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**VOLUME XLIX**

**FEBRUARY 2012**

**NO 4**

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#### **THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

I'm still trying to drum up a little more interest in the "National Association of Priest Pilots" group on Facebook. We are up to a staggering four members; Tom Murray, Bill Menzel, my flying partner Dr. Myron "Ron" Bodman and yours truly. Our Group's Facebook page will give us an easy and relatively secure way to share stories and pictures and other information with one another.

The "National Association of Priest Pilots" on Facebook is a closed group. That means you can only become a member by requesting it. You have to be admitted to the group. Once you become a member, you can add photos, videos, and any other items that you would like to share with the group.

Here in Northeast Ohio, we have been blessed with some incredible weather in January and February but sadly, N6172D is temporarily out of commission while we await a final diagnosis of our blind encoder and/or transponder issues. Two weeks ago, we were trying to maintain IFR currency by conducting some approaches under the hood at Akron Canton Regional (KCAK) in IMC conditions.

On our final call out to ATC we experienced a difference of opinion with the helpful controller with regard to our altitude. By all appearances, as reported by the pressure altimeter, we were at exactly 3,000 feet MSL. ATC had us at 2,200 feet though. So we aborted our plans, deferred an IFR clearance and returned to base at Medina Muni (1G5) VFR keeping a careful eye out for antennas and other obstructions. We got back to the hangar without any other difficulties.

We're still in the process of sorting those issues out, but hope to be back in the air soon. I guess Ron and I aren't the first pilots to experience the tendency of a perfectly flyable airplane to manifest a little glitch as soon as the most beautiful day in weeks comes along. It's all part of the flying experience!

Meanwhile, getting ready for the spring flying season to begin, I've been researching the helpfulness of the iPad in the cockpit. I've heard different opinions about this subject. There are some who say that any additional toy in the cockpit is a distraction from the three main tasks of "aviating, navigating and communicating." Others have said that the iPad is extremely helpful because it provides excellent situational awareness.

What is your opinion? Have you used the iPad in flight? Have you had any particularly good or bad experiences? Is there any particular peripheral or software that you have found helpful? Or unhelpful? Please let me know by email (address below) and I will share your comments with the group.

Sincerely,

**Allen Corrigan / N6172D / 1G5  
(Medina Muni, Ohio)**

**acorrigan@email.com  
<http://priestpilot.blogspot.com>**

### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

By the time all of you read this, including President Allen, he will no doubt have put a new encoder in the 172. Usually the discrepancy between an airplane's altitude readout and the one displayed on the ATC's scope is caused by a plane's malfunctioning encoder. It does cause a problem.

Putting on my CFII hat, I thought I'd share a few thoughts about handling malfunctioning encoders or altimeters.

Remember controllers are there to assist you and usually are wonderful and cooperative people. Acknowledge the fact you have a problem and ask for their help. They will tell you two things. First, turn off your mode C by turning the switch on the transponder from ALT to ON. Secondly, you must report/verify any altitude changes. This means you can continue your training and get home safely.

Sometimes it may take a week before the repairs are completed. I have phoned the tower or ATC before flying and asked if it would be possible to make the flight in spite of the fact we have no mode C. It usually works.

Recently I've been flying in a Warrior with a man working on his IFR ticket. It took just one call the first day and we flew every day for a week with no mode C. When the mode C initially malfunctioned, the controller became concerned when we hit 30,000 ft. I guess that's why the tower had us call ATC when we landed.

HAPPY FLYING





On January 1<sup>st</sup> I mailed the checks to the recipients voted on by the NAPP membership last July. They are as follows: \* \$25.00 to the late Fr. Bob Kirsch's San Martin Flying Mission.

\* \$1000.00 to Fr. Pat Patten's Flying Medical Services in East Africa. (FMS) Fr. Pat's annual Christmas letter and report is included in this newsletter.

\* \$1000.00 to the Archdiocese of Anchorage. Archbishop Roger Schwietz's letter is enclosed. He had a question about usage of our gift. **FYI:** I took the liberty of suggesting he use it as he sees fit.

