



VOLUME XLVI February 2008 NO 4



President's Comments

It has been a hectic last few days. I am presently visiting my sister in San Jose. On Friday the 24th we got a call that my oft time co-pilot and brother Father Ed Murray was admitted to Mercy Hospital in Sioux City with a very high white blood cell count. He has been diagnosed with Acute Leukemia and will start chemotherapy tomorrow. He will have to be in the hospital for 4 to 6 weeks and obviously out of his parish. I have been in touch with him by phone and he appears to be positive in his outlook. Because of the serious nature of his illness and because of his chemotherapy visitors will be restricted to family.

However the doctor said he could take phone calls as much as his energy would allow. He, I am sure, will appreciate any and all prayers. He had been feeling ill and went to the emergency room in the Spencer hospital on Friday morning and they sent him directly to Sioux City. We will keep you posted as to the progress of the treatment. I will return to Iowa on Thursday Sometimes we are blindsided by earthshaking events in our lives and this is one of those times. We are all pretty devastated by the news. However he has many parishioners and friends who are praying for him and wishing him well. Their support has most certainly been appreciated.

As a little sidebar my nephew Dave McKenna from San Jose, a newly rated 54 year old private pilot gave me a ride around San Jose in a Citabria. It was a wonderful diversion from the tensions of the moment. The ride was made more special because I have mentored him and encouraged him along the way when he never thought he could do it.

Peace and blessings to all the NAPPers.

Gene



When planning the NAPP charter meeting July 12 – 15, 1964 co-founders Fathers Bob Wendeln and Henry Haacke solicited suggestions that might entice priest pilots to come. It was shortly before this that the FAA began the 3 hours of required simulated instrument time on a private pilot check ride. AOPA came out with a one hour ground school and three hours of flying that licensed pilots could do with a CFI. A signed certificate upon completion could be sent to the FAA and the pilot was issued a BLUE SEAL that could be pasted on the license. This indicated the pilot was on an equal par with a newly licensed private pilot.

I had recently gotten my CFI license and suggested we offer the BLUE SEAL program to bring pilots up to date. 4 local CFI's were recruited and in two days we gave many of the padres their BLUE SEAL. Last year I ran across an old FLYING magazine article that reported on that initial NAPP convention. One of the instructors listed was Hal Shevers, now Founder /Chairman of Sporty's. Hal was recently

inducted into the Flight Instructors Hall of Fame. I sent him a congratulatory letter in which I reminded him of our meeting over 40 years ago. I am including his letter for your perusal. Thanks Hal for all the good things you've done for us and all others in aviation.

There are thank you notes from this year's NAPP donation. Bishop Don Kettler, Fairbanks, AK and Pat Patten in Tanzania, East Africa .I'm also reproducing Pat's annual Christmas/New Year greeting

The NAPP Spring Midwest regional meeting in Knoxville, IA reservation form is enclosed. Please get that info to our host, Steve Ebel, if you're going to attend.

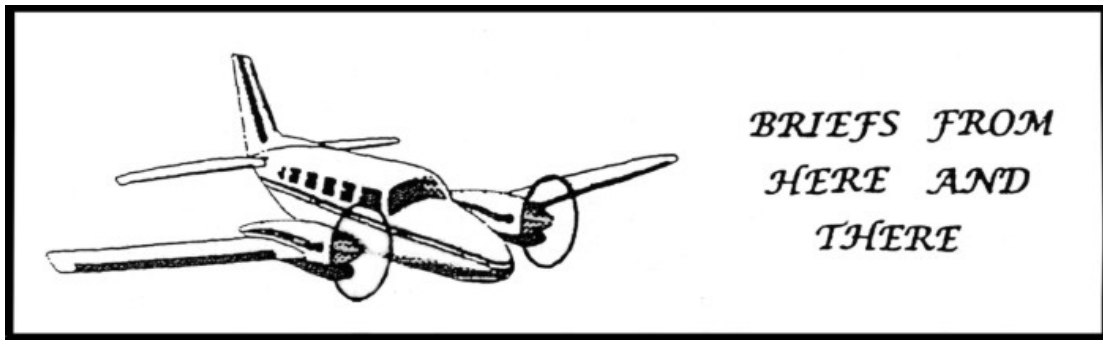
George Gratton is making wonderful progress on our NAPP July convention in Savannah, GA. The reservation form for that is also enclosed. Please note that the motel has a web site on which you can make your reservations. Please note the special price is rather short lived. So get with it if you want to save some money.

