

N.A.P.P.



VOLUME LIII

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NO 1



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Introducing Fr. John Schmitz

What a pleasure it was to see everyone again at the summer national convention. This is always a great time of reunion and conversation that allows us to catch up with one another during those two well planned days. I want to express for all of us a large “thank you” of gratitude for all the hard work, time and efforts of everyone involved in the planning and execution of the convention this year in Des Moines, IA. Especially to our hosts Fr. Gene Murray

and Mr. Mike Makelbust and all the others that stepped in to help them make this a fine time for all who were able to gather this year. We enjoyed visiting the Gold Star Museum at Camp Dodge, a tour of The Living History Farms - the place where St. Pope John Paul II had mass in 1979, and the opportunity to see local history of aviation at the Iowa Heritage Museum at the Ankeny Airport. Closing our days together at the banquet, we were privileged to hear Mr. Del Reiff, a former volunteer mechanic with Wings of Hope, who shared his wisdom and experiences of serving the mission of Pat Patten’s Flying Medical Mission in Tanzania, Africa with his skill as a A&P, helping us all remember the good works we are doing to help our brother and

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“To promote the use of private aircraft as a practical, safe, and efficient tool of the apostolic work of a priest while working with ecclesiastical groups to promote aviation in the cause of the church.”

- Mission Statement

- In This Issue**
- Photo Essay of Convention 2-5
 - NAPP Dues
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 - Midwest Regional Fall Invitational, 8.



THE MEN AT PRAYER

Images courtesy
Anne Marie Cox
Diocese of Des Moines



Top Left: Bill Boyle, Bill Appel, John Schmitz, Tom Reiff, Phill Gibbs;

Top Right: Tom Entwright, George Remm, Al Werth;

Bottom Left: Jesus Christ, veiled in the Tabernacle; Jack Boyle proclaiming the Word of God!

Bottom Right: Jack Paisley, Tom R., John S., Al Ruschman, Mike Makelbust



Harty Grace and her pilot, the new newsletter editor, Fr. Bob Lacey, of Plankinton, SD.

Since she is such a nice flying bird, a 1946 Cessna 140, she'll be doing most of the commentating and editorial work. I hope you'll enjoy this new format after so many, many fine years of Fr. Mel Hemann's editorial labors!



READY, SET, GO!

TOP: Priests versus the Brothers look like they are racing at the Living History Museum. Frs. Bob Lacey and Phil Schmitt are paired on the left while Bill and Jack Boyle laugh at the padre's challenge - they've been doing air traffic control longer than either has been flying!

BOTTOM: The 'cohort' gathered up in the entryway before being sent out to explore the grand adventure of the Living History Museum.



The October newsletter will continue the coverage of the Des Moines area convention!!



From Top to Bottom: Fr. Bill Menzel considers a second career as a Navy Skipper. It is all fun and games until you go underwater and can't fly anymore! **Middle:** The big crowd at Des Moines' Living History Farm. What a handsome group of men, one can almost feel the holiness coming from the place - of course, this effect may have more to do with it being the site of Pope St. John Paul II's Mass when he visited the Midwest in 1979. [Harty Grace says the editor was still in his three corners.] **Bottom:** The emblem of the Iowa visit displayed on the inside of the little church.



The flock of pilots and friends: **Top:** Merlin Kieffer, Gene Murry, Bill Murray, George Gratton, Bill Menzel. **Second Row:** Bill Appel, Nick Patterson, Jerry Scanlan, Bob Lacey, Allen Corrigan, Tom Entwright, Phil Schmitt. **Third Row:** Al Ruschman, John Herzog, John Wolesky, Mel Hemann, Mike Makelbust, Jack Paisley, Joe McCaffrey. **Last shall be first row:** Al Werth, John Hemann, Phill Gibbs, Jack Boyle, John Schmitz, George Remm. Photographer: Bill Boyle

[HG: the editor asks your pardon if anyone is misnamed.]





Clockwise from Top Left: An inside view of the Iowa Gol Star Museum. The Spitfire hangs from the ceiling, recreating the experience for WWII soldiers. When visitors pressed the button on the display, lights went off and the sounds of guns blazing gave a hint of the intensity of battle. The Kansas boys are unfazed! **Next:** The communion set, with description, must have been used by our non-Catholic chaplain or there was a battlefield first communion! **Next:** Joe McCaffrey's Cardinal on her perch. [Pardon the graffiti, Harty Grace was showing her IFR, retract, and horsepower envy by doodling upon the image. -ed] **Next:** Al Ruschman, Gene and Tom Murray, Mel Hermann, and Bill Appel are looking for tools for maintaining their aircraft at the Living History Museum. Sadly, they went away empty handed - no items for sale!