*2012 NAPP host George Gratton has put together a very interesting agenda for the Elmira, NY July convention. In this newsletter, there are two very important informative sheets.*

*One has a rough outline of the proposed daily activities. The other is the reservation sheet that gives **host airport Corning-Painted Post (7N1) and alternate KELM.** Complete the registration and send to George. This sheet also has the information about place of residence, **THE COMFORT***

*INN in Corning, NY. You are reminded; you must make your own motel reservations.*

George is also offering a **CON-VACATION** concept. The idea is you may want to include with the **convention** some **vacation** time. George has listed some possibilities for those who wishing to pursue this venture. If you are one of those, please contact George for further information regarding plans, etc.

***Some of you have not paid your 2012 dues. Those who receive their newsletter via USPS mail with have a notification indicating you still owe. If you get it electronically, you will find a notification along with the logon instructions reminding you that your dues have not arrived.***

**THANKS**

There are several address changes on the Briefs page. There's also a memo from Ev with an update on his physical status.

## **REMINDER**

### **2012 NAPP CONVENTION**

#### **ELMIRA, NEW YORK**

**July 10 – 11, 2011**

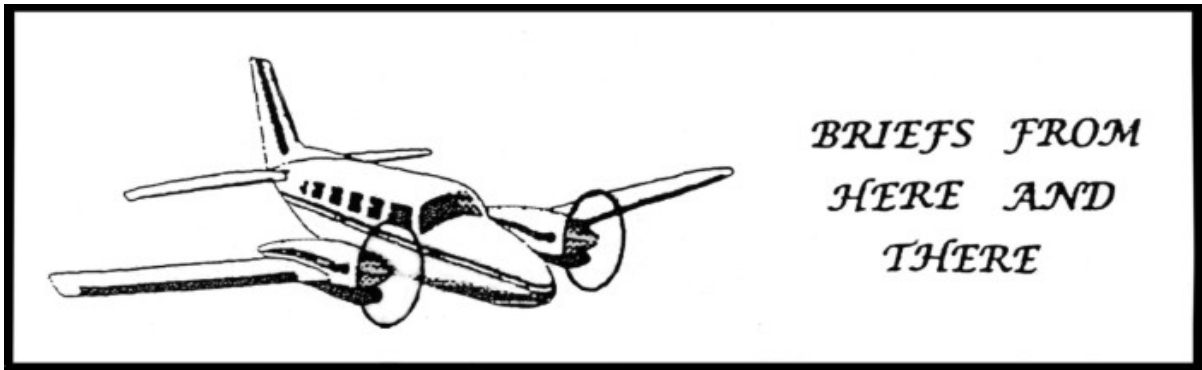
#### **DON'T FORGET**

*We are trying to arrange a Midwest April/May NAPP regional gathering. If that happens we will let the Midwesterners know and will also have it in the next newsletter.*

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

REV. MEL HEMANN  
127 Kaspand Place  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613-1683  
319-266-3889  
email: [N298MH@cfu.net](mailto:N298MH@cfu.net)





As of January 3, 2012,  
my address will be:

Rev. Keith Kitzhaber  
Holy Rosary Parish  
415 W Third St  
Owen, WI 54460

The phone numbers will be:  
715-229-4410 office/rectory  
715-316-1410 cell

[kkitzhaber@hotmail.com](mailto:kkitzhaber@hotmail.com)

*On 12/27/2011 Msgr Thomas Weinzapfel  
writes from Texas*

Dear Mel,

God bless you and yours in the new year.  
Two years dues for NAPP enclosed!

Yours in Christ,

Tom Weinzapfel

P.S. Today is my First Solemn Mass 66<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary and enjoying great good health,  
thanks be to God. Am helping out at lots of  
churches.

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*Change of address for Knobby*

Rev. John T Walsh  
Sisters of St Joseph  
151 French Road  
Pittsford, NY 14534

H: 1-585-643-8339 C 1-585-747-0717

[jtwalsh@dor.org](mailto:jtwalsh@dor.org)

Dan Baier, who sent this information, says  
Knobby is doing well but doing laundry,  
cooking meals and general housekeeping for  
himself got to be a bit much. After all these  
years he's finally going to let some one else  
minister to him as he's done for others so many  
years. He does plan on seeing us in Elmira in  
July at the convention.

