



# Big Easy Wing

Volume 3, Issue 12

December 8, 2019

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**Meeting**

January 11@ 10 AM

Lakefront Airport Hangar

*From the Left Seat*

*David Capo,*



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Big Easy Wing,

It is hard to believe that we just celebrated our THIRD Christmas social. The hangar was beautifully decorated by Shirley Colomb and her merry band of party planners. Thank you to all who helped, came and ate. We shared our holiday social with another group, the Civil Air Patrol. We thoroughly enjoyed having you all join us at our annual holiday social. It was a great event!

2020 is looking to shape up especially well for us. We are currently in the midst of the *12 Planes of Christmas* fundraiser. Both our aircraft are featured, and the money raising is going well. As of this writing, our Stearman was 6th in fundraising among all planes. Great job folks. Let keep it up!



Continued on page 4





COMMEMORATIVE  
AIR FORCE

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Next to FAA tower

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## Safety Officer's Report - Dave Cantin

As our wing looks forward to an active flying year in 2020 with a healthy Stearman and qualified pilots at our disposal there's a good chance we will be able to host weekend "Rides" events and even participate in "nearby" airshows and Warbird weekends. These are a lot of fun and give the wing an opportunity to engage with other wings. One of the things I learned from attending a dozen airshows over the last year as a CAF Marshaller is how other wings manage these activities. Wings with larger aircraft will send 6-10 members to shows with several tents selling PX merchandise and rides and are very well organized. Smaller wings send a pilot and support person and use the larger organizations to assist selling rides. What they both have in common is a plan and routine for how everything is handled. How to sell the ride, introduce the rider to the aircraft, perform a safety briefing, get them on and off the aircraft and in general make the event very memorable and SAFE.

In addition, there's documentation required by CAF HQ for both liability and financials, and basic handling of the aircraft by support personnel. All of this is covered by a "ground school" conducted by each wing at the beginning of each year. The BEW plans to do this early in 2020, so to kick it off I've arranged to have four BEW members attend the Texas Raiders' "General" ground school session on Feb 1, 2020 in Conroe, Tx. These four attendees along with any other members with experience in this area will be the foundation for the BEW's class.

Separately there's an essential crew class which, for a B-17 it includes pilots, flight engineers and loadmasters. For a Stearman it's mainly pilots. Jim Helms is organizing that class separately for our pilots.

At this point we have a couple members interested in attending the GCW's class, but want to give everyone in the wing an opportunity to put your name in the hat to be selected to attend. The cost is \$40 plus you are responsible for getting to Conroe and for your lodging. The Texas Raiders have also invited us to attend their awards banquet Friday night (another \$40) so my thought is to ride over Friday, attend the banquet that night and the school Saturday, and drive home Saturday afternoon after class. Keep in mind, attending the GCW class means you'll be assisting with the BEW class and assist in writing our ground school documentation. Anyone interested in attending should contact our Operations Officer, JD Olson, who has been asked by Dave Capo to make the final selection of the four who will become trainers for various courses in our ground school. See JD's comments in this newsletter for more on that.

## Operation Officer's Report - JD Olson

With the Holidays coming up, all thoughts are on the joyous celebration of Christmas and the coming New Year. At this writing, Carol and I look forward to the Wing's Christmas party tomorrow night at our recently renovated hangar with all the other folks gathered there to look back on our joint accomplishments over the past year and to toast more of the same in 2020.

One of the things high on the list for the coming year is to prepare ourselves for what should be good flying months starting in the Spring and the start of our Rides program.

## Operation Officer's Report - JD Olson

Assuming we're successful in raising the money needed to purchase and install two vitally needed pieces of equipment in our beautiful Stearman PT-17, namely, the FAA-mandated ADS-B for electronic flight tracking and a new radio so our pilots can more readily (not to mention, safely) communicate with Ground, Tower, Center and other aircraft. A new set of seat harnesses for both cockpits and a pneumatic tail wheel would also be welcome presents under the tree if Santa is listening...hint, hint.

