



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

We are winding down on the 2022 summer flying season with our last big outing to Oconto on Sept. 17th, and I am so thankful that we have accomplished so much educating, inspiring and honoring with all of your volunteerism! Our T-34 and SNJ have logged significant hours carrying out our mission here in Wisconsin with support from so many of our members. Thank you to all the members who support our mission with their volunteer hours, dues, general donations and sponsorship donations for all of our operations. Carrying out this mission is not without challenges and obstacles.

Our PT-26 remains out of service for over a year now. There is a list of "obstacles" to getting it flying again, and our maintenance team is focussing on overcoming all of them ASAP. Once it is flying, we will need to rebuild our pilot-sponsor base, since many of our original PT-26 pilots have since bought their own planes or have lost interest due to the long outage. A challenge to our operations team for sure.

After a strong start to the flying season for our T-34, we discovered very unexpected significant internal engine corrosion, apparently due to the longer than anticipated wait time while the T-34 was in Oklahoma for the wing spar mods. We have had to remove the engine and prop and we are now going through a process of removing the corrosion or in some cases replacing the damaged parts. Return to flight could be November or December timeframe. This has provided a challenge to the pilot sponsors and to the WI Wing to look for ways to raise the needed funds to get the T-34 airworthy again as well as complete the ongoing process of conversion to standard category, so we can put the T-34 in the rides program. It will take a team effort to get through these challenges. Can you help?

Our SNJ is flying near flawlessly with a total of 67 mission flights this season just by yours truly! What an honor it is to be able to utilize this historic aircraft to carry out our mission. Add in all the rides that Steve Sorge has flown this season, and the SNJ proves to be the workhorse of the WI Wing's flight program. The challenge that our operations team now faces is having enough sponsor pilots to sustain support of the fixed costs and also having enough pilots to support the mission flights to Educate, Inspire and Honor! Several of our original SNJ pilot sponsors have moved on to owning their own warbirds or other aviation interests. We don't expect an aircraft pilot sponsorship to be a forever commitment, but we need to rebuild the support base for the SNJ to keep it assigned here in WI. If you are willing and able to support the SNJ going forward, please let Mike Woods or me know and we can explain the many ways you can help.

******* NOTICE *******

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

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Wisconsin Wing News



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

We are also coming up on the CAF election season, with officer positions up for election including; Wing Leader, Adjutant, Finance, Development, and Maintenance. These are all key roles that keep our Wing moving forward. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these 2 year terms or would like to nominate a member, please let Tom McDermott know, or you can also go directly to the nomination committee that will be appointed by the Wing Staff at the next staff meeting. The CAF Unit Manual has detailed "job descriptions" if you are wondering what you might be getting yourself into! The pay is great, you get plenty of time off, and you get to work with a great team of folks dedicated to our mission. If you want to volunteer to serve on the election committee or the nomination committee, please let any staff member know so you can be considered then the Wing Staff next meets on Wednesday, Sept 28th at 7PM (Zoom).

I am thankful for all the support I have received while being your Wing Leader, and ask for your continued support.

Best to ya all!

Gary Otto - Wing Leader 2021-22

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The Day Japan Invaded Waukesha Airport by Col David Cook



This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Commemorative Air Force's famed Tora, Tora, Tora airshow team. On June 25, 1972 the Tora, Tora, Tora team did their first public airshow at Galveston, Texas. The performance, which replicates the surprise Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, was a big success.

When we think of headline acts for air shows, the Blue Angels and Thunderbirds immediately come to mind. Did you know that our CAF Tora, Tora, Tora performance ranks near the top as well? In fact, this CAF performance has become the longest continuously performing, non-military team airshow act in the United States, and perhaps the world! I think it's safe to say that no other performance tells the story of the infamous strike on Pearl Harbor as effectively as our own Tora, Tora, Tora.



Fast forward to 2015. We received word that the Tora Team was headed to a performance (AirVenture if I recall correctly) in our area and needed a place to bed down overnight with huge storms approaching. Our airport was selected, and knowing that the Wisconsin Wing is based here, it made sense for the team to use us as a stopping point. Our Wing members rallied to marshal the various "Japanese" planes as they landed and took over the field. I've seen the team's performance numerous times at air shows but never had a

chance to be up close and marshal these famous aircraft before. Seeing them up close and meeting the pilots was a thrill for our Wing. That day was one of the many advantages that being a member of a CAF Wing brings to us. Who knows when a unique warbird or even a Japanese aerial invasion might descend on Waukesha next?





