



# Commemorative Air Force Wisconsin Wing Newsletter

Chartered April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1982

Editor: Brad Ohde

## September 2023, Issue #2309

### From the Front Cockpit Col Gary Otto – Wing Leader



As we wind down the summer flying season, I am reminded that we still have some great opportunities for carrying out our mission to Educate, Inspire and Honor! Check out the events calendar and other featured events in this newsletter. I want to thank all of our members who have volunteered this year for our many events and activities. I also want to welcome our new members who have joined the wing this year. See the list in this newsletter. We continue to grow!

Our Sept meeting/annual picnic was postponed to the 23<sup>rd</sup> due to conflicts with Waukegan and Oconto fly-ins, so be sure to mark your calendar to be there! We are moving the meeting over to our SNJ hangar in the Southeast Hangar Area (see separate invite with map) so that we will have room for our airplanes, parking for cars, and plenty of space in and out of the hangar for the meeting and picnic. We are dedicating this meeting and picnic to the memory of Col Bill Paul, who was responsible for reorganizing the WI Wing back in 2008 when we were assigned our first PT-26 and became a "flying wing". The PT-26 has carried the famous "44" marking honoring Bill Paul, but with the reassignment of the PT, your wing staff has unanimously voted to rededicate a wing assigned aircraft in Bill Paul's memory. There will be a special ceremony to commemorate this at 11:30AM just prior to the start of the picnic.

We do need volunteers to help organize the food for the picnic. Please contact Gary Otto if you are able to lead the effort or just want to bring a dish to share.

It's also election season, with Wing Leader/Executive/Operations/Safety/Education Officer positions all up for election. If you want to nominate someone (or even yourself) for any of these positions, please contact anyone on the staff or the nomination committee. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted at the Nov meeting. We also have appointed officer positions for Public Information, Events, and Membership. Volunteering for a leadership role at the WI Wing is a great way to share your passion!

We still have plenty of opportunities to get involved:

- Sat 8AM breakfasts at Denny's (most Saturdays/verify with wing leader)
- Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> Burlington, WI Fly-In with PX and our aircraft.
- Aircraft support/sponsorship/pilots/flight crew
- Monthly Wing Meetings (some with lunches)
- Holiday Party Friday Dec. 8th Delafield Brewhaus
- Honor Flight Escort missions
- Wing Staff Officer positions open/need volunteers
- Much more! just ask or go to [www.cafwi.org](http://www.cafwi.org) (pass: cafwi)

The CAF has much to offer to members. I encourage you to explore how you can get more involved with this rewarding and adventurous mission.



SNJ and T-34 on display at Shawano's August fly-in! More mission reports inside.

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Best to you all! Gary Otto - Wing Leader

COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE  
Wisconsin Wing Newsletter



## Wisconsin Wing News



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

#### SNJ

- SNJ is up!

#### T-34

- T-34 is up!

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### **Operations Report – September 2023** *by Col Mike Woods – WI Wing Operations Officer*

After AirVenture it takes a while to get back to our everyday living and our normal type of flying, so August was not a particular busy flying month. However, our SNJ was flown by Col Scott Twesme for some free rides and some minor routine maintenance. Col Gary Otto did some event fly overs and a really nice fly-in at Shawano. Gary combined that with giving another warbird enthusiast a ride in the SNJ from Oshkosh to Shawano.

Our T-34 had some currency flying with Col Jeff Karsten and Col Mike Woods. Jeff and Mike also did a funeral fly-over. Col John Reed and Mike Woods also flew to Shawano for the fly-in there. If you have not been to the show there, put it on your calendar for next year. The airport is next to the lake and they even have a Seaplane base there. The folks there do a great job of attracting a variety of planes, including float planes, warbirds (just us this year), and tailwheel aircraft. They also have a nice car show, and above all, the folks there are very friendly and welcoming.

Both planes are flying, but we are still working on getting all the radio issues worked out with the T-34. Tony Madonia, donated a used radio that slipped right into the T-34 radio rack. Thank you Tony!!

When John Reed and Mike Woods were flying the T-34 back from Shawano, John decided it was time to give the autopilot a good try. It works!!!

