



---

**VOLUME XLVII**

**FEBRUARY 2009**

**NO 4**

---



### **President's Comments**

It has been a long difficult winter in Northwest Iowa. We have had a lot of snow on the ground since early December and the wind and ice are relentless so flying has been minimal here. Last week it finally got up to 40 degrees so I went to the airport to open up the hangar. It required a couple of hours of moving snow and chopping ice to open the doors and free the RV 8 from its moorings. By the time it was all done it was getting late in the day so I only got to log .8 hrs. It was the first time flying since mid November but the air was smooth and flying was a joy. I look forward to warmer, snow less weather.

While the price of av gas in our area has gone from \$5 to \$3.86 I see by the internet that some places are cheaper. In Iowa I use airnav.com to get Iowa gas prices. If it could be called that, there is some good news amid all the bad. Nevertheless the specter of user fees is still hanging around just below the horizon. With all the hard times the government will be looking for ways to finance the Air Transportation system. Up until now we have been pretty fortunate to have avoided user fees thanks to organizations like AOPA. We pray that the new Transportation Secretary, Ray LaHood, continues to see user fees as a bad thing for aviation safety.

Just a note on Fr. Ed (Murray). He is back in Mercy Hospital in Sioux City. With the exception of one week that he spent here in Marcus with me, Ed has been in Mercy since Dec 1. At present he is awaiting a bone marrow biopsy on Feb. 6 which will tell him the status of his leukemia. He has hopes to get free of the hospital in late Feb or March. He certainly appreciates the prayers and well wishes from the NAPP.

Peace and good flying to all.

Gene Murray



Jack Boyle emailed me from Bethel Park, PA that Betty Puhl passed away December 14 at her home in Bridgeville, PA. Betty is the sister of Fr. Jack Dompka and a long time NAPP Associate member.

May she rest in peace!

Knobby Walsh sent word that Rev. Msgr. Joseph Gefell passed away on February 6, 2009. Details are in the newsletter

May he rest in peace!

Thomas De Young writes from Grand Rapids, MI

Mel, following the most recent stroke, I've been granted a medical leave of absence. N2311T sits sadly in her hangar longing to return to the sky.

### SOME DOUBLES

Archbishop Roger L. Schwietz, Archbishop of the Anchorage Archdiocese, sent a couple of messages. The first is a message included with his annual dues.

The second came after receiving the NAPP donation after the first of the year.

In addition to Roger's message this

newsletter also has two from Pat in Tanzania. One is reminiscing of this past Christmas. and a thank you to NAPP for our support after Medical Flying Service received their NAPP 2009 contribution. The 2<sup>nd</sup> is his annual report to all the MFS benefactors

Both of these are in the newsletter.

### 2009 NAPP NATIONAL CONVENTION

Ohio host Allen Corrigan has it all together. The sign up sheet is included in this newsletter. In addition Allen is providing us with a "first time" blog. Go to <http://priestpilots.blogspot.com> for minute-to-minute Convention info. I also have the info posted on [www.AeroVents.com](http://www.AeroVents.com)

Dates are July 6 – 9, 2009

### 2009 NAPP MIDWEST REGIONAL

Jack Paisley has things arranged for all who care to attend the May 4 gathering in Dubuque, Iowa. There is a reservation form with details included in the newsletter. Plan on attending.

