



Big Easy Wing

Volume 5, Issue 7

July 8, 2021

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Membership Meeting

July 14th @ 6 pm
Lakefront Hangar

From the Left Seat

David Capo, Unit Leader



Greetings!

July 4, 2021 – Alan Brooks, Chairman of the CAF Air Power History Museum, visited New Orleans over the July 4th holiday and was able to visit with your unit leader for a day. His appearance was unplanned and spontaneous however very welcome. We had a chance to socialize and discussed a great many issues surrounding the CAF, aircraft, current events, and the Big Easy Wing (BEW). He also had a chance to tour the hangar, look over our aircraft fleet and the beautiful additions to the facility.

Alan is and has always been a good friend and ally to the BEW. It was a pleasure hosting him for the day. I was so sorry that we were not flying for the July 4th holiday as we did last year. It would have been amazing for him to meet all of you. He has enjoyed getting to know some of us at the annual Wing Staff Conference in Dallas and he is looking forward to the event returning to “in person” status next year. So am I!

The Air Power History Museum is one of the four companies that make up the national organization known as The Commemorative Air Force. The museum is the actual owner of all CAF aircraft and Alan chairs the museum’s board of directors. He is a walking encyclopedia of information on warbirds. I do not think there is a single WWII aircraft hull in existence today that he does not know about! He is a joy to visit with and I hope you all have the opportunity to meet him soon.



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Operation Officer—Mike “Hansel” Scott



Greetings Big Easy Wing!

I hope your summer is treating you well and you all had a great Independence Weekend. We had a great event in Stennis, MS on June 26th. Big thanks once again to Phil Webb for coming in to fly rides that day!

Our biggest challenge and limiting factor to the pilot group continues to be having more than one option for a local instructor pilot. In the near term, we are pursuing every avenue to get our squadron IP current again so that we can continue to maintain and grow our pilot fleet. The long-term solution will be to have more than one local Stearman IP, so that is what we will continue to strive for. We will continue to fly the Stearman when pilot availability and weather permits, and I want to make sure that anyone who has paid to sponsor the airplane has gotten a chance to go flying in it.

Work continues on the Stuka replica- Terry Clausing has finally solved the wire harness issue that had plagued the airplane for a while on engine run-ups. The plane will require some more work and a conditional inspection (an annual for experimental aircraft) in order to be able to take to the skies again. Stay tuned.

Fly safe!

Unit Officer Report continues

Stennis Fly-in a Big Success— Last month, roughly a dozen BEW members travelled to Stennis International Airport to participate in an EAA Young Eagles Fly-in. We had our Px tent and of course, our Stearman, flying. The weather was picture perfect for us, even if it was raining almost everywhere else. Aside from an occasional gust of wind, the day went magnificently.

Once again, we must thank our savior in a flight suit, Phil Webb, Unit Leader of the FloraBama Group, for flying our Stearman. This is the second event he has flown for us, and we are so grateful for his amazing service. Of course, he really enjoys flying for us and we are so happy to host him. We hope to go to Pensacola later this year to support his unit and their event surrounding the U.S. Navy Blue Angels Homecoming.

Thanks to everyone who participated including Shirley and Don Clausing, Harold Buchler, Glenn Metzler, Terry Clausing, Karl Shearer and wife Kathy, Robert Claypool, Austin Woods and Richard Howard among others. A special shoutout to Stennis Airport Director, Chance Watson for inviting us to participate. We hope to do it again next year.

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COMMEMORATIVE
AIR FORCE

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Stennis Fly-In—Shirley Colomb

We appreciate Chance Watson, Airport Director at Stennis International Airport, for thinking about the Big Easy Wing. For a first-time event at Stennis, the EAA Chapters 697 and 479 did a good job advertising the event. It proved to be an opportunity for us to showcase our educational activities. The rides sold were to people from Mississippi. Thus, the event helped us to be known in the Mississippi Gulf Coast area.

Several members participated and I would like to thank them for coming out and helping. We could not have done this without *Phil Webb*, our pilot. Thanks to Mike Scott, Operational officer, for making that happen.



We had *Karl Shearer* and *Richard Howard* serving as loadmasters. They did fantastic at instructing our passengers and getting them all strapped in.

Our safety officer, *Wayne Breaux* and our marshalls performed their jobs perfectly. *Richie Gray* was instructing *Jeff Segner* on Marshalling skills



This is the second time that our flight deck was out for educational instruction for youths. *Harold Buchler* found lots of kids who wanted to land on the flight deck.



And of course, nothing could have happened without *Terry Clausing* getting the aircraft in top shape for flight.





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Safety Officer --Wayne Breaux



Summer Greetings!

We had a really good air show in June at Stennis International Airport. Though it was only a 4 hour event, we sold rides and we all had a great time. Once again, thanks to Phil Webb for flying our Stearman.

Safety precautions were followed with Richie Gray working marshalling, Karl Shearer and Richard Howard working as loadmasters and various members on crowd control and Terry Clausung and I standing by with fire extinguisher.

I have another great safety speaker for this meeting. His name is Daniel Breaux. Hope to see you all at our next meeting on Wednesday, July 14 at 6 pm.



Unit Officer Report continues

Hammond Kicks Off A New CAF Unit -- Last month, the folks up in Hammond started their own unit in the CAF. Called **the Bayou State Escadrille**, this new unit will represent the areas of the state north of Lake Pontchartrain. Currently meeting monthly in the terminal at KHDC, Hammond Northshore Regional Airport, their next meeting will take place on Saturday, July 17 at 10:00 am. We wish them all the best going forward!

Our wing meeting will be on a Wednesday night during July and August. See you at our **evening meeting, 6pm at our hangar on Wednesday, July 14**

Membership

Welcome to our newest member *John Griffon* of Picayune, MS. We would like to welcome back as a member *Rhonda Vinet*. Glad to have you.

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](#). **Meetings are usually the 2nd Saturday of the month.**

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



PX Officer—Shirley Colomb

At the Stennis event, the PX sold several items some to adults and several to the little ones. I was surprised that more of the teenage students were not interested. Thanks to Glenn, David, Donald Allen and his wife, Wanda, and Donald Clausing for helping with set up/tear down and with sales at our PX tent.


Once again, Austin did a good job of getting all the Rides paperwork and certificates signed. Thanks, Austin!

Upcoming Events

July 10	Blue Angels Pensacola Airshow	Pensacola, FL
July 26-Aug. 8	EEA Airventure	Oskosh, NE
Oct 9-10	CAF Wings Over Houston	Houston, TX
Oct. 16-17	Hammond Air Show	Hammond, LA
Oct. 23	SHAF Warbird/Car Show	Vicksburg/Tallulah, LA
Nov. 5-6	Blue Angels Homecoming Airshow	Pensacola, FL



Upcoming Meetings

General Membership	July 14	6 pm	hangar	
General Membership	August 18	6 pm	hangar	
General Membership	September 11	10 am	hangar	
General Membership	October 9	10 am	hangar	
General Membership	November 13	10 am	hangar	
Holiday Social	December 11	5:30 pm	hangar	
				Nominations
				Elections
				Installation

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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