



Commemorative Air Force Wisconsin Wing Newsletter

Chartered April 30th, 1982

Editor: Brad Ohde

October 2023, Issue #2310

From the Front Cockpit Col Gary Otto – Wing Leader



Fellow WI Wing members and friends,

The WI Wing is still active and carrying out our mission to Educate, Inspire and Honor. Just look at the activity reports and photos in this newsletter! The Burlington fly in was a huge success with great attendance, member involvement and PX Sales. Ed Pleva has done an outstanding job organizing and running the PT operations this season. His hard work resulted in record breaking PX sales and profits. A special thank you to Ed!

The Sept wing meeting was quite special with the dedication of the SNJ to former member Bill Paul, who was instrumental in transforming our wing into a flying wing with a PT-26. Jeanne Paul was present to receive the honors and Vic Stottlemeyer gave a very warm hearted talk about Bill Paul and his involvement at Waukesha Airport. The SNJ now bears Bill's famous "44" markings with his name on the cockpit sides. Many thanks to artist/member Brian Liddle for his great efforts to get the artwork designed and applied to the SNJ and done in time for the meeting! It was quite an effort for sure.

Still lots of opportunities for members to get involved. The 128th ARW tour on the 26th will be a memorable outing and our Holiday Party is fast approaching! If you want to help with these outings or any other ones, be sure to let an officer know.

Our elections are also coming up! Nominations are open for wing leader, exec officer, safety officer, operations officer and education officer. Please make your nominations and direct them to our nominating committee consisting of: Kathy Laabs, Ed Pleva, Tom Leunig, and Steve Lark. Nominations can also be made from the floor at the Nov 11th meeting. The election is Dec 9th!

I encourage you to get involved and support our efforts to keep these amazing aircraft in flying condition so they can be used for our missions.

BEST TO YOU ALL!!

Gary Otto – WI Wing Leader

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COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE
Wisconsin Wing Newsletter



Wisconsin Wing News



From the Front Cockpit (cont'd from previous page)

Photo Credit - Col Gary Otto



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

Our SNJ was flown 4 times in September by Col Gary Otto for some free rides, an honor flight escort mission, and a fun fly-in at Oconto. Of course, whenever Gary is in the SNJ he normally has the back seat filled giving someone a ride that I am sure they will remember as one of the more thrilling things they have ever done.

Our T-34 had 7 flights Cols Jeff Karsten, Mike Woods, Mike Heileman, and Gary Otto. Jeff and Mike Heileman also did an honor flight escort mission and then flew the plane to Waukegan for the Airshow there. I don't know if it was the plane parked next to the PX tent at Waukegan, or if it was just all the good help at the PX, but almost everything was sold out there, and more could have been sold if we had more merchandise. Cols Otto and Dave Cook also flew the T-34 to Madison for the 115th Fighter Wing program that they had for all the Wing members and their families. Cols Karsten and Woods took advantage of the great fly-in in Oconto and flew the T-34 there for the day. Again, a great show and wonderful hospitality by the city, and I think half the county shows up, so put it on your calendar for next year.

Both planes are flying, but we are still working on getting all the radio issues worked out with the T-34. It appears that most of our issues are coming from the intercom system so we are exploring getting a built-in intercom that should solve most of the issues. We also have several items that need to be done to the T-34 to get it out of the experimental category.



Wisconsin Wing News



You asked for it!!! Now we've got it!

A tour of the 128th ARW-MKE!!!



Attention All CAF Wisconsin Wing Members,
A special event has been arranged by Col Dave Cook for our wing members to have a **walking tour of the 128th Air Refueling Wing at Mitchell Field in Milwaukee on Thursday 10-26-2023**. This event will include a look around inside a KC-135 tanker. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to explore and have a better understanding of the impact that this air refueling operation has on our war readiness, when required, sometimes on very short notice.

If you and your spouse are interested in attending this event, you must respond by email or text to gary.arthur.otto@gmail.com / 262-875-1640 by Tuesday 10-17-2023.

- Your email/text must include for each attendee: First, Middle, and Last Name (Complete, no abbreviations)
- Date of Birth
- The State in which their ID (Drivers license) was issued.

This information will then be submitted to the 128th command office to comply with security requirements. If anyone is not 100% sure they can make the tour but will try, your name should be on the list to make sure you could get in if you decide to go.

