



Big Easy Wing

Volume 3, Issue 4

April 7, 2019

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

Meeting Date

Wednesday,

April 17th

6:30 PM

Lakefront

Airport

BEW Hangar



From the Left Seat

David Capo, Unit Leader

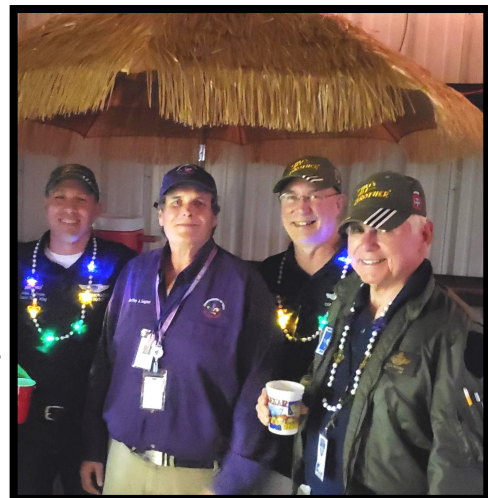
Happy Easter... a little early,

What a month March was. There was the CAF Wing Staff Conference in Dallas with five of your members in attendance. We renewed our Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Non-Flood Asset Board to keep our hangar for another year. The unit had its first meeting in the beautiful hangar in Hammond (KHDC), the use of which was graciously donated by Gray Aviation. A special thanks to Jim Helms and Paul Cutrer for the efforts in making that happen.



As everyone knows by now, we had a visit from the Central Texas Wing with the mighty "That's All Brother" (TAB) C47 last weekend. We were privileged to have Ubert Terrell, a 99 year old WWII Veteran who actually parachuted in to occupied France. He joined us on Thursday as we greeted the crew of "That's All Brother".

As for the C47, a special shout out to the "Cen Tex" team led by Mtich Mitchell for a great show. On Friday night of their visit, we had a wonderful meet and greet in the hangar with the entire crew. Thanks to Shirley Colomb and her merry band of party planners, the event was a rousing success. The C47 co-pilot, "Doc" told me in all of their visits to other units around the country, this was the first time anyone had thrown them a party. I said, "Welcome to the Big Easy!"





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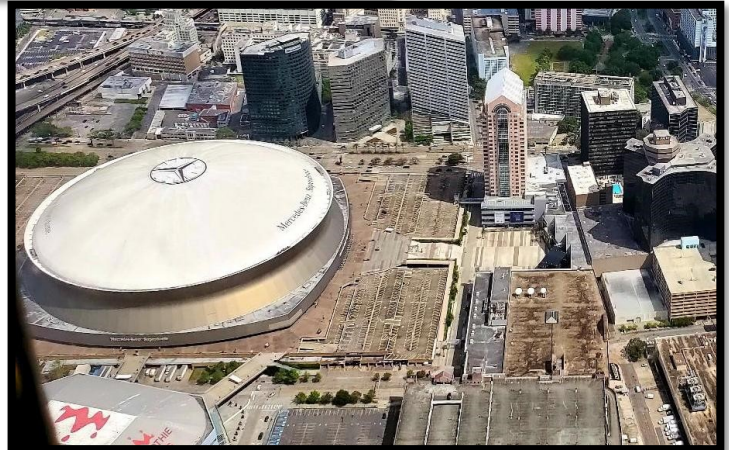
Operation Officer's Report: Jim Helms

Well, did the Central Texas Wing surprise us! On Saturday morning, they gave 13 members of the BEW a complimentary flight around the city aboard "TAB". What a thrill for those folks. It was fun watching all of those members take off and land in that special plane. I will present a short video of the flight at the next general membership meeting. THANK YOU, CENTRAL TEXAS WING, for a great visit. We wish them safe travels as they head over to Normandy for the 75th anniversary of D-Day.



What an awesome view!

Thanks Guys!!!!



I know many of you are wondering what is happening this October as it relates to airshows. This much is for certain, the B29/24 Air Power History Tour will be in Hammond (KHDC) for the first time ever starting on October 1st and lasting through October 6th. As a unit, we will be very much involved and have been invited to display and even participate in ride flights that weekend. As for Lakefront Airport (KNEW), the *WWII Air, Sea and Land Festival* was cancelled this year by the National WWII Museum. Their plans are to bring the event back to KNEW in October 2020. As for what we will be doing this year, if anything, is still in the discussion phase. As soon as something is finalized, I will pass it on. Thank you for your patience as we are working diligently to make something special happen at Lakefront.