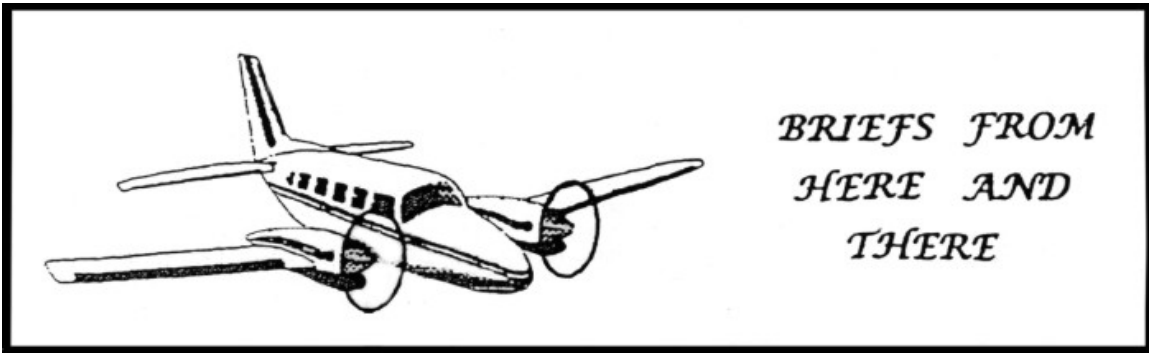
*In February each year we publish the NAPP Directory and include that with the February issue of the newsletter. To save postage costs, you who receive the newsletter electronically will be notified as usual that it is on line. Your directory will be sent via US mail. Those who normally receive the newsletter by mail will receive both items in the same envelope.*

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)





*Fr. Bob Lacey writes from South Dakota*

Oh Mel, I did receive the newsletter and enjoyed it greatly.

I wanted to let you and all the others know I got to give rides to a few cousins and brother the other day. It was a beautiful Friday before the subzero weekend! I could tell I was rusty: I forgot to correctly set the audio panel and the last person had called Huron Radio! They informed me twice before I completely switched off Com 2. Oops! I guess this is my little public confession. It had been a month since last going out and my rust had built up a little much! However, landing at Vermillion, SD (KVRM) was a great practice in direct cross wind landing: 210 at 09 Knots on runway 12. Many thanks to all who have helped me fly! Blessings of Christmas to you all!

Fr. Bob  
509 Capital St.  
Yankton, SD 57078

*Msgr Thomas Weinzapfel sends the following Greetings with his 2009 dues*

Mel and All,  
Happy New Year to everyone.

*Deacon Thomas Jones from Albuquerque shared the following with his 2009 dues*

Fr. Mel,  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.  
Thanks for the heads up. Sorry for being tardy on the dues.

Don't worry about a priest shortage. The Lord will provide. If it were serious Benedict XVI would extend faculties to selected Permanent Deacons.

Peace!

*Fr. Bill Martin, Warren, VT, sends the following information with his 2009 dues*

I hope to be at the annual meeting. A parish in the vicinity to preach at all Masses would be useful. Details to any pastor who might help by opening the door to the Catholic Child and Aging Sponsorship Program in the USA. I have worked with them for 12 years since retiring from the US Air Force. Current flying is in my Tiger and towing and instructing in sail planes.

Regards to all



Bill Martin's Tiger.  
Owned for 13 years. Aircraft kept at 0B7,  
Warren Sugarbush, VT.  
Open 1 May – 1 November  
Photo at Basin Harbor Club, VT Oct 2008

*Archbishop Roger Schwietz writes from Anchorage, AK*

Mel, thanks for your service to the organization.

+Roger L. Schwietz

*Pat Patten shared the following from  
Arusha, Tanzania, East Africa*

Hello Mel,

Hope you had a nice Christmas. Sorry for this late reply to your emails. It is not an indication of any lack of appreciation to you and to NAPP for the newsletters and for the members' kindness in granting Flying Medical Service another \$1,000 this year. That's nine hours of fuel for us, and certainly does make an impact. We're now paying \$ 8 a gallon for 100LL. We can't say we're happy with that; but in comparison, when Jack and I flew through Sudan last month, we had to pay \$ 25.27 a gallon in Khartoum! And we needed 165 gallons. We haven't yet had the benefit of the lower world oil prices in the aviation sector in Tanzania. When the country last bought a batch of avgas, oil was at \$ 142 a drum. It's now \$ 36. But they'll have to finish paying off the high priced fuel before they can afford to lower prices. As we pay no taxes on avgas here, we could in theory see \$ 2 fuel prices once again for our plane sometime in 2009. That would stretch your gift to give us a full 38 hours of fuel for flying.