*Ev Hemann shares the following about his  
journey*

[rehev@saintpatrickcf.org](mailto:rehev@saintpatrickcf.org)

*BRIEFS FROM  
HERE AND  
THERE*

**Last month a CAT scan indicated that  
the chemotherapy I was doing was no  
longer effective. The cancer was again  
growing in my body. No point in  
continuing a treatment that is no longer  
effective. It is as if I have turned final.**

**I cannot envision anything less than a  
perfect landing. The flight was about as  
perfect as could be hoped. A few bumps  
here and there. Now I have gone over  
the check list for final and all is in order.  
Great visibility, unlimited ceiling and no  
cross wind.**

**Could very well be a one "MAN"  
ground crew that directs me immediately  
into HIS hanger. He did tell me that he  
has prepared a place for me.**

**Thank you for your prayers and  
thoughts. I am rechecking the seat belt  
in preparation for a happy and joyful  
landing.**

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*Archbishop Roger Schwietz writes from  
Anchorage January 19, 2012*

Dear Father Hemann,

Thank you for your kind note and the  
generous donation for the flying expenses of  
Fr/ Scott Garrett. I have one question. Fr.  
Garrett has now been transferred to our parish  
in Wasilla – Sacred Heart. The airplane is also  
in Wasilla with him. I didn't want to use the  
check for Father Garretts's flying on pastoral  
visits unless it is okay with you to apply it to a  
different location. Please let us know your  
thinking on this.

Thank you again for your service to our  
Archdiocese – and safe flying!

Sincerely yours in Christ and Mary,

+Roger L. Schwietz, OMI  
Archbishop of Anchorage



## *I Came To Be Surprised*

It was early evening. I had been flying all day. The high mountains of southeastern Congo reflected in the warm clear waters of Lake Tanganyika. The spectacular beauty hid the fighting still going on there over gold, diamonds, coltan and other minerals. I banked the plane into a tight turn, keeping the tiny, rarely used airstrip in view over my shoulder. It looked landable. It was. But the car I expected to meet me was nowhere in sight.

As the plane came to a stop, two dozen young children in dusty and very basic clothes came running over to see. I opened the door. They were cautious but curious. I spoke with them and joked with them, asking if they were the night watchmen. They laughed and said no. I asked the oldest one, who wouldn't have been more than 10, why he had come to the airstrip. "I came to be surprised," he said, with a huge smile and wide opened eyes. I asked him, "Are you surprised?" He answered, "I am in awe."

They asked when I was leaving. I told them it would be very early in the morning, with some doctors who had been working in their area. They asked if they could come to watch. I told them to be there before sunrise. They were. As the wheels lifted off the bumpy earth, the kids waved. I rocked the plane's wings and banked into the dawn-thin line of light on the eastern horizon.

I don't know if I'll ever see them again. Still, as this year comes to an end with a promise of a new one to come, I know I will remember the child's lesson.

What a great way to live. What a neat thing to do: to come to be surprised.

Thank you all for your friendship over the years. May your Christmas and New Year be filled with surprises, and awe, and lots of laughter.

*Pat Patten*

Pat Patten and  
the Flying Medical Service Crew  
Olkokola Dispensary and  
the Staff and Students at  
Olkokola Handicapped Training Center

# NAPP CONVENTION SCHEDULE

July 9 – 12, 2012

Elmira, New York

## 9 July - Monday

### Arrival

Corning-Painted Post – **7N1 - FBO:** Costa Flying Service

Elmira – **KELM** For commercial and IFR arrivals.

(**ROC** and **SYR** are also close by)

**6:00 PM** Hospitality room Official welcome. Pizza and all the trimmings.

**COMFORT INN** 66 W Pulleney St. Corning, NY 14830 (866-611-6301)

(Make your own room reservations. NAPP rate is \$104.97 with breakfast)

## 10 July - Tuesday

**9:30 AM** Arrival at Corning Museum of Glass

**10:00 AM** Sand Blast – hands on glass working class

**11:00 to 1:00 PM** Guided tour with our docent

**1:00 PM** Lunch

**2:30 PM** Tour of Rockwell Art Museum (or Free Time)

**5:30 P.M** Dinner on your own. **EVENING FREE**

## 11 July - Wednesday

**9:00 AM** Harris Hill Soaring Museum

Glenn Curtiss Museum

Annual Meeting

Mass **EVENING FREE**

## 12 July -Thursday

### DEPARTURE

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*Further suggestions from host George Gratton:*