Our group will meet on Thursday 10-26-2023 at 1pm sharp at the KUES main terminal parking lot . Our group will then caravan together in a couple of large vehicles to the 128th security checkpoint at the Milwaukee airport. ETA 1:45pm. (advise if you want to meet at the 128th gate)

Since this is a walking tour of the facility, and may include time outdoors, please plan to wear comfortable shoes and clothing accordingly. The group tour will begin onsite at the 128th at 2pm sharp and is expected to last approximately two hours, ending at 4pm. Then our group caravan will return to the KUES terminal by 5pm, concluding the day. If there are questions, please direct them to Gary Otto at the email address or phone number shown below.

Thanks, Gary Otto – WI Wing Leader



Wisconsin Wing News



WI Wing Membership Meeting

You are invited to the CAF WI Wing on Sat., October 14th, 2023

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

Program: "To Be Announced"

Lunch → Please RSVP for Cousins Sub Lunch Option!

Welcome
New Members!!!

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2022-23		
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

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Annual Holiday Party

Fri., Dec. 8th
at

the Delafield Brewhaus

Details to come!!!



Wisconsin Wing News



Mission Report: PX at Northern Illinois Air Show & Burlington Fly-in

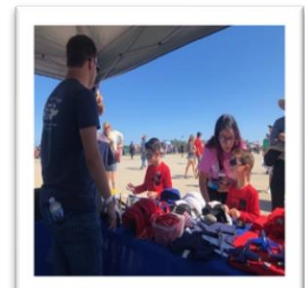
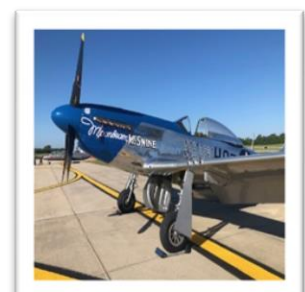
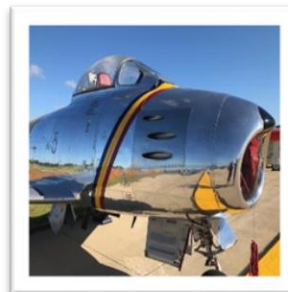
by Col Tom Leunig

The PX finished out the year on a roll! First up was the Northern Illinois Airshow in Waukegan on September 9th. After a hiatus last year this show was back at full blast. It is certainly one of the best regional shows in the Midwest. It included EA-18 Growlers, A-10 Warthog Demo Team, F-86, P-51, A-4 Skyhawk, and many varieties of trainers. Several of the participating aircraft were from the Warbird Heritage Foundation across the airport. The Wisconsin Wing had our T-34 on the ramp with our PX right beside. They were going to put the PX in a hanger, but Ed Pleva insisted we be next to the T-34 and boy did that make a difference. Toys-SOLD OUT, .50 Caliber rounds-SOLD OUT, practice grenades-SOLD OUT, and almost everything else almost gone! Total sales were \$6846 or \$1000 per hour. We had a full team assisting and thanks for all the help at this epic event.

Next up was the Burlington Fly-In on October 1st. This was another small show, but it was a great event! It featured a combination of vintage aircraft and vintage Porsches of Zuffengruppe. Zuffengruppe is the Midwest's exclusive gathering of air-cooled and pre-1995 classic Porsches. There were also modern Porsche vehicles. There were over 100 of them parked among the aircraft! Burlington is a small airport so you could get up close to the vintage aircraft, including Mike Woods in our T-34, Gary Otto in our SNJ-5, a De Havilland Chipmunk, Stearman, T-33, Staggerwing Beechcraft, L-29 Delfin, and others. The restocked PX did well and sold \$646 at this event.

Total PX sales for 2023 totaled \$10,836, which is record breaking. Thank you to everyone who helped make the PX a success in 2023 and especially Col Ed Pleva for his expert management.

Photos – Northern Illinois
Air Show



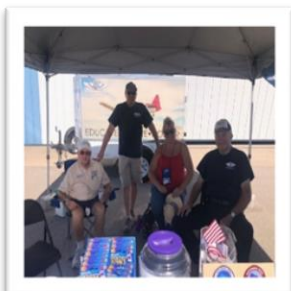
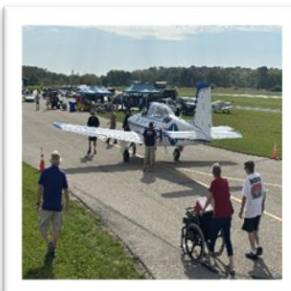
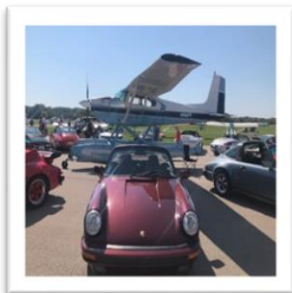
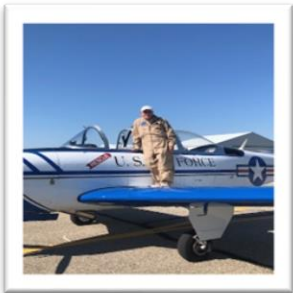


Wisconsin Wing News



Mission Report: PX at Northern Illinois Air Show & Burlington Fly-in *(cont'd from previous page)*

Photos – Burlington
Fly-in





Wisconsin Wing News



Mission Report: Northern Illinois Air Show & Burlington Fly-in *by Col Michael Guslick – WI Wing Membership Officer*



Our T-34 in front of our PX tent at Waukegan. Wing member Jeremy Keyes, who performed in the Red Star formation at Waukegan.



