



Big Easy Wing



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Membership Meeting/

May 13

9:30 am



Unit Leader—Harold Buchler

Greetings!

The month of April was busy for the Big Easy Wing. First, at the end of March, we had a flight day and we had 10 ride flights sold. Unfortunately, the last 2 riders could not partake due to a generator issue in the Stearman. Also, in April, the Stearman had to undergo its annual inspection. Our maintenance officer, Terry Clausing, did an outstanding job getting the generator repaired and installed in time for Pat Quigley, an "IA" to inspect the plane and sign off on the annual report.

Exciting news was when our wing was invited to participate in the Keesler Air Show "Thunder Over the Sound" which took place in Biloxi. Thanks to Shirley Colomb for organizing it and to our chief pilot Mike Scott for getting the Stearman there was a static display. The PX made a lot of sales. I want to thank everyone who made the time to work and to make this a successful event for our wing.



We are offering a neat gift for Mothers!

We have scheduled another flight day for **Saturday, May 13**. It is the Saturday of Mother's Day weekend. We will have a short general meeting first at **9:30 am** and followed by schedule flight at 10 am. Like usual we will have lunch served. However, added to this event will be the Lakefront EAA chapter 261 joining us for lunch and a tour of the hangar around noon. Floyd Miles thinks that there will be about 40-50 people joining us, both kids and parents. We will be part of their tours—the kids will be visiting the fire station and the tower. It should be interesting afternoon.



Please see the flier at the end of this newsletter for more details about Flight Day. It is important to our wing that all of us advertise these events. So please, email the flier out to your coworkers and friends.

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Big Easy Wing
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Chief Pilot—Mike Scott



Greetings Big Easy,

The month of April has brought some fantastic weather and fortunately we have been able to take advantage of that. Big thanks to Terry and Pat Quigley once again for completing the aircraft's annual inspection for the "N'Awlins Lady" and getting her back up flying again. Terry was able to replace the generator which fixed our electrical issue. I took Pat up for a post maintenance check flight on a beautiful day just in time for it to be ready for the Keesler AFB airshow. The plane has been flying great, other than an ELT issue we are currently troubleshooting.

The Keesler AFB airshow coordinators were gracious hosts and were very accommodating with our plane, tent, and volunteers. I had the pleasure of flying Pat again from Lakefront to Biloxi to thank him for his help with annual inspection. It was what pilots call a "CAVU Day"- Ceiling and Visibility Unlimited. Perfect Stearman weather! We were able to park the airplane for static display for the airshow and it seems everyone enjoyed spending the weekend there and visiting the airplane. The airshow featured the Air Force Thunderbird F-16 team as headliners, as well as Patty Wagstaff, Randy Ball



Alex Rafferty

and his Mig-17, and the Tora! Pearl Harbor attack reenactment team. I was able to take Rick Wood back from Biloxi on Monday on another perfect flying day. On that same day, I was able to take Alex Rafferty for his re-scheduled flight. And the next day, I took up Kevin who transported the trailer to and from Biloxi. After Kevin, I had the pleasure of flying young Maddon of the "Son of a Saint"

program – a ride paid for by a kind donor. Inspiring the next generation to fly is my favorite part of flying!

Our next event on the horizon is the CAF BEW member meeting and **flight day on Saturday, May 13th**. Tell your friends to come out and buy a ride! Stay posted for future events as we go from Spring to Summer and as always, fly safe!



Madden



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Maintenance Officer— Terry Clausing



By the end of the March 23 Flight Day, the Stearman was having an electrical issue. The generator was not charging the battery. Thus, I removed the generator, sent it out for over-haul. I wasn't sure when we would get it back but once the BEW was invited to Keesler, Shirley was checking with me every day. It came in the week of the show. It was reinstalled in time for Pat Quigley, our "IA" to sign off on the Annual inspection and conduct a test flight with Mike Scott.

The plane performed well, but as the saying goes-fix one problem and then another pops up. During the flight from KNEW to Keesler AFB and on the return flight, the ELT started to activate prematurely. It's not a safety flight issue but an annoying problem in the pilot's headset. I'll be working on this issue so the plane will be ready for our May 13 flight day.

I had an enjoyable time at Keesler. I must have picked-up about 50 kids placing them into the Stearman for pictures. The smiles both from the kids and parents were worth it.

We received about 25 gallons of fuel from the base.



Wing Leader report continues

The Bayou State Escadrille, the Hammond CAF group, had their official ribbon cutting ceremony dedicating their OH-13 Bell 47 helicopter, named Bayou Bell. It is the only one in the CAF fleet. I attended it together with the Mississippi Wing leader, Jack Welch. Also, present for the ceremony was Hank Coates, the CEO of the Commemorative Air Force.



Jim Helms flew 10 Hammond dignitaries around the airport.

See you at the hangar!



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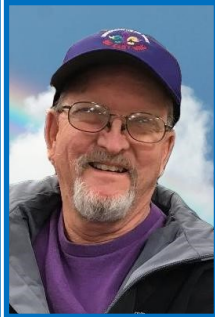
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Safety Officer— Rick Wood



Good day everyone,

What a remarkable weekend we had at the Biloxi Air Show. The weather was great all weekend and the crowds were constant.

