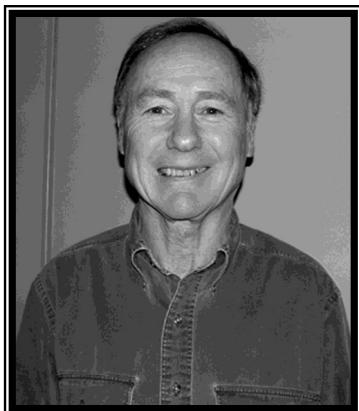




Forward... in Aviation

Volume 3, Issue 2

June 2005



Duane Esse

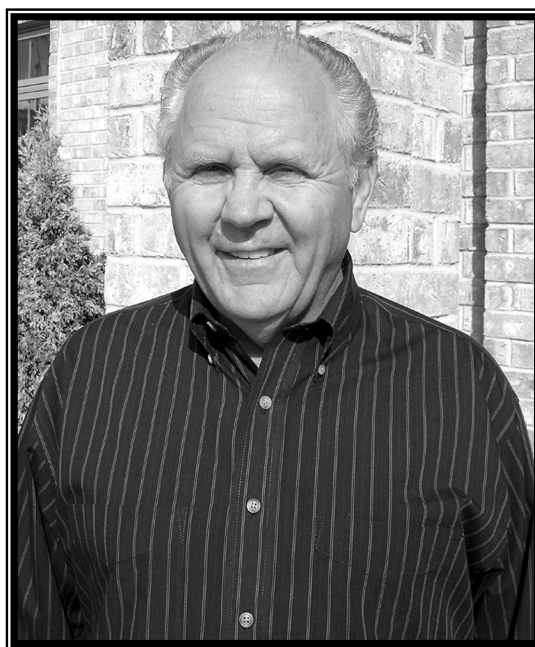
Announcing our 2005 Inductees Five to be inducted at October banquet

Five Wisconsin aviators will be inducted into the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame at a ceremony to be held this fall at the EAA AirVenture Museum in Oshkosh.

To be inducted at the event will be Jerry Mehlhaff, President and Founder of American Champion Aircraft in Rochester, Wisconsin, and Duane Esse of Waunakee, Wisconsin. Esse is a flight instructor, career educator and former Chief of Safety for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Bureau of Aeronautics.

Anton Brotz, a Sheboygan County aviation pioneer; Wendell McEldowney, an early LaCrosse-area pilot and aviation promoter; and Carlyle Godske, a World War I pilot and barnstormer will be posthumously inducted in the Pioneer category. The Pioneer category is for those who made significant contributions to aviation before 1927.

The inductees will be enshrined at a ceremony to be held in the Eagle Hangar at the EAA AirVenture Museum on October 22. Plaques will be presented to the inductees or their families and then permanently displayed in the Fergus Plaza at the museum.



Jerry Mehlhaff, American Champion Aircraft



Wendall McEldowney

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WAHF Mission Statement:

To collect and preserve the history of aviation in Wisconsin, recognize those who made that history, inform others of it, and promote aviation education to future generations.

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The \$1000 Carl Guell Memorial Scholarship and the \$500 Thies-sen Field Scholarships will be presented. A Silent Auction will be held during the Social Hour to benefit the scholarship program. All members of the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame and their guests are encouraged to attend. Tickets will be available later this year. Please call Keith Glasshof at 715-832-6379 or Michael Goc at 608-339-7191 for more information.

President's Message

— By Rose Dorcey

Reading leads to research...

As I've mentioned in previous columns, both my husband John and I are avid readers of aviation history. Recently I was reading a short story titled, *A Spaniard Flies the South Atlantic* by Lowell Thomas. It tells of a 1926 flight by Major Ramon Franco of the Spanish Air Force. He and his crew completed the first aerial crossing of the South Atlantic in a Dornier-Wal "flying boat," from Spain to the shores of Brazil. What was intriguing to me was the Papal blessing that the historic flight received before departure. A quote from the book *...As Franco and his crewmen prepared to climb aboard, a messenger arrived from the Vatican, bringing Pope Pius XI's special blessings for the flight's safety. A high mass was celebrated on the banks of the Canal in the shadow of the plane, and then a Franciscan monk came forward in his heavy brown robe to pin the medal of Our Lady of Loreto, the patron saint of aviators, upon Franco's breast just before he mounted to the cockpit.*

Since I wasn't aware of a patron saint for aviators, I did some research. I asked my daughter, Sister Jamie Parmeter, to shed some light on this subject. Sister Jamie is in her postulant year at the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecelia Congregation in Nashville, TN, studying to be a teacher and fully-professed Dominican Sister. Through research, this is what we learned...



My son, Luke, proud Mom, and my daughter, Sister Jamie. Behind us is the Cessna 414 that we flew to Nashville to visit Sister Jamie.