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### **Mission Report - Gary Otto during AirVenture** *by Col Gary Otto*



I had the honor of taking Debbie Fried for a flight in the SNJ as a tribute to her father who was a WWII AT-6 flight instructor. Debbie flew with this photo of her father close to her heart. She wrote me later that she "felt so very close to him, as we shot through the skies over Oshkosh". Her friend Wally Parson set up the flight as a surprise, and she thanked me for treating her to the best surprise, helping her memorialize her dad and making an awesome new memory for her at Oshkosh. One more way we use these Time Machine airplanes to touch people's lives in ways you sometimes can't even imagine.







# Wisconsin Wing News



## Mission Report: PX at Warbirds and Classics over the Midwest

by Col Tom Leunig

On Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> the PX crew travelled up to Wellnitz Field near Fond du Lac for a remote-control model airplane extravaganza. This show is held annually by Midwest Warbirds and Classics ([www.midwestwarbirds.com](http://www.midwestwarbirds.com)) and the Fond du Lac Aeromodelers Association. It's the biggest and best radio control airplane event in the Midwest. This show is worth attending. The admission was \$10 a carload, so it's family friendly. The show features giant scale models of WW I through modern day warbirds and classic planes built before 1960. Wingspans can go over 20'! We saw B-17's, a B-36, P-40's, P-47's, A-10's and many other large jet engines and gas powered models doing sophisticated aerial maneuvers. Speeds can reach up to 200MPH! The PX did well, and we all had a great day watching these wonderful models fly.



One of the members had bought 4 of our Blue Angel F-18 Hornets and mounted them on a framed plaque. They looked realistic and he was proud to show us his skill in modeling. (see photos)





## Wisconsin Wing News



### Mission Report: PX at Warbirds and Classics over the Midwest (cont'd from previous page)

In other PX news, we had the last Food Truck Friday on September 1<sup>st</sup>. This one was sponsored by the CAF Wisconsin Wing. We had great attendance and shared in the profits. The T-34, SNJ, plus Vic Stottlemeyer's Harvard and Mike Ziarniak's Ryan Navion were on display. Many thanks to the CAF Colonels who helped with setup, staffing, and tear down. Kurt Stanich, the Airport Director thanked us for our participation all year in helping make this event successful. He said we're all set for Food Truck Friday in 2024!

The PX has two more events this year. Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at the Waukegan Air Show and Sunday, October 1 at Burlington Wings and Wheels.







## Wisconsin Wing News



### INVITATION:

## WI Wing Sept. Meeting & Picnic

**Saturday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> at KUES Waukesha Co. Airport**

**Meeting starts at 10:30**

**Special Col Bill Paul memorial ceremony at 11:30**

**Picnic at the hangar 11:45**

#### Wing Leader

Gary Otto  
262-875-1640 cell

By car: Enter KUES Gate 11 off of Northview Drive (Road on south a/p boundary)

If you don't have a gate pass, call 262-875-1640 for access upon arrival.

Please wait for gate to close behind you.

**Please bring a dish to share for the picnic / Please RSVP**

**Visitors and Family welcome!**

Drive in (north) and the SNJ hangar is straight in and to the right. Follow CAF signs.

This is called the Southeast Hangar Area (Look for CAF sign and lots of cars)

It is a large 80x60 stand alone hangar facing north.

Vehicle parking to the west of the hangar plus parking on the inactive taxiway on the south side of the hangar.

Stay off active taxiways and R/W

Fly in option too!!!

**SNJ Hangar #630 is Here**



Directions from 94:

Pewaukee Road

South on Pewaukee Road

West on Northview Road to **Gate 11**

**Gate 11: Call Gary Otto  
262-875-1640 if you need access  
GPS: 642 Northview Road**



**North**

**Park on  
south side**

Scag Engineering

642 Northview Road

**Gate 11**

**642 Northview Road**



## Wisconsin Wing News



### Education Update

*by Col Candy Par - WI Wing Education Officer*

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Jimmy Buffet Gone West

Did you know?

