



# Commemorative Air Force Wisconsin Wing Newsletter

Chartered April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1982

Editor: Brad Ohde

## April 2021, Issue #2104

### From the Front Cockpit Col Gary Otto – Wing Leader



We sure have a lot going on at the WI Wing and an exciting event season is taking shape ahead of us. There will be many opportunities to Educate, Inspire and Honor. Our mission was the theme of the January newsletter followed by a focus on support for the mission in February, and our March newsletter was packed full of events that we need you to volunteer for!



This month we are spotlighting the CAF aircraft that are assigned to the WI Wing. These aircraft are the means of carrying out our mission, but not the mission itself. All CAF aircraft are owned by the American Heritage Airpower Museum and assigned to CAF units around the world. The PT-26 was

assigned to us in 2008, the SNJ in 2011, and the T-34 in 2017. We are the caretakers of these historical flying machines, and that carries a lot of responsibility along with it.

CAF aircraft are primarily supported by aircraft sponsors and pilot sponsors, but initial sponsorship is just the start of the financial and time commitment that pilot sponsors make. We also have much needed Flight Crew support for our aircraft, where members donate monthly to help pay for the on-going fixed costs of keeping each airplane here. The SNJ and PT participate in the living history rides program, which also generates funds to help with aircraft costs. While our PT-26 costs are shared between the pilot sponsors and the Wing as a whole, the SNJ and T-34 pilot sponsors support all of the costs that are not first covered by Flight Crew, special donations, or rides profits. The pilot sponsors donate generously for most of the cost to utilize these warbird aircraft in our mission. Thank you to all our pilot sponsors!



In addition to volunteering to fly our CAF aircraft on missions, our pilot sponsors have to stay current and proficient in each aircraft they fly by practicing and regularly flying, plus annually complete; 2 hours of online training from HQ, 3 hours of ground school for each plane, 6 hours of interactive CRM safety training, and a rigorous check ride with a CAF instructor pilot. You might ask why anyone would do all of this on top of the financial commitment to donate funds for the missions, but I can tell you it is because of the passion our pilot-sponsors have for using these aircraft to touch people's lives, honor those most deserving of it, and inspire a new generation to learn about and appreciate our aviation history.

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COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE  
**Wisconsin Wing Newsletter**



## From the Front Cockpit Col Gary Otto – Wing Leader



### From the Front Cockpit

*(cont'd from previous page)*

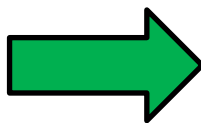


If you think you might be interested in volunteering to be a flight crew member, aircraft sponsor, or pilot sponsor, talk to me or our operations officer, Henning Henningsen, and find out how you can support our mission.

Respectfully,

Gary Otto

**CAF WI Wing April Meeting Invitation**  
 April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 10:30 AM  
 Gate #1 code: 2347#  
 In person option at the CAF hangar with COVID mitigation  
 or **Join Zoom Meeting using this link:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83022039159>  
 Meeting ID: 830 2203 9159  
 Dial in option 312 626 6799



**The EAA Corsair**  
 Chris Henry will tell us the story of how this historic Corsair came to the EAA Museum Eagle Hangar.

Chris Henry will serve as our special guest speaker. Chris is an EAA Lifetime Member (#41434) and serves as EAA Aviation Museum Programs Representative, EAA Timeless Voices Program Coordinator, & EAA Aviation Museum Docent Program. Chris has been working in aviation for over 20 years (everything from line service to ramp control, medical helicopters and eventually air traffic control) and has worked with the EAA since 2013.



### Greetings from Operations! by Col Henning Henningsen

Spring is showing us a little warmer temps and a peek at some better weather for our upcoming flying season. In preparation for flying, each pilot must take an annual training ground school class for each plane they fly, as well as an annual cockpit resource management (CRM) safety course which lasts about 6 hours. The airplane specifics and CRM Safety allow us to focus on safely operating our airplanes.

Between March and April, we have offered 4 training courses for our pilots. These typically are around 3-1/2 hours long where we go over the airplanes specifics, from engines, and various systems through walk around items and emergency procedures. This includes a 50-question test that the pilot must take and have on record in their file. The T-34 course was held first and led by Carl Schwerman back on March 27th. The PT26 Cornell course was held Saturday April 3rd and led by Henning Henningsen and was well attended. The SNJ5 course was held on Thursday evening, April 8th, led by Steve Sorge and was also well attended. Finally, we held the CRM safety class this past Saturday, April 10th and it went for over 5 hours and was led by myself. This course is not focused on a particular airplane, its entirely focused on airplane safety, specifically the situational awareness and pilot decision making in a variety of circumstances. It often focuses on airplane incidents, some of which may be airplane emergencies such as engine outs but can also be weather related or even understanding what happens when poor radio communications take place.

