



# Big Easy Wing



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## Membership Meeting/

**August 12**

**10am**



## Unit Leader—Harold Buchler

Greetings!

What can you say about July other than—HOT! HOT! HOT!

We started the month with our membership meeting. At that meeting, two presentations were made. The first was from Henrik Pontoppidan, a fellow lawyer, and World War II history buff. Henrik presented to the wing a WWII metal flak helmet. The flak helmet was used by the aircrews during their bombing runs. The helmet is unique in that it has ear coverings with protective coating. The coating was necessary to keep fingers from adhering to the metal. It will be a welcome addition to our collection.



The second presentation was from Irvin J. Thibodeaux, Jr. He presented to the Wing original WWII technical publications on the B-29 as well as his father's Honorable Discharge from the service. His father was one of the maintenance personnel who worked on the Enola Gay after the war. Mr. Thibodeaux presented to the Wing one of the two magnetic compasses that the Enola Gay was equipped with. While we don't have official documentation to prove it, I will take Mr. Thibodeaux's word that it came from the Enola Gay.



The Wing has a flight day approaching. On Sunday, August 13, we will be having passengers flying in our Stearman. I ask that members come out and support this event. The flights will be from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Plans are also in the works for a flight day in September. Be on the lookout for more information.

September begins the start of the officers' election process. Please think about running for the board or for a committee. At this time, I am looking for someone to serve as Election chair. We need 3 people to serve on this committee. Please let me know if you will chair the committee and if you are interested in serving on the committee. It is the committee's duty to contact members about serving on the board.

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## Chief Pilot—Mike Scott



Greetings Big Easy!

We are now in the middle of the summer and braving the Gulf Coast heat. Over the past month, we had a rides day on July 7<sup>th</sup> with three paid rides around the city and I had a good day of Stearman training with Jared Spencer. We will plan to have a rides event with Phil Webb flying out of Lakefront on Saturday September 16<sup>th</sup> and we have other events like the Hammond Airshow on the horizon. We also have a few pilots interested in training to fly the Stearman. If you have tail wheel time and are interested in the requirements to become a Stearman pilot, please reach out to me at [mmscott86@gmail.com](mailto:mmscott86@gmail.com).



This past week I had the pleasure of flying in a beautiful 1927 Travel Air biplane with Jared's father-in-law, "Cap'n Mac", from Orcas Island, WA. Cap'n Mac has been barnstorming for 40 years and was featured in a book and subsequent movie written by famed aviation author Richard Bach. The ride was incredible, flying around the scenic San Juan Islands near Seattle and Victoria, Canada. Summertime in the Pacific Northwest is incredible, and I highly recommend getting up to the San Juans for a ride in the Travel Air!

Check out <https://www.orcasbiplanerides.com/> for more information.

Jared and I also had the opportunity to do some island hopping and tail wheel landing practice with Cap'n Mac in his very useful Cessna 180.



If you stop by the Big Easy Wing hangar, you will notice a new aircraft near the Stuka and 172. Last month I purchased a 2002 Lancair Super ES. "Brenda" is a 4-seat cross country traveling machine, and I hope to take some of you guys flying in her soon!

Fly safe and stay cool!







Welcome to the Dog Days of Summer!

This is truly the hottest year ever. We have had many days in the 100th which is the reasons that we are not having all day flight days. It is just too hot.

We had a short-flight day on July 7th.. The passengers are very comfortable and shows no sign of being too hot. Now, it's totally different story for our pilot, Mike. Which is one of the reason we shut down early. Thank you Mike for enduring the heat.



Jeff Smoyer



Picture caption



Dorren Schmidt



Dorren

We will be having our next short-flight day on August 13. We will start around 9ish and we will end around 1pm.

We are hoping that September will bring us cooler weather so that we can get back to our fun cookouts and a full flight day.

Mike Scott is booked with

work every weekend in September so I have contacted Phil Webb. He is checking his schedule for us. Phil thinks that he should be available for September 16. I will have a flier out soon.

We are having a fly-in / member cookout day on Saturday, September 30. Bill Triay has invited his aircraft group from northshore as well as the 99's to join us for a hangar visit and a cookout. Chef Kevin is in withdraws and he is looking forward to barbequing again. Bill has arranged for some special entertainment. Be there on the afternoon of September 30th to see what he has installed.





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## Safety Officer— Rick Wood



August is here and we are entering the busiest time for Hurricanes. Here are a few things to remember.

### Generator

- if you own one this is the best time to get them ready if needed
- change your oil, new air filter, replace the gas if it has been in the tank while sitting.
- check fuel filter
- run the Generator -they should be run monthly, under a load

which helps keep the brushes and exciters in working order.

-If you hook up your unit to your breaker box remember to turn off the main breaker so that you do not back feed to the pole.

- depending on the size of your unit it is a good idea to mark the breakers that you need to keep certain things running. Turn all others off so that you don't overload the Generator.

Hope this helps you if you have a Generator.



## Wing Leader continues

Plans are in the works for the Big Easy Wing to participate in the Hammond Air Show this October. We will have the opportunity to sell rides on the days leading up to the air show. During the air show our Stearman will be on static display. More details will be provided as we move closer to the event.

Note— the Vietnam War Wall will be at this event. The traveling wall is very impressive if you have not seen it before.

**Mark your calendar for October 21st & 22nd**

See you at the hangar!





## Education Program Update—Roger Jeffrey

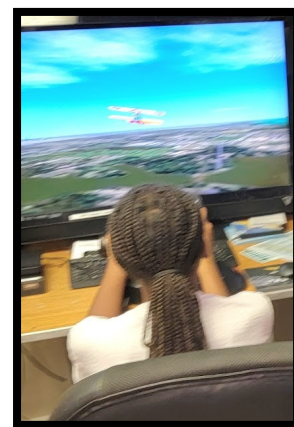
In early July, we had over 30 youths from Excite All Stars— a non-profit that provides summer educational programs in New Orleans East. We collaborated with the New Orleans Golden Eagle Aviators, which is a local group based out of Lakefront Airport. Their purpose is to foster and expose youths to the field of aviation. The attendees which were mainly under 12 were exposed to our education curriculum. We had 5 stations set up and manned by one of our members who are CAF youth certified. Of course, Terry showed the older youths the function and purpose of riveting in aviation, while Harold went over the various aircraft instruments. Rick identified

aircraft parts and Bill showed them how an aircraft carrier is utilized in aviation.

Members of the Golden Eagle brought one of their planes over to allow the youths to view the inside of an airplane. David Capo utilized Harold's Cessna for the same purpose. After the students completed these various activities in the hangar, they visited the

flight simulators demo by Roger. The older students were into the flying demo, while the younger group enjoyed soaking up the cool air and rolling on the floor. The groups did have quite a few questions about the flight simulators and a couple of them took a turn trying to take off and land.

All in all, it went well and we learned some things. Oh yeah... Bill Triay checked the group in and gave them our BEW education activity check card. Thanks to David, each student went home with a foam aircraft.



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