



Big Easy Wing

Volume 4, Issue 5

May 5, 2020

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Tentative Meeting

May 23rd @ 10 AM

Lakefront Hangar

From the Left Seat

David Capo,

Here we go again!

In case you have been living under a rock (quite likely these days) you may not have heard about the amazing Spirit Flights held over New Orleans on Good Friday, April 10. The Big Easy Wing flew two, as the media dubbed them, "so called" Spirit Flights over the city and surrounds to celebrate Holy Week as most of the metro area was shut in because of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

When I first thought of doing these flights, I

approached the BEW wing staff who for the most part was supportive. A couple of them thought I lost my mind because the idea seemed almost like a joke... a priest, a rabbi and a pilot get in a plane... you can add your own punch line. After some skepticism, we moved forward. Headquarters in Dallas (including CEO Hank Coates) were all supportive as were the two clergy who flew that day,

Archbishop Gregory Aymond and Rabbi Alexis "Lexi" Erdheim of Congregation Gates of Prayer. The aircraft, our vintage PT-17 Stearman was prepped and readied to fly as were the two amazing pilots, Jim Helms and Jim Shaw. The weather was almost perfect despite some light gusts at times. Thanks to our terrific Mx Officer, Terry Clausing and Auric Avionics owner and BEW member, Sonny Schilleci, the plane was in tip top shape and ready for duty.



The lead up to the event was also something to behold. Thanks to our tireless and amazing Public Information Officer (PIO), Shirley Colomb, the word of this event got out quickly. By Thursday afternoon, I had done almost twenty interviews with local media including radio, print and TV. By the time the flights took place it was the lead news story in town and before we knew it, the story had gone national and even international. Way to go Shirley. One of her contacts was Charles Marsala, a local media specialist who had unfettered access to the event. The result was an amazing short video that is a must see for all of us in the Big Easy Wing. Thanks to Shirley, the video is on the web site and our Facebook page.

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COMMEMORATIVE
AIR FORCE

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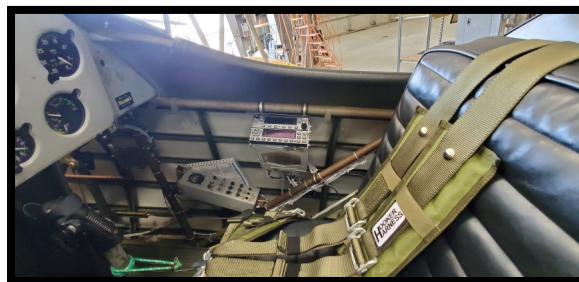
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Operation Officer's Report - JD Olson

Greetings from Outlaw's Hideaway, the tongue-in-cheek name of Colonel Carol's and my COVID-19 foxhole. While we all anxiously await the Governor's announcement that it is at least kinda-sorta safe to crawl out of our shelters, we look for any tidbit of good news to brighten our day. And lo and behold, we have some to share...actually, a bit more than some.

First, our "New Orleans Lady" biplane, the PT-17 Stearman, has finally gotten its long awaited cockpit upgrade - a new radio/intercom suite (that actually works without static killing attempted voice communications!) and the ADS-B (*) that greatly increases safety of flight by allowing Air Traffic Control to precisely track the plane's flight and keep it clear of other aircraft. The icing on the cake is the new set of seat harnesses that greatly improve comfort, safety and ease-of-use for pilots and passenger alike. It will also make it much easier and quicker for our trained volunteers to strap in paying customers during our upcoming Rides program.



Speaking of that, we finally have long-awaited official word that the "Lady" now has its Letter of Authorization (LOA) required by the FAA and signed off by CAF headquarters that's necessary for it to be allowed to carry paying passengers. That comes, however, with a kicker, albeit one that is fully understood by our Wing Leader and the BEW staff as absolutely necessary in order to do this right. As I'm sure our Safety Officer will point out in detail, it means that no work is allowed on the aircraft and no rides for hire will be flown until our Maintenance Officer (and any helpers that may lend him a hand) and our current PT-17 aviators, our Chief Pilot Jim 'Batman' Helms and our very experienced (since age 16) Stearman pilot Jim Shaw, are tested in the drug and alcohol program required by the LOA. It's expected that all these fine gentlemen will pass the upcoming tests with flying colors.

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Membership—Shirley Colomb

We are all in this together! Welcome to our newest member, Rhonda Venet. Thanks to Donald Allen for bring her onboard.

Please go to our website and rejoin if you have not. Or, if you are coming to our *May23 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



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Wing Leader's Report continued from page 1

There were so many folks to thank for making this happen like our OPs Officer JD Olsen who came out and supervised the activities from a safe distance. Dave Cantin, (Safety Officer) Jeff Segner (Finance), Robert Claypool (XO), Harold Buchler (Adjutant) and so many others were there in spirit. It was great way to introduce the Big Easy Wing to New Orleans and at the same time, give a little joy to so many who are hurting right now. As I sat on the ground monitoring the two flights on my mobile flight tracker, I was reminded of how far the wing has come in the short three years it has existed. I am so grateful to be a part of something as special as The Big Easy Wing.



