Big Easy Wing

Volume 10 Issue 8 August 3, 2026

Welcome to August in New Orleans!

Please pay attention to the heat! Check out Karl's article.

Our Flight of the Flag day event was a tremendous success, and Slidell Airport gave us overwhelmingly tremendous support. We must thank the airport management, Jim Feulner and his staff, for doing everything possible to make our event a success. And let's not forget the civil air patrol, and the experimental Aircraft association also participated in making the event happen. In addition, the food truck that was ordered by Slidell personnel was welcomed by all with great food choices.

The weather that I ordered came through perfectly with no rain until after our event. Paul flew his chipmunk, Jerad flew our CAF Stearman, and Kris flew my Stearman. All three Aircraft lined up on the tarmac presented a good photo opportunity. Jerad took off with the flags and made his route over the city's military burial sites of Slidell. Kris took off in my Stearman along with Paul in his chipmunk. Pat Quigley and I took to the air in his 172 to capture photo opportunity. As Paul and Kris remained in the traffic pattern at Slidell, Pat was a comfortable altitude above them, photographing the entire event. Thanks to Paul, Jerad, Kris and Pat for participating in this event, the photos are truly remarkable.

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Officers:

Wing Leader
Bill Triay
bt@actionpress.com
Executive Officer
Harvey Burns
Harveygburns@yahoo.com
Adjutant/Development
Shirley Colomb
shirleycol@yahoo.com
Educational Officer
Roger Jeffrey
rjrogerjeff@gmail.com
Financial Officer
James Mykris
jamesmykris@gmail.com
Maintenance Officer
Terry Clasuing
claustj@cox.net
Operations Officers
Kris Caldwell
julietkilcharlie@yahoo.com
Safety Officer
Rick Wood
hurkhunter@yahoo.com
Karl Shearer
Kshearer22@outlook.com

August 8
Board Meeting -8:30

General Meeting -10 am

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Contact Us-

info@bigeasywing.org

Kris was able to give several rides in my Stearman, which produced huge smiles on his occupants upon landing. Huge thanks go out to Kris for making it happen, and the airport was very thankful for getting their people a ride.

Saturday, August 8 will be our next meeting. Please try to attend so that we can make decisions on when to do the next poker run and plan our future activities. The board meeting will take place prior to the meeting.

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Big Easy Wing

8550 Lloyd Stearman Dr. New Orleans, LA 70126

Next to FAA tower

Contact us:
info@bigeasywing.orgg

Assistant Safety Officer- Karl Shearer

Hello BEW,

The Heat Is On!

Not just a Glen Frey song from the 80's.

We are in that time of year when extreme temperatures can have catastrophic consequences- to wit:

Heat Cramps: Loss of electrolytes (sodium and potassium) via perspiration can cause muscle cramps. Painful. Debilitating. Stop exertion. Replace the electrolytes and cool the body in air conditioning or by getting wet and standing near a fan.

Heat Exhaustion: Sometimes preceded by cramps, but not always. It presents with profuse sweating, dizziness, headache and nausea. If you vomit, you are more dehydrated and can progress to-

Heat Stroke: This is a worst-case scenario. The body can no longer regulate its temperature. The patient is hot and dry (no sweat left), disoriented or unconscious.

Cooling the patient with ice packs at pulse points (neck, armpits, groin) will help. A shady place or air conditioning is effective, too. Don't throw the patient into hypothermia by over cooling. If the patient is conscious, small amounts of fluid can be given. Protect the airway and watch out for vomiting.

All of these are worthy of a 911 call. Don't hesitate to call for assistance. Prevention is easier than treatment. Don't overdo it. Take breaks, cool off and hydrate, hydrate, hydrate. Water with electrolytes is the best course of action. Worst of all, if you suffer a heat related illness, you will be more prone to suffer one again in the future. It is a cumulative effect.

And while we're at it- **Look before you lock**. Those of us with children, grandchildren and pets must verify the car is empty before we secure it. Be aware.

Stay cool and stay safe, troops.

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Operation Officer Kris Caldwill and Assistant Jared Spencer

Hey Members, I am glad that I enjoy flying!

It was an honor to pilot the Big Easy Wing Stearman for the Flight of the Flags. We honored the patriotism and sacrifice of American heroes by flying the flags that represent their sacrifice in our plane over The Southeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery. The flight began with Kris in Bill Triay's Stearman and Paul Marot in a Canadian Chipmunk, before I broke off to fly the cemetery route. From above it was a beautiful day and you could see the columbarium fanning out from the perfect rows of headstones on well cared for grounds surrounded by the dense pine woods as far as you can see. The flight ended with a low pass over the runway followed by a break to symbolize those that have "gone West" before us. The event had a great turnout, but it was made more special by having Louisiana's oldest living World War 2 veteran, Major Jim Robinson. His brother was killed during the war, and his flag was among those flown.

Also, we were able to give a ride in Slidell that was cancelled due to weather at the end of our June ride day. Kris gave a ride to a fellow naval officer on the next day, and I gave another ride the following weekend. Then yesterday, I flew three ACE camp riders. We have given biplane rides four weekends in a row; even in the heat of July the residents of New Orleans are giving our Stearman a workout! Looking forward to seeing you on the 8th of August.