The title *Our Lady of Loreto* refers to the *Holy House of Loreto*, the house in which Mary was born. Tradition says that a band of angels scooped up the little house from the Holy Land, and transported it to Tersato, Dalmatia in 1291, Reananti in 1294, and finally to Loreto, Italy where it has been for centuries. In our research, we also read that the house was moved to Italy by the Crusaders in 1294. No matter how it got there, the Shrine of Our Lady of Loreto venerates the house that both Christian devotion and tradition recognize as Mary's home.



Our Lady of Loreto, Patron Saint of Aviators and Air Travelers

John and I then went to the Cornerstone Catholic Book Store in Stevens Point and found the Our Lady of Loreto medals. We wear them daily.

This short prayer came with the medal...*Our Lady of Loreto, benevolent patroness of aviators, protect and guide me on my flight. Look upon me with your gentleness, O Mary, and upon all I travel with. Shelter us from harm, Blessed Mother, and lead us safely to our destiny.*

I purchased a few extra medals. If you're interested in receiving one, let me know.

Shortly thereafter, John and I and our son, Luke, spent a day with Sister Jamie at the beautiful convent in Nashville. We flew a Cessna 414 to Nashville's John C Tune Airport, and received a special surprise when Sister Jamie was there to pick us up. After a delicious meal prepared by the Sisters, we toured

the \$30 million convent addition. As the Sisters moved into the new addition, a major renovation of the original 150-year-old convent began. The St. Cecelia Dominican Order is one of the country's fastest growing, hence the need for more space.

All too soon, it was time to head back to the airport. After hugs and tears, and promises to write, we flew back to Madison, feeling just a little safer knowing that prayers for a safe flight from Jamie and all the Sisters were going with us. In addition, I said a special prayer to Our Lady of Loreto.



Rose Dorcey

2005 Scholarship Recipients — Colin; Hoffmann awarded education dollars

Tony R. Colin, Dodgeville, and **David A. Hoffman**, Oshkosh, have been named the 2005 Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame scholarship recipients.

Colin is the recipient of the \$1000 Carl Guell Memorial Scholarship, for a student enrolled in an aviation program at one of Wisconsin's technical colleges. Colin is working toward a degree in the A&P (Airframe & Powerplant) program at Blackhawk Technical College in Janesville, Wisconsin.

Colin chose this field of study because of his lifelong involvement and interest in aviation. He and his father restored several classic aircraft as family projects, along with his youngest brother. The 35-year old is a member of the 128th Air Refueling Wing, Milwaukee, WI.

He is a single parent who is active in his community, serving as an assistant seventh and eighth grade football coach and a volunteer reader to his daughter's third grade class. Colin said his ultimate goal is to start his own full-blown restoration operation, from "propeller spinner to the farthest rear bow of the rudder."

Blackhawk instructor Rick Theis spoke highly of Colin, saying, "His dedication and love for aviation is shown in all the effort he puts forward in studies and work ethic. His ethical practices fit well into the aviation industry. He shows concern for aviation safety and he utilizes practices that meet the Federal Aviation Standards."

A student enrolled in the Pilot Training program at Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) in Oshkosh is the recipient of the recently established Thiessen Field Scholarship.

David Hoffmann, Oshkosh, will receive the \$500 award. The Thiessen Field scholarship was established in 2005 by Jerry Thiessen of Baraboo, Wisconsin. (Read more on page 5.)

Hoffmann became interested in flying airplanes and becoming a pilot at the age of ten, after attending EAA AirVenture. His goal is to become a professional pilot for a major airline. Hoffmann is active in his community; he participates in young adult and middle school activities and ministries at his local church. He has worked on highway cleanup projects. While in high school, along with members of his drafting class, he designed and built a park and gazebo for a northern Wisconsin community.

Fox Valley Instructor Seth Kremer said that Hoffmann is always prepared for class no matter the circumstances. He said the FVTC aviation program is full of new experiences and that Hoffmann has adapted to the requirements much quicker than the average student. "In addition, he respects the decisions of others and with experience in his chosen field, he will become a strong leader."

Both Hoffmann and Colin will be recognized at the 2005 Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame Investiture Banquet on October 22, to be held at the EAA AirVenture Museum.

Plan to Attend the 2005 Banquet — Your opportunity to meet Wisconsin's aviation finest

The 2005 Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame Investiture Ceremony and Banquet will be extra special, considering the fact that the organization is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Please make plans to attend—this event is one of Wisconsin's most prestigious aviation gatherings.

On October 22, as you read on the front cover, five Wisconsin aviators will join 75 men and women as Hall of Fame inductees. In addition to honoring our 2005 slate of inductees, two scholarship recipients will be recognized.

A social hour before the dinner, catered by LaSure's of Oshkosh, allows time to mingle with fellow aviation friends and to make new ones. The third annual Silent Auction, held during the social hour, is a great "mixer" and provides an opportunity for those present to support the organization's scholarship program, and take home some great merchandise.



