



Big Easy Wing

Volume 4, Issue 3

March 7, 2020

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Meeting

March 14@ 10 AM

Hammond -Gray Aviation



From the Left Seat

David Capo,

Yahoo from Dallas:

As I write this, I am sitting in a hotel room at the Westin Galleria in Dallas, TX while attending the 2020 Commemorative Air Force Wing Staff Conference (WSC). Titled "*2020Vision*", the conference focused on the changes to the warbird industry in general and the CAF in particular. Most of the changes reflect the current flying environment in the aftermath of the Collings Foundation B-

17, 909, accident which is understandable. I was able to sit in on the insurance review and as part of that, the CAF accident/incident statistics were discussed. As of this date, our experience rating was dramatically improved over the 2013-18 time frame. Thank goodness.

Continued on page 3

Please make plans to participate/volunteer @ Open House

CAF-Big Easy Wing Hangar Open House

Saturday, April 4th 10 am - 3 pm
Located next to Lakefront Airport FAA Tower

Take a Tour of KNEW Tower

Learn about our Langhurst Stuka, a replica of a German Dive Bomber

Learn about the KNEW fire truck

Enjoy hamburgers and Jambalaya and soda for \$5.00

View up close our WWII trainer, a PT 17

Enjoy viewing & speaking with Scale Modelers about their:

- Tools and Techniques
- Modeling kits
- Modeling resources/Start up kits

Visit with the Jefferson Amateur Radio Club (JARC) who will activate a special event station—and learn about:

- Our national and international shortwave capability
- A metro area Amateur Radio Emergency Service
- How to get a "Ham" Radio License
- Club directions to see our modern computer operated radios, tower and antennas

Directions: Off of I-10 take exit 241 for Morrison Rd, turn right on Downman rd then right onto Stars and Stripes Blvd then left onto Sikorsky Dr, then turn right to stay on Sikorsky Dr. Hangar is to the right of the FAA tower. 8500 Lloyd Stearman Dr



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Operation Officer's Report - JD Olson

As the weather gods continue to battle over the Pelican State's landscape with the climate vacillating between the extremes of cool and chilly to warm and steamy, we find ourselves wondering just when the air will be stable enough to get our PT-17 New Orleans Lady flying on a regular basis. With it now in the very capable hands of Sonny Schilleci's Auric Avionics across the airport, we anticipate getting it back soon with an ADS-B installed and its antique VHF radio and cockpit seat harnesses replaced with state-of-the-art equipment. In short, it will be a "full up round" in military parlance.

While the airplane is going through those modifications, our request for a Letter of Authorization is being scrutinized by the Flight Standards District Office in Atlanta. We have a friend in CAF's Bob Heath working with the FSDO to try to expedite the LOA process and we greatly appreciate his efforts in doing so.

The same Bob Heath paid us a visit a few weeks ago on behalf of CAF Operations to look over our Langhurst Stuka to determine its airworthiness and he seemed very impressed with what he saw both in the plane itself and in its ever-important documentation. Our trusty MX, Terry Clausen, had everything perfectly in order...as he always does. We now await a final decision from CAF HQ as to when we'll be granted authorization for a test hop to be flown by our Chief Pilot, Jim 'Batman' Helms who is anxious to get it into the air.



Continued on page 5

Membership

Please WELCOME our latest new members to the Big Easy Wing:
Patrick Pennington of Nashville, Indiana - Happy to have you aboard!

If you have not seen someone around at a meeting, please check on them, ask them to come and see if they have forgotten to rejoin.

BEW membership renewal is PAST Due. Please go to our website and rejoin there. Or, If you are coming to our March meeting, bring your check, cash or credit card and you can pay there. For those that have rejoined, 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

*Thank
you* 
For Rejoining



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Wing Leader's Report continued from page 1

One of the best bits of news is that finally, preparations are being made to launch BOTH of our aircraft. The Stearman is being outfitted with its new ADS-B Out transponder and a new radio, just in time for the rides season. Speaking of rides, the Stearman is in the final approval process for the LOA (Letter of Authorization) allowing the Wing to fly the plane for the LHFE (Living History Flight Experience) for the first time. Thanks to all who made that happen. As for the Stuka, a big announcement about that plane will be made at our next meeting. Both of these topics were discussed in detail in private meetings with the HQ officers in charge. I am grateful for their time and amazing experience.

Of course, while at WSC, your Big Easy Wing continues to shine. Not only do we make our presence known (think beads and lots of purple), but we once again were recognized for our efforts. The BEW won the prestigious Unit Maintenance Award presented by HQ to a unit that performs outstanding work on the aircraft and facilities. Congrats to Terry Clausing, Mx Officer and Wayne Breaux, Facilities Director for their leadership, hard work and determination to get things done! The award will be officially presented locally at an upcoming general meeting.



