



Volume 56

June 2019

No. 6

Join us in Sioux Falls for NAPP 2019

By Fr. Bob Lacey
Convention Host

The 2019 NAPP Convention in Sioux Falls is fast approaching! Many thanks to all who have sent in their registrations – it helps greatly with planning!

Here's a more detailed plan for our time together:

Tuesday, July 9

8:30 a.m. departure for [EROS data center](#) (lots of maps!)

11:30 a.m. return to Country Inn and Suites for my Aunt Betty's pulled-pork sandwiches!

Rest of day for flight training or browsing the downtown and falls waterway. Take a look on Google or the [Sioux Falls Visitors Bureau](#) for ideas on many walking-distance items of interest.

Wednesday, July 10

Morning open

4:30 p.m. trip to [Cathedral](#) for tour, then Mass.

6:30 p.m. back to Cherapa Place (across parking lot from hotel) for banquet and speaker.

Speaker is pending, but one candidate flies for United with extensive safety training



in the private and corporate sectors.

Back to the hotel for drinks and more conversation!

Per usual diocesan policies, please have your letters of

good standing/celebrations sent to our diocese. Tracie Fletcher in the Bishop's office is good point of contact. Email: tfletcher@sfcatholic.org; phone: 605-988-3798

A flyer with more information, including an RSVP form and hotel reservation details, can be found at the end of the newsletter.



President's farewell: The drive-in, fly-in and presidential thanks

Father John Schmitz
NAPP President

Greetings to everyone from Missouri where much has been happening this spring. I am glad to have checked NOTAMS the other day before taking off in the plane to go home to visit family in Jefferson City. I found out I would have needed a float plane rating and a set of floats on my Cessna Cardinal to land at my home airport (KJEF), now 8 feet under water.

The Midwest Regional Fly-In gathering in Missouri in April showed great promise for many to arrive by plane but, as God would have it, the flyers had to stay safely on the ground due to weather changes. Those who drove arrived Sunday evening.

We got a head start catching up and reminiscing about past NAPP gatherings and all those who made and make this organization possible. It is a wonderful group of priests and others who love and support aviation and its use to spread the Gospel around the world.

Monday, April 29, began with rain, but God gave us a break in the mid-morning as we joined up with parishioners of St. Patrick Parish who helped plan this event (Jim Stoltz, Don Drake, Jim Gerke, Bob Miller, and Jim Skelly) to take a tour of the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church and St. Patrick Parish in Laurie before heading for the Camdenton Airport.

Once there, Brett Weisenborn explained the local assistance given to the Angel Flight organization and how it works while showing us the Piper M600 they are using for local Angel flights.

As good pilots, we were soon drawn to the wingless plane in the hangar.

This plane, which would



only be able to plane off in the water and never in the sky, is a 46-foot Big Thunder offshore cabin cruiser being stored at the airport. Brett spoke about the recent revival of the Big Thunder corporation and its production line in Hannibal, Missouri, and some of its history. A few of us climbed on board to get a glimpse of the cabin cruiser and its massive twin engines.

After finishing the tour, we were off to Ha Tonka State Park to meet Mike Burrus, our boat captain, to embark on a ride on the lake and see a small portion of its 1,150 miles of shoreline, business-

es, and homes. (The lake shoreline is longer than the coastline of the state of California.) We enjoyed the wonderful winding channel made from the valleys and hills of the Ozarks filled now with water from the man-made lake. It was built in 1931 by Union Electric Co. of St. Louis and was, at that time, the largest man-made lake in the United States. Today, it is the home and vacation place of thousands while also providing hydroelectric energy for the state.

As the skies began to darken again, we enjoyed lunch

Continued on Page 3



Continued from Page 2

on the park's scenic shoreline. The parish ladies spared no details as we gathered under the pavilion, which was all decked out with colorful tablecloths, silverware and plates for a wonderful lunch of meatball sandwiches and Keto burgers with all the fixings.

To top off the meal, while the rain lightly fell, we each



received an airplane-shaped cookie baked by Dianna Sutherland, decorated with icing and our names. Sorry for those who planned but were not able to ar-

rive; know that your airplane cookies did not go to waste, they were delicious. Thanks also to Rose Vanderbeck, Carol Paul, Mari Pat Brooks and Mary Brown for all the planning, attention and efforts that made this a wonderful picnic luncheon for us all.

During our formal meeting, we recapped our last meeting and caught up on the ongoings of the association. We closed with setting the tentative date and place for the fall Midwest gathering. It will be Monday, September 30, in Mason City, Iowa (KMCW). Msgr. John Hemann will fill us in on details at our national gathering in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, July 8-10. Hope all of you are planning to be there.

