



# Big Easy Wing

Volume 2, Issue 10

December 4, 2018

## Officers:

### Unit Leader

David Capo

### Executive Officer

Robert Claypool

### Adjutant

Harold Buchler

### Communication

Shirley Colomb

### Education

Jim Buchler

### Finance

Jeff Segner

### Maintenance

Sonny Schilleci

### Operations

Jim Helms

### Safety

Don Clausing

## Christmas Social

Saturday

Dec. 15

5pm-7:30pm

Lakefront

Airport

BEW Hangar



*From the Left Seat*

*David Capo, Unit Leader*

## Holiday Greetings Big Easy Wing!

It's that time again when we enjoy the season while looking back at our accomplishments for 2018. As you probably know, we are getting together for a holiday party at the hangar on December 15 at 5pm. This is a pot luck affair along with BYOB. We hope to see you there. Directions to the hangar are on the website for those who have not been there before.

What a year we have had. We are the fastest growing wing in the country with well over 100 members, two airplanes, two bases of operation and a 13,000 square foot hangar that has been transformed into a real showplace. We have so much to be grateful for. As your unit leader, I am most grateful for you, our amazing wing members. Without you, we do not exist. Thank you for everything that you do for the BEW.

This past weekend, we had a large crew of volunteers as we tackled several special projects. With the super leadership of Harold, Jim B., Jeff and Harold's PT 305 crew mate, Joey, both hangar doors are finally in perfect working order. Great job guys! Another PT 305 crew mate built and delivered a galvanized stand for our air compressor. Both the stand and compressor were donated. Thank you, Ed Daroca. The history/archive team led by Doug, Marissa, Austin and David Canton cataloged, photographed and partially identified a beautiful gift of German aircraft instruments that are going to be handsomely displayed in our hangar ready room. The display case is being designed and built by Wayne B. and his team including Richard, Doug and Marissa. Speaking of Wayne, he was very busy Saturday building a new sink in the hangar work area, installing shelves and display cases. Terry, of course, continued his careful work on the Stuka restoration. All in all, another great day to be in the BEW.

**Continued on Page 4**





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## Hangar Visit

The Higgins Squadron of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps visited our hangar on October 13. The squadron drills at the Coast Guard station located at Michoud.

First row from right to left: Cadet Hayden Brasseaux (Kneeling), Instructor Faron Henault Cadet Christopher Michrina, Cadet Ashlyn Zito, **James D. Olson, II RADM, USN, Retired**, Navy Lt **A. C. Smith**, Cadet Aleksander Roshto and Cadet Anthony cooper. Second row from left to right: Cadet Nyguen, Cadet Chase Zito, Midshipmen Giang Vo, Ensign Wandakay McEvoy, LTJG Jose' A. Campuzano (C/O), Cadet Haleigh Wyble. Third row from right to left: Instructor Michael Michrina, Cadet Sunny McEvoy, Cadet Cameron Ritter, Cadet Gavin Stein, Cadet Mikkal Peterson, Cadet Sebastian Melancon, Instructor Christine Bundy and Terry Clausing, BEW member.



## Membership Renewal —January 2019

All 2018 members need to renew their membership in January. The BEW membership is based on the calendar year. Please have your dues paid by the January meeting. You may: (1) Mail your check to Jeff Segner a 1482 Broadmoor Drive Slidell, La. 70458; (2) You may also pay online by visiting our [website](http://www.bigeasywing.org); or, (3) Make your payment at the Christmas Social. If you joined at or after WWII A,S, L, Festival you are already a 2019 members.

CAF membership is annual and is based on your start up date. **You must be a member of the CAF to join our Wing.**

[www.commemorativeairforce.org](http://www.commemorativeairforce.org)

Due on Renewal Date	Due in January
CAF	Big Easy Wing
Colonel: \$200	Big Easy Wing: \$50
	Active Military: \$25
Cadet: \$40	Cadet: \$10





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## Education Officer's Report—Jim Buchler

The Big Easy Wing had students visit from Christian Brothers School and seniors from JCFA East on October 12. The students were given a tour of the facility and an explanation of the aircraft. Jim Buchler, Harold Buchler, Jeff Segner and David Capo provided them with information on CAF, history of our unit, and the importance that the Stearman played in WWII.



As you can see from the photos, the students really enjoyed their visit.



## Welcome New Member

November —Glenn Metzger—Gretna, Louisiana

Reminder:

If you have not had your photo taken, and have not received your photo ID then you may email [info@bigeasywing.org](mailto:info@bigeasywing.org) a head photo shot of yourself. We will be printing a new batch of ID cards for those who previously had their photo taken. The ID cards will be available at the December Social. Please visit [KAStrack](http://KAStrack) to see if your photo has been added. There are some ID cards at the hangar that have not been picked up.



