



Commemorative Air Force Wisconsin Wing Newsletter

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Editor: Brad Ohde



August 2022, Issue #2208

From the Front Cockpit Col Gary Otto – Wing Leader



COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE Wisconsin Wing Newsletter

Wow! We just returned from another memorable AirVenture, where the CAF had a very strong presence at both the National level with their HQ tent in the warbirds area and Friday evening Beer and Pizza Party at Basler Turbo Conversions, and at the WI Wing level with our outstanding hospitality area in the Warbird Campground with the Tuesday evening special hospitality party in the big tent. Thank you to all the WI Wing members who worked on setting up the campsite and to those who welcomed visitors to the CAF. There was a whole lot of Educating, Inspiring and Honoring going on in Oshkosh during AirVenture. We touched many people's lives in many different ways!

We continue to participate in many WI aviation events, our membership is steadily growing, member activity and volunteerism is high, and we are having a great time carrying out our mission. Our mission reports let our members know what has been happening, and we have been sending special email blasts highlighting upcoming aviation events and opportunities for members to get involved. August has numerous aviation events and ways for CAF members to get involved. The Food Truck Friday's continue through Sept. 2nd, with lots of member volunteering and members/friends in attendance. There are 3 events on Aug. 20th, Blue Monday is on the 29th, and don't forget about Oconto on Sept. 17th.

I have to call out and thank Tom McDermott for his outstanding That's All Brother presentation at the July meeting. Not only did he educate us on the history of TAB, but he brought the project to life with photos and examples of how WI Wing members significantly impacted the on-time completion of the restoration project by volunteering so many hours of hard work. The story about TAB the mascot dog was most interesting and heartwarming. The August WI Wing meeting will focus on sharing AirVenture stories and photos, including a review of the member photos submitted to Steve Lark for posting on our special AirVenture 2022 WI Wing photo page. Check it out on www.cafwi.org.

We will have a **BIG** party sub sandwich for lunch following the August meeting!!!

May you continue to have a great and safe summer!!

Best to you all,

Gary Otto - Wing Leader

***** NOTICE *****

Beginning July 9th, WI Wing meetings will be on the 2nd Saturday of the month. The 3rd Saturday had too many conflicts throughout the year. Mark your calendars appropriately! Don't miss our meetings!!

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Wisconsin Wing News



WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION by Col Mike Woods

Well, many would say I am always on vacation, but that is not really true. What I did do for at least some of my summer vacation was to go to Aviation Heaven, commonly known as EAA AirVenture. The fun really started in January when Steve Lark reserved a camper for the two of us, and then with the help of Gary Otto, we were able to reserve a spot in Warbird Camping. We started the actual camping experience by going to the campgrounds a week early and helping to get the grounds organized and cleaned up some in preparation for the big show. We were also able to lay out a great spot for our camper, which was right next to our Wisconsin Wing CAF camper. Not only was it a great spot so we were able to do a lot of socializing with many of our members and friends, but it was also close to my volunteer work site, which was the Ford Tri-Motor. Since Gary has a lake house on Lake Winnebago, he planned many activities involving his boat and restaurants that we were able to get to from the water. We were also very lucky to have one of our great supporters of the Wing, Jim Fanning and his friend, Corey, spend several days with us. As a way of saying thank you to Jim and Corey, Gary was able to give both of them a great ride around Oshkosh and the lake in our SNJ. Steve Lark also helped a lot by picking Jim and Corey up at their hotel and getting them to and from the show a few times.



