



Big Easy Wing



Volume 6, Issue 3

March 5, 2022

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Membership Meeting/ Ground School

March 12 @ 8 am
Lakefront Hangar



Unit Leader—Harold Buchler

Greetings!

This past month has gone by quickly. I guess that is because it only had 28 days. During February we completed the installation and alignment of the new LED lights in the hangar and on the outside. There was no flying of the Stearman because the annual inspection period expired at the end of January. Terry has been preparing the plane for the

new inspection. Thanks Terry.

The CAF Winter Staff Conference was held mid-February in Dallas. Several BEW members attended. In addition to myself, David Capo, Don and Shirley Clausing, Jeff Segner, Rick Wood, Richie Gray, and Mike Scott attended. The Wing picked up several new members and dues were collected. All these guys were members of other Wings. Shirley did an outstanding job in this effort. Thanks Shirley.



BEW attendees & the Tibbits' Family



Gina Tibbets

Prior to the CAF Hall of Fame Induction and Banquet, members of the BEW met the family of one of the inductees, Col. Paul Tibbets, Jr. (deceased). This gentleman was instrumental in ending WWII. We were fortunate to meet his granddaughter Gina and her brother Chuck. Also, we met his grandson, Brigadier General (Ret.) _Paul Tibbets, IV. Gen.

Tibbets lives in Gonzales, LA. We invited him to visit our Wing. The General visited us on Thursday, March 3. Mike, Terry and I gave him a tour of the hangar. He was pleased that there was a unit near him that he could participate with in projects. Shirley spent time speaking with his wife, Angelle. She joined our wing on her drive home. It was an enjoyable time. Thanks for joining us.

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Executive Officer-Robert Claypool



The BEW Ground School is approaching!

March 12th is nigh, and we should prepare ourselves accordingly! And as I mentioned in the last newsletter, this is a perfect time to invite others that may be interested in joining. The link to register for ground school is (Note: If you are registering more than one person, please register each person individually):

<https://cafbew.kastrack.com/webforms/2022-Groundschool>

or accessed via your phone



We are proud to introduce the upcoming Agenda for the Big Easy Wing Ground School:

2022 Ground School Agenda

| Start Time | End Time | Item |
|------------|----------|---|
| 8:00 | 8:45 | Registration – Donuts and Terry’s finest brew |
| 8:45 | 9:00 | Welcome Pledge of Allegiance Introduction of Officers and Committees Ground School Logistics |
| 9:00 | 9:30 | HQ CAF 60-1- Welcome Video from January 2022 |
| 9:30 | 9:50 | Break / Socialization / Hangar Tour |
| 9:50 | 10:20 | Guest Speaker (Bob Jablonski, Colonel (Ret), USMC |
| 10:20 | 11:20 | Pilot Session (All Attend – See Mike Scott’s Article for more information) |
| 11:20 | Noon | Breakout Session 1 (Choose 1, details below) Education Loadmaster Maintenance (1 Session only) |
| Noon | 12:45 | Lunch-Chef Kevin is grilling up some gourmet burger. |
| 12:45 | 1:45 | Breakout Session 2 (Choose 1, details below) Education Loadmaster Marshalling (1 Session only) |

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Like last year, there will be different courses to choose from, so that you can find something that piques your interest. The registration form will request you to select 2 of the following electives:

Loadmaster (Led by Rick Wood):

Learn the proper way to brief and safely load passengers in the N'Awlins Lady! Graduates will be able to properly brief passengers to help them prepare for their flight. The loadmaster will then load and secure the passengers for rides at the hangar or at air shows. When the flight concludes, the loadmaster helps the passenger safely depart, usually right after a picture taken of their smile!

Maintenance (Led by Terry Clausing):

Ever wanted to know what it takes to keep these beautiful machines flying? If so, you'll want to take the maintenance course. Our in-house A&P will instruct on the necessary maintenance, he even helped the Big Easy Wing earn the "Outstanding Maintenance" award from CAF HQ. Under the watchful eye of our A&P, graduates will be able to assist with maintenance upon entry of the drug program. Graduates will also be expected to decipher the acronym "A&P".