At 39, Jimmy Buffet purchased a Lake Renegade and earned his Private single engine land and sea plane certificates. He went on and earned his Commercial multi-engine land and sea. He was typed in the CE500 series, Falcon 50 and 900, but the best part, his Grumman Albatross. If you're departing on the BUFIT ONE out of PBI, give a Shaka as you cross it... FB Post from Chick in a Cockpit #aviation #pilotlifestyle #jimmybuffett #florida #margaritaville #Godspeed

RIP JB 1946-2023

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Get involved! Volunteering is rewarding at CAF Wisconsin Wing. Commit to volunteer at 1 or more events a year and attending a WING meeting once a quarter or every other month. Team effort makes the load lighter. Encourage others you may know that have a heart for our veterans or a love for aviation

- **CAF -You will be part of a larger organization locally.**  
The CAF has over 86 Units that members can join, including detachments and Units in Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand and France. Your local Wisconsin Wing is based out of KUES Waukesha County Airport. We meet once a month (2nd Saturday of each month at 10:30 AM) Check our monthly newsletter for any changes.
- **SPONSOR AN AIRCRAFT**  
In addition to being a CAF member, you can become an aircraft sponsor. Aircraft sponsors share in the cost of restoring, maintaining, and operating a particular CAF aircraft. To find out more about become an aircraft sponsor of one our two aircrafts the SNJ- 5 or T-34; Please call or email WI Wing leader Gary Otto gary.arthur.otto@gmail.com or 262-875-1640
- **BECOME A CAF PILOT**  
With over 175 aircraft, the CAF is always looking for experienced and qualified pilots. You MUST be a CAF member and have a current pilot's license in order to apply, as well as other mandatory requirements. Additional information is available and ONLY seriously interested candidates are encouraged to contact Gary Otto Wing Leader 262-875-1640. This information is subject to change at any time at the discretion of the CAF's VP of Safety/Maintenance/Operations.

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CAF November 10-12 Dallas TX (NOT AN AIR SHOW!!!)

CAF Aviation Discovery Festival will provide fun and learning for the whole family!

- |                                     |                                               |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| * Fly in Military Aircraft          | * Ride in Vintage Military Vehicles           |
| * See Living History Demonstrations | * Meet and Greet with Veterans                |
| * Hands On Activities for All Ages  | * For more information, click the link below! |



Dallas Executive Airport → Dallas, TX → More Info: <http://aviationdiscoveryfest.org/>



## Wisconsin Wing News



### **Warbirds in Scale/Heavy Iron in Plastic: “The Roc”** (article #3 of series) *by Col John Leidel – WI Wing Adjutant Officer*

After building models and attending Oshkosh since 1973, it was social media that recently connected me to the human side of the heavy iron and plastic I always loved.

My build of the 1/72 scale Academy B-29B was a prime example of this. My Facebook friend Scott knew a lady who wanted a model of her Dad’s B-29 built. He introduced us on-line. Not only was this the start of the project, but it also started a new friendship!

Wendy Curtis is the daughter of Flight Officer Richard H. Curtis from Cleveland Heights Ohio. He was with the 501st Bomb Group, 315 Bomb Wing (VH) based in Northwest Field Guam.

The aircraft he piloted was one of 668 Bell B-29B’s built at the “Bell Bomber Factory” in Marietta, Georgia, now the home of Lockheed. The crew named her “The Roc” because she was “solid as a rock”, This was a lightweight version of the B-29 with all but the tail guns removed. It carried both a AN/APQ-7 Eagle Radar that looks like a wing between the Bombay for bombing and navigation, and a AN/APG-15 Radar that looks like a basketball used for aiming the tail guns.

The kit was built pretty much right out of the box. The kit only came with a “Fat Man” and “Little Boy” atomic bombs to be built as “Bockscar” or “Enola Gay” so I had to steal some conventional bombs from an old Airfix kit. As with all B-29 model kits, this one is a tail sitter. To compensate for this, I stacked 5 ounces of steel, self-adhesive wheel weights in the radio compartment. Otherwise, the kit went together rather well. The model was finished using Testors Gloss Metallic Silver for the overall finish and Tamiya Flat Black for the underside. Squadron markings were from PrintScale Decals. For the Nose Art, I colorized a photo of the actual nose art, scaled it, and printed it on my inkjet printer.

