

N.A.P.P.



Volume 62

February 2026

No. 4

***President's letter: Fr. Allen Corrigan***

# Blimp hangar tour looks likely for NAPP Convention in Akron

Dear Members,

Please set aside the dates of September 14-17 for our 2026 NAPP Convention in beautiful, historic Akron, Ohio. Our host airport will be [Akron Fulton International Airport](#) (KAKR) and commercial flights are available at [Cleveland Hopkins International Airport](#) (KCLE) and [Akron-Canton Regional Airport](#) (KCAK). Our event headquarters will be [Comfort Inn and Suites](#) in Cuyahoga Falls, which is eight miles from our host airport. (We will advise when the reservation block is open.)



[Suites](#) in Cuyahoga Falls, which is eight miles from our host airport. (We will advise when the reservation block is open.)

Akron has made several contributions to the aviation industry and is also home to Goodyear Blimps.

I can't believe our good fortune, but we are scheduled for a tour of the [Wingfoot Lake Airship Hangar](#) in Suf-field, Ohio; and one of the blimps will be there for service



All three Goodyear blimps, led by Wingfoot One, fly in formation on June 3, 2025, in Akron, Ohio. (Photo by Jeff Lange, Akron Beacon Journal)

at that time. Of course, we all know that schedules can change without notice in aviation, but our commitment is rather firm at this time and will be confirmed mid-summer.

Akron contributed to the aviation industry due to the rubber industry that was centered there. It was the perfect location due to an ample source of water from nearby Summit Lake. It was also immediately adjacent to the Ohio and Erie Canal, which connected Akron with the Cuyahoga River near its outlet on Lake Erie in Cleveland, and a few years later, with the Ohio River near Portsmouth. It also had connections to other canal systems in Pennsylvania. Akron is also located on a major rail corridor.

A large Quaker Oats mill and processing plant is also located in Ohio. Due to its location along the canal and railroads, it was the perfect location to process and ship grain from the Midwest to the Eastern mar-

**SAVE THE DATE!**



**2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION**  
AKRON, OHIO

**SEPTEMBER 2026**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

**SEPTEMBER 14-17, 2026**  
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



*Continued on Page 2*

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kets. Also, Akron is only a few hundred miles from many major cities. As the industrial age came into full force, the economy of Akron exploded. There are many famous mansions, including Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens, an estate built between 1912 and 1915 for F.A. Seiberling, co-founder of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. A tour there is on the list of possible activities during our convention.



St. Bernard Catholic Church in Akron (Photo by Frederick Bradbury)

As a resident of Summit County, I am very proud to share the rich history and beauty of this area with our members. I certainly hope that we can have a large turnout for this year's convention!

Sincerely,

**Allen Corrigan, President (N7162D)**



Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens is an estate built for F.A. Seiberling, co-founder of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. (Photo by Brandon Bisel )



The NAPP Convention hotel will be the Comfort Inn and Suites in Cuyahoga Falls, which is eight miles from our general aviation airport, Akron Fulton International (KAKR) .

**2026 NAPP Dues – U.S. \$30.00**

*Fiscal year began July 1, 2025*

Use this form or use PayPal (go to [priestpilots.org](http://priestpilots.org) and click **Pay Now**).

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

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

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

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://priestpilots.org) and click on the **Donate** button.



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](http://priestpilots.org)

Articles, news notes and photos can be sent to Tom Enwright, [napp.editor@gmail.com](mailto:napp.editor@gmail.com). Deadline for the April edition is March 30.

**NAPP Leadership Team**

President: Fr. Allen Corrigan

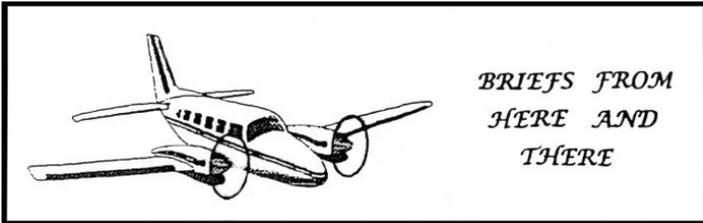
1st VP: Fr. Edward Moran 2nd VP: Fr. Bill Menzel

Secretary: Fr. Alex Nevitt

Treasurer & Newsletter Editor: Tom Enwright

**Regional Directors**

East: Fr. Alex Nevitt Midwest: Fr. Gene Murray



**Greetings from Cedar Rapids, Iowa:** Barry Brown writes that he and Nancy are “getting through the sometimes-bitter temperatures of winter and high winds of recent months here in Cedar Rapids. In my almost 11 years of retirement from flying 38 years for Rockwell Collins, I am still teaching at the beautiful little Monticello, Iowa (MXO) airport, about halfway between Cedar Rapids and Dubuque. It’s a wonderful and active airport, has a very busy maintenance shop and is supported well by the city and local residents.”