TEXT: Communion Set - This communion set used by LTC DeLoss Markin, Hq, 168th Inf. Rgt, was made from aluminum stripped from a downed German Ju-87 Stuka dive-bomber and brass from artillery shell casings.

The set was used to serve communion to Gen. Dwight Eisenhower and PM Winston Churchill in the spring of 1945.

Disclaimers come in all shapes and sizes and entertainments. From the tail end of an email:

All typos, misspellings and grammatical errors in the above message are the responsibility of Apple, Inc. and the iPad virtual QWERTY keyboard, autocorrect and iOS voice recognition software. I had nothing to do with any mistakes contained herein.

N.A.P.P. DUES -- U.S. \$25.00

*Your 2015 NAPP Dues are now due.
Use this form to send your dues to me
Or
Use Pay Pal electronically.*

(Go to: www.priestpilots.org and click on **Pay Now**)

REV. JOHN HEMANN
481 N Shore Dr, Apt 301
Clear Lake, IA 50428

*Any questions contact me at
Home: 641-357-4539 or Cell: 641-430-4413 or dbqjhemann@dbqarch.org*

Please fill out this form! Make check payable in U.S. Dollars to N.A.P.P., Inc.

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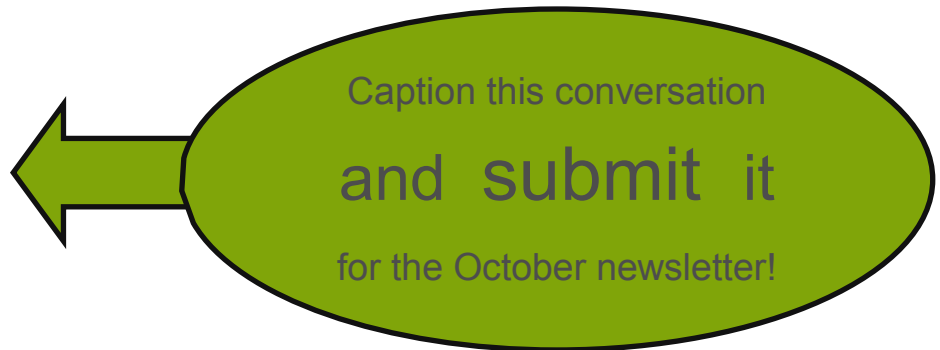
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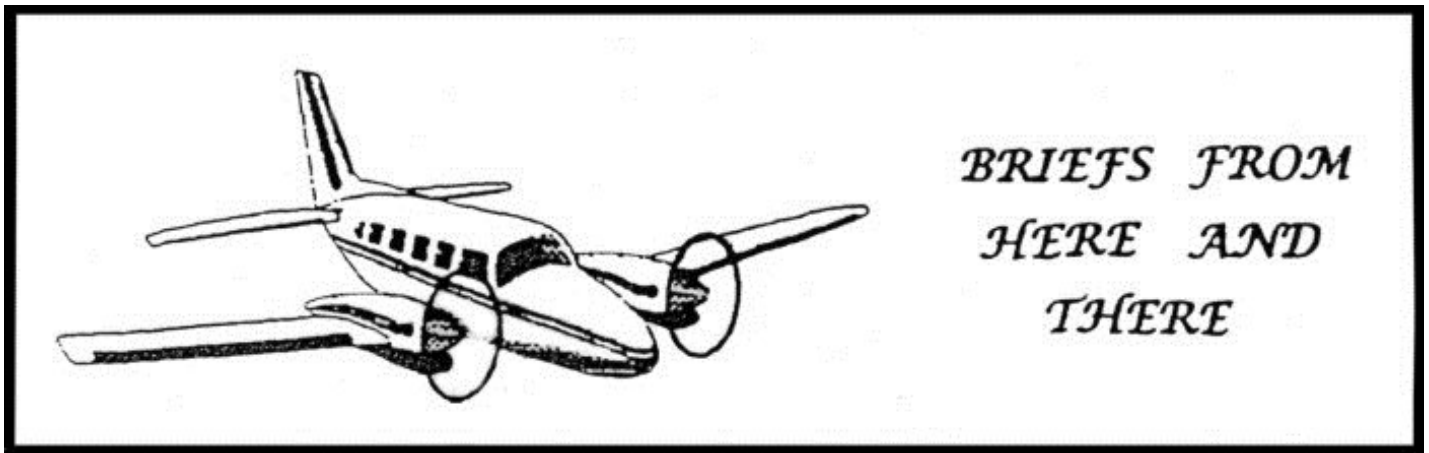
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YOU HAVEN'T PAID YOUR 2015 DUES