Education (Led by Austin Wood):

Education is one of the core missions of the Commemorative Air Force. And this is a great time to get involved, as we emerge back into the post-pandemic world. Participants will get to review the existing training programs, as well as help brainstorm on new ideas. Graduates will assist in the educational outreach of the Big Easy Wing after successfully completing the CAF HQ's course on Child Protection.

Marshalling (Led by Richard Gray):

Our N'Awlins Lady is always poised to takeoff... but she must get to the runway first! In tailwheel airplanes, this is a more daunting task than it seems. The angle of the plane makes it difficult for the pilot to see the ground near the airplane. Graduates of the marshalling class will learn how to help the pilot safely manage the trek to the runway. Holders of this training will be asked to assist during air shows and our local rides program.

Representing our organization can be a fun and fulfilling experience, and the ground school is a great way to get and stay involved with the Big Easy Wing!

Can't wait to see y'all there!

Robert Claypool
XO , CAF BEW,



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Operation Officer—Mike “Hansel” Scott



Greetings Big Easy Wing!

Lots to write about this month. I hope you all had a wonderful Mardi Gras. I enjoyed the chance to ride as a guest rider in the Krewe of Hermes Parade as a guest of fellow *Big Easy Wing* member Jim Dugan. It was my first-time experiencing Mardi Gras since moving here and it was the most fun week I've had living here! The weekend prior, several of us on staff traveled to the CAF National Airbase in Dallas, TX for a great, informative weekend during the annual leadership conference. The weekend had forums and breakout sessions with national CAF leadership. There were fun social events Friday and Saturday night in the “Fifi” / “Diamond Lil” hangar, with Saturday night being the “Victory Ball” featuring the “Glenn Miller Orchestra.” All CAF members are welcome to go next year - I highly recommend it if you want to learn more about our organization and put faces to familiar names.



Angelle Tibbets, Shirley, and
Paul Tibbets IV

At the conference, several of the staff had the pleasure of meeting a couple living here in LA who are now our newest *Big Easy Wing* members, Brigadier General Paul “Nuke” Tibbets IV (USAF, ret.) and his wife Angelle. Nuke was a career bomber guy, primarily flying the supersonic B-1 Lancer and stealth B-2 Spirit bombers, but also had time in the B-52 Stratofortress. His grandfather, Paul Tibbets, Jr., was the pilot-in-command of the B-29, “Enola Gay”, that dropped the first of two atomic bombs on Hiroshima that ultimately led to Japan’s surrender in WWII.

Nuke has already had flight time in both of the only two flying B-29’s currently in existence, CAF’s “Fifi” and “Doc”, and will soon attend ground school for both. Harold, Terry, Shirley, and I had the pleasure of showing Nuke and Angelle around the hangar the other day. Welcome!



Angelle, Harold, Paul & Mike

Terry Clausing has been hard at work preparing the “N’Awlins Lady” for its inspection, and Patrick Quigley has volunteered to knock out the airplane’s annual inspection free of charge to the unit- thank you Pat! In the coming weekends, we are preparing for our ground school event that Robert mentioned on March 12th, followed by the NAS JRB New Orleans Airshow in Belle Chasse on the weekend of March 19-20th.

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Adjutant Officer—Shirley Colomb

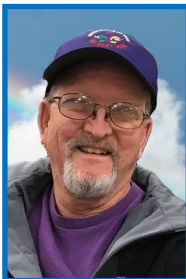


At the CAF Conference in Dallas, we had several members rejoin our wing: *Tom Mc Dermott, Bob Bates and Dewey Bell. Welcome back guys!* Also, we welcome two new members: *Tom Brian of the Tulsa wing and Alan Pavik of the Coyote wing.* We are pleased to have you all as members of our wing. **Thanks for joining!**

And, as you know just this past week we had both Paul Tibbets IV and his wife, Angelle join our wing. That gives us 7 members recruited. With it being Women's History Month, I glad we have another women join our unit. Now, we have 3 females. Participating in the Belle Chasse should provide us with a good opportunity to recruit more members. So please join us at the Belle Chasse airshow. Online Payment are accepted: BEW website [online store](#) or you can mail me a check.

