

# WFC Flyer

A foggy morning at the Williamson Sodus Airport, October 2019 (Chris Houston)

## Important Dates:

**General Meeting**  
March 14, 2024  
WFC Clubhouse

**Board Meeting**  
April 4, 2024  
WFC Clubhouse

**General Meeting**  
April 11, 2024  
WFC Clubhouse

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## Williamson Flying Club Newsletter

### March 2024

### From the President's Desk by Scott Lasky

Dear Fellow Aviators,

As we soar into the new year, I am honored to address you as the president of our esteemed flying club. It's with great enthusiasm that I embrace the opportunity to lead our club into exciting new horizons in the world of aviation.

Reflecting on the past year, we continued to foster a vibrant community of aviation enthusiasts, sharing our passion for flying, and nurturing the spirit of camaraderie that defines us.

Looking ahead, 2024 promises to be a year filled with opportunities for growth, exploration, and collaboration. As we embark on this journey together, I want

to highlight a few key initiatives and updates that will shape our collective experience in the coming months:

**1. Safety First:** As aviators, safety is paramount in everything we do. This year, we will continue to prioritize safety through training, adherence to best practices, and proactive maintenance of our aircraft. By upholding the highest safety standards, we can ensure that every flight is a

safe and enjoyable experience for all. If something doesn't look or sound right, have it checked out.

**2. Social Events and Fly-Outs:** While flying is our passion, it's the camaraderie

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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: Scott Lasky  
Vice President: Dave Lowry  
Secretary: Paula Sippel  
Treasurer: Bob Herloski

Past President: Bob Fratangelo  
Director, 2022: Gilead Biggie  
Director, 2023: Dave Perricone  
Director, 2024: Bill Black

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

*“By upholding the highest safety standards, we can ensure that every flight is a safe and enjoyable experience for all. If something doesn’t look or sound right, have it checked out.”*

## Aviation Quote

“Instrument flying is when your mind gets a grip on the fact that there is vision beyond sight.”

— U.S. Navy,  
Approach Magazine,  
circa World War II.

## From the President’s Desk by Scott Lasky

*(Continued from page 1)*

and friendships forged along the way that truly enrich our aviation journey. We have an exciting lineup of social events, fly-outs, and gatherings planned throughout the year, providing ample opportunities to connect with fellow members, share stories, and celebrate our shared love for aviation. The activities committee is working on events and will share them as we get closer to dates.

**3. Solar Eclipse:** This once in a lifetime opportunity for our area is attracting people from all over. The Board of Directors have been working on a plan for our airport that day. If anyone is available to help out that day please reach out to me.

**4. Breakfast:** Our annual pancake breakfast is coming up in May and the breakfast committee has already been hard at work making sure we will be ready for it.

**5. Saturday lunches:** As the good weather approaches, so do our Satur-

day lunches. I am looking for a few people to rotate through the schedule so that we can continue this tradition that past Member Tony Alesci ran for so many years.

As we embark on this journey together, I invite each of you to actively participate, contribute your ideas, and share your experiences. Our club is only as strong as the collective effort of its members, and I'm confident that together, we can reach new heights of excellence.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support and dedication to our flying club. Together, let's seize the opportunities that lie ahead, embrace the thrill of flight, and continue to inspire others with our passion for aviation.

Blue skies and tailwinds,

Scott Lasky

President, Williamson Flying Club

## Call for Submissions

- Have you flown someplace interesting? Maybe even someplace that we could describe as “cool”?
- Did you snap a great aviation or WFC-related picture?
- Do you have a fun flying story to share?
- Would you care to be featured in a Member Spotlight article?

The newsletter is always looking for input from WFC members. If you have something to share, let us know! Don't want to write anything? We'll help! Reach out to Chris Houston through a.S.o.S. if you would like to contribute to the newsletter!

## Activities Committee 2024 Update by Chris Houston

Welcome to 2024!

Now entering its eleventh year, the Activities Committee will be planning a number of flying and social events for the WFC in 2024. We were founded on the simple idea that **aviating with others is more fun than aviating alone.**

This month, our goal is to introduce new WFC members (and reintroduce existing members) to what the committee is all about. Next month, we'll preview the events we have in store for this year, from non-flying social events to fly-out opportunities.

