



# Commemorative Air Force Wisconsin Wing Newsletter

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Editor: Brad Ohde

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### From the Front Seat

Col Gary Otto – Wing Leader



COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE  
**Wisconsin Wing Newsletter**

Why did you join the CAF? This is a loaded question, as there are many reasons members join our organization, and the answer can be simple or complex. For me, I was invited to join in 2008 by Col Bill Paul when he was overseeing the reorganization of the WI Wing with the sale of the PV2 bomber project and acquisition of a flying warbird. I was flying my friend's SNJ-4 in Missouri at the time and this sounded like a great way to fly a warbird closer to home.

Little did I know that besides getting to fly a beautiful PT-26, I was also going to meet such a warm and welcoming group of people at the WI Wing, and get involved in so much more than just flying a warbird.

The WI Wing has offered me many ways to enjoy flying warbirds, sharing the experience with so many interesting people, and carrying out the mission that we now clearly define as Educate, Inspire, and Honor. The CAF has given me the opportunity to experience all 3 of these very rewarding mission goals. Our planes are not the mission at the CAF, but are historic and priceless time machines that allow us to go back to those days of WWII and relive the challenges that those brave men and women faced at such a very young age. The warbirds are our means of providing the education of the young and old, inspiring young Americans to be proud of their heritage while reaching for high goals, and honoring the men and women of military aviation. If you have not experienced the emotional affects our aircraft have on so many people, you need to get involved in the mission of the CAF. Once you have seen and felt the results of carrying out our mission, I can assure you that you will want to keep on doing it, however you can. Flying the planes, directing them on the ground, caring for them, volunteering at the PX, educating, serving as a wing officer, or whatever you choose to do, get involved and share your passion for these airplanes and what they mean to you and so many like-minded folks.

I wanted this first edition of the 2021 newsletters to emphasize our mission and how it affects the lives of so many people. Through our mission reports, and photos, I hope that some of this comes through to you. Next month, I want to focus on our airplanes, what it costs to keep them flying, where the money comes from, and what you can do to help keep them flying. In March, we will highlight all the ways you can volunteer and get involved in the CAF mission. Hopefully we will start to break out of this pandemic by then so we can get back to the Wing's many social and exhibition activities that I believe are the core fabric of our Wing and what keeps us together as a group.

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## From the Front Seat

### Col Gary Otto – Wing Leader



#### **From the Front Seat**

*(cont'd from previous page)*

As your wing leader for the next 2 years, I have committed my time and efforts to making the WI Wing the best that it can be. We have an outstanding group of volunteers on our wing staff that are committed to this too. We also have so many interesting, friendly and knowledgeable folks that I believe share this commitment. I am asking for your commitment to volunteer and support the CAF Mission going forward. I know you will find it very rewarding and satisfying, not to mention the adventure you will have along the way. Think about the reason you joined the CAF.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?** by Col Tom McDermott

Our Wisconsin Wing has GREAT aircraft, GREAT MEMBERS and now we discover we have a football GREAT among us! We've had the pleasure of the skills and generosity of Vic Stottlemeyer for many years. He has welcomed members and guests into his hangar and flown countless "missions" for the Wing.

You might have even noticed his college ring that reads "OHIO" on the dark red stone, but have you looked closely at the lettering that surrounds the stone? It reads:  
NATIONAL CHAMPIONS 1968



Paul Keppeler related this fact during a Saturday Zoom breakfast and Vic later shared his memories of the game. Vic was a member of the 1968 Ohio State football team which touted a perfect, undefeated record. Led by the famous Woody Hayes, the Buckeyes finished their regular season 9–0 and earned a trip to the Rose Bowl. On January 1, 1969 they faced USC in a close contest. The Trojans committed 5 turnovers, with the last being a fumble recovery made by our own Vic! It wound up being the play that sealed the victory and National Championship for Ohio State. Who was the USC player that fumbled the ball? O.J. Simpson!

So as we prepare to watch OHIO STATE in the national championship game Monday night, keep Vic in your thoughts, (hold your nose) and cheer for the Buckeyes. Next time you see Vic, ask him to show you his ring. It has a glow that has lasted a lifetime.

