



Big Easy Wing

Officers:

Wing Leader

David Capo

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Interim Wing Leader

Harold Buchler

hbuchler@bellsouth.com

Executive Officer

Robert Claypool

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Adjutant/Development

Shirley Colomb

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Education

Jim Buchler

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Finance

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Maintenance

Terry Clausing

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Operation Officer

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Wayne Breaux

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Membership Meeting

**October 9th @ 10 am
Lakefront Hangar**

Volume 5, Issue 9

September 16, 2021



From the Left Seat

David Capo

Greetings from the Left Seat, for perhaps the last time as your Unit Leader.

More about that later. I hope this finds all of you well or at the very least, quickly recovering from Hurricane IDA. As a unit, we were very lucky. The aircraft and vital assets like our tug, golf cart, tools

and essential equipment were spared any damage from either wind or water. The hangar did flood (almost 15 inches) and we did sustain some minor roof damage. A claim has been filed and we hope repair work will begin soon. Terry Clausing has been involved with hazard mitigation since the airport re-opened. Thank you to Terry.



If you have not heard, I was seriously injured in a fall down a flight of stairs when in Florida during Hurricane IDA. On Sunday evening, August 29, I slipped and broke both bones in my leg. The injury is so serious that I have already and will continue to face multiple surgeries with much physical therapy. Right now, there are multiple important, ongoing issues (all good) facing the unit that need full time attention from leadership. In discussion with Harold Buchler, your Unit Adjutant, it was proposed and ratified by the full wing staff that I voluntarily step down as Unit Leader until I can fully resume my duties. Harold has agreed to step up and serve my un-expired term as UL. My return is in no way guaranteed prior to my term ending December 31. Even in the event of not returning the election of officers will be go off as schedule. The nomination will be in October with election in December for all 5 position including Unit Leader.

I am hopeful, however, that I can return but I am going to have to take it day by day. Please express your appreciation to Harold for stepping up in this difficult and trying time.

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Interim Unit Leader—Harold Buchler



Greetings!

Prior to Hurricane IDA I received a call from Unit Leader David Capo. He informed me that while on vacation, he fell down a flight of stairs and broke several bones in his leg. WOW! The result being that he will have to undergo surgery to repair the breaks. He informed me that he notified CAFHQ and told them that he was stepping aside as Unit Leader. He informed them that I would be taking over as temporary Unit Leader and that Shirley Colomb-Clausing would be filling in for me as Adjutant.

Friday before the Storm, our Maintenance Officer, Terry Clausing and myself, along with help from Flight line moved all of the planes out of the BEW Hangar into the McDermott Hangar. Saturday, Terry, Glenn Metzger, and I policed the hangar in preparation of the storm.

On Sunday, September 5, I met with Flightline and arranged to have the planes repositioned into the BEW Hangar. In checking the Hangar, I noticed damage to several parts of the hangar. First, the ridge cap over the South door was blown off. It now sits inside. Part of the roof



near the edge of the building by the South wall was “peeled” back. Inside several of the ceiling tiles received water and collapsed onto the bookcase and our “Aircraft Carrier”. I

spoke with Hank Coates, President of the CAF, and informed him of the damage and was informed that the CAF has insurance on the building. I contacted a roofing company that has worked at the Lakefront and temporary repairs have been made. When I receive a written estimate, I will forward it to CAFHQ.

On a personal note, I want to thank David Capo for all of his hard work and dedication to the Big Easy Wing. Words cannot adequately express my gratitude for what he has done. I have accepted the temporary position of Unit Leader with the expectation to emulate David’s success in the interim. I will be officially running for the Unit Leader position in the December elections. Looking forward to officiating our **October 9th** meeting.



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Operation Officer—Mike “Hansel” Scott



Greetings Big Easy Wing!

Much of this month has been overshadowed by the one of the strongest storms to ever hit Louisiana- Hurricane Ida. Fortunately, the billions of dollars invested in the levee system proved worthwhile and we did not see the vast flooding that destroyed so much after Katrina. However, many of us were without power for many days and weeks and some are still without power. Our hangar sustained about 2 feet of water and fortunately our aircraft remained dry and undamaged in the McDermott Hangar. Fortunately for the wing, our aircraft avoided major damage and CAF has insurance for our hangar repairs.

All state National Guard members, including me and several other members of this unit, were activated to execute the state disaster relief mission. This consisted primarily of manning POD (Point of Distribution) sites for food, water, ice, and tarps, as well as Government Support Teams and other roles to help local parishes recover. Among those hardest hits were the Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes, where power outages, flooding, and building damage is widespread.

Needless to say, much of our participation in events this month has been canceled and near future events are tentative. Many residents have still not yet returned to their houses and will have quite a bit to fix. I am attempting to fly up to get an initial Stearman checkout with the Lonestar Wing next week in Marshall, TX. Hopefully weather cooperates! Here's to a speedy recovery for all affected residents and to our own David Capo from his leg injury!

Unit Officer Report continued—David Capo

Harold is very experienced, a current pilot, aircraft owner, an officer with the Civil Air Patrol and a long-time leader in the not for profit/volunteer arena. You all are in very good hands with Harold. Thank you, Harold.

Also, I have asked Shirley, currently our Development Officer, to move over to the Adjutant position in Harold's absence. This is no big deal for Shirley because she is an expert on our membership and especially, on Kastrack, our unit software. You can really count on Shirley.

Thank you to everyone in the Big Easy Wing for almost five years of amazing memories, fun times and best of all, the honor of meeting all of you. We have come a long way from our humble beginnings, created a vibrant, fun wing and matured into an amazing operation.

And yet, as I have said many times, the best part of being a member of the BEW is her people. I may be stepping aside as “UL”, but I am still around to assist in any way that I can. I look forward to seeing you all again sooner rather than later.



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Nominations of Officers —Donald Clausing & Mike Williams

It's that time again. Wing Officer Elections are upon us.
The following positions are available for anyone interested in serving:
Wing Leader
Operations Officer
Finance Officer
Safety Officer
Development Officer

A complete description of all duties is found in the CAF Unit manual. Please visit this website <https://commemorativeairforce.org/cafdocuments/10> to learn about each officer's responsibility. **Job descriptions for each position are on pages 2-8 to 2-14. If you are interested in serving or would like to nominate someone, please call or text Don at 504-250-0870.**

Presently, Mike is without internet. Your election committee has been selected and consists of Richie Gray and Austin Wood.

Remember to vote, you must have paid you 2022 dues.



Membership Officer—Shirley Colomb

Dear Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and handling any rebuild in the best of spirits. It is a tough and a difficult time for many. The Big Easy Wing stands in solidarity with its community which consistently shows courage and character in the face of adversity. We are grateful to the city, state, and federal response to Hurricane Ida and especially to Entergy. As I drive down the streets of Metairie, the devastation seems challenging but the pictures from the harder hit areas are surreal. While for many of our members, recovery will be arduous and not as quick as wanted, you and BEW will persevere.

We cancelled our September meeting so you could focus on recovery; however, we are hoping that by October 9th you will be ready and able to enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow members. We look forward to seeing you and hearing your stories.

Full membership (\$50) Active military membership (\$25) Cadet membership for students between the ages of 13-23 (\$10) Online Payment are accepted at the BEW website .

Checks mailed to:

CAF Big Easy Wing
c/o Shirley Colomb, Interim Adjutant
1216 Brockenbraugh Ct
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	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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