Another pressing need is for qualified pilots in the rear cockpit of "New Orleans Lady" for the Rides program. We have just two right now - the two Jims, Helms and Shaw - and I figure we'll need a minimum of four to be able to do it right and six to do it perfectly. To meet that demand, we just happen to have among our PT-17 Aircraft Sponsors three other pilots with prior (and in one case, current) tailwheel time in their logbooks. Another who is seriously considering becoming a Sponsor also has taildragger time. As an added bonus, two of that number have their CFI certificate meaning that as Certificated (or Certified) Flight Instructors they will be able to assist other Sponsors when they get to the point where they have accumulated enough tailwheel time in other aircraft to begin training in the Stearman. In the case of these four, we hope to be able to convince HQ to waive at least some of the draconian requirements - 30 total hours and 80 full stop landings in tailwheel aircraft within the past twelve months - that they have prior to allowing transition into the Stearman.

In short, we still have a ways to go both in terms of qualified pilots and equipment (read M\_O\_N\_E\_Y) before we get into the Rides program.

Along with the above, we also need to get other dedicated Wing members to help in the program. As you read earlier in the newsletter, Dave Cantin has reached out as a member of another CAF unit, the "Texas Raiders" of the Gulf Coast Wing, to obtain seats in their upcoming annual ground school for a total of four BEW members. David Capo has asked me to be the BEW point of contact and decision maker for those who volunteer to attend. I will base that decision on who will be willing and best able to take notes and use the information in various elements of that course of instruction to become trainers in our own ground school coming up as soon as the aforementioned pieces fall into place. A key element in the Rides program will be building a cadre of people who can assist our pilots by briefing people who pay to fly in aspects of SAFETY (first, last and always) - what to do and what NOT to do - and to help them to get into the plane, strap them in securely, make sure they have a "convenience bag" at hand just in case, and to point out how to egress the cockpit in the case of an emergency, etc. Other things taught in the course include Safety (assisting Dave Cantin), PX Sales (assisting Shirley Colomb), Marshaling (directing pilots taxiing out of and into the parking apron), and the like. So, if you feel that you'd want to take on a teaching role in any of those areas, please contact me at [jdolson5@gmail.com](mailto:jdolson5@gmail.com) no later than Friday, 27 December so we can plan accordingly for the classes on 1 February. Please include your phone number in case I have questions. Last, thanks go to Dave Cantin for making all this happen. And with that, I ask all of you, as always, to...

Fly (and drive) safe,

JD / 'Outlaw' out



Contact us:  
[info@bigeasywing.org](mailto:info@bigeasywing.org)



## Wing Leader Report —continued

In the spring, we will be hosting our first fly-in featuring airplanes from around our area. We are in the planning stages and will keep you informed as they develop.

The Lakefront Management Authority is very pleased to have us at KNEW, Lakefront airport. Our CEA Cooperative Endeavor Agreement is up for its second renewal in March. Your Adjutant, Harold Buchler, has already submitted our desire to renew. We have the option for five years. The hangar went from a condemned dump to a state-of-the-art facility thanks to the over ten thousand hours devoted to rehabbing and rebuilding the facility. If you have not seen the place lately, come out for a visit and prepare to be blown away. A special thanks to our facilities director, Wayne Breaux.

In 2020, we are planning to develop a permanent facility in Hammond (KHDC). We have been blessed to have two temporary hangars available to us from Gray Insurance (thank you Paul Cutrer) and Top Gun Aviation (Chad Eirmann). However, with the help of the leadership in Hammond, it is reasonable to assume that an agreement similar to what we have at Lakefront could be worked out. That will be a priority of this Wing Leader. Stay tuned for more on this.

Dues are now being accepted for 2020. If you have not done so, please renew at your earliest convenience. Next year will be our first as a flying unit. You won't want to miss out.

Thank you for being a Big Easy Wing member and have a Very Happy New Year! David Capo

## Development Officer-Shirley Colomb



By now, everyone has heard that our PT 17 New Orleans Lady is one of the selected 12 Planes and part of the grant restoration fund. Our Langhurst Ju87 Stuka is one of many other planes participating in the 12 planes. As a member of this Wing, you are dedicated to the restoration of historical aircraft. We have made many upgrades in 2019 but the FAA requires us to have a new avionic system. Please help us get our New Orleans Lady flying over Lake Pontchartrain come Spring.

