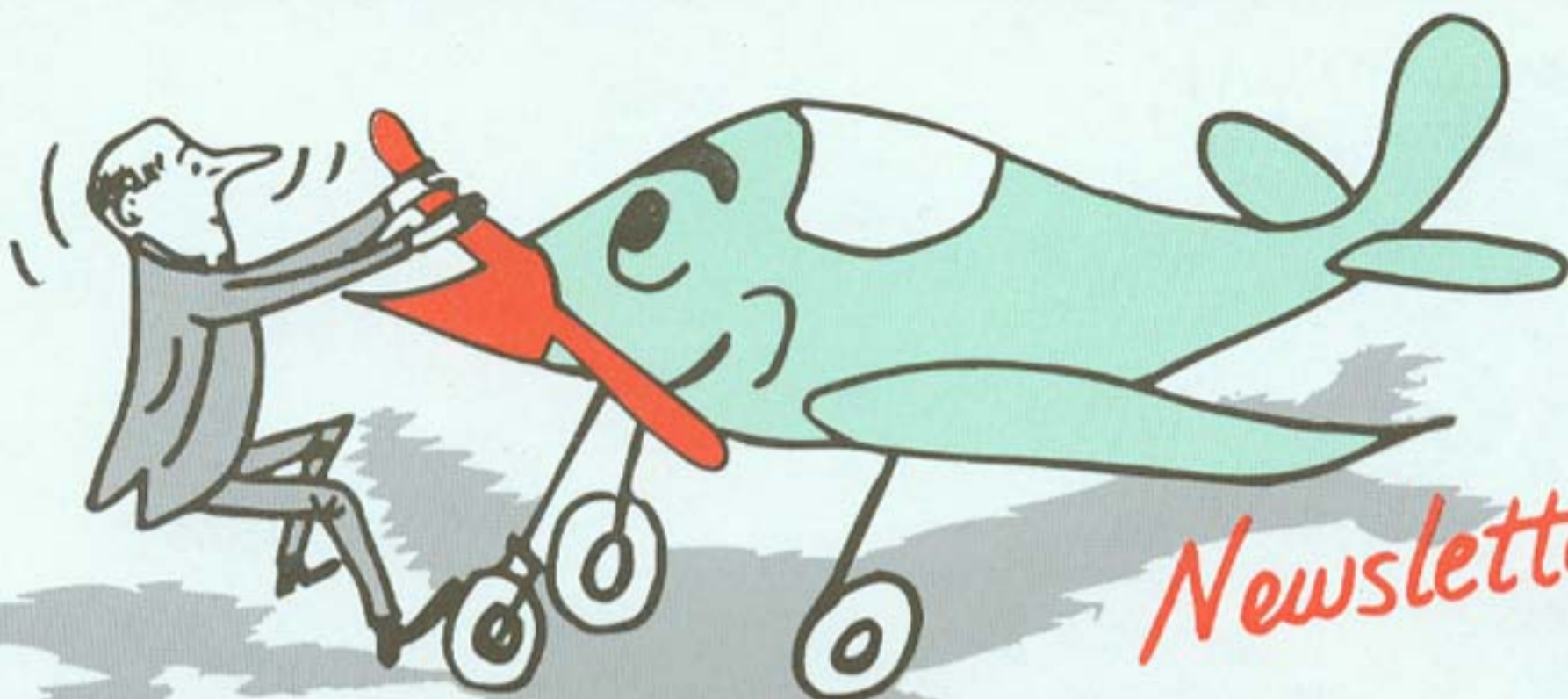


N.A.P.P.



VOLUME XL DECEMBER 2002 NO. 3



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Taking advantage of the classic Midwest winter -- solid overcast with a 2,000 ceiling -- one local resident on the approach path to Milwaukee Mitchell airport's 19R last year offered a neatly lettered rooftop sign, "Welcome to Cleveland!"

It reminds me of my brother John at his home airport, Charles City. Seeing a pilot exiting a C-152 carrying a log book, John and the FBO recognized a student on a cross country. When the pilot entered the office, John non-chalantly said: "Well, I better get going. I'm headed over to Charles City and want to be back before dark."