See you at the next general membership meeting on *Wednesday, April 17* at 6:30 pm in the hangar. Perhaps, you will see work started on our "Ready Room" office expansion.



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CAF-Airpower History Tour—Visit Hammond

Wednesday, October 2, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- * Aircraft tours available starting at 9:00 a.m.
- * Supporting aircraft available for rides all day

Thursday, October 3, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- * Aircraft tours available starting at 9:00 a.m.
- * Supporting aircraft available for rides all day

Friday, October 4, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- * Aircraft tours available starting at 9 a.m.
- * Supporting aircraft available for rides all day

Saturday, October 5, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- * B-29 flies at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
- * B-24 flies at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
- * Aircraft tours available after 12:00 p.m.
- * Supporting aircraft available for rides all day

Sunday, October 6, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- * B-29 flies at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
- * B-24 flies at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
- * Aircraft tours available after 12:00 p.m.
- * Supporting aircraft available for rides all day



Visit site: [AirPower History Tour](http://AirPowerHistoryTour)

PX Officer 's Report—Shirley Colomb

In preparation of the C47 visit, the PX made purchases. Surprisingly, with such few visitors, the PX did okay with sales. We will have some new items on sale at the next meeting. There will be a few more jackets and short sleeve cotton shirts with pockets available.

Membership

We would like to welcome our latest new members:

Tom McDermott of Milton, WI

Norman Umholtz of Madisonville, LA

Jim Sakelakos of New Orleans, LA

Drew Duxworth of Metairie, LA

New member please go to <http://cafbew.kastrack.com> and log in.

Members only section on the website contain name/email addresses of members as well as board meeting meets. You can access this info by typing in the password—wings



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Community Relations—JD Olsen

The Big Easy Wing played host to the Andrew J. Higgins Squadron of the United States Sea Cadet Corps (USNSCC) on Saturday the 23rd of March in which the squadron held its annual unit and personnel inspection, as well as an awards and promotions ceremony for many of the cadets. Two members of the Big Easy Wing were in attendance - Jim Letten who gave a very inspiring talk to the cadets and their families in attendance, and J.D. Olson who was asked to conduct the personnel inspection. Both had been asked to participate in the day-long affair by the squadron's commanding officer, Lieutenant Junior Grade (SCC) Jo-sé Campuzano who did a masterful job in coordinating and leading the event throughout the day.

The USNSCC is a national youth leadership development organization that promotes interest and skill in naval disciplines while instilling strong moral character and life skills through leadership and technical programs modeled after the Navy's professional development system. Its goals and objectives mesh very closely with those of the Commemorative Air Force whose mission is to educate, inspire and honor through flight those who served in the air arms of the U.S. military branches during World War II. Winning that war, in fact, led to the establishment of many fine American youth programs such as the Sea Cadets who trace their beginnings to 1962, less than a decade after the founding of the CAF.

Pictured R: League Cadet First Class Alyssa Theodore received the Bobby Ann Whiddon Leadership Award as the Cadet of the Year. With her is her grandfather, Lieutenant (SCC) Henry Jolly, her mother, Senior Master Sergeant (USAF/ LANG) Chantel Theodore, and Mrs. Bobbie Whiddon of the Greater New Orleans Council of Navy League. At the podium is J.D. Olson of the Big Easy Wing and Navy League, and LT(jg) José Campuzano, CO of Higgins Squadron.



Pictured L. Jim Letten of the Big Easy Wing is giving an inspirational talk to the cadets and their parents as the ceremonial guest speaker.

Pictured R; Rear Admiral (USN,Ret.) J.D. Olson of the Big Easy Wing and Navy League conducts the annual personnel inspection with scribe, Lieutenant Jolly assisting.





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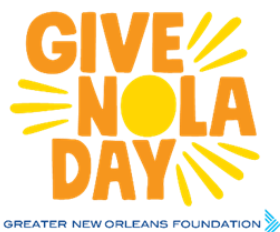
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Fundraiser—Give NOLA Day—Shirley Colomb



Thank you for your continued support of CAF-Big Easy Wing. Last year, thanks to generous donations we raised approximately \$1,000 during “GiveNOLA” day, an initiative of the Greater New Orleans Foundation. We are thrilled to share with you that we will be participating in the 6th annual GiveNOLA Day on **May 7, 2019**. We have increased Our GiveNOLA Day goal this year to \$3,000! The funds raised will assist in fulfilling the Commemorative Air Force mission: “To Educate, Honor, and Inspire through Flight”.

