



A flight over the Adirondacks from Warren County Airport

Did you know you can learn to fly at Warren County/Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport in Queensbury? Or that you can take a sight-seeing flight to see our beautiful region from above, viewing lakes, mountains and so much more that you can only see from the air?

[Leaf Air LLC](#) offers both flight lessons for aspiring pilots and flights to see the sights of our region from the county-owned airport. The Leaf Air staff has taught hundreds of people to fly over the years, some of them men and women who went on to become professional pilots or serve military flying careers.

Leaf Air owner and longtime pilot Jim Barrett, who in May received a “master pilot” award from the Federal Aviation Administration for more than 50 years of exemplary aviation experience, oversees the operation, and is a walking encyclopedia of local aviation information.

Flying is literally in Jim’s blood, as his father was the station manager for four commercial airlines when they flew from Warren County Airport from the 1940s to the 1980s.

“I grew up at the airport,” he explained.

The sightseeing flights that are offered by Leaf Air show off the most beautiful spots around the region from hundreds of feet aloft in Barrett’s single-engine Cessna.

Within seconds of takeoff heading north from Runway 01-19, the south end of Lake George was on the horizon.

Barrett has taken this ride thousands of times, and he is quick to point out interesting parts of the landscape around Lake George as they come into view, such as Fort William Henry, Dome Island, The Narrows and myriad other features below and to the sides as the plane glides above the lake.

An hour-long trip on a bright June day covered the length of the lake to Ticonderoga, with fantastic views of Fort Ticonderoga, the south end of Lake Champlain and western Vermont as well.

The return trip veered west over Brant Lake and back down the western shore of Lake George, Barrett identifying many of the lakes, mountains and rivers that appeared below.

“Isn’t this amazing? We live in such a beautiful area,” he exclaimed as Lake George, surrounded by bright green tree canopy, glistened below the Cessna, ringed by green mountains.

The sight-seeing tours of Lake George have drawn visitors from around the U.S. as well as many other nations. “We’ve had people from all over the world, Great Britain, Japan, Indonesia,” he said.

Barrett said he would love to see commercial air service return to Warren County, as the airport’s facilities are well capable of handling the additional air traffic

“We’ve got a great airport here with an excellent instrument landing system. I think it would be great to have air service to connect to Boston or New York City,” Barrett said.

(There have been internal discussions among county supervisors about the return of commercial air service to Warren County, but no regional airlines have expressed interest.)

For more information about Leaf Air flight services at Warren County/Floyd Bennett Airport, log on to leafair.net or call 518-415-8453.