



Commemorative Air Force Wisconsin Wing Newsletter

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Editor: Brad Ohde

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From the Front Cockpit Col Gary Otto – Wing Leader



COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE
Wisconsin Wing Newsletter

A Merry Christmas and the best of the Holiday Season to all CAF WI Wing members, our families and our friends of the wing. I am sure it is a busy time of the year for all of you, and it is also for your WI Wing volunteers. December brings our Holiday Party, wing staff meeting, wing meeting with election, 12 Planes of Christmas participation for our PT-26, CAF YouTube PT-26 Webinar, T-34 annual inspection, moving the SNJ into a new hangar home, on-going PT annual, new members, getting this newsletter out, and year end reports! I most likely missed a few other activities too! Lots to do and I am so thankful that we have wonderful volunteers to get all of this completed. It takes a lot of dedicated volunteer effort to keep our CAF Wing alive and moving forward.

I sent a note of thanks last month to each of our volunteers that have contributed to the growth and success of this past year, but if I missed anyone, or overlooked anyone's efforts to help the WI Wing carry out our mission to educate, inspire and honor, I truly regret the omission. Several special recognitions for outstanding volunteer achievement in 2021 will be presented at the Wing's holiday party on the 17th. I hope to see many of you at the party!

We will be starting out the new year with several new wing staff officers, some carry-over of issues from the previous year, as well as a new set of challenges and opportunities to make 2022 an even better year for the WI Wing. If you are not part of our volunteer forces that make things happen here at the wing, consider getting involved in 2022 and making a difference!

The very best to you all,
Gary Otto
Wing Leader



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Wisconsin Wing News



WI Wing Membership Meeting

Sat. Dec. 18th, 2021 10:30AM
CAF/PT hangar Gate 1 Waukesha Airport

This month's special guest speaker is our own Steve Sorge, sharing the story of his TBM!
The Election Committee will be conducting the 2021 election for 4 new officer positions too!

Note: www.supportcaf.org also takes you directly to the complete listing of 12 planes of Christmas aircraft.

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PX

CORNER

Looking for a last minute gift idea for a CAF member or family member?

The WI Wing PX is still stocked with great CAF WI Wing polo shirts, sweatshirts, T-shirts and much more.

Just call Dennis Flancher (414-534-0160) and set up a meeting at the hangar, or just ask about it at the Dec 18th meeting!



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Thank YOU!

Special Thanks.....

Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Dennis Flancher and his team of volunteers, our PX has been to 21 events, including 14 Food Truck Friday's and 7 fly-in/airshows. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsor-pilots, our historic WI Wing aircraft have accompanied the PX to most of these events. Thanks to Vic Stottlemeyer and his team of very skilled and generous pilots, they have performed formation flights over nearly 20 memorials, parades and airshows. You may not directly be a part of any or all of this volunteerism, but just being a supporter of the CAF and the WI Wing makes you part of our mission to Educate, Inspire and Honor.



Wisconsin Wing News



Wing Directory Updates

If you have a new address, email or phone number, please advise our [Adjutant](#) so he can update the WI WIng Directory. The directory is maintained in the members only section of the www.cafwi.org website and is helpful for members trying to contact other members.

Please advise soon so the year end update is accurate.

If you would not like specific contact information to be listed in the directory, please advise also, so we can comply with your wishes.

A.G Bharatkumar → 262-366-3295, agbkumar@wi.rr.com
Adjutant

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SNJ Moves to New Hangar by Gary Otto SNJ Sponsor Pilot

Our SNJ has moved to the hangar right across from the PT-26 CAF hangar! This new, closer location will be ideal for events held at the hangar and for quick access during or after meetings.

Ask a SNJ sponsor pilot for a tour of the new hangar space!



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**Welcome
New Members!!!**

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



2021 WI Wing Rides Program Summary *by Col Mike Ziarniak*

The 2021 rides season has wrapped up and the statistics regarding the number of rides days offered (8), number of rides actually given (29), and the long list of volunteers involved are spectacular!