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

Safety Officer —Richard Wood



At the Belle Chasse show, the N'Awlins Lady will be a static display. However, it is our job to not only keep our plane safe from someone touching her (as you know the body of the plane is comprised mainly of fabric) but we also want to keep our visitors safe from hitting their heads on propeller and wing tips. Besides cones and rope, we need sentries to surround the N'Awlins Lady. At the Hammond show, kids were allowed to sit in the seat. This took a lot of assistance to make sure everyone stayed safe. Preparation is the key to a successful airshow. I hope to see many of you there.



Unit Leader continues —Harold Buchler

We enjoyed the conference because we met and became friends with several CAF wings. Overall, the conference was informational, and the things learned will be adapted to the BEW.

Final preparations are underway for the upcoming Ground School on March 12 by the Executive Officer, Robert Claypool. It is important that all our members participate in this event.

Note: Volunteers are needed to assist in the BEW booth at the Belle Chasse Air Show on March 19-20. Please see Shirley's PX article and contact her to let her know when you are available to assist.

See you at the hangar! Oh Yeah! Please bring can food items when you come to the hangar. We are still working on our charity project with Second Harvest.



Rick, Tom Brian David,
Harold, Jeff



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Operation Officer continues—Mike “Hansel” Scott

The operations portion of the ground school will focus on the ground handling and operation of N2S Stearman aircraft, specifically focusing our 1943 N2S Boeing “Kaydet”, the “N’awlins Lady”. We will also cover tailwheel flying intricacies, specifically during the takeoff and landing regime.

**** For those interested in becoming Stearman pilots! ****

The CAF requires the following:

- 200 hours total time minimum
- 30 hours tail wheel in the last 12 months
- 80 tail wheel landings in the past 12 months

Of note, these numbers are also total minimums, however the currency within the past 12 months for tail wheel can be waived by CAF HQ.

Typically, a one-time aircraft sponsorship payment is required in addition after approval from CAF HQ to begin training. Regardless of if you are interested in flying the Stearman as a pilot, we are always looking for new aircraft sponsors!

Maintenance Officer-Terry Clausing



As of this newsletter, I have completed the annual maintenance on our Stearman, and I am waiting on an I.A. to signoff of the Annual inspection. This year, it involved a lot of work. You saw in last month newsletter how I had to climb in the aircraft.

The plane required many items to be replaced. I have listed most of them. Work performed this year were: 1. new oil filter/ air filter replacement, 2. a new battery, 3. new altimeter, 4. new tail wheel boot, and 5. new rear rudder cables.

Obviously, you can see the need for annual inspections and the importance of maintenance. We need this plane flying not only at airshow but on a regular basis so we can obtain some revenue to pay for her upkeep. Please contact Harold, Mike or Shirley to schedule a ride.

The weather has been beautiful and as soon as Pat Quigley finishes his inspection, she will be ready to fly. Mike will do a test flight and some touch and goes. Then N’Awllins Lady will be attending as a static display at the New Orleans Belle Chasse Airshow.



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Development Officer—Shirley Colomb



GiveNOLA Day returns on May 3, 2022!

GiveNOLA Day is a 24-hour event hosted by the Greater New Orleans Foundation. Within 24 hours on May 3, the community is asked to give to local nonprofits. Your Big Easy Wing is a nonprofit. Be sure to donate to us.

We need your help to **spread the word to your friends, colleagues and family members that the Big Easy Wing is not only participating but raising funds to implement their education program.** Together, let's inspire people to give generously so that we can make our wing stronger and a thriving aspect of our community.