As I finish this letter, I want to say many thanks for the wonderful four years that I have been honored to serve as president of the National Association of Priest Pilots. We have continued to support the need to bring God's word to others as well as provide needed assistance through the support of nonprofit organizations using flight as a means of assisting God's people. We have welcomed new members and continue to support each other in our love of aviation and our priestly vocations as well as sharing with others our appreciation for their support of us and the belief in our mission.

I pray that all have been well these

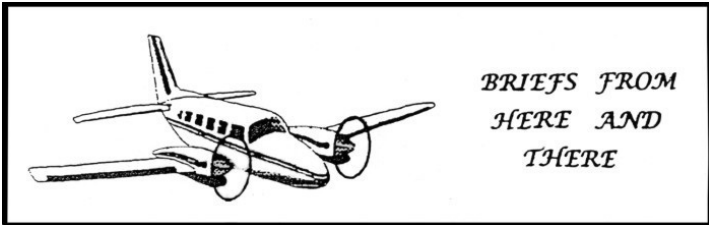


past months and send prayers to all who have been affected by the flood waters and tornadoes recently ravaging the Midwest and for all those parishes who may be directly affected by these disasters.

I encourage each of us to also pray for the upcoming elections of our organization at the convention in Sioux Falls. May each of you be blessed by your works for the Lord and enjoy the summer months of flying and sharing in the gift and beauty of aviation that we are all so blessed to have and enjoy.

Keeping the blue side up and hoping to see everyone in July.





News from Arusha Medivac in Tanzania, East Africa

NAPP associate member Jack Rejman, chief pilot for Arusha Medivac in Tanzania, shared a copy of the May edition of Arusha Medivac News. Here are a few excerpts:

Aircraft Maintenance: Arusha Medivac’s Piper Navajo undergoes a strict maintenance schedule in accordance with TCAA regulations, to ensure the safety of our clients and staff. In February, our aircraft completed a two-week maintenance cycle by aircraft engineers at Hawk Aviation in Nairobi.

Our service doesn’t stop during this time, and thanks to the teams at Flying Medical Service, Coastal Aviation and Northern Air who made their aircraft available, our medical flights continued uninterrupted. Thank you, Pat, Bruce, Sameera, Rikus and all your staff for your continued support.

(Editor’s note: [Flying Medical Service](#) is a nonprofit, volunteer organization in Tanzania, East Africa. It provides preventative, curative and health-related education services. It also provides medical air transport. NAPP gives financial support to the organization. Fr. Pat Patten, an NAPP member, is director of Flying Medical Service.)

Spidertracks Trialed: Arusha Medivac has recently trialed the Spidertracks Flight Communications System in our aircraft. In addition to real-time flight tracking, Spidertracks allows clear and reliable communications between the aircraft and the ground anywhere in the world independent of the mobile network.

The system will enhance our operational safety and efficiency, by allowing our dispatchers to safely track, manage and communicate with the aircraft, anywhere, anytime, and our medics to communicate changes in a patient’s condition in real-time from the air to the receiving hospital.

Donation of Aircraft Lights: Arusha Medivac wishes to acknowledge the generous donation of LED aircraft lights by Czech firm AVEO Engineering. These lights ensure our aircraft is highly visible in the air, and we thank them for their generous support.

Arusha Medivac serves the Tanzanian population and visitors by providing rapid-response medical air evacuation and air patient transfer out of Arusha within Tanzania and to Nairobi, Kenya.

From the NAPP archives, read Pat Patten’s 2016 account of the Piper Navajo’s 9,300-mile ferry flight from the United States to East Africa: [“Journey to Tanzania.”](#)

NOTE FROM GEORGE GRATTON: Thank you all for your prayers; they worked. The second-class medical is gone, but basic med is in my logbook. I got 19 out of 20 questions correct (still one I don’t understand) but pass is a pass.

Just bought a Garmin 175 GPS and ADS-B out transponder, and reupholstered 8787P, so it is ship shape.

See ya’al in Sioux Falls!

| |
|---|
| <p>NAPP Dues – U.S. \$25.00 2020 fiscal year begins July 1, 2019</p> <p><i>Use this form to send your dues or use PayPal (go to www.priestpilots.org and click on PayPal).</i></p> <p>NAME: _____</p> <p>ADDRESS: _____</p> <p>CITY: _____</p> <p>STATE: _____ ZIP: _____</p> <p>EMAIL: _____</p> <p>PHONE: _____</p> <p>Member: <input type="checkbox"/> Charter <input type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Associate</p> <p>Mail to: Msgr. John Hemann, NAPP Treasurer, 481 N. Shore Dr., Apt. 301, Clear Lake, IA 50428-1368</p> |
|---|

Bishop Gruss, NAPP member, selected for Saginaw

Bishop Robert Gruss of Rapid City, South Dakota, has been selected by Pope Francis to lead the Diocese of Saginaw, Michigan.