### Goals

As a committee, our objectives include:

- Inspiring WFC members to meet other members
- Explore new places by air
- Gain new piloting experiences
- Introduce our students to practical examples of what you can do with a Private Pilot certificate
- Have fun (most importantly)

If these goals resonate with you, the committee is also looking for new members (see sidebar on the right).

### The Basics

- **Activities Committee events are for all members!** From students to aircraft owners, we encourage participation from across the club. A pilot certificate is not a requirement.

cate is not a requirement.

- **Airplane seats are generally available.** No pilot certificate in your wallet? Can't reserve a WFC aircraft on the day of a fly-out event? We almost always have a few open seats in other airplanes available, all you have to do is ask. Seats are available on a first-come / first-served basis with a preference toward student pilots and members. Friends and significant others are also welcome based on availability.
- **Events will be announced in the newsletter, through the a.S.o.S. system, and at member meetings.** Watch these spaces for event announcements. We'll use this column in the newsletter to provide more details about each event. Every event will have a showrunner from the committee. Have questions? Looking for an airplane seat? Reach out to the event coordinator or any other member of the committee including Dan Probst (chair) or Chris Houston.
- **Instrument rating not required.** For fly-out events, we make our go / no-go decisions based on reasonable VFR flying criteria so that pilots of all skill levels can participate. In cases where enough participants are instrument rated (i.e., so that no one gets left behind), we may choose to fly on an IMC day, but do not plan to fly IFR from the outset.
- **Cost of participation will vary.** The WFC does not subsidize costs for fly-out events, so all

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### Activities Committee Seeks New Members

The Activities Committee is in search of new members to help organize events for the Williamson Flying Club membership!

We're seeking WFC members who have a passion and enthusiasm for flight, exploring what general aviation has to offer, and bringing club members together.

New to the club or still a student pilot? No problem! No experience planning these types of events? We'll show you the ropes.

Care to join us? Our first meeting will be at 1:00 on Sunday, March 24!

Contact Dan Probst if interested!  
(Contact info available in a.S.o.S.)



In Lake Placid, February 2023



Dinner flight to Bradford, PA on May 6, 2023



## Activities Committee 2024 Update by Chris Houston

(Continued from page 3)

costs are borne by the participants (e.g., meals, admission, Uber/Lyft rides, hotels, aircraft rental, and fuel).

As all certificated pilots know, the costs of a flight may be legally split proportionally among pilot and passengers. Application of this varies. Many aircraft owners taking other members on trips don't expect contributions toward the cost of the flight, though there is a time-honored tradition of picking up your pilot's meal if you can. Other pilot owners may ask for help offsetting the cost of the flight. Sometimes, members will agree to split the costs on renting a club airplane, where one member flies the outbound leg and the other flies the return leg. These ar-

rangements are between pilots and passengers—the Activities Committee does not regulate this or dictate how pilots use their airplanes. Open communication between pilots and passengers is key.

### So, What Types of Events?

We strive for a variety. Historically, event types have included:

- **Social gatherings:** Saturday cook-outs at the airport, annual holiday party.
- **Educational:** Seminars at the airport, tower tours at KROC, tours of aircraft / engine manufacturers (like Diamond and Lycoming, respectively).
- **Fly-Outs:** These are the committee's focus and range from flights for food or to an attraction like an aviation museum. We make an effort to vary fly-

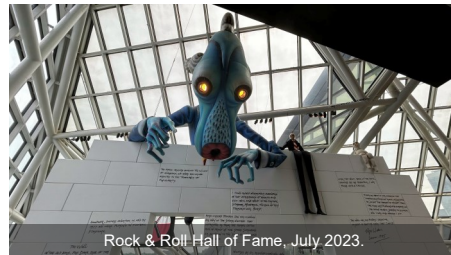
outs to places in the local area (within an hour), medium-distance flights (2-3 hours flight time), and usually target one overnight trip.

