



Big Easy Wing



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Membership Meeting/

April 12

General Membership

Hangar

Volume 9-Issue 4

April 6 2025

Unit Leader—Harold Buchler



Greetings:

This past month has been really busy for the Big Easy Wing. We started the month off with our Ground School.

Attendance was very strong even though the weather was predicted to be severe. The topics were interesting and informative. It was nice to see Mike Scott back with us and to participate in the program. Jerry

Strahan was our guest speaker. He spoke about Andrew Higgins and how Higgins built the vessels that helped the United States prevail in World War II. Jerry provided an excellent and informative presentation.

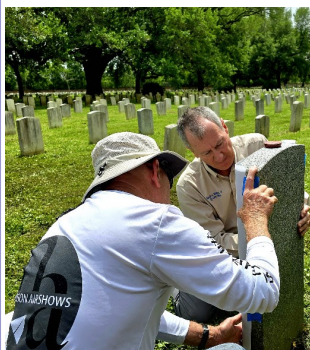


Jerry Strahan



Also, this past month saw two different

Scout Troops attend our Merit Badge class on Aviation. Each class had six Scouts who after performing all the tasks required earned their Aviation Merit Badge. Note: Shirley and I picked up our check from Melvin Rodrigue of Galatoire's, which was given to us for our educational program. This will help us upgrade some needed items.



The Big Easy Wing also finished a project originated by the Commemorative Air Force. The project entailed getting rubbings from the tombstones of British Service Members who perished in the United States. They were Francis Guy, William J. Kershaw, Frederick Wells, David Somerville, and Harry Stephen, all were buried in Greenwood Cemetery. Watcyn G. Jones was interred in the Chalmette National Cemetery. Watcyn is the only foreign national buried in the Chalmette National Cemetery. continued on page 2



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Unit Leader article continues

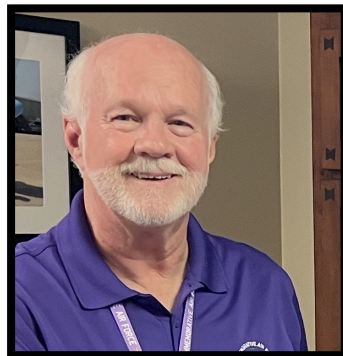


To help with the project, we enlisted members of the Big Easy Wing, the Civil Air Patrol, Bayou State Escadrille and Gretna Homeschool group. A Big thanks to Richie Gray and Shirley for participating at Chalmette Battlefield.

Thanks to Krystal Caldwell (pictured) and her children and several other home-schooled families for joining us on this project. Each one had an opportunity to try their hand rubbing on the gravestones. We will be framing the rubbing that our wing kept and hanging them in the office.

On the horizon, we have another Scout Troop set to earn their Aviation Merit Badges. Also, we are planning another Poker Run with a Flight Day. It is scheduled for May 17.

Educational Officer– Roger Jeffrey



Greetings!

We presented two more successful Kaydet Training Programs for the Scouting Aviation Merit Badge in March. First to Troop 796 on March 8th and second to Troop 223 on March 22nd. Scouts from both troops were fully engaged and participated in all activities. As always, the flying of a glider put together by each scout is a fun-filled and competitive activity. We moved from building gliders out of foam plates to having the students assemble "store bought" balsa wood gliders. This worked well, as they could experiment with different configurations of the wing, rudder and elevator angles and positions. Our next scheduled class is April 19th for Troop 45.

The great news of our grant award from Galatoire's Foundation will benefit several aspects of our facility and training program. Among other things, we plan on upgrading the air conditioning in the training room, installing high speed reliable internet access, and upgrading the flight simulators. Looking forward to these improvements and the impact they will have on our educational program.

See you at the next meeting!



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Operational Officer—Mike Scott



Greetings folks!

It's been great to be back in the US after a four-month military stint overseas. Last month we had another wonderful ground school- many thanks to all who participated. My special thanks goes to Kris and Terry for all of the hard work keeping the Stearman running and flying rides while I was gone, outstanding work!



Kris and I had a good recurrent flight, and we are working to try to make him an instructor so that he can also train new Stearman pilots. As things warm up here and the music festivals start, we are also looking forward to flying ride events and potentially local fly ins in coming months

I recently got back from two weeks of traveling the southeast in my Lancair, from New Orleans to Memphis to Manassas just outside of DC, then down to Florida and back to Memphis. I found a few Stearman's in museums in VA and FL during this trip. The N2S-5 in the Udvar-Hazy Air & Space Museum at Dulles flew at the same base and during the same period (1943) as the "N'awlins Lady"- World War II in Ottumwa, Iowa! Perhaps young Student Naval Aviators flew formation flights together in these two airplanes.



The Valiant Air Command Museum in Titusville Florida had two beautiful Stearman's as well, one of those was a former Red Baron Aerobatic team airplane.

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Executive Officer—Bill Alvarez



Hello Big Easy Wing!