There was a lot of good stuff presented at the conference and much of it will be shared at the upcoming general membership meetings. Attending WSC on your behalf besides myself were Robert Claypool, XO; Harold Buchler, Adjutant; Jeff Segner, Finance; Jim Buchler, Education; JD Olson, Ops; Dave Cantin, Safety along with members Richard and Austin Woods. Richard and Austin were very involved with the youth programs offered by the CAF. I would like to thank all of them for

their time, dedication and money involved with the conference. We had, I believe, the largest group attending the conference from outside of Texas. Thanks guys!

Our next meeting will be in Hammond of 14th of this month (March) at the *Gray Hangar in Hammond*. Try not to miss this one as we are planning some big surprises. Thank you, Paul Cutrer, Gray Aviation Director, for your fantastic support. Also, in March on the 21st, we are traveling to Houma Louisiana to visit a unique aviation museum. Please see Donald Allen's piece about that visit later in the newsletter.

I want to thank Shirley and her crew for putting together our first of its kind open house to be held in and around our hangar at KNEW Lakefront Airport on Saturday, April 4, 2020.
See you in Hammond on March 14.



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Safety Officer's Report-Dave Cantin



What a great event Wing Staff Conference was; if you go to one of these once you'll be hooked. I was and I enjoyed my second one even more. Lots of opportunities to meet people and see how other wings are doing things. Safety had a good role in the presentations which I expected and enjoyed learning new things.

For this article I want to focus on two things. The upcoming events we're involved in and safety by following procedures. Our upcoming events are the Open House on April 4 and participation in the St Landry/Opelousas War-bird Expo. With that you will be hearing calls for volunteers and my calls for helping everyone be safe.

In both events we will have lots of people milling around looking at everything interesting and not what could get them in trouble, so we need lots of BEW volunteers just keeping an eye on them. They'll be crossing the ramp from the fence to the hanger, we'll have aircraft around there and in the hanger, aircraft arriving and leaving and just a lot of moving parts. If you haven't volunteered for anything else, please help us help them have a good and safe time.

With a little luck we'll have the Stearman flying around during the Open House. If it does, we will push it away from the event and can use help escorting riders to and from the aircraft. From a safety side, the obvious item is stay 100'+ away from a running aircraft. The less obvious is watch out for prop wash. That's another reason for pushing it away from the crowd.

I'm hoping we can keep the fence gate open and use a rope line from the fence to the hanger on both sides. The Fire Dept has to approve that and if they do we'll still need people guarding the rope line. Maybe the same volunteers helping keep an eye on everyone in and around the hanger?

Safety by following procedures is somewhat a repeat of my first newsletter article but with an update. I'm a firm believer in following the instructions that have been proven to work and work safely and to expand on what the CAF offers in regulations, I created a BEW Safety Manual geared to what we do. The Gulf Coast Wing has a great operations manual and I started with their safety section and modified it to meet our needs. It's in KASTrack in the BEW General Section listed as BEW Safety Manual. PLEASE take a few minutes and read it, or at least the parts that you think might impact you.

CAF HQ has also updated their CAFR60-1 Operations Regulation and the CAFR66-1 Maintenance Policies and Procedures. These are on KASTrack under CAF General and for those in Operations and Maintenance they are not optional reading. Please be familiar with them. Also, it's required to keep a hard copy of the CAFR 66.1 in the hanger.

I would love to receive feedback on any of this so please don't hesitate to send it my way. See everyone at the meeting next week.
Contact me @ caf@cantin.org or 504-616-3604



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Operation Officer's Report continued from page 2

Back to the Stearman, we received notification from HQ to begin transition training for Ben 'Evil' Cook in the PT-17 thanks to the tailwheel time he's built up flying a vintage T-6 Texan for another non-profit organization in Mississippi. When his training is completed, we will have three qualified pilots - the two mentioned plus our IA, Jim Shaw, for our Rides program just in time for the coming better flying weather.

Last, having just returned from CAF's Wing Staff Conference in Big D, the nine of us who made the trip are now a bit better educated on the how-to of doing things over a wide range of topics which we will impart to BEW members in the coming months. Until then, as always...

Fly (and drive) Safe, JD / 'Outlaw' out...

Open House April 4th —Tim Daggett

On April 4th, 2020 from 10 AM to 3 PM the Big Easy Wing is sponsoring its first invitation to the flying community to come and visit us at Lakefront Airport. We will need all the volunteers we can get. If you are interested in volunteering on Apr. 4th please contact Tim Daggett @ tmdaggett016@yahoo.com or (504) 813-4440. We will have an organizational meeting out at the hangar on Monday March 30th at 9 AM for those that can make it. Volunteers for Sat. April 4th should arrive by 8 AM so we can start getting things set up. We need to have a good showing of BEW members to impress our visitors that we in New Orleans area can put on a good time for all occasions. Please see page 6 and 7 for additional info. Laissez les bons temps rouler!



