



Big Easy Wing



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Membership Meeting/

May ?



Unit Leader—Harold Buchler

Greetings:

Now that Spring is upon us and hopefully the cold weather is less severe, it is time to get back to the hangar activities.

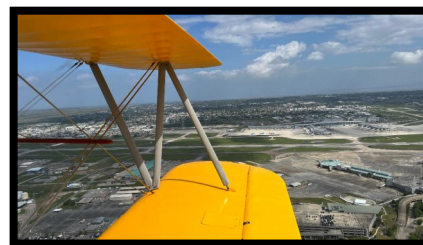
I attended the CAF Winter Conference in Dallas in mid-March. I was able to connect with other Wing leaders in our area and hopefully we will develop plans to work together and hold joint events. Look for more details in future newsletters.

Last month we had a very successful ground school led by XO Robert Claypool. We had over 26 members sign up for the event. In addition to the topics covered, we had a guest speaker, Tom Gibbs, who is the Education Manager for the Gary Sinise Foundation. Tom spoke of the wonderful things the Foundation is doing for America's wounded warriors and their families.



The Wing also held its first ride flight day of the year. We sold 10 rides for that day. In addition to the flights, we hosted classic cars. They were mostly Thunderbirds and the lone Shelby Mustang courtesy of our own Don Clausing. Several members of the Boeing flight club attended and flew in our Stearman. Several members of the Civil Air Patrol Billy Mitchell Squadron attended with their family members. I want to personally thank all who volunteered to make the day a rousing success. Bravo Zulu guys and gals.

Presently the Stearman is undergoing maintenance for the annual inspection and will be unable to take passengers until the inspection is completed. We will NOT be having a general membership meeting in April. Our next general membership meeting will be in May. A notice will be sent out informing you of the date. Please make every effort to come out to the hangar on Saturday's as there will be lots to do.





COMMEMORATIVE
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Chief Pilot—Mike Scott



Greetings Big Easy, welcome to Spring!

March was a very busy month with the wing and Stearman flying. At the beginning of the month, I was able to do a functional check flight (FCF) post maintenance, followed by taking my good friend's wife Margaret up, followed by a training flight with our own Jared Spencer. We worked on several normal and more challenging cross wind landings at Reserve Airport, where gas is also typically \$3 a gallon cheaper.



On March 9th I flew a ride for young Kamal, purchased by my former F-15 squadron mate "Drag" Hensz. Kamal is a part of a wonderful local volunteer organization called "Son of a Saint", which provides mentorship for local boys who are growing up without a father. Kamal and other boys have voiced interest in aviation and becoming pilots, so I'm happy to share with these kids the world of aviation and show them that they can fly. For more information about the program, visit sonofasaint.org



At the end of the month after I got back from training and qualifying in the 767, I was able to fly 8 paid rides on a beautiful CAVU Saturday. I wanted to fly 10 that day, but we unfortunately faced some electrical issues with the airplane that forced us to turn back early. Terry and others are in the process of preparing the airplane for its annual inspection, which requires taking off panels and other work prior to the inspection. Please thank Terry when you see him for all of his hard work and lend him a helping hand when you can!

Lastly, I was able to visit the wonderful Sun n Fun airshow as a spectator at the end of the month- a fantastic event that lived up to its name very well during the time I was there. The event is like a mini-Oshkosh and is one of the first big airshows of the season. April will be a quieter month at the wing with Easter and many other events, but we may still try to fly some rides when time and weather allows.
Happy Easter!



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Upcoming Shows



Safety Officer— Rick Wood



Hello Everyone

I hope everyone has recovered from the very successful flight day on the 25th of March.

Spring is here and summer is right around the corner. We are already setting high temperatures for April. As we get ready for a busy flying and static display season, here are a few things to remember:

--Being on the flight line heat from the sun and the concrete hits you quicker than you think so hydration is very important. Thus, it is important to drink at least 3 bottles of water then 1 Gatorade to replace your electrolytes. Water alone does not do that. NOTE: drinking just Gatorade is not good. Sunscreen is important. Sunshine and reflected sun can get you. Also, wearing a hat helps but it does not protect your neck and arms so remember to put sunscreen all over.

Let's make this flying season safe and enjoyable for everyone.



Maintenance Officer— Terry Clausing



Stearman is down for its Annual Inspection. May 25 flight day was almost a total success up until the last flight when a generator problem was not charging the battery and we lost our radio and transponder. The generator has been removed and sent to Aircraft Accessories in Tulsa, Oklahoma for overhaul.

No word as yet on generator condition, but will continue with airframe and engine inspections through April.



Ground School 2023 Recap

Thank you to all who participated in the Big Easy Wing's ground school last month.

I would like to thank everyone that helped:

- Mike Scott – Pilot Session
- Terry Clausing - Maintenance
- Jim Buchler – Education
- Shirley Colomb – PX and calling me and calling me to make sure I was getting stuff done:)
- Richard Gray – Marshalling
- Richard Wood— Loadmaster
- Kevin Duxworth – Culinary

The informal poll shows that everyone was pleased with the curriculum and the experience. We applied some of the lessons from last year, and I believe that this year flowed more smoothly. Notably, only having one course at a time worked well.

Last year, in the April 2022 newsletter, I wrote (in jest) that we should strive to not invite a good speaker. Well, we clearly failed! A big thanks goes out to Tom Gibbs for being our guest speaker.

I know that I cut a few questions off to keep the day progressing, and for that I apologize. Which leads me to an observation – we need to allot more time for our Guest Speaker next year.

And I will end with my thoughts on Mr. Gibb's presentation. Tom's showcasing of the Gary Sinise Foundation was not only informative, but inspiring. It reminds me that by helping our American heroes we can turn into one as well!



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Happy Easter!

I would like to thank our members who came out to assist with our first 2023 flight day. We couldn't do it without your assistance. Specifically, Bill Triay for having several of his friends from the thunderbird club to join us again; and Bill out did himself by getting his friend and member Paul Marot to bring his "Chipmunk." It was a real treat especially for those members who rode in it. Don't worry, we plan on having the Chipmunk out at other shows. It was a long day but a good one. We sold every slot— 10 flights. Good thing our pilot, Mike, likes to fly because it was a busy day.

Once again, the grill was hot and serving up dynamite burgers. Thanks to Chief Kevin

I appreciate Doug Webb for sending the Event flier to the Boeing Flight Club. We had 3 passengers from that Boeing group purchase rides. This assembly of pilot enthusiasts might be a great group to reach out to for future events and for potential membership. Also, Richard Wood had his contractor and wife buy flights. They enjoyed it so much that they are going to have their sons fly at our next event.

Advertisement works—The BEW social media page (FB, Instagram, and website) helps with advertising our shows. However, in addition to our own media pages, LaAviator repost our pages giving us a wider audience. Thanks, James Riviere, for posting our notices on LaAviator.

.Once more, a big thanks to all the volunteers who came out to help. We cannot do it without YOU!

Please look at the [Big Easy Wing website gallery](#). Doug Webb took some amazing photos of the event. The website provides lots of information and has photos from past events. As your webmaster, please let me know what updates are needed.



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