



Big Easy Wing

Volume 4, Issue 4

April 6, 2020

Officers:

Wing Leader

David Capo

dcapo1203@aol.com

Executive Officer

Robert Claypool

rclaypool@computercc.com

Adjutant

Harold Buchler

hbuchler@bellsouth.com

Development

Shirley Colomb

shirleycol@yahoo.com

Education

Jim Buchler

jbuchler@cox.net

Finance

Jeff Segner

espundia@aol.com

Maintenance

Terry Clausing

clautj@cox.net

Operations

JD Olson

jdolson5@gmail.com

Donald Allen

donalda28@hotmail.com

Safety

Dave Cantin

caf@cantin.org

Tentative Meeting

May 9th @ 10 AM

Lakefront Hangar



From the Left Seat

David Capo,

Hello Fellow Colonels,

These are tough times indeed. For the past few days, I have been on a number of teleconferences in discussions concerning the COVID19 virus pandemic. As of now, the CAF Big Easy Wing operations are suspended through the end of April. With that in mind, please only essential personnel are allowed in the hangar until that time. We need to remind ourselves that so many of us are in the potential susceptible category because of age and/or health issues. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

I heard from KNEW airport manager, Bruce Martin, in an email informing us that the airport is open and operating. The terminal is closed and is only accessible by appointment. Please let me know if you have business with the airport staff so I can help arrange a meeting.

Also, those of you who have KNEW badges, the gate scanner on the ATC gate (our main entrance) has been changed. Most badges we're uploaded to the new scanner, but mine did not work today. A call to Bruce (504-874-0498) will fix any issues without having to go into the office. This does not include renewals.

A national webinar was held yesterday to discuss the status of the CAF and the airshow industry as a whole. Here are a few bullet points:

1. All airshows are canceled or postponed until the end of July.
2. The AOD, Arsenal of Democracy, is postponed and perhaps will take place in many locations around the country. More plane will be invited to participate, maybe even our Stearman!
3. He urged all members to stay in touch and support each other.
4. Contact the HQ staff with any questions not addressed on the Wing level.
5. Finally, hang in there. This too shall pass.

I heartily agree!

Please, all take care!

Continued on page 3



Big Easy Wing
8550 Lloyd Stearman Dr.
New Orleans, LA 70126
Next to FAA tower

Contact us:
info@bigeasywing.org

On the web:
bigeasywing.org



Ctrl click on icon



Ctrl Click on icon



Operation Officer's Report - JD Olson

Hello to all BEW members presently hunkered down in foxholes like yours truly and Carol. For all practical purposes, we're literally fighting a war against an unseen enemy, one that's only visible when looking through a high-powered microscope.

While doing so, I can report that the staff continues planning for brighter days ahead by making sure that our two-plane air force will be "up and ready" when the All Clear is sounded enabling us to come out into the bright sunshine of Spring, if not Summer, here in the Big Easy.

For a bit of good news on the aircraft equipment side, our Chief Pilot, Jim Helms, ordered a new set of seat harnesses for our PT-19, which will be installed soon, if not already, by our trusty Maintenance Officer, Terry Clausing. With that and the recently installed ADS-B, the only thing left is to plug in a new radio and the Stearman will be ready to get back into the air once we're allowed to do so. As to when it will be available for local flights - and beyond that, the Rides program - will be up to CAF HQ in Dallas to give all of its wings and squadrons the green light to launch aircraft.

Until then, keep your heads down and don't leave your foxhole unless you need to make a supply run to the grocery store (better yet, order delivery) or other vital destination for a very good reason. You've no doubt heard recently that masks are now considered (by the CDC) an essential part of our battle gear when venturing into No Man's (and Woman's) Land. So, take care and stay well, fellow Big Easians! Heh, I just made up that last word. ;) Fly and Drive Safe, JD / 'Outlaw' out...

Membership—Shirley Colomb



It is a difficult time for all of us. We are experiencing something that I know none of us could have ever conceived. So please follow the CDC guidelines and stay healthy.

We are all in this together!

There are still a few members who are past due on their yearly dues. If you are not sure you rejoined please send me an email to info@bigeasywing.org

Please go to our website and rejoin. Or, if you are coming to our *tentative May 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



COMMEMORATIVE
AIR FORCE

Big Easy Wing
8550 Lloyd Stearman Dr.
New Orleans, LA 70126
Next to FAA tower

Contact us:
info@bigeasywing.org

On the web:
bigeasywing.org



Ctrl click on icon



Ctrl Click on icon



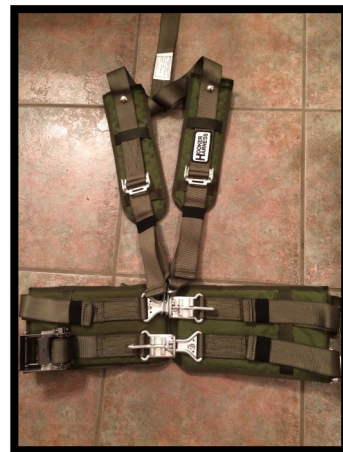
Wing Leader's Report continued from page 1

There are a lot of rumors floating around on social media. Please stay supportive our organization but also with our competitors, especially the Collings Foundation. If you did not already know, the FAA suspended the LHFE (rides program) for all of their experimental aircraft. No official reason was given, and the NTSB has not ruled on the case. The CAF has not been affected by this order so far. Please refrain from public comment or adding to any unofficial information. Call me if you have any questions.

