



Big Easy Wing



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Membership Meeting/

March 15
Ground School

Hangar

Volume 9-Issue 3

March 8, 2025



Unit Leader—Harold Buchler

Greetings:

Now that Mardi Gras is over, we can get back to being a flying Wing. However, there are still parades getting ready to roll in the coming weeks.

On March 15 we will be holding our annual Ground School. We will have a guest speaker, Jerry Strahan, who is the author of Andrew Higgins' biography. It should be very educational and informative.

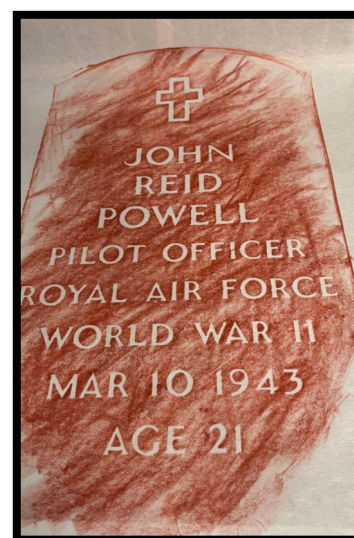
I just returned from attending the CAF Winter Conference in Dallas. As you know, this May will be the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day. During the Second World War, Britain shipped tens of thousands of recruits to the U.S. for training. Once pilot, seaman, or artilleryman training was completed, they returned to Britain, all except for 431.

These 431 never made it back to their homeland. They perished in training accidents, civilian accidents, or due to illness and were interred in cemeteries dotting the country to this day.

The Commemorative Air Force, in honor of the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe is leading a symbolic effort to bring these boys back home and reunite these young men with their families. The CAF will have volunteers across the country visiting all 431 graves to carefully make gravestone rubbing for each. These will be transported back to the UK on the "Ready for Duty", a CAF aircraft traveling from Texas to the UK this spring.

In speaking with the project leader, I found out that 6 of these graves are in our area. One is in the Greenwood Cemetery, and 3 are in the Chalmette Battlefield cemetery. I will get the locations of the remaining graves soon. Once this information is received and we receive the materials for the rubbings, a notice will go out to the members to assist in this worthwhile project.

Other events are in the planning stage and will be reported to the members when finalized. Presently we are working on another FAA workshop with Cedric Grimes. He did a fantastic presentation last year. We are looking at Saturday April 5 for a fly-in and a FAA workshop. Stay tune for updates. Please check the event page



Continued on page 2



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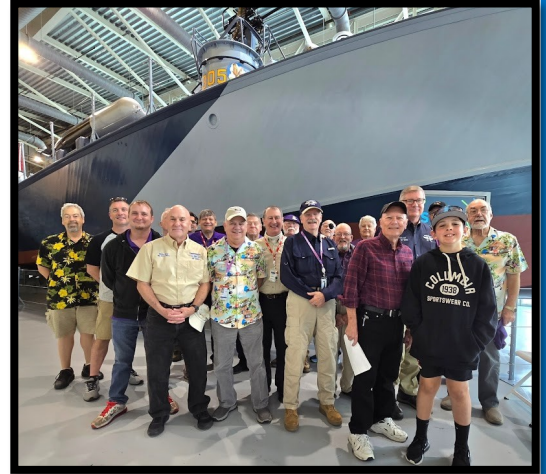


Unit Leader article continues

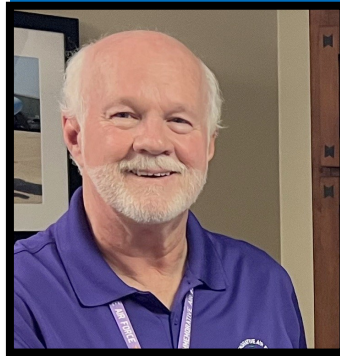
Our last meeting was held at the site PT boat 305 at the National WW2 Museum. We had a good turnout and everyone was impressed with its history and all the repairs.

On another note; Plans are underway to have the Stuka listed with an Airplane broker to market the plane for sale.

See you at the hangar.



Educational Officer– Roger Jeffrey



Greetings!

We held our first Kaydet Training Program of 2025, teaching the Boy Scout Aviation Merit Badge course on Saturday, March 8th. In attendance were scouts from Troop 796. As in the past, this course provides training for the Scouts to be eligible for the Aviation Merit Badge. It follows the Aviation Merit

Badge requirements as outlined by the Scouting organization.

Six students engaged in learning activities that covered types of aircraft, forces acting on aircraft, what makes a wing fly and they had hands-on experience with our flight simulators, where they actually flew a course, they plotted during the navigation module training.

On March 22nd students from Troop 223, which is also Kevin Duxworth's son's Troop, will attend the course. On April 19th we have scouts from Troop 45 attending, and I will also be coordinating with Susan Boudreaux, who's Troop 18 attended our training on July 20, 2024, for another six students.

All members of Big Easy Wing who completed the requirements to be a Boy Scout Merit Badge Counselor, should have gotten an email reminder to renew their certification. If you haven't received that, or if you need assistance completing the renewal, please contact me, as I will be glad to assist you.

I am looking forward to a busy and productive year, as we will find out in late March how much we have been rewarded from the Galatoire Foundation Grant. The Board of Directors will discuss how we will spend the money and I anticipate an allotment for upgrading the Flight Simulators along with installing better Wifi for Internet access. See you all at the next meeting!