Nancy and Barry Brown on a flight in 2021.

*Editor’s note: The [December 2020](#) newsletter had a story about Nancy (maiden name was Johnson). She designed the NAPP masthead while she was a student at Iowa State University in Ames and Fr. Mel Hemann was associate pastor at the St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center. Nancy was recruited by Mel to do the layout for the newsletter, which he edited for many years.*

**Greetings from Bishop Emeritus Donald Kettler:** Writing from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Bishop Kettler sent a beautiful Christmas card and greetings to NAPP members. “To all, may you all have a joyful Christmas. Prayers for you, your families and ministries.” The picture on the front of his card shows a nativity wood carving made by Fr. Peter VanderWeyst of the Diocese of Saint Cloud, Minnesota.



**SUN ‘n FUN forum:** Associate member George Gratton plans to present a forum at [SUN ‘n FUN Aerospace Expo](#) in Lakeland, Florida. His topic will be “MAYDAY! Surviving single-engine failure in IFR.” His four sessions will be from noon to 12:55 p.m. in CFAA-05: April 15-16-17-18. In his presentation, George describes an in-flight emergency while flying to the NAPP convention in July 2021. See “Emergency over Georgia” in the [August 2021](#) NAPP newsletter.

**Update from Fr. Paul Baseford via George Gratton:** “Fr. Paul (my favorite centurion) is alive and well. He remains in good health, pleasantly humorous, and in full faculty. He wanted to wish all his friends in NAPP a happy new year from his Banning, California, residence.”

**Fr. Pat Patten sent a note at the end of December:** “We are having difficult times in Tanzania,” he said, noting reports of politically motivated abductions and murders. Pat’s Flying Medical Service continues to be grounded by the government after three and a half years. The U.S. State Department’s travel advisory, issued last fall, remains at Level 3 — “Reconsider travel to Tanzania due to unrest, crime, terrorism.”

**In memoriam:** As noted in emails sent to members, two of our priest members lost their fathers in January.

**Alfred H. Schmitz**, father of Fr. John Schmitz, died January 11 in Jefferson City, Missouri. He was 94. “He went truly peacefully at home,” Fr. John said, “with all six kids around him, fortified with the Sacraments and Divine Mercy Chaplet praying as he took his last breath.” Fr. John celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial at Immaculate Conception Church in Jefferson City. The obituary is available [here](#).

**Stephen D. Roser**, father of Fr. Shawn Roser, died January 13 while in recovery following a heart procedure in Fort Myers, Florida. He was 73. The funeral Mass was celebrated in Fort Myers at Resurrection of Our Lord Church, where Fr. Shawn is parochial vicar. In the early 2000s, Fr. Shawn said, his dad was a First Lieutenant and Squadron Commander with Naples Cadet Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, USAF Auxiliary. The obituary is available [here](#).

**Reminder to pay your fiscal 2026 dues:** Thanks to the 54 members who already have paid their dues for fiscal 2026 or beyond. If you haven’t paid, please send your \$30 to remain a member in good standing. Additional donations are appreciated. Fiscal 2026 began July 1, 2025. See the dues form on Page 2.

**Additional ways to support NAPP:** Please remember NAPP in your retirement and estate plans. Those who need to take a required minimum distribution from their Individual Retirement Account can designate NAPP for a qualified charitable distribution. Also, please remember NAPP in your will. For more information, email: [napp.editor@gmail.com](mailto:napp.editor@gmail.com).

**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](mailto:napp.editor@gmail.com).

# Fr. Bill Menzel receives honors from EAA Chapter 706

EAA Chapter 706 in Wisconsin Rapids paid tribute to Fr. Bill Menzel at its annual awards dinner in January.

Fr. Bill was honored for concluding his service as the chapter's Ray Aviation Scholarship coordinator. In addition, he received the chapter's Most Valuable Person award for 2025.

In his presentation, Tom Davis, immediate past president of Chapter 706, detailed the many ways Fr. Bill has given of his time and talent to the chapter, especially by introducing young people to aviation and encouraging them to pursue flight training.

"Bill Menzel started the Ray Scholarship program in Chapter 706 back in 2020, with Hobie Lippold, our



Hobie Lippold celebrates with Fr. Bill after soloing on his 16th birthday, August 31, 2019.

youth through the program. Now, at the young age of 84, he's decided to retire from the program. ... Bill invests himself heavily in the success of our scholars. He encourages them, coaches them, takes them flying, and pushes them to stay on schedule as they move through their training. His record is very impressive, with three successful new private pilots and a fourth one on the path to completion."



Fr. Bill Menzel (right) is shown with Tom Davis, immediate past president of EAA Chapter 706 in Wisconsin Rapids.