On another note, two weeks ago BEW member and generous donor, Bill Triay brought home his amazing Stearman. You may remember that in the fall of 2018, Bill had a difficult landing at Lakefront Airport resulting in significant damage to his airplane. The Stearman was in our hangar until we helped dismantle the craft for trucking to a repair facility in north Mississippi. Well, she is back in our hangar looking good as new.

On a recent beautiful Tuesday morning, Bill offered this unit leader a ride in his amazing airplane. Dubbed "experimental" due to its engine (435 hsp), almost double our Stearman's power, the airplane is really only meant to be flown by someone who can handle it. Bill calls it "The Beast", and boy is he not kidding. The airplane rocketed off the runway and blew out over New Orleans (the practice area) and soared like no other Stearman I have been in (I've flown in two others). The first sensation one notices (besides the speed) is the vibration. Riding in The Beast is like sitting atop a machine gun. What a sensation. When Bill executed a touch and go on runway 36R, we came over the fence at above 100 mph! Hoowee! What a ride! My video of the ride will be shown at our general membership meeting on May 23. See you then!

Operation Officer's Report continued from page 2

I will end this by making a pitch on behalf of a future Stearman pilot who will soon enter into training, Ben (F-15 callsign 'Evil') Cook, to acquire a pneumatic (vs the current hard rubber) tailwheel which will add greatly to a more comfortable ride in taxiing, taking off and landing this venerable biplane. And last, we anticipate getting a long-anticipated local test flight on our Langhurst Stuka in the coming month or so which will be the first time back in the air for this homebuilt experimental aircraft in the nearly two years since it arrived disassembled on a flatbed at the BEW hangar in the early summer of 2018. With that, and as always, I will sign off with...

Fly (and drive) safe, JD / 'Outlaw' out (*) Automatic Dependence Surveillance - Broadcast. For anyone who likes to see acronyms spelled out, there you have it.



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Professional Development—Shirley Colomb

The Big Easy Wing hopes that you and your family are doing well in these uncertain times. We want to let you know that we appreciate your membership and your continued support.

Like in previous years, we will be participating in www.GiveNOLA.org. While we have been forced to cancel many gatherings and events, the Big Easy Wing supported our community through a special flight. Our first 2020 flight was an *inspirational mission* to unite the city spiritually. On April 10, Archbishop Aymond and then Rabbi Erdheim inspired the city by offering a “Blessing from Above.” Our “Spirit Flight” united a city in crisis with a moment of happiness.



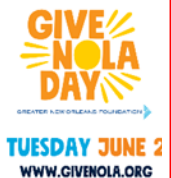
Today people around the world are supporting the nonprofits they love the most. Last year, thanks to your generous donations we raised hundreds of dollars during the 24-hour GiveNOLA Day. We are thrilled to share with you that we will be participating again. Give NOLA Day is more than a 24-hour fundraiser this year. You can begin your donations starting on May 5, Giving Tuesday.

We had hoped to introduce the Big Easy Wing to the community at our first Hangar Open House which was scheduled for April 4. But our first major aviation event was cancelled due to Coronavirus. The Big Easy Wing aircraft and artifacts tell an important story of the Greatest Generation. We are committed to ensuring those men and women and the planes are never forgotten. Our 1943 Stearman known as “New Orleans Lady” was instrumental in the training of WWII pilots. Over the past year, she has undergone extensive repairs to meet the 2020 FAA regulations and CAF requirements. We are seeking donations to offset those costs. We are also looking at holding an event on June 2 to support GiveNOLA Day nonprofits. More info on that as things develop.

How can YOU help us?

1. Mark May 5 #Giving Tuesday and June 2, [GiveNOLA](http://www.GiveNOLA.org) Day on your calendar and support CAF Big Easy Wing.
2. Donate to the Big Easy Wing by going to www.GiveNOLA.org and typing in Big Easy Wing as your organization. Your gift, no matter how big or small, will help sustain our operations (like fuel) so that “New Orleans Lady” can soar the skies, again.
3. Help spread the word! Encourage your friends and family to explore www.bigeasywing.org to learn more about us.
4. Like our [Facebook](#) page and [Instagram](#) page and encourage others.

We will begin our fundraising endeavors on #GivingTuesdayNow, which is May 5. Our fundraising will continue through June 2. The emphasis of the fundraising will take place from 12:00:01 a.m. to 11:59:59 p.m. central time on June 2, 2020. *All donations must be made online at www.GiveNOLA.org. Please type in Big Easy Wing in the “Find Organization” box and DONATE.* Yes, we know it is a difficult time and a different normal. But you are involved because you believe in the CAF mission. After this pandemic, we know you will want the Big Easy Wing thriving and a part of this community. We are grateful for your support.