Christmas was a good day here, as I hope it was for you, too.

We started with an emergency call at 8 PM Christmas eve. An 83 year old woman with chronic mild asthma and heart insufficiency. Talked with her doctor several times throughout the night and agreed that a night flight at 10,000 feet, even with oxygen, would not be good for her. They stabilized her in a local hospital. We took her to Nairobi Christmas morning. She is doing well.

Helped Jack, taking a Christmas mass at one of his many outstations. I like the small outstations better than the big churches. Talked about a kid who had a horribly deformed face (like the elephant man) and for whom we arranged plastic surgery several years ago. He's an accountant in a tour company now. Seems that Christmas is a little like that: recognizing a deeper reality, a deeper beauty which goes beyond the obvious surface ugly, a poor child in a manger, who transforms the world.

Afternoon was preparing a ham and some sausage given to us by a Polish butcher, a prisoner of war during world war two, who, with hundreds of other Polish refugees, lived in a concentration camp near Arusha. Most people don't know those obscure parts of the war. We invited him for dinner, too. His wife died this year. He is lonely and has few visitors.

We were about 25 here around the Christmas fire. After food, some songs in Swahili, Congolese, Lingala, English, Polish, Spanish, Ukrainian, Slovenian, and even Australian (which sometimes passes for English: "Once a jolly swagman camped by a billabong, under the shade of a coolibah tree. Waltzing Matilda." Yup)!

I was tired the day after Christmas! But it was a good day and a good night.

Thanks for all your kindness and continuing interest and concern for those of us in East Africa.

-----

*Bishop Don Kettler sent the following  
From Fairbanks, AK*

Dear Fr. Mel

Thank you for keeping me in touch with the Association. Do have a blessed Christmas. God bless you.



*The above picture on Don's card had this  
story by-line*

Jan Walker, **Alaskan Shepherd**, from Reno, Nevada. writes, "One of the highlights of my year was a day at the top of the world in Barrow, Alaska on the Arctic Ocean. I was fascinated with the Inupiat culture that survived for centuries in the harshest of environments. The people were delightful – strong, joyful and extremely generous. It wasn't hard to see Mary and her Holy Child reflected in their beautiful faces."

-----  
*Knobby Walsh sent the following information  
from Rocheste, NY*

Mel,

Rev Msgr Gerard Gefell, twin brother of Rev Msgr Joseph Gefell, died on February 6, 2009. Funeral was Wednesday, February 11.

They were ordained in 1941 in Rochester, NY. They became Aviators the next year or two. After WW2 they both joined the Military, became paratroopers, Bird Colonels, both Monsignors, retired and became Pastors. They retired to Thousand

Islands and lived there year around. After Joe died, Jerry moved to Sister of St Joseph facility in Watertown, NY

The twins, Joseph and Gerard, were both charter members of NAPP

---

*MAY THEY REST IN PEACE*

---

*Archbishop Roger writes from Anchorage, AK*

Dear Fr. Mel,

Thank you so much for the generous donation of \$1,000.00 to the Archdiocese for our flying fund. With the high cost of fuel, it will be a big help. In fact, because of the costs we here at the Archdiocese have down sized from our Cessna 206 to a Piper Cherokee – cheaper to fly. Blessings to you and to all in the organization as we begin this new year.

Sincerely in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink on a white background, enclosed in a black rectangular box. The signature reads "+ Roger L. Schwietz".

+Roger L. Schwietz

---

## **NAPP MIDWEST REGIONAL**

*Dubuque, Iowa*

May 4, 2009

Jack Paisley will host the Spring meeting at the Dubuque airport. Try to arrive around 11:00 A.M. Initial point of the meeting will be the FBO

## **DUBUQUE JET CENTER**

The University of Dubuque Flight School will be the center of attention and is a short walk from the FBO. A box lunch will be available there.

