



Big Easy Wing



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**Membership Meeting/
January 11th**
**SPG Technologies 1209 N
Al Davis rd Jefferson LA
70123**

Volume 9 Issue 1

January 5, 2025

Unit Leader—Harold Buchler



Greetings:

A belated Merry Christmas and best wishes for a Happy New Year. December saw the Wing host the Christmas Party with members of the Civil Air Patrol and the Golden Eagles attending. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to my attendance at the National Legal Officers College for the Civil Air Patrol in Philadelphia. Both Robert and Shirley informed me that once again we had a great turnout. Shirley out did herself again with outstanding door prizes. Don Clausing won the 50/50 and gave it a to the wing for our educational program. I am pleased that Bill Triay and Roger Jeffrey were selected for our award recipients. See photos of the event in the newsletter.

The new and old Officers were installed at the Christmas party. I want to welcome the new Officers to the board and wish them good luck. Officers, please try to attend this month's meeting in your purple shirt for a photo-op. Shirley has been sending in the photo with an article to the newspaper.

NOTE: we will not be at the hangar for this month's meeting. We will be meeting at member, Jared Spencer's work site. See the address in the purple box on this page. Our meeting will begin at 10am followed by lunch at one of the nearby restaurants. We hope you can join us for the camaraderie.

Soon will be holding our Ground School in March. Bill Alvarez, our new XO will be providing you with the details.

The National Winter Conference held by CAFHQ will be held on February 27 through March 1 in Dallas. I encourage the new members of the Board to attend. It is a great opportunity to see how the organization is run and meet counterparts from other areas of the country. Please be sure to attend the upcoming January meeting.

See you at the hangar



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Appointed Operational Officer—Kris Caldwell



Happy New Year Big Easy Wing!

Even as our city has come under attack, we are Big Easy strong and will continue to preserve history and educate our future generations. We are undeterred and 2025 has a bright future!

On Jan 2nd, Bill Triay and I took his 450 horsepower Stearman "beast" flying for the first time in over a year. The flying qualities were great thanks to Bill's and Terry's work. It was a beautiful day to see the city and fly over Lake Pontchartrain to Slidell for fuel. For those that aren't aware, Bill's Stearman was used as a stunt plane in the 1981 movie, "The Pursuit of D.B. Cooper" starring Robert Duvall. Watch the scene for some good Stearman stunt flying with Art Scholl at the controls. While Bill and I didn't run any cars off the road, we did land with windburned grins on our faces.

We're all looking forward to getting the N'Awlins Lady flying again soon as I get my currency rehacked with Jim Helms in the near future. Looking forward to sunny days and good flying in 2025!

Kris

[THE PURSUIT OF D. B. COOPER \(1981\)](#)





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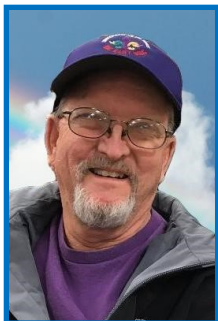
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Safety Officer — Rick Wood



Happy 2025 to the Big Easy Wing

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday. Here are a few things to think about after the tragedy over New Years.

At our meetings, we must step up the security around the hanger.

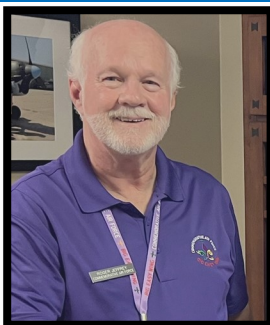
We all have an idea of the vehicles everyone drives so with that in mind if any strange vehicles arrive that no one recognizes, please inform your leadership. Make a point of wearing your badge. If you do not have one, please inform Shirley or Harold. Make sure your BEW badge is visible upon entering. Guests and riders should have a member with them upon entering.

Superbowl weekend is around the corner and traffic will be a big headache getting to the hanger that is why your board changed our meeting date to the 3rd Saturday.

Let's make 2025 the best yet for our unit. See you all on Saturday!



