

WINGS



THINGS

GREAT PLAINS WING - COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE

16803 McCandless Road • Council Bluffs Municipal Airport • Council Bluffs, IA 51503 • (712) 322-2435

3rd Quarter 2026

Wing Leader

Greg Jacobson
1906 Manor Court
Lincoln, NE 68506
C: 402-525-2871
gajacobsen@cs.com

Executive Officer

Chris Goodrich
16325 Hanover Street
Bennington, NE 68007
C: 402-214-3496
cgwildflyer@protonmail.com

Finance Officer

Terry Helphrey
10142 Josephine Avenue
LaVista, NE 68128
H: 402-593-6661 C: 402-578-2014
terry.helphrey@outlook.com

Adjutant Officer

Jared Albers
17363 Turnberry Ridge
Council Bluffs, IA 51503
C 712-310-1952
jaredmalbers@gmail.com

Operations Officer

Chad Bosworth
14725 Ernst Street
Bennington, NE 68007
H: 402-861-1880 C: 402-510-6644
cbosw2811@msn.com

Maintenance Officer

Jerry Mason
8070 Gold Street
Omaha, NE 68124
H: 402-393-0361 C: 402-968-6296
mason.jerry@cox.net

Safety Officer

Bruce Mundie
7323 S. 101st Ave.
La Vista, NE 68128
C: 703-405-7817
reccfaip@aol.com

Education Officer

David Pares
6338 Woolworth Ave.
Omaha, NE 68106
C: 402-651-9670
dppares@outlook.com

Development Officer

Greg Jacobson
1906 Manor Court
Lincoln, NE 68506
C: 402-525-2871
gajacobsen@cs.com

Museum Director

Jim Freibert
4923 Webster Street #3
Omaha, NE 68132
C: 531-203-4247
jamesfry714@gmail.com

Aircraft Coordinator

Chad Bosworth
14725 Ernst Street
Bennington, NE 68007
H: 402-861-1880 C: 402-510-6644
cbosw2811@msn.com

Editor

Terran Tidwell
3109 Windsor Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73122
terran2@cox.net

Webmaster

John Hubert
www.greatplainswing.org

Photo: Greg Jacobson



The line is out the Door...

Great Plains Wing Annual Fly-in/Drive-in Breakfast & Open House

By Terry Helphrey

As the sun rose to clear skies on Saturday morning, the air was filled with the aroma of pancakes and some of those pancakes even flew through the air. Yes, you heard it correctly, flying pancakes. The Pancake Man was serving his world-famous pancakes on Saturday, August 1st in our hanger at the Council Bluffs Airport in conjunction with our wing's annual Flight Breakfast & Open House. The Pancake Man has been known to select young aviators from the crowd to 'fly' pancakes through the air and onto their plates.

"Lest We Forget"

The pancakes along with sausage links and morning beverages were served from 8 am to noon but the open house portion of our event continued until 4 pm. While the event started at 8 am, many of our members arrived as early as 6 am to begin the setup process.

Photo: Greg Jacobsen



Ranks of Pancakes, ready to be served.

Like last year, I had impeccable timing by arriving just after The Pancake Man was unloaded and all the table/chairs were set up. Thank goodness for the early birds. When the grill was finally turned off, 316 people filled their cravings for another year. If anyone left hungry, I would have to place the blame on their lap.

Photo: Greg Jacobsen



Who gave that Cadet a Hellcat?

Photo: Greg Jacobsen



Good food and relaxation.

As some would say, we had Chamber of Commerce weather all day. High temperatures reached the low to mid 80's with only moderate humidity and partly cloudy skies. More importantly, no rain. Who could ask for better weather on August 1st in the Midwest? With the great weather came some flying. Our wing's Fairchild PT-19 was on alert just outside our hanger ready for anyone who wanted to take a Living History Flight Experience.

Photo: Greg Jacobsen



Ready to Fly...

By the end of the day, 4 people got to experience first-hand what it was like in 1943 for an 18-year-old cadet in their early stages of flight instruction. Like all great days, it was over way too quickly. Many people caught up with old friends and made new ones along the way. Many stories were told and we can only hope most of them were true. Some would say aviators are like fishermen with their stories continuing to grow over time. This is what makes this event so great, the people.

Photo: Greg Jacobsen



Enthusiasm is a requirement for Cadets.

Thanks to all those in attendance and for their generous donations which help keep our hanger and museum open for all to enjoy. We look forward to seeing everyone soon. Also, it is never too early to mark your calendars for next year when we do this all over again on Saturday, August 7th, 2027.

In the Solomon's Campaign in 1942 and 1943, PT boats were tasked with harassing Japanese shipping and supply barges. PTs were initially equipped with twin mounts of Browning 50 cal Machine Guns. These proved effective for anti-aircraft defense, but not adequate against shipping. The Japanese supply barges were shallow draft vessels which made attacks with torpedoes mostly ineffective because the torpedoes ran at a deeper depth and most often passed under the Japanese ships.