**NAPP MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING**

Monday, May 4, 2009

**Dubuque Municipal Airport**

**HOST: Jack Paisley**

*Please e-mail or mail RSVP by April 30, 2009*

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

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

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

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

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

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

**RESERVATIONS TO:**

Jack Paisley      816 Euclid Ave  
[dbqpaisley@msn.com](mailto:dbqpaisley@msn.com)

Dubuque, IA 52001  
(H) 1-563-583-9242



## A SPECIAL THANKS FROM FLYING MEDICAL SERVICE



Dear Friends,

*Cancer took my left kidney in 2006. I survived an aircraft accident in 2007. I was alone on board and though I don't remember how, I got out before the aircraft exploded and burned to dust. With 2008 nearly ending, I'm healthy, grateful to be alive and so...*

December 2008  
From: Pat Patte

*I still have an African story to tell...*

### **Fresh Peaches**

Ndepayan's husband was killed while working as a night watchman in Nairobi several years ago. His death left her destitute and alone in raising three kids, two of whom have major health problems. She hardly had money to feed herself, let alone her three young children, and she had absolutely no money for health care. In her desperation she did the only thing she could think of: hide the sick ones away.

I don't remember how she found us. One day they were just here. She and her children, all in tattered clothes, just showed up at our door. The 11 year old Naramat, her oldest child, helped her carry Losieku, the youngest of the three. This small boy was born with spinabifida, a horrible birth defect that leaves the spinal cord uncovered. Tagging along behind, her second child, Loewuo (Low-AY-wu-o), was drooling from the side of his mouth. Apparently born healthy, early-on he started having severe and prolonged seizures, sometimes three in one day. Now his blank expressionless face held the look of a child who had suffered from years of serious epilepsy.

She said, "I heard that you can sometimes help people." I said, "Yes, sometimes we can." She didn't ask for money, clothes or food. She wanted her children well. These two sick children, Loewuo with the seizures, Losieku with the spinabifida, were far too ill for us to treat at our small dispensary. But by chance, late the following morning, the aircraft would be

flying empty to one of the only two hospitals in Tanzania with a neurosurgeon. I asked her to be here early and told her it would not cost her anything. The expenses of the one hour flight were already covered by the hospital which needed the plane's services later in the day. She arrived here three hours after the plane had left.

Although I shouldn't have been upset, I was frustrated with her for losing such a good chance. She let me tell her how disappointed I was. Then she simply said, "I'm sorry," and started to walk away. I followed her. I wanted to know why she would waste such an opportunity. She answered quietly: "We live high up the mountain. I was awake before dawn trying to get the children ready. Then we started walking at the first light of day. But Loewuo had a seizure and we had to wait for him. Then he was so tired and weak that he could only walk short distances before resting. I had to help him to stand up and push him forward to start him walking again. Although I saw we would be late, I so badly wanted the children to be treated that I continued on, thinking perhaps the plane would still be here." Even though she had missed that flight, two weeks later the plane was



making another trip to the same hospital and the visiting neurosurgeon was still there. This time, leaving the 11 year old daughter at home to take care of the cow and goats, Ndepeyan and her two sick children didn't miss the flight.

That was four weeks ago and today they are back. Loewuo's suspected epilepsy - was not epilepsy but a rare disease of the mitochondria in the cells. Even in Europe or America the prognosis is bad; but high-line

anti-epileptics do reduce his seizures. Losieku's spinabifida is skillfully closed up and he is growing so fast that in a short time his mother will not be able to carry him. We'll have a physiotherapist and orthopedic specialist work with him; and with their help he will soon take his first step. We believe that with the aid of crutches he will be able to walk alone.

Ndepeyan brought me some fresh peaches from her tree.



