



Big Easy Wing



Volume 6, Issue 2

February 6, 2022

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Membership Meeting/ Ground School

March 12 @ 8 am
Lakefront Hangar

Unit Leader—Harold Buchler



Greetings!

This past month has seen some changes at the Big Easy Wing. The 2022 officers were installed. Both officers and assistants are presently working on upcoming projects. I am grateful for having a talented group of people who are dedicated to the CAF mission. See photo at

end of newsletter

The light fixtures in the northern part of the hangar have been replaced with our new LED light. Work has begun on the



southern part of the hangar and the entire project should be completed within a short time. Two of the outside light fixtures have also been replaced and are in good working order. I want to give big shout out to all the members who helped in this project. Words cannot express my appreciation for all that was completed. If anyone has a

suggestion for what can be done with the old light bulbs and fixtures, please contact Shirley.

Just around the corner:

The CAF Wing Conference in Dallas is in 2 weeks. Several of the Officers are planning to attend. I encourage all members to try to participate.

The Big Easy Wing Ground School is scheduled for March 12. See the **Executive Officer's report** with the details.

The Belle Chasse Air Show is scheduled for March 19-20. This will be a terrific opportunity to showcase the Big Easy Wing. Plans call for having our Stearman on static display as well as having our PX. Mike Scott and David Capo is working on this. If the past is any indication, large crowds are expected. Therefore, we will need many volunteers to assist in making this a great event for the Big Easy Wing. Mark your calendar for those dates and see Shirley to sign-up to work.

Presently, discussions are in the works with the CAF Bayou State Escadrille unit to share our plane and their pilots in a revenue generating endeavor. More details will be given to the members as the details are worked out. The Bayou State Escadrille members are invited to attend our ground school. Preliminary plans are being worked on for an event in Hammond. Remember, the hangar is open most Saturdays from 8 am to noon unless a scheduled workday is planned for our Kenner Community Project. See Doug Webb article for more information. Looking forward to seeing you at the hangar on Saturday.





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8550 Lloyd Stearman Dr.
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Executive Officer-Robert Claypool



I don't know about you, but I am excited for 2022 to get into full swing! We have a lot to be hopeful about:

The pandemic moving to an endemic
New leadership for the Saints
The 2022 Big Easy Wing Ground School!

Ground school is considered an important part of the CAF requirements. CAF Head Quarters strongly suggests all members attend their unit's ground school. And with good reason; this is our chance to learn topics that are vital to the success of our wing. Sessions will cover everything from CAF rules, regulations, and safety protocols to Big Easy Wing specific operations:

Pilot's Session
Loadmaster
Education
Maintenance
Marshalling

This year's ground school will be held at the hangar on **March 12th**. We will begin registration at **8:00 AM**, and plan to end around 2:00 PM. Based on last year's request, the pilot session will be offered for all members. This will really give a great overview on our N'Awlins Lady! Following this session, you will have your choice of the breakout sessions to attend. There is plenty to learn, and even more to do to help us grow the wing to honor and preserve the legacy of our warbirds!

Additionally, we plan to have a great guest speaker, *Colonel Bob Jablonski, USMC (RET)*. This meeting is a great opportunity to encourage any of your friends that may have an interest in the wing to join. By the end of the day, you and any of your guests will find a passion for the Big Easy Wing and will better understand how much fun it can be to make a difference.

Snacks, coffee, drinks, and lunch will be provided. So please mark your calendar now and plan to attend the Ground School on March 12th. Be sure to check the *March newsletter for the agenda*.

Adjutant Officer—Shirley Colomb

I wanted to give a big thank you to our membership for nominating for the BEW unit service award. I am truly grateful. At last month's meeting, both our past and present leader presented me with the certificate from HQ. It is an honor!





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Operation Officer—Mike “Hansel” Scott



Greetings!

The winter months have brought some of the worst weather of the year, so we are taking advantage of that to knock out the annual inspection for the *N'Awlins Lady*. Terry Clausing has been hard at work preparing the airplane for the inspection. The rudder cables in the airplane were found to be worn, so new ones have been ordered. In the coming weeks once those are replaced, Jim Shaw will come down to perform the annual on the airplane and we will get it flying again.

Our first major event of the spring / summer season will be the NAS JRB New Orleans Airshow, next month, on March 19th and 20th. We will plan to have the *N'Awlins Lady* on display, along with our PX tent. We expect this to be a huge recruiting and sales event that will provide lots of awareness about the Big Easy Wing to the local population. We will be looking for volunteers to help man the tent and show visitors the aircraft - please talk to Shirley for more details!

The Stuka is still for sale and will be published soon with a reduced price. Standby for more information. More potential events are on the horizon for the spring and summer months- we will publish more information as those get solidified.

Ground School is coming soon and I am looking forward to sharing interesting and important information with of of you. Happy Mardi Gras!

Maintenance Officer-Terry Clausing



It helps being short and slim when crawling into the STEARMAN fuselage.

During the 100HR/Annual inspection, control surface actuation and degree of full movement are part of the inspection. It is a very tedious process, and the inspection process requires knowledge of the aircraft mechanical operations.