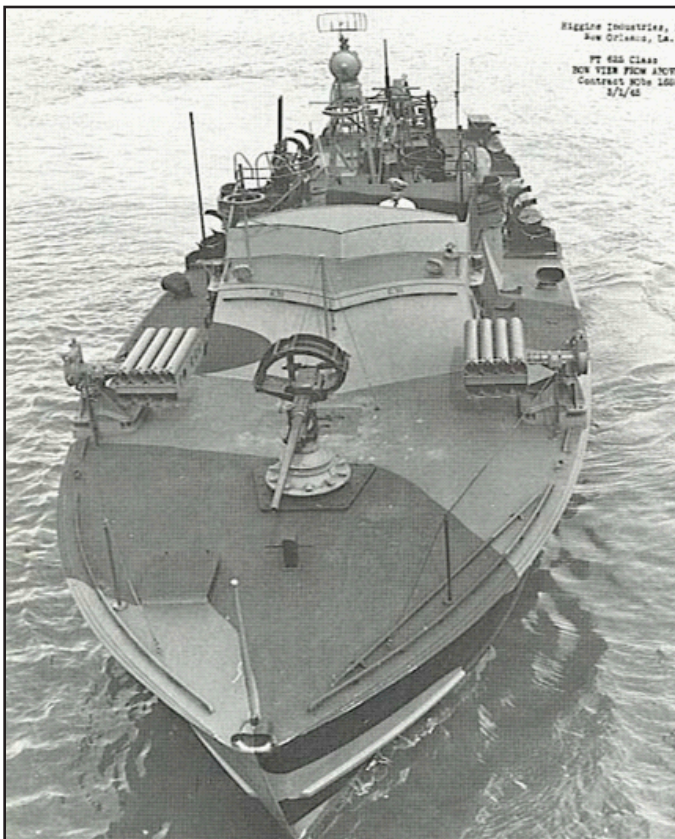
Photo: From the web



The 37mm Oldsmobile T-9 in a restored P-39

PT Boat sailors went looking for alternatives fairly quickly.

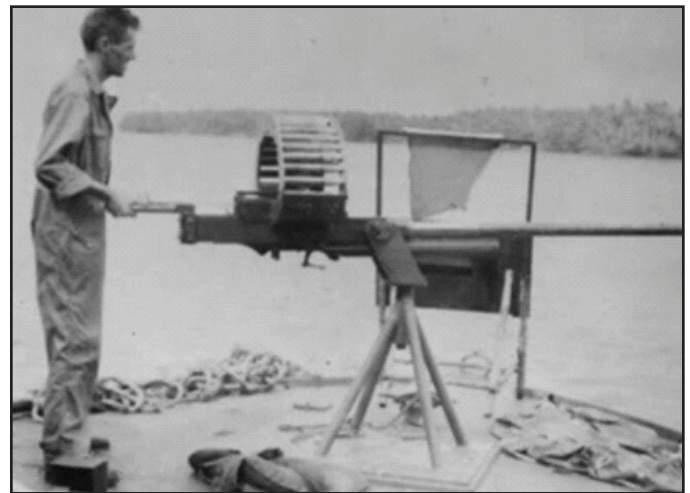
Photo: From the web



The airmen of the 5th Air Force did the same when their bombers and attack aircraft proved ineffective against

shipping by mounting additional 50 caliber guns and even 75mm cannon in the field. The crew of the PT 109. The boat of John F. Kennedy found a 37mm anti-tank gun, removed the wheels and fabricated a mount on the bow, for instance. Apparently, Kennedy never got to use the weapon. His PT Boat was rammed by a Japanese Destroyer right after the gun was installed. The rate of fire of the single shot weapon was inadequate, however, so other alternatives were sought. A variety of damaged equipment was available on airfields, in the form of 37mm guns in the P-39 Aircobra. Enterprising sailors removed the guns from the P-39s and mounted them on the bows of the PTs, to great effect from all accounts.

Photo: From the web



The 37mm on a field-manufactured mount.

The auto-cannon fired at about 120 rounds per minute with a reloadable 30 round magazine. The 'odd' shape of the magazine fits the cowling shape of the P-39, but was not modified for simplicity. Manufacturers later followed the field modifications with factory installations of later versions of the 37mm that had a larger magazine and a higher rate of fire. Initially, PT Boats were equipped with Browning 50 cal Machine Guns in two mounts and two torpedoes. By War's end, they were carrying 4 torpedoes, 4 50 cal machine guns, a 20mm Oerlikon, a 37mm cannon, a 40mm Bofors gun, and rocket launchers.

Photo: From the web



A fully armed PT, probably around 1943.

**GREAT PLAINS WING
2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

SEPTEMBER

12th – Wing Meeting – @ Hanger – 11:00 a.m.

OCTOBER

10th – Wing Meeting – @ Hanger – 11:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER

14th – Wing Meeting – @ Hanger – 11:00 a.m.

DECEMBER

12th – Wing Meeting – @ Hanger – 11:00 a.m.

12th – Christmas Potluck - @ Hanger – 12:00 p.m.

Events TBD

Fly Iowa 2026 – Winterset Municipal Airport
Winterset, IA

If you would like to put a event on this calendar, please
send an email with the necessary information to Terry
Helphrey at terry.helphrey@outlook.com

Monthly Events

Council Bluffs Airport – Great Plains Wing hosts a
monthly cookout on the 3rd Wednesday of each month
from April to October – 5:30-7:00 pm

York, NE Airport • EAA Chapter 1055 hosts a fly-in
breakfast on the 1st Saturday of every month - 8:00 to
10:00 am

Crete, NE Airport • EAA Chapter 569 hosts a fly-in
breakfast on the 3rd Saturday of every month - 8:00 to
10:00 am