In his remarks about the MVP award, Tom said Fr. Bill "has been one of our most prolific Young Eagles pilots, with 110 flights to his credit (third most in the chapter), including flying some kids who are now adult members of this chapter! And Bill can be counted on to volunteer at every event our chapter organizes, whether it's the pancake breakfast, our hamburger socials, or teaching sessions at our Young Eagles workshops."

Fr. Bill's passion for promoting aviation doesn't end at the chapter level. In recent years, he has signed up new student pilots at the [Learn To Fly Center](#) during EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh, and he has inspired others in the chapter to join him in volunteering there.

"And last, but not least," Tom said, "he always brings his cheerful attitude and his famous cranberry cake with glaze sauce to every meeting! Bill, thank you for everything you have done for our chapter. You are our Chapter MVP for 2025."

Bill adds, "I am grateful to Tom and to the members of EAA Chapter 706 for this recognition and for the privilege of heading our chapter's Ray Aviation Scholarship program for the last five years. I'm very happy, too, that Tom, having relinquished his role as chapter president in which he greatly enhanced our chapter's vitality, is now going to be my successor as Ray Scholarship coordinator. I know that the program will be in good hands."



**About the program:** The [EAA Ray Aviation Scholarship](#) is a merit-based scholarship program that is funded by the Ray Foundation, managed by EAA, and administered through the EAA Chapters network. Through the generous support of the Ray Foundation, EAA provides up to \$12,000 to deserving youths to help cover their flight training expenses.

**More about Chapter 706:** [Website](#) and [Facebook](#)

# Welcome to NAPP, Fr. Joshua Link

*Editor's note: Fr. Joshua Link of Clear Lake, Iowa, is the newest member of the National Association of Priest Pilots. He shared the following story to introduce himself to the group.*

I am a priest for the Archdiocese of Dubuque. I currently serve as the pastor of St. Patrick Church in Clear Lake, Sacred Heart Church in Rockwell, and as the chaplain at Newman Catholic School System in Mason City.

My journey to the priesthood started when I was in fifth grade at St. Joseph Key West School in Dubuque. A Presentation Sister came to speak to our school, and she left us with the words “we need more priests.” When I heard those words, the Holy Spirit lit a fire in my heart toward the priesthood that was not satisfied until May 25, 2019, when I was ordained a priest.

My journey to becoming a pilot is a much different story but involves the influence of some priests and good people over the years. When I was in middle school, the vocation director for the archdiocese heard I was thinking about the priesthood. Fr. Phil Gibbs, who is also a pilot, reached out to me and asked if my



mother and I would like to go up in his plane. I was excited to go, more so to go flying than to talk about the priesthood.

Fast forward to becoming pastor in Clear Lake, where several of my parishioners are pilots, one owning the

North Iowa Air Service, and Msgr. John Hemann was residing in town. With those influences, there was a desire to learn how to fly, plus practically I figured I could get places a lot quicker than driving.

I went for my discovery flight and have been in lessons ever since. It can be challenging to make time for lessons as frequently as needed when learning, but the more I do it, the

better I get, and the more fun I have.

As soon as my brother priest Nick Radloff got wind that I was in flight school, he was sure to approach me about joining the NAPP. I'm pretty sure he sent me the link to join before our conversation was even over. Talk about military efficiency! Now that I am officially a dues-paying member, it is great to be aboard. I look forward to the years and adventures to come.

*Fr. Joshua Link*

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## From the NAPP archives ...

20 years ago | February 2006

### Which way to Parkersburg?

*Editor's note: Here is an excerpt from Fr. Charles B. Teufel's column from February 2006. Fr. Teufel died August 13, 2007, in Wheeling, West Virginia, at the age of 72. He was NAPP president from 2005 until his death.*

Let's take off on runway 33 at KCRW (Charleston, West Virginia). Just past the end of 33, the ground suddenly drops 500 feet into the river valley below. If you look out your left window, you see Interstate 77, which runs north from Columbia, South Carolina, to Cleveland, Ohio.



But if you look out your right window, you see Interstate 79, which begins right underneath you and goes north-northeast to Erie, Pennsylvania.

**Tower:** “Mooney 231MN, cleared for takeoff. Contact departure on 124.1”

**Mooney:** “Departure, this is Mooney 1MN climbing on runway heading.”

**Departure:** “1MN, radar contact. Report reaching 3,000.” [Break] “Helicopter XYZ, I thought you were going north to Parkersburg. I show you heading northeast.”

**Helicopter XYZ:** “Ah, yes, we're just turning left. We've been following the wrong highway.”

It actually happened!

Lent begins soon, a time to do penance, not only for our flying mistakes, but more importantly, for our moral transgressions.