How can YOU help us restore our warbird, a PT 17 Stearman, known as Our Lady?

1. Mark **May 7th GiveNOLA Day** on your calendar and go to GiveNOLA day website to **donate** to the CAF-Big Easy Wing!
2. Help us spread the word. Tell your friends about GiveNOLA Day by directing them to www.GiveNOLA.org and by sharing how you participated and why they should.
3. Invite your friends to explore our website the bigeasywing.org to learn more about us and GiveNOLA Day.
4. Become a GiveNOLA Day Champion and help us spread the word on May 7th so that we can exceed our goal of \$3,000. Contact CAF-Big Easy Wing at info@bigeasywing.org for more information on getting involved.



You will be hearing more on this fundraiser.

Operational Officer's Report—Jim Helms

March was a busy month for the Wing. We had our First Official Meeting in Hammond which was great news for the North Shore members, the Arrival of “*That's All Brother*”, more testing and the first public appearance of the Stuka with the Stearman.

Thanks to Gray Aviation at Hammond Airport, we now have an official meeting place on the North Shore. With the help of Paul Cutrer, Mike LoProto, Bryan Ard and Gray Aviation personnel the hangar was decked out and a great place to meet. Thanks Guys, for an awesome job.

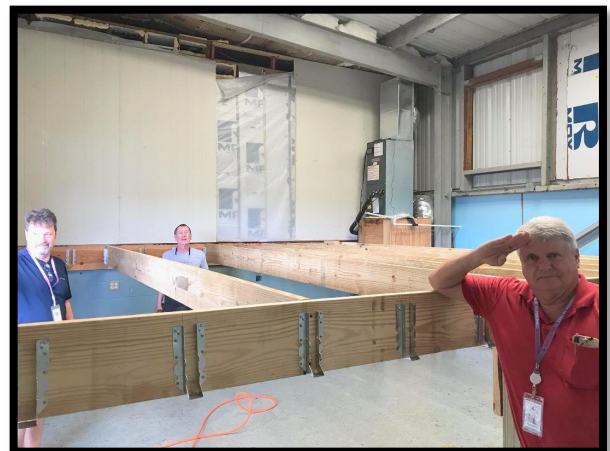
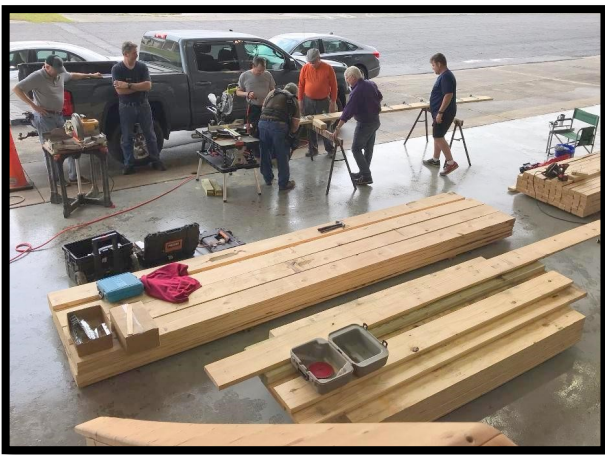
As April has begun, it will be just as busy with the change out of the engine and test flight on the Stearman. With the correction of a few minor problems on the Stuka by Terry, it should finish ground testing soon. Hopefully we get the approval of HQ to begin the Flight Test portion soon.



Upcoming Events

- ‘Keesler Air Show—[Thunder Over the Sound](#)— May 4th and 5th
- Lake Charles [CHENNAULT INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW](#) May 10-12
- 2019 [ACE Camp](#) —June 10-14 Gonzales —Event for kids reg.closes 6/1
- Stearman Fly-in Sept. 2 – 7, 2019, at Galesburg Municipal Airport. Illinois
- [Planes over Pines](#) in Pineville, LA — October 4-5
- **CAF Air Power History Tour** October 3-6 in Hammond and October 11-13 —?
- [Cajun Fly-in Festival & Car Show](#) -Nov. 2—[Houma–Terrebonne Airport](#)
- Stearman Fly-In October 2019 in Jennings LA.

Ready Room expansion work has begun



Our
Planes
looking
good!



Thanks
Jim Riviere
For the photo