



The Scoop

Volume XV, Issue 6, June, 2002

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For more information, contact Mick Murphy Editor PO Box 53, Southbury, CT 06488

Platt students take to the sky

MILFORD — Sal Affinito, 18, looked skyward early Thursday and could think of only three things to say about the giant hot air balloon hovering gracefully above the soccer field at Platt Regional Vocational-Technical School.

"I love it," he said. "It's amazing," he said. "It's fantastic, and there is nothing more to say," said Affinito, a New Haven resident. The multicolored balloon had a similar effect on many of the dozens of students who gathered and gazed. A lucky few went for a ride.

"It's just cool floating," said passenger Jon Ackley, 14, as the balloon hovered about 200 feet over the field. Neither Jon nor fellow student Mike Caschetto, 15, both of Stratford, showed a moment of fear as Bill Colyer piloted the tethered balloon, dubbed Last Penny, higher and higher. Colyer operates A Yankee Balloon Co. of Fairfield.

The 7:45 a.m. visit to the school came thanks to a grant from the Associated Teachers of Mathematics in Connecticut, said Ginny Casanova of Madison, head of the science and math department at Platt. Casanova blew kisses as the balloon left the ground with her aboard, her wide smile evidence of the delight the experience brought. The ride "was great," Casanova said as she clambered out of the basket. The event, orchestrated by science teacher Andy Kosch, was not just about fun. The balloon was intended to provide a real-life lesson in math and science, said Casanova. Students also built their own much smaller hot air balloons — powered by hair dryers — to learn about what it takes to make such a device fly.

"In life, math has a lot to with everything," said teacher Victor Nelson. The big balloon lesson, because it was so visual, is unlikely to be forgotten, Nelson said. Among other things, it teaches students that balloons rise because hot air is lighter than cold air, he said. The balloon was so powerful that operators tethered its lines to a large tractor, a van and a truck to make sure it did not head farther skyward than anticipated. "It's just awesome for the kids to stand next to something so large," Casanova said.

Justin Babcock, 14, of Stratford, hopped down following his ride, and gathered with classmates to discuss the ex-

perience. The inside of the basket that carries passengers grew unexpectedly warm, he said, as result of the flame that heats the air in the balloon.

"It felt weird, how you are in the air and floating, standing up," Jason said. "It was fun to see everyone (on the ground) and you can see everything all around."

Time flies at hot air balloon program

Four powerful fans were set up at the opening and about 300 students and teachers lined up, took off their shoes and waited anxiously for the signal to step inside. It took several volunteers to hold open the flaps against the wind of the fans as people ventured in.

"Walk, don't run, it's slippery!" yelled Mueller over the noise of the fans. Once inside, he told the group the temperature inside the balloon when it's flying goes up to 4,000 degrees.

"You want to be below, in the basket," he said. The red and white striped balloon is outlined in blue and decorated with American eagles. When inflated the balloon contains 2,500 pounds of air. "It has as much weight inside it as a pickup truck, so be careful (and stay clear) when you see balloons land," Mueller warned. He said a person only needs to be 14 years old to get a permit to learn how to fly one. He led the group outside behind the school where he had a burner and two-person wicker basket set up.

"This uses liquid propane," he said before lighting the pilot light. "It goes through a pre-heat coil and produces a 34-foot flame and a lot of heat." The flame shot into the air with a whooshing sound. Weather conditions did not permit the balloon to go up Tuesday. "It felt weird inside the balloon," said second-grader James Howard, 8. Classmate Katie O'Brien, 8, said it felt warm inside.

Mueller also presented a slide show on ballooning. He said preparing a hot air balloon is like filling an envelope with cold air blown from fans, then heating the air.

"When it gets 100 degrees hotter inside than outside, it goes up," he said. Mueller said "surface winds" must be less than 10 miles per hour for ballooning.

"That's why you see balloons being flown at sunrise or an hour before sunset, when the wind is calmer," he said. "There's no steering wheel. We have to go the way the winds go."

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www.faa.gov/region/ane/flight_standards/index.htm

2K2 CLAS Meeting Schedule

January	17	Business
February	21	Education
March	21	Business
April	18	Education
May	16	Business
June	20	Education
July	18	Business
August	15	Education
September	19	Business
October	17	Education
November	21	Business
December	19	Party

2002 Balloon Festivals

June 28-30, 2002	Northwest Connecticut Balloon Festival & Craft Fair Goshen, CT
July 12-14, 2002	Hillsborough Balloon Festival Hillsboro, NH
July 19-20, 2002	Green River Music and Balloon Festival Greenfield, Ma.
July 26-28, 2002	Wakefield Rotary Balloon Festival Kingston, RI
July 26-28, 2002	NEW JERSEY FESTIVAL OF BALLOONING Readington, NJ Solberg Airport
Aug 2-4, 2002	Pittsfield, NH
Aug 17-19, 2001 ?	Greenville NY
Aug 16-18, 2002	Great Falls Balloon Festival - Lewiston/Auburn, ME
Aug 17-19, 2001 ?	Waldbaum's Balloon Festