: a 2021 Super Decathlon, a 1984 Pitts S2B, and an 2005 Extra 300L; all tailwheel aircraft, some slipperier than others!

Don indicates that they plan on doing a spin clinic for WFC members this summer. Keep an eye out for that!

For more details, you can find Tango Whiskey Aviation on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or at www.flytangowhiskey.com.

Photographs are courtesy of Tango Whiskey Aviation.



Don Henry and Reuben Alconero.

From the President's Desk by Bob Fratangelo

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That includes snow plowing, mowing, aircraft maintenance, grant projects and much more. **Thank you Mike!** We have even had some non-members working to help with club operations as well! Thank you to all who volunteer their time to make it all work!

We have grant projects that are ongoing and some require help from our membership. Please do not be shy about volunteering to help anywhere you think you can. Let me or any board member know that you are interested in volunteering and we will fit you right in!

We have much to be thankful for this holiday season! I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a fantastic New Year!

Come on out to the club! Go flying! See you there!

Congratulations!



Congratulations to our members for their accomplishments in November!

- Jon Hoey, first solo, 14 November 2023
- Calvin Maynard, first solo, 16 November 2023
- Matt Martucci, private pilot certificate, 25 November 2023

Great job to all!

A Parting Shot for 2023...



A sundog photographed over an overcast layer en route to the Williamson Sodus Airport from Harriman-and-West (Chris Houston)

On behalf of the Williamson Flying Club Board of Directors, we wish all of our members happy holidays and extend our hopes for a wonderful new year! Adventure awaits! May your hours be high and the wind always at your back!