Jeremy Keyes, who performed Red Star formation @ Waukegan. Emily Keyes, who flew backseat in the 'Chang'.



Emily Keyes, who flew backseat in the 'Chang'.



Mike Woods preparing to depart in the T-34 from the Burlington Fly-in.



Jeremy Keyes captaining the 'Chang' @ Waukegan.

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

SNJ

- SNJ is up!

T-34

- T-34 is up!



Wisconsin Wing News



Warbirds in Scale/Heavy Iron in Plastic: "Miss Donna Mae II" (article #4 of series)

by Col John Leidel – WI Wing Adjutant Officer

This particular project was one of my greatest challenges to date. The customer demanded it be weathered! Since I prided myself on the quality of my hand-brushed work, I couldn't bring myself to mess up my work by weathering it! My newest skill and tool was the air-brush. Well, this coincided with my new project! It was the B-17G "Miss Donna Mae II" of the 94th Bomb Group, 331st Squadron. Built for Kent Amoth whose uncle was S/Sgt. Willard Melvin Christensen. He was the Tail Gunner on Miss Donna on May 19, 1944 when his plane drifted under the bombs of another aircraft over Berlin and went down taking the lives of all 11 men on board. The kit was the Monogram/Revell 1/48 scale B-17G. The kit was built mostly Out of Box. I did cut open the bomb-bay doors and also cut out all three crew hatches that were displayed open using resin doors. Quick-Boost resin gun barrels were used on all the guns as well. Once the main components were assembled, I sprayed the entire exterior with Testors gloss metallic silver which is an enamel paint to serve as a base. I then pre-shaded the panel lines with the airbrush to enhance the appearance of wear. I then airbrushed Scale Colors Acrylic Olive Drab 42 and Neutral Gray to paint the entire aircraft, using a lightened shade on the fabric surfaces. Then by a combination of sanding sticks, sandpaper and buffing with cloth, I chipped and wore away the paint to expose the metal finish underneath. I used the airbrush to recreate the exhaust and oil stains on the engines and wings. Some of the Decals were purchased from Kitsworld.uk, but the nose art was custom made by myself. The "Miss Donna Mae" decal is taken from an actual photograph and printed on white decal paper. I then blended the decal in with a fine brush. The "Wilma's Seducer" was printed in Microsoft Word and edited to size with Publisher. The figures were from various kits, simply painted by brush. The Jeep was prebuilt as a 1/48 scale kit was not available at that time. Kent created a base for the plane and figures to be displayed on after I mailed everything to him. Previously he commissioned a painting which was very heavily researched, and I used as part of my references. Interestingly, I found some more details in my research that were missed in the painting! It was truly an honor to do this project in Honor of true American Heroes that gave their lives for our country. Sadly, Kent passed away a few years after this was built, but my hope is that this will remain a reminder of his family's heritage for future generations.



One of the series of photos of Miss Donna Mae's demise. This was also the photo I used for reference to replicate the very heavy weathering on this aircraft.



My completed aircraft and figures displayed on the base made by Kent Amoth displayed in front of the previously commissioned painting.



A close up of the nose art and figures



Front port quarter view.



Rear starboard quarter view.



The top view that I copied as closely as possible using the actual photos from the accident..



Wisconsin Wing News



Education Update

by Col Candy Par - WI Wing Education Officer

Facts you may not know on the 128th ARW.....

- Did you know Wisconsin has its own Air Force? Right in our backyard in Milwaukee.
- The base spends \$600,000 a year in our local economy.
- Most members have civilian jobs.
- Let people know – encourage young to join and serve part time- join up to age 40 if you are doctor, lawyer etc.

The 128th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) is equipped with ten KC-135 aircraft as the primary aircraft assigned for aerial refueling, aeromedical evacuation, and airlift of cargo and forces. The KC-135 is an aerial refueler that provides the core aerial refueling capability for the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, and NATO aircraft. The mission of the KC-135 enhances the Air Force's capability to accomplish its primary mission of global reach and support of the Nation's nuclear triad. They are deployed all over the world and take orders from the President and the Governor of WI.



