



Big Easy Wing



Volume 6, Issue 1

January 5, 2022

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Safety

Richard Wood
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Membership Meeting

January 22th @ 10 am
Lakefront Hangar

Unit Leader—Harold Buchler



Greetings and Happy New Year!

This is my first communication with the members of the Big Easy Wing as your new Unit Leader.

This past year has brought many activities to the fore. Some highlights of 2021 include getting our Operations Officer, Mike Scott, approved as our Chief Pilot. Very soon we will be in a position to offer and will offer revenue rides for the Wing. The Big Easy Wing participated in the Hammond Air Show. Our Stearman was a big hit as well as our PX. Kudos to all who volunteered to assist in that event. Hurricane Ida--What more needs to be said about that. Our hangar took a hit during the storm but held up beautifully with only slight damage. Other buildings on the airport did not fare so well.

The Big Easy Wing was able to get a grant from OEO Energy Solutions of Illinois and Entergy to replace, free of charge, all the interior lights and outdoors lights at the hangar. The new lights are all LED's and will greatly reduce our electric bill.



Also, the Wing received a donation from one of our members, Dr. Kelvin Contreary who donated a wooden propeller from a World War II drone. The drone was used for target practice during the war. Thanks Doc!



We are starting off the first meeting of the year with a presentation from Dan Milham, photographer and a retired WDSU News weatherman. Dan will provide us with a report on weather and aviation. So, **mark your calendar for our first meeting of 2022, Saturday, January 22.**

In December we installed new Officers at our Christmas party. Louis Capo, the Executive Director for the Lakefront Management Authority, installed the Officers. Thank you, Louis.

This coming year will be filled with many opportunities to assist the Wing. In February the CAF will host the annual Wing Staff Conference in Dallas, Texas. For those members who have not attended a Wing Staff in the past, this is a great opportunity to meet members of other Wings and learn about the CAF.

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COMMEMORATIVE
AIR FORCE

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



Greetings and Happy 2022!

I hope you all have had a wonderful holiday period over the past two months with family and friends. I have stayed incredibly busy with flying in the Guard and assisting Santa with delivering presents into Christmas, but I was fortunately able to spend some time with family and friends in Virginia over the holidays.

Over the past few months, we have been able to take advantage of a few periods of pleasant weather to run the engine on the *N'Awlins Lady* and to get it up in the air. At the end of December, we had trouble starting the engine after it had been sitting for several weeks, with a suspect primer being a culprit. Terry Clausning devoted a lot of time and hard work to get her running smoothly again- replacing two O-rings on the primer, putting in a new air filter, checking the spark plug gaps and wear, and a few other things. We also got a much-needed new tailwheel which Terry installed as well. The previous one had chunks out of the side and worn down over an inch in diameter over the years!

Today I was able to take a new Stearman sponsor and prospective pilot, Jared Spencer, up to fly. Jared joined the CAF and the squadron and voiced his interest to fly, bringing a decent amount of tail wheel experience to the table and a strong desire to get involved. I later found out that he was a year ahead of me at the Naval Academy and that we were on the Offshore Sailing Team together there! After graduation from USNA Jared served as a CH-53 Stallion helicopter pilot in the Marine Corps for ten years, then got out and settled back in the NOLA metro area to work at his father's engineering company. We hope to see him in flight training in the coming months!

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Unit Leader Report continued

In March, the Belle Chasse Naval Air Station will host an air show featuring the Blue Angels. The Big Easy Wing plans on having a presence at the air show. We will need many volunteers in that the last time the air show was held over 130,000 people attended over the two-day weekend.

It goes without saying that the Big Easy Wing would not be in our present position without the assistance and dedication of our Maintenance Officer, Terry Clausning. Words cannot express my gratitude for all of his efforts. Our PX Officer Shirley Colomb Clausning has also been very instrumental in our success as a Wing. Additionally, many members have stepped up and helped in the work projects we have had at the hangar during the past year.

Lastly, I want to conclude with a big thank you to our former Unit Leader, David Capo. Without his dedication and hard work, we would not be where we are. Bravo Zulu, David.



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Membership Officer—Shirley Colomb



Happy New Year! We have started the year off with 42 members renewing their membership. We still have about 20 more to renew. If you are in contact with fellow members, please bring up the BEW and how important all our members are to the wing. Like I stated before, it takes all of us working together to make a difference.

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](#) or you can mail me a check to the address below. Thanks, and I look forward to seeing you at our January 22 meeting

Checks mailed to:

CAF Big Easy Wing
c/o Shirley Colomb, Adjutant
1216 Brockenbraugh Ct. Metairie, LA 70005

Safety Officer —Richard Wood



I wish everyone a prosperous year. I would like to thank the membership for their show of support for me as their new Safety Officer. Here is a little bit about my background. I spent 27 years in the Air Force reserves in the 403rd wing. The home of the famous hurricane hunters. I worked on the C130 H and J models. Presently, I am the Fire Chief of the Addis Fire Department. Both of these career paths provide me with knowledge that lends itself to aircraft and fire safety. I am pleased to be your new Safety Officer.

I would like to remind everyone of some of the things we need to keep in mind for when we sell rides at air shows. When the aircraft is starting the prop area is very dangerous. We need to make sure the prop arc is clear. The area behind the aircraft is hazardous due to two things: 1. prop blast and 2. small flying objects. This is especially true for your bigger aircraft. Always, remember to distance yourself from the aircraft when it is moving. The aircraft wing can be deceiving.