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## Christmas Social—December 15

On December 15, at 5 PM we will be hosting our Christmas social. It is a pot-luck-BYOB party. There will be music, camaraderie, and lots of food. At the last meeting, several members indicated what food they would be bringing. If you plan on *joining us please send me an email indicating your food item, also please include the name of your guest.* Be sure to bring whatever items (extension cords, warming trays, sterno, ladle etc) that are necessary to your dish. The Wing will have cups, napkins, utensils and plates. If you know of someone that would be interested in joining our wing, please invite them to the party. We will have a raffle for prizes. Also, BEW items will be on sale. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. It will be a fun time to mingle and enjoy the holiday season.

**Important**—We are planning on decorating that morning around 10 am. **Please send me an email if you can help with set up.** Looking forward to hearing from you.



### CAF-Big Easy Wing

*You and your guest are invited  
to join us at our  
Christmas Social.*

*When: Saturday, December 15*

*Place: BEW Hangar*

*8550 Lloyd Stearman Blvd*

*Time: 5 P.M.—7:30PM*

*Pot Luck and BYOB*

Next year your officers will be putting together a

calendar of events including for the first-time regular meetings in Hammond (KHDC). We now have a substantial membership on the north shore, so we will not only be regularly meeting there, but we also have plans to base one of our airplanes at KHDC for much of the year. Once our Stearman is certified to be in the rides program, we will be offering rides up there as well as at Lakefront (KNEW). A very special thanks to Jim Helms, Paul Cutrer and Dave Laboue for their assistance in making our presence in Hammond a real possibility.

Our 2019 calendar will be available in early January. In the meantime, we look forward to finishing the year strong with a great holiday party. We are hoping for mind temperatures. Have a great Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Support our PT 17 Stearman this season by [Donating](#). Help others learn and experience the Past.



## Unit Leader's Report continued





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## Participating with CAF 12 Planes of Christmas

*There are sayings about Stearmans that are the absolute truth:*

*(1) There are only two types of Stearman pilots, those that have ground looped and those that will.  
(2) Even a high time airline pilot (with no taildragger experience) won't be able to successfully taxi a Stearman the first time. (3) Flying a Stearman teaches you the Art of Flying* —Phil Whittemore, RAF Liason—Discipline of Flight  
Retrieved 11/12/18

In case you have not visited the 12 Planes of Christmas Big Easy Wing site, I have included the text here: The Big Easy Wing is proud to be the caretaker of the PT-17 Stearman (N1617M). An iconic biplane that served as the basic trainer for the men and women of the “Greatest Generation.” This colorful Lady has a long and rich history of serving in the military, supporting agriculture development and adorning the sky in aerobatic shows. For 75 years, this Lady has soared the skies. Now, it has become our wing’s obligation to preserve her legacy and her living history for future generations to come. Our lady needs extensive repairs. Our goal is \$45,000.00. This will allow for the overhaul of the 220HP Continental radial engine-- approximately \$36K; replacement of VHF communication radio and a new Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast beacon (ADS-B) for modern Air Traffic Control regulations—approximately \$7K; and, resealing and refinishing prop--approximately \$3K. Any amount of donations would be greatly appreciated as some of the items listed above range in price. This is our watch, but we need your help. We cannot do this without you and your generosity. We want future generation to turn heads skyward in search of the rumble of its radial engine, to awe its classic shape and colorful design and to one day have a desire to ride in this Lady’s open cockpit. Please help us return this iconic Lady back to the sky in her full glory by contributing to this fundraiser.

When you give, not only consider giving to non-profits that address present day needs, but to give to those that enrich our lives by preserving the history of the “Greatest Generation”. We want to invite you to visit our [campaign](#) site and to consider a donation—any amount will help! Your gift will bring us closer to making the needed repairs. CAF-Big Easy Wing is a non-profit. Thanks!



## Events

- EAA Lunch and Fly-in—Sat, December 8, 11am – 1pm at Louisiana Regional Airport, 6255 Airport Industrial Blvd, Gonzales, LA 70737, USA
- CAF Wing Staff Conference –Dallas-Feb. 28 - March 3
- Stearman Fly-in Sept. 2 – 7, 2019, at Galesburg Municipal Airport. Illinois



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## Thank You Letter — Coyote Squadron



Big Easy Wing  
c/o Shirley Colomb  
1216 Brockenbraugh Ct  
Metairie, La 70005

The Coyote Squadron would like to thank you all for your kindness and hospitality while our Stinson AT-19 was temporarily out of service following the WWII Air, Sea & Land Festival last month. Although forced to place several aircraft into a restricted hangar space, you made it work for all of us who had mechanical problems.

Particularly noteworthy is the over and above contribution of Colonel Terry Clausing for determining the extent of our damage and helping us determine which parts were necessary to get us back in the air and on our way home. Terry went out of his way and took valuable time away from his own project to help us (and all the others) make our repair. Through his efforts we were able to complete our repair with only one trip to the New Orleans area saving us both time and money.

Thanks again for your assistance in getting us back home with our aircraft. It was a pleasure to meet many of your members and we look forward to seeing you again in the future.

Please accept this donation on behalf of all Coyotes and use it to keep your aircraft in the air.

Sincerely,

Dan Summerall  
Operations Officer