KINDLY DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

THANKS





Fr. John B Wehrlen, 22 Morning Glory Ct, Toms River, NJ wrote a couple of weeks ago. "It's time to put the logbook on the shelf. It's been a wonderful ride. My greetings and great flying to all."

George Remm sent along his brand-spanking new email address! **GeorgeFRem@comcast.net** So if you want to send him a digital hello, you can do so! Of course, if you want to use your digits to push a pen and paper around, that's always welcome!

This note from 'Wild West' arrived: Hope the Convention was a good one. Sorry I had to miss it. Peace and God bless you. +Bishop Gruss

This fluttered into our email from the 'Far North': Thanks so much for the invite. Alas, it is a bit far to travel for the day, but it's nice to hear what the boys are up to.

I'm getting lots of hours in this summer in N8579V. Last fall while the plane was in annual, the mechanic called me up and said, "Would you mind coming by the shop?" That is never a good thing. As it turned out the cam shaft in the trusty O-320 A2D was coming apart and we had lots and lots of metal in the oil screen.

So, last winter was spent putting a rebuilt O-320 B2B, which is rated at 160 horse power. Those extra ten horses really make a difference in getting off the water. I also get about 6 MPH more in cruise. Pretty darn spiffy. Break in was uneventful and with luck, I'll get a nice set of wheel skis and do a different kind of water flying this winter on the frozen lakes and maybe a glacier or two. In the meantime, I will

be going back and forth to the cabin in search of the elusive moose.

Have a great time in Iowa and give my best to all.

- Leo Walsh, Alaska



GETTING READY FOR NEXT YEAR: Joe McCaffrey sent an update of plans for PA:

I will try to get some info to you about our annual meeting for NAPP in Pittsburgh this year. I'm going to need to get an idea of the numbers we can expect. I'm trying to get us deals on hotel space and a **ride** with the Air Force refueling wing!! And a tour of their base here in Pgh [Pittsburgh].

We are also hoping to get a box for a Pirates game if they are playing that week..... We don't know yet. But even if the guys don't like baseball the stadium is something to see. The President of the Pirates be-

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SCHEDULE

- 10:30 ish** Arrival at Greenfield airport (KGFZ)
- 11:00** Registration and Orientation
- 11:30** Lunch to be determined
- 1:00** Continued viewing of Iowa Air Museum
- Hopefully:** Special viewing of 3 Iowans with the Doolittle raiders
- 3:15** Plan location of next Fall's gathering
- 4:00** **DEPARTURE**
--- *Whenever!!!!*

(If you want to come early or stay over we can make arrangements).

NAPP MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING

Monday, September 28, 2015

Greenfield, Iowa

GREENFIELD MUNICIPAL- (KGFZ)

HOST: Mel Hemann

Please phone, e-mail or mail RSVP by Thursday, September 24, 2015

NAME _____

CELL _____ **EMAIL** _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____

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

By: Car _____ **ETA:** _____

DEPARTURE: _____

RESERVATIONS TO:

Mel Hemann
127 Kaspand Pl
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
n298mh@cfu.net
(C) 319-230-4957

Have an early glimpse at: <http://www.flyingmuseum.com/>

PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS

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sisters in Christ around the world.

As I look back over the years that I have been privileged to be a part of this organization, (first meeting you all in Kansas City for the Garmin GPS plant tour), I am glad to have such a group of fine people to share the joy of flight and the love of the priesthood. We are all in need of support and community in our priesthood and this has been one of the greatest for me. It is also a support I never realized would be a part of my

priesthood, since I never dreamt I would fulfill a childhood dream of being a pilot and owner of an airplane. Having this organization as a part of my life has been encouraging and greatly supportive in so many ways as a priest and a pilot. I believe we all would agree that it is a great blessing to us all and one we cherish in many different ways.