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Executive Officer—Bill Alvarez



Hello Big Easy Wing!

The BEW Ground School 2025

March 15th is next weekend, and we should prepare ourselves accordingly! Don't forget that this is an excellent 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.)

Please review agenda:

2025 Ground School Agenda

Start Time	End Time	Item
8:30	9:00	Registration [and CAF Hold Harmless] Coffee/donuts
9:00	9:15	Welcome Pledge of Allegiance Introduction of Officers and Committees Ground School Logistics
9:15	10:00	Plane Pilot / Session {Kris Caldwell / N'awlins Lady}
10:00	10:15	Break / Hangar Safety Tour
10:15	10:45	HQ CAF Update Video Jan 2025
10:45	11:00	PX (Shirley Colomb)
11:00	11:30	Education (Roger Jeffrey)
11:30	12:00	Loadmaster (Rick Woods)
12:00	1:00	Lunch (\$15) Jambalaya and Lasagna
1:00	1:45	Maintenance (Terry Clausing)
1:45	2:30	Marshalling (Ritchie Gray)
2:30	3:15	Guest Speaker Jerry Strahan



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2025 Ground School Agenda

Pilot / Plane Session (Led by Kris Caldwell)

Operations Officer Kris Caldwell will lead us through the inner workings of Stearman and history of our N'awlins Lady. Kris has been writing some excellent articles for the newsletter, showcasing various and unique planes. I am anxious to hear what he offers at Ground School!

Intro to PX (Led by Shirley Colomb):

Come learn what the sound of sales is all about. Our PX tent is one of the primary ways we raise funds for our wing. And one of the best perks, when you work the PX tent, you get a space in the shade at Air Shows!

Education (Led by Roger Jeffrey):

Education is one of the core missions of the Commemorative Air Force. Participants will get to review the existing training programs, as always help brainstorm new ideas. The Big Easy Wing now boasts flight simulators, which makes it more fun to reach kids and adults alike! Graduates will assist in the educational outreach of the Big Easy Wing after successfully completing the CAF HQ's course on Child Protection and BSE Child Protection

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 after successfully passing the drug and alcohol program. your neighbor.

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!

I look forward to seeing everybody there!

Bill Alvarez XO



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Operational Officer—Kris Caldwell



We been having some Great Days for Flying!

Huge thanks to Terry and Pat for getting the N'Awlins Lady a fresh annual in preparation for rides sea-son! Pat and I gave it a "return to service" flight and everything looks and flies great.

Please make it a point to attend ground school this Saturday (March 15). We'll be spending some time refreshing our knowledge of our Stearman while re-viewing safety and loading procedures. Of course, it's also a great time for en-joying good fellowship. We'll also be discussing future events. Looking forward to seeing everyone there! Also, Mike Scott is back from his deployment. Per-haps Mike will join us at ground school.

I wanted to share with you my recent flight opportunity. It was amazing! I had the opportunity to soar 70,000 feet into the stratosphere and see the black-ness of space and the earth far below in the legendary U-2 Dragon Lady. The airmen of the 9th Reconnaissance Wing are simply the best. It was a surreal ex-perience. Here are a few photos. Check out the BEW patch!





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Adjutant-Shirley Colomb



Welcome to the March Winds!

It has been a long time since we have meet at the hangar and I am looking forward to us getting together. Our Gound School may be a good time for you to invite some fellow enthusiast. It has been several months since we have had a new member. Basically, we still have 3 to 4 members that still have not renewed. I will reach out to them.

Also, several of our members have had medical issues. I have reached out to them and they are all do well.

As you know you can go online or see me at the march meeting. Dues are still only 50 dollars. Dues may be paid *Online* by going to our BEW website [online store](http://bigeasywing.org) , call me or you can mail me a check.

Checks mailed to: CAF Big Easy Wing
c/o Shirley Colomb, Adjutant
281-413-4525

Safety Officer—Rick Wood



Happy Spring and Festive time!

I am looking forward to helping with Ground School on the 15th and learning more about Andrew Higgins.

The first part of my presentation will be reminders about hangar safety- movement, fire extinguisher use, first aid materials and the grounds. However, safety is everyone's job.

I will give a quick tour around the inside and outside of the hanger pointing out our significant things. Later I will be presenting on the duties of Loadmaster. Along with my fellow loadmasters, we will go over the manual, documents to be signed and end with demonstrations and practice.

Let's hope for good weather for the 15th so that we can renew our skills and learn some new information.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!



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Upcoming Events

Events

Ground School

March 15



- March 20th** Jewish Family Services of Greater NO Fundraiser
Fundraiser—Messina Restaurant 6– 8 pm – Stearman on display
- March 22** Possibility of Flying Rosies
- March 22th** **Kaydet Class—Boy Scouts Aviation Merit Badge Class**
- April 5** FAA class and Fly-in
- April 12** General Membership Meeting Hangar
- April 19** **Kaydet Class—Boy Scouts Aviation Merit Badge Class**
- May 10** General Membership Meeting Hangar

Event Photos—PT 305— February Meeting



Kaydet/BSA Training Troop 796



Kaydet/BSA Training Troop 796

