

N.A.P.P.



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No. 1

Final call for the NAPP convention in Texas

This is the final reminder about the 2024 NAPP convention, which will be in Fredericksburg, Texas, September 16-19. Fr. Phil Gibbs, NAPP president, has put in countless hours arranging details to make this a memorable convention. So far, about 15 members have confirmed they will attend, with a couple others listed as tentative.

Registration is a simple two-step process:

1. Email Tom Enwright at napp.editor@gmail.com to say you will attend — and note whether you are flying (aircraft number) or driving. (If you already sent an email, there's no need to respond again.)

2. Make your own hotel reservation before August 16.



We're staying at the [Inn on Barons Creek](#), 308 S. Washington St. Our convention room rate is \$139 per night, plus 6% state tax and 7% local tax, for a total of \$157.07 per night. A deluxe hot breakfast bar is included each morning.

To receive the group rate, call the hotel — 830-990-9202 — and make your reservation before August 16. Provide your arrival date (September 16) and request



a room from the NAPP block.

NOTE: In addition to your hotel room, individuals will be responsible for their own meal expenses as noted below. There will be a convention fee (still being calculated) to cover the rental van, hospitality room (including beverages, snacks and Monday evening pizza), admission to the military museum, and Wednesday evening banquet.

Convention schedule as of August 4*:

MONDAY, September 16

3-4 p.m. — General aviation arrivals at the [Gillespie County Airport \(T82\)](#) — [Fredericksburg FBO](#).



Tiedown space will be reserved for NAPP; there are no landing or tie-down fees. The FBO is offering NAPP a \$1-per-gallon fuel discount. Phone: 830-997-3313.

NAPP will rent a van for airport/hotel shuttles and other activities. The van is being rented by one of our members flying commercial into the San Antonio airport; flight arrives at 1 p.m. and it's a one-hour drive to Fredericksburg. (No local van rentals were available.)

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3 p.m. — Check-in begins at the Inn on Barons Creek, 308 S. Washington St.

4 p.m. — Social in the NAPP hospitality room

5 p.m. (approximately) — Pizza in the NAPP hospitality room

TUESDAY, September 17

Complimentary breakfast at the hotel

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. — NAPP van tour of the Texas High Country. Fr. Phil's brother and sister-in-law, Ron and Jeri Gibbs, are putting together an itinerary that includes at least one winery and a visit to [Luckenbach Texas](#). (Cost of lunch and wine tastings are on your own.) Possible stop at the LBJ Ranch.

5 p.m. — Social in the hospitality room

Dinner on your own at [Fredericksburg Brewing](#), 245 E. Main St. (walking distance from hotel; no reservations; open until 8 p.m.)

WEDNESDAY, September 18

Complimentary breakfast at the hotel

9 a.m. to noon — [National Museum of the Pacific War](#) (also known as the Admiral Nimitz Museum), 311 E. Austin St. (walking distance from hotel). (Admission will be included in your convention fee.)

Noon — Lunch on your own in downtown Fredericksburg, or an option to take the van to [Altstadt Brewery](#), 6120 E. US-290.

2:30 p.m. — Annual Meeting at the Holy Family Center, St. Mary's Church, 304 W. San Antonio St. (NAPP van)

Elections will be held for two officer positions. Fr. Phil Gibbs is completing his first two-year term as president. He is not seeking a second term. Fr. Nick Radloff is completing his second and final two-year term as first vice president.

4 p.m. — Mass at St. Mary's Church

5:30 p.m. — Banquet

at Catfish Haven, 816 W. Main St. (NAPP van) (Convention fee will cover the meal and non-alcoholic beverages.)

Our guest speaker will be Fr. Nick Radloff's former Air Force Commander, Lt. Col. Michael Hinsch (retired), who currently is a first officer with American Airlines.



Michael served in the Air Force for nearly 22 years, including leadership roles with the HC-130 involving numerous international missions.

He finished his Air Force career as chief of combat operations. He was a key facilitator for eight USSOUTHCOM partner engagements for personnel recovery, coordinating civil/military operations in Central/South America. He led the world's largest personnel recovery exercise ANGEL THUNDER in 2013/14 and PANAMAX 2013, working with six allies. He also supervised two personnel recovery operations in South America, interacting with host nation authorities, aircraft on-scene, and higher headquarters.

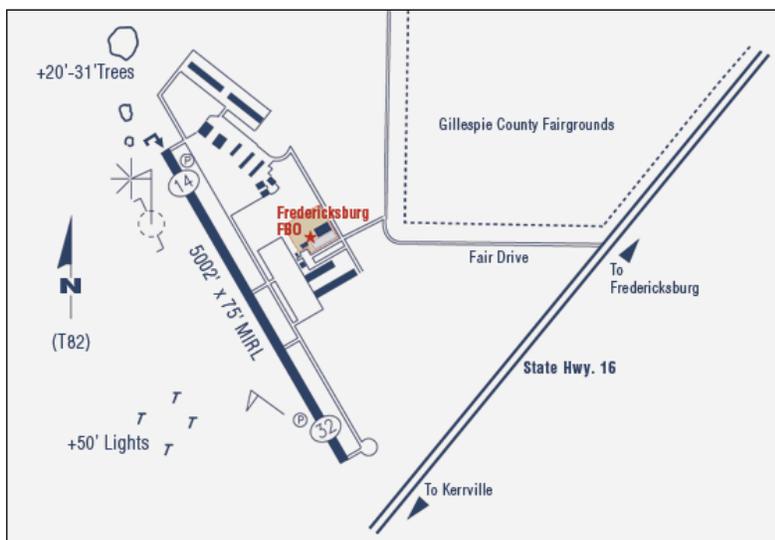
Michael also has been a pilot for AirMed International, a corporate pilot, and an instructor for FlightSafety International.