I want to personally thank Carl and Steve for leading the T34 and SNJ classes as well as Gary Otto's efforts on helping with the various presentations, producing the tests and with the Zoom calls.

At this time I'm also happy to report that the PT-26 is back on flying status and has flown twice this past week.



# Wisconsin Wing News



## CAF WISCONSIN WING AIRCRAFT FIXED & OPERATION COST SUMMARY

### 1943 PT-26 Fairchild 200 HP



**N9474H**

PT-26 2020 Fixed Costs	
Item	Annual Cost
Hangar rent	5,280.00
Scheduling	144.00
Registration	5.00
Annual inspection base	1,500.00
ANUAC	929.58
Liability Ins	2,866.00
Excess liability ins	1,394.00
Comprehensive Ins	1,851.00
Airmeet Ins	917.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,886.58</b>

2020 Hourly Rate Analysis	
Item	Usage per Hour
Propeller reserve	3.00
Engine reserve	44.00
Maintenance reserve	50.00
Fuel	43.00
Oil	10.00
<b>Hourly Donation Rate</b>	<b>150.00</b>
<b>Typical hours flown</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Total Hourly Donation</b>	<b>5,700.00</b>



### 1943 North American SNJ-5/AT-6 600 HP



**N3195G**

SNJ 2020 Fixed Costs	
Item	Annual Cost
Hangar rent	4,700.00
Scheduling	144.00
Registration	5.00
Annual inspection base	5,700.00
ANUAC	1,957.00
Liability Ins	2,866.00
Excess liability ins	1,394.00
Comprehensive Ins	1,974.00
Airmeet Ins	917.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,657.00</b>

2020 Hourly Rate Analysis	
Item	Usage per Hour
Propeller reserve	8.00
Engine reserve	50.00
Maintenance reserve	50.00
Fuel	172.00
Oil	20.00
<b>Hourly Donation Rate</b>	<b>300.00</b>
<b>Typical hours flown</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Total Hourly Donation</b>	<b>17,700.00</b>



### T-34A 300HP Beech Mentor 1955



**N5347W**

T-34 2021 Est. Fixed Costs	
Item	Annual Cost
Hangar rent	4,800.00
Scheduling	144.00
Registration	5.00
Annual inspection base	3,500.00
ANUAC	2,000.00
Liability Ins	2,900.00
Excess liability ins	1,400.00
Comprehensive Ins	2,500.00
Airmeet Ins	917.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,166.00</b>

2021 Hourly Rate Analysis	
Item	Usage per Hour
Propeller reserve	5.00
Engine reserve	25.00
Maintenance reserve	50.00
Fuel	79.00
Oil	6.00
<b>Hourly Donation Rate</b>	<b>165.00</b>
<b>Est. hours will fly</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Total Hourly Donation</b>	<b>24,750.00</b>





## Wisconsin Wing News



### Education Update by Col Jeanette Anderson

#### • Youth Protection Program

We have only had 22 members complete the training!!!

The CAF requires all volunteers who will be working within an arm's reach of a youth to take part in both Youth Protection and Interaction Training and Criminal History Background Check before you may work with youth at CAF units or CAF events. This is an online Youth Protection and Interaction Training that will take approximately fifteen minutes to complete. You will need to watch a short video, take a quiz, and apply for the background check. There is no cost to you or the Wing for this certification. Once you have completed the training and passed the background check, we will be notified that you are eligible to work with youth. The background check is handled by a secure third-party vendor and no confidential information is shared with the CAF. If you have any questions about the policy or how it is implemented, you can view the CAF Youth Protection Policy by following this link.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/bx9k41p13n2nryy/CAF%20Youth%20Protection%20Policy%20General.pdf?dl=0>

To complete the training, go to the CAF website under Education and click on the Youth Interaction and Protection box or follow this link.

<https://www.cafeducation.org/youth-interaction-and-protection>

Thank you for doing your part to keep our young people safe as we Educate, Inspire, and Honor a new generation of aviation enthusiasts!

#### • Women In Aviation - Wings In Spring Event

On March 17<sup>th</sup> the Local Chapter of Women in Aviation had their Wings in Spring event. Though the weather wasn't the best, the event was well attended and there were lots of families and kids. We had a display table there and an educational activity for young "future aviators". Gary brought the PX trailer over which provided a great visual backdrop for us. Thanks to Kathy Laabs and her volunteers who helped out with parking!





# Wisconsin Wing News



## Recap from March 24<sup>th</sup> Warbird “Tube Webinar” .....

The CAF Wednesday Evening Warbird Tube Webinar on March 24<sup>th</sup> featured the WI Wing with members Steve Lark, Gary Otto and Mike Woods presenting the story of the WI Wing T-34A restoration. Steve Buss hosted the event and lots of interesting facts about T-34's were shared.

