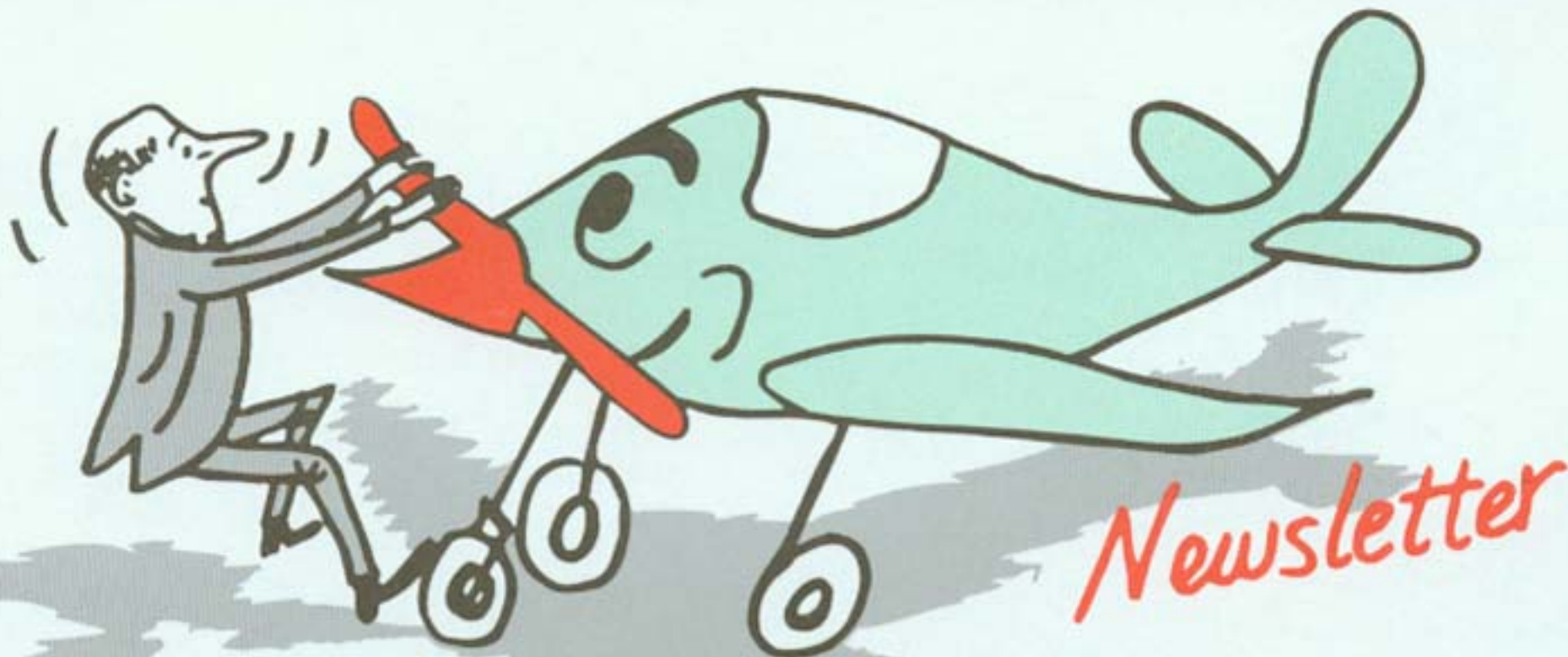


N.A.P.P.



VOLUME XXXVIII

JUNE 2001

NO. 6



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all Flying Padres and Fellow NAPPers,

Now that all First Communion celebrations and graduations are behind us we can breath a little easier and perhaps do a little flying. It is that time of the year again when it is a lot more pleasant to get out and crank up the plane. Our winter here in Kansas was much more harsh this year than the former 3 or 4 years. It took a little more determation to get out and fly. Now with the weather milder there is much more activity at our small airport. The crop dusters are buzzing all over the place and more planes flying.

I am writing this column for the last time. The next issue will have a different writer and different picture. By then we will have a new president filling this lofty position. Yes, the election of a new president is on the agenda for our Florida convention.

I wish to thank all of you for your patience and support. I enjoyed it. I am sure it caused me to be more involved than I would have been otherwise. Thanks to all of you, my fellow

members.