I have been volunteering at the Ford Tri-Motor area where we sell rides in the plane, which was one of the original planes purchased by Transcontinental Air Transport, or TAT, which later became TWA. The plane was used for coast to coast flying, but back then, the night portion of the trip was done in railroad sleeper cars and the other half in Ford Tri-Motors. Still, it was a mere 48 hours to travel from one coast to the other, which was two days faster than the fastest train. I really look forward every year to seeing many of the people that have been volunteering with the Ford, and meeting new people that start every year. One of the people who volunteered a few years ago was a young man who was attending The Ohio State in their aviation program. This year he came back as was putting in a shift as a co-pilot on the Ford. He told me he has now just been hired as first officer for United. I can't tell you how proud that made me feel that we helped to nurture him along on his aviation career. Another pilot was an attractive young lady from Germany and she was in Florida building her time in the US so she could go back to Germany and become an airline pilot. I thoroughly enjoy giving briefings and history of the planes since I get to meet so many different people. I am always amazed at how many come from all over the world to attend AirVenture. I was also lucky to get 5 hops in the right seat of the Tri-Motor.

No take offs or landings, but some decent air time and getting the feel of the Ford again in the air. Working with the Ford is a lot of work, but in reality, it is a lot more fun than work. I'm concerned that if EAA HQ looks too closely at the Tri-Motor operation, they are going to tell us we need to pay them since we have such a good time! From our Wing, besides me, we have Roberta Finkler, Dave Cook and Steve Lark all volunteering with the Ford group. If you want to join the fun next year, let me know and I will get you in touch with the right people. In case you are wondering, we did almost 1500 rides including three flights for Make a Wish and one flight where the couple got married on the plane.

Hope to see you all at AirVenture next year!





Wisconsin Wing News



➤ ELECTION 2022 UPDATE

It will soon be fall election time at the WI Wing, with **Wing Leader/Adjutant/Development/Finance/Maintenance Officer** positions all up for election. We also have a one year term for the Education Officer position to appoint. If you want to nominate someone (or even yourself) for any of these positions, please let someone on the wing staff know. We also need members to serve on the nomination committee and the election committee! These committees only function during the election process and while being very important roles to fill, involve less of a time commitment. Volunteering for a leadership role at the WI Wing is a great way to share your passion for our mission! Look for more details. Think about serving the WI Wing in one of the positions listed above!

*** Nominations will be closed at the November meeting and election held in December ***

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The Power of the Collective by Col Bob Vajgrt

By the title of this article, I am sure a few of you are thinking this is about Wally's helicopter. Sorry to disappoint, it is about the power of our Wisconsin Wing CAF family building relationships.

I have been your development officer for almost 4 years now and will be stepping down in January. I have always promoted relationships. Building relationships in the Wing among our members and building relationships with those in our communities. We build relationships in many ways. Prior to the technologies of today, we used to talk to people on the phone, write letters, send postcards etc. The advent of social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram has changed how we communicate and build relationships, even dating has gone virtual. These social media platforms provide opportunities for others to find out about our mission, how we execute our mission and how they can participate in advancing our mission.

In order to keep the Wisconsin Wing on the top of people's minds, we are stepping up our efforts to share content on our Facebook and Instagram pages. Here is where you all come in.

If you are currently on these social media platforms, please follow us and like our posts, you can even share the ones you like! When you are at an event that resonates with our Mission, please feel free to post something on your personal Facebook or Instagram accounts and include @CommemorativeAirForceWisconsinWing (Facebook) and CAF Wisconsin Wing (Instagram). If you have something to share and would rather provide that information to me, you can send it dawnbob@wi.rr.com and I can post it on our Wisconsin Wing Facebook page. Please allow a few days for it to be posted. I would like to thank Andy Jaskie for keeping our Facebook page alive for the past year or so.

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Maintenance Report – August 2022

by Col Steven Sorge – Maintenance Officer – WI Wing

- T-34** • Down for engine repairs.
- SNJ-5** • 100% Operational!
- PT-26** • Down for annual & engine repairs.





