

Winter Flying Reminders 2023-2024



Access: For the information of new members, the driveway and parking lot are kept open all winter. I will send an e-mail when the driveway and parking lot are open after a major snowfall. This is usually done by mid-morning.

Snow around the setup tables and pits: There are two shovels, a broom, and a snow brush inside the winter shelter for your use in removing snow on and around the setup tables and for making paths in the pit area.

Don't give yourself a heart attack shoveling snow, and don't remove snow down to the grass, but **please help as you are able** to keep the areas around the setup tables and some pilot stations level and packed. Also, it is helpful to pack and level a path from the setup tables to the center and east side fence openings. Packing down paths can be done with snowshoes as well. Mike Lalonde and I will try to keep the field in good shape, but let's **please make it a team effort.**



Snow on winter shelter: if you see an accumulation of snow on the winter shelter, please remove it by **carefully pushing on the shelter fabric from the inside with the broom.** The snow should slide off. If there is a lot of snow on the sides of the winter shelter, please remove some of it carefully with a shovel.

Ice: warm followed by cold weather sometimes result in icy conditions. We will spread some sand around the setup tables and pit area, but we cannot economically always keep the field ice-free. **Please be careful if it is icy,** invest in a pair of ice cleats. Some days, it is better just to stay home.

Heater: Please use it as needed, but please do not leave it on unnecessarily (it shouldn't be needed until the temperature gets well below 0 degree C). The sun really warms up the inside of the shelter. The heat output is adjustable. Instructions are pinned to the bulletin board in the shelter. There are two propane tanks. If the one in use runs out, switch to the other one, and let Mike Lalonde or me know. There is a wrench hanging on one of the tanks. Remember the fitting is left hand thread.



Please do not bring glow or gas planes, or fuel in the shelter.

Courtesy on the runway: please avoid walking on the runway as much as possible to keep the snow surface in good condition for take-off and landing. Please adjust your plane's skis carefully to reduce the likelihood of getting stuck on the runway. If you must retrieve a plane on the runway, please minimize the tracks by walking near the fence until you can cross straight to your plane. Please 'reuse' existing tracks as much as possible. If you must retrieve a plane in the woods or past the runway, please go around the ends of the runway to get there.

Gate lock and chain: The chain lock is kept well lubricated, but it can freeze from time to time. There is lock de-icer on the back of the left post as you enter. If you use the lock de-icer, please hang it back on the hook. Otherwise, it will eventually fall off and get lost in the snow.



Please lock the chain as shown on the website. Don't over tighten the chain because it can be hard to open afterwards.

Please close the lock through a chain link after you open the gate so the lock doesn't get lost and to prevent the combination from being compromised but hang it high enough so it doesn't drag in the snow.

Winter Flying tips: please see the Winter Flying tips document prepared by Nigel Chippindale and Mike Lalonde. It contains a lot of information to make your winter flying safe and enjoyable. Also, don't hesitate to ask questions to other members at the field or through contact@stetsonflyers.com.

MAAC and Stetson memberships: Please ensure that you have renewed both your MAAC and Stetson memberships before you fly in 2024.

Please report any issues the field coordinator (Mike Lalonde) or to me at contact@stetsonflyers.com or (613) 518-4463.

Thank you, and happy winter flying!

*Pierre Coulombe
President
Stetson Flyers*