#### **Happy New Year fellow Colonels!**

Paul Keppeler , Executive Officer

*As of this writing, the WI Wing is coordinating the last few maintenance and restoration issues on our recently arrived Beechcraft T-34 "Mentor" trainer in order to put it into flying service. It's been a long road getting the airplane here but it has been a great team effort with several WI Wing members contributing their time, talent and resources to achieve this goal so many thanks to all of you who have pitched in to bring this project to the finish line. This teamwork and volunteerism is one of the hallmarks of our WI Wing community and as we look ahead to a hopefully more normal year of flying, social events, community engagement, fly-ins and air shows, your Wing staff will be brainstorming ideas to provide every member avenues to plug in, volunteer and be involved in ways that are both fun and rewarding. We recognize with the hardships created due to the pandemic, that many feel cut off and isolated and community is more important than ever. We are mindful of this and are committed to focusing on growing community and fellowship within the WI Wing and reaching back out to our local community as the public health situation allows us to do so safely. We look forward to seeing you all in the coming months, catching up and getting back to normal. Watch for updates from the Wing Officers on plans for the new year. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy!*



## Wisconsin Wing News



### Looking Back and Looking Ahead

These past 2 years have been a difficult challenge to the WI Wing staff and our members. 2019 had all of our wing aircraft in the shop for most of the year. We did have the PT for Gathering of Warbirds, but shortly after, it was down for 14 months, through mid 2020. The SNJ engine was in for overhaul. Then the pandemic shut down almost every aviation event in 2020.

In Stan Babicz Dec. 30 letter to the wing, he enumerated the many accomplishments here at the WI wing during the past 2 years, and the list was very impressive and a strong confirmation of the hard work our staff and members did to keep things moving forward despite the challenges. We all should be thankful for all the volunteerism that made all this happen. There were three (3) more very notable accomplishments that should be highlighted for all our members!

- Stan Babicz and Wally Garlock took on the monumental challenge to get our 36 year old manual bookkeeping system converted over to the CAF HQ QuickBooks standard reporting system and format. This was a very time consuming and probably frustrating process that has been avoided for many years. A big thank you to Stan and Wally for successfully transitioning the WI Wing to the 21st century of financial reporting!
- For 36 years, the WI Wing was operating without any local standards or regulations for how to conduct our business and actions. Of course we were guided by the CAF Unit manual, but the WI Wing staff took on the task of developing a WI Wing Unit Manual to record and organize the procedures and processes that affect how we operate here at the WI Wing. Thank you to the 2019-20 staff for their time and effort to create this long overdue manual. It is a work in progress and will be used to guide future WI Wing officers as they work for the good of the Wing.
- The PX Van was "put out to pasture" in 2019 and we needed a replacement. The PX team determined that a PX trailer would be the best long term solution for our PX transportation needs. A fund raising effort allowed us to buy a new enclosed trailer, and our marketing folks created artwork for the trailer that promotes our mission to Educate, Inspire and Honor. Thank you to the donors, the staff, and all the volunteers that made this happen. (See an update article on the PX trailer in this newsletter issue.)

The 2021 WI Wing staff is faced with trying to recover from an unprecedented pandemic with restrictions on public gatherings and cancellation of events that were the lifeblood of the CAF WI Wing for many years. Many Wing members were hit with the virus, and we lost a fellow aviator on our airport to the virus just weeks ago. As we look ahead into 2021, we need to take the best of what we did in the past, what we learned during the past year, and move the WI Wing into a new phase of growth and sustained ability to carry out our mission to Educate, Inspire and Honor. This will take a united effort from all our current members, a campaign to regain the members who drifted away these past couple of years and recruit new ones, plus a recommitment to carrying out our mission here in Wisconsin. I will work hard to make this happen and I ask you to please join me in that effort.

Gary Otto  
Wing Leader 2021-2

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### Greetings from Wisconsin Wing member Alex Ohde!

Alex continues to serve aboard the USS Key West (SSN 722), a Los Angeles class fast attack sub homeported in Guam. Having recently earned the rank of Petty Officer – 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, he was able to make a quick trip home prior to Thanksgiving. Alex sends a warm "hello!" to his friends at the CAF and looks forward to seeing everyone soon!





## Wisconsin Wing News



### **TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP! (or simply JOIN the CAF for some)**

WI Wing membership remains at \$50/year and covers Jan-Dec. Please renew your Wing membership ASAP and stay active with the CAF in Wisconsin. There is a wing membership form that can be downloaded from our [www.cafwi.org](http://www.cafwi.org) website and be used as a renewal form, or just mail \$50 to our PO Box. Please also indicate your areas of interest for volunteering. There are many ways to help the Wing carry out its mission.