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Welcome to August Heat!

We conducted two Aviation Merit Badge classes in July. Troop 55 sent 4 scouts to the July 18th class and 7 scouts to the July 25th class. There was also a scout from Troop 310 in Mandeville that joined the July 25th class. Thanks to all our volunteers- (David Capo, Bill Triay, Karl Shearer, Richie Gray, Glenn Metzger) who came out to help with the fire station, tower and classroom instruction.

It has become clear that extreme temperatures, both outside and in the hangar & the classroom, make it too unbearable to attempt any more classes until at least September or October. On August 1st we will host the National Ace Academy – Aviation Career Day. Shirley, Glenn and I will be working with the group. The ACE students will be with us for about 2 hours.

July 18 Troop 55

July 18- Troop 55

July 25 - Troop 25

Danny Weil getting ready for flight

One of the British Motoring Club members, who's flight was cancelled on Father's Day weekend due to rain, was able to take his make-up flight on July 11th in Slidell.

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Membership – Shirley Colomb

Hello Membership,

I would like to welcome our latest member, Peyton Pinson. Peyton works for NASA Stennis Space Center. Jared recruited Peyton to join us.

So far this year, we have had 3 new adult members and a cadet to join us. Unfortunately, they have not been able to join us for any meetings. Be on the lookout for new people at upcoming meetings. Andy, who is lined up to become certified as a Stearman pilot hopes to start participating in October after fire season. Dan should be attending this upcoming meeting, and I hope Peyton will join us also. Remember it is important to any organization to have new members.

I would like to thank the members who have been busy this past month. Consecutively, we have had a function every Saturday since July 11 – Flight of the Flag, 2 Boy Scout Classes, New Orleans ACE Summer Camp and our monthly meeting. I want to say **thank you**! We can not have a functional unit if we do not have volunteers. If you have not participated in a recent event, please think about coming out in the future. We NEED YOU!

If you are using KASTRACK, please let me know if your information is not getting updated. The program was having a few issues but should be corrected now.

If you have any ideas, please bring them out at this upcoming meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you all!

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Hello again!

The 2026 National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees - ACE (Aviation Career Education Academy) visited our hangar on Saturday, August 1. We hosted 29 students ranging from 11- 18 from Orleans Parish area. They toured the fire station with Glenn, the tower with Richie and spent some time with Roger, who instructed them with the flight simulators. A few students took the $99 ride in our Stearman. It was exciting for them, and they were enthralled by all that they saw and learned. I want to thank Roger, Glenn

Richie, Terry and Jared for lending their expertise and time. Like I have stated before, “It takes volunteers coming together on a project to make an impact on our youth.”

It was a long hot day however the students and chaperones were happy with the programs. Only 3 out of the 5 students were able to do their rides. As always programs don’t always follow their schedule. The camp was running behind. However, both boys left to fly are local. One of the chaperones worked at the tower at Dallas and new some of our guys. I have to say that all the chaperones were impressed with our Stearman and all wanted to fly. The adults are in town for the NBCFAE conference which is held annually in New Orleans around this time.

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Adjutant – Shirley Colomb

Hello Members and Friends!

The Flight of the Flag event held at Slidell Airport was a wonderful event. I want to thank everyone who worked to put this together – Jim Fuelner (Slidell Airport Manager), Jim Lachute (Civil Air Patrol and some of his cadets), Dennis Charlesworth (American Legion Post 16), William Walis (Walis for America podcast), and the wives -Dawn Duxworth, Cathy Shearer, and of course our members who were out there in the heat – Bill Triay, Pat Quigley, Terry Clausing, Glenn Metzger, Kevin Duxworth, Karl Shearer, Don Clausing and Paul Marot with his Chipmunk. A special thanks to our 2 pilots Jared Spencer and Kris Caldwell. Kris and Pat were instrumental for prodding me to get us started in this new endeavor. A special thanks to "Flight of the Flags" coordinator and president, Brian Safran. This program honors our fallen heroes- veterans, policeman, fireman and first responders. Thanks for your support and your funding.

Please check out the William Walis interview of Major Jim Robinson who is the oldest LA WWII veteran. He will be 105 this September. Major Robinson brought his brothers flag, Wesley. He died after 5 missions in Germany as a bombardier. https://youtu.be/L2o9fV9cfUw?is=eTt5Zxy5D-oeqrVq

Figure 1 Major Jim Robinson

Figure 2 Bill Walis

Figure 3 Jim Horn

Figure 4 Dawn Kyle and Emma Batson

Figure 5 MSYFAA wker/Glenn/ Bill T/Pat Quigley

ACE Camp

Upcoming Events

-Tentative Schedule

August 8th	Board meeting and general membership meeting
September 12	Madison – Hangover -Jared Spencer Pilot
September 19	Board meeting and general membership meeting/nomination/ flight day
October 10	Board meeting and general membership meeting/ election/ flight day
October 24	? Stennis Halloween/flights
October	Wine Down Wednesday Fundraiser (6 pm – 9 pm) with speaker
November 1	Metairie Rotary Club Wine Tasting
November	Poker Run
December 5	Christmas Potluck Social 5:30 pm