Dave Weiman, Midwest Flyer Magazine, is a familiar face at the Hall of Fame banquets.



Kurt and Amy Hartwig, Eagle Fuel Cells, at the 2003 Banquet. Kurt, Amy and Dave are among the many fine people we hope to see at the 2005 Banquet. The event takes place in the Eagle Hangar at the EAA AirVenture Museum in Oshkosh.

Plan to make a day or weekend of it! Tour the EAA AirVenture Museum in the afternoon, and stay for the evening! Several Oshkosh hotels are offering discounts for your stay. Please mention the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame when making your reservations to receive this special discount.

Aviation History on Display at Morey Field — Features North Central and Reeve Aleutian Memorabilia

The Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame (WAHF) has found another way to further its goal of sharing Wisconsin's aviation history... with a new display case that has been established at Middleton Municipal—Morey Field Airport (C29).

The display currently features details and memorabilia on North Central Airlines and Reeve Aleutian Airways. North Central began in 1946 as Central Wisconsin Airlines in Clintonville, Wisconsin, and went on to become Republic and then Northwest Airlines. Reeve Aleutian Airways was founded by Waunakee, Wisconsin native Robert Reeve. Items in the display case will change periodically. More information on Reeve and North Central Airlines can be found on the WAHF website at www.aviationhalloffamewisconsin.com.

Middleton Municipal/Morey Field airport is a fitting home to the Hall of Fame's first display case, given the rich aviation heritage of the Morey family. With Rich Morey as airport manager, the airport is in its third generation of Morey management. Rich plans to hang the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame induction plaques of his father Field Morey, and grandfather Howard Morey near the display. Photographs depicting the early years of Morey Field will also be displayed, along with a model of a Jenny that the eldest Morey flew.

Do you have items to share?

WAHF board members hope to establish Wisconsin aviation history display cases at other locations throughout Wisconsin. You can help! WAHF board members are in the process of gathering additional items and information on the organization's inductees so that the people of Wisconsin who have made positive contributions to aviation can continue to be recognized.

Leroy Stuczynski called to offer several items, including model airplanes, newspaper clippings and other historical items and documents, after he announced that the aviation museum of his father, Steve Stuczynski, was closing. To learn more, visit <http://galleryofaviation.com>

Ruth Elliott and Peter Moll of Wittman Regional Airport were kind enough to loan several vintage photos of the airport, and several photos of WAHF inductee Steve Wittman. The photos have been scanned and saved in our digital archive.

Can we scan some of your old photos? Would you like to loan or donate memorabilia or share other information? Any items pertaining to the aviation history of Wisconsin are appreciated.

If you have items to loan or donate to the organization, please contact John Dorsey at 608-836-9840 or another WAHF board member.



Middleton Municipal/Morey Field Airport (C29) is the home of the WAHF's first Wisconsin aviation history display. Morey Field is also home to Scott's Pastry Shoppe, one of the Madison area's finest bakeries. Stop in to see the display, meet the friendly folks at the airport, and enjoy lunch or a delicious pastry.

Thank you...

John and Rose Dorsey have collected many of the items in the history display pictured above. Rose recently met a man whose father was a captain for North Central Airlines, AJ Metelak. Several vintage North Central and Republic Airlines items were donated from the Metelak estate.

Roy Shwery, founder of Midstate Airlines, recently provided several items, including a model of a Swearingen Metroliner II painted in the Midstate colors, and a book that chronicles the successful "mini airline". Former airport engineer Joe Abernathy provided old log books, photographs, and memorabilia from his WWII days. Many of these items will be used in future displays. Both Shwery and Abernathy are inductees of the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame.

Thank you to the Metelak family, Roy Shwery and Joe Abernathy. Thanks also to Ruth Elliott and Peter Moll from Wittman Regional Airport. And a *huge* thank you goes to Leroy Stuczynski for his generous donations.

Thiessen Field Scholarship Announced — Jerry Thiessen Gives \$500 for New Aviation Scholarship

Jerry Thiessen believes there are three kinds of pilots...

- Those who fly just to make a living
- Those who fly “on the cheap” and build their own airplane
- Those who love the mechanical aspects of aviation and flying is the bonus.

Jerry Thiessen considers himself among the latter. He built an award winning Tailwind in 1982. He has restored a 7AC Champ and has helped others in the restoration of their aircraft. Steve Wittman and Cecil Hess are among his mentors.

Thiessen not only builds airplanes, but a field from which they fly from, having built Thiessen Field, located just north of Baraboo, Wisconsin. It is the namesake for a new scholarship... the 2005 Thiessen Field Scholarship, to be awarded at the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame Investiture Ceremony and Banquet on October 22, 2005. The \$500 award comes courtesy of Jerry Thiessen.