It takes a team effort to make the rides program a success and this team has worked well together for some excellent results. Here are the 2021 numbers:

Date	Location	# of PT-26 Rides	# of SNJ Rides
5/8/21	Waukesha	4	6
(this was originally to be 4/17, then rescheduled to 5/1, then to 5/8)			
5/22/21	Waukesha Open House	4	0
6/27/21	Waukesha	1	1
7/10/21	Waukesha	1	2
7/31/21	Waukesha	2	0
9/18/21	Oconto	0	6
9/29/21	Waukesha	0	1
10/31/21	Waukesha	0	1
Totals		12	17

Despite there being a few rescheduled rides due to Wx and aircraft availability, the rides season was pretty much executed as planned. One ride that was scheduled in the SNJ was twice rescheduled and was nearly scratched again at the last minute due to a mechanical issue. As fate prevailed, Vic Stottlemeyer happened to stop by and offered to fulfill the ride in his Harvard and also provided a tour of his hangar. Way to go Vic! We are planning our first 2022 Rides Day on April 23rd and again on June 4th several SNJ and PT Rides already booked.

A big thank you goes to our active ground crew members whose volunteering made this all possible.

<i>Kathy Laabs</i>	<i>Angela Koehler</i>	<i>John Schroeder</i>
<i>Bob Lawn</i>	<i>Tracy Hunter</i>	<i>Ryan Beard</i>
<i>Bob Vajgrt</i>	<i>Michael Guslick</i>	
<i>Sune Ericson</i>	<i>George Crawford</i>	

Many thanks also go to our rides pilots, Mike Woods, Paul Holdredge and Steve Sorge. They volunteer many hours for the success of the rides program.

The financial side of the rides program will be highlighted in January by our finance officer, Ryan Beard.

Regards,

Colonel Mike Ziarniak
 Safety Officer & Ground Crew Lead
 CAF WI. Wing
 414-380-9532 mobile



Wisconsin Wing News



2021 WI Wing Rides Program Summary *(cont'd from previous page)*

How we carry out our Mission here in Wisconsin!

LIVING HISTORY FLIGHT EXPERIENCE
SEE, FEEL, HEAR AND EXPERIENCE THE PAST

The Commemorative Air Force Wisconsin Wing is proud to offer you the opportunity to experience flying in one of our authentic WWII aircraft. Come experience the sensation of a bygone era from the cockpit of our North American SNP-5 or Fairchild PT-26. By booking a flight, you're not only getting to experience flying in an authentic WWII aircraft, you're also helping to preserve them! All proceeds go toward maintaining the aircraft.

www.cafwi.org

Ride the Wings of Time back to 1943!!

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www.cafwi.org



Highlights from Waukegan Northern IL Airshow *courtesy of Col Henning Henningsen*





Wisconsin Wing News



Maintenance Report – December 2021

by Col Steven Sorge – Maintenance Officer – WI Wing

T-34

- Altimeter reporting / reading discrepancy (700ft). Repaired by Skycom.
- Off Line for annual – began 14December – completion by year end. Squawk list has been sent to Plane Safe. Expect to have high flow Dukes Aux fuel pump and dual battery conversion kit installed at the same time



PT-26

- Down for annual / winter hibernation
- Mechanic has begun annual. Critical Items:
 - ✓ 2 cylinders will need overhaul. A shop has been located that will do work.
 - ✓ Tail wheel drag link has crack – need to source serviceable unit or fabricate new one. Part Number is 61301, unable to locate drawings at Air Corps site. **HELP NEEDED:** Anyone having access to this drawing or serviceable part let me know.
 - ✓ Tail wheel bushings worn @ lower oleo – need to source or fabricate new ones
- In parallel, SKYCOM will be evaluating recent issues we had with the Radio / Intercom installation. Gary Otto removed same and delivered to Skycom. THANK YOU GARY

SNJ-5

- Annual inspection completed.
- Aircraft On-Line

Overall 2021 aircraft uptime score

T-34 92%
 SNJ-5 98%
 PT-26 ~42% (Winter hibernation / Mx related challenges)

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CAF WI Wing Holiday Party!!!



This Friday, Dec. 17th at the
 Delafield Brew Haus.



