



Big Easy Wing

Volume 4, Issue 2

February 7, 2020

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Meeting

February 12 @ 6 PM

Lakefront Airport Hangar



From the Left Seat

David Capo,

Happy Mardi Gras Big Easy Wing,

As the unofficial krewe of the CAF, the BEW is well known for our happy, festive and friendly atmosphere. I hope you have the best carnival season ever. I realize many of you participate in the Mardi Gras festivities in various ways, so this is a very busy time. Your Wing Staff here at the BEW is here to support you as our wing gets more and more active. As I have said previously, 2020 will be a very active year for all of us as the wing goes airborne. Thank you in advance for your support.

I, along with five of your fellow wing members, just returned from Houston, TX following a weekend of fun, learning and camaraderie at the Gulf Coast Wing's annual ground school and awards banquet. Please read Dave Canton's article in this newsletter concerning the school. The BEW will kick off our own ground school in the spring which will be available to any and all members. You will be strongly urged to attend. Keep a watch for it.

Speaking of Dave Canton, our safety officer, he has been working super hard on developing the drug/alcohol testing program for the wing members affected. He will have more on this in our newsletter. It is important to understand that the testing program is a vital step toward our aircraft being allowed into the rides program. I cannot thank Dave, call sign Can-do, enough for all of his efforts in getting this started.

As our unit reaches deep into its third year, as wing leader, I want to thank all of you for making the Big Easy Wing the outstanding CAF unit that it is today. Whether an officer or just a sometime volunteer looking for a fun Saturday, ALL of you have made a difference. When I travel outside NOLA to attend a CAF related function, I am so impressed with the progress our young unit has made in so little time. For example, recently I was complaining that we have been without a flying plane in the rides program for over two years when I was told there are some units that haven't gotten a plane in the air for almost 22 years! Yikes! Sometimes we can be hard on ourselves when in truth we have so much to be grateful for. I am grateful for you all as my fellow wing mates. I need to say that more often. Thank you, Big Easy Wing!



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Operation Officer's Report - JD Olson

As we continue to enjoy, speaking for myself, this cool and brisk winter weather, we aren't exactly sitting by the fire whiling away the hours here in the Big Easy Wing. Planning for the upcoming warmer and more predictable skies of spring means that we're busy with things associated with getting our Stearman PT-17 Kaydet (aka "New Orleans Lady") ready to begin flying in earnest. We've been jumping through various hoops to do so, as follows: 1. The aircraft, with its new engine and propeller, came through its annual inspection (AI) with "flying colors" meaning all things that needed work were done on time and within budget thanks to great work done by our IA Jim Shaw and subsequently very well maintained by our "MX" Terry Clausung. 2. All necessary paperwork - the plane's registration certificate, AI checklist, etc. - have been submitted to the designated CAF official who is now working with the FAA to obtain the necessary Letter of Authorization (LOA) we need to be able to carry paying passengers in our upcoming Rides program. 3. Along with that, our Safety Officer Dave 'Cando' Cantin has begun putting in place our CAF and FAA approved Drug & Alcohol monitoring program that also plays into the sought-after LOA to allow us into the CAF Rides arena. He will be ably assisted in that effort by Donald Allen. 4. The plane will soon undergo installment of the ADS-B (Automatic Dependent Surveillance - Broadcast) unit required by the FAA to enable it to be tracked by Air Traffic Control. Following that, the radio and cockpit seat harnesses will be replaced...all of which are needed for safety of flight whether carrying paying passengers or training new pilots.

Speaking of pilots, we soon will have a third Stearman pilot in the BEW Ready Room - the one and only 'Evil' (callsign) Ben Cook, our resident F-15 pilot on active duty with the Louisiana Air National Guard and Deputy Commander of the 159th Tactical Fighter Wing at NAS/JRB New Orleans in Belle Chasse. He is current in the T-6 Texan, another tailwheel trainer used by the military during WWII, which gives him a very good background leading into learning to fly the PT and will be training, after completing the required Stearman ground school, under our Chief Pilot Jim 'Batman' Helms. When fully trained and checked out, Ben will join Batman and our IA Jim Shaw as a threesome of qualified pilots providing safe-yet-thrilling rides to the public both locally out of Lakefront Airport as well as on the road to such places as Opelousas in June. That concludes this report and, as always....

Fly (and drive) safe.

A Special Visitor-

Last week, we were visited by Mitch Sammons, the generous donor of the classic Ju87 Stuka that we have in our hangar. Valued at nearly a half million dollars, Mitch's donation allowed our unit to gain instant credibility as a new wing. While visiting the hangar, Mitch, joined by his wife Bonnie, were truly impressed with the condition of the plane, the excellent condition of the hangar and most importantly, the professionalism of our Mx Chief, Terry Clausung.