F/O Curtis piloted The Roc on 14 missions over Japan including dropping relief supplies to the POW Camp where Pappy Boyington was imprisoned.

After the war he got married and moved to Phoenix where he started the Diamond T Truck Company and became a Master Freemason. He passed 11 months after his wife and childhood ( since Jr. High) sweetheart, Rosemary, who he engaged while at Hobbs Army Airfield training. He passed at 87 years old on their anniversary and his birthday September 22, 2010. The Roc Flew an additional 50+ missions in the Korean War and was eventually scraped Stateside.

Keep ‘em Flying (or Build A Model of ‘em!)

Col John Leidel



The Roc landing after a mission on August 14, 1945 after learning of the surrender of Japan over the radio



Flight Officer Richard H. Curtis



## Wisconsin Wing News



### Warbirds in Scale/Heavy Iron in Plastic: "The Roc" (cont'd from previous page)



The Academy 1/72 scale B-29 "Bockscar"  
kit built as the B-29B "The Roc"



View of the AN/APQ-7 Eagle Radar  
and AN/APG-15 Radar



What it's all about, the smile on her face and  
connecting a Daughter with her Fathers history!

Welcome  
New Members!!!

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| 2022-23                                                   |                                         |                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Donn Droegkamp (Pewaukee)<br>*** Gold Lifetime Member *** | Al Pavik<br>(TX-Coyote Squadron Member) | Eric Ruediger (Racine)                            |
| Jackson LaManna (Mequon)<br>*** Cadet ***                 | Laura Stants<br>(Indiana Wing)          | John Reed                                         |
| Scott Slay                                                | Mitch Saltzberg                         | Candy Parr                                        |
| George Bacik                                              | Jeff Karsten                            | Cadet Francis Anderer<br>(Noel Skerven's Nephew!) |
| Joe Van Wie                                               | Glenn Leidel                            | Brian Liddle<br>*** Life Member ***               |
| Mary Berg                                                 | Eric Chappelear                         | 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. 8<sup>th</sup>  
at

the Delafield Brewhaus

*Details to come!!!*



## Calendar – Upcoming Events

Please go to [cafwi.org](http://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.
- Waukesha Airport Food Truck Fridays Run June 2<sup>nd</sup> thru Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, with WI Wing PX attending and Aircraft support.

| Date                | Event Name                                   | Location                         | Time                 | PX Booth | Education Table | T-34A | SNJ-5  |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------|-----------------|-------|--------|
| <b>Sept 16</b>      | Oconto Fly-In                                | Oconto Airport                   | 9:00AM – 4:00PM      | ???      |                 | x     | x      |
| <b>Sept 23</b>      | <b>SPECIAL Wing Meeting &amp; Picnic</b>     | <b>Waukesha Airport - HANGAR</b> | <b>10:30am start</b> |          |                 |       |        |
| <b>Sept 9</b>       | Waukegan Fly-in                              | Waukegan, IL                     |                      | x        |                 | x     | x      |
| <b>Sept 9-10</b>    | 115 <sup>th</sup> FW Family Day              | Madison Airport                  |                      |          |                 | x     |        |
| <b>October 1</b>    | Burlington Fly In                            | Burlington, WI Airport           | TBD                  | ???      |                 |       |        |
| <b>October 4</b>    | Wing Staff Meeting                           | Zoom                             | 7PM                  |          |                 |       |        |
| <b>October 7</b>    | Honor Flight Escort                          | KMKE Mitchell Airport            | 6:00 AM              |          |                 | x     | x      |
| <b>October 14</b>   | Wing Meeting & Lunch                         | Waukesha Airport Terminal        | 10:30 am start       |          |                 |       |        |
| <b>October TBA</b>  | Corsicana Airshow                            | Corsicana, TX Coyote Sqdn        | Sat. 10-8 all day    |          |                 |       |        |
| <b>November 1</b>   | Wing Staff Meeting                           | Zoom                             | 7PM                  |          |                 |       |        |
| <b>November 4</b>   | Honor Flight Escort                          | KMKE Mitchell Airport            | 6:00 AM              |          |                 |       | xdark? |
| <b>November 4</b>   | Veterans Day Parade                          | Fly Overs                        | 11AM???              |          |                 |       |        |
| <b>November 11</b>  | Wing Meeting & Lunch<br>Election nominations | Waukesha Airport Terminal        | 10:30 am start       |          |                 |       |        |
| <b>November 24</b>  | Trip to EAA Museum                           | Oshkosh, WI                      | 9:00 a.m.            |          |                 |       |        |
| <b>November 29</b>  | Wing Staff Meeting                           | Zoom                             | 7PM                  |          |                 |       |        |
| <b>December TBA</b> | WI WING Holiday Party                        | Brewhaus                         | Details to follow    |          |                 |       |        |
| <b>December 9</b>   | Wing Meeting Election<br>for 2024-5 terms    | Waukesha Airport Terminal        | 10:30 am start       |          |                 |       |        |
| <b>TBA</b>          | N103JC return to flight                      | Tulsa OK Wing                    | TBA                  |          |                 |       |        |