“This scholarship is my small way to pass on my love for aviation,” said Thiessen. “I hope that it will inspire others to contribute to the WAHF Scholarship Fund, or perhaps to create



Photo courtesy of Jerry Thiessen

Jerry Thiessen with his Aeronca on skis.

a scholarship in their own name.”

The \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a student who is enrolled in an aviation program at one of Wisconsin’s Technical Colleges. The WAHF Board of Directors would like to thank Jerry Thiessen for his generous donation and for his support of Wisconsin’s aviation students.

Kay Wolf thanks WAHF for *Blue Sky Moments* book — Husband Fritz a 1989 inductee

Kay Wolf sent a note of thanks to the WAHF Board of Directors when she received a copy of *Blue Sky Moments* from WAHF Board Member Bill Reese.

Kay’s husband, Fritz Wolf, was inducted in 1989. Fritz was a Flying Tiger in WWII and a former Wisconsin Division of Aeronautics Director. Fritz passed away in 1997. He is pictured on page 86 of the *Blue Sky Moments* book.

Here is what Kay wrote...

Dear Bill:

Just a brief note to thank you for “Blue Sky Moments!” It truly is an exceptional book. I enjoy “over & over” the personal comments and the information given with each picture. It seems just a short time ago that I was with Fritz, when he was inducted into the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame—what an honor!

Congratulations to the Board of Directors.

Fondly, Kay Wolf

Recommended Reading — *Heart of the Storm: My Adventures as a Helicopter Rescue Pilot and Commander* By Colonel Ed Fleming

This book is hard to put down. It includes dramatic, suspenseful rescue stories, whether the rescues occurred over water or in mountain ravines. The book shows the near-constant dangers that face helicopter rescue pilots and crews today.

True stories of true heroism. You will gain new appreciation and admiration for the courage and skill of helicopter rescue pilots as you read of Col. Fleming’s rescues. 246 pages. A must read!

WI Aero Bureau's Tom Thomas Retires

— State's "Mr. Aviation" had distinguished career

One of the most recognizable faces from the Wisconsin DOT's Bureau of Aeronautics is that of Tom Thomas. Certainly, his friendly demeanor and tactful way of dealing with difficult airport issues throughout the state made him a favorite with the folks that he met along the way.

While a heartfelt congratulations is in order for his thirty-plus years of dedicated service, the state of Wisconsin is losing a great friend and aviation promoter. Thomas officially retired in April.

I had the chance to ask Tom a few questions about his retirement and his plans for the future. Thomas is staying active in aviation, and catching up on some projects at home.

WAHF: What do you look most forward to in retirement?

Tom: So far, so good. Am doing a lot around the house that requires attention. Have had two UW Flying Club Board of Director's meetings, one plane wash and a couple of Young Eagle flights. I've taken some aerial photos of a number of airports across the state. One good thing is being able to exercise/walk more regularly with Sawyer, our dog. He is a Husky so it's more like him walking me! But I have lost a couple pounds and my clothes are a little looser. I feel good, physically.

WAHF: What did you enjoy most while at the Bureau?

Tom: Certainly, I enjoyed the people that I worked with. My staff was truly the best (my opinion). It was rewarding getting things done and solving issues that came up as we worked on down the runway. Our most challenging issues were people-related, not asphalt or concrete. We worked to make resolutions "win-win". We were successful through our knowledge of the system we worked within, the motivation of our customers and our common "aviation bond" which other industries lack. Our "aviation bond" is our secret catalyst that moves all of us toward conflict resolution.

WAHF: What plans do you have for the future?

Tom: In the near future (June 13) I'm off to the Paris Air Show. I've wanted to attend for many years and now it's finally coming about. I am planning a side trip to Normandy.



Tom and his wife Jeanne at the Bureau's retirement party.

Three of my father's brothers/uncles served in WWII and one lost his life in an aircraft accident in Italy during very poor weather after completing a mission to Yugoslavia. On Jeanne's side, her father's cousin landed on Normandy on June 8, 1944, and was a Corpsman, picking up and treating wounded soldiers. He was badly wounded himself on June 16, 1944 and returned to England, and then the States.

WAHF: Give a description of your BOA and Guard careers.

Tom: I was hired by Fritz Wolf in March of '73 and began as Chief of the Airport Operations Section in the (then) Division of Aeronautics. I worked a number of programs over the years including administering the Airport Surplus Property program, Aircraft Registration, Aerial Photos, Airport Directory and Aeronautical Chart, Pilot Safety programs including the FIRC's and AI seminars, etc...