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Safety Officer's Report-Dave Cantin



When you think about safety people normally think about preventing something bad from happening. Preventing a cut, fall, burn, breaking something valuable, etc. But we should also include preventing someone from dying who didn't have an accident or did but now need assistance. What I'm talking about is knowing First Aid, CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and how to use an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). If you're working in the hanger and someone falls unconscious near you, or you see someone unconscious on the floor do you know what to do? What if they're working on a plane and they cut themselves badly?

We began talking about this in the Marshalling Detachment late last year and it dawned on me that we're an ideal environment for needing people trained for all three – First Aid, CPR and AED. Our CAF wings and the airshows have a high concentration of middle to later aged individuals, so this is important. To kick this off I need to lead by example, so I took the Red Cross class that combines all three. It was given at their office on Canal St, lasted from 9-3 and cost \$97, and it was great. I had taken it twice before many years ago (need to renew it every two years) and was surprised at how much the technology and practices have changed. They offer the class several times a week so scheduling it isn't a problem. There's a new [KASTrack](#) certification for this so when you get your certification upload it.



Red Cross has a great First Aid phone app that shows you what to do in different situations. Download it and check it out. I also put several CPR Face Shields (mouth barriers) in the first aid kit.

So, this is a call for volunteers. We need several members to do this for both your personal benefit and for the wing and airshow safety. I personally need others to do it too, as I can't perform CPR on myself!

<https://www.redcross.org/local/louisiana/take-a-class/cpr-new-orleans-la>

FYI, the BEW didn't spring for a \$1,500 AED but I did talk to the fire department across the ramp from the hanger and they said we can use their AED anytime. If you have any question please contact Dave Cantin at caf@cantin.org or 504-616-3604.

A Special Visitor

After his tour of the hangar, Mitch was given an exclusive tour of PT 305, the WWII PT boat by Harold Buchler. Later that day, Harold and his wife, Beth, escorted Mitch and Bonnie to the new WWII hotel bar high atop the building for drinks and later joined for dinner at the Bon Ton restaurant by member Jim Letten and his wife JoAnn. Many thanks to Harold for making the Sammons feel so welcome.





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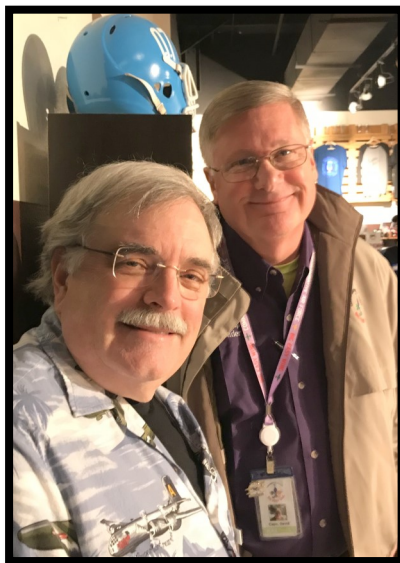
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Ground School Report - Dave Cantin

Every year most CAF wings with active aircraft conduct a "Ground School" which covers everything from flight crew member responsibilities to how to sell and document rides for hire to running a PX. The *CAF Gulf Coast Wing (B-17 Texas Raiders)* graciously invited four members from the Big Easy Wing to attend their ground school, so combined with a couple of us who are also members of the GCW the BEW had a nice showing at their Feb 1 class. This includes Donald Allen, Richard and Austin Wood, Wayne Breaux, Robert Claypool, Dave Capo and me, and it also included attending their Awards dinner the night before.

Our goal was to gather information from a wing that does this very well and we weren't disappointed. The first half of the day was general information about membership recruiting, safety, cadet programs, marshalling, etc. and culminated in a very interesting talk by the New Orleans WWII Museum historian, Tom Gibbs. The afternoon was breakout sessions covering PX, Marketing, Tour Planning, Rides and B-17 Load Master. We all came away with a list of great ideas for our own ground school to implement at the BEW. Look for more information about this in the future.



Drug and Alcohol Supervisor's Report - Dave Cantin

Drug/ Alcohol Program

With our Stearman closing in on being qualified to take passengers for rides the remaining hurdle is implementing the FAA mandated drug program that is stipulated in the FAA Letter or Authorization (LOA) for carrying passengers for hire. I accepted the role of Drug and Alcohol Supervisor and have been working on the training and preparation needed to perform this correctly. This is an FAA/DOT drug program that mainly affects our pilots and maintenance area. Any qualified pilot can fly our Stearman but only a qualified pilot enrolled in the drug program can fly with a passenger for hire. On the maintenance side, outside of washing the Stearman and perhaps washing parts, only someone enrolled in the drug program can work on her. Also anyone we contract to work on the Stearman in any capacity must be on the FAA/DOT drug program. Operations and Maintenance will need to take that into consideration when sourcing outside work.