You can watch the T-34 presentation by clicking:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gelxwKuRjMs>

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## Maintenance Report – APRIL 2021 by Col Steven Sorge – Maintenance Officer – WI Wing

### T-34

- ✓ On Mx hold
- ✓ Still working to resolve gear door position in “gear Down” position. As 04April, Devon at Plane Safe will check motor timing and rigging on 05April. Found motor was incorrect part number. Replacement on order.

### PT-26

- ✓ Aircraft on line
- ✓ No Squawks
- ✓ In June – Clint will begin main gear parts evaluation

### SNJ-5

- ✓ On Mx hold
- ✓ Prop removed and sent to Maxwell to correct seal leak; Now expected second week of April
- ✓ Intercom upgrade planned for Thursday 08April
- ✓ Insurance removed to storage only.
- ✓ ACTION for Operations– Plan to activate insurance effective when prop is back on

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## CORNER

# SAFETY

From your Safety Officer, Col Mike Ziarniak

### COVID-19 Statement

Prior to attending any in person meetings, please do a self-assessment of your health. If you have any symptoms of fever, cough, lack of taste or smell it would best to not attend the meeting. Distancing, masks and hand sanitizer use should be considered and are available. Consider Zoom virtual attendance.





# Wisconsin Wing News



## CAF WI Wing Spring (delayed to Fall) Banquet (date to be confirmed)

The annual CAF Spring Banquet is being postponed until the Fall of 2021 due to the COVID mitigations still being recommended for May. If you want to volunteer to be on the banquet committee and help plan this enjoyable event, please contact Kathy Laabs – Events Officer.



## CAF WI Wing Holiday Party → *Tentative date: Dec. 14th*

If you want to volunteer to be on the party planning committee and help organize this memorable event, please contact Kathy Laabs - Events Officer.

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### **PX Volunteers Needed NOW!!!**

If interested in joining the PX team and representing the CAF WI Wing at events throughout the season, please contact Dennis Flancher, PX Volunteer Coordinator, at 414-543-0160 or email [dennislf@att.net](mailto:dennislf@att.net)

Training provided and it's a great way to meet great people!



### **Ground Crew Volunteers Wanted!!!**

If interested in joining this invaluable part of our operations team, please contact Mike Ziarniak at 414-380-9532 or email to [ziarniakm@gmail.com](mailto:ziarniakm@gmail.com)



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Thank you to Dennis Flancher and John Schroeder for volunteering to "spruce up" the cockpit knobs and levers in the SNJ with a new coat of **Yellow** and **Red** paint!



# Wisconsin Wing News



## WI Wing Meeting Summary

**Date: Mar. 20, 2021**

**Call to order @ 10:35 AM Saturday**

Pledge of Allegiance carried out

### Opening comments:

- Intro of GUESTS: George Valhillee
- New Member: John Schroeder Jan 2021

### Wing Leader **Col Gary Otto**

- News and updates/lots of moving parts at the WI Wing!
- 3rd Wing Staff meeting was last Wed. Lots to do in 2021! Any member can attend.
- Breakfasts continue on Zoom. "Not at Denny's" Ask for link if interested.
- Thanks to Brad Ohde and all the contributors for the Mar Newsletter! Great job!
- This meeting will focus on events and volunteers for our mission.

**Safety Col Mike Ziarniak** Safety is #1 at CAF See Safety Corner in Newsletter

**Exec Col Paul Keppeler** Lot of opportunities and events to get engaged in.

**Adjutant Col A.G. Bharatkumar**

- Membership renewal program underway! Please renew National and WW.
- Advise any address, email or phone changes for our directory.

**PX Col Kathy Laabs & Tracy Sorge**

- Welcome out NEW PX Volunteer Coordinator! Dennis Flancher! Need volunteers!

**Operations Col Henning Henningsen** T-34 in transition to flying status.

**Maintenance Col Steve Sorge**

- SNJ and PT are still sleeping..... T-34 is released from restoration and FLYING!!

**Rides and Ground Crew Program Col Mike Ziarniak**

- Ground Crew training today at 1PM/need volunteers too! Provided preview.

**Website Steve Lark** Member renewal and PX purchases can now be done through PAYPAL

**Public Information/Social Media** Social Media is a vital part of our our mission!

**Newsletter Col Brad Ohde**

- MAR Newsletter is released! Thanks to all the contributors!
- Consider writing an article for the next newsletter. Mission reports/photos??
- Dave Cook appreciated for his articles and books

**Membership Officer Col Tom McDermott**

- Renew membership
- National renewal can be monthly auto-payment

**Education Col Jeanette Anderson**

- Working with Operation D.R.E.A.M. for Red Tail Event in August (+/-)
- We have an aviation lending library at the hangar.
- Volunteers working with kids..... **Youth Interaction and Protection Policy**
- Upgrading our Terminal display and public outreach.
- Civil Air Patrol interface at KUES

**Development Col Bob Vajgrt**

- Update on support efforts. Building relationships. CAF conference will be over several days and weeks in March. Seminars posted on national website.