Yes, it is time to finalize your plans for the trip to Florida. There will be three of us flying from Kansas. I hope to see all of you there.

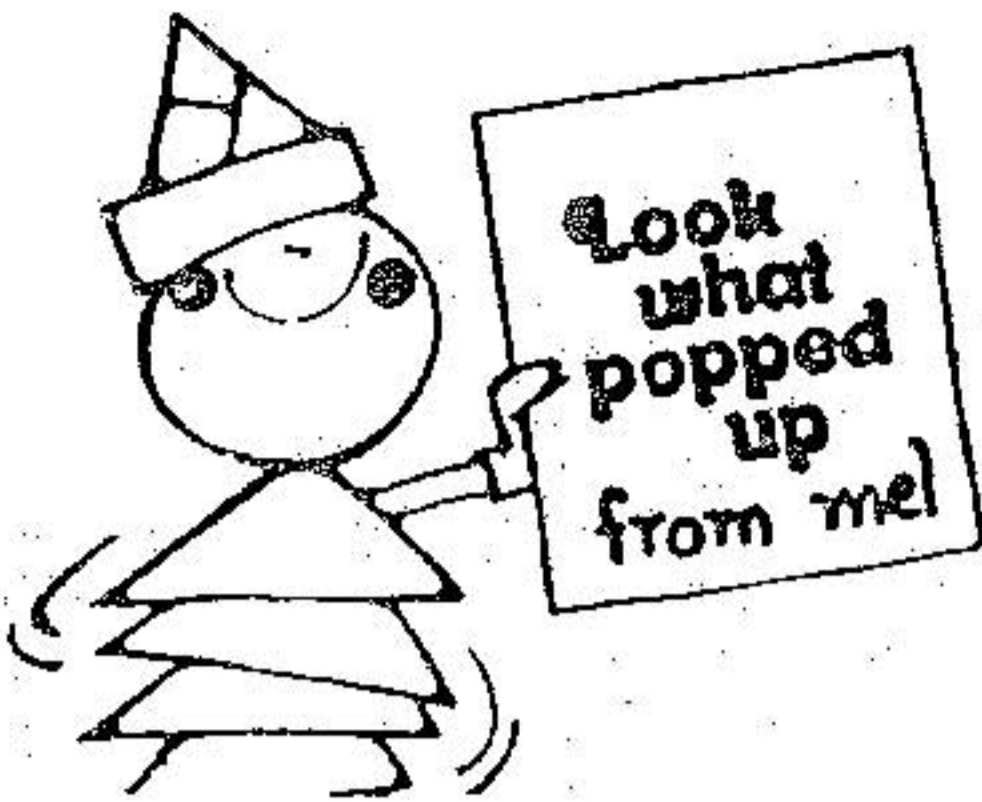
My plane is in for an annual at the present. I dropped by yesterday to see how things were going. When I took it in I knew I had to get the starter repaired and the front tire replaced. To repair the starter they had to pull the prop and remove the alternator and the air conditioner compressor. Doing that they discovered the cause for another problem I was concerned about - oil consumption. The cause was the crankshaft seal. We knew it was not actual consumption but oil leaking. There was a lot of dripping and oil all over the bottom of the plane. Hopefully replacing the seal will solve that.

I heard this going into Salina: Citation 1234: "Tower, be advised that there is a bunch of blue and white balloons just outside the marker." Tower: "What were they?" Citation 1234: "Balloons. You know like someone let go from a wedding reception or something." Tower: "Oh, balloons. Which way were they headed?" Citation 1234: "Ummm...downwind."

I heard this going into Omaha: Omaha Approach: "Lakesair 405, expedite your descent through 3,000. Traffic at one o'clock and seven miles; a Citabria northeast-bound at 3,500." Lakesair 405: "Roger, expediting through 3,000. Is the Citabria doing aerobatics?" Omaha Approach: "No, but he will be if you don't expedite below 3,000."

Safe flying!

Al Werth



### ELECTIONS

At the July convention the following officers' term will have run its course. You will be asked to vote for President, 2nd Vice President and Secretary. President Al Werth has faithfully served two terms and the by-laws state he must now step down. Jim Kelley and Bob Kirsch currently occupy the other offices and are eligible for reelection.