Wisconsin Wing News



CAF 12 Planes of Christmas

by Col Bob Vajgrt

Did you know that our Wing’s Cornell PT-26 has been selected to be one of the CAF’s “12 Planes of Christmas” campaign? Congratulations! The “12 Planes of Christmas” is a holiday giving campaign that enables people to support the restoration and operation of Commemorative Air Force aircraft.

In the December issue of “Dispatch” magazine our very special PT-26 is highlighted. The article outlines the history of our plane and the needs that we are seeking donations. The Wing has set a goal of \$10,000 to help offset costs of radios, intercom, and landing gear upgrades. Contribution will help keep this unique and gentle trainer, accessible to the community and inspire a love for aviation, honor our veterans, and educate about a special part of military history.



If you choose to donate during the holiday season, please check with your employer to see if they have a matching donation program. This may be a great way to increase your donation amount with a matching fund. A Wisconsin Wing member has also stepped forward and will match the first \$500 of donations, which means that when we reach the \$500 dollar mark that member will double our money. A special thank you to that member for generously supporting the Wing and the “12 Planes of Christmas” effort. If you are interested in supporting a matching fund program, please reach out to me.

The “12 Planes of Christmas” is a great opportunity for you to share your enthusiasm for the Commemorative Air Force, our Mission, and our aircraft with your network of family, friends, and

co-workers by sharing links that will enable others to learn about the CAF, our PT-26 and reach a donation page.

I would like to thank the following who have been involved in the “12 Planes of Christmas” campaign planning thus far and will be integral in moving this effort forward: Gary Otto, Paul Holdredge, Tom McDermott, Steve Lark, Ryan Beard, Henning Henningsen, Mike Woods, AG, Scott Twesme, Andrew Jaskie, Joe Lofy, Brad Ohde.

Thank you, our members, for your support in helping to continue to Educate those who experience this aircraft, Honor those who built, flew, and maintained them and Inspire future generations.

[Link to the 12 planes giving page for our PT:](#)

https://fundrazr.com/91uD2d?ref=ab_19k2R5

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Tri-State Wing Going On Hold by Col Gary Otto

The Janesville based CAF Tri-State Wing has decided to go on “hold” for the 2022 flying season. This means that the Warbird Weekend event for July will not be offered by the wing. The leadership cited numerous significant challenges and obstacles causing them to make this decision, but their plan is to come back stronger and better in 2023. If you are a TriState member, you are encouraged to stick with them through the shutdown, and I invite all Tri-State members to join the WI Wing and stay active carrying out the CAF mission here in Wisconsin.

Calendar – Upcoming Events

Date	Event, Time, Location
Fri., 12/17	CAF WI Wing Holiday Party Delafield Brew Haus
Sat., 12/18	CAF WI Wing Meeting & Elections 10:30AM, CAF Hangar
Wed., 1/5	Wing Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Sat., 1/15	CAF WI Wing Meeting 10:30AM, CAF Hangar
Thr., 2/10	Wing Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Sat., 2/19	CAF WI Wing Meeting 10:30AM, CAF Hangar
	*** Updates coming soon !!! ***

WI Wing Staff

Position	Person	Contact Info.
Wing Leader:	Gary Otto	262-875-1640 gary.arthur.otto@gmail.com
Executive Officer:	Paul Keppeler	262-443-0624 pbkepp@aol.com
Finance Officer:	Ryan Beard	847-858-7846 rcbeard1@gmail.com
Maintenance Officer:	Steve Sorge	414-852-8104 ssorge@wi.rr.com
Operations Officer:	Henning Henningsen	262-951-6472 henning.henningsen.wi@gmail.com
Safety Officer & Ground Crew Leader:	Mike Ziarniak	414-380-9532 ziarniakm@gmail.com
Public Information Officer:	*** Open *** This could be you!	
Development Officer:	Bob Vajgrt	414-550-2770 dawnbob@wi.rr.com
Education Officer:	Jeanette Anderson	414-313-9513 jfa16daa@gmail.com
Membership Officer:	Tom McDermott	608-289-2424 mcfender@yahoo.com
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
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PX Volunteer Coord.:	Dennis Flancher	414-534-0160 dennislf@att.net
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