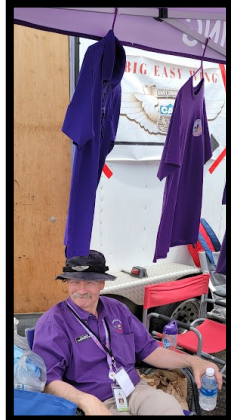
Although Saturday was forecasted to have rain, it never did. It was a little cloudy and cool which made it wonderful for us, the workers. From what I saw the Big Easy Wing had the only plane available for pictures. What a way to expose our unit!

On the safety side, the yellow chain worked out great. It limited access to the plane in a controlled way. With the volunteers, we were able to tell everyone about the history of the plane and allow kids and a few adults onto the plane.



Here are a few things that we need to address to help those working on the wing.

1. Limit the worker on the wing to an hour. Picking up kids is hard work. He can switch with the person at the steps.
2. Make sure that everyone stays Hydrated.
3. Keep an eye on each other so that we don't get sunburned. I looked at my sunscreen and it said it is only effective for 70 mins.
4. Relieve members when it is time to eat. We all need a break.
5. Have an ice chest so water and Gatorade can be purchased.



Money cannot buy the smiles of the kids, not to mention the adults who sat in the plane. Thanks everyone for making this a very successful event.





Welcome to the month of May!

When I received a call from Keesler Airbase requesting our presence at the Thunder Over the Sound show, I was ecstatic. I immediately called Harold, Mike, and Terry. I was concerned we wouldn't be ready because of the generator but it all worked out. It was an exciting, fun, and profitable adventure for us.

The Keesler staff were informative, gracious, and extremely helpful. I cannot say enough about how great everyone treated us. We were invited to the performers' party where I was able to meet the Thunderbirds crew and pilots and where the Thunderbird poster given to us was signed by the Thunderbird flight crew. Jeff has it now and he will be framing it. By staying on base, it provided the 3-day workers with easy access for working and provided up with an opportunity to socialize and get to know one another better.



Now for the real reason for attending-money! The donations and the PX brought in around \$2000.



Next important reason for attending is PR-getting our name out there. There were several attendees who showed interest in flying in the Stearman. They took brochures and business cards. We have already heard from one of the attendees about flying.

Allowing kids to sit in the plane for a photo op was a big PR success, especially with the Colonel who worked with me in setting all of this up. I think everyone who visited our Stear-

man was extremely pleased that the Big Easy Wing was present.

Like I always say, an organization is nothing without its members coming together to make things happen. I would like to thank the following for coming out and working. First, the plane would not have been there without Terry, Pat Quigley, and Mike Scott. The PX was there because of Kevin and Glenn. Rick, Harold, David, Austin, Karl, Harvey, Warren, Duck, Roger, Claudia Jeffrey, and Dawn Duxworth helped with either the plane's photo ops or with the PX. KUDOS to all!



We have 2 flight days coming up—May 13 Saturday of Mother's Day weekend and Saturday, June 17 of Father's Day weekend. Please let people know—these flight days would make a fantastic and unique gifts.



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New Orleans, LA 70126





Greetings!

We have been very busy building relationships with outside organizations that will help supply a growing number of potential cadet candidates.

Since I last wrote, we formalized a partnership with the Civil Air Patrol Alvin Callendar Composite Squadron. From time to time, this unit will use our hangar facilities for their program as well as assist us when we are operational or have special events.

I am in negotiations with the Pontchartrain Cadet Squadron to have them enjoy our facilities as well. Recently, members of this unit visited our hangar, sat in the planes, and even flew the simulators and the aircraft carrier. They were most impressed. I am waiting for the CAP paperwork to arrive so that they too, can start using the hangar. And, as stated in Harold's article, we have established a relationship with EAA chapter 261. Stay tuned for updates!



Darren Guidry-Pontchartrain kids



Remy Goodwin

Finally, I am excited to announce that Christian Brothers School, located in City Park, will bring their 6th Grade aviation students out to the hangar during the school year. Currently, the school has four sections of 6th Graders with two sections studying aviation each semester. I am expecting two classes of 6th Graders, approximately 30 students each, to visit in the coming weeks. Special thanks to Mr. Michael Prat, Head of School and Mr. Remy Goodwin, aviation instructor for making this

happen. When they visit, I will need some volunteers that are youth protection certified by the CAF to help with the visit. I will be reaching out when the visits are announced.



Finally, our cadet unit seems to be making progress. With all these students visiting our wing, hopefully we can excite some of the kids to join our cadet program and perhaps their parents as members. Thank you all, especially Roger Jeffrey, who has stepped up and became leaders in our effort to grow our wing's youth programming.



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New Orleans, LA 70126



Mother's Day Weekend

Saturday, May 13th

Give Mom a Real Treat!
An opportunity to soar the skies.



**Only \$270
up to May 13!**



FOOD AND REFRESHMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE

Hangar tours available to the ERA Chapter 261

**New Orleans Lakefront Airport
8550 Stearman Dr, New Orleans, LA 70126**



504-445-6275 • Visit our website by using QR-code or going to

<https://big-easy-wing.square.site/aircraft-rides>



Happy Mother's Day Weekend!



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