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ELECTION 2022 UPDATE

It is election time at the WI Wing, with Wing Leader/Adjutant/Development/Finance/Maintenance Officer positions all up for election!!!

If you want to nominate someone (or even yourself) for any of these positions, please let someone on the wing staff know. We also need members to serve on the nomination and election committees! These committees only function during the election process and while being very important roles to fill, involve less of a time commitment. Volunteering for a leadership role at the WI Wing is a great way to share your passion for our mission! Look for more details. Think about serving the WI Wing in one of the positions listed above! The Wing staff will be meeting on Sept. 28th to establish the election committee and the nomination committee. You are welcome to attend the zoom meeting. Just ask Gary Otto for a zoom invite.

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

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REMINDER - Youth Protection Program!!! *By Col Candy Parr – WI Wing Education Officer*

The CAF requires all volunteers who will be working within an arm's reach of a youth to take part in both Youth Protection and Interaction Training and Criminal History Background Check before you may work with youth at CAF units or CAF events. This is an online Youth Protection and Interaction Training that will take approximately fifteen minutes to complete. You will need to watch a short video, take a quiz, and apply for the background check. There is no cost to you or the Wing for this certification. Once you have completed the training and passed the background check, we will be notified that you are eligible to work with youth. The background check is handled by a secure third party vendor and no confidential information is shared with the CAF. If you have any questions about the policy or how it is implemented, you can view the CAF Youth Protection Policy by following this link.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/bx9k41p13n2nryy/CAF%20Youth%20Protection%20Policy%20General.pdf?dl=0>

To complete the training, go to the CAF website under Education and click on the Youth Interaction and Protection box or follow this link.

<https://www.cafeducation.org/youth-interaction-and-protection>

Thank you for doing your part to keep our young people safe as we Educate, Inspire, and Honor a new generation of aviation enthusiasts

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Maintenance Report – September 2022

by Col Steven Sorge – Maintenance Officer – WI Wing

T-34

- Down for engine repairs.

SNJ-5

- 100% Operational!

PT-26

- Down for annual & engine repairs.





Wisconsin Wing News



Mission Reports by Col Gary Otto

Mission Report:

Our SNJ flew over the Oconomowoc Harley Davidson Labor Day Weekend Special Event – Sept. 4th. The event honored our veterans and raised funds for Stars and Stripes Honor Flights. Thanks to pilot Gary Otto and copilot Evan Bauer for volunteering to fly this important mission.



Mission Report:



Food Truck Friday at KUES wrapped up for the season on Sept. 2. Your PX crew supported many of the Friday events as well as our aircraft giving cockpit tours to young and old. The CAF was the sponsor organization for 9/2 and received a percentage of the Food Truck sales. We also had a huge number of volunteers to help set up and tear down at the end. While FTF's are not huge selling events for the PX, they are great community exposure to our mission and our friendly members! Thank you to all members who helped with FTF's this season!



Mission Report:



Every meeting we hold a "Free Ride" raffle for all those in attendance. New member Glenn Leidel was a recent raffle winner and he was able to receive his "free ride" in the SNJ with pilot Gary Otto at the Aug 12 Food Truck Friday event. Needless to say, it was a flight to remember with enemy target runs and some loitering over Glenn's hometown of Merten. If you have won a free ride and have not yet flown with one of our wing pilots, please let Mike Woods or Gary Otto know. We don't want to forget anybody!!

Mission Report:



The Midwest RC Warbird Show was held August 18-19-20 with Dennis Flancher and Ed Pleva running the PX operations while Pilot Gary Otto performed (full scale) fly-overs on 2 of the 3 days. The PX did very well and the RC flying was outstanding! Thank you to all our volunteers supporting this mission.



Dennis & Ed at Mauston PX



Annual Holiday Party!!!

