



Big Easy Wing

Volume 4, Issue 7

July 7, 2020

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Meeting

July 18 @ 10 AM

Lakefront Hangar



From the Left Seat

David Capo,

Our first event as a flying unit was a Tremendous Success

June 26-28, 2020 – 21 members of the Big Easy Wing drove and flew to the Warbird Fly-in held at the beautiful St. Landry Parish Airport that weekend. We had Px personnel, marshaling folks, Loadmasters, and of course, pilots. Everyone had a blast despite the oppressive heat.

We were joined at this event by the wonderful folks of the Gulf Coast Wing (GCW) located in Conroe, TX. They flew their new C-45, *Little Raider* and their giant B-17, *Texas Raiders*, over for the fly-in. They were most gracious hosts. They were excited to see us sell our first revenue ride ever! Also, the leaders of the GCW invited eight of our members to fly on both of their aircraft. Way cool. Thank you GCW.

We sold twelve rides! Keep in mind, this was our first revenue event and we sold that many rides. We sold out for Saturday and Sunday! Our rides salesman, Austin Woods, was a selling machine. He sat at the desk and smiled his way into BEW history with all those sold rides. Way to go Austin!

Our rides pilot for the entire weekend was Jim Shaw. Is that guy a trouper! He sat in the plane all day both days and flew and flew. His passengers really enjoyed flying with him. He never complained of being the slightest bit tired even though your wing leader was worried. Not a problem, Jim really seemed to be happiest when in the air.

Our Px leader, Shirley Colomb and her merry band of salesmen sold out of virtually everything. That is no small feat.

We had loads of merchandise available (almost too much) but sales were great. Thank you to all who worked the tent. By the way, we have just purchased another tent to handle our ever-growing operations.

On Saturday night, all of the attending crews were treated to a fabulous steak dinner at the spectacular home and private airport (3000' grass strip) called Red Oak.

Continues on page 3





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Operation Officer's Report - JD Olson

Well, as everyone knows by now, we've had one heck of a busy last six weeks starting with the training and checkout of our newest fully qualified N2S Stearman pilot - Ben Cook, callsign 'Evil' when flying the F-15C Eagle fighter for the L.A.N.G. An added bonus was that Ben graciously allowed BEW members - primarily available Stearman Aircraft Sponsors, followed by deserving BEW staff members who deserved a treat for the hard work they do - to fly with him as he built up the flight time needed to qualify as a CAF Rides Pilot. Back to Ben in a moment.

The next significant event was preparing for and executing the Opelousas Week-end. Credit goes to our Safety Officer, Dave Cantin, for volunteering to act as the overall coordinator for this event using his membership in another CAF unit, the Gulf Coast Wing (aka "The Texas Raiders") who scheduled the weekend and invited us to participate with them. Well done, Dave. And kudos to Ben for flying the N2 over to Opelousas (giving him the last of the hours needed to become a Rides Pilot, and to Jim Shaw who went "above and beyond" as BEW's designated Rides Pilot flying numerous sorties each day. Others who earned accolades for their contributions are Austin Wood who did a great job selling rides, and of course, Shirley and all who helped her with our PX and assisting in taking credit card numbers and cash from those who purchased rides.

For my part, since I was under doctor's orders not to go into crowds, I developed a course of instruction for members who, once they attended one of the two classes I conducted and then demonstrated their acquired knowledge in safely placing a passenger into the front cockpit of "New Orleans Lady" and strapping them in, became fully qualified Loadmasters. A certificate acknowledging that will be given to them soon and a copy will be placed in their files in KAStack. Those qualified to date are Rick Kiser, Robert Claypool, Rick Wood, Jeff Segner and Karl Shearer, with two others soon to complete the last part of their check-out.

The first four named above made the trip to Opelousas and greatly helped in the many rides given in the course of those three days, while Rick Wood and Karl helped out the following weekend and all did a truly great job.