Many Units put up more than one plane for the 12 planes of Christmas. And, this year we were fortunate enough to get the okay from headquarters that our Langhurst Ju87Stuka could participate. We have come a long way since her arrival in 2018. As you recall, she came on a flat-bed truck. Over 1000 hours went into getting her ready for flight. Many are excited to see her in flight. She has passed her taxi test and now is ready for flight testing. We know it is difficult to choose which plane to donate to but whatever we get will only make other fundraising efforts easier. As a Wing of the CAF it is our mission to restore and fly vintage warbirds. Please help us accomplish this year by participating in this year's fundraiser.



Contact us:  
[info@bigeasywing.org](mailto:info@bigeasywing.org)



### *Introducing Big Easy Wing 2020 Officers*

#### WING LEADER

DAVID CAPO                      dcapo1203@aol.com

#### EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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#### ADJUTANT OFFICER

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#### SAFETY OFFICER

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#### DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

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#### EDUCATION OFFICER

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#### MAINTENANCE OFFICER

TERRY CLAUSING      clautj@cox.net

### PX Report—Shirley Colomb



For the past 3 months, we have been raising funds with our Christmas Money cake. BEW made \$530 on this fundraiser. Our winner was Jim Shaw. Our door prize raffle brought in \$245.00. Thanks to all who donated and who participated in these fundraiser. We cannot do it without you. Thanks to our Elves (cadets) for drawing the tickets and handing out our prizes. Have a Merry Christmas!



Contact us:  
[info@bigeasywing.org](mailto:info@bigeasywing.org)



## Upcoming Meetings

January 11–Saturday @ 10 pm @ Lakefront Hangar

February 12 –Wednesday @ 6 pm @ Lakefront Hangar

March 14– Saturday @ 10 am @ Hammond Hangar

## Upcoming Events

Texas Raiders Ground School February 2

[2019 Wing Staff Conference will take place February 28 - March 3, 2019](#)

[Hammond Northshore Regional Airshow | Sep 19 - 20, 2020](#)

## Thanks to Holiday Party Volunteers—Shirley Colomb

We hand several BEW members who showed up to help with setup and several from the Civil Air Patrol. With all hands on deck, set up was done in an hour. Also, I want to take this opportunity to thank all who brought tables, chairs, the delicious food items and especially for coming out to make this 2019 holiday party special. I glad we were able to get the LSU game on TV. Go Tigers! In additions, a big hand of applause to Terry and Wayne for getting the Hangar looking good.



## Membership

January 1, 2020 is around the corner. **BEW membership renews** at the beginning of the fiscal year. The BEW thrives because of you. YOU are our most important asset. We are thankful for your membership. We accept checks, cash or credit card. Full membership (\$50) Active military membership (\$25) Cadet membership for students between the ages of 13-23 (\$10) Online Payment are accepted: BEW website [online store](#) **Checks may be mailed to:**

CAF Big Easy Wing  
c/o Colonel Harold Buchler, Adjutant  
3014 Metairie Rd Metairie, LA 70001

## KAStrack

### REGISTERING YOUR ACCOUNT

For those VERY FEW that need to register, the easiest way is to go to our public page <https://bigeasywing.org/about/application/>, scroll down to the end, and click on the “[New Member](#)” link.

### LOGGING IN TO YOUR ACCOUNT

For 99% of us, this is where we start. First, choose your weapon! I suggest using the Edge, Chrome, or Firefox Browser. Internet Explorer users will find many websites do not render correctly, KAStrack included. Our KAStrack website is located at <http://cafbeew.kastrack.com>.



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## Maintenance Officer Report—Terry Clausing



Removed and replaced R-670 engine. Removed, reconditioned and reinstalled Sensenich propeller. Completed several maintenance items on front and rear instrument panel, and rear seat adjustment. Completed annual inspection for airframe and engine.

We appreciate all the work that Jim Shaw completed during her August annual and for bringing our “New Orleans Lady” home in time for our Christmas Social.

## 2019 Christmas Pics



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COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE

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## Christmas Party Pics