My Guard career started with making model airplanes and dreaming about flying before I was a teenager. Then came Air Force ROTC at the University of Wisconsin Madison. I was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1966. During this time frame I received my Private Pilot training at Morey Airport with Field Morey being my primary instructor. Got my license in January '65. I entered pilot training at Lubbock Texas, in September '66. After serving five years, with a couple all-expense-paid trips to scenic Southeast Asia, my commitment was complete and I returned to Wisconsin as a pilot and began flying with the WI ANG in Milwaukee in January '72. I transferred to Madison in '78. I was transferred to state staff in 1993 and my last flight in a military aircraft was the F-16 on June 30, 1994.

WAHF: Anything you want to add?

Tom: We who are involved in aviation are so lucky. For most of us, our career is our vocation, our drive, our dream. We had it as young people and never lost it. The EAA's Young Eagle program give the youth of today dreams for their future. What a wonderful gift we can give our youth. I've heard it said that AirVenture is the Disney Land for pilots, and that's true. If you want to catch up with me sometime in late July, you'll find me at AirVenture!

WAHF at AirVenture this Summer

Wednesday July 27 and Thursday July 28

John and Rose Dorsey will present two aviation history presentations at AirVenture this summer. Please plan to attend! John and Rose will present their ever-popular **Snapshots of Wisconsin Aviation History**, along with something new... **A Mock Interview with Billy Mitchell**. But let's get something straight, right off the bat. While John can be a good actor at times, he is not "playing the part" of General Mitchell. John is only "answering questions" for Mitchell since the General can't be there himself. John and Rose hope to share many details of Mitchell's life and Wisconsin aviation history with you!

Angel Flight

There are Angels Among Us

By Rose Dorcey

While checking out the record-breaking number of exhibit booths at the International Women in Aviation Conference in Dallas, I came across Angel Flight America. Judy Benjamin and I had a wonderful conversation about the organization and the good works that they do.

Angel Flight America (AFA) is the largest voluntary air transportation organization in the world. Through seven autonomous non-profit member organizations, AFA provides access for people in need who are seeking free air transportation to specialized health care facilities of distant destinations due to family, community or national crisis.

Volunteer pilots donate their time, airplane, fuel and operating expenses to help those in need. In excess of \$15 million of donated services has been contributed throughout the seven regions.

Benjamin is a pilot and aviation specialist/mission coordinator for Angel Flight Central, which is composed of ten central US states including Illinois, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas, where she is based.

"We provide many flights to those in need... both medical and compassion flights," she said. "Flights are provided to those who need long-distance medical care on a regular basis, such as cancer patients. We are involved in flying youth to camps, for instance burn survivors. Our volunteer pilots are flying 60 kids to a youth camp for those who are HIV-positive."

Benjamin also told of a young Kansas couple who flew a commercial flight to Wisconsin to visit family just before Christmas. The wife, pregnant with their first child, went into labor in Wisconsin. The baby was born several weeks premature. When their doctor cleared the baby to leave the hospital, there was one problem; the doctor didn't want the newborn to fly a commercial flight due to air quality concerns. That's when Angel Flight was called.

Tom Holcom, a Kansas City-area volunteer pilot, annually saves Christmas Eve for Angel Flights. Holcom flew northeast to Milwaukee to bring the new family home for Christmas. These are just some of the ways Angel Flight can help people in need.

Benjamin said that in 2004 Angel Flight pilots flew more than 30,000 passengers on over 16,000 flights. Volunteer ground crews (Earth Angels) drive patients back and forth to airports and provide other ground support including patient and community outreach and fundraising. Angel Flights were some of the first flights allowed after September 11th, flying over 150 missions in service to America during relief efforts.

Angel Flight America is comprised of seven regional organizations, each with their own board of directors, staff members, mission coordinators, volunteer pilots, ground volunteers and donors.



While the organization is appreciative of the thousands of people who donate their time and talent, they are striving to become better known, in order to help more children and adults with their needs.

"We want to help more people," said Benjamin. "We want to see an increase in flight requests, as well as pilots, and we want to become a household name."



WAHF Members Dan Uminski and Dan Pawlak volunteer their time to Angel Flight, which provides free air transportation to those in need. Father Bill Menzel, Wisconsin Rapids, is another WAHF member who is a volunteer Angel Flight pilot.

Wisconsin Pilots Looking for "Angel Flights"

WAHF Member Sharon Bessa-Morey recently hosted a meeting of the Wisconsin 99's at Middleton Municipal-Morey Field Airport. After a short business meeting, Bessa-Morey introduced Wisconsin Angel Flight participants Dan Pawlak and Dan Uminski. Pawlak is a ground coordinator for Angel Flight and one of many Angel Flight pilots, or Guardian Angels, who volunteer their time, airplane and operating expenses to provide help to families struggling with extraordinary situations and costs associated with rare disease and long term illnesses.

"Insurance covers a lot, but it doesn't cover everything," Pawlak explained. "Transportation is a major expense and sometimes a deterrent to families being together or receiving treatment. That's where Angel Flight can help."