Your membership with the National CAF group in Dallas, TX is required to be a WI Wing member. National membership is renewed on the anniversary of the month you joined the CAF. HQ sends out renewal notices, but many members miss them and let their national membership lapse. Please make sure that your national membership is up to date. If it's not, or you want to join (rejoin) the CAF, go to <https://commemorativeairforce.org/pages/CAF%20membership> and follow the prompts for new members and renewals. It is quick and easy to do. National membership is \$200/year. Less for active military and cadets/youth. 2021 is going to be a very exciting and adventurous year to be involved with the CAF! Don't miss out!!

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### **Mission Reports**

#### **MISSION OVER TITLETOWN – WISCONSIN WING FLYOVER OF LAMBEAU FIELD**

Col David Cook

One of the rare flying activities of our Wing in 2020 was to attend a fly-in in northeast Wisconsin in Oconto. Having taken precautions to provide social distancing, the folks that put on this annual event decided to go forward with their plans and held the combination fly-in and car show. They invited the Wisconsin Wing to attend, offering fuel for our aircraft. After being shut out by the pandemic for most of the year, this seemed like a great opportunity for us to participate. Our SNJ and PT both flew up for the event and Col Steve Sorge served as our Rides pilot that day.



So, what does this all have to do with a flyover of Lambeau Field? It just so happens that the route to Oconto takes us over Green Bay. As a life long Packers fan, I had to ask pilot Gary Otto if it was possible for us to fly the SNJ over the hallowed ground of Lambeau Field on the way up. A quick call to the Green Bay tower provided us the clearance we needed to pass over stadium. With the pandemic going strong the NFL was restricting attendance at the games so the traditional military flyovers have not taken place over Green Bay this year. Time for the Wisconsin Wing to provide the honors (even though we were a day before the game)!

As you can see by the photo, the sky that usually has afterburners roaring as fighter jets scream over the most famous football stadium in the land, was now filled with the roar of the radial engine from our mighty SNJ-5. We might not have thrilled thousands of fans before the game but we certainly must have aroused the curiosity of the ground crew working on the field and the onlookers in the parking lot! Who knows, maybe we'll get invited back someday to do the honors before an actual game. GO PACK GO!



## Wisconsin Wing News



### Mission Reports

*(cont'd from previous page)*

### SUNSET ON 2020!

Col David Cook

I'm writing this in the closing weeks of 2020 and I admit that I will be happy to move on to 2021. This was a challenging year for all of us. For the Wisconsin Wing with members that thrive at going to airshows and being around airplanes, the pandemic severely crimped our style this year. Personally, Sue and I are considered high risk for the Covid-19 virus so we have been hunkered down and trying to stay healthy. That has made attending any meetings and events this year very challenging. I'm looking forward to 2021 being a better year! I miss being with you all.



One of the nice things about the last months of this year in Wisconsin has been the amazing sunsets that we've had. I've experienced them from our boat and sitting around the campfire at our cottage. But the best view came from the flight deck of our SNJ. Gary Otto called me one afternoon and suggested that we fly a mission in search of one of those brilliant sunsets. The SNJ was scheduled to go down for some extended maintenance soon and its season was coming to an end. What better way to close the flying season for 2020? Bundled against the cold December sky, we took off from KUES and found a cloud deck that threatened to ruin our objective. We managed to enjoy ourselves flying over the lighted ski hills and lakes in the area while hoping the clouds would cooperate and produce another colorful sunset. As dusk approached, we were working our way towards landing at Waukesha when the sky started to glow orange in the west and the sun made its colorful appearance. As the brilliant sun slid back under the clouds, I couldn't help but smile and think, "mission accomplished."

I wish all of you in the Wisconsin Wing the very best for the new year and for a year filled with flying events and new missions!

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### Sand Bar Bash 2020 Raises \$7500 for Old Glory Honor Flights

by Gary Otto



I had the honor and privilege to fly our WI Wing SNJ-5 over the opening ceremony and later their salute to all the military branches, at the 2020 Sand Bar Bash near Oshkosh on August 1st. Diane McDonald, director of the Old Glory Honor Flight program, took this great photo of the 100's of boats attending the event from the back seat of the SNJ. Wayne Pettit, local organizer of the event, expressed his thanks and gratitude to the CAF WI Wing for providing this impressive salute to our veterans at the event and in support of the Honor Flight program based in Appleton. This will most likely become an annual fly-over event!