How does the program work? Well, we have two qualified pilots at the moment and an A&P that need to enroll in the program. That involves some paperwork and taking a "Pre-employment" drug test. Thereafter there's random testing for both drugs and alcohol. These should not happen often as the chances of being tested are 25%/year for drugs and 10%/year for alcohol. The test clinics are at 4100 Canal St in New Orleans or 1900 S Morrison Blvd in Hammond.

There will be three of us trained to process new hires and random tests. In addition to myself we're going to name a second supervisor and Dave Capo as Wing Leader is the third. The drug program becomes effective for flying and working on the Stearman on the day she is added to the LOA, which could be any time. I am rolling this out in advance so that there is no lag in our ability to fly and work on the Stearman when that happens.

The FAA takes this program very seriously and can do unannounced hanger inspections. The consequences are serious and expensive for the BEW for not administering it correctly, and for the members in the program for not following the testing rules correctly and passing the tests. Please give everyone your full support. If you have any questions about the program please contact Dave Cantin at caf@cantin.org or 504-616-3604.

Assistant Operations Officer's —Donald Allen

March Field Trip to Charlie Hammond's Air Service

All systems are a go for launching the BEW's first bus tour field trip. Plans are set for Saturday **March 21st** to go to Charlie Hammond's Flying Service in Houma for a day of fun and fellowship. We will leave New Orleans / Metairie at 10AM, arrive in Houma around 11AM, enjoy a couple hours of fellowship, and then head home around 2 PM. A Hotard Coach is being considered so that we can enjoy riding as a group. The cost will be determined by the number of people riding. If we can get 35- 40 riders, the cost will be around \$20 with kids 18 and under free. I'll send out an update after a headcount is taken.



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Contact us:
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Development Officer's Report—Shirley Colomb



The BEW wants to thank all of our donors. We appreciate all of our donors generosity especially the Carrollton Rotary Club (\$5000), American Legion Post 307 (\$1000) and Mitch Sammons (\$1000). Be assured that your money will be put toward aircraft restoration. As Colonel Olson mentioned in his article, the Stearman is scheduled for the ADS-B installation mid-February. The monies raised (\$6704) will off-set the cost of this repair as well as seat belts. If any BEW member donated over \$40.00 to the Stearman and would like their BEW patch, please see me at this meeting. All of our out of town donors will receive their patch through the mail.

Although CAF is no longer promoting the 12 Planes of Christmas, the site is still open for donations. You may make a donation at that site, mail a donation to the BEW or [donate online](#), the BEW will forward the monies to the CAF. Just designate your donation for either the Stearman or the Stuka.

To our surprise, BEW was approved by the AAHFM (**American Airpower Heritage Flying Museum**) board for \$7500.00 matching grant money for the Stuka. Presently, the Stuka has raised \$5525 so far. If you were thinking about donating this would be the time to do it. If we can raise \$7500 and AAHFM will match it with another \$7500 it will give our wing, \$15,000 to spend on the Stuka. Both planes were submitted to the AAHFM grant restoration fund but only the Stuka received the matching funds.

As you know fundraising never ends. We, like millions of other non-profit organizations, cannot survive without donations. So please help us by promoting the Big Easy Wing. At many outings, Don and I regularly weave the CAF/BEW into our conversations resulting either in donations, membership or interest. If anyone needs BEW business cards, please see me at the next meeting. You never know when you may meet someone that would be interested in joining, donating or participating in an event. Thanks for all that you do for the BEW. *When you are invested in your organizations great things happen.* Get ready to see our New Orleans Lady soaring over New Orleans in the next few months.

Assistant Operations Officer's Report continued —Donald Allen

Once in Houma, Charlie Hammond will be cooking us a lunch. He will set up his hangar with tables and chairs. He is a great guy who wants to share his love for aviation his with us. A tour of his very interesting personal museum full of aviation artifacts is on the agenda. This will be a great opportunity for to get to know one another better while meeting other aviation enthusiasts. All family members from age 12 and older are invited to attend. Mark your calendars and make plans to go on March 21st.



We need a head count of all persons planning on attending, including family members. This is needed for both the bus and the lunch. Please respond no later than **February 10** with your headcount and please indicate the number of people who will be riding the bus. We will need to send in *deposit for bus as soon as we can but no later than by Feb. 17*) Respond to Donald Allen at donalda28@hotmail.com or call 985-974-7241. Thanks! Please click on the icon to visit the website to obtain additional info about your upcoming experience.