Trailer Update—Donald Allen

Thanks to the many BEW members for their donation toward the purchase of a trailer. It is now in the hanger. The trailer is a 6' x 12' dual axle trailer with electric brakes.

We will be able to carry all our supplies and PX items to airshows in this trailer.



Hangar Open House—April 4th—Items needed

There are several items that we will need for **Our First Open House**. If you can help with any of these items, please send an email to info@bigeasywing.org indicating that you can bring an item needed

	Number needed			
Tables				
Registration/Sign-In	2			
Activities	4			
Modelers Tables	2			
Food Service	2			
Eating, etc	4			
Total	14	Cando – 2 Clausing -2	Hanger has 3	
Folding Chairs	20	Jim Buchler	Has 20	
Set- Up plastic-ware/napkins/plates	100 people			
Food items and cooking supplies	2	Kevin		
Port-o-Potty	1	Olson is checking on this		
Walkie Talkie Radios	3	Cando - 3		
Airband Radios	2	Cantin, Capo		
Signs – Food	4	Colomb is working on this		
Sign in forms for registration/pilots/ tower	3	Daggett		

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 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 can meet at 10 am at Clearview by the front of Sears parking area and we can carpool/travel together. We should arrive in Houma around 11AM. Charlie Hammond will be cooking us a lunch. He will set up his hangar with tables and chairs. A tour of his very interesting personal museum full of aviation artifacts is on the agenda. This will be a great opportunity to get to know one another better while meeting other aviation enthusiasts. All family members from age 12 and older are invited to attend.

There are 21 people who signed up to go —Allen (2) Bill Triay (2) Clausing (2) David Capo (2) Jeff Segner, Terry Clausing, Richie Gray, Kevin Duxworth (4) Olson (2), Austin Wood, Richard Wood, Moreau (2) If you did not sign-up but you would like to go, just let me know. Donald Allen (donalda28@hotmail.com)



Contact us:
info@bigeasywing.org



Hangar Open House —Volunteers Needed

Please help us have a great Open House. You can do this by volunteering, joining us, by sharing our social media page and talking about it with your fellow aviation enthusiasts. If you are on FB or Instagram please like and share. We will have a sign up sheet at the Hammond meeting. If you know anyone that would like to be a sponsor for this event, please give them this email. info@bigeasywing.org

	Needed	Person In charge	
Cooking, food setup, serving	3	Kevin	Dawn
Drinks (drink will be given @ lunch with meal purchased and then water/drinks will be sold if not a signed-up volunteer)	2	Glenn M	
Parking cars, Gate guard	3		
Marshalling aircraft	2	Cantin	Allen
Youths Educational Activity	3	Jim Buchler	Woods
PX	3	Carol/Shirley	Ansel/ Clotilde
Sign-In Table, Meet n Greet	2	Shirley	
Hanger and Ramp Watch	4	Terry	
Van Driver	1	Wayne B	
Stuka Guide	1	Terry	
Tower Tour Sign up/Lead—will occur every 30 minutes starting at 10:30 only 8 per visit	2		
Stearman Guide, Ride Coordinator, Sell Rides	1		
Door Prize ticket raffle	2	Shirley	
Morning Set-UP/ perhaps Friday	5	Daggett/Cantin	
Afternoon Tear-down	5	Daggett	



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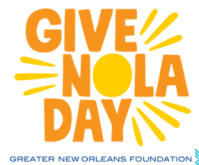


Upcoming Meetings and Events for BEW

General Membership	March 14	10 am	Hammond
Field Trip Hammond Air	March 21	10 am	Houma
BEW Open House/Gen. Membership April 4		10 am	Lakefront
General Membership	May 9	10 am	hangar
BEW Ground School (tentative)	May 23		
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

Professional Development Officer's Report-Shirley Colomb

As I mentioned last month, seeking funding sources for our Wing is a continuous responsibility of the Development officer. Coming up May 5 is Give NOLA DAY. This will be our third year participating in this event. It is an online 24-hour fundraiser to benefit regional nonprofits hosted by the Greater New Orleans Foundation. Together, let's inspire people to give generously to our Wing. There will more info about this in next month's newsletter.



TUESDAY MAY 5TH
WWW.GIVENOLA.ORG

Thanks!



The Big Easy Wing just received a box of interesting Stearman magazines, books and diagrams. It was donated by Carson Baker, a previous owner of our Stearman. He bought our Stearman from Bill Elder. Carson has sent us several items in the past and has been a good resource for the history of the Stearman which is posted on our website listed under the [Planes section –Stearman](#).



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Upcoming Events

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

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

BEW Open House April 4, 2020 Lakefront Airport

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

Arsenal of Democracy—May 8—Washington D.C.

[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

Southren Heritage Air Foundation Airshow—Oct. 16-17— Vicksburg/Tallulah Regional Airport

[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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