**Events Col Kathy Laabs** See March newsletter for all events coming up! Lots!!!

**Next meeting** April 17th (Zoom and in the hangar) at 10:30 AM.

**April Program:** EAA's Chris Henry: The EAA's Corsair Story (via zoom)

**Adjourn** Time 11:55 AM

If you want to watch the March zoom meeting, you can use this link and password!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/cJemfklrFKD1JXXPLsxSJ8nysNNBt9hSlhj4VCEu4IPWVst12jORLH0PoVDI4rnZ.c-xirk9SVfbUSXq7>

Passcode: Jt4\*&6uM





## Wisconsin Wing News



### Development of Relationships *by Col Bob Vajgt*

Our organization depend on relationships, all types of relationships. We depend on relationships to build and maintain our membership, to attend and support our events, to provide volunteer time and to provide financial support. Its important to know that you, a WI Wing member, have a critical and vital role in creating and maintaining relationships that are mutually beneficial. I recently attended a CAF Unit Fundraising Forum webinar that provided information that we all can use to help build and maintain relations.

What is a relationship? How do we build them? Who do we build them with? How do we maintain them? These were some questions that were discussed over the course of the hour webinar with CAF HQ staff Ron Horick (Data Manager), RozeLyn Beck (Chief Relationship Officer) and Tony Vellucci (Philanthropy Manage). The forums have been occurring about every quarter with varying topics. All CAF members can participate in these forums and I encourage those interested in development or wanting to get more involved in the Wing to participate in the calls.

Let's go through the questions that I outline above.

- What is a relationship? It's a close connection between two or more people or organizations. A relationship has a genuine sense of mutual care and shared interests. Having an emotional connection to a common interest helps to build a strong and lasting bond.
- How do we build them? We build them be communicating with others, having a conversation. We ask questions, we show genuine interest, we look to build trust. When having a conversation, it is important to listen and make that person feel valued. Meaningful conversations are key in relationship building. The goal when having a conversation is to understand that person better and develop their interest in the CAF. Some beginner questions you can ask include:
  - ✓ How did you hear about the CAF?
  - ✓ How did you get involved with the CAF?
  - ✓ What brought you here today to the *[Event, airshow, unit meeting, etc.]*?
  - ✓ Do you have an interest in supporting the CAF's mission?
  - ✓ What do you find most challenging about *[shared interest e.g., historic preservation, youth education, etc.]*?
  - ✓ What would you say are some of your strongest beliefs about *[shared interest]*?
  - ✓ The interest in *[shared interest]* seems to be *(growing/waning)*. Why do you think that is?
  - ✓ What feedback do you have about today's *[event]*?

If you receive an interesting answer, use these follow up questions to learn more:

- ✓ What makes you say that?
- ✓ Why do you feel that way?
- ✓ Can you give me an example?
- ✓ Has that ever happened before?
- Who do we build relationships with? Everyone. Everyone knows someone else who knows someone else. Your network grows exponentially with one relationship. Its important to understand, however, that not every relationship will result in financial donation.





# Wisconsin Wing News



**(cont'd from previous page)**

**Development of Relationships by Col Bob Vajgrt**

- How do we maintain relationships? We stay in communication. We acknowledge what they have done for our organization. In order to keep people engaged, financial gifts should not always be the end-goal. Approach your relationship maintenance efforts from a donor-centric perspective that creates the best partnership between you and supporters. Here are some ways to stay in communication:
  - ✓ Share information to inform supporters w/o asking for money. This could be an article on something that they are interested in or sharing an upcoming CAF Event.
  - ✓ Look for ways to make the relationship mutually beneficial.
  - ✓ Keep having meaningful interactions and conversations that build trust.
  - ✓ Have some fun together.

*Excerpts taken from the CAF Development page on Building Relationship.  
 For more information on relationship building check out the CAF development site  
<https://www.cafdevelopment.org/building-relationships>*

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**Did you know?**

You can support our aircraft anytime using the links below for each airplane. Sometimes a one-time gift is just the thing to do! See these links:

- PT-26 → <https://www.crowdrise.com/o/en/campaign/pt-26-primary-trainer-n9474h>
- SNJ-5 → <https://www.crowdrise.com/o/en/campaign/snj-5-advanced-trainer-n3195g>
- T-34 → <https://www.crowdrise.com/o/en/campaign/t-34-mentor>

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## CORNER

PX

**NEW WISCONSIN WING SHIRTS!** ..... Look GREAT as you represent YOUR CAF Wing

New Wing shirts are in production and will be ready for purchase soon! We've created this new logo for the Wisconsin Wing that shows off our fleet of aircraft and your pride in Commemorative Air Force membership.