# 2025 Year in Review

## February 2025

President's column: Thoughts on dues, grants, bequests and a welcome upgrade (by Fr. Allen Corrigan)

Flying Medical Service: Still caring for the poor and marginalized (by Fr. Pat Patten)

Gratitude for altitude: One member's story about NAPP (by Rev. Mark Menacher)

The colorful history about Super Cub 143 Tango is ready for a new chapter and owner (by Fr. Gene Murray)

N6949M: Zing, sizzle and pop — coming home (by Jim Knights)

Flight instructors expand knowledge, skills at annual summit (by Fr. Edward Moran)

2025 Year in Review

Briefs:

- Save the dates for 2025 NAPP convention

- NAPP issues charitable grants

- Airport planning expertise includes Fr. Bill Menzel

- SUN 'n FUN forum with George Gratton

- Comment about ADS-B/nav lights

## April 2025

Priest & pilot: Reflecting on two amazing gifts from God (by Fr. Miles Barrett)

From the NAPP archives ... 23 years ago | April 2002: Fr. Jim Kelley, Alaskan pilot who died in crash, is remembered by NAPP friends

Hotel reservations open for NAPP Convention in Mason City July 15-18

No more Comanche flying, then ... (by Fr. Bill Menzel)

Fr. Mike Gould, longtime missionary priest pilot, dies at 97

So, what's the angle? A flight instructor's review of angle of attack (by Jim Knights)

Briefs:

- Grateful for donations

- Associate member Nick Chapman shares an update from Rome

- Update from Fr. Mike Kerin in Tennessee

- Medical resources from AOPA

## June 2025

President's column: My convention journey includes Indiana flight memorial and



ferry crossing on Lake Michigan (by Fr. Allen Corrigan)

Deadline is June 15 for NAPP's July convention

Reflecting on 60 years of priesthood and flying adventures (by Fr. Gene Murray)

Exploring life with John Casey (by Patrick J. McDonald)

John Casey, former NAPP associate member, dies in Iowa at 85

Off-airport landings: Increase odds of survival by being prepared (by Jim Knights)

Briefs:

- Pope Leo XIV and the pumpkin-pie connection (by Nick Chapman)

- Fr. Christopher Hoffmann appointed parochial administrator

## August 2025

President's column: Annual meeting will focus on 2026 convention site and grants (by Fr. Allen Corrigan)

2025 Convention: Planes, tours, great food and fellowship

Photos from the 2025 NAPP Convention in Mason City/Clear Lake, Iowa

Photos from EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2025

Three days in Maine: Going for a seaplane rating (by Jim Knights)

Briefs:

- Death notice: Associate member Michael Scott Marsh

- Fr. Al Ruschman, charter member, sends us a photo with his prayers and best wishes

- Msgr. Frank Mouch, charter member, joins the UFOs (United Flying Octogenarians)

- Fr. Phil Gibbs spots an item from Fr. Bill Menzel in AOPA magazine.

- Associate member George Gratton presents forum at EAA AirVenture

- Fr. Gene Murray's great-great-nephew enters the seminary

- Sacred Heart Parish in Nekoosa, Wisconsin, celebrates 125th anniversary; Fr. John Swing is the pastor and Fr. Bill Menzel assists on weekends

## October 2025

President's column: From USS Shenandoah to Apollo, honoring our heroic aviators (by Fr. Allen Corrigan)

WWII museum in Minnesota is a gem to experience (by Fr. Gene Murray)

Important advisory regarding NAPP dues invoices via PayPal

Trip to Gander highlights its vital role in World War II and in welcoming stranded passengers on 9/11 (by Jim Knights)

Three Days in Maine, Part 2: The thrill of putting it all together on floats (by Jim Knights)

Highlights from the Annual Meeting conducted via Zoom

From the NAPP archives ... 25 years ago | February 2000: Fr. Al Werth shares some humor from the airwaves

Briefs:

- Congratulations to new airline pilot mentored by Fr. Bill Menzel

- Parish festival prize reaches new heights for Fr. Phil Gibbs

- Fr. Joe McCaffrey reflects on 9/11 anniversary during interview on Pittsburgh radio station

- Update on Fr. Paul Baseford

## December 2025

President's column: Looking forward to the 2026 NAPP Convention in Akron, Ohio (by Fr. Allen Corrigan)

Look up and see what's important (by Fr. Neil Ritchie)

Complacency can be a very dangerous thing (by Fr. Gene Murray)

Advertisement in The Priest Magazine aims to recruit new members for NAPP

From the NAPP archives ... 23 years ago | December 2002: Fr. Ev Hemann reflects on the importance of knowing where we are

Book review: Landings in America | Come along for this 7,000-mile adventure in a Piper Cub (by Tom Enwright)

Sidebar: Did you say Luckenbach, Texas? Yes, the NAPP group was there in 2024

Briefs:

- Reminder to pay your fiscal 2026 dues

- EAA AirVenture dates for Oshkosh