Both Pawlak and Uminski have given several Angel Flights to those in need. Pawlak said while the Madison area has several volunteer pilots, they are in need of flights.

If you know of a family who is in need of this vital, non-emergency long-distance transportation option, please contact Angel Flight at 877-621-7177 or visit their website at www.angelflightamerica.org

On the Road with WAHF

—Wisconsin Aviation Conference and Manitowoc EAA Chapter

The **Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame** was invited to participate in two events in May—the Wisconsin Aviation Conference, held at the beautiful Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, and an EAA Chapter meeting in Manitowoc.

Hosted by the Wisconsin Airport Management Association (WAMA), the Wisconsin Aviation Trades Association, the Wisconsin Business Aviation Association and the Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics, the event attracted over 300 pilots, fixed-base operators, airport managers, commission members and others with aviation interests. Rose Dorcey “manned” the Wisconsin aviation history display booth. Our presence at the conference was important given that this was the 50th annual conference.



Phil Boyer (left) of AOPA was the keynote speaker at a luncheon engagement. He spoke of AOPA's continued pledge to fight user fees and to protect general aviation airports. He also informed those in attendance of the WAAS approach and landing method. “Wherever I go, GA pilots want to know, ‘How can we get an ILS at our airport?’” said Boyer. “WAAS is the answer for providing precision approaches to all of those airports where an ILS just isn't financially or technically possible. Now, with the arrival of GPS units that can be used for both lateral and vertical guidance,

we truly have a satellite-based navigation system that does everything for the instrument-rated GA pilot that the ILS does.”

The Wisconsin Airport Management Association (WAMA) presented **Tom Thomas** with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his many contributions to aviation in the State of Wisconsin. Thomas is a former Wisconsin Air National Guard Pilot and Aviation Education and Management Chief for the Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics. “He has really done it all,” said **Pete Drahm**, Executive Director of WAMA. “Before Tom retired from the Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics after thirty-plus years, he was a true ambassador for aviation, and the most known, most recognized face in the bureau. He will continue to be an ambassador. Tom will always go the extra ten miles to help anyone.” Surrounded by dozens of family members and hundreds of those he worked with through the years, Thomas said he was truly honored by the award. “I took aviation promotion to heart,” said Thomas. “I worked with many fine people in the aviation community, and my family was always supportive.”

The WAMA Lifetime Service Award is awarded to persons who have devoted themselves to promoting and serving Wisconsin aviation for at least ten years.

WAHF Member **Dave Weiman**, Midwest Flyer Magazine, (right, with Dave Jensen) received the WAMA Blue Light Award, which is awarded to persons in the media who have distinguished themselves by their excellent reporting on Wisconsin aviation.



Chris Blum, in one of his first public speaking engagements since becoming the new **FAA Great Lakes Administrator**, congratulated Wisconsin airport managers for their accomplishments in improving runway safety. Nearly halfway through 2005, runway incursions are down for the state of Wisconsin and the trend is expected to continue. “You are making progress in improving safety,” said Blum. “Give yourselves a hand.”

Attendees also heard a message from **Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle**, delivered by the state's **Department of Transportation Secretary Frank Busalacchi**. “...There's a growing understanding that our investments in transportation pay tremendous dividends in the form of economic growth,” said Busalacchi. “Certainly that is true when it comes to aviation.” Busalacchi said that the state knows that businesses are more likely to locate or expand in a community that offers quality aviation services, and he pointed to several Wisconsin airport improvement projects, such as Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh where a new air traffic control tower is being built.

From Lake Geneva to Manitowoc, **EAA Chapter #383** invited John (below) and Rose to share their popular presentation, “Snapshots of Wisconsin Aviation History.” **Curt Drumm**, chapter president, informed the local media of the presentation, and several area citizens attended, in addition to dozens of chapter members. Several people joined the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame at the event. A big thank you goes to Curt and to all the great folks who came to learn about our state's aviation history.



What Our Members Are Up To...

— Africa, California, Fixed Wing and Choppers

In conversations with friends of the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame, we find that many are involved in exciting flying activities. For instance, Former FAA official **Jimmy Szajkovics** (right) is flying helicopters in 'retirement'... He pilots the WTMJ News chopper in the greater Milwaukee area.

"It's all about doing what you want to do," said Jim of retirement, "and when you want to do it. It's about adjustments and continued learning. One thing I learned early on was to stay active, but not busy." He's been keeping active with a long honey-do list and has mixed in flying, travel, golf and regular exercise. Travel has included trips to the Smokey Mountains for hiking, serving as deck hand on a yacht down the Mississippi River, and a trip to Las Vegas. A big event was his daughter's wedding on the North shore of Oahu in February. "My love of aviation has taken me into the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) as an instructor pilot on Timmerman's C-182, and being a freelance instructor for friends." Jimmy's advice? "Hurry up and



Photo courtesy of Jim Szajkovics

That's Jimmy Szajkovics, formerly of MKE FSDO, flying a WTMJ Chopper



get your 35-plus years of work in and then retire. It's everything it's cracked up to be."