*Diane McDonald (in flight suit) and family after the Honor Flight event fly-over.*



## Wisconsin Wing News



### Mission Reports

(cont'd from previous page)

#### Oconto Elk's Fly-In - September 19, 2020

by Gary Otto

We had a great day in Oconto, WI this past September! Super weather for a Wisconsin Wing Outing!!! Despite the pandemic putting the brakes on so many fly-ins, this one was a huge success. Steve Sorge flew 5 SNJ rides including a veteran who flew T-28's and T-34's. (see photo)

I flew the SNJ in with Dave Cook and had great flights both ways. We did a flyover for the packer game at Lambeau Field, but unfortunately we were a bit early (see Dave's Mission Report). Lots of cars and trucks on display, and tractors too! Great food from numerous vendors. Mike Ziarniak flew his gorgeous Navion up with Bob Lawn. Paul Holdredge flew our PT-26 in. Charlie Nelson flew his Warbird in with Jeremy Keyes. Mike Weinfurter, from Rhinelander, flew his beautiful orange BirdDog in too. Steve Lark drove up.

They featured a T-33 fly-over for the National Anthem, and lots of activities all day.

PX had a lot of competition but did ok. Tracy Sorge and family handled the PX. Our new PX trailer worked out well. Thank you to all the PX, Rides and Ground crews! Special thanks to Events Officer Kathy Laabs for setting all this up and organizing the outing. A great team effort by all.

We set up a photo shoot for the show cars in front of the SNJ at the end of the show too. That was a big hit and well appreciated. We also started recruiting several prospective members.

I recommend going back next year with many more Wing members and the T-34! Always the 3rd Saturday in September, and they provide fuel and lodging (donuts too) for show planes. Nice friendly folks and they really appreciated us being there!

Welcome to the 12th Annual  
**OCONTO ELKS FLY-IN**  
 Saturday, September 19, 2020 9am to 4pm  
 J. Douglas Bake Municipal Airport  
 2983 Airport Road, Oconto, Wisconsin

**EVENT SCHEDULE** 

**10:00 AM: Veterans Ceremony**  
**To Follow - T33 Jet Fly Over!** The jet will make 3 passes to include: The Tipped Wing, Slow Pass & Missing Man!

**ALL DAY -**  
**Car Show** Automobiles of all kinds will be on display All Day! Special feature is the Goetach Racing Team / Photos & Autographs!  
**3:00 PM:** Car trophies will be awarded (this is a non-judged show) Trophies created by JDI Creations.

**Tractor Show**  
**Planes on Display** - Planes will start arriving early, including: Nanchang CJ-6A Chinese Trainer, N4403K Navion, WI Power Parachute Association, 1961 Dornier Plane, Biplane, Helicopter by Engstrom Helicopters, Cessna 170, NS26M Experimental Zodiac with Jabiru Engine, the SNJ-5 (T6) and PT-26.

**Mobile PX** - Selling GREAT Aviation Related Items!

**Plane Rides** - SNJ-5: \$395 - 30 min • PT-26: \$195 - 30 min  
 Tickets can be pre-purchased on their website: [www.cafwi.org/rides](http://www.cafwi.org/rides)  
 Cash, check or credit card payments accepted.

**Northern Area Radio Control Society** - Joining us for the first time with RC Plane Flights! Enjoy their skill & unique flying machines!

**Military Encampment**  
**Music, Food & Shopping at Vendor Booths**  
**WOCO Live Radio Broadcast**  
**FREE Shuttle Service**  
 Provided by Whispering Pines Tree Farm & Kobussen Buses  
**Masks - Encouraged But Not Mandatory - Social Distancing Encouraged**







## Wisconsin Wing News



### CAF Saturday AM Breakfast.

by Gary Otto

Breakfast at Denny's on Silvernail by the airport, has been a long standing tradition at the CAF WI Wing going back long before I became a member in 2008. We used to meet at the Spring City Restaurant, but we tried Denny's one Saturday, and fell in love with our wonderful waitress, Joannetta, who made us feel so much at home there. We have since been having 7:30AM breakfast at Denny's nearly every Saturday, except on holidays or when most are off to airshows. Attendance is often 6-8, but we have had many more, and yes sometimes only 2! After breakfast around 9AM, many often go over to the hangar to work on projects, go flying or just for more socializing! With COVID, we have been having ZOOM breakfasts, and they have been lots of fun! Any member is welcome to join the Zoom breakfast and hopefully we will be back in Denny's for the real thing very soon!