**REMEMBER:** We will be voting in Florida. Study up on your voting procedures, dimples and dangling chads. God forbid we would have to wait till October and a Supreme Court decision before knowing for certain who will lead us in the years ahead.

By the time this arrives I'm sure July 1 will be just around the corner. Our hosts ask that you have your reservation in by that time so that the planning process can be done in the most expeditious manner.

Knobby has informed me the identifier of our field - Wing South - has been changed from 15X to FA37. Hope you find it. Altitude: 9 ft. Check your density altitude

Recently I flew our Archbishop to Cleveland for the ordination of two new auxiliaries. While tying down the RV6 the Archbishop struck up a conversation with a flight instructor. He informed him he had recently gone through the RCIA and joined the church. One of his instructors in the RCIA was a priest, the man preflighting the plane. We met him and he told us he had learned to fly years ago in his dad's plane but never got a license because he sold the plane. He is now secretly back at flying. No one in his parish nor his parents know anything about it. When he gets his license he plans on inviting his father to the airport and surprise him by flying him off to some exotic place for dinner.

I got his name and have sent him NAPP info. He told me of another priest who flies so we will hopefully have two new members in the near future. When he gets that license we'll tell you his name.

I flew Neil Manternach, one of our Iowa members, to Fargo, ND to attend a funeral. While there I gave Fr. Greg Schlesselmann a call. Greg says he recently completed his training and has a brand new private ticket.

I was asked recently to write an article from the perspective of a retired priest for our Council of Catholic Women's publication, THE LINK. I thought as long as I had it done I may as well include it for your edification.

John Hemann hosted a wonderful Midwest gathering and details are found elsewhere. The Fall gathering will be hosted by George Remm in Urbana, IL at Frasca Field. Yes, it's the same Frasca as in Frasca simulators. We will have an opportunity to hopefully play with them as well as be enlightened by some of the engineers that design them.

The date is **October 8, 2001** in Urbana, IL  
Write it down

**ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:**



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Cedar Falls, IA 50613-1683  
319-266-3889

Email: [DBQMhemann@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us](mailto:DBQMhemann@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us)

## NAPP MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING

NASHUA, IOWA -- APRIL 30, 2001

NAPP Midwest Regional Director John W. Hemann hosted perhaps one of the more interesting gatherings we have had for some time. The planned agenda consisted of the following:

1. Mercy Hospital Medi-Vac helicopter demonstration
2. Presentation and demonstration by Sgt. Casey Bilden, a Cedar Rapids police officer, and his "drug" dog.
3. Sharing by pilot Jim Weber. Jim retired as a corporate pilot several years ago. His employer was a devout Catholic who made his corporate jet available to Mother Terese when she visited this country. As the only Catholic pilot Jim was selected to fly her. He shared with us some very interesting stories of the 7 times he met her at Washington National or Teterboro and escorted her to places she visited around the country.
4. A demonstration by a member of the DNR and his "falcon" hunting bird.

Two complications kept this from being the day it could have been.

