

Iosco Flying Club

March 1, 2026

The winter has been brutal with a lot more snow than we're used to getting and record low temperatures. There hasn't been a whole lot of flying going on because of it. Last month I had the opportunity to go flying as a passenger with another club member. It was a frigid cold day, but the sky was fairly clear and the sun was shining, and the timing just worked out perfect.

As I headed to the airport and grabbed a headset to go, I started to think about the fact that I haven't been a passenger in a small plane in quite some time. If there's flying to be done in a small plane, well, I'm at the controls! As I thought about it more, it had probably been 25 years since I was acting as safety pilot for a fellow instrument student. It was a fun flight, even though it was brief. It made me think how the passengers I take up must feel never getting to take control of the airplane! Afterwards I thought a little bit about it and I came to realize that our passengers we take up, even for a short flight, are just as grateful. Even not being at the controls, for people who love airplanes and flying, it doesn't seem to matter. Grabbing the controls is just icing on the cake.

I'm sure the pilot wasn't aware, but I was quietly critiquing his every move. Going up with another pilot and seeing how they operate in the cockpit helps give perspective on your own cockpit behavior. Whether it's seeing a new trick or skill that you'd like to improve on or noticing something that you may do out of habit that could be corrected, riding along with another pilot can be beneficial in maintaining your skills throughout the year. When we go up by ourselves we can get sloppy because no one is watching. Non-pilot passengers don't know if we're doing something wrong, which makes it easy to get away with!

As the weather starts getting better and we head back out to the airport to shake the dust off, think about that empty right seat. Maybe there's someone we could think of to take flying with us. Whether that's a passenger that could be a future flying club member, a rusty pilot, or another club member that could mutually benefit from an extra flight and gaining more experience, consider inviting someone along.

We started discussing the Fly-in/ Pancake Breakfast at the meeting and planning is already under way. Please don't forget to sign up to volunteer and help out with our big annual event, and remember friends and family are always welcome to help. Free, On The Job training is available! See you at the airport.

Go. Fly!

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