Included here is an excerpt of what is written on the BEW GiveNOLA site page. This short excerpt will assist you with promoting our education program to your friends and colleagues.

“This year our emphasis is on implementing our educational program. Online resources provide descriptions of math, science, technology, and engineering materials that would be useful for our program. We are in need of the materials. We are seeking your donations to assist with purchasing materials and covering the cost of the student attendance fees. If your specialty aligns with STEM education or Aviation, we would love to have you join our wing to assist in the education program. Your donation will help foster a youth's STEM education and social development program. Over the past 4 years, the impact from raised funds focused on upgrades for our 1943 NS2 Stearman. This year our focus is on youth educational growth.”

Please visit: <https://www.givenola.org> and type in big easy wing in the “Find organization or in the “Find Your Cause” space.

More information about when donations can be made will be posted on our FB page, website, in our next newsletter and in general emails.



PX Officer—Shirley Colomb

Your PX members have been busy ordering new items for sale. Many items have come in but as you have heard many items are back ordered and some are not available at all. Our first show is next month, March 17, 18, 19. We will be participating in the Belle Chasse Airshow. It is a slightly different show in that only BEW items can be sold. Members, we are looking for some more help for the airshow. This will be a good time for new members to get involved and learn how to do things. We provide 2 shifts so you can work 1/2 the day and then enjoy the show. Please see **Shirley on March 12 or send me an email at info@bigeasywing.org**

CAF-Big Easy Wing — Belle Chase Show Schedule of Workers

Belle Chase Show PX Sales/Ride Raffle/Membership Plane Sentries

Thursday, May 17 Plane and Tent set up (Kevin, Glenn, Rick, Terry, Harold, Mike)

Friday, May 18

Family Day

| | <u>Plane Sentries</u> | <u>PX Sales/Raffle/Membership</u> |
|-----------------|---|--|
| 8:00 AM-1:00 PM | (1) <u>Rick Wood & Kevin Duxworth</u> | <u>Glenn Metzger and Doug Webb</u> |
| 1:00 PM-5:00 PM | (1) <u>Terry Clausing & Jeff Segner</u> | <u>Shirley Colomb and Don Clausing</u> |
| | (2) <u>Richie Gray/ Open</u> | <u>Open/Open</u> |

Saturday, May 19

Public Day

| | <u>Plane Sentries</u> | <u>PX Sales/Raffle/Membership</u> |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 8:00 AM-1:00 PM | (1) <u>Rick / Terry</u> | <u>Glenn and Doug</u> |
| | (2) <u>David Capo/Karl Shearer</u> | <u>Jeff Segner/Open</u> |
| 1:00 PM-5:00 PM | (1) <u>Harold / Mike Scott</u> | <u>Shirley/Wayne Breaux</u> |
| | (2) <u>Open/ Richie Gray</u> | <u>Open/ Open</u> |

Sunday, May 20

Public Day

| | <u>Plane Sentries</u> | <u>PX Sales/Raffle/Membership</u> |
|--------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 8:00 AM-Noon | (1) <u>Rick/ Austin Wood</u> | <u>Glenn Metzger/Open</u> |
| | (2) <u>Wayne/Open</u> | <u>David Capo/ Shirley</u> |
| Noon-Close | (1) <u>Harold/ Mike</u> | <u>Shirley/Don</u> |
| | (2) <u>Open/Open</u> | <u>Open/ Open</u> |

*** Sale items need to be repacked at the end of the day***Check with Glenn



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Upcoming Events



| | | |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|
| BEW Ground School | March 12 | New Orleans. La |
|   | March 19-20 | Belle Chase, LA |
| Midway Anniversary Show | April 5-10 | Lakeland, FL |
| | 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 websites do not render correctly, KAStrack included. Our KAStrack website is located at <http://cafbew.kastrack.com>.



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