*We have placed the above information about both events on John Zapp's web site, **AeroVents.com**. I highly recommend you visit the website. John has some great things on it and it provides a very concise and informative way of knowing what is happening.*

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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





January 1 Nick Rossello wrote

Dear Mel,

Wishing you a Blessed, Happy and Healthy New Year.

Sorry I didn't get this note to you sooner. I was home for Christmas, got back to Lockport, got busy and forgot to get this news to you.

Our good friend Carmen Machiole died on Wed, December 19. He really was a very sick man from September. He suffered a severe heart attack to the point he had only 15% of his heart working. We thought he would die when he first went to the hospital. They pulled him through but like I said – only 15% of his heart was working. With the complications setting in his kidneys were affected. From then on it was down hill. I truly think that if he had survived his quality of life was not good. Doctors talked about dialysis. That was something he did not want. I guess that's about all of it.

So take care. Best to your brothers.

Yours in Christ

Nick

From Anchorage, Archbishop Schwietz writes

Mel,

Just noticed that I had not yet paid my dues – hope the amount is correct. Winter has been mild here – lots of good snow.

Have a Happy New Year.

+Roger L. Schwietz

*From Fairbanks, Bishop Don Kettler writes
January 25, 2008*

Greetings from Alaska.

Mel, thanks so much for the \$1000.00 donation. You are helping our work out in the "bush." Fuel and oil costs are extreme.

I enjoyed hearing about some important events in your life in 2007.

I continue to travel a lot. The winter has been easy, but cold right now. 45 below zero. Prayers for all your ministries.

Thanks to all NAPP members

Bishop Don.

Chaplain Mike Mikstay writes

Dear Mel,

Dues are for this year and next year. I will detach Jacksonville NAS in May and report to 1st Marine Division in June. Shortly thereafter – over to Iraq.

Fraternally,

Mike Mikstay

Pastor Mark Menacher from Poway, California sent word that he passed his IFR check ride on February 1. He said it was not all he hoped it would be. He was tired and nervous. The important thing is he passed.

Those in attendance at the Oshkosh gathering in 2006 will remember Mark who came with Fr. Jim Falsey from Michigan. A few months after the convention Mark accepted a call to his present church in California.

Congratulations Mark

**NAPP MIDWEST REGIONAL
MEETING**

Monday, April 21, 2008

Knoxville Iowa

KOXV

Hosted by
Steve Ebel

11:00 - 11:30 Arrive at the **OXV** airport.

FBO Knoxville Aviation 641-842-4423

11:45--- Lunch and tour of the Church

12:45 --- Depart for afternoon activity

Tour National Sprint Car Hall of Fame and Museum

3:30--- Depart for home

(If you want to arrive early or stay late, mark proper box below)

**: SPECIAL NOTICE: Please notify Steve by email or reservation blank below
by April 18 so he can make arrangements for luncheon**

NAME _____

ARRIVAL: _____

By: Pvt Plane: N_____ ETA: _____

By: Car _____ ETA _____

DEPARTURE: _____

(I need a place to stay **DATES:** _____)

RESERVATIONS TO:

Rev Stephen Ebel
St Anthony Church
1202 Woodland Dr
Knoxville, IA 50138
1-641-828-7050 stebel@interserv.com



Clermont County/Sporty's® Airport, Batavia, Ohio 45103-9747



Division of Sportsman's Market, Inc.

January 17, 2008

Father Mel Hemann
127 Kaspand Place
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613-1683

Dear Father Mel:

Thanks for your letter — it sure made my day. It's been a good 43 years since we met. I just wish I wasn't so darned old and still know what I do now.