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Safety Officer's Report-Dave Cantin

**THINK
SAFETY
FIRST**

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.

Youth Protection Article

Last month I included an article in the newsletter about the CAF Youth Protection program and would like to reiterate it again this month. In order to participate in any CAF event or in any event the BEW participates in you must complete this training and have the background check. The website to take the course and background check is [https:// www.cafeducation.org/youth-interaction-and-protection](https://www.cafeducation.org/youth-interaction-and-protection) Once you've completed this please send the completion email you will receive for each part to caf@cantin.org. With the shelter in place order in effect this is a perfect time to do this.

Opelousas Warbird Expo

This is still on schedule for June 26-28 so we're proceeding with the planning. We have several people signed up to go but there's always room for more plus it should be a fun event with the B-17 and Helldiver attending so regardless of whether you want to work the show or just watch please come. I'd like to keep a list of names of those working and those watching so please drop me an email and let me know at caf@cantin.org. This is our first road show so come support the BEW! <https://b17texasraiders.org/index.php/b-17-flight?id=344>

Mindfulness Challenge—Shirley Colomb

We have added something new to our newsletter. And, I hope it is something that you will enjoy as well as your family. I started creating puzzles thinking that we could use them at our Open House which of course did not take place. My original puzzles were more kid oriented. But speaking to Dave Cantin, we decided that it may be something that we could offer our membership especially since so many of us are at home.

I have included 2 types of puzzles—word search and crossword. Please let me know if you, our members or our BEW friends, enjoy having this addition to our newsletter. We found a website that creates the puzzles but the questions and answers for the crossword puzzle are developed through our research. And, will probably require you to interact with Google to find some answers.

Please send me a yes if you would like us to continue making the puzzles. And send me an email with your name if you are interested in joining Cantin and I in making them. The answer to this crossword puzzle will be in next months newsletter. Enjoy the Challenge and have Fun!

WWII Aircraft

L M S S S B E Q S S E L T N U A D F M M U D X
 S I W K P O P A N I L A T A C A O A K U T S M
 N L G T D I I L S S E R T R O F G N I Y L F I
 I Y B H S E T X W P J S Y V Q Q W V D O B Q T
 O M S U T T V F H O Y J I C K X A T V R C R C
 R U Z N P E M A I B R O O C O O R A A E X E H
 N S C D Q L N U S R K L B C G S H C R V T D E
 A T O E Z D O I Z T E U D W B O A L Z I Y U L
 M A R R F X V P N A A O F W W I W L L D P A L
 R N S B R B G G K G C T H I A T K E N L L R S
 A G A O L T Q P C E G N O D W R V H Y L A A R
 E V I L L I B E R A T O R R G E I V A E N M E
 T L R T S R N F V D G Q W C S I H I A H E O K
 S C R V D Q X B C S U P E R F O R T R E S S N
 M E S S E R S C H M I T T C T F A R C R I A U
 Z U I R Q W G W W A R H A W K S O Q O R E Z J

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden ↑ ↓ → ← and ↘ .