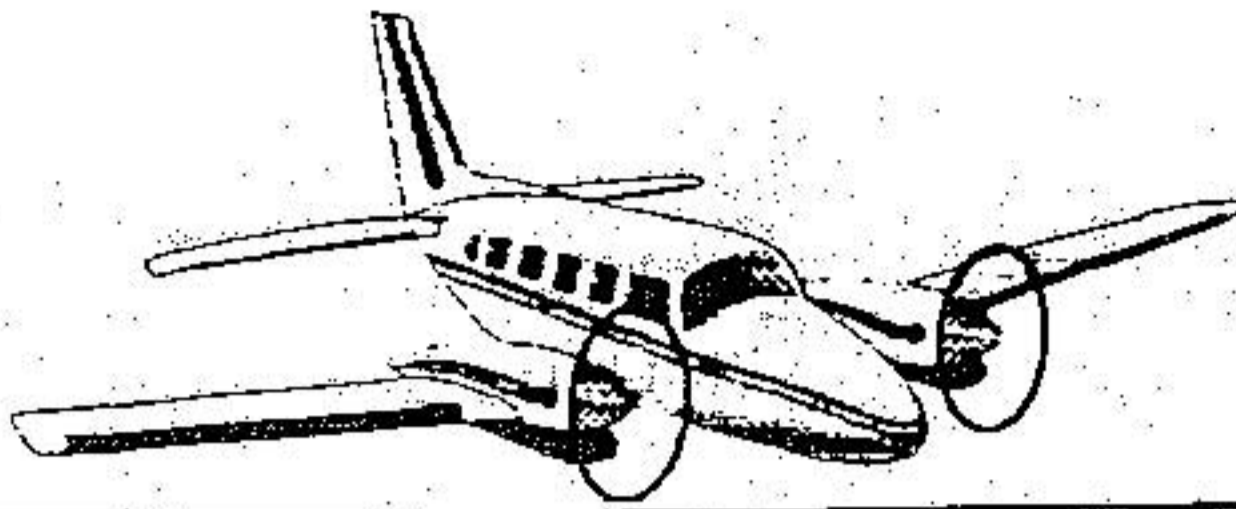
1. Just as the helicopter was to leave join us they received an emergency call. They responded to an accident on I 35. The young lady who had been missing for 5 days was found trapped in her car in a small creek along the interstate. She had to have both legs amputated and has survived. You probably heard about her as it made the national news, including the Today show. Our misfortune was her good fortune.
2. Photographer Jack Paisley forgot the flash for his camera so we have only a few pictures.

7 airplanes brought 15 members from 5 states. John invited area priests which brought the number of members and guests to 31. Parishioners and families were invited to the field where the falcon demonstration was held. All in all it was a very, very good day.



**A VIEW FROM THE FIELD AND A GOOD MEAL TO TOP IT OFF**





## BRIEFS FROM HERE AND THERE

### It Never Fails! CHANGE

At the Midwest NAPP Spring regional meeting John Wolesky informed me his email address has changed. It is:  
fwolesky@ikansas.com

Fr. Joseph Halloran has moved. New address  
St. Paul the Apostle  
138 12th Street  
Troy, NY 12180

Fr. Jack Fitzgerald sent a couple of changes as airport chaplain at PIT:

Fr. Jack Fitzgerald  
Airport Chaplain - PIT  
Interfaith Chapel  
PO Box 12222  
Pittsburg, PA 15231-0222

412-472-0155 (O)  
412-787-2140 (H)  
412-787-3799 (F)  
piachapl@stargate.net (email)

Frank Nemmers wrote from Onawa, Iowa

Mel,

Greetings from Onawa.

I still haven't seen the completed RV-6. It probably just went by too fast.

This summer we're moving the rectory to make room for the big (1.3 M) building project. Will probably miss Naples. (I was there in February anyway).

Greetings to all

*Frank N.*

### LAST THOUGHTS ON WING SOUTH

1. Miami sectional. CYY vor 4.5 miles 120 radial
2. Right traffic rwy 36; left traffic rwy 18.
3. New identifier: FA37

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Several years ago the decision was made to have the NAPP fiscal year coincide with the annual convention. Consequently our fiscal year begins July 1 and ends the following June. The past couple of years I have collected membership dues at the convention. This has eliminated collecting dues via the mail dues from 40 to 50 persons we just spent time with. I will once again collect the dues from those attending the Florida convention. There will be a 2002 reminder for the rest of you in the August newsletter.

### "SQUAWKS"

The following are problems US Air Force pilots left for maintenance crews to fix before the next flight. P is the problem; S is the solution.

- P Left main tire almost needs replacement.  
S Almost replaced left inside tire.
- P Something loose in cockpit.  
S Something tightened in cockpit.
- P Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.  
S Evidence removed.
- P DME volume unbelievably loud.  
S Volume set to more believable level.
- P Dead bugs on windshield.  
S Live bugs on order.
- P Test flight OK, except autoland very rough.  
S Autoland not installed on this aircraft.
- P Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.  
S That's what they're there for.
- P IFF (Identification Friend or Foe) inoperative.  
S IFF always inoperative in OFF.