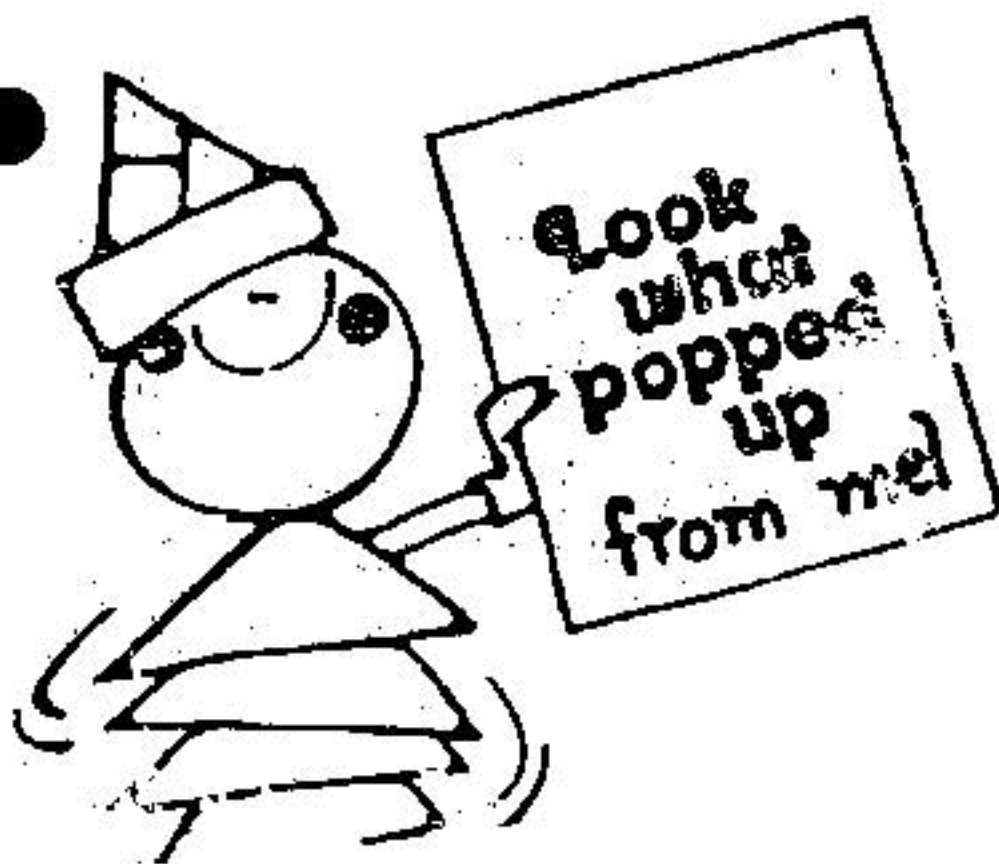
The student walked back outside, looking around for a sign to see where he REALLY was since he knew he was NOT at Charles City where he intended.

As pilots we know the importance of navigating and knowing where we are. As priests, much of our ministry is guiding people on their spiritual journey. The magi stopped and asked directions, something many males find difficult.

In this Christmas season, may you realize more fully the dignity and honor which is ours. God has chosen to share our human life. We have been called to preach that Good News to others, by our lives and in our words. Our ministry is to give directions, indeed to walk with others, as they journey to the Lord. What a grace from God is ours.

I ask you also to pray. We celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace. Yet there is no peace in Bethlehem. We celebrate the King of Kings, yet we tend to lord it over other countries. Pray that we might be converted to this feast - God and human becoming one.

Everett Hemann



Enclosed are a couple of news items pertaining to our two NAPP charitable recipients for this year. One is from Pat Patten in Tanzania; a second from Dick Case, S.J., chancellor of the Fairbanks diocese and an account of his trip with their new bishop Donald Kettler, and new NAPP member, our second recipient this year. Isn't it great to be able to be of some help, small as it is, in support of those laborers in that particular part of the Lord's vineyard?

There's also a letter from Joe Halloran about his generous donation. Thanks from all of us Joe. Your gift is part of the money sent to the above.

We received some additional renewals with the last mailing. There are still some on the list who have not returned their dues envelope. Some of you are complimentary but the rest will receive one final reminder with this mailing. If you don't send your dues by the end of January your name will be off the list in the new NAPP directory that will be sent in the February mailing.