We have received a solid offer on Stuka! We listed the plane with Dylan at SOVEREIN WARBIRD BROKER-AGE. Dylan got Tim Smith Photography to take around 20 stills of the Stuka on a pro bono basis. Tim sent the stills to Dyland, and they were posted on the website. Once we received the offer for \$60,000 as is. Terry began checking the plane over.

The entire Board of the Big Easy Wing agreed to the sale. We accepted the offer but have not received a signed copy yet. Once the proceeds are

received by the American Air-power Heritage Museum, we would like them to be set aside for the purchase of a T-34 or another suitable aircraft to be operated by the Big Easy Wing.



Operational Officer—Mike Scott



While in Florida, I learned to master a new kind of flight, without an engine. I got my commercial glider pilot rating at Seminole Lake, a beautiful grass strip outside of Orlando. I highly recommend getting checked out – it's a very pure and addicting form of Flight!

The day after getting my rating, I flew my plane over to sun and fun where I happened to run into our other pilot Kris, randomly walking around with friends! It turns out he and his two friends landed literally two planes behind us right before the arrival window closed at 7 PM. All of these adventures and opportunities just show how fortunate we are as Americans and how small and unique our aviation community is.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.





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Adjutant-Shirley Colomb



Welcome to the April Showers!

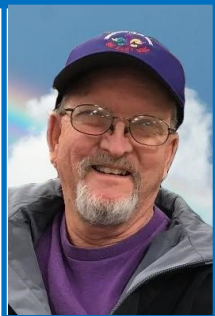
I am pleased to announce that Jerry Whitman has rejoined our wing. Jerry did so at our FAA Seminar. Unfortunately, Cedric Grimes was not able to present due to coming down with pneumonia. However, Donald Harris saved the day for everyone. I think everyone learned something. There were many questions asked. See pictures at end of newsletter.

Coming up in May will be a flight day and another Poker run. Mark your calendar for May 17. See flier under upcoming events.

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 Brockenraugh Ct Metairie 70005

Safety Officer—Rick Wood



Good Afternoon BEW

A quick note to let everyone know that we are fixing to get into our busy season. Let get the word out when we are having a flight day. Fights are a primary source of income.

That being said a few things to remember.

Loading and unloading the aircraft, we need to make sure that customers and kids stay on the black section of the plane. Remind everyone not to touch the windshield.

After landing make sure the prop has stopped and the chocks mags are turned off.

When the plane is on display and kids are taking pictures remember the black stripes on the wing. In addition, setting up the chain around the plane leave room between the chain and the plane so kids will not have the urge to touch the wing.

If anyone has questions about this ask me at the next meeting.



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Upcoming Events

Events

April 12	General Membership Meeting	Hangar
April 19	Kaydet Class—Boy Scouts Aviation Merit Badge	
May 10	General Membership Meeting	Hangar
May 17	Poker Run and Flight Day	Hangar

**CAF - BIG EASY WING
ANNUAL POKER RUN &
STEARMAN FLIGHT DAY**

POKER HAND
\$45

POKER HAND, LUNCH, DOOR PRIZES

SATURDAY MAY 17TH
RAIN- OUT MAY 25
HOME AIRPORT - LAKEFRONT AIRPORT KNEW

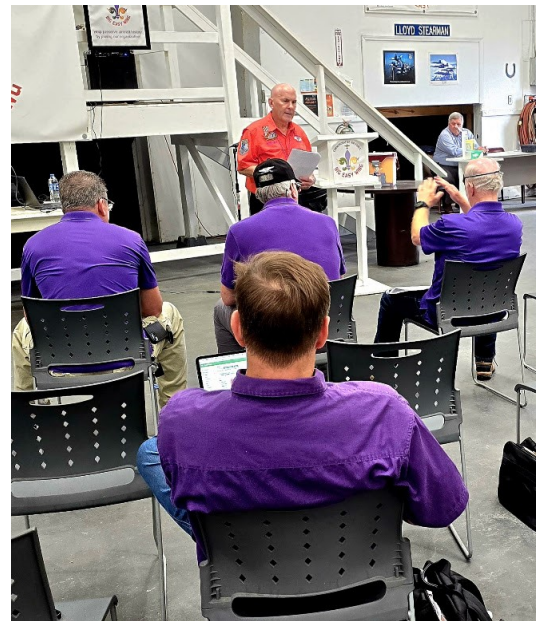
Stearman Flight

New Orleans Lakefront Airport KNEW
Slidell Airport KADS
St Tammany Regional L31
Picayune Municipal Airport KMJD
Stennis International Airport KHSA

PLEASE REGISTER BY GOING
TO RIDES EVENTS AT
BIGEASYWING.ORG TO
COMPLETE FORM.
CAN CHARGE AHEAD OR PAY
THAT DAY

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Event—Ground School 2025



Event Photos—British Soldiers



Kaydet/BSA Training Troop 223



FAA Seminar April 5