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Upcoming Meetings and Events for BEW

<i>General Membership</i>	February 12	6 pm	Lakefront
CAF Wing Staff	February 27-March 1		Dallas
<i>General Membership</i>	March 14	10 am	Hammond
Field Trip Hammond Air	March 21	10 am	Houma
BEW Flyin/Gen. Membership	April 4	10 am	Lakefront
<i>General Membership</i>	May 9	10 am	hangar
<i>BEW Ground School</i>	<i>May ?</i>		
Opelousas Fly-in	June 26-27		Opelousas
FloriBama/Blue Angles(not definite)	July 11		Pensacola
Hammond Air Show	September 19-20		Hammond
WWII Air Show	October 10-11		Lakefront
New Orleans Air Show (not definite)	November 7-8		Bell Chase

Membership

Please welcome our latest two new members to the Big Easy Wing

Michael DuBois of Albany LA—thanks to Paul Cutrer

Garnett Bedenbaugh of Hammond, LA — thanks to Jeff Shaw and Donald Allen

BEW membership renewal is NOW. Please go to our website and rejoin there. If you are coming to our February meeting, bring your check, cash or credit card and you can pay there. YOU are our most important asset. We **thank you** for rejoining the BEW. 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 mailed to:

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



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Proposed April Fly-in Report-Tim Daggett, Committee Chair

BEW is planning on a April Fly-in/social at Lakefront Airport. This is our first time planning something like this so we are still working on logistical issues. It is scheduled for Saturday, April 4th. We will tie this event with our monthly membership meeting.

At this time, we have a planning meeting scheduled for Feb. 16, 2020 at Noon at the Lakefront Airport at *Messina's Terminal* restaurant. This will be the first meeting of the CAF Big Easy Wing Fly-in committee to discuss the proposed April 4th fly-in.

Those Big Easy Wing members who are interested in supporting this event and/or who may have some ideas please contact me Col. Tim Daggett, committee chair. My email is timdagget016@yahoo.com and my number is (504)813-4440.

Other members who are serving on this committee are: Jim Riviere (laflyins@gmail.com), Dave Cantin (caf@cantin.org), JD Olson (jolson5@gmail.com), Kevin Duxworth (dux.kd03@cox.net), and David Capo, wing leader. I know they will all be happy to hear your suggestions.

2019 in Review

We have had an incredible 2019 and we are thankful for all your support. This year there are many things to be proud of in our Wing. To highlight a few of our accomplishments:

- ◆ Ready room expansion
- ◆ PT 17 Stearman engine reconditioned
- ◆ PT 17 Stearman propeller reconditioned
- ◆ Langhurst Stuka taxi test completed
- ◆ Langhurst Stuka stands ready for inspection by a CAF airframes expert
- ◆ Hangar interior updated
- ◆ Hosted the C-47 Airshow @ Lakefront in April
- ◆ Hosted the B-29/B24 Airshow in Hammond in October
- ◆ Hosted a fabulous Christmas Social jointly with the Civil Air Patrol at Lakefront in December
- ◆ PT-17 Stearman is accepted as one of the official 12 Planes of Christmas
- ◆ Langhurst Stuka is one of a few accepted for the AAHFM Grant Restoration Fund

These major accomplishments are the results of **YOU**—our members and our donors.

Upcoming Events

[2019 Wing Staff Conference will take place February 28 - March 3, 2020](#) -- Dallas, TX

Field Trip to [Hammond's Air Service](#) March 21 -Houma, LA

[Sun N Fun International Flyin Expo](#) March 31—Lakeland, FLA

BEW Fly-in April 4, 2020 Lakefront Airport (tentative)

[Wings over Columbus Airshow \(Thunderbirds\)](#) April 25-26 - Columbus AFB MS

[Corsicana Airshow](#)—May 16—TX

Opelousas Fly-in—June 26-27—Opelousas

[Blue Angels Pensacola Airshow](#)—July 11– Pensacola, FLA

[EAA AirVenture Oshkosh](#)— July 20-26 —Oshkosh, Wisconsin

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

Stearman Flyin– October– Jennings LA

WWII AirShow Lakefront October 9-11

[Blue Angels Homecoming Show](#)—Oct. 16-17– Pensacola, FLA

[New Orleans Airshow \(Thunderbirds\)](#) November 7-8, 2020 - Belle Chase, LA

KAStrack

REGISTERING YOUR ACCOUNT

For those 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

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://cafbew.kastrack.com>.



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