**Cajun Air Festival set**

Local Sertoma Club and Confederate Air Force officials say this year’s Cajun Air Show will be the biggest ever held here and they are renaming it the Cajun Air Festival.

The festival is set for Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 at Lafayette Regional Airport, to raise money for local charities, announced Steve Gautreaux of the Sertoma Club of Lafayette.

Gautreaux unveiled the plans at Sertoma’s meeting Friday in the Lafayette Hilton and Towers.

“We expect this show will top last year’s. It’s bigger, there’s more for people to do, and we hope to raise more money,” Gautreaux said.

Expanded from last year’s show that raised over $40,000, the festival will include the Navy’s Cracker Jack Band, more aircraft, and participation by an experimental airplane association that will include aircrafts designed by Bert Rutan, builder of the Voyager plane that flew around the world.

Also performing will be Paula and Earl Cherry of Lafayette’s Cherry Air. Paula Cherry is a wing-walker.

The Confederate Air Force’s local chapter, the Cajun Wing, will debut its Lockheed PV-2 “Harpoon”, one of only two in the world, C.A.F. Col. Richard Mitchell said.

The Harpoon was famous in World War II as a long-range torpedo bomber and was used extensively in the South Pacific and the Aleutian Islands.

The plane is owned by Mitchell and his wife, Maggie, also a colonel. They are from Lafayette.

Mitchell said that in addition to his Lockheed, there will be several other aircraft on hand.

“We’ll have a C-130 (transport plane) make a cargo drop at the airport; we’ll have F-15 jets from the Louisiana National Guard, A-10 fighter bombers, Cobra and Huey helicopters,” said Mitchell.

Also performing will be the Skyhawks, a Canadian Air Force parachute team.

On hand for the announcement of the air festival were David Tate of Lafayette, president-elect of Sertoma International; Lafayette Mayor Dud Lastrapes; and Bill Anderson, president of the Acadiana Chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association.

Anderson said EAA will hold its state convention in conjunction with the air festival.

EAA planes, some designed by Voyager co-pilot Rutan will perform “fly-bys” at the beginning of each show, Anderson said.

Mitchell said several aircraft will be on public display throughout the two-day festival and air performances will begin at 1 p.m. both days.

On Oct 30, the day before the show officially starts, displays will be open to the disabled, especially disabled veterans, as well as orphans, Mitchell said.