



Commemorative Air Force Wisconsin Wing Newsletter

Chartered April 30th, 1982

Editor: Brad Ohde

November 2023, Issue #2311

From the Front Cockpit
Col Gary Otto – Wing Leader



Fellow Wing members and friends,

The year is fast winding down. Daylight savings time is gone and it's getting dark at 4:30PM! We even had snow on Halloween! Our airplanes see less activity with these short and much colder days and flying events are done for the year. This change of season causes me to look back at the past year and remember all the CAF activities that filled the year's calendar with mission fulfilling events. We did a lot of educating, inspiring and honoring this flying season. Many of our events had all 3 covered very well. I want to thank our members and friends of the WI Wing for all of their support and volunteerism this past year to make this happen.

We had a wonderful tour of the 128th ARW thanks to the diligent efforts of Dave Cook. They do so few tours a year, so we were very fortunate to get in. This newsletter has lots of info and photos from our day at the 128th!

Once again, we will be headed to Oshkosh on Friday Nov. 24th for our annual tour of the EAA museum plus lunch at Friar Tuck's. Let's have a big turnout for this fun outing. We meet up at the terminal at 8:30-8:45 and caravan up to Oshkosh. For those who live to the north, just plan to meet up at the museum at 10AM. We will be back home midafternoon.

It is also wing staff election time and your hard-working nominating committee has presented a slate of officers that have been approved by headquarters for the Dec. 9th election:

Wing Leader:	Candy Parr (one year remaining term)
Executive Officer:	Gary Otto
Safety Officer:	Evan Bauer
Operations Officer:	Mike Woods
Education Officer:	Tom Leunig (interim)

Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the Nov. 11th meeting and once nominations are closed, the election committee will finalize the ballot and offer all members an opportunity to vote in advance of the meeting by mail. Members on the ballot will be given a few minutes to introduce themselves at the wing meeting and tell us why they want to be elected!

Despite the shorter, colder days, there are still many ways to get involved with the WI Wing.

Best to you all! Gary Otto
Wing leader 2021-2-3

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COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE
Wisconsin Wing Newsletter



Wisconsin Wing News



Cold Weather Safety Reminders!

by Col Evan Bauer – WI Wing Safety Officer



Safety Spotlight

1. Precise Pre-flight Checks: Before you venture into the chilly air, spend extra time and attention on your pre-flight inspection. The pre-flight should take longer, not shorter especially with winter weather on the horizon.
 - Check for Ice and Snow: Inspect your aircraft meticulously for ice, frost, or snow accumulation on the wings, tail, and control surfaces. Ensure they are clear before takeoff.
 - Aircraft Lights: Verify that all aircraft lights, including navigation lights and landing lights, are in proper working order for enhanced visibility during low-light winter conditions.
2. Dress for the Cold: When you're out on the tarmac in cold temperatures, proper attire is essential to stay comfortable and safe.
 - Dress in warm, layered clothing to stay comfortable during pre-flight preparations and in-flight.
 - Wear insulated gloves, a thermal hat, and waterproof, insulated boots to protect against the cold.
3. Weather Awareness: Staying informed about weather conditions is a critical aspect of winter flying safety.
 - Regular Updates: Keep a close eye on local weather forecasts and conditions. Monitor temperature, visibility, wind speed, and direction.
 - Flight Planning: Plan your flights with extra caution in mind. Anticipate potential weather delays or unexpected changes, and have alternate routes and airports in your back pocket.

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Maintenance Report – November 2023: *by Col Scott Twesme – WI Wing Maintenance Officer*

SNJ: SNJ is up & flying, Annual coming up at end of November.....

T-34: T-34 waiting on wing spar ALEC (strengthening cable) to be re-torqued - end of November.

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Membership Update – November 2023: *by Col Michael Guslick – WI Wing Membership Officer*

Attention wing members! With officer elections coming soon, this is a reminder that both your CAF national dues and wing dues need to be paid up and current in order to vote in the wing election. If you are unsure of your status, please reach out to me! Also, a reminder that wing dues are on a calendar year (January-December) basis and due January 31st for renewing members. Renew for 2024 right away and help support the wing and its activities by renewing online or mailing in your renewal - visit <https://www.cafwi.org/join-or-renew.html> for details.

The most valuable asset of our wing is not our aircraft, but you, our members! Thank you for your continued support in our mission to Educate, Inspire, and Honor.



Wisconsin Wing News



WI Wing Membership Meeting

You are invited to the CAF WI Wing on Sat., November 11th, 2023

10:30 AM Central Time → Waukesha Airport Terminal Conf. Room
(Airport Drive, Waukesha)

Program: ELECTION UPDATE!!!

Lunch → Please RSVP for Cousins Sub Lunch Option!