Speaking of which, this past Friday and Saturday really put the spotlight on the Big Easy Wing in terms of flying Medical Professionals and First Responders as a means of thanking them for their unselfish service, one of whom participated in CAF's United We Fly at noon on the 4th of July. Ben flew all four of those sorties - one of which was a paid flight taken by Shirley and Don's sister-in-law - and all of the passengers came back with a huge smile and a big thumbs up for the cameras.

I will note that our Chief Pilot, Jim 'Batman' Helms, did his part in the United We Fly event by flying his RV-8 on a route covering much of the Northshore at the same time Ben was covering the Greater New Orleans area on the south. Also, BEW member Bill Triay flew his own Stearman over Eastern New Orleans that day and gave rides to other BEW members, including yours truly who enjoyed the 'hop' very much...many thanks, Bill. Thanks go as well to Charles Marsala for filming and conducting post-flight interviews with the participants. His professional touch made for a memorable ending for each of them.

Well, since Shirley is pinging me with texts telling me my time is up and that I'd better meet her deadline, I will now, as always, sign off with...
Fly (and drive) safe, JD / Outlaw



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Wing Leader's Report continued from page 1

The scene was beautiful with the ramp loaded with vintage warbirds including out Stearman. The plane was flown over by Jim Shaw with Shirley in the front seat on her first ever ride in the *N'awlins Lady*. All in all, a beautiful night.

Our next event will be in September at the big airshow in Hammond. Stay tuned.

United We Fly – 4th of July

July 3-4, 2020 – The Big Easy Wing joined in the national effort to celebrate our nation's birthday by participating in the Commemorative Air Force's nationwide fly-over. The event included over 40 warbirds from thirteen cities around the country. The plan was for all the warbirds to be in the air at the same time on July 4th. That time was twelve noon CDT from coast to coast.

The Big Easy Wing did it up in a very special way. First, we flew with first responders on board. See last month's issue of our newsletter to learn about these neat people. Also, we flew on two days, Friday (3rd) and Saturday (4th). We did this for maximum media coverage. It worked. We were on all local TV stations except one. Really good showing for a holiday weekend.

Thank you to Shirley Colomb and Charles Marsala for their tremendous effort in getting the word out to the media about these flights. Charles was also on hand (in his purple BEW shirt) to record the entire event from start to finish. His interviews can be found on You-Tube.

On Saturday, the BEW had four aircraft in the air for the event. On the South-shore, Ben Cook flew our Stearman, *N'awlins Lady*, with the first responders on board while Bill Triay flew his Stearman on four flights with several BEW members on board. His airplane, lovingly dubbed *The Beast*, flew East while our plane went South and West over the city in a preplanned flight pattern. On the Northshore, Jim Helms flew his RV-8's in an East-West pattern from Hammond to Slidell and back, with smoke on over the populated areas. All of our planes were in the air at noon on the 4th.

So, both bases in New Orleans and Hammond for the Big Easy wing were well represented for the 4th of July flyover. Way to BEW!

Safety Officer's Report-Dave Cantin

Child Protection Program Reminder

If you haven't done so please take the child protection on line class, test and background check. It's required to participate in any CAF event. The website to do all of this is below. When you're finished just email me at caf@cantin.org and tell me so. This is for your protection as well as for our cadets and other minors who attend our events.

<https://www.cafeducation.org/youth-interaction-and-protection>



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Safety Officer's Report-Dave Cantin



Part way through our great warbird weekend in Opelousas it dawned on me that very few if any BEW members have actually worked an airshow where you have an aircraft participating in the event. We've had a PX at some shows but that's it. So it seems appropriate to cover ramp safety and ramp management for this month's article.