If you would like a zoom invite, just text or email to Gary Otto with a request!

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### Gone West 2020



#### **Joseph J. Cottrell MD Col 33183**

April 9, 1952 - October 29, 2020

CAF WI Wing member since 2007. A brilliant physician, pilot and friend. Most of all, he was very generous and giving of his time and talents.

#### **Loren Martin "Marty" Hintz**

September 20, 2020

Producer of "Finding Loren" The search for his father, Lt. Loren Hintz WWII P-47 fighter pilot, shot down in Italy. Guest speaker at CAF WI Wing

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### Volunteer Needed for SNJ cockpit paint restoration!

If you have a steady hand for touchup painting, you might be who we need to volunteer time to restore the SNJ cockpit interiors with some fresh paint. A little paint on the sides, seat frame, knobs and levers, would really improve the appearance of our historic SNJ-5. Contact Steve Sorge or Gary Otto if you are interested in helping with this winter project. (Yes, the hangar is heated!!!)





## Wisconsin Wing News



### LAST FLIGHTS

by Col Mike Woods

It is funny how some things get connected and it seems like someone intentionally made random acts or occurrences get tied together as though it were planned out that way. Back in December, Gary Otto said he was taking the SNJ out and giving a couple of year end rides to other members and wanted to know if I would like to go when they were done. It had probably been a couple of years since I was in the SNJ and Gary said it would be a great day for a sunset flight, so I said count me in. I met Gary at the SNJ hangar late in the afternoon, Tom McDermott hopped out, and I got in. It was one of those perfect days, the air was smooth as silk, the visibility good and the heavens were saying, "Welcome to my world". We departed KUES and headed for the Lake Country. The sun was now getting lower in the sky and painted an orange glow that was, as they say, picture perfect. Gary snapped pictures while I flew the plane from the back seat, which is a big change from flying the PT, but in the air, a great flying machine, but read on.



With the sun getting lower, it was time to head back to Waukesha before sunset to stay CAF legal. I had forgotten how blind it is from the back seat of the SNJ, but Gary was flying now and I knew we were heading for the airport, but between Gary's head and airplane structure, I could not see the airport, even when we were on a relatively short final. Gary finally put the nose down and then I could see the runway, but it disappeared again as soon as Gary resumed his landing attitude. My mind went back to WWII and wondered how young instructors were able to train so many pilots and what they went thru in trying to get pilots qualified to fly not only the SNJ but other fighters that would likewise be blind with the nose up. They were all true heroes even if they never saw combat.

My next flight was a late afternoon solo one in the PT. It was again, a gorgeous day with bright sun, cool temps and reasonable winds but 90 degrees to the runway. Since there was a disabled plane on the best wind runway it was time to practice a nice crosswind takeoff. I will have to say that the PT is such a great handling plane that needs to be flown, but it does just what you tell it to do. If I am lucky enough to get in a lot of flights in the plane in a short period of time it sometimes feels like the plane and I are one. But if the time between flights gets strung out, then it can be like we are meeting again for our first dance together, or maybe something like our third or fourth one. With the sky again being like silk it was time to play and try steep turns, oh what a joy to be able to look out and see canopy all around you and be able to scan the sky for other traffic while I am making circles in the air. I keep thinking that God must really love me to let me keep doing such wonderful things. After a few turns it was on to Palmyra, but the sun was extremely bright even with my sunglasses on. If you have seen me with my Snoopy flying helmet, you may have noticed that I also have a pair of tinted goggles with it, so I pulled them down to see if that helped and wow, what a difference. Again, I was drawn back to WWII and felt like I was a fighter pilot out on patrol. John Kmet likes to say that we take our planes for granted but to others they are things of wonder and beauty. It was times like this that I was able to step back and have such an admiration for our heroes that went before us.