Our new logo, which has been approved by CAF headquarters, can also be incorporated into a variety of Wing PX merchandise such as polo shirts, hats, and more. We have ordered an initial inventory of T-shirts that will be available for you to purchase at our monthly meetings and through the PX. These will also make great souvenirs for sale at our PX and Rides events. We plan to set up a Wing website PX page soon. Short sleeved T-shirt sizes S – XL cost \$20 and size 2XL is \$25.

We encourage everyone to wear Wisconsin Wing logo items at all of our meetings and events to promote our wing and our mission to Educate, Inspire and Honor!

Member apparel coordinator: Dave Cook 262-939-2941



# Wisconsin Wing News

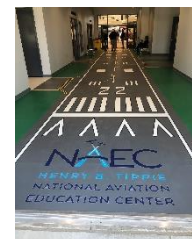


## CAF National Aviation Education Center by Dennis Schell WI and Indiana Wing member

Jordan Brown and I were able to attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony held Friday, March 26th at our new CAF expansion in Dallas, the CAF Henry B. Tippie National Aviation Education Center. This was a sneak peak, with the grand opening to be held later this year. Our next Winter Staff Conference will be held onsite early next year. The NAEC Victor N. Agather hangar will host several units (B-29/B-24 Sq, Red Tail Sq, WASP Sq, Ike's Bird and L-2 sponsor groups, Red Bird Sq) and is where the NAEC will develop, test, and refine educational programs that can then be replicated in units across the country.

It is an impressive facility in both scale and design. Highly visible from Interstate 67, it's the largest building on Dallas Executive Airport with over 40,000 square feet. Large enough to house our B-29, B-24, and several smaller aircraft at the same time, plus a west wing with artifacts, movies, and event space (e.g. full-scale P-51 replica in Gen. Charles McGee's Kitten colors) and an east wing with an aviation maintenance laboratory/workshop, classroom spaces, and CAF NAEC offices for local and national youth aviation education programs. And yes, that's the former Indiana Wing L-2 in one of the photos next to the B-29 Fifi!

The ribbon was cut with the facility entirely paid for through donations, including over \$2m donated by ~800 CAF colonels. We have about \$500k to raise to close out the \$14m capital campaign, the last raise portion to finish out funding needed for the first year operating budget. Link to ceremony: <https://youtu.be/zfpjihQ9TpE>





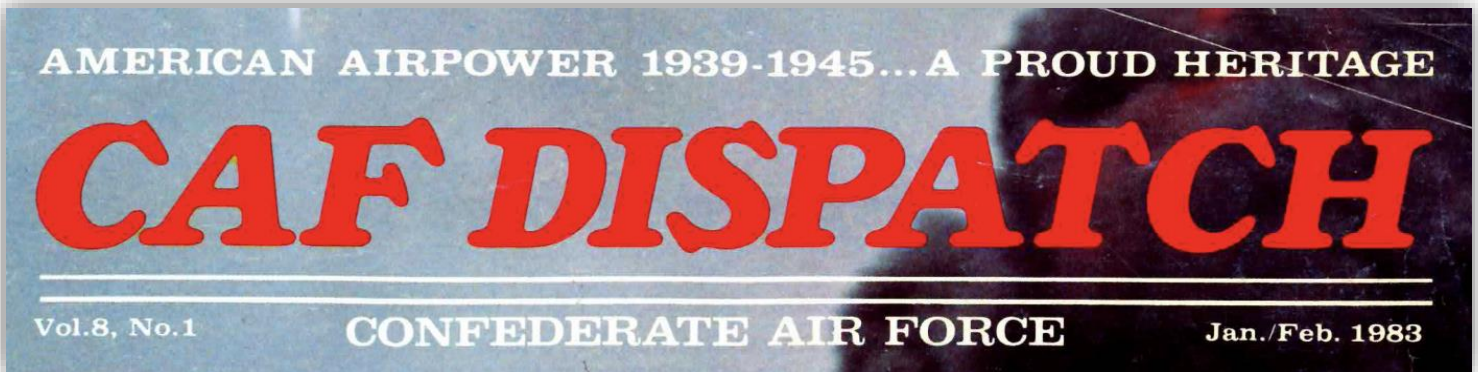


# Wisconsin Wing News



## WI Wing Celebrates 39<sup>th</sup> Anniversary → April 1982 - April 2021

Check out this 1983 article featuring the "new" CAF WI Wing! Look for familiar (younger) faces!!



### WISCONSIN SQUADRON BORN ON THE RUN...

By Robert Segel Wisconsin Squadron PIO

In a classic demonstration of CAF "Can Do" spirit members of the Wisconsin Squadron accepted, organized and carried out three projects — two of them back-to-back — in their first ninety days with 100 per-cent participation...and 110 per-cent effort.

On 30 April 1982, the CAF General Staff gave approval for the formation of the Wisconsin Squadron, to be located in the Milwaukee area.

There was little time to celebrate, however, as three projects were immediately assigned to the group. Squadron Leader Warner Baxter had the difficult task of organizing all three projects simultaneously with about 20 members.