THURSDAY, September 19

Complimentary breakfast at the hotel

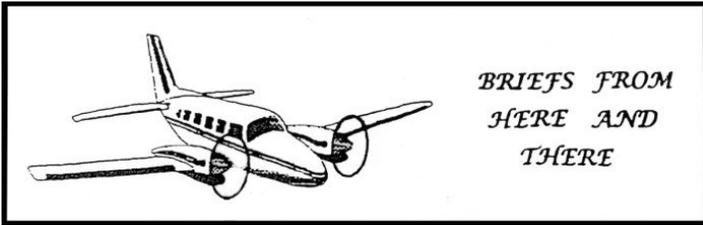
Departures (NAPP van will do a morning shuttle to the Fredericksburg airport)

To learn more about the area, check out the [Fredericksburg Convention & Visitor Bureau](#)



ANNUAL MEETING NOTE: Those unable to attend Wednesday afternoon's annual meeting in person can join a Zoom call to participate. Details will be sent in September.

**Schedule is subject to change*



Fr. Joe McCaffrey, former NAPP president, was honored by parishioners at a farewell reception in July.



Fr. Mac concluded his role as pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Lawrence County and now is Episcopal Vicar of the Diocese of Pittsburgh's Northern Vicariate. He also continues his role as chaplain to the FBI office in Pittsburgh. As Episcopal Vicar, he is responsible for 33 parishes, including Holy Spirit. (Photo by Melanie Widelko)



Rest in peace, Fr. John Herzog: Jeff Bryant, Nick Patterson and Mike Makelbust flew Mike's Cessna Cardinal to Dubuque, Iowa, on June 15 for the Rite of Committal for Fr. John Herzog.



“Fr. Phil Gibbs picked us up and



also attended,” Mike said.

Archbishop Thomas Zinkula presided at the service at Mount Olivet Cemetery just south of Dubuque.

Fr. John died May 17, 2023, at the age of 91. He was a charter member of the National Association of Priest Pilots. See stories in the [June 2023](#) newsletter.

Happy birthday: Associate member George Gratton reports that **Fr. Paul Baseford** of California celebrated his 100th birthday. “Fr. Paul is still sharp in conversation and in good health,” George says.

New associate member: Larry Camerlin is a new associate member of the National Association of Priest Pilots. He is the founder and president of [Angel Flight NE](#), which is based in North Andover, Massachusetts.

Angel Flight NE is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization arranging free air and ground medical transportation for patients with limited financial resources. Flight operations began in 1996 with 10 volunteer pilots. It now coordinates flights for thousands of patients annually with help from more than 450 volunteer pilots, JetBlue and Cape Air as well as hundreds of ground crew members.

Larry holds a master of divinity degree in pastoral ministry. He is married with four children and six grandchildren. He is an instrument-rated private pilot.

Reminder to pay your dues: Your fiscal 2025 dues are now due, if you haven't already paid. We don't send invoices, but instead ask you to send in your \$30 dues to remain a member in good standing. The new fiscal year began July 1. **See the dues form on Page 6.** **NOTE:** Members at the 2023 annual meeting voted to increase the dues to \$30, effective July 1, 2024.

Obituary planning: Members who are making advance funeral arrangements are encouraged to include NAPP in the list to be notified by the family or funeral director. Email: napp.editor@gmail.com.

Additional ways to support NAPP: Please remember NAPP in your retirement and estate plans. Those who need to take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from a qualified retirement account can designate NAPP for a financial gift. Also, please remember NAPP in your will. Email: napp.editor@gmail.com.

Two NAPP members are newly ordained

Fr. Christopher Hoffmann was ordained for the Diocese of Jefferson City, Missouri, on June 1. He has been appointed associate pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Columbia, and to assist Hispanic ministry at Sacred Heart Parish, Columbia. [See story in the diocesan newspaper.](#)

Fr. Christopher Hoffmann bestows his first priestly blessing on Bishop W. Shawn McKnight. (Photo by Jay Nies, The Catholic Missourian)



Fr. Joshua Miller was ordained for the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, on June 8. He has been appointed parochial vicar of Sacred Heart Parish in Owatonna. [See story in the diocesan newspaper.](#)



Fr. Joshua Miller celebrates the Liturgy of the Eucharist at his ordination Mass. Bishop Robert Barron is at left. (Photo courtesy of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester)



The National Association of Priest Pilots newsletter is published online six times per year (August, October, December, February, April, June). Fiscal year begins July 1. Website: priestpilots.org

Articles, news notes and photos can be sent to Tom Enwright, napp.editor@gmail.com. Deadline for the October edition is September 30.