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2022-23 NEW MEMBERS!!!



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	Brian Liddle *** Life Member ***
Mary Berg	Eric Chappellear	Evan Bauer
Dan Butler	Tony Madonia	Mike Heileman
Steve Janke	Larry McClellan	Jarrett Tessar
Kristian Anderson	John Ricchio	Corey Grape
Mal Gross		

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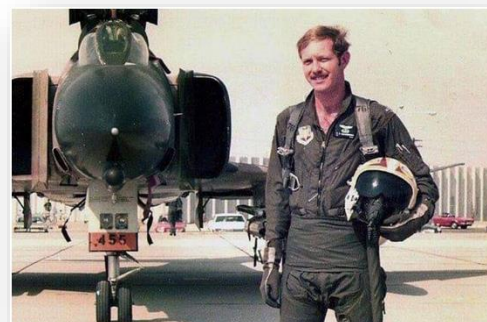


by Col Candy Parr – WI Wing Education Officer

Who is he? < Hint: Candy's grandson's first name is his nickname >

He was a F-4 Phantom fighter jet while serving as a pilot in the Air Force (c. 1975-1980)

(answer at the end of PAGE 9)





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Wisconsin Wing News

Christmas Gifts for our Warbirds???

Have you considered giving a "gift" to your WI Wing aircraft? Each airplane has a special need for an upgrade. The SNJ needs a new COM radio and the T-34 needs a new intercom.

If interested, please contact Mike Woods or Gary Otto.



Fri., Nov. 24th Annual tour of the EAA museum plus lunch at Friar Tuck's.

We will meet up at the terminal at 8:30-8:45 and caravan up to Oshkosh. For those who live to the north, just plan to meet up at the museum at 10AM. We should be back home midafternoon.

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Operations Report – Novembr 2023 by Col Mike Woods – WI Wing Operations Officer

- October was a rather quiet flying month for our Wing. Only four flights in the T-34 and a repositioning flight to Oshkosh for the SNJ. There was a slight detour to Burlington for the Oshkosh flight since Gary wanted to make an appearance at the Burlington Air Show. We lost our hangar space at Waukesha for the SNJ but for now we have a free hangar at OSH. As soon as HQ can get the PT flying we will move the SNJ there. Mike Woods flew the T-34 to Burlington too and was able to park it reasonably close to our PX tent.
- As Scott mentioned in his maintenance report there has been some maintenance issues with the T-34, but most have been addressed, but we are waiting to do a retightening of the wing straps that were mandated by the FAA for all T-34s. GAMI put those on 3 years ago and they need to have this done every 3 years. GAMI said it takes only a few hours the first time thru and less after that.



Wisconsin Wing News



Let's enjoy the holiday season with good friends,
scrumptious food & holiday cheer!



2023 CAF-WI WING HOLIDAY PARTY

Where: Delafield Brewhaus - Lower Level Banquet Room
3832 Hillside Dr, Delafield (One mile east of Hwy 94 & 83)
Use front west-side entrance (handicap accessible down ramp)

When: Friday, December 8, 2023

Time: 5:30 pm - Social Time Begins with Cash Bar
6:30-9 pm - Welcome, Buffet with a Variety of Good Food, Dessert
& Maybe Even Some Entertainment to Get You Laughing
9-10 pm - Continue Social Time in the Banquet Room

Attire: Outlandish Holiday/Winter Sweater; or feel free to dress casual

Best Holiday/Winter Sweater Will Win a Prize!

Silent Auction and Wine Pull Event

Questions? Contact Kathy Laabs or Candy Parr
Col Kathy Laabs 414-418-7222 t28gal@att.net
Col Candy Parr 262-490-0330 candy.parr2018@gmail.com

(cut here and keep top portion)

RSVP required! Mail completed bottom portion & check by Nov. 22 to:
Col Kathy Laabs, 14032 W. Tiffany Pl, New Berlin, WI 53151-4533

Yes, I/we will attend - \$48 per person! Salad, Salmon, Roast Pork, Beef tenderloin tips, ++

Attendees Names: _____

Your Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Total Attending: _____ Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Make check payable to CAF-WI Wing; food is pre-ordered, sorry, no refunds.





Wisconsin Wing News



Tour of the 128th Air Refueling Wing

by Col Tom Leunig



Col. Charles "Skipper" Merkel,
128th Vice Commander (128th
Wing Commander effective
Jan. '24)

On Thursday, October 26th the Wisconsin Wing had the opportunity to meet at the 128th Air Refueling Wing for a briefing and tour of a KC-135R Stratotanker. Our Wing was hosted by Col. Charles "Skipper" Merkel, the 128th Vice Commander, plus many 128th Air Force personnel. On October 31st, it was announced that Col. Merkel will assume the Wing Commander role in January 2024. If Col. Merkel looked familiar, it was because he was formerly the Vice Commander of the 115th Fighter Wing in Madison and he led our tour of that facility in 2022!