Flying Medical Service celebrated it's twenty-fifth year of operation with the arrival of a new plane in November. Since then it has already served hundreds of patients in remote villages and flown several emergency evacuations.

In the past 12 months Flying Medical Service has treated 28,024 patients.

Our small dispensary at Olkokola has seen another 25,448.

**Olkokola Handicapped Training Center** has 35 women and men in training to be carpenters, masons, tailors, or agriculture/veterinary experts. They all have physical handicaps. Some we'll be able to help with orthopedic surgery, some with artificial limbs, some with medication, some just with friendship and understanding.



*Special thanks to:*



*Pieter Derideaux who for 18 years has volunteered keeping our finances straight and the water flowing for thousands of people in this area.*

*Rebecca Moran who has just finished four years of fearless flying with Flying Medical Service.*

**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!**

Flying Medical Service  
and  
Olkokola Handicapped  
Training Center

P.O. Box 908  
Arusha, Tanzania,  
East Africa  
Phone+Fax: +255-27-250-8760  
Email: fms@bcl.co.tz  
www.flyingmedicalservice.org

c/o Michael Patten  
1738 Manchester  
G.P.Woods MI 48336-1969  
United States of America  
Phone: +1-313-881-6767  
Email: thisismichael@att.net



**NAPP NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
MEDINA, RICHFIELD AND CLEVELAND, OHIO

CONVENTION PROGRAM: TUESDAY, JULY 7 AND WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2009  
ARRIVALS MONDAY, JULY 6; DEPARTURES THURSDAY, JULY 9.

FLY-IN AIRPORT: 1G5 – Medina Municipal Airport (FBO: Flight Services of Medina)  
2050 Medina Road (Rt. 18), Medina, OH 44256 330-239-1606

COMMERCIAL ARRIVALS Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport (KCLE)  
Akron Canton Regional Airport (KCAK)

**CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS HOTEL**

RADISSON AKRON/FAIRLAWN

200 Montrose West Avenue Copely, OH 44321

Phone Reservations: 1-330-666-9300

NAPP BLOCK RESERVATION: \$79.00 per room (Special NAPP rate until June 5)

ARRIVING MON 7/6/09 – DEPARTING THU 7/9/09

Hot Breakfast Buffet, Hospitality Room for NAPP, Hotel 6 miles from 1G5.

**Members Must Call the Hotel and Make their Own Reservation!**

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!**

---

**RESERVATION FORM**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT INFO: ( ) - ( ) - ( )  
HOME PHONE WORK PHONE CELL PHONE

MODE OF TRANSPORT TO CONVENTION: *Private Car* *Rental Car* *Flying*  
(CIRCLE HOW YOU ARE GETTING TO THE HOTEL)

ARRIVAL AIRPORT: *1G5 (Medina)* *KCLE (Cleveland)* *KCAK (Akron/Canton)*  
(CIRCLE YOUR AIRPORT)

AIRCRAFT INFO IF APPLICABLE: N# \_\_\_\_\_ Type \_\_\_\_\_

Commercial: Airport: Airline: \_\_\_\_\_ Flight No: \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time of Arrival: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time of Departure \_\_\_\_\_

*Please complete your reservation form now and send it to the Local Site Host:*  
**REV ALLEN F. CORRIGAN, ST. VICTOR CHURCH, 3435 EVERETT RD, RICHFIELD OH 44286, 330-659-6591**

*More Convention Information will be in the NAPP Newsletter*

*Minute-to-minute Convention Info at: <http://priestpilot.blogspot.com>*

*Monday Evening Pre-Event Hospitality Room (Pizza and Beverages, etc.)*

**TUESDAY: Exciting Tours and Events: NASA/Glenn, Little Italy, Cleveland Museum of Art**

**WEDNESDAY: Annual Meeting, Concelebrated Mass and Banquet at St. Victor Church**

**Plenty of Free Time Scheduled for Each Day!**