Education Officer—Roger Jeffrey



I am appreciative to be elected as Big Easy Wing Educational Officer. In this role I will work with the other Board members to ensure our educational program, particularly the Scouting Aviation Merit Badge Course, continues to improve.

As most of you know, Big Easy Wing has been selected as a grant recipient from the Galatoire Foundation. The award amount for each recipient is determined by the amount of money raised through two separate table auctions held at Galatoire's restaurant. On Monday December 2, 2024, we were invited to attend the Christmas table auction.

Shirley, Donald, myself and my wife, Claudia had the pleasure of meeting some of the other Galatoire Foundation grant award winners on the night of the auction. We were all in awe of the action that took place that evening. While we snacked on appetizer bites (no dinner, mind you) and sipped sparkling wine, the auctioneer proceeded with a fast-moving process of bidding on various sized tables, for a Friday lunch before Christmas. The highest bid of the night was \$18,000 for an 8-person table. As you can see from this picture of the tally sheet, over \$156,000 dollars was raised that night!

Some of the Galatoire Foundation grant money will be used to upgrade items in the hangar, such as better internet access and certain hardware upgrades to our flight simulators.



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Adjutant-Shirley Colomb



Happy 2025!

Time seems to be in warp speed! Can you believe we are now in 2025.

There are several members who need to pay their dues. Please see Dayton at the meeting to check to see if you are paid for 2025.. Dues are still only 50 dollars. We are at 75% membership. Let's get to 100%. Dues may be paid *Online* by going to our BEW website [online store](#), call me or you can mail me a check.

Checks mailed to: CAF Big Easy Wing
c/o Shirley Colomb, Adjutant
281-413-4525
1216 Brockenbraugh Ct Metairie, LA 70005

Education Officer continues—Roger Jeffrey

There will be another auction for a table at a Mardi Gras luncheon. The proceeds from both auctions will be added together and divided up between the Galatoire Foundation and the different grant award winners. We will know how much our grant will be sometime after Mardi Gras.

Shirley and Harold will be attending the Mardi Gras table auction which is scheduled for January 21st unless what happened on New Year's Day affects this date.



Shirley and Claudia examine the tally sheet



We both wonder... where's the food?

Please see Shirley's rides article about our education class we have scheduled for January.



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Rides Coordiantor-Shirley Colomb



Enjoying this frosty weather!

In October, I was contacted by a parent of a student that attends St. Joseph Academy in Baton Rouge. Her daughter, Bree, who is participating in their career day choose aviation as her career. Her mother, Tasha, contacted me about her daughter participating in our education program on January 23. Harold will be her pilot mentor in the morning followed by Roger introducing her to the flight simulator. Shirley will concluded the afternoon with an overview of the airport operations.

Bree spoke with Kris on her flight day which was December 7th, Bree, Tasha and her dad, Willie who also flew, was very satisfied with the information and contacts Kris gave Bree. I know they are looking forward to her next instruction day,



Clay Spencer

In addition to those 2 flights, Jared's dad, Clay Spencer, who one the Poker Run took his flight. He thoroughly enjoyed it. On hand was our regular Saturday morning crew.





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Executive Officer-Bill Alvarez



Happy New Year!

First of all, I would like to thank the membership for supporting me as your new XO. As the executive officer, I have been given the task of handling the Ground School. Tentatively, it is set for March 15. All the BEW presenters have been notified of this date and their role. Shirley and Roger has obtained our guest presenter, Jerry Strahan. Jerry is an author and he will talk about Andrew Higgins. If you are not familiar with him, Jerry is also the author of another remarkable icon - "Lucky Dogs." In addition, I have been assigned the task to overview the Galatoires Grant expenditures.

Events

January 11th	General membership meeting @ SPG Technologies
January 23rd	St Joseph Academy student visit
February 15*	General membership meeting @ WWIIMuseum
March 15*	Ground School
April 12	General membership meeting @ hangar

If you notice 2 of the dates have been moved to the 3rd weekend due to events in the city.

Christmas Party 2024



Christmas Party 2024



Christmas Party 2024



Christmas Party 2024



Christmas Party 2024