We had the opportunity to tour a KC-135R that was in a hanger for maintenance. That saved us from walking out on the tarmac in pouring rain. The last KC-135 was built in 1965. The aircraft we toured was made in 1961. That makes it 62 years old! Boeing made 732 KC-135's for the US Air Force. There are currently 415 left in service. These KC-135's were upgraded to new engines back in the 1980's and received CFM56-2 high bypass turbofan engines. These are quieter, save 25% on fuel, and have 22,000 LBS of thrust! These KC-135's are overpowered compared to the old water injection engines originally installed (ask Col Vic Stottlemeyer about these). The CFM56-2 is the same engine used on the Boeing 737 passenger aircraft.

A few other interesting observations from our visit:

1. There are 10 fuel tanks on the KC-135R. Six in the wings and four in the fuselage. They hold up to 33,000 gallons of fuel. The crew can transfer fuel from any of these tanks to facilitate weight and balance and to refuel other aircraft.
2. Inside the main front hatch is a small holder that has the aircraft "gas credit card". This is used to refuel at non-military airports. It must have a very high credit limit!
3. The KC-135R is a "fly by cable and pulley" aircraft. This means manual control of all flight controls. The pilots told us they are exhausted after a day of touch and go landings.
4. The new CFM56-2 engines have a larger diameter than the older engines. This results in the inboard engines being only 18" off the ground! This makes for precise landings to avoid engine scrapes. The pilot must be very careful on the final approach, especially in strong winds.
5. There are no ejection seats in the KC-135R and they don't carry parachutes either. The parachutes were removed in 2008 to save money.

This was a very rewarding afternoon, and everyone had a great time. We appreciate the hospitality of Col. Charles Merkel and the entire 128th Air Refueling Wing team. We went to dinner at the Machine Shed afterwards. Special thanks to Col. Dave Cook for setting up this exceptional tour.





Wisconsin Wing News



Tour of the 128th Air Refueling Wing (cont'd from previous page)





Wisconsin Wing News



Tour of the 128th Air Refueling Wing (cont'd from previous page)



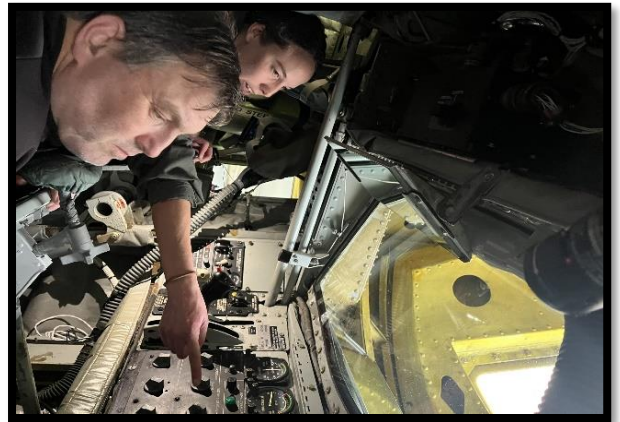


Wisconsin Wing News



Tour of the 128th Air Refueling Wing (cont'd from previous page)

Yes, these pictures are SUPPOSED to be sideways! The individuals are laying down in the Boom Operators position of the KC-135R!



by Col Candy Parr –
WI Wing Education Officer

Answer to “WHO IS HE?”

Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger: The airline pilot, who in 2009, successfully landed a U.S. Airways Airbus A320 on the Hudson River.

Here he is pictured with an F-4 Phantom fighter jet while serving as a pilot in the Air Force (c. 1975-1980)





Wisconsin Wing News



WWII Warbird Visits La Junta/Rocky Ford

by Col Gary Otto – WI Wing Leader

An historic 1941 North American AT-6 advanced trainer from WWII days recently visited the area on its way home to Sweetwater, TX. This 2-seat 600 hp radial engine powerhouse was designed to be the trainer for the infamous single seat P-51 fighter that changed the course of WWII. Thousands of pilots trained in AT-6's, also called "the pilot maker" and the "Texan". The Navy also flew a modified version of this versatile aircraft and designated it the SNJ. The British Commonwealth built and flew them as Harvard's. Nearly all of the 10,000+ Texans were built in the huge North American factory in north Dallas. T-6's served all over the world in both training and active combat roles. More than 1000 are still flying today to keep our memories of the "greatest generation" alive.