Wisconsin Wing News



It's very special when you can Educate, Inspire and Honor at the same time!!! *by Col Gary Otto*

Part one: AirVenture brings people together from around the world to experience aviation at its finest. In the warbird area, we often meet some very special people who share their experiences and memories of loved ones who flew these historic “time machines”. I had the opportunity to fly our SNJ with John Hay, of Oshkosh, whose father flew P-47’s in France towards the end of the war. The photo shown here has John’s father, Bill Hay, standing in front of his P-47. John still has his father’s flying cap shown here, and had it with him during our flight. John wrote to me following the flight; “Thank you again for allowing me to experience what my father did during his training. He was on his 80th mission when he was shot down and he never really talked a lot about his time in the European theater. You gave me an experience I will never forget.” It was obvious that this was an emotional moment for John and I was so honored to be able to fulfill his wish to experience warbird flight.



Part two: Flying with young aviation enthusiasts is one of my top flying priorities, and the EAA Young Eagle program is a great way to carry out that mission. Couple that with the CAF mission to Educate, Inspire and Honor, and you have the makings of a wonderful and memorable experience for both the pilot and the young person. While in Oshkosh on August 6th to do an Old Glory Honor Flight program sponsor event fly over, I met a very impressive 15 year old young man named Keaton Walker. Keaton is on the honor role at his Oregon, WI high school, just made Varsity defensive tackle as a sophomore, and has a very supporting and loving family. He already has a lot going for himself, but I wanted to introduce Keaton to the world of aviation, so I invited him to fly backseat in the SNJ for the 2nd event fly over honoring all the military branches. This was Keaton’s first small airplane flight and a North American 600HP Texan can be a bit intimidating for even a seasoned flyer, but he quickly overcame his initial fears, settled into the cockpit, and by the end of the flight he was asking for more! How many Young Eagles get their first flight in a warbird, and also get to honor our military veterans with a fly over! I am very proud of Keaton as a new Young Eagle, and I hope that he will include aviation on his list of dreams to pursue in life. I also gave Keaton a CAF Rise Above dog tag that reminds our young friends to live by these six guiding principles: Aim high, Believe in yourself, Use your brain, Be ready to go, Never quit, and Expect to win. Sounds like good advice to me!



OGAF Director Diane McDonald after the 1st event flyover.

Nearly 1000 boats gathered to support Old Glory Honor Flights!!



Wisconsin Wing News



Photo's.....



Ground and Air support ready for action at AirVenture!



CAF WI Wing Hospitality Area



Col Greg Theiss getting the VIP treatment at AirVenture



New Zealand visitors Trevor and Alice Dance enjoying some CAF hospitality!



Our new CAF home in the warbird campgrounds. Much bigger offering lots of hospitality!!



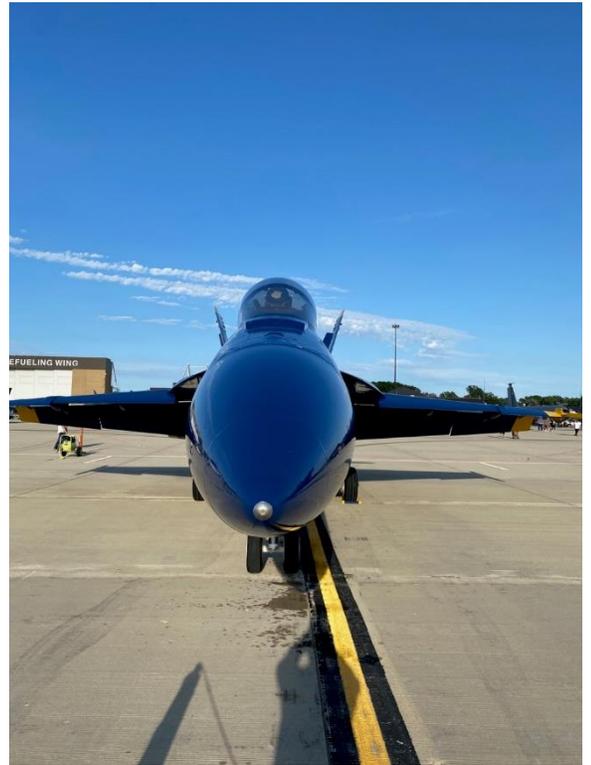
Wisconsin Wing News



Photo's.....