First was the Armed Forces Open House on 15-16 May, hosted by the 440th Tactical Airlift Wing, USAF Reserve, located on the south end of General Mitchell Field in Milwaukee. Base Commander Col Richard McMahon graciously asked us to participate with an information booth. We quickly accepted.

PX supplies had to be ordered and delivered, display cases and signs made, personnel schedules set, information kits assembled, video tape and slide shows set up .... These are but a few of the many details that had to be attended to immediately.

Nearly 30,000 people enjoyed the static displays of military hardware and the number of information booths. The CAF booth attracted a lot of attention and generated much interest in the CAF. An excellent effort with practically no time for preparation. Yet, there was no time for congratulations. Project No. 2 was quickly approaching.

On 25 July, B-29 Squadron Leader Carter McGregor gently brought "Fifi" into Mitchell Field for a five-day static display hosted by the Wisconsin Squadron. Twenty-two members were on hand for the arrival. Baxter officially welcomed the B-29 by presenting a painting of "Fifi" to McGregor on behalf of the Wisconsin Squadron to the B-29 Squadron. The beautiful rendition of "Fifi" was painted by Angel Sandy Kmet specifically for this occasion.

A local television station also covered the arrival. Media coverage eventually extended to six radio stations, four television stations and four newspapers. South-eastern Wisconsin knew that the

Confederate Air Force had arrived. Col John Kmet was assigned to manage the project and executed the multitudes of details flawlessly. Squadron members worked the gate, gave tours, sold Blue Books and assisted visitors. And they gave that extra effort needed when the B-24 "Diamond Lil" made a surprise but welcome visit on the third day.

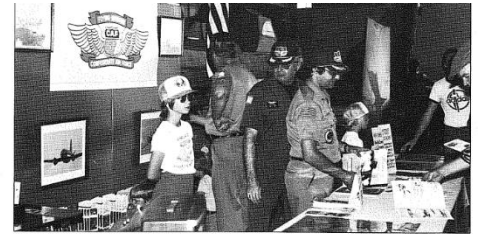
A busy week and another maximum effort from our group. No rest for the weary, however. For when "Fifi" and "Diamond Lil" left Milwaukee on 30 July, they headed north to Oshkosh for the eight-day Experimental Aircraft Association show. The Wisconsin Squadron had to literally pick up their operations in Milwaukee and move them 85 miles north to officially represent the CAF in the world's largest aviation event. Such was our third project.

The 30th annual International Fly-In Convention sponsored by the EAA is truly an aviation extravaganza — 11,000 aircraft at one location, 700,000 visitors, 877,000 square feet of exhibition

space for 350 exhibitors. For eight days, Wittman Field became the world's busiest airport!

Col Rodger Boogren was assigned to manage this mammoth project, and operations went smoothly. Once again, Squadron members took time off from their jobs to devote their time to the needs of the CAF. Col Bud Gage allowed the Squadron to use his motorhome as the CAF command post. At one point, the CAF almost became the Confederate Navy because of flooding. The motorhome turned out to be a "life saver."

The hectic days are over, and we finally have time to catch our breath. The time, effort and money put into these three projects exemplifies the dedication these Colonels have toward the CAF. Squadron Leader Baxter, when asked if he was surprised at the outstanding performance of the members, considering the circumstances, replied, "No, I am not at all surprised, because that is the spirit of the CAF." ★ ★ ★



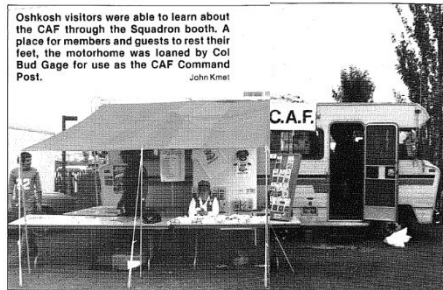
Russ Anderson, Warner Baxter, Robert Segel and the Kmet children on PX duty at the Armed Forces Open House hosted by the 440th Tactical Airlift Wing, US Air Force Reserve. The Open House was the first Squadron project, beginning only 14 days after the charter was issued. Wisconsin Squadron Photo



Don Regenfass gives a tour of "Fifi" to a group of Milwaukee children. Although a new unit, the Wisconsin Squadron pitched in like seasoned veterans to conduct their second project, static displays of the B-29 and B-24 "Diamond Lil." John Kmet



Wisconsin Squadron Staff Officers: Squadron Leader Warner Baxter, Finance Officer Rodger Boogren, Public Information Officer Robert Segel, and Executive Officer John Kmet. Wisconsin Squadron Photo



Oshkosh visitors were able to learn about the CAF through the Squadron booth. A place for members and guests to rest their feet, the motorhome was loaned by Col Bud Gage for use as the CAF Command Post. John Kmet



B-29 Squadron Leader and pilot Carter McGregor is interviewed by local television news reporters upon "Fifi's" arrival at Mitchell Field in Milwaukee. John Kmet



## Wisconsin Wing News



### CAF WI Wing Open House Sat May 22 KUES Waukesha Airport 10AM to 4PM

Let's put the CAF WI Wing up front and center with our members, friends, and supporters.