The ailerons and elevator are moved by torque tubes and bell crank linkage. The rudder and elevator trim tabs are controlled through cables and pulleys. This part involves inspecting the pulleys for free movement and the cables for damage. To give you an idea of how much is involved: 1) control surface cables utilize 7 x 19 extra flexible cable; 2) 7 x 19 means 7 strands consisting of 19 wires per strand. You can multiply that to see what is involved. Breakage of 1 wire in any strand denotes the start of cable failure.



Both the left and right rudder cables had 1 wire broken, so new cables were ordered for replacement and the existing rudder cables removed. Upon removal the existing left and right rudder cables had more damaged than expected, as shown in the pictures.

THIS IS WHY INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE ARE IMPORTANT!!!!



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Membership Officer—Shirley Colomb



Our membership is growing again. We had 3 past members sign up again. If you see a former member, please invite them to come back and check out one of our meetings. We are looking forward to the Belle Chase show. This will be a good opportunity for us to showcase our wing and to recruit new members.

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



Happy Carnival Season!

In preparations for our first airshow event of 2022, the BEW will be holding a ground school. The purpose of the school is knowledge, preparation, and an understanding of the importance of safety to any unit. At our March meeting/ground school, I will be your loadmaster instructor. At that time, I will be showing important steps on strapping and ensure our passengers safety.

Spring is approaching and that means airshows are back in view. In planning of our first airshow, I would like to cover a few safety points:

When the plane is set up for static display, we need to rope off the aircraft leaving an area for pictures in front of the prop and an entry for children to access the cockpit. To do this successfully, we need volunteers to assist in keeping them only on the black area of wing, placing kids in seat, asking for donations, and ensuring the plane is not touched. *Please see me at ground school to sign up to help in this position at the Belle Chase Show.*

For the safety and maintenance officer, we need to make sure electrical switches are off and the battery is disconnected and that the control stick is locked in place. And the propeller is properly set.



What is wrong with this?





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Community Involvement—Doug Webb

Kenner Restoration Project

Your Big Easy Wing has been assisting with the restoration of a badly weathered Navy F-14 Tomcat and A-4 Skyhawk located in Veteran's Memorial Park, Kenner. Work began before Christmas. But due to the extreme cold weather we have been getting, work will be put on hold until March and warmer weather.



Thus far, the aircraft have been sanded to remove loose paint, bare metal has been primed, measurements were taken to create new markings, and some minor repair and masking work has been done. The next step will be to pressure wash and paint the aircraft. Once finished they will be restored to their former glory in honor of our servicemen and women.

There are several other groups involved in this project that has been spearheaded by our Unit Leader, Harold Buchler. These groups are: Carrollton Rotary Club, Metairie Rotary Club, Big Easy Wing, Billy Mitchell Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, and Navy VFA-204 River Rattlers. If anyone is interested in joining our group of volunteers, please contact Harold at our meetings or you can email him at hbuchler@bellsouth.net.



PX Officer—Shirley Colomb



I am anticipating a good year for the PX I have already started reordering toys for our first airshow which is scheduled for March 19-20 featuring the Blue Angels This will be a big show and it is local. Mike Scott and David are working on the final plans and more info will be coming. Please mark your calendar and plan on coming out and working, I will be sending out a volunteer form at the end of February. I know that there will be many attendees so the crowds should be immense. Thus, the PX will need many workers as well as guides around the N'Awlins Lady.

Glenn and I have been working on inventory and I have been working on improving the Square. But having personnel is most important. Presently, there is about 4 guys good with using the Square. If anyone would like to learn more and become involve as a sales person, please see me at *Ground School training which is scheduled for March 12.*



CAF-Big Easy Wing 2022 Officers and Assitants



Back row L-R Colonel Karl Shearer, D&A Supervisor, Colonel Jeff Segner, Finance Officer- Colonel Mike Scott, Operations Officer- Colonel Rick Wood, Safety Officer- Colonel Shirley Colomb, Adjutant Officer

Front row L-R Colonel Robert Claypool, Executive Officer- Colonel Harold Buchler, Unit Leader- Colonel Jim Buchler, Educational Officer- Colonel Terry Clausing, Maintenance Officer



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Upcoming Events



| | | |
|---|----------------|-----------------|
| CAF 2022 Conference | February 17-20 | Dallas, TX |
| BEW Ground School | March 12 | New Orleans. La |
|  | March 19-20 | Belle Chase, LA |
|  | April 5-10 | Lakeland, FL |
| Midway Anniversary Show | June 15-18 | Pensacola, FL |
|  | June 17-18 | Monroe, LA |
|  | July 23 | Lake Bruin, LA |



Upcoming Meetings

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------|-------|--------|
| General Membership | March 12 | 8 am | hangar |
| -Ground School | March 12 | 8 am | hangar |
| General Membership | April 9 | 10 am | hangar |
| General Membership | May 14 | 10 am | hangar |
| General Membership | June 11 | 10 am | hangar |

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 many websites do not render correctly, KAStrack included. Our KAStrack website is located at <http://cafbew.kastrack.com>.



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