Gary Otto and Dave Cook were invited to the Blue Angels reception at the 128th for the Milwaukee Air and Water Show.





Wisconsin Wing News



Photo's.....



WI Wing supporting the CAF Air Power tour in Kenosha prior to AirVenture. Dennis Flancher and the PX crew also attended Friday and Saturday with good results!



Dennis Flancher "birdwatching" while setting up camp





Wisconsin Wing News



Candy Parr SNJ-5 First Warbird flight at EAA 2022



Friends Candy Parr & Kathy Laabs



One of the many beautiful sunsets over the Warbird Campground

Thank you very much, Gary!

*Educate, Inspire & Honor!
That's the best way to recruit and inspire a Wisconsin Wing Education Officer- take them on their first warbird flight and then on top of it at EAA! Well done!*

*VERY HAPPY Aviation enthusiast!
Live your best life!*

All the best, Candy

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BLUE MONDAY!!! August 29th - Don't miss this!!!
5:30 start at the CAF Hangar BYO beverage

For all members (new and old), family and guests!
Come for an enjoyable evening at the airport.
Wing Aircraft on Static Display too. Be there!!!

PT Pilots Wanted!!!

We need new PT pilot sponsors to share in our mission to Educate, Inspire and Honor. Flying our historic "time machine" PT-26 is a real joy and honor. If you are, or if you know of someone who might be, excited about the CAF Mission and flying a piece of history, contact our operations officer, Mike Woods. CAF makes warbird flying accessible and affordable for the average pilot. Find out what it takes to fly in the Commemorative Air Force!



Wisconsin Wing News

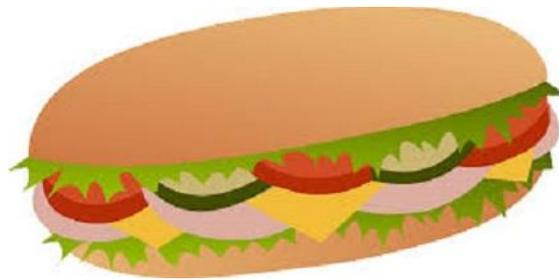


WI Wing Membership Meeting

You are invited to the CAF WI Wing on Sat., Aug. 13th, 2022
 10:30 AM Central Time → CAF hangar / Gate 1 at the Waukesha Airport

Program: AirVenture stories and photo sharing,
 including a review of member photos.

Party sub lunch to follow!!!!!!



New Members!!!

2022		
Donn Droegkamp (Pewaukee) *** Gold Lifetime Member ***	Al Pavik (TX-Coyote Squadron Member)	Eric Ruediger (Racine)
Jackson LaManna (Mequon) *** Cadet ***	Laura Stants (Indiana Wing)	John Reed
Scott Slay	Mitch Saltzberg	Candy Parr
George Bacik	Jeff Karsten	Cadet Francis Anderer (Noel Skerven's Nephew!)
Joe Van Wie	Glenn Leidel	

2021		
John Schroeder	Matt Phillips	Gary Kozlowski
Paul McAllister	Tom Leunig	Herb Coussons
Chuck Christburg	Scott Meisenheimer	Tim Tyre
Steven Mueller	Jeff Otto	John Leidel
John Hartmann	Matt Phillips	Mike Pastore
Enzo Aita	Tracy Hunter	Ed Pleva
Michael Moynihan	Tonie Michaels	Karl Beckle
Noel Skerven	Chris Reeves	Austin Kornov
Bernie DeKok		



Wisconsin Wing News



PREFLIGHT
FOUNDATION

Waukesha Airport

WE PLAY TOGETHER

DERBER

Please support our effort and DONATE.
THANK YOU!

Non-Profit 501(c)3 Status

How about a Waukesha Airport Playground!! A Place to Play, Learn and Inspire!!