This is a great way to begin the 2021 flying season and a huge volunteer opportunity. We will need volunteers for PX, static display of wing and member owned aircraft, Rides program operations, car parking crew, Ramp Crew, gate security, lots more. We plan to utilize food trucks for lunch, fly a missing man memorial (fly-over at noon with Nick Stanich playing his bagpipes), invite WWII Military Vehicle ground forces, much more.

Open to public - will focus invitations to family/friends/supporters.

[www.commemorativeairforce.org](http://www.commemorativeairforce.org)

[www.cafwi.org](http://www.cafwi.org)

#### INVITATION

### CAF WI Wing 2021 OPEN HOUSE

**Saturday May 22, 2021 10:00AM until 4:00 PM**  
**Waukesha County Airport (KUES) 505 Bluemound Rd.**  
**North Ramp Gold Hangar**

You are invited to the CAF WI WING Open House (Hangar) on Saturday, May 22

From **10:00 AM until 4PM**, you and any interested friends or family are invited to the CAF hangar and get "up close and personal" with our PT-26, SNJ/AT-6, and newly restored T-34A aircraft as well as meet our interesting and knowledgeable members. Photo ops and cockpit tours will be available, as well as some tasty food and beverages from several food trucks. Kids of all ages are welcome too, if accompanied by an adult.

**39 Year Wing Anniversary Celebration**  
**Living History Rides (\$195 PT and \$395 SNJ)**  
**Missing man memorial fly-over at noon**  
**Static display of CAF and member owned warbird aircraft**  
**WWII Military Vehicles and ground forces**

### Join us as we "Educate, Inspire and Honor"

Hope you can join us for the festivities, and enjoy some fellowship with CAF and warbird enthusiasts. Spread the word around and tell your friends about it. The gate at 505 Bluemound Rd will be open and a parking area set aside, so airport security will not be a problem for first time visitors.

Call with any questions or to volunteer to help:

Gary Otto - WI Wing Leader  
 262-875-1640 cell  
[gary.arthur.otto@gmail.com](mailto:gary.arthur.otto@gmail.com)

Kathy Laabs - Events Officer  
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*Preserving America's Legacy of Freedom*





# Wisconsin Wing News



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

2021	
John Schroeder	Matt Phillips
Paul McAllister	
Chuck Christburg	

New members are vital to the health and vitality of our WI Wing. In the past, we have had dedicated dinners to formally welcome and get to know our new members, but with the Covid restrictions, these events have been on hold. We do want to make sure that all members are aware of our newest members so we can encourage them to get involved with volunteer opportunities which will certainly be blossoming later this year as we pull out of this pandemic. Get involved and have some fun and adventure!

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## HERE WE GO - ARE YOU READY? by Col Tom McDermott – Membership Officer

As we enter the new "normal" we are extra anxious to resume our lives on many levels. Your CAF "LIFE" awaits, but is your membership current? **ARE YOU CERTAIN?**

We are all faced with many daily time demands and it is easy to miss renewing your national membership. It occurs on the anniversary of your initial joining of the CAF. **We are encouraging you to consider renewing using the monthly billing of \$19.**

We have found that members like the automatic charge and not experiencing the larger \$200 cost. More importantly, it renews automatically and keeps you eligible for the benefits of your national membership. If you'd like to adjust to the \$19 method, please call me and I will help make this simple change.

One less thing to worry about. See you in the hanger!

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## The T-34 joins the Wisconsin Wing's stable of historic trainer aircraft by Col David Cook



All three of the warbirds assigned to the Wisconsin Wing-CAF were used in the development and training of pilots in the U.S. military. Our long association with the PT-26 primary trainer has given us a great appreciation of the basic pilot training during World War II. Our second acquisition was the mighty SNJ / T-6 Texan that provided advanced training to the pilots preparing for combat in high performance aircraft in the Second World War. But what about this new, perhaps lesser-known plane, the T-34A Mentor? Where does this fit in to the story of military pilot training?

The T-6 Texan / SNJ was an incredibly successful trainer that provided advanced training through the Second World War and well into the post-war era. As jet technology advanced in the late 1940s and 1950s, the need for higher performance trainers became apparent. In 1952 the Air Force implemented the pilot trainer aircraft master plan. The idea was to retire the T-6 and replace it with the more advanced T-28 Trojan. Prior to putting brand new pilots into the big, powerful T-28, the first phase of training was with a light plane screener aircraft. That role was initially filled by the PA-18 but it was decided that a more advance plane was needed. Beginning in May of 1954, the T-34A Mentor became the starting point for Air Force pilot training. After a few weeks in the T-34, successful candidates moved up to the T-28. By 1958 the mighty T-28 was phased out in favor of the jet powered T-37 "Tweet" as the primary trainer and the T-34 was phased out by 1959.