Our planes:

As most of you know, great progress has been made with this beautiful airplane. Thanks to our Mx Officer, Terry Clausing, the Stuka is ready for flight test. We also have insurance on the plane and when our chief pilot, Jim Helms, is ready, we will commence high speed ground testing and ultimately, taking her up for the first time since 2017. I know we are all looking forward to that.

The ADS-b is being installed by Auric Avionics, owned by our own Sonny Schilleci, and we expect that along with a new transponder and radio, the plane will be first class. Terry Clausing managed to squeeze into an impossibly small space to the antenna for the transponder. if you get a chance, get him to show where he had to work inside the Stearman! Unbelievable. Thanks to Jim Helms, we now have beautiful new seat belts/harnesses. Terry will install them. Can't wait to see her fly.



Those of you who attended our last general membership meeting in Hammond in February got to tour our new facility located right next to the terminal building. The offices we will share with the Civil Air Patrol. Their leader, Dave Taylor, is excited to have us up there. Once we come out of all this virus mess, we have a lot of work to do. Fortunately, little work needs to be inside the offices



as we will no longer need to move walls. Just a little paint and some cleaning. The hangar and tower are another matter. Once we have plans, we will need many workdays to make all this happen. Stay tuned.





COMMEMORATIVE
AIR FORCE

Big Easy Wing
8550 Lloyd Stearman Dr.
New Orleans, LA 70126
Next to FAA tower

Contact us:
info@bigeasywing.org

On the web:
bigeasywing.org



Crtl click on icon



Crtl Click on icon



Safety Officer's Report-Dave Cantin

THINK SAFETY FIRST

With the current Shelter in Place order in effect this month's safety article is about safety at home. If you're cooped up at home this is a great time to catch up on those lingering chores you've been putting off. It's Spring, the weather's nice and you need something to do. That's certainly the case with me so I started doing things in the yard and soon had a list of supplies I needed. Time for a trip to my favorite hardware store, but I really don't want to leave the house. So, I started organizing my chores list for the next few weeks and came up with all the things I might need to have them delivered. If I stay a few days ahead organizing and ordering I should be ok. Many things I found from the same hardware store I frequent, I just ordered them online for delivery. Others came from out of town. But the important thing is, I didn't get leave the house, and when the items arrived, I wiped them down with disinfectant.

In addition to the usual tool safety tips, lifting precautions and having things delivered this is also a time to watch out for distractions:

While working around the house is a distraction from the current health worries, health worries are also a distraction from thinking about what you're doing. Focus on the work and don't get distracted from being safe.

The distraction of working can cause you to let your guard down and get too close to someone like a neighbor, delivery person or a relative not living with us. Don't forget social distancing.

My fear is encountering either the asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic person carrying the virus and not showing symptoms. Please, don't let your guard down and remember that when you meet someone you come in contact with everyone that person came in contact with for the last week or so.

Youth Protection Article

With the Shelter in Place order in effect in Louisiana we all probably have some free time on our hands. This is a perfect opportunity for everyone to get in compliance with the latest CAF requirement for Youth Protection. It is now a requirement for everyone in the CAF who could come in contact with a youth at a CAF event to complete a Youth Protection and Interaction Training course and a criminal background check. The training course and application for the background check are both done on line at <https://www.cafeducation.org/youth-interaction-and-protection> There's a \$14 fee for the background check with an option to have CAF pay it, but my recommendation is to pay it yourself. The cost will probably trickle back to the CAF units plus with the current crisis and air show cancellations the CAF revenue stream has completely dried up.

Once you complete the training and the background check you will receive two emails confirming the completion and also the background check. Forward both of them to me at caf@cantin.org and I'll enter them into KASTrack. If you are also a member of another wing they may want these certificates as well.

Please keep in mind, this program is not optional, it is required to participate in CAF events that could include youths and the CAF focus is to include youths in everything.