The Preflight Foundation www.preflightfoundation.com is a non-profit 501(c)3 that is seeking donors and supporters to be able to construct an aviation themed playground that will help inspire the next generation to pursue their dreams! You can also search for @PreFlightFoundation on Facebook to Like/Comment/Share and DONATE!!! This fits right in with the CAF mission to Inspire!!!

Email contact:
PreFlightFoundation@outlook.com

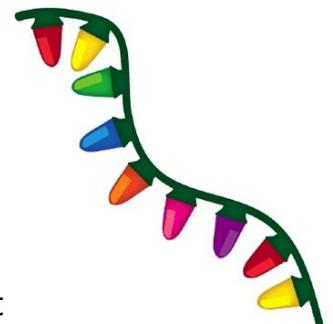
CAF Contact:
gary.arthur.otto@gmail.com
262-875-1640



Annual Holiday Party!!!

Friday Dec. 2nd, 2022 → Delafield
Brewhaus

More details to follow. If you want to help with the event, contact Kathy Laabs.





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Oconto is looking for more warbirds to attend the September 17th fly-in. Fuel provided for warbirds attending!!!

OCONTO *Elks* FLY-IN 2022
Car & Tractor Show 14th Annual
 Sat. Sept. 17th - 9AM - 4PM
 OCONTO MUNICIPAL AIRPORT KOCQ

Don't Miss It!

FLY-OVERS ALL DAY!
 PLANES! CARS! TRACTORS!
 HELICOPTER RIDES \$50
 PLANE RIDES \$100+
 RC AEROBATICS! VENDOR SALE! FOOD!
 ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS!

Admission \$ 5 Kids 12 & Under FREE!

CAR SHOW
 TROPHIES AWARDED!
 DASH PLAQUES!

Something For Everyone!
 2983 Airport Road, Oconto
 INFO - 920-373-6948 or 920-834-3154

WAUKESHA COUNTY AIRPORT CRITES FIELD

FOOD TRUCK FRIDAYS
 11AM-1:30PM

~~JUNE 3~~
~~DENSON'S CATERING~~
~~SANDWICH SISTERS~~

~~JUNE 10~~
~~SCRIMA'S CATERING~~
~~MR. P'S GRILLED CHEESE~~

~~JUNE 17~~
~~A & A CAFE~~
~~TRUCK MEISTER GOURMET BURGERS~~

~~JUNE 24~~
~~TROUBLE MAKER'S COCINA~~
~~MARCO POLLO~~

~~JULY 8~~
~~ROSE MOB GRILL~~
~~DOUBLE B'S BBQ~~

~~JULY 15~~
~~LOLA'S EMPANADAS~~
~~SCRIMA'S CATERING~~

~~JULY 22~~
~~TRUCK MEISTER GOURMET BURGERS~~
~~SANDWICH SISTERS~~

~~JULY 29~~
~~ROSE MOB GRILL~~
~~MR. P'S GRILLED CHEESE~~

~~AUGUST 5~~
~~DOUBLE B'S BBQ~~
~~MARCO POLLO~~

~~AUGUST 12~~
~~A & A CAFE~~
~~DENSON'S CATERING~~

~~AUGUST 19~~
~~OXTAIL NOODLE HOUSE~~
~~LOLA'S EMPANADAS~~

~~AUGUST 26~~
~~DENSON'S CATERING~~
~~MR. P'S GRILLED CHEESE~~

SEPTEMBER 2
 OXTAIL NOODLE HOUSE
 DOUBLE B'S BBQ

SCAN ME

CAF is the sponsor for Sept. 2nd !!!
 Volunteers needed for setup & teardown.

Calendar – Upcoming Events

Please go to cafwi.org for more details on all the Commemorative Air Force Wisconsin 2022 Wing activities.

Notes: CAF WI Wing activity always subject to weather and aircraft availability

- WI Wing Staff meetings are always 10 days prior to each wing meeting and open to all members to attend.
- Waukesha Airport Food Truck Fridays Run June 3rd thru September 2nd, with WI Wing PX attending and Aircraft support.