## THE GOLDEN YEARS

Mel Hemann

I can't speak for others but in my 40 years of active ministry I have been a firm believer in the scriptural text "there is a time for everything." I am also a firm believer that I am here on this earth for a period of time known only to God. When and how it ends is all part of the Paschal mystery we live each day. The time allotted me is pure gift. Knowing full well that the Church and every position I have held was there long before I arrived and most likely will get along very well without me after I am gone, I decided to retire 3 years ago when I reached the magic age of 70. (An age, I might add, at which most of my lay friends have been enjoying many years of retirement). With the so called shortage of priests many wonder why a priest would even consider retiring and leave the faithful in the lurch. What does a retired priest do anyway?

Within the past 2 months I received a call from Sr. Jeanine at American Martyrs Retreat House to check possible dates for conducting a couple of retreats in 2002 at the Retreat House. A call came from a priest asking about covering his parish while he would be away because of a family emergency. Another emailed about weekend coverage this Fall and next winter as he scheduled some well needed time away. A call from one of the Davenport diocesan priests inquired about the possibility of conducting an August retreat for their priests. Archbishop Hanus asked me to fly him to the ordination of a new bishop in Cleveland. This is but a small indication of how life goes once one reaches those golden years. Not too many dull moments.

My remote preparation for this change in life consisted of visiting priestly retirees, studying literature on the subject and attending workshops. The underlying theme seemed to be that a life of total leisure is an assured fast track to mental and physical disaster. My priestly life has been one continual blessing, the good and joys far outweighing the bad. I feel I have been gifted by God in many special ways, especially with an interest and expertise in family life. In

retirement I am free to continue offering my gifts to those who might benefit from them. I can now do this without having to exert untold time and energy to other activities. The personal satisfaction that comes with knowing a job has been done well continues to energize me and fills my life with busy, but very gratifying moments. There is also the continued appreciation from fellow priests whom I am privileged to help that motivates me to keep sharing God's Good News. Last year I assisted 47 weekends in 36 different communities. Life does continue to be challenging and exciting.

Those of you who know me know that flying has been my hobby for years. What some find in golf, fishing or some other interest, flying has been my number one method of re-creating and energizing my inner self. Over the years that hobby made it possible for me to serve the Church and God's people in a variety of ways that would have been impossible without that mode of travel. In my retirement I continue to pursue that interest as a flight instructor and charter pilot at the Waterloo airport. I do get around. The past 3 weeks have found me in Alabama, Florida, Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota, Mississippi, New York, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota and Tennessee. I am a firm believer that God is present every where. His presence continues to manifest itself daily in the "work-a-day" world. I am offered countless opportunities daily to show something of God's love and life with the people I meet reminding me that the most profound homilies we preach are the lives we live.

Perhaps the greatest of all the retirement benefits is the realization that in 40 years I was never an ACCW deanery moderator and consequently denied the opportunity of writing for the LINK.

**I finally made it!!!**

**NAPP  
NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**JULY 10 and 11, 2001**

**CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS**

**WING SOUTH, NAPLES, FLORIDA**

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**PLEASE MAKE YOU OWN ROOM RESERVATIONS BY JULY 1.**

Please inform that this is a NAPP reservation. Our agreement is only with the Comfort Inn at Exit 15

Convention Hosts:

Rev. John T. Walsh  
95 Warren Ave  
Rochester, NY 14618  
Phone: 716.242.0257  
E-Mail: [WALSHJT@prodigy.net](mailto:WALSHJT@prodigy.net)  
Fax: 716.242.7733

Mr. George Gratton  
75 Bastian Road  
Rochester, NY 14623  
Phone: 716.424.3735  
Work: 716.453.5866

NAPLES HEADQUARTERS: George Gratton 4043 SKYWAY DRIVE, NAPLES, FL 34112  
**AFTER JULY 4, CONTACT KNOBBY OR GEORGE  
AT WING SOUTH...Phone: 941.417.0377**

.....

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE FAX OR E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL BY CAR: DAY AND APPROXIMATE TIME.....  
INN IS VISIBLE COMING OFF THE EXIT 15 RAMP

ARRIVAL BY PLANE: WING SOUTH AIRPORT:  
DAY AND APPROXIMATE TIME.....

ARRIVAL BY COMMERCIAL PLANE: CARRIER \_\_\_\_\_

FLIGHT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL TIME: DAY \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_