Now the real surprise, and honor, is to have been chosen to lead this fine organization as its President. I wish to thank all of you for your confidence in me in

this responsibility and I will not be able to complete it well without the support of the gracious help of the other elected officers, the newly elected 1st Vice Pres. Joe McCaffrey, Secretary Alan Corrigan, Treasurer Fr. John Hemann, and our standing 2nd Vice Pres. George Remm. I must also thank Fr. Bob Lacey who has stepped up to manage and be editor of this fine newsletter that keeps all of us connected around the world. My many thanks to each of you for your time and energy in serving in these positions at this time. May

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longs to my parish so I'm sure he would give us a tour and 'first class' treatment!!

I do have the airport secured. It will be (KPJC) Zelenople PA, 122.9 C ASOS 118.45

We are also arranging for vans or a small bus. But it would be a big help if I knew that our #'s would be. This would also help with the # of "gift bags" and shirts we hope to order. I will also need SIZES!

If you have any questions or want to talk My cell is 412 576 8638.

Wishing you an blessed day!!! - Joe

P.J. McDonald is 'skipping out' on the Midwest Regional. In his own words: I'm unable to attend the Greenfield meeting due to conflicts in schedule. However, I'll be present in spirit. Part of the schedule conflict is a Whitman Air Base tour with some Missouri legislators -- inside the B1 bomber.

[Harty Grace has always felt she has the power of a bomber, the grace of a glider, and the agility of a dogfighter. Please don't be the first to break it to her that she *is* just a Cessna 140. -ed]

GONE WEST

Rev. Everett Hiller of Scales Mound, IL died of natural causes on June 21st. Everett was a priest in the Rockford, IL diocese and retired in 2001.

He suffered a stroke around New Year's day which left him deaf and the loss of one eye. Several other strokes occurred in the last two weeks of his life. Death is a gift at times.

A bit of a side note. Everett was related to the Hemmanns. When Everett Hemann was born, Everett Hiller was a seminary student. The Hemmanns named the new baby Everett. They can now enjoy their eternal bliss and together they hopefully are preparing a place for their siblings. May they rest in peace.

Speaking of Bishop Gruss: We continue to send our prayers to his diocese of Rapid City on the death of Fr. Peter Kovarik who passed away in a

fatal plane crash. Fr. Pete was not among our members, but the loss of his priesthood is a sore blow.

Donna Murray, mother of Tom Murray (our host at the Motel for the NAPP earlier this month) and sister-in-law of Frs. Ed and Gene Murray and Paul Murray, died Wednesday, July 15. Funeral at 11:00 a.m. in Immaculate Conception church in Charles City, IA on Monday, July 20.

Msgr. John Hemann sent his apologies: "I don't think I'll be able to make the funeral since I have a commitment with my priest support group."

HARTY GRACE

One of the guys was chatting with my pilot and told him that "he was dealing with a bunch of 80 year old's who weren't too sharp with all this new technology." Then the 'old guy' checked his email from his smart phone. My pilot thought that these old guys know a lot of tricks!

My pilot told me his experience in confession. He remarked that the padre must have been one of those NAPP priests. This was the dialogue:

Penitent: Bless me Father for I have flown.

And it has been way too long since my last flight, For this I am terribly sorry, But I plan to pick up the pace real soon For you see father, pheasant opener in South Dakota is the third weekend of October.

And I plan to blow some dust off, load Harty Grace, a very special Cessna 140, with guns, shot, and such. I desires to blow some tailfeathers out of a couple of wiley ring-necked wonders.

So Father, say a prayer for favorable skies and roosters a plenty, And lead me not into the temptation of smash and grab - road -running- to fill out. Amen

Priest: Well son, for your penance, I sentence you to three touch and goes, to a full stop, without hitting anything!

- It was nice to be mentioned! Contributed by Jim Lutter, special 'correspondent' to NAPP newsletter.

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we continue to work together with all the members to fulfill its purpose:

“To promote the use of private aircraft as a practical, safe, and efficient tool of the apostolic work of a priest while working with ecclesiastical groups to promote aviation in the cause of the church. At the same time encouraging safe use of the airplane and encouraging their use toward worthy talents and dignity of priest while assisting the missions of the world in any ways possible. . .”

Until we can gather together

National Association of Priest Pilots

again let us keep each in prayer and strive to spread the Good News to those entrusted to us as we share the great gift of flight in our service and ministry to God’s people as His priest. God’s blessings to all of you and may the safe hand of God be upon you in all your flying adventures.

Keep the blue side up, God bless,

John Schmitz (KJEF)

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information or to put an item in the newsletter

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