Ramps at an event are either "Open" for the public to walk around the aircraft or they are "Hot", meaning engines can be started and aircraft taxied. When the ramp is open the danger is the public to the aircraft, meaning we need to protect the Stearman from probing hands, parents setting kids on the wing for a photo, etc. That just takes a couple of us hanging around the aircraft answering questions and doing guard duty. We also have to make sure they stay within the confines of the "open ramp" and not wonder onto a taxiway. Rope lines usually mark this off but sometimes as in Opelousas a few traffic cones marked off the open ramp.

Another open ramp situation is aircraft refueling. There's nothing wrong with refueling an aircraft while the ramp is open, but we must move all spectators back 50ft from the fueling operation. This is one of the most frequently broken rules that I've seen and we as crew members should help enforce it.

When the ramp is Hot it's another story. Once the ramp is cleared of all spectators, only what's called "essential personnel" (EP) are allowed on the ramp. This includes the pilot, a mechanic if necessary and Marshalls. Passengers must be escorted to the aircraft by a member of the crew, buckled in their seat and then the crew members must return behind the rope/fence line. No one else may be on the ramp unless escorted by a Marshall. Exceptions are made for professional photographers, but they too should be escorted and under the supervision of a Marshall. For events and airshows these are the distances to remember are:

- 1) Spectators behind a rope/fence line to a running engine – 50'
- 2) Spectators not protected by a rope/fence line to a running engine – 100'
- 3) Spectators to a helicopter blade turning – 200'
- 4) Spectators to a refueling operation – 50'

As we move forward as an active flying wing let's be aware of ramp safety and help each other enforce it.

Membership—Shirley Colomb

Welcome our newest member Len Root of the B17. He is from Keller, TX.



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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St. Landry/Opelousas Warbird Fly-in — Dave Cantin

It's official, the Big Easy Wing participated in its first away flying event the end of June and did it with a bang! I believe it took everyone who attended a couple days to come down to earth, both from exhilaration and exhaustion.



Friday started off with a low ceiling so while the rest of us arrived on schedule and started setting up the BEW tent Ben Cook and Jeff Segner were stuck in New Orleans waiting for the weather to improve. It finally did and as I recall they were only a couple hours late. The event really started at 6pm when the gates opened and by sunset we already had a couple Stearman rides under our belts. With the gate open until 10pm and a band playing at 8 we were there quite late and finally moved the Stearman to a hanger when the band started and locked things down.

The gate opened fairly early on Saturday and by 10am Jim Shaw, who took over Stearman pilot duties for Ben, was taking his first passenger up and didn't stop much until his last ride at 4. Jim had very little free time Saturday and Sunday flying many paying rides plus a couple free ones. That also kept the Loadmasters hopping. For several flights Jim simply stayed in the Stearman as passengers were swapped out. PX was just as busy. The highlight of the weekend was Saturday's dinner hosted for event participants at the private home/hanger of Shannon Elliott. Great BBQ and mixing with the other crews and organizers around a collection of old and new aircraft was the perfect venue. Jim Shaw and Shirley Colomb made a spectacular grand appearance flying the Stearman over and leaving it for the night.



This was also a great opportunity for those interested in marshalling to get some hands on training. Wayne Breaux, Richard Gray and Jeff Segner all did this with instructions from two CAF Marshallers there with the B-17 crew, Gary Herzog and Marty Huvar. We ended up having more traffic on the ramp than expected so this was good training for them.

All in all a great weekend. Thanks to everyone who attended and helped, you all made this happen.

All in all a great weekend. Thanks to everyone who attended and helped, you all made this happen.

Development Officer– Shirley Colomb

As Capo stated in his article, the honor flights was a tremendous success in community relations and in PR. Thanks to everyone involved. As you know these flights were incorporated into the CAF national initiative, United We Fly. I have included links to our Coverage with photos on last page of this newsletter.

Rides Coordinator– Austin Wood

As many of you may know, the Opelousas fly-in was the Big Easy Wing's very first event featuring paid rides in our Stearman. It was a fantastic weekend with a total of twelve flights sold, plus two free flights.