Make this a **CON-VACATION** – A Convention and Vacation together in one week

Some suggestions:

1. Wings of Eagles WW II Museum, Elmira, NY

2. Rip Van Winkle River Cruises, Kingston, NY

3. Cole Palen's Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome and Museum – WW 1 airshow

The Holiday Inn Kingston, NY offers a special NAPP rate the nights of 12, 13 and 14 of July. George is going and has a hospitality room. Kingston-Ulster Airport (**20N**)

For details contact:

George Gratton 11 Green Iris Ct Savannah, GA 31419

Office: 912-925-1732 Cell: 912-435-3330

Email: ggratton@gmail.com

### *Annual Report:*

In the last 12 months, we have flown almost 1,200 hours, all with volunteer staff. We have treated more than 55,000 patients by air and at our small dispensary. We've also flown 135 emergency and patient evacuation flights.

Our school for the physically and mildly mentally handicapped adults has graduated 30 students in June and taken on another 30 men and women in July. They are gaining technical skills in one area of their choice: agriculture/veterinary, carpentry, masonry, or tailoring. They are provided with any needed hospitalization and corrective orthopedic and plastic surgery.

It cost \$ 396,000 to do all of the above. If you'd like to be part of our work, come and volunteer for a couple of years. Right now, we need another pilot and an accountant-administrator. Or come to visit to see what we do.

Please do not send any donations to our Tanzanian address. If you want to support us financially, please send contributions to:

Congregation of the Holy Spirit  
1758 Manchester  
Grosse Pointe Woods  
MI 48236-1920  
U.S.A.

Or contact us in any of the following ways:

U.S. phone numbers: Michael Patten                    313-881-8787  
Don and Nancy Danko    248-391-1330

Tanzanian contacts: Flying Medical Service

- or -

Olkokola Catholic Mission  
P.O. Box 508  
Arusha, Tanzania  
East Africa  
Phone: +255-27-250-8760  
Email: [fms@fms.or.tz](mailto:fms@fms.or.tz)

**With much gratitude for your friendship and interest, all the staff at Flying Medical Service wish you a happy Christmas and a wonderful new year!**

**NAPP NATIONAL CONVENTION**

July 10 – 11, 2012

**ELMIRA, NEW YORK**

**VFR Flyins: Corning-Painted Post (7N1) Host airport**

**FBO: Costa Flying Service**

**IFR & Commercial Flyins: Elmira (KELM)**

**HOST: GEORGE GRATTON**

*Please phone, e-mail or mail RSVP by Friday, June 29, 2012*

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**CELL PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**ARRIVAL DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

*By: Pvt Plane* N \_\_\_\_\_ **-ETA:** \_\_\_\_\_

*By: Car* \_\_\_\_\_ **ETA** \_\_\_\_\_

*By: Commercial Flight* \_\_\_\_\_

**DEPARTURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RESERVATIONS TO:**

George Gratton  
11 Green Iris Ct  
Savannah, GA 31419

Email: [ggratton@gmail.com](mailto:ggratton@gmail.com) (O) 1-912-925-1732 (C) 1-912-433-3330

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**YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME**

**COMFORT INN**

**66 W Pulleney St  
Corning, NY 14830**

**Phone: 1-866-611-6301**

***BOOK YOUR OWN ROOM***

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Mention NAPP for special Convention Rate when making your reservation.

**NB:** If you're taking part in CON-VACATION contact George earlier to finalize plans



*Your 2012 NAPP Dues are now due.  
Use this form to send your dues to me  
Or*

*Use Pay Pal electronically.*

(Go to: [www.priestpilots.org](http://www.priestpilots.org) and click on **Pay Now**)

**REV. MEL HEMANN  
127 KASPEN PL  
CEDAR FALLS, IA 50613-1683**

*Any questions contact me at  
319-266-3889*

*Or*

*[n298mh@cfu.net](mailto:n298mh@cfu.net)*

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

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

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Member:** \_\_\_\_\_ Charter \_\_\_\_\_ Regular \_\_\_\_\_ Associate