The National WASP WWII Museum is located on Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Tx and honors the memory of the hundreds of women's auxiliary service pilots who trained in these AT-6 aircraft, going on to fly nearly every aircraft in service during WWII in non-combat roles. WASP's delivered aircraft from the factories to military bases, performed demonstration flights for newly released warplanes and sometimes unexpectedly found themselves in active combat situations when delivering warplanes to the front lines! More information on WASP's can be found at www.waspmuseum.org The story of how these unsung hero women pilots impacted our war efforts and successes is remarkable!

The visiting AT-6 is owned by the WASP museum and was making a very much delayed flight home from Oshkosh WI and the biggest air show in the world, EAA's annual AirVenture. The museum chief pilot Malcolm Laing asked Oshkosh resident and 50 year flying veteran Gary Otto to bring their warbird home following some needed repairs. Gary has hundreds of hours flying these powerful "time machines" and agreed to fly the 8+ hour journey provided that the museum would allow him to veer off the direct flight path to TX and visit his longtime friends, Kenny and Chris Casper, of Rocky Ford. The adventurous trip went off flawlessly on Oct. 9th with clear skies and even a little tailwind to boot! Gary's friendship with Chris goes back 54 years when she lived in Oshkosh WI. Kenny and Chris treated their guest to some fantastic down-home Colorado hospitality that even included a successful tarantula hunt!

When asked about his warbird flying Gary stated "I am a volunteer pilot for the Commemorative Air Force, whose mission is to keep these historic flying machines active to "Educate, Inspire and Honor. We use these planes to touch people's lives in so many ways. I have flown the Wisconsin based CAF SNJ over 60 times this year alone, carrying out this honorable mission." (See www.commemorativeairforce.org)



Crossing the Mississippi!



21st century magic – GPS navigation!



Wisconsin Wing News



WWII Warbird Visits La Junta/Rocky Ford

(cont'd from previous page)



Pilot - Gary Otto.



Wisconsin sunset the night before!



Flight map for La Junta and Casper Ranch flyover.



Arriving at La Junta – 2:35pm.



Successful tarantula hunt!.



Good friends reunited!



Casper Ranch flyover – Oct. 11th, 8am



Home-Sweet-Home for the WASP AT-6

Calendar – Upcoming Events

Please go to cafwi.org for more details on all the Commemorative Air Force Wisconsin 2023 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.

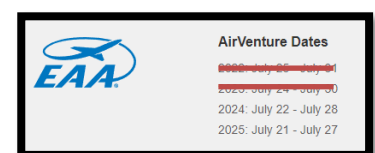
Date	Event Name	Location	Time	PX Booth	Education Table	T-34A	SNJ-5
November 11	Wing Meeting & Lunch Election nominations	Waukesha Airport Terminal	10:30 am start				
November 24	Trip to EAA Museum	Oshkosh, WI	9:00 a.m.				
November 29	Wing Staff Meeting	Zoom	7PM				
December TBA	WI WING Holiday Party	Brewhaus	Details to follow				
December 9	Wing Meeting Election for 2024-5 terms	Waukesha Airport Terminal	10:30 am start				
TBA	N103JC return to flight	Tulsa OK Wing	TBA				

* Updates as of November 7th, 2023.

Contact Gary Otto at 262-875-1640 with questions or information to share.

For the latest EAA AirVenture news & info go to:

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



WI Wing Staff

<u>Position</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Contact Info.</u>
Wing Leader:	Gary Otto	262-875-1640 gary.arthur.otto@gmail.com
Executive Officer:	*** Open *** This could be you!	
Finance Officer:	Tony Madonia	312-208-9840 tony@madonia.com
Maintenance Officer:	Scott Twesme	920-650-6101 srtzen@gmail.com
Operations Officer:	Mike Woods	262-781-0487 mikewwoods@gmail.com
Safety Officer:	Evan Bauer	901-541-0476 bauere25@gmail.com
Ground Crew Leader:	*** Open *** This could be you!	
Public Information Officer:	Bob Vajgrt	414-550-2770 dawnbob@wi.rr.com
Development Officer:	Tom McDermott	608-289-2424 mcfender@yahoo.com
Education Officer:	Candy Parr	262-490-0330 cparr@jamesimaging.com candy.parr2018@gmail.com
Membership Officer:	Michael Guslick	262-203-6049 haveblue@haveblue.org
Adjutant Officer:	John Leidel	262-538-1542 mfd4401@yahoo.com
Events Officer:	Kathy Laabs	414-418-7222 t28gal@att.net
Historian:	Brian Liddle	920-634-7034 liddle.brian@yahoo.com
Newsletter:	Brad Ohde	262-309-8600 brad.ohde@outlook.com
PX Leader:	Ed Pleva	262-844-0965 ed.pleva@gmail.com
PX Volunteer Coord.:	*** Open *** This could be you!	
Fly-Over Coord.	Vic Stottlemeyer	262-391-5110 stottlemey7@aol.com
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