

# Iosco Flying Club

May 1, 2026

Well another month has gone by and I'm still not sure what season we're in. Winter? Spring? A few days even started to feel like summer. Like a kid playing with the light switches, Mother Nature has been flipping the switch back and forth. Sunny and 70 one day, windy with snowflakes flying a few days later. The April showers definitely happened, but to the extreme, with too much water causing flood conditions all over the state. Of course, most of the nice days happen either when you have to work or other obligations keep you from heading out for a flight.

My dad and I had a job to look at the other day in Oscoda. It was one of those nice days in the middle of the week. I volunteered to drive and made sure to tuck my flight bag in the truck before leaving. The job was on Van Etten lake, and while we were there the homeowner showed us where the water had come up in his yard. It had finally receded back in front of the break wall, dropping over 6 feet from its high. He mentioned the normal level was still another foot lower.

On the drive back I mentioned we might need to survey the high water areas, and what better way to do that than from the air. I think I coughed a couple times and told dad I was calling in sick for an hour! We made it to the airport, did a preflight, and took off in 67Q for our aerial surveying tour.

Flying away from the airport we flew over Baldwin Resort Rd, Tawas Point and Lake Solitude. The low points of the ridges and swales (former Tawas Point shorelines) were loaded with water. Tawas River was beyond its normal banks on the south end of Tawas Lake, with murky water spilling out into the Bay. Overflying Point Lookout, the muddy water flowing out of the Au Gres river had created a line where brown Saginaw Bay water met the clean blue water of Lake Huron. Flying in over flooded farm fields, you could see lines of debris indicating where the water had been.

Landing back at the airport, we discussed where the next flight may take us. There will probably be leaves on the trees blocking the view to the ground and probably a heat wave. As for the weather, we all know what Mother Nature and northern Michigan will serve up. Hopefully the timing is right to catch a nice day and you can head out for a flight. Just keep track of how many sick days you have left!

GO. FLY!

Ethan Buchanan, IFC President  
Ethan.Buchanan17@gmail.com  
989-387-6939