Friday Dec. 2nd, 2022 → Delafield
Brewhaus

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





Wisconsin Wing News



Mission Reports (cont.'d) by Col Gary Otto

Mission Report:



Your PX and SNJ traveled to Mauston WI for the annual EAA Chapter fly-in and car show on Saturday, Sept 3rd. Dennis Flancher and Ed Pleva handled the PX operations and Gary Otto and Tom McDermott flew the SNJ in. We gave a ride to veteran and long time pilot, Tom Chudy as well as an outstanding Women in Aviation representative, Deb Shuman, who owns and flies her own plane at the young age of 70! The local Lions Club served over 700 meals and the car show was huge too. We got to meet Terry Taft with his original family 1935 Ford Sedan. Terry is the 7th generation direct descendant of President Taft. (See the resemblance in the photo?) The Mauston folks welcome us every year with a super Friday evening hangar party and dinner. You can't ask for better hospitality and friends! We plan to return in 2023!



Mission Report:



Once again, Shawano Mayor Bruce Milavitz invited the CAF WI Wing to attend their annual city fly-in and car show on August 20th, and we were able to bring our SNJ up for the day. Lots of good food, friends and families.

There was a whole lot of Educating, Inspiring and Honoring going on too!



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



Don't Miss It!

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

Admission \$ 5 Kids 12 & Under FREE!

CAR SHOW TROPHIES AWARDED! DASH PLAQUES!

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



Wisconsin Wing News



Upcoming Event
 *** WINGS OVER DALLAS ***

Try to get down to Dallas in Nov. for the 2022 Wings Over Dallas weekend!!!

This is the best WWII themed airshow in the country. Features the annual CAF member meeting plus a new member swearing in ceremony! See the CAF website for more details.



PT Pilots Wanted!!!

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



Wisconsin Wing News



WI Wing Membership Meeting

You are invited to the CAF WI Wing on Sat., Sept. 10th, 2022

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

Program: Our Guest Speaker this month is Kurt Stanich, KUES Airport Manager and pilot. Kurt will be updating our members on all of the construction and planned upgrades to the airport, plus provide information about the new FBO coming to KUES featuring a restaurant with a WWII theme! Kurt is also the leader of the new EAA Chapter based at KUES (which meets on Sept. 17th).



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

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		

Calendar – Upcoming Events

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

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

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

Date	Event Name	Location	Time	PX Booth	PT-26	T-34A	SNJ-5
September 10	Honor Flight Escort	KMKE Mitchell Airport	6:00am				x
September 10	Wing Meeting	Waukesha Airport CAF Hangar Gate 1	10:30 - 11:45am				
Sept (go16?) 17	Oconto Fly-In	Oconto Airport	9:00am – 4:00pm	x			x*
October 8	Honor Flight Escort	KMKE Mitchell Airport	6:00am				x
October 8	Wing Meeting	Waukesha Airport CAF Hangar Gate 1	10:30 - 11:45 am				
October 7-8	Corsicana Airshow	Corsicana, TX Coyote Sqdn	Sat. 10-8 all day				
November 5	Honor Flight Escort	KMKE Mitchell Airport	6:00am				x?
November 5	Veterans Day Parade	Fly Overs	11am???				
November 12	Wing Meeting Election nominations	Waukesha Airport CAF Hangar Gate 1	10:30-11:30am				
November 25	Trip to EAA Museum	Oshkosh, WI	9:00am				
December 2	WI WING Holiday Party	Brewhaus	Details to follow				
December 10	Wing Business Meeting Election for 2023-4 terms	Waukesha Airport CAF Hangar Gate 1	10:30-11:30am				
TBA	N103JC return to flight	Tulsa OK Wing	TBA				

For the latest
EAA AirVenture
 news & info
 go to.....



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

WI Wing Staff

Position	Person	Contact Info.
Wing Leader:	Gary Otto	262-875-1640 gary.arthur.otto@gmail.com
Executive Officer:	Tom McDermott	608-289-2424 mcfender@yahoo.com
Finance Officer:	Ryan Beard	847-858-7846 rcbeard1@gmail.com
Maintenance Officer:	Steve Sorge	414-852-8104 ssorge@wi.rr.com
Operations Officer:	Mike Woods	262-781-0487 mikewoods@gmail.com
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Ground Crew Leader:	Mike Ziarniak	414-380-9532 ziarniakm@gmail.com
Public Information Officer:	Bob Vajgrt	414-550-2770 dawnbob@wi.rr.com
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Membership Officer:	Michael Guslick	262-203-6049 haveblue@haveblue.org
Adjutant Officer:	A.G. Bharatkumar	262-366-3295 agbkumar@wi.rr.com
Events Officer:	Kathy Laabs	414-418-7222 t28gal@att.net
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