The reactions from the passengers were unanimously positive, with several raving about how fun the ride was. At least one was reiterating how the trip to the fly-in was a spur-of-the-moment decision, and the ride in the Stearman was the highlight of his trip.

Riders received a lanyard allowing them access to the ramp and our aircraft for the flight, which they were allowed to keep, as well as a folder with contents including a ride certificate, a summary of the history of the Stearman as well as ours, and information about the CAF and the BEW. The inclusion of these extra souvenirs certainly made their experience richer.



Twelve rides in total were sold, four through the Gulf Coast Wing, and eight through the rides tent. Of these twelve, five were thirty-minute flights, and the remaining seven were twenty-minute flights.

All-told, it was a very successful weekend for the BEW, and incredibly fun for all involved. Thank you to everyone for their involvement and help over the weekend.

PX Report—Shirley Colomb

Thanks to all of the PX helpers. Glenn handled all the tent supplies and set up with assistance from members. Both Donald's, a new member, Warren Spears and Tom Slack helped with sales. We brought a lot of stuff but I am glad we had it because we sold out of most toy items. We collected \$654.00 in charges and \$1010 in cash sales. For a small show, we made the sales. The plexiglass container that Wayne made worked well.



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Upcoming Events

[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

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

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

[Wings over Dallas](#)—Oct. 23-25—Dallas TX

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

<https://commemorativeairforce.org/events/206> Corsicana Airshow – Nov 7, 2020



Upcoming Meetings and Events for BEW

General Membership	July 18	10 am	hangar
General Membership	August 8	10 am	hangar
General Membership	September 12	10 am	hangar
Hammond Air Show	September 19-20		Hammond

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

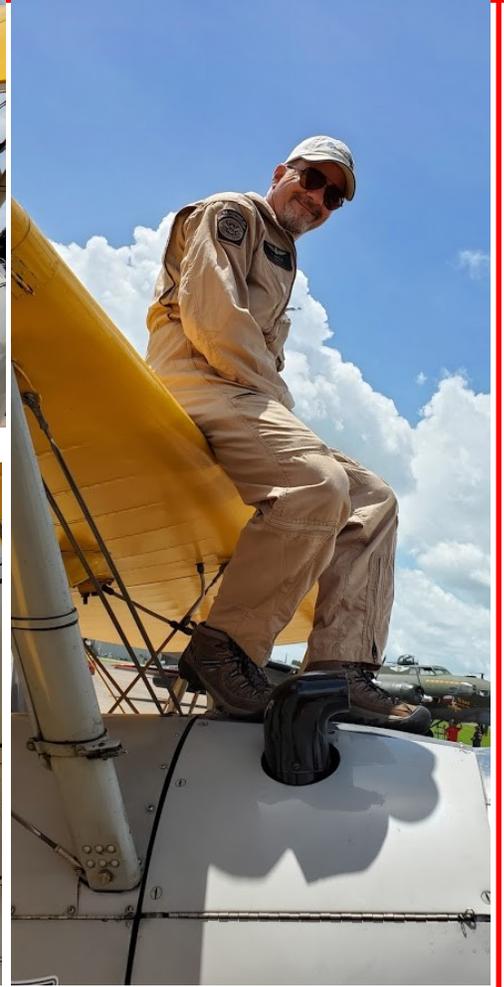
First, choose your weapon! I suggest using the Edge, Chrome, or Firefox Browser. Internet Explorer users will find many websites do not render correctly, KAStrack included. Our KAStrack website is located at <http://cafbew.kastrack.com>.



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Opalousas Show Photo



Nancy of the B17



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Photos continued



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Saturdays Honor Flight

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNCY_AknGRU&list=PL0dnIqTYbMMpfsbTDiVonI0DP4FMF8TZQ&index=4



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Big Easy Wing & United we Fly First Responder Staff Sergeant Schentrel Dillon of New Orleans



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