Examples of Activities Committee events from 2023 can be seen in the photographs accompanying this article.

Stay-tuned for more details on what we have planned for 2024. Check out the [“Cool Places to Fly” column in this issue](#) for a potential overnight destination: Mackinac Island, MI!

The 2024 Activities Committee is:

- Mike Abate
- Gilead Biggie
- Chris Houston
- Scott Lasky
- Dan Probst (Chair)



## Cool Places to Fly: Mackinac Island by Chris Houston



### Destination:

Mackinac Island Airport (KMCD),  
Mackinac Island, MI

### Distance:

470 nautical miles  
(KSDC-FNT-KMCD to avoid over-  
flying any of the Great Lakes)

### Why It's Cool:

- A scenic destination in a beautiful part of Michigan
- Quaint island lifestyle — no motorized vehicles allowed
- Can only be reached by boat or plane
- Location of Fort Mackinac, site of the first land battle in the War of 1812

### Inspiration

For the past three years, the WFC Activities Committee ([see earlier article in this issue](#)) has successfully achieved a stretch goal of an overnight fly-out trip to a worthwhile destination. Our first overnight was to Detroit, MI in 2021 to visit the **Henry Ford**. In 2022, we flew to Dayton, OH to explore the stupendous **National Museum of the United States Air Force**. Last year, we took four aircraft and several members on a southerly pilgrimage to First Flight Airport (KFFA) to see the **National Wright Brothers Memorial**, sample lunch on the Chesapeake Bay's endangered Tangier Island, and explore

along the North Carolina barrier islands collectively known as the Outer Banks.

For 2024, we anticipate a trip to Mackinac Island, MI and wanted to take a moment to introduce this location to the WFC membership.

### How Do You Pronounce That?

Mackinac Island (pronounced mack-ih-naw) is located in Lake Huron just east of the Mackinac Bridge, an engineering marvel spanning the five mile wide straits separating Michigan's upper and lower peninsulas. The island can only be accessed by boat or aircraft and (for the most part) no motorized vehicles are allowed on the island.

Mackinac Island was Michigan's first state park and is administered by the parks commission. Upon landing at the Mackinac Island Airport, a horse-drawn taxi can be hired for transportation to town, though the distance to town is also walkable. Bicycles and horses are the primary means of transportation around the island. I can say with experience that riding a bicycle built for two around the 8.2 mile perimeter of the island is an exercise in teamwork!

Looming high above the harbor is the well-preserved [Fort Mackinac](#), site of the first land battle in the War of 1812 (spoiler: we lost that one). Another iconic landmark is the [Grand Hotel](#), famous for its appearance in the movie *Some-where In Time*. More affordable lodging may be found closer to the harbor or on the mainland. On our



tenth anniversary, my wife and I stayed at the nicely-appointed [Main Street Inn and Suites](#). The island is famous for its many fudge shops. As a result, tourists are often referred to as "Fudgies" by the locals. (I am not entirely certain that this nickname is intended as a compliment.) The town on Mackinac Island reminds me in many ways of Lake Placid.

Less touristy, the interior of the island has many hiking trails that pass unique geological features like Arch Rock, Sugarloaf Rock, and The Crack in the Island. For lunch or dinner, island restaurants like the [Yankee Rebel Tavern](#) feature eclectic menus to suit many

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## Cool Places to Fly: Mackinac Island by Chris Houston

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tastes. On my last visit to the island in 2023, we sampled the Jamaican-themed [Kingston Kitchen](#). It was outstanding, if not quite the sort of “island food” you might expect in the Great Lakes.

### Adventures Beyond the Island

For more adventure, one can take the ferry to Mackinaw City on the mainland and explore [Fort Michilimackinac](#), The [Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse](#), or the [Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum](#). Aerial sightseeing in the region is excellent, with many lighthouses, the Mackinac Bridge, various shipwrecks, and miles of beautiful, sandy shorelines.

Other locations in the region warrant mentioning. Not far from Mackinac Island is Beaver Island. Known as America’s Emerald Isle and home to two airports (SJX and 6Y8), Beaver Island is densely wooded and home to the bizarre history of America’s only monarch, King James Strang. His theocratic monarchy only lasted a few years before Strang was assassinated in 1856. (A post about my 2023 trip to Beaver Island can be found [here](#).)