So how is this all tied together? Well both flights brought me back to WWII and what our pilots went thru and what they did enables us to be where we are today and to enjoy the freedoms that we have. Then the following Sunday, the homily from our priest was how with the virus and with the season of Advent we need to set back relax and take in some of God's glory by enjoying things like a beautiful sunset. After the homily I sent our priest this picture of the sunset that Gary took of our flight. He agreed, just gorgeous. It all tied together, two flights, two beautiful sunsets, two reminders of our military heroes.





## Wisconsin Wing News



### WI Wing T-34 Mentor Returns to Wisconsin!

by Col Steve Lark  
T-34 Committee Chairman

I am excited to report that our T-34A is back home in Waukesha after 2 years of restoration work at GAMI in Ada, OK!!! On Tuesday, Dec. 22nd, N5347W arrived at Waukesha County Airport at approx. 3:50PM. Truing out at 180 Knots plus having a 30 Knot tailwind, the trip home went very quick.

Many, many thanks to:

- Paul Keppeler for flying Carl Schwerman down to Dallas Executive/Redbird airport on Monday, Dec.14th for Carl's T-34 IP check ride.
- Carl Schwerman for conducting the return-to-flight testing at GAMI and the long awaited flight home.
- Paul Keppeler once again flying Carl, this time to Ada, OK for the final pickup.
- Henning Henningsen for handling the logistics with HQ and GAMI for the final return.
- Many others over the course of this project.

Although the aircraft is back, we are addressing some rigging adjustments, battery replacement and engine oil review before we fully return the airplane to operational status. Sam and Bill at PlaneSafe are taking very good care of our newly restored and flying piece of history. We want to thank Concorde for once again sponsoring our T-34 with a new battery. Concorde has been a much appreciated CAF WI Wing supporter for many years. As soon as the airplane is released from maintenance, the T-34 committee will host a big event to celebrate our Mentor's return to the skies.



### CAF Tri-State Wing Update



The new Janesville based Tri-State Wing is just over one year old and is quickly growing in size. CAF national members can join the Wing at no cost during this initial organizational period. The Tri-State Wing is an event support Wing with its primary function to plan and host the annual Warbird Weekend held at The Southern Wisconsin Regional Airport, the weekend that AirVenture opens, with many of the CAF aircraft participating, including the B29/B24 Air Power History Tour. Go to.....

<https://www.facebook.com/TriStateCAFwing>

to learn more about Warbird Weekend and the Tri-State Wing. They have invited us to participate in the event with our PX and aircraft static display. Also see:

<https://www.commemorativeairforce.org/units/100>

If interested in also joining this wing, contact [jylwarbirds@gmail.com](mailto:jylwarbirds@gmail.com)



# Wisconsin Wing News



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

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!

2019		2020		
Brian Forsyth	Mark Masters	Brian Audette	William Manly	Scott Twesme
Angela Koehler	Mike Richardson	Randy Demmit	Steve Mueller - Cadet	
Greg Manuel	Kathy Ziarniak	Dan Honzik	Larry Phillips	

As a reminder, CAF members can get an airport gate pass for access to the CAF hangars. Call Maddie Glisson, KUES Airport Administration Specialist, at the airport manager's office in the terminal, at 262-970-6785 (direct) or 262-521-5250 (office) to set up an appointment for taking the airport markings and gate rules test and receiving your gate access card. There is a small fee for the card. You will need to get access to gates 1, 9, 11, and 12 to get to all of our aircraft hangar locations. We also issue (one day only) gate codes for access to the hangar on meeting days if you don't have or want a card.

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## PX Trailer Road Ready



Many thanks to the members who donated funds to purchase our new PX trailer to replace the PX Van that has "Gone West". The trailer received a beautiful "paint job" and now is also a great billboard promoting the CAF WI Wing. Bob Kuenzi was the first to use the PX trailer at several West Bend EAA Chapter 1158 events this summer, and was able to fine tune the trailer to meet our exact needs. It also traveled to Oconto in September. We are hoping that it will get plenty of use during 2021!





## Wisconsin Wing News



### Aircraft and Pilot Operations Update

Greetings from the Ops officer desk. I hope your holidays were enjoyable and blessed.