\* Updates as of September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Contact Noel Skerven at 262-239-8773 or 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>                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Wing Leader:</b>                                                                                                                                                                   | Gary Otto                          | 262-875-1640<br>gary.arthur.otto@gmail.com                         |
| <b>Executive Officer:</b>                                                                                                                                                             | *** Open ***<br>This could be you! |                                                                    |
| <b>Finance Officer:</b>                                                                                                                                                               | Tony Madonia                       | 312-208-9840<br>tony@madonia.com                                   |
| <b>Maintenance Officer:</b>                                                                                                                                                           | Scott Twesme                       | 920-650-6101<br>srtzen@gmail.com                                   |
| <b>Operations Officer:</b>                                                                                                                                                            | Mike Woods                         | 262-781-0487<br>mikewwoods@gmail.com                               |
| <b>Safety Officer:</b>                                                                                                                                                                | Evan Bauer                         | 901-541-0476<br>bauere25@gmail.com                                 |
| <b>Ground Crew Leader:</b>                                                                                                                                                            | *** Open ***<br>This could be you! |                                                                    |
| <b>Public Information Officer:</b>                                                                                                                                                    | Bob Vajgrt                         | 414-550-2770<br>dawnbob@wi.rr.com                                  |
| <b>Development Officer:</b>                                                                                                                                                           | Tom McDermott                      | 608-289-2424<br>mcfender@yahoo.com                                 |
| <b>Education Officer:</b>                                                                                                                                                             | Candy Parr                         | 262-490-0330<br>cparr@jamesimaging.com<br>candy.parr2018@gmail.com |
| <b>Membership Officer:</b>                                                                                                                                                            | Michael Guslick                    | 262-203-6049<br>haveblue@haveblue.org                              |
| <b>Adjutant Officer:</b>                                                                                                                                                              | John Leidel                        | 262-538-1542<br>mfd4401@yahoo.com                                  |
| <b>Events Officer:</b>                                                                                                                                                                | Noel Skerven                       | 262-239-8773<br>nxskerven@gmail.com                                |
| <b>Historian:</b>                                                                                                                                                                     | Brian Liddle                       | 920-634-7034<br>liddle.brian@yahoo.com                             |
| <b>Newsletter:</b>                                                                                                                                                                    | Brad Ohde                          | 262-309-8600<br>brad.ohde@outlook.com                              |
| <b>PX Leader:</b>                                                                                                                                                                     | Ed Pleva                           | 262-844-0965<br>ed.pleva@gmail.com                                 |
| <b>PX Volunteer Coord.:</b>                                                                                                                                                           | *** Open ***<br>This could be you! |                                                                    |
| <b>Fly-Over Coord.</b>                                                                                                                                                                | Vic Stottlemeyer                   | 262-391-5110<br>stottlemey7@aol.com                                |
| <b>Wisconsin Wing mailing address:</b><br><br><b>CAF Wisconsin Wing</b><br><b>P.O. Box 1998</b><br><b>Waukesha, WI 53187-1998</b><br><a href="http://www.cafwi.org">www.cafwi.org</a> |                                    |                                                                    |