Hope your travels will bring you by Sporty's in the near future. And, the quote at the bottom of your letter from the Holy Father is fabulous!

Keep the blue side up.

Sincerely,

Hal Shevers
Founder/Chairman

HS/dfh

Phone 513.735.9000

sportys.com

Fax 800.359.7794 or 513.735.9200

Flying Medical Service

**P.O. Box 508
Arusha, Tanzania
East Africa**

Jan 24, 2008

Dear *Mr. Herman KAPP*

Thank you for your generosity and support. Your donation helps us meet medical needs in parts of Tanzania which are distant from ordinary health care facilities.

Flying Medical Service is a nonprofit, tax-exempt, charitable organization which has been in operation since 1983. We provide medical assistance to anyone in need, regardless of religious affiliation, ethnic origin, or ability to pay. Sponsored by the Spiritan missionaries and the Catholic church in the diocese of Arusha, we try to help people living in remote areas where sufficient health care and normal communication links do not exist.

Flying Medical Service now serves the health care needs in a large part of north-central Tanzania. We provide regular medical care to dozens of remote areas by means of aircraft. Flying Medical Service also supplies rural hospitals with medicines and staff, and makes emergency air ambulance service available throughout Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi.

We see an average of more than 50 patients each day. We are able to keep these services in operation thanks to donations such as yours which we receive today in good faith.

Gratefully,

Pat Patten

Fr. Pat Patten, C.S.Sp.

Ref: Your \$ *1000* donation of *1-1-08*

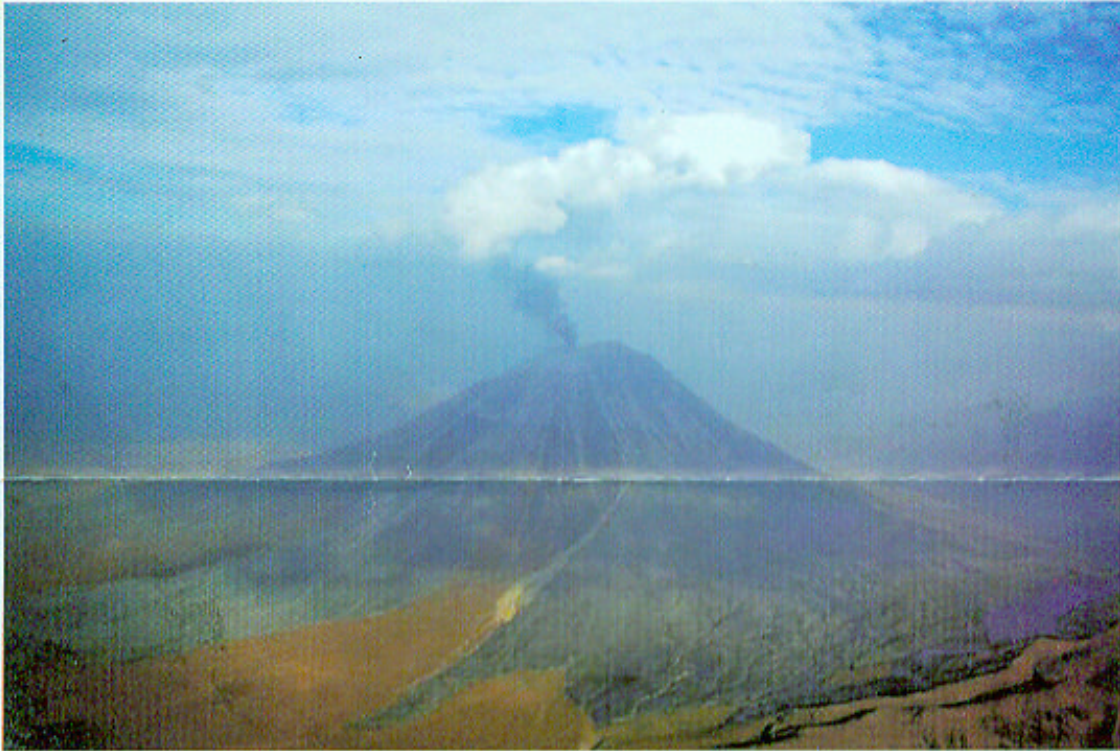
We have not returned to you, as donor, any goods or services in exchange for your donation.