Former WisDOT Bureau of Aeronautics Director **Bob Kunkel** (left) is now employed as a Senior Aviation Consultant for the engineering firm, Mead & Hunt. Bob recently visited several of his California clients. "I visited 15 airports in 6

days. We flew a C-182 to 13 of them and then I drove to L.A.," said Kunkel. "Today I went out solo in a C-152. It was really strange. I'll bet it's been about 15 years since I last flew a C-152. I forgot how responsive they are and how you bounce around in rough air. But it was fun." When Kunkel isn't working or flying, he's doing long distance bike touring in exotic locations like Vietnam, or teaching fitness classes at a Middleton (WI) health club.

Diane Ballweg and her daughter, Kate, along with **Dr. Rick Lemon**, his wife, Tina and their two daughters will go on a flying adventure this summer in Africa. (Note: We hope to hear more about this, soon!) Ballweg teaches an aviation class at Edgewood High School in Madison, WI. She recently lead a flight of three airplanes to Kitty Hawk, NC. The planes and their volunteer pilots, Dr. Ed Adib, Mike Ring and Bill Mills carried the students on an education journey that included stops



Photo courtesy of Diane Ballweg

at the Air Force Museum in Dayton (see photo, above) and the GE plant in Cincinnati. A highlight of the trip was a tour of the USS Eisenhower Navy Aircraft Carrier in Norfolk Harbor.

Bill Wambach and **Tom Thomas** are active Young Eagle pilots with the UW Flying Club. Here's a great photo of a future pilot at the controls of a C-152. Look at that smile! Keep up the good work, Bill and Tom.



Photo courtesy of Tom Thomas

Ask your friends to join the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame!

WAHF Member is Wisconsin's Newest AME — Dr. Tom Voelker is “anxious to serve Wisconsin pilots”

Tom Voelker is a pilot, a physician and an aircraft owner. He is a father of four daughters. He is well liked in his community and he's a good friend and a life member of the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame. He is also Wisconsin's newest Aviation Medical Examiner (AME).

The Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin resident recently attended a five-day FAA training course in Oklahoma City. The training included time in the high-altitude chamber, an experience that Voelker said was, “really cool.” By mid-April, Voelker received the final FAA documents that certified him as an AME. Voelker will perform 2nd and 3rd class medicals out of the Doctors Clinic, SC in Wisconsin Rapids.

“I've been trying for years to get the designation,” said Voelker. “The FAA looks at the number of DME's per county when deciding new designations. Wood County has several, but the doctors are based in Marshfield, none in Wisconsin Rapids. I finally got in contact with the AOPA, and they were helpful in giving me suggestions to get this through.”

For Voelker, becoming an Aviation Medical Examiner is another accomplishment in his long list of aviation goals. Voelker received his private pilot certificate in 2000. He quickly went on to earn his instrument rating and then commercial certificate and in the meantime purchased a Comanche.

By the end of this summer, Voelker will have completed a tail-wheel checkout out of Wausau Flying Service. He hopes to become a seaplane pilot by next summer. He said he would like to add the glider rating and maybe do some multi-engine training, and then some aerobatics. “The aerobatics is more from a safety aspect, to learn upset recovery methods, spin recovery and such,” Voelker explained.



Dr. Tom Voelker is an active pilot and Wisconsin's newest AME.

Voelker is also an AOPA mentor. He is mentoring his neighbor, Celse Berard, who recently soloed. Voelker spends much of his flying time with his favorite co-pilot, daughter Emma. It is not unusual to see Voelker at AirVenture in Oshkosh, at pilot safety seminars or AOPA town meetings.

To make an appointment with Dr. Voelker, please call the Doctor's Clinic at 715-423-0122. “I'm anxious to serve the pilots of Central Wisconsin,” said Voelker. As a recent patient of Voelker's, I will say this — You will enjoy talking flying with him, and almost forget that you are there for your medical.

Middleton Muni-Morey Field Airport Open House July 8-10 — Say hello to “new” airport

Put this event on your “must fly-to” destination list this summer: the Middleton Municipal-Morey Field (C29) Open House. The event is shaping up to be an important one for the City of Middleton and the Morey family. Among the activities:

- Media event and ribbon cutting, Friday, July 8 at Noon
- Young Eagle flights by EAA Chapter 1389 on Saturday
- Hangar Dance, Saturday evening
- Pancake breakfast by EAA Chapter 1389. Fly-in, Drive-in. Sunday morning. Only \$5.
- See the WAHF History Display and historical photos of the “old” Morey Field Airport.
- Have lunch or a treat at Scott's Pastry Shoppe, located in the airport terminal



The Open House offers a wonderful opportunity to see the beautiful new facility and meet up with old friends. If you haven't visited “Morey Field” recently, you won't believe the changes! Call 608-836-1711.