Even more remote is the turf-only runway on [North Fox Island](#) (6Y3) maintained by the Recreational Aviation Foundation.

### Legendary

Another jewel of the region is the [Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore](#). Rising up to 400 feet above the shore of Lake Michigan, the massive dunes are a natural wonder. The Native Americans who once populated the northwest portion of Michigan's lower peninsula passed on to each generation the legend of the Sleeping Bear. The legend tells of a mother bear and her two cubs that fled a Wisconsin forest fire. They struggled for miles across the wide expanse of Lake Michigan, seeking safety in Michigan. The cubs faltered, drowning within sight of shore. The steadfast mother bear reached land and waited for her children on the bluff



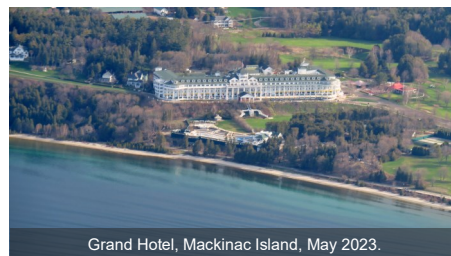
Straits of Mackinac and the Mackinac Bridge, May 2023.



Mackinac Island Airport, May 2023.



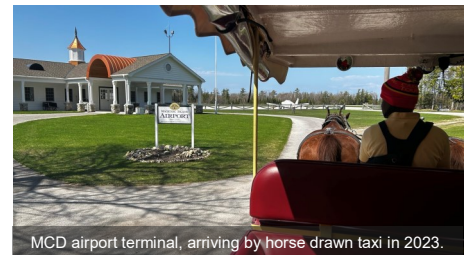
Mackinac Island harbor, May 2023.



Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island, May 2023.



On downwind for runway 26, August 2012.



MCD airport terminal, arriving by horse drawn taxi in 2023.



Arch Rock, Mackinac Island, August 2012.

## Cool Places to Fly: Mackinac Island by Chris Houston

(Continued from page 6)

overlooking the lake. The Great Spirit, impressed by the unshakable faith of the mother, raised North and South Manitou Islands to mark the final resting places of the cubs. Winds swept over the waiting mother bear, burying her under a dune where she waits to this day for her beloved children. Centuries later, in 2011, Good Morning America voted the site "The Most Beautiful Place in America". Clearly, the Great Spirit works in mysterious ways. (Photos from a 2012 family vacation to Sleeping Bear can be found on my blog at this [link](#).)

### Getting There

A suggested route to Mackinac is KSDC—FNT—KMCD. This is proposed as a means of staying over land and avoiding special use airspace including the Steelhead and Pike MOAs as well as the restricted areas between Gaylord and Grayling, MI.

However, this route requires flying over Ontario, Canada. For those who have not done this when journeying between US airports, it's easy. This is also not our first Canadian overflight as a club. We did it in 2021 when we overnighted in

Detroit.

- If IFR, the process is entirely transparent—file your flight plan and go!
- If VFR, crossing the borders between Michigan and New York requires an active ICAO flight plan, an ATC-assigned transponder code, and two-way radio contact with ATC.
- Along this route, radar services will be provided by Toronto Center from Buffalo to Michigan. When crossing the international border from Ontario to Michigan, Selfridge Air National Guard Base is the controlling facility on 119.6.
- Customs and eAPIS are moot issues when overflying Canada; they only become necessary if you intend to land in Canada. Also, while Nav Canada charges ATC user fees for ATC services, aircraft flying through Canadian airspace between departure and destination airports in the USA are explicitly exempted.
- Even when I do not intend to land in Canada, I always carry my passport with me in the event that an emergency landing in Canada becomes necessary.

More information about flying over and to Canada can be found in [this slide deck from my Hangar Talk](#) given to the club in 2018.