He was introduced to diocesan staff and the news media in Saginaw on May 24.

Bishop Gruss succeeds Bishop Joseph Cistone, who died unexpectedly October 16, 2018, at age 69.

Bishop Gruss, 63, has headed the Rapid City Diocese since 2011.

His installation in Saginaw is set for July 26.

He is a member of the National Association of Priest Pilots.

A native of Arkansas, Robert Gruss attended Madison Area Technical College in Wisconsin and Spartan School of Aeronautics in Oklahoma and was a commercial pilot and flight instructor from 1980 to 1989 before entering seminary.

He pursued seminary studies at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa, from 1989 to 1990, then studied at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, 1990-1994. He earned a master of arts degree in spiritual theology in 1994 at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, also known as the Angelicum, in Rome.

In 1999, he completed studies at the Institute of Priestly Formation in Omaha, Nebraska, with an emphasis on spiritual direction training.

He was ordained to the priesthood July 2, 1994, by



Bishop William Franklin of Davenport. Previous assignments have included chancellor and diocesan vocations director for the Diocese of Davenport, and pastor at Sacred Heart Cathedral. He also served as vice rector at the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

The Saginaw Diocese covers almost 7,000 square miles in 11 counties. Out of a total population of close to 709,000, about 153,000 are Catholic.

Some information for this article came from Catholic News Service.

From the NAPP archives: [Bishop Gruss hosts 2013 NAPP convention in Rapid City](#)

Bishop Gruss' ministry in the Diocese of Saginaw begins with 'No Greater Love'

Excerpt from the Diocese of Saginaw website, May 24, 2019:

When Bishop Robert D. Gruss read today's Gospel reading, it confirmed to him that the Diocese of Saginaw is where the Holy Spirit wants him to be.

"We all know in the Lord's mind there is no coincidence," Bishop Gruss said. "So, when I got up this morning and celebrated my daily Mass, the Gospel reading from St. John had a lot of meaning for me."

The first few lines of today's Gospel read: "This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:12-13)

"That last line, 'No greater love,' happens to be my Episcopal motto," Bishop Gruss said. "I do find it interesting that I come here to the Diocese of Saginaw, for the very first time, for this announcement as your Bishop, on the day when the Gospel that is proclaimed happens to be my Episcopal motto. I think it's the Lord's confirmation of this new assignment."

NAPP Executive Team

President: John Schmitz

1st Vice President: Joe McCaffrey

2nd Vice President: Bill Menzel

Secretary: Allen Corrigan

Treasurer: John Hemann

Regional Directors

East: Al Ruschman

Midwest: John Hemann

Please send newsletter articles, notes and photos to: Tom Enwright, napp.editor@gmail.com; 419 Chestnut St., Sauk City, WI 53583

Deadline for the August edition: July 31.

Wanted: Coast Guard Auxiliary pilots, private aircraft and observers

The following article appeared in the spring edition of *The Longboat*, newsletter of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 86, serving southeastern New Jersey.

By Fr. Miles Barrett

I am a retired U.S. Navy Chaplain and a new member of Flotilla 86. I am in the process of training up to fly my own plane on orders to assist in local missions this summer. U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary aircrew, pilots and observers are team players with the active-duty aircrew and as such are required to meet the same standards and have the same annual safety training. Water survival and egress training is a part of the training.

Pilots who own their own plane, even if it's only 25% ownership, are needed in the air on missions to help our active-duty aircrews. Expenses are supplemented, which helps owners stay safer and proficient.

Free flying? Really? If you are a pilot, and wish to fly another person's plane which is USCG-facility checked and approved annually, you can become a co-pilot with as little as 200 hours, be a "first pilot" with 500 hours, an "aircraft commander" with 1,000 hours, and use your aviation skills to help fly missions.

Just love to fly but not a pilot? Want to see the world

from the vantage point of a bird on wing, while helping others? Become an observer. Observers are key personnel onboard for any successful mission. Observers are essential to the missions and play an important part in sharing the many roles onboard.

On April 6, aircrew members from all the local flotillas will complete water survival and egress training in the pool at the USCG Training Center in Cape May, New Jersey.

What sort of missions will these volunteers be preparing for? Search and Rescue (SAR) missions, special missions or any mission over water.

AUXAIR participates in many Coast Guard missions, including:

- Search and Rescue
- Ports, Waterways and Coastal Security
- Ice Reconnaissance
- Marine Safety
- Environmental Protection and Pollution Response
- Aids to Navigation
- Logistic Transport Missions

Interested? Contact me via email at: Miles4724@netzero.com



CFI Corner: A good pilot is always learning!

By Fr. Ed Moran, CFI, CFII, AGI, AGII

I first heard this slogan when I was a cadet in the University of Virginia ROTC Flying Program. As a college student, it was something easy to hear and familiar since most of my life at that time was dedicated to learning – or at least getting the papers in on time.