Help us to help support our brothers and

sisters.

AIRPLANE BLESSING

This is God's airplane. His intelligence is in every part of it. As He keeps the stars in their courses and the sun and moon in their paths, so He guides and directs this plane. He knows every highway and byway of the air even as He knows the highways and byways of the earth. I rest secure in His protecting presence, and all is well.

REMINDERS

NATIONAL MEETING

*Ames, Iowa
July 9 - 10, 2003*

MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING

May 6, 2003
(note date change)

Hosted by Gene Murray at
**Marv Skie-Lincoln Co
Y14 Great Plains Airport**
Located 2 miles NE of Tea, SD
south of Sioux Falls, SD

REMINDERS

2004 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

**Frasca Field
Urbana, Illinois
July 7- 8, 2004**

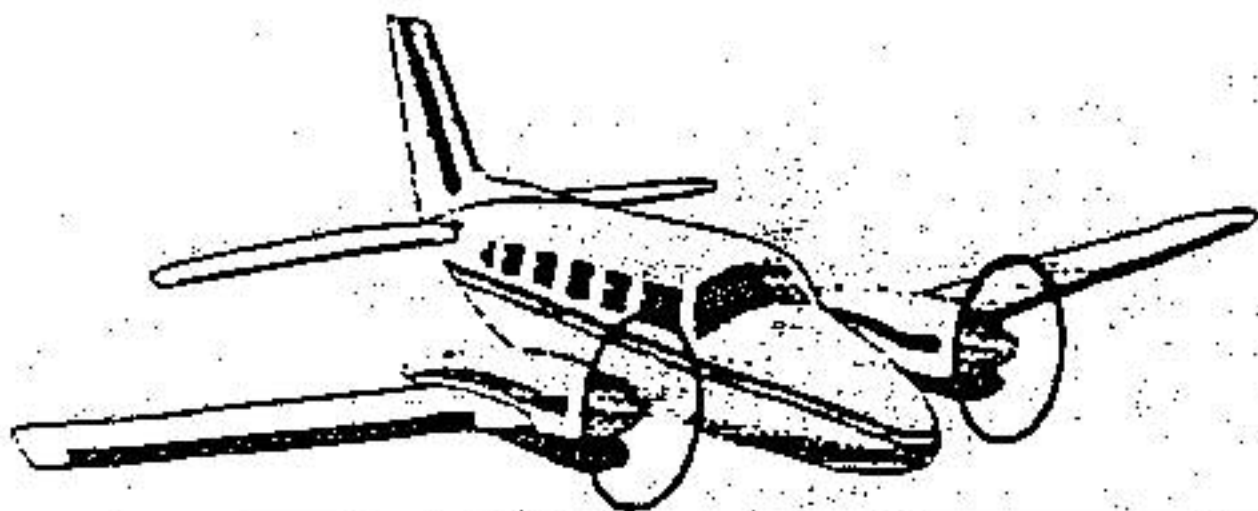
ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:



REV. MEL HEMANN

127 Kaspand Place
Cedar Falls, IA 50613-1683
319-266-3889

EMail: DBQMhemann@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us



BRIEFS FROM HERE AND THERE

This word came from Loyola University

Greetings,

The following release announces the appointment of John Costello, S.J., as special assistant to Michael J. Garanzini, S.J., president of Loyola University Chicago. Father Costello is a member of the National Association of Priest Pilots. We thought you might like to know of his recent appointment.

Please let me know if there is any additional information you might need.

Sincerely,

Susan Montgomery

From Tim Sander, OSB, Fairbanks, AK

October 29, 02

Dear Mel,

As it does to many in this male profession, prostate cancer has caught up with me. I will soon begin hormone therapy, then external radiation and learn to deal with the interesting side effects!

For the time being I am grounded, but hopefully that is temporary. I could use prayers from the members. Thank you and God bless you!