### And in Summary...

Everyone in my family enjoyed the allure of Mackinac Island and exploring what it had to offer, from the historic fort, to the beautiful hiking trails and the novelty of landing on an island without motorized vehicles. It is a unique destination that is not well-known outside of Michigan, but an airplane brings it within easy reach of those who live in western New York.

### Tips:

- Noise abatement procedures at KMCD require flying the pattern over water and avoiding the shorelines and town. The [Michigan Airport Directory](#) has a diagram for this.
- The airport sits relatively high

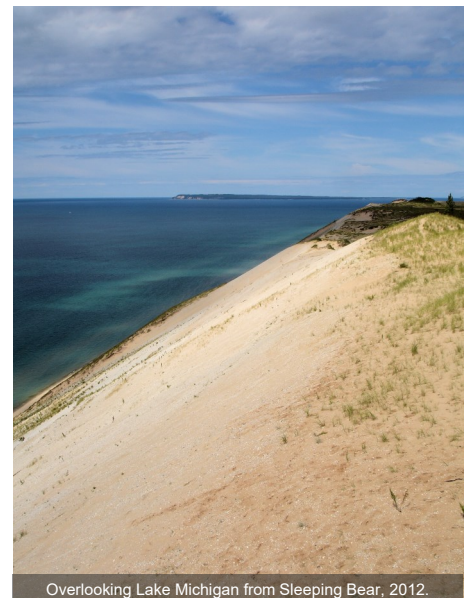
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Aerial view of the Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes, August 2012.



Running around at Sleeping Bear way back in August 2012.



Overlooking Lake Michigan from Sleeping Bear, 2012.



## Congratulations!



### New Private Pilot:

Congratulations to Ziad Safadi (pictured on the right with Mike Bjerga) for earning his Private Pilot certificate on February 7, 2024! Great job!

### WFC Election Outcomes:

Congratulations to newly-elected WFC President, Scott Lasky and 2024 Director, Bill Black! Thanks and best wishes to those incumbents on the board who will continue to serve our club into 2024!

## Recommended Reading



The [March/April issue of FAA Safety Briefing](#) magazine is focused on aviation weather and its impact on general aviation flying. Reviews various aviation resources and tools.

## Upcoming WFC and Local Events

Saturday March 24 8:30 am	Syracuse Safety Stand-Down. KSYR Airline Main Terminal Conference Room, 1000 Col Eileen Collins Blvd, Syracuse, NY 13212. A gathering of aviation safety speakers. Tune-Up for Spring! Includes lunch. For more details and to register, follow this <a href="#">link</a> .
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## Cool Places to Fly by Chris Houston!

(Continued from page 7)

and exposed over the lake. Wind on final approach is notoriously squirrely.

- There is no fuel available on the island, but Mackinac County Airport (83D) is just five miles away (current fuel price: \$6.50/gal). The least expensive 100LL in the region is at Boyne City Municipal (N98, currently \$5.15/gal), about 41 nautical miles southwest of KMCD. Be forewarned! Boyne City has a very unique form of self-serve fuel dispensing that relies on the honor system. You log what you take and they will invoice you later. (Really! In 2024! I stopped here as recently as May 2023.)
- KMCD is maintained by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission and there are daily landing and [overnight parking fees](#): both are currently \$12.50 for singles, \$25.00 for twins.
- If arriving at KMCD when the administration building is closed, the access code is V, simultaneous III-II, then I. This code is widely used at airports throughout Michigan (including Boyne City) for building access.

## Cool Places to Fly: News and Updates

OPENING MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>  
7 DAYS A WEEK - 7AM-3PM

*Betty Boop's*

Daily Specials  
Homemade Soups  
Open 7 days a week  
Full Diner Menu

BETTY BOOP'S AIRPORT CAFE

*Airport Cafe*

30 Bomber Lane • Honesdale, PA 18431  
570-253-5517

The well-loved Cherry Ridge Airport Restaurant (N30, see [Cool Places to Fly, WFC Flyer, January 2024](#)) closed its doors on February 25, 2024. By coincidence, a handful of WFC members happened to be the last people seated that day.

The good news is that, as of March 1, the restaurant has reopened under new ownership as [Betty Boop's Airport Café](#). Check it out!