# Wisconsin Wing News



**(cont'd from previous page)**

One of the air bases that operated the T-34 was Malden Air Base in Malden, Missouri. In 1950 the Air Force increased its pilot training program as the Korean conflict erupted and the old Malden Army Airfield was reactivated in 1951. Malden, along with 8 other bases, was managed by a civilian contractor out of Milwaukee, WI called Anderson Air Activities. This Milwaukee based contractor would see thousands of men trained to become pilots during this time. In 1955 the base phased out the PA-18 and the T-6 and began training in the T-34 Mentor. Pilots started out with about 40 hours in the T-34 before advancing to the T-28 for an additional 90 hours of flight training. In addition to flying, the students received 250 hours of academic training. Malden Air Base continue training until 1960 when the Air Force decided to move to the jet powered T-37 as its primary trainer and moved the jet training to other bases.



No doubt, the T-34 was a crucial stepping stone in the training of our pilots during a significant time of transition to the jet age. Proving oneself in the T-34 Mentor was required before advancing to primary training in more complex aircraft, and eventually into jets. The T-34 was also used by the U.S. Navy in their training program and eventually a turbo powered version was developed for advanced training of Navy and Marine pilots. The new T-34A of the Wisconsin Wing adds an important chapter to our mission of telling the history of the dedicated men and women who built, trained and operated these aircraft. Without these great trainers and the people that taught our young pilots the skills to be successful in combat,

the results of the air battles they fought might have been a different story. Our Wing can be proud to represent this important component of our aviation history!



## Calendar – Upcoming Events

Date	Event, Time, Location
Sat., 4/17	Wing Meeting 10:30AM - In Hangar & Virtual
5/10 – 5/15	Milwaukee Armed Forces Week Possible fly-overs of 5/14 golf tournament and 5/15 Motorcycle ride
Sat., 5/15	Wing Meeting 10:30AM - In Hangar & Virtual
Sat., 5/15	TBM Reunion Peru, IL
Sat., 5/22	** Wing Open House **
5/27+	Vietnam Wall at Frame Park, Waukesha Noon TH May 27 through T 7AM June 1st. TH 6PM formation fly-over planned.
Sat., 6/19	Wing Meeting 10:30AM - In Hangar & Virtual
Sat., 7/17	Wing Meeting 10:30AM - In Hangar & Virtual
7/23 – 7/25	Tri-State Wing "Warbird Weekend" featuring the CAF B-29/B-24 CAF Airpower History Tour
7/26 – 8/1	EAA AirVenture!
7/26 – 8/1	AZ Airbase Flying Legends of Victory Tour B-25 at KUES
8/20 - 8/22	Wisconsin Military Show Eagle Village Park, Eagle, WI 7am to 5pm (2pm Sun) Flyovers planned.
Sat., 8/21	Wing Meeting 10:30AM - In Hangar & Virtual
Sat., 9/18	Wing Meeting 10:30AM - In Hangar & Virtual
Sat., 9/18	Oconto Fly-In 9AM – 4PM

## WI Wing Staff

Position	Person	Contact Info.
<b>Wing Leader:</b>	Gary Otto	262-875-1640 gary.arthur.otto@gmail.com
<b>Executive Officer:</b>	Paul Keppeler	262-443-0624 pbkepp@aol.com
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ryan Beard	847-858-7846 rcbeard1@gmail.com
<b>Maintenance Officer:</b>	Steve Sorge	414-852-8104 ssorge@wi.rr.com
<b>Operations Officer:</b>	Henning Henningsen	262-951-6472 henning.henningsen.wi@gmail.com
<b>Safety Officer &amp; Ground Crew Leader:</b>	Mike Ziarniak	414-380-9532 ziarniakm@gmail.com
<b>Public Information Officer:</b>	*** Open *** This could be you!	
<b>Development Officer:</b>	Bob Vajgrt	414-550-2770 dawnbob@wi.rr.com
<b>Education Officer:</b>	Jeanette Anderson	414-313-9513 jfa16daa@gmail.com
<b>Membership Officer:</b>	Tom McDermott	608-289-2424 mcfender@yahoo.com
<b>Adjutant Officer:</b>	A.G. Bharatkumar	262-366-3295 agbkumar@wi.rr.com
<b>Events Officer:</b>	Kathy Laabs	414-418-7222 t28gal@att.net
<b>Historian:</b>	*** Open *** This could be you!	
<b>Newsletter:</b>	Brad Ohde	262-309-8600 bohde@wi.rr.com
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<b>Fly-Over Coord.</b>	Vic Stottlemeyer	262-391-5110 stottlemey7@aol.com
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