Tim Sander, OSB

October 28, 2002

Dear Mel and All the Members,

Bishop Don Kettler was ordained August 22, 2002. We had a great turnout for the occasion that covered three evenings and an afternoon. Wednesday evening we gathered in the Cathedral for prayer and the blessing of the signs of office. The next afternoon we spent almost three hours in our local convention center with Archbishop Roger Schwietz of Anchorage presiding at the ordination. Finally on Friday we had a Meet the Bishop dinner for the families in Fairbanks. There were lots of activities.

Saturday morning I prepared the Bishop's C-207 for departure to our outlying villages. A quick trip to flight service showed me that flying that day was out. Too much rain and cloud! Two airplanes had turned around from the same direction that we wanted to fly. We hung it up for that day. The next morning we were able to take off and fly without any trouble to a town called Galena in the middle of the state. We then tried to fly to Bethel in the southwest after the bishop dutifully gassed the plane. We covered about 45 miles before rain, clouds and smoke from forest fires forced us to turn back. The pastor of the church in Galena most graciously hosted us for the night. I said yes before I remembered that we had promised to have 8:30 AM Mass in Galena the next morning. I decided to try anyway.

The next morning we had Mass with the Bishop presiding. We rushed to the airport and were airborne by 9:30 AM. It was just right for climbing above the lingering smoke and flying direct to Bethel. Of course we ran into a nice headwind all the way to Bethel. We still managed to arrive by 12:15 PM and the Bishop

could say Mass. We had planned to spend two nights in Bethel before flying to Toksook Bay on the afternoon of our arrival. We therefore had nice lunch at the church and loaded the airplane for Toksook Bay. An hour later we landed in this village of about 500 people on the Bering Sea. After a great welcome at the airport we walked to the church for Mass. I had been pastor of this village for 5 years in the early 1980s. It was a wonderful homecoming for me. That evening we had a potluck and Eskimo dancing. They invited the Bishop to drum for the dancing. He was very honored.

The next morning we flew to Emmonak at the mouth of the Yukon River. We spent the afternoon and evening celebrating Mass, eating, dancing, and receiving gifts. The people were very gracious in welcoming their new Bishop. The next morning we flew to St. Mary's for a quiet afternoon followed by Mass and a reception in the parish. St. Mary's was my home before Bishop Kaniecki died so suddenly two years ago. The Bishop seemed to drink in all the sights and sounds. Because he has so much time in preparation for his private, I would take off and then let him fly to our destination. It sure was nice to sit back and leave the driving to him.

After St. Marys we flew to Nome in quite nice weather. Actually after the first two days we had no trouble with the weather. In Nome we stayed at the parish. Of course we had a great dinner with the parishioners that evening. A good night's sleep prepared us for a pleasant trip up to Kotzebue over the Seward Peninsula. It was new country for me, but the GPS kept me out of any trouble. We had beautiful weather that evening and enjoyed a nice dinner with the parishioners. A quiet walk through town gave a peaceful finish to our stay.

The weather continued to hold the next day. We were able to fly direct back to Galena. Only the last 10 miles gave me some extra work. With rain and fog around the airport, the visibility went down to about 2 miles. I received a special VFR from Anchorage Center and proceeded up the river at about 500 feet. The airport had not moved and we came in very nicely for the end of a great flight. The pastor of Galena was visiting one of his other parishes. We had agreed to stay for the 11:00 AM Mass before departing for Fairbanks on the last leg of the trip. Surprise of all surprises, we picked up a strong 15 knot tailwind all the way into Fairbanks. The trip

ended with the Bishop's coming to know something of the distances and difficulties that we face in Northern and Western Alaska. Now that it is over I would not trade the experience for anything.

Sincerely yours,



Rev. Richard D. Case, S.J.
Chancellor

This email from Pat Patten a few weeks ago

Hi Mel,

This late response is inexcusable on my part. I received your first email way back in July about NAPPs very kind and generous contribution to Flying Medical Service. It comes in an important period, as our budgeted \$10,000 poor patients' fund -- which usually carries us through the year -- got all used in January, and I've been borrowing from other budget lines to keep things going!

It has been a busier than usual year. We saw 18,000 patients in 2001, most of them from very remote areas. We averaged about two emergency flights a week -- in addition to our almost daily clinic flights. But this year started with 10 emergencies in the first ten days! Don't have a clue what our statistics will look like this year when we add them up at the end. It stays exciting, and ever new.