AIRCRAFT
 CATALINA
 CORSAIR
 DAUNTLESS
 DEVASTATORS
 FLYINGFORTRESS
 HELLCAT
 HELLDIVER

JUNKERS
 LIBERATOR
 LIGHTENING
 MARAUDER
 MESSERSCHMITT
 MITCHELL
 MUSTANG
 PLANES

SPITFIRE
 STEARMAN
 STUKA
 SUPERFORTRESS
 THUNDERBOLT
 WARHAWK
 WARHAWKS
 WORLDWARII

ZERO



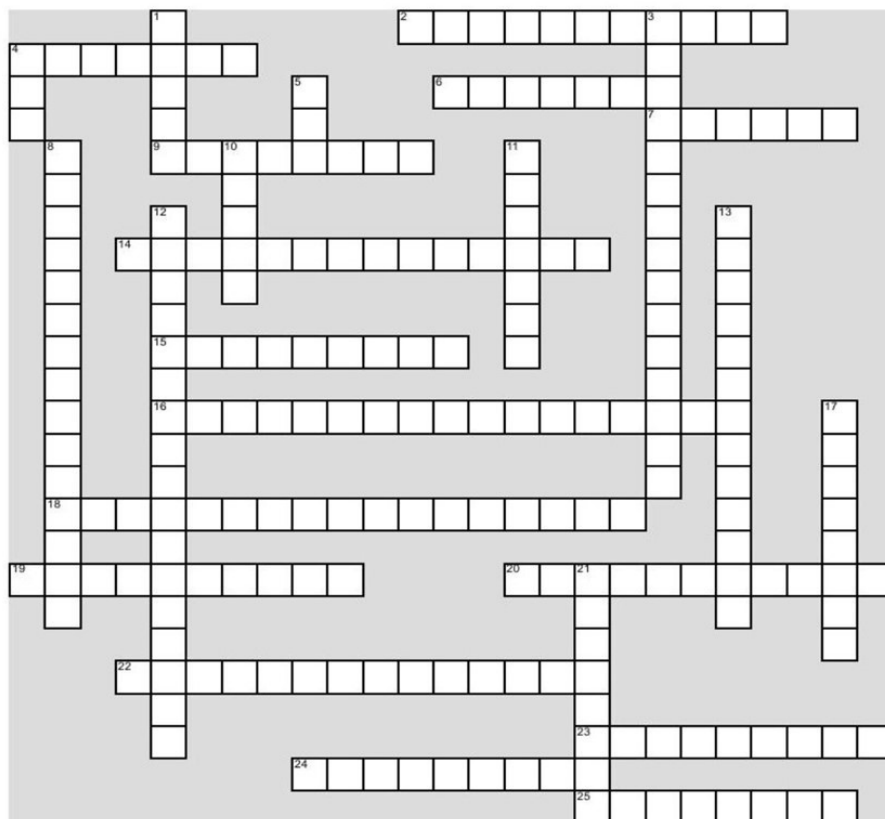
CAF-BEW Word Search Puzzle 1 —
WWII Aircraft



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Educational Crossword Puzzle– 1 WWII Aircraft History



Across

- 2 Rosie the Riveter worked on this aircraft
- 4 What country made the Spitfire
- 6 Also known as "Bent-wing Bird."
- 7 There is a museum dedicated to General Chennault in
- 9 The name of the group of black airmen
- 14 This type of engine was in the P-51
- 15 The Hellcat was nicknamed
- 16 Chennault's American Volunteer Group was popularly known as
- 18 The most expensive military project of World War Two was
- 19 General Chennault's name is
- 20 The first monoplanes to fly from U.S. carrier decks
- 22 What president flew an Avenger in war.
- 23 Name of aircraft that dropped the Atomic bomb on Hiroshima
- 24 The Curtiss dive bomber was know as
- 25 A primary trainer for the military was the

Down

- 1 Hellcat emerged as the preferred _____ fighter
- 3 The most famous Rosie appearing in the Post was painted by
- 4 This plane was built more than any other American airplane
- 5 Name given to a great pilot
- 8 This plane had the ability to throw 7,200 rounds of lead per minute!
- 10 The German dive bomber
- 11 What aircraft was built specifically to counter the Japanese Zero?
- 12 Developing the atom bomb is known as the
- 13 Name given to one of the B17
- 17 Grumman, Boeing, Douglas and Packard were instrumental in _____ design
- 21 Types of aircraft in WWII include transports, bombers, trainers and

CAF-BEW Crossword Puzzle 1—WWII History

April 2020

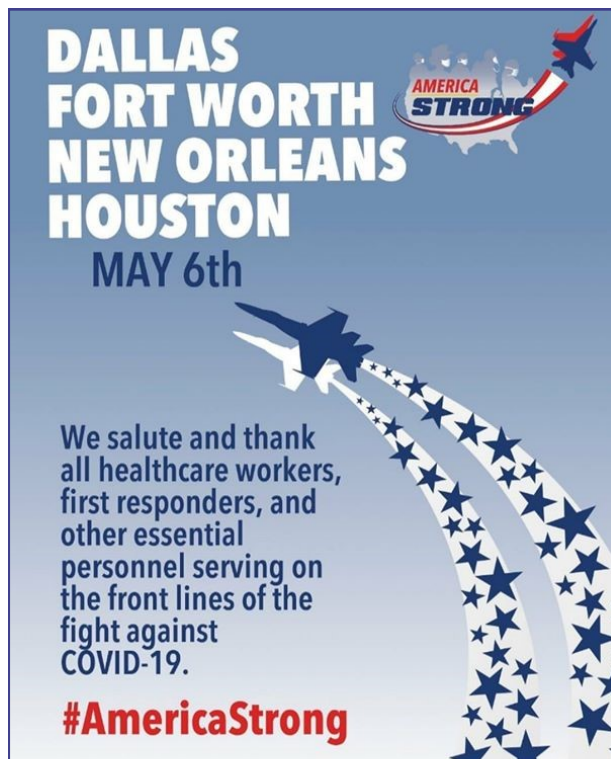


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Upcoming Meetings and Events for BEW

<i>General Membership (Tentative)</i>	May 23	10 am	hangar
General Membership	June 13	10 am	hangar
Opelousas Fly-in	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



Timeline is set for 1:30 pm. Flight plan should be out tomorrow.



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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](#)

[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>.



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