We, as a wing, have had a wild 2-years, with many challenges, but I'm happy to report things are progressing nicely back to a fully operational state. Let me digress... 2019 was our first year where we had 3 airplanes all be down for significant amounts of time. The T-34 was undergoing its restoration/upgrades. Our SNJ-5 got a new engine, and the PT-26 had an engine block bolt break requiring lengthy downtime.

In 2020, the SNJ-5 had a great year, flew 60 flights, 58.7 hours and 132 landings. We currently have it down for winter maintenance with the propeller having work done up at Maxwell aviation and we are installing a new intercom. For the last 6 months of 2020, we flew 35.9 hours of which 4.4 hours were for our rides program.

The PT-26 Cornell came back online in mid August and had a wonderful fall. It flew 38.5 hours through the end of the year with 2.3 hours for our rides program. The PT-26 was our most flown airplane in the past 6 months as you realize it flew for less than 3 1/2 months in 2020, with more hours. The engine is running well, flying well and we look forward to having it online for the full season in 2021.

So with that all said, I will go out on a limb and say that our T-34 will probably be the most flown plane in our WI wing this year. With it almost out of restoration, we look forward to soon having it online and ready for our pilots to begin their checkouts and building time on our latest treasure. Realizing the time and investment involved, I want to thank the T-34 committee and sponsors for their hard work, their patience, and congratulate them on finally having our T-34 back here in Waukesha, with everyone looking forward to seeing it come online.

For our pilots, if you haven't had a chance to check out the new CAF RallyPoint tool, it's the new online records tracker that replaced FORTRESS and keeps our wing information on all our pilots, their flights and our airplanes. I will plan on showing you the ropes on this tool at a future set of pilot meetings, as we begin 2021. I encourage you to help keep our records current as we begin our Spring flying, by keeping your folders current with copies of your latest medical, BFR, tests and other info in your pilot folder in the file cabinet at Betzler's hangar, as well as include the information in your RallyPoint account.

I'm planning on doing our annual airplane safety workshop as well as our aircraft ground schools in March, so watch for future announcements on those.

Pilots, if you have questions on the latest RFD's please feel free to get in touch so I can go over it with you.

In the meantime, fly safe, stay safe, and dream of warmer temps that will be here before we know it.

Thank you,  
Your friendly OPS officer,  
Henning Henningsen



## Wisconsin Wing News



### WI Wing January 16, 2021 Zoom Presentation 10:30 AM



CAF WI Wing Jan Meeting Invitation  
 Jan 16, 2021 10:30 AM Central Time  
 In-person option at the CAF Hangar with  
 Covid mitigation. Gate #1 code: 2347#  
 Join Zoom Meeting by using this link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88618578464>  
 Meeting ID: 886 1857 8464  
 Dial in option 1 312 626 6799

## HUEY UH-1

"Huey: The Workhorse of Vietnam,"  
 the newest exhibit at the EAA  
 Aviation Museum. Chris Henry will  
 tell us the story of how this historic  
 Huey came to the EAA Museum  
 Eagle Hangar in July 2020.

To those who served, as well as those  
 who remember, the helicopter known  
 as the Huey is one of the enduring  
 symbols of the Vietnam War.



Special Guest Speaker: **Chris Henry**  
 Lifetime Member EAA# 41434  
 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. Chris came to work at EAA in 2013.

## Calendar – Upcoming Events

Date	Event, Time, Location
Wed., 1-13	Wing Staff ZOOM Meeting 7pm Anyone welcome to attend. Call Gary Otto for Zoom invite.
Sat., 1-16	Wing Meeting 10:30AM ** In Hangar & Virtual **
Thr., 1-21	CAF WI Wing Webinar Waukesha JanBoRee 12:00pm
Wed., 2-10	Wing Staff ZOOM Meeting
Sat., 2-20	Wing Meeting 10:30AM ** In Hangar & Virtual **
March 5-7	CAF Virtual Sessions Conference (formerly Wing Staff Conference) Refer to CAF national website for details. All members welcome to attend.



## 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>	Angela Koehler	262-205-9081 akoehler@andisco.com
<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	414-234-7369 agbkumar@wi.rr.com
<b>Events Officer:</b>	Kathy Laabs	414-418-7222 t28gal@att.net
<b>Historian:</b>		
<b>Newsletter:</b>	Brad Ohde	262-309-8600 bohde@wi.rr.com
<b>PX Leader:</b>	Tracy Sorge	262-366-0664 horseshowmomm@wi.rr.com

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