Blue Sky Moments — Thanks to Our Sponsors

Most of you have received your copy of *Blue Sky Moments ~ A Collection of Wisconsin Aviation Memories*. WAHF board members have received many kind words from many of our members about the book. (Charles Moelter called all the way from Florida to say how much he enjoyed it!)

It is because of the kindness and support of two aviation businesses that you were able to receive the book without charge... **Eagle Fuel Cells**, Eagle River, Wisconsin, and **Mead & Hunt**, Madison. Their generous contributions provided the financial support we needed to go on with the project. Thank you!

Next time you see Andy Platz from Mead & Hunt or Carl, Nancy, Kurt or Amy from Eagle Fuel Cells, tell them 'thanks' for supporting the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame! And please remember them when you are in need of their services.



We're Looking For... Newsletter Sponsors

While the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame has recently gathered price quotes and switched to a new printer that offers high quality printing at a lower price than our previous printer, the overall cost of printing and distributing our newsletters has prompted the need for newsletter sponsors; those who can help defray these costs. There are several options available.

- A business card size ad—\$50 per issue
- Column sponsorship—\$100 per issue (several options)
- Quarterly Issue sponsorship—\$500 per issue
- Annual sponsorship—\$2000, annual contribution
- Donations to our general operating fund—anyone can help! Donations (small or large) to the general operating fund help greatly in paying the bills.

Please contact Rose Dorsey or another WAHF board member to say you want to help!

Have an idea? We're willing to listen. If the above options don't fit your needs, but you want to contribute, let's talk! We look forward to hearing from you.

Colorful Skies in Central Wisconsin — Balloon Rally Raises Funds for Children's Miracle Network

A not-to-be-missed event this summer is the 5th Annual Wisconsin Rapids Balloon Rally and Music Fest to be held August 26-28. You'll feel good about being there — the event raises funds for the Children's Miracle Network.

The event grows each year, and makes a significant contribution. "In our first year, we raised \$3,500 for the Children's Miracle Network, and last year we raised \$19,000," said event coordinator John Symonds. "20-25 balloons are expected during the three-day, family event."

The event features several balloon launches and evening balloon glows. Live music begins on Friday evening and continues throughout the weekend. Kids activities, such as a petting zoo and inflatable toys and games are popular attractions. Airplane and helicopter rides will be available, and skydive demonstrations will take place Saturday afternoon. Food and craft vendors will be onsite, and a pancake breakfast takes place on Sunday morning. A beer tent will be open throughout most of the weekend.



This fun-filled event takes place at the Alexander Field, South Wood County Airport-KISW. No admission is charged. Visitors can camp under their airplane, if desired. For more information, visit this website: www.cmnballoonrally.com or call John Symonds at 715-423-8200.

Send us your news!

Are you a WAHF member who has news to share? Please share it with us!
Send news of your activities, check rides, retirements, flying adventures, etc... to:
Rose Dorsey 8550 Greenway Blvd #413 Middleton WI 53562-4732 or send an email to roses7@charter.net



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Preserving Wisconsin's Aviation History

Celebrating Twenty Years 1985-2005

Welcome new WAHF members:

Glenn R Ingram Luke Schunk Dan Pawlak Larry Landucci
Peter & Cindy Laper Marisue Eisner Lawrence Gerroll Jackie Landucci
Thanks for coming on board. We look forward to seeing you at a WAHF event soon!

For places to visit this summer, besides Oshkosh, of course, check these out...

- Middleton, WI, July 9-10. The Middleton Municipal-Morey Field Airport (C29) will host an Open House and Hangar Dance. See the sparkling new airport facility and have lunch at Scott's Pastry Shoppe. For more info, see page 10.
- A Balloon Rally to benefit the Children's Miracle Network takes place in Wisconsin Rapids August 26-28. You won't want to miss it! Read more on page 11.

Did you know... that there are 11 aviation-themed Wisconsin historical markers along Wisconsin's roadways? (All 11 of them are listed in WAHF's new book, *Blue Sky Moments ~ A Collection of Wisconsin Aviation Memories*.) Why not set a goal of visiting each of these sights this summer? You'll enjoy the beautiful scenery our state has to offer, from Boulder Junction to Beloit, Oshkosh to Baraboo and places in between. Take your kids or grandkids and learn more about Wisconsin's aviation history. Before you go, visit this site: <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/hp/markers/>

The Wisconsin 99's will host a Flying Companion Seminar during AirVenture Oshkosh on Wednesday, July 27, 2005 in the FAA Building at 2:20 p.m.

Want to order an extra copy of *Blue Sky Moments*? Call Rose at the number to the right. These books make *great gifts* for the aviation or history buff on your list. Only \$7 (minimum donation).

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