128th ARW Commander:
Col. Adria Zuccaro

128th ARW Location: Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport, Milwaukee, WI. Commander: Col. Adria Zuccaro.

In 2016, Zuccaro became the first female commander of the 128th Operations Support Squadron as well as the first female commander of a Wisconsin Air National Guard flying squadron and in 2020 became the 128th Air Refueling Wing's first female commander, Zuccaro expressed appreciation for the women service members who removed barriers.

Zuccaro described the 128th as a group of elite Airmen with service at their core, representing their local communities while protecting the state and nation.

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Sept. 28th, 2023 → MMAC event hosted at the 128th ARW Hangar

The event was to introduce local businesses to the 128th ARW.



Most of the 128th ARW staff have civilian careers!



Yes, I got to sit in the pilots seat of the KC-135!



The KC135 can refuel 5 jets in mid-air during one flight. The boom operator lays on their belly to work the boom in the back of the aircraft.



Wisconsin Wing News



Education Update (cont'd from previous page)

by Col Candy Par - WI Wing Education Officer

Sept. 28th, 2023 → MMAC event hosted at the 128th ARW Hangar



This is the back of the aircraft and the open bay door on the floor. The blue pad (middle of photo) is what you lay on.



Boom position in the belly of the KC135.



The boom operator lays on their belly to work the boom in the back of the aircraft.



The Captain's seat!!!



Cockpit view.



This is a simulator of the boom operation. The bat looking aircraft is coming in for fuel. Two joysticks (left and right) you use to maneuver to the connection. I tried it and did get it, but it was a few attempts. Fun, but I won't be quitting my day job. LOL!



A few of our CAF Wisconsin Wing members and I have joined the 128th ARW Community Council to help spread the word that we are lucky to have our own Air Force in our backyard to protect us. And - that people can serve here part-time.

We have quite a few CAF Wisconsin Wing members who served at the 128th ARW.

Thank you for your service!



Wisconsin Wing News



Education Update (cont'd from previous page)

by Col Candy Par - WI Wing Education Officer

Sept. 28th, 2023 → MMAC event hosted at the 128th ARW Hangar



Networking at the event was worth it!

Sarah McCalvy (Waukesha Co. Airport) is on the board for the 128 ARW Community Council.

Trivia question 1:

Post 9-11 From September to December 2001 - How many sorties did the 128th Air Refueling Wing (based in Milwaukee, WI) fly?

Hint: In 333.6 hours off loading fuel to 56 aircraft.

Trivia question 2:

Tom Hank's has 4 top movies he watches every year. His # 2 movie is about life in post WWII. Do you know which one it is?

Hint: Oscar winners- Won Best Film, Director, Original Score & Best Actor.

"Every man, woman & child should see this film, from one generation to the next." - Samuel Goldwyn

Trivia question 3:

Did the Wisconsin National Guard ever get deployed to any World War?

*** Answers on following page!!! ***

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Bill Paul Dedication





Wisconsin Wing News



Education Update (cont'd from previous page)

by Col Candy Par - WI Wing Education Officer

Bill Paul Dedication





Wisconsin Wing News



Education Update (cont'd from previous page)

by Col Candy Par - WI Wing Education Officer

Trivia Question Answers.....

Trivia question 1:

Answer: 64 sorties

2001

Following the terrorist's attacks on the U.S., the 128 ARW was tasked to provide aerial refueling support for the countless fighter combat air patrols performed over major U.S. cities. Dubbed Operation Noble Eagle (ONE), the 128 ARW flew their first ONE mission on 12 September 2001. From Sep to Dec 2001, the 128ARW flew 64 sorties in 333.6 hours. A total of 100,956.6 pounds of fuel was off-loaded to 156 aircraft in support of ONE. The highest sortie production occurred in November when fighter combat air patrols occurred every four hours over most of the major U.S. cities. In addition to supporting ONE, the 128 ARW also provided support for Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), deploying aircraft and personnel to Spain to support combat air operations from late Sep 01 until the spring of 2002.