NAPP Leadership Team

President: Fr. Phil Gibbs

1st VP: Fr. Nick Radloff 2nd VP: Fr. Bill Menzel

Secretary: Fr. Alex Nevitt

Treasurer & Newsletter Editor: Tom Enwright

Regional Directors

East: Fr. Al Ruschman Midwest: Fr. Gene Murray



Catholic Aviation Association asks priests to invite new members

By Terry Garrity

President, Catholic Aviation Association

I have a request for NAPP priest members. I'd like to ask that you tell your parishioners that Catholic Aviation Association is anxiously seeking new members. We have about 35 registrants, a small portion of which are dues-paying members. Thanks to Covid it has been a long road getting here but we're ready and excited to grow and we think the prestige that goes with loving and living aviation naturally amplifies the Gospel message for both enthusiast and those with an aviation vocation.

We have begun a First Friday Rosary. We will be carrying out a mid-month Chaplet of Divine Mercy and we have a fly-in airplane blessing event planned for September. We are also forming CAA chapters, with four currently formed.

If you look at our home page at <https://catholicaviation.org> you can see our mission statement (six items) that you should find helpful if you wish to include us in your Mass announcements.

I have a standard template you can use for your parish bulletin. I can email that to you.

We can advertise in Sport Pilot and Flying magazines to name a few, but at significant expense and still we don't think our message is anywhere as powerful as your voice from the pulpit.

Also, remember that clergy membership in CAA is always free. And you can ask for free membership for deacons and all religious.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration of our request and do not hesitate to reach out to me at terry.garrity@catholicaviation.org for any reason.

Midwest Regional in Mason City is blessed with blue skies

Six airplanes flew into Mason City, Iowa, on July 8 for the NAPP Midwest summer regional fly-in. They were:

- Fr. Bill Menzel (Piper Comanche) from Wisconsin Rapids
 - Fr. Phil Gibbs (PA-28 Archer) from Dubuque
 - Fr. Nick Radloff (Beechcraft Musketeer) from Decorah
 - Fr. Gene Murray (Cubby homebuilt) with his nephew Nick Murray (a captain with Delta Air Lines) from Cherokee
 - Tom Murray (PA-12 Super Cruiser) with a friend, Kevin Murray, from Boone
 - Mike Makelbust (C-177 Cardinal) from Ames
- Fr. John Wolesky drove in from Solomon, Kansas.

Airplanes began arriving around 10:15 and all arrived by 11:00. Skies were clear, wind was 8 knots out of the west, so flying conditions were ideal. We ate lunch at the airport restaurant, Avion Azul.

Special guests were our speaker, Bill Kyle; Sister Annette Kestel, Gene Murray's cousin; and Steve Weiner, a member of the Mason City Airport Commission.

After lunch, we went to the airport board room where Bill Kyle (longtime operator of the FBOs in Charles City, Mason City and Ames) presented a very good instruction on airplane engine oils. Bill is an FAA Designated Airworthiness Representative with Inspection Authorization. The meeting was adjourned by 2:00 and all returned home safely.

Fr. Gene Murray



ABOVE: Fr. Gene Murray, Kevin Murray, guest speaker Bill Kyle, Fr. John Wolesky.

BELOW: Lunch at the airport restaurant, Avion Azul.



Tom Murray (front) and Kevin Murray in Tom's red Super Cruiser.



Fr. John Wolesky, Fr. Bill Menzel, Mike Makelbust.



TOP RIGHT: Mike Makelbust chats with Fr. Gene Murray in Gene's Cubby homebuilt.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Joining Fr. Gene on the trip was his nephew, Nick Murray.



NAPP members spotted (and random scenes) at EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh



Fr. Phil Gibbs, NAPP president, and Fr. Nick Radloff, first vice president, with a B-52 in the background. Fr. Nick was a navigator on the C-130 aircraft before he entered seminary.



Fr. Bill Menzel, NAPP second vice president, volunteered at the EAA Learn to Fly Center.



It was fun to run into Fr. Gene Murray on the grounds. He and some other NAPP members and friends continued their tradition of staying at the Jesuit Retreat Center on the shores of Lake Winnebago.



Tom Enwright, Fr. Joe McCafrey and Dr. Steve Conti had lunch with Tom's wife Mary, who took this photo.



2025 NAPP Dues – U.S. \$30.00

Fiscal year began July 1, 2024

Use this form or use PayPal (go to priestpilots.org and click **Pay Now**).

NAME: _____

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Member category: Charter Regular Associate

Make check payable to NAPP and mail to: Tom Enwright, Treasurer, 419 Chestnut St., Sauk City, WI 53583

In addition to the \$30 annual dues, we encourage members to make a separate donation to the **NAPP Missionary Gift Fund**, which will be used to support the organization's charitable grants. Donations can be sent to the same address or you can use PayPal. Go to priestpilots.org and click on the **Donate** button.

Donate