Correspondence: Please use address above.

Donations: Due to occasional difficulties in the delivery of overseas mail, please send all donations to:

Flying Medical Service
1758 Manchester
Grosse Pointe Woods
MI 48236-1920

Oldonyo L'Engai, the Maasai "Mountain of God"



The volcano hadn't erupted in almost 40 years. But that morning, when FMS pilot Rebecca Moran and her medical team flew to bring health care to three villages in its neighborhood, it did. In the first village, nobody appeared. The brown dry-season grass was everywhere covered with white ash, and breathing was difficult from the dust in the air. The nomadic people had moved out of the area to save their cattle from eating the ash-grass. The medical team felt very uncomfortable. In the next two villages the situation was a bit better. People still came to the clinics.

**We
bring health
care to 27 remote
villages in Northern
Tanzania on a two week
rotation. Here the work of
Flying Medical Service in
more normal circumstances
(not covered with volcanic ash)**



Some of the other highlights of this year



FMS volunteer pilots Rebecca Moran and Ezra Jay at their wedding in July at the Olkokola Catholic Mission. Most of our staff live here. To the left is Pat Patten, our third pilot; number four, Jack Rejman, was on well-deserved holiday. The slightly damaged person with his eyes closed on the picture had three days earlier survived a plane crash. He was alone on board.

The aircraft crashed in early morning bad weather to the south of Nairobi. The plane caught fire on impact. Luckily Pat escaped, because afterwards the plane exploded when fire burst the oxygen bottle. Pilots Without Borders, in the Netherlands, is helping us outfit a replacement aircraft.



On behalf of all the staff at Flying Medical Service, I wish you a wonderful and happy Christmas.

Pat Patten

Flying Medical Service and
Olkokola Handicapped Training Center
P.O.Box 508
Arusha, Tanzania,
East Africa

Email: fms@bol.co.tz
Phone+Fax: +255-(0)27-250-8760

-or-

c/o Michael Patten
1758 Manchester
G.P. Woods MI 48236-1920
U.S.A.

Phone: 313-881-8787
Email: thisismichael@comcast.net

For more information and photos:

www.flyingmedicalservice.org

www.pbase.com/maciekda/tanzania_flying_medical_service

www.flickr.com/photos/maciejdakowicz/542114958/in/set-72157594394720152/

NAPP NATIONAL CONVENTION

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

JULY 8 – 9, 2008

ARRIVAL AIRPORT: KLHW – Wright Army Airfield (Ramp fees are waived if you buy fuel.)

COMMERCIAL ARRIVALS: Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport

CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS:

COUNTRY INN & SUITES OF SAVANNAH NORTH

WELCOMES PRIEST PILOTS

200 Raley Road

Port Wentworth, GA 31407

This is a special and exclusive offer, which is up to 50% off our standard rate, for the Priest Pilots. Call Nicholas or Jennifer for details. Special offer ends March 10, 2008

Reservations can be made on line: <http://www.countryinns.com/napp>

RESERVATIONS: (888) 201-1746

TELEPHONE: (912) 964-2300

There will be a hospitality room at the Hotel for informal gatherings.

RESERVATION FORM

ARRIVAL: Private Aircraft: N _____

Commercial: Airline: _____ **Flt No:** _____

By private car _____

ETA: _____ **ETD** _____

Send to:

George Gratton

11 Green Iris Ct

Savannah, GA 31419

Home: 1-912-925-1732

Email: ggratton@gmail.com

FYI:

Check *AeroVents.com* under Georgia for convention schedule particulars.

Suffice it to say: Monday pre-party

Tue & Wed scheduled events

Depart on Thursday

GET YOUR RESERVATION IN