Trivia question 2:

Answer: The Best Years of Our Lives



Wyler masterfully directed this sensitive, loving film, detailing with a finite eye the adjustment of the servicemen to their families, an indifferent peacetime society, and, in Russell's case, the agonizing role of the permanently handicapped. Toland's deep-focus photography enhances every scene. Friedhofer's score is compelling and memorable, and every actor gives the performance of his or her career. Loy is the perfect wife, March, who received an Oscar as Best Actor, is a delight to behold as the compassionate father, husband, and banker. Andrews is utterly believable and sympathetic as the out-of-place hero, and Russell, who earned an Oscar for Supporting Player, gives a powerful, complex performance as the wonderful boy next door who exchanged his hands for a free world. There was much apprehension in the making of this film. Everyone told Goldwyn that it was too serious and would flop, according to Loy who was later quoted as saying: "But Sam had faith in it and in the long run he proved he was right." Loy herself was apprehensive of director Wyler who had a reputation for demanding that stars undergo endless takes, but she found he was right and gave him one of her finest efforts. Warm, moving, poignant, and realistic to the point of touching upon the lives of all Americans in that more innocent and optimistic era, THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES reflects the best Hollywood could do, or might ever do. Goldwyn was right. Every man, woman and child should see this film, from one generation to the next.

Running Time: 172 mins.
Language: English
Subtitle: Chinese

**Myma Loy (Milly Stephenson), Fredric March (Al Stephenson), Dana Andrews (Fred Derry),
Teresa Wright (Peggy Stephenson),
Virginia Mayo (Marie Derry), Cathy O'Donnell (Wilma Cameron),
Hoagy Carmichael (Butch Engle), Harold Russell (Homer Parrish)**

**Directed by WILLIAM WYLER Produced by SAMUEL GOLDWYN
Written by ROBERT E. SHERWOOD**

Trivia question 3:

Answer: Yes, World War I – There is a documentary commemorating the 100th anniversary.



Documentary

This documentary is the capstone of a multi-year effort commemorating the centennial of the 32nd "Red Arrow" Division. Dawn of the Red Arrow follows the story of the 32nd Division as told by its Soldiers. Fifteen thousand Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers and 8,000 Michigan National Guard Soldiers joined forces to become the 32nd Division, which went on to forge a name for itself on the battlefields of France, and claimed as its enduring symbol one of the most iconic America victories of the war. The legacy begun 100 years ago continued through the following decades and still resonates today.



Wisconsin Wing News



Education Update (cont'd from previous page)

by Col Candy Par - WI Wing Education Officer

Oct. 1st, 2023 → My 1st Burlington Fly-in / Car Show – Great Weather!!!



Our PX Rocked! Thank you, Ed & Glenn, for manning the PX along with Brian with his artwork.



Gary Otto – WI Wing Leader, flew the SNJ-5.



Brian displays his artwork!



KUES fly-in..



Mike Woods, Wi Wing Ops Officer, flew the T-14.





Wisconsin Wing News



CAF Col Steve Mueller Achieving his Aviation Goals!

By Col Tom Leunig

One of our younger members, Steven Mueller recently flew to Portland, OR to start his career in commercial aviation. He started at Aero Air as a Safety Pilot working on his SIC rating (Second in Command). Aero Air does charters and cargo flights, but is specialized in transporting medical teams, patients, and organs to where they are needed. Steve will be flying Cessna Citation CJ4 and M2 aircraft covering the west coast and Alaska.

Steve's interest in aviation started when he was a young man and lived across the street from an Alaska Airlines pilot. This sparked his interest. Steve also lived in VA and his high school was just outside Marine Corps Base Quantico off the departure end of the base. There he was able to observe Boeing V-22 Ospreys, Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawks, Marine One, and the C-5 and C-17's that carry Marine One. Years later, on a trip to Portland, Steve reconnected with the Alaska Airlines pilot and went on a discovery flight with him. That sealed the deal, and he was off on achieving his goal of becoming a commercial pilot.

His interest in the CAF started when he took a flight in the Fairchild PT-26 with Col Mike Wood back in 2020. This was his first exposure to the Warbird community.

Steve will obtain his degree in Aviation Flight Management from Lewis University in December. Lewis University is in Chicago and was recently awarded the Leoning Trophy as the outstanding all around collegiate aviation program. Steve assisted the PX team at almost every event this summer. We wish Steve success and hope to see him when he's back in Wisconsin visiting his family.



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
October 14	Wing Meeting & Lunch	Waukesha Airport Terminal	10:30 am start				
October TBA	Corsicana Airshow	Corsicana, TX Coyote Sqdn	Sat. 10-8 all day				
November 1	Wing Staff Meeting	Zoom	7PM				
November 4	Honor Flight Escort	KMKE Mitchell Airport	6:00 AM				xdark?
November 4	Veterans Day Parade	Fly Overs	11AM???				
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 October 10th, 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>
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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!	
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Education Officer:	Candy Parr	262-490-0330 cparr@jamesimaging.com candy.parr2018@gmail.com
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Adjutant Officer:	John Leidel	262-538-1542 mfd4401@yahoo.com
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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!	
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