Something to think about with cold weather arriving: Gas heaters need to be checked for cracks to prevent from carbon monoxide poisoning and filters need changing to maintain proper air flow. The biggest problem I have at this time of year is with the space heaters. People tend to place them too close to furniture. And NEVER use an extension cord for them. Let's all be safe.

PX Officer —Shirley Colomb

It is difficult just to talk about the PX because Rides, Donations, and Membership are all part of the Square reporting system. Like all software programs updates occur. In March the Square allowed us to input CASH sales so that gave the PX a better way of reporting. Reports are given to the board quarterly. Reports include all categories stated above. It is nice that the wing has the capability to charge but at the same time, as you all know, there is a cost for that convenience. The Square charges 2.76 percent.

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Christmas Social —Shirley Colomb

What a phenomenal social! It was fabulous seeing everyone enjoying themselves. Thanks to all who participated with setup, with the food and with clean-up. The night started with the pledge followed by the installation of the 2022 new officers by Louis Capo, Executive Director of the Lakefront Management Authority. The meeting session of the night ended with David Capo receiving an award for his 5 years of outstanding service to the Wing. Once again, members of the Civil Air Patrol celebrated with us. It is always a pleasure to have them join us.



Louis Capo



James Mykris

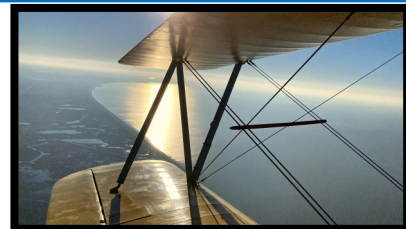


Raffle Prizes



Operation Officer Report continues

Today on the first solo maintenance flight around the pattern the engine worked great, and the new tailwheel seems to have solved the previous shimmy issues. On the second flight, Jared and I braved the cold and went to practice some maneuvers east of the bravo, as well as a few landings back at NEW. The *N'Awlins Lady* will be down the next few weeks toward the end of January as Terry and Jim Shaw prepare it for its annual inspection.



The Langhurst Stuka replica is still on the market for sale with no offers placed yet. As the weather warms and we approach Mardi Gras, we are looking forward to some more flying and events. The NAS JRB New Orleans air show will be taking place in March, and we plan to fly the Stearman out for static display, along with having our PX tent set up.

Take care and stay safe!

Upcoming Events



CAF 2022 Conference

February 17-20

Dallas, TX

**2022 NAS JRB New Orleans
AIR SHOW**

March 19-20

Belle Chase, LA

<https://www.neworleansairshow.com/>



June 17-18

Monroe, LA

<https://www.redwhiteandblueairshow.com/>



July 23

Lake Bruin, LA

Upcoming Meetings

General Membership	<i>January 22</i>	10 am	hangar
General Membership	March 12	10 am	hangar
General Membership	April 9	10 am	hangar
General Membership	March 14	10 am	hangar

PX Report continues

As you all know the PX and the rides program does the best when we attend shows. The PX brought in \$3050.00. All who worked the Hammond show knows that we sold out of all our toy items. At the first board meeting, I will be asking for monies to make new purchases. Let's hope in the 2022 year, we have more opportunities to participate at shows as well as host one. I want to thank Glenn Metzler my right hand man and all my Sale Helpers and their wives. Can't do it without you!!! Hoping for a safe, fun and financially good year.



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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HOTEL INFORMATION

The conference hotel is the Hilton Garden Inn, 800 N. Main St., Duncanville, TX, an 8-minute drive from CAF National Airbase. Click here to book online or call: (972) 283-9777. Book the group rate (\$109 per night for King, \$119 per night for double Queen) for Commemorative Air Force. The hotel features a restaurant and bar on site, complimentary wireless internet in guestrooms, and complimentary self-parking. A shuttle between the CAF National Airbase and the hotel will be provided for those needing transportation.

Agenda

Thursday, February 17

- 8 - 9 a.m. American Airpower Heritage Foundation Board Meeting
- 9 - 10 a.m. American Airpower Heritage Flying Museum Board Meeting
- 11 a.m. - Noon American Airpower Heritage Museum Board Meeting
- 1 - 3 p.m. General Staff Board Meeting
- 5 - 6:30 p.m. Welcome Reception

Friday, February 18

- Registration Open All Day
- 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. Coffee and pastries
- 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Opening General Session
- 10:15 - 11:45 a.m. Breakout Session 1
- Noon - 1:30 p.m. Lunch
- 1:45 - 3 p.m. Breakout Session 2
- 6:30 - 10:30 p.m. The Victory Ball

Saturday, Feb 19

- Registration Open Until Noon
- 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. Coffee and pastries
- 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Breakout Session 3
- 10:15 - 11:45 a.m. Breakout Session 4
- Noon - 1:30 p.m. Lunch
- 1:45 - 3 p.m. Breakout Session 5
- 6 p.m. Cocktail Hour with cash bar
- 7 p.m. CAF Hall of Fame Ceremony and Banquet Dinner

Sunday, February 20

- 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. Coffee and pastries
- 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. Advisory Board Meeting with the President

All events will be held at the CAF National Airbase, which is home to CAF Headquarters and the Henry B. Tippie National Aviation Education Center, and located at 5661 Mariner Drive, Dallas, TX 7523. For additional questions, call (877) 767-7175, ext. 102 or email Donna Blalack at dblalack@cafhq.org. Please click on link for registration info— <https://commemorativeairforce.org/pages/cafconference2022>



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