



Big Easy Wing

Volume 5, Issue 8

August 7, 2021

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Membership Meeting

**August 18th @ 6 pm
Lakefront Hangar**



From the Left Seat

David Capo, Unit Leader

Greetings!

STUKA READY TO FLY Greetings Big Easy Wing. Our Maintenance Officer, Terry Clausing, informed me that the Stuka, N87LL, is now in flying condition. For years, literally, Terry has worked super hard restoring and rebuilding this amazing little airplane to flying status. This week, August 9 – 12, our chief pilot, Jim Helms, is set to restart

ground testing and perhaps, take the plane up flying for the first time since we acquired her three and half years ago. Should all go well, the airplane will be listed for sale by our national airplane broker in Chicago, IL. We do not expect the plane to be listed for very long as it is extremely rare and would make an ideal addition to a collector's fleet. If possible, we will send an email blast out to the membership when we have a fixed date to fly. However, I can't promise that will happen as Jim may decide on the spot to take N87LL up then and there. I will however, let you know when it does happen.

CALLING ALL RESTORATION ENTHUSIASTS Our Adjutant, Harold Buchler, is heading up a group of restoration experts to sand and repaint two vintage jet fighters currently on display in Kenner, LA. Located next to Kenner City Hall is a small park dedicated to our fallen military brethren. In the park are two Navy jets, an A-4 Skyhawk and an F-14 Tomcat. These airplanes are on loan to the City of Kenner and are in need of new paint. The A-4 was flown by Sonny Schilleci's dad, Vic. As a matter of fact, Sonny was partly responsible for getting the aircraft donated to the park which is owned by a local veteran's group and maintained by the city. Our involvement will entail spending some Saturdays and a few weekdays (for those who can) sanding and painting both aircraft. Our plans are to start right after Labor Day. Harold is the go-to guy on this project. Everyone, regardless of age or skill level, is invited to participate. We have reached out to local Rotary clubs, the PT – 305 restoration team and even the local chapters of the Civil Air Patrol. This is a great opportunity to get outside, bend elbows with your fellow CAFers and get to meet some new faces. I hope to see you all there starting in September. Harold can be reached at hbuchler@bellsouth.net.

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COMMEMORATIVE
AIR FORCE

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8550 Lloyd Stearman Dr.
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Operation Officer—Mike “Hansel” Scott



Greetings Big Easy Wing,

The summer has brought the return of many great airshows, but nothing has signified this return quite as much as EAA’s signature event, Oshkosh AirVenture. I was very fortunate to attend the first few days in the Mighty F-15C Eagle from our home base in Belle Chasse for a few days of static display. The week was marked by (mostly) great weather, fellowship, and of course, airplanes. I also met up with fellow unit members Ben “Evil” Cook, Jim Dugan, and Michael Williams at AirVenture. Evil was there flying the WWII T-6 / SNJ owned by Mr. Dan Fordice. The event was a great success and produced a near-record turnout of visitors and airplanes. Without a doubt my favorite week of the year!

Speaking of airshows, mark your calendars for our own local Hammond Airshow - taking place October 15th-17th. We plan to have unit volunteers and the Stearman flying rides there. We have a plan in place to get Jim Helms current in the Stearman very soon to provide some instruction for newer pilots. The Stuka replica is finally ready for ground runs and flights, so that should be occurring within the next few weeks as well. So, keep your eyes turned skyward at Lakefront!

On a sad note, the aviation and airshow community lost a legend just before Oshkosh. CAPT Dale “Snort” Snodgrass (USN, RET.) was killed in a crash shortly after takeoff in his Italian Marchetti STOL aircraft. Snort was an inspiration to so many, including yours truly. He was the best-known F-14 Tomcat Demo pilot and had more time in that jet than just about any other pilot. I grew up watching his airshow demos in the Tomcat and in many civilian warbirds like the T-6, P-51, and F-86. He also became a mentor of mine after I met him in college all the way through my military aviation career. I know many other fighter pilots (Outlaw, Evil, and Nuke, to name a few) also learned from and respected Snort. Cheers to Captain Snodgrass and a life well lived.

Let us all continue to be safe up in the air and in all that we do!

Fly Safe!



Mike Scott and Mike Williams @
AirVenture



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Election of Officers Coming Soon—Shirley Colomb

We are looking for one more member to serve on the Nomination Committee and on the Election Committee. Presently, Mike Williams and Donald Clausing have agreed to serve on the nomination committee and on the Election Committee. Richie Grey and Austin Wood have agreed to serve. We thank them for taking on this responsibility. Please contact me (text 281-413-4525) if you would like to serve on either committee.

Members Tour Southern Heritage Museum—Shirley Colomb

If you are looking for a short getaway then plan a visit to the Southern Heritage Air Museum. It is located across the river from Vicksburg. My husband and I thoroughly relished our visit. It was a lot bigger than I envisioned with many artifacts and aircraft. Everyone there was so hospitable and made our short visit enjoyable even for Peanut. We highly recommend it. Also, Vicksburg was charming with great shopping and food.



Unit Officer Report continued

ELECTIONS Remember folks, elections are coming up in November. Starting this year, we are asking that your dues are paid in full to the wing in order to vote. In the past, we have been collecting dues for January 1 of each year. Now, in order to vote in the election for officers for the upcoming year (2022), dues must be paid on or before election day in November. I know this is a change, but we will now be in compliance and conformance with most other wings in this regard. Thank you for your understanding. I look forward to seeing you at our August meeting at 6pm on Wednesday, August 18, 2021.

Project Planes located next to Kenner City Hall





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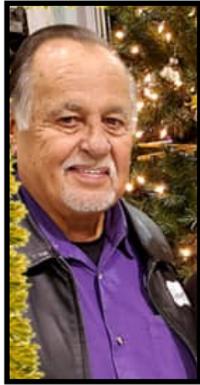
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Safety Officer --Wayne Breaux



Summer Greetings!

Hope all are able to deal with this August extremely heat. Be sure to drink lots of fluids. Also, remember to drive carefully and allow extra drive time when we are having these unusual monsoons.



I want to say thanks to Daniel Breaux, my nephew, for his informative safety presentation last month. And a big thanks to Richie Gray for participating.

I have another great safety speaker, Rick Wood, for our August 18 meeting. Please join us on Wednesday, August 18 at 6 pm.



Maintenance Officer Report –Terry Clausing



Well, the STUKA is finally ready for high-speed taxi and flight test. A new ignition harness and some new spark plugs fix the magneto RPM drop issue. During engine run-up at 1700 RPM, both magnetos had only a 50 RPM drop. I completed the conditional inspection on the STUKA and signed -off the logbooks. Depending on pilot schedule, we should be flying by the end of the month.

Membership

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.** However, during the summer months we meet on Wednesday nights.

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



Upcoming Events



Oct 9-10 CAF Wings Over Houston Houston, TX

Oct. 16-17 **Hammond Northshore Regional Airshow**

Hammond, LA



Oct. 22 & 23 **SHAF Warbird/Car Show**

Vicksburg/Tallulah, LA

Nov. 5-6 Blue Angels Homecoming Airshow Pensacola, FL



Upcoming Meetings

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