So... unlike for many of you Stateside, our flying hasn't slowed down. There are no TFRs. In fact, we have only one small prohibited area in the country. And the sky is big. We continue to be the only two planes flying single engine night IFR in East Africa. And we enjoy it.

Sorry my connections with NAPP are so distant, but do appreciate your newsletter and keeping all of us in touch.

Pat
Flying Medical Service
P.O. Box 508
Arusha, Tanzania
Phone+Fax: 255-(0)27-250-8760
Phone: 255-(0)27-250-8583
Phone: 255-(0)741-653953

Hi Mel,

Oops! In the email I just sent, I didn't

answer the question you asked. All donations are best sent to my brother's address. If it's specifically for Flying Medical Service, just make the check out to Flying Medical Service. If it's for the mission in general (our handicapped training center, dispensary, pastoral work, or Flying Medical Service) make it to Pat Patten -- Mission Account. And mail it to:

Michael Patten
1758 Manchester
G.P. Woods
MI 48236-1920

He acknowledges everything. Just in case, his phone number is 313-881-8787. And his email is: thisismichael@att.net

He's a good guy. So are you. Welcome back here any time.

Pat

Dear Mel,

I am Father Joe Halloran, a friend of Owen Shanley's. I haven't been to the last gathering of Priest Pilots Association because I am having a lot of trouble with my diabetes.

I would like to make a \$200 offering in memory of Msgr. Bill Roach and Father James Kelly. They were both such a delight to be in their presence.

Best wishes and prayers.



Father Joe Halloran

(Just in case you're planning to head north)

EARTHQUAKE DESTROYS ALASKA AIRPORT

Emergency repair crews have begun work at Northway Airport (ORT) in Northway, Alaska, after damage from a magnitude 7.9 earthquake on Nov. 8 closed the airport. Northway, about 30 miles from the Canadian border, is a principal port of entry for light aircraft from Canada and the lower 48 states.

Although Northway was about 100 miles from the epicenter, the quake caused extensive damage to the 5,100 foot asphalt runway. Repair crews will plow up the paved runway and replace it with a temporary 3,200 foot gravel surface. Alaska's aviation community and the state's DOT are working to find a long-term

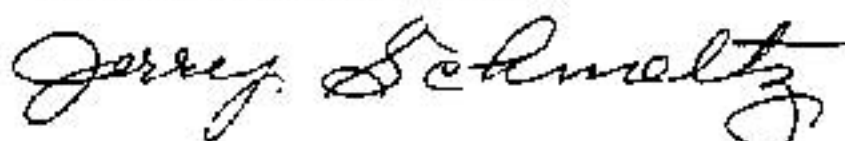
solution that can be implemented next summer.

"People flying to Alaska need to know this airport is closed and is liable to remain so for a few weeks," said AOPA Alaska regional representative Tom George.

From Jerry Schmeltz, Shawnee Mission, KS

Beginning in 2003, I will discontinue my NAPP membership. It's been a wonderful experience being associated with the group - mostly indirectly. I'll always have fond memories of my early years with NAPP and the flight instructing activity. I'm at the stage of life where I'm spooling down on club memberships.

Take care and God bless.



Jerry Schmeltz

Editor's Note: The AIRPLANE BLESSING on another page was sent by Jerry. It was something I included in the newsletter about 30 years ago.

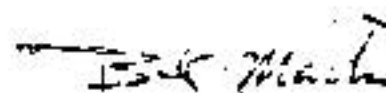
Included with his dues William F. Martin writes

Happy Thanksgiving and Christmas!

My Glasflugel Libelle and Grumman Tiger are in the barn for the winter and Sugarbush Airport is a X-Country ski center once again. Early snow start for us here once again so both styles of skiing are available plus snowshoeing. NAPPers are welcome to share my residence; PPR!

Don't any pastors need a weekend free? I travel the US 41 weekends a year on behalf of the Christian Foundation for Children and aging. We strongly support the Catholic Missionary structure and the poor.

Call or write me:



Rev. William F. Martin
PO Box 651
Warren, VT 05674-0651

802-496-0651

A

Very, Very

MERRY

CHRISTMAS

And A

HAPPY NEW YEAR