Date	Event Name	Location	Time	PX Booth	PT-26	T-34A	SNJ-5
August 13	Wing Meeting	Waukesha A/P CAF Gate1	10:30am - noon				
August 18-19-20	RC Warbirds and Classics Over the Midwest	Welnuts RC Field SE of Fond du Lac	TBD	x			x
August 18-19-20	SE WI Military Show	Eagle, WI City Park	9am – 5pm Fri-Sat 9am - 2pm Sun	x			x
August 19	Food Truck Friday CAF Rides Event	Waukesha Airport Terminal	11am – 4pm??	x			x*
August 20	Shawano Fly-In	Shawano	All day/rain 8-21	X?			x
August 26-27	Cedarburg Flyovers	Cedarburg					
September 2	CAF Sponsors Food Tr Fri	Waukesha County Airport	11:30am 1:30pm	x			x
September 3	EAA Chapter 1365 Fly-in	Mauston/New Lisbon Union Airport	TBD	x			x
September 10	Honor Flight Escort	KMKE Mitchell Airport	6:00am				x
September 10	Wing Meeting	Waukesha Airport CAF Hangar Gate 1	10:30 - 11:45am				
Sept (go16?) 17	Oconto Fly-In	Oconto Airport	9:00am – 4:00pm	x			x*
October 8	Honor Flight Escort	KMKE Mitchell Airport	6:00am				x
October 8	Wing Meeting	Waukesha Airport CAF Hangar Gate 1	10:30 - 11:45 am				
October 7-8	Corsicana Airshow	Corsicana, TX Coyote Sqdn	Sat. 10-8 all day				
November 5	Honor Flight Escort	KMKE Mitchell Airport	6:00am				x?
November 5	Veterans Day Parade	Fly Overs	11am???				
November 12	Wing Meeting Election nominations	Waukesha Airport CAF Hangar Gate 1	10:30-11:30am				
November 25	Trip to EAA Museum	Oshkosh, WI	9:00am				
December 2	WI WING Holiday Party	Brewhaus	Details to follow				
December 10	Wing Business Meeting Election for 2023-4 terms	Waukesha Airport CAF Hangar Gate 1	10:30-11:30am				
TBA	N103JC return to flight	Tulsa OK Wing	TBA				



<https://www.eaa.org/airventure>

WI Wing Staff

Position	Person	Contact Info.
Wing Leader:	Gary Otto	262-875-1640 gary.arthur.otto@gmail.com
Executive Officer:	Tom McDermott	608-289-2424 mcfender@yahoo.com
Finance Officer:	Ryan Beard	847-858-7846 rcbeard1@gmail.com
Maintenance Officer:	Steve Sorge	414-852-8104 ssorge@wi.rr.com
Operations Officer:	Mike Woods	262-781-0487 mikewoods@gmail.com
Safety Officer:	Scott Twesme	920-650-6101 srtzen@gmail.com
Ground Crew Leader:	Mike Ziarniak	414-380-9532 ziarniakm@gmail.com
Public Information Officer:	Bob Vajgrt	414-550-2770 dawnbob@wi.rr.com
Development Officer:	Bob Vajgrt	414-550-2770 dawnbob@wi.rr.com
Education Officer:	*** Open *** This could be you!	
Membership Officer:	Michael Guslick	262-203-6049 haveblue@haveblue.org
Adjutant Officer:	A.G. Bharatkumar	262-366-3295 agbkumar@wi.rr.com
Events Officer:	Kathy Laabs	414-418-7222 t28gal@att.net
Historian:	*** Open *** This could be you!	
Newsletter:	Brad Ohde	262-309-8600 brad.ohde@outlook.com
PX Leader:	Ed Pleva	262-844-0965 ed.pleva@gmail.com
PX Volunteer Coord.:	Dennis Flancher	414-534-0160 dennislf@att.net
Fly-Over Coord.	Vic Stottlemeyer	262-391-5110 stottlemey7@aol.com
Wisconsin Wing mailing address:		
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