Big Easy Wing
8550 Lloyd Stearman Dr.
New Orleans, LA 70126
Next to FAA tower

Contact us:
info@bigeasywing.org

On the web:
bigeasywing.org



Ctrl click on icon



Ctrl Click on icon



Marshalling Update—Dave Cantin

Believe it or not, we were able to get one event in before everything shut down. Each year in March the CAF Tora Tora wing practice at the Conroe, Tx airport and it's the Marshalling Detachment's opportunity to also practice and dust off the winter cobwebs. The aircraft are mainly T-6s and BT-13s modified to look like Japanese fighters and usually the B-17 Texas Raider. TR was still in winter maintenance, so their Twin Beech Little Raider filled in for the practice sessions. This was a Fri/Sat practice which included some walking around the tarmac in formation discussing who does what in what sequence and then doing it in the air. There's lots of aircraft coming and going so it's a great opportunity to practice marshalling. The only inci-



dent of the event was by our fearless Marshalling Training Officer, Marty who managed to get his truck buried to the axles in mud between the runways. He was trying to help a golf cart also stuck in the mud so while his intentions were good, we did manage to shut down the main runway for several hours while he was pulled out. We plan to conduct Marshalling training at the BEW in conjunction with the Ground School as soon as this virus crisis passes. In the meantime here's a link to the Marshalling training website http://www.marshallingdetachment.org/ramp_safety

Drug Testing Update—Dave Cantin

A quick update on the drug testing program – it's officially on hold by CAF HQ as they do not want anyone going to a clinic for a test unnecessarily. All first quarter random tests were cancelled and while the second quarter names will be drawn, they will not be circulated until the virus situation is under control. I currently have application paperwork for two A&Ps and two pilots so the actual testing will go quickly once we get beyond the shelter in place order. We also have three of us qualified as Drug Supervisors including Donald Allen, David Capo and myself.

Maintenance Officer' Report— Terry Clausing

I am at the hangar at least 3 days a week. The ADS-B antenna has been mounted. The coax cables are connected. The new radio and transponder are installed and should be ready for testing next week. There is now an intercom radio which will allow for clearer communication between pilot and passenger. Once, I receive the seat belts from Jim those will be installed. The Stearman updates are finally getting completed. Besides attending to the aircraft, I have been completing general maintenance and clean up around the hangar. Looking forward to when these two birds will be up and flying. Take Care!



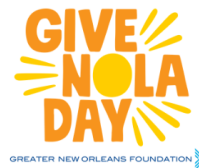
Upcoming Meetings and Events for BEW

| | | | |
|--|---------------------|-------|------------|
| <i>General Membership (Tentative)</i> | May 9 | 10 am | hangar |
| General Membership | June 13 | 10 am | hangar |
| Opelousas Fly-in (keep your fingers cross) | June 26-27 | | Opelousas |
| General Membership | July 13 | 6 pm | hangar |
| <i>FloriBama/Blue Angles(tentative)</i> | July 11 | | Pensacola |
| General Membership | August 8 | 10 am | hangar |
| General Membership | September 12 | 10 am | hangar |
| Hammond Air Show | September 19-20 | | Hammond |
| WWII Air Show | October 10-11 | | Lakefront |
| <i>New Orleans Air Show (tentative)</i> | <i>November 7-8</i> | | Bell Chase |

Professional Development Officer's Report-Shirley Colomb

The Greater New Orleans Foundation has not cancelled this event as of this time. They have many fundraising efforts going on because of COVID-19. So, as of now, Give NOLA DAY is still a scheduled event. This will be our third year participating in this event.

It is an online 24-hour fundraiser to benefit regional non-profits hosted by the Greater New Orleans Foundation. Together, let's inspire people to give generously to our Wing. There will more info about this sent through emails.



TUESDAY MAY 5TH
WWW.GIVENOLA.ORG

St. Landry Parish Fly-In and Warbird Expo —David Cantin

The Warbird expo in Opelousas is still on schedule for June 26-28 so it's time to start working on the details for our wing's first road trip with our favorite biplane. We'll be attending in conjunction with the CAF Gulf Coast Wing and their B-17 and Twin Beech. There's a good chance the SB2C Helldiver from the West Texas Wing will also be there. At this point I need a list of who's interested in working the event. We'll need to arrive early Friday morning and return Sunday evening. We'll be selling rides on the Stearman and will have the PX tent open so there's opportunities for several to participate. If you're interested in participating please email me at caf@cantin.org. I realize there's a good chance it will be postponed but, in the meantime, we're proceeding with planning and will revisit everyone's availability if a new date is announced.

Here's a link to the event. <https://b17texasraiders.org/index.php/b-17-flight?id=344>



Big Easy Wing
8550 Lloyd Stearman Dr.
New Orleans, LA 70126



Upcoming Events

Opelousas Fly-in—June 26-27—Opelousas

[Thunder Over Ceder Creek—July 2—Tyler Texas](#)

[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

[Arsenal of Democracy](#) —September 24-25—Washington DC

[Stearman Flyin](#)– October 1-4– Jennings, LA

WWII AirShow —Lakefront — October 9-11

[Wings over Houston](#)—October 9-11-Houston, TX

[Southren Heritage Air Foundation Airshow](#)—Oct. 16-17— Vicksburg/Tallulah Regional Airport

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

Wings over Dallas—Oct. 23-25—Dallas TX

[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>.



Big Easy Wing
8550 Lloyd Stearman Dr.
New Orleans, LA 70126