With flight training in the Army Rotary Wing School, there were many, many more opportunities to learn, especially the valuable lessons that came after busting phase check rides. Failure, I learned, is often our best and most effective teacher if we are humble enough to accept the consequences and lessons learned.

Most of us like to keep on learning. It makes life interesting and surprising. This inner drive for me was probably the reason for becoming an instructor pilot. Folks say that you do not know what you know until you try and teach it. They are right. In addition to trying to master competence in the subject matter like the laws of aerodynamics, federal air regulations, air-space restrictions, weather, human factors, engine operation, planning and aircraft control, there is also the inner dynamics of self-mastery that has to do with patience, understanding, listening and what we in the psychological world call “attending skills.”

Besides all of this, there were the specific ways that students were ignorant. It was not until I started teaching that I learned that there were many kinds of ignorance, including my own!

Teaching becomes much more effective when you begin to recognize the kinds of ignorance with which you are dealing. For example, students struggling with hand and feet coordination for a standard rate turn is a different kind of ignorance than remembering what light signals from the tower meant or failing to untie the rear tie-down point on preflight.

When you think as a pilot that you have a lot of these patterns down after years of teaching, God typically goes and gives you a student who challenges everything you think you know in ways that are very challenging.

Knowing a skill is one thing. Learning how to share that skill is something else entirely! Mel, for all of his years of teaching, I know, can attest to this truth!

There are some concrete kinds of things you can do to keep learning:

- **YouTube** has thousands of video recordings of flights into all kinds of conditions. Look at some of these videos, listen to the radio communication skills. See if you can anticipate what to do before they do it.
- **AOPA’s Air Safety Foundation** is an excellent way to learn about accidents and what causes them, especially as the investigators take the viewer through all the steps of the accident chain that shows what you as a pilot do not know will kill you in the unforgiving practice called aviation. Also, their **Rusty Pilot** seminars are great ways to retool old skills and meet fellow pilots who are also motivated to (re-)learn.
- Think about working on **another rating**, even at an advanced age! Seaplanes, multi-engine and

gliders are fun and challenging ways to build air knowledge and flight skills.

- For **Instrument pilots**, there are online reviews that use the latest in teaching techniques like situation conceptualizations. With programs like “Pro-pilots,” you get briefed on

a flight, have all the weather, know the plane you will be flying and then take off. Throughout the flight, you get stopped and quizzed when a situation occurs given the inevitable changes to your planned en route. This kind of training is so realistic and prompts the pilot to apply learning to a host of changing situations. Such learning helps a pilot to know their personal proficiency level in addition to adding a margin of safety when flying for real.

Keep learning! Aviation, like faith, has a way of continuing to amaze, challenge and reward its participants.

Your questions and suggestions are always fruitful sources for the next column.

Contact me at moranec13@gmail.com

Knowing a skill is one thing. Learning how to share that skill is something else entirely! Mel, for all of his years of teaching, I know, can attest to this truth!

Hotel



The Country Inn and Suites

AMENITIES

Continental breakfast, Shuttle Service, Wi-Fi, in-house restaurant, free parking, and pool/exercise room

CONTACT

200 E. 8 th St, Sioux Falls SD 57103

Phone: 605-373-0153 Fax: 605-334-3410

RESERVATIONS

Room rate: \$119.00

Individual reservations

GROUP ID NUMBER:

190708NAPP

Schedule

July 8 (Monday)

Arrivals - Maverick FBO, KFSD or Hotel Shuttle for commercial; rides, drive in. Courtesy lounge with snacks & drinks

July 9 (Tuesday)

AM: EROS Data Center Tour

July 10 (Wednesday)

PM: Tour and Mass at Cathedral Evening banquet

July 11 (Thursday)

Departures home bound Shuttle service for commercial flights Rides to Maverick FBO, KFSD



NAPP

National Association of Priest Pilots

2019

Convention

9-10 July

Sioux Falls, SD

KFSD

Reservation

NAME _____

CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____

By: *Pvt Plane* N _____ -ETA: _____

By: *Car* _____ ETA _____

DEPARTURE: _____

Welcome to Beautiful Sioux Falls!

I look forward to your presence in my hometown! We have a super nice hotel right on the Big Sioux River in the vibrant downtown.



Overlooking the valley is our Cathedral Church of St. Joseph, the place of our convention Mass.



Our group outing will be to EROS, the Earth Resources Observations and Science Center.



Of course, there will be plenty of time to talk with friends, pick up a BFR or



IPC, mosey through the downtown for a good stogey and beer, or admire the falls - the city's namesake!



Host: Fr. Bob Lacey 605.290.0550

frrobertlacey@sfcatholic.org

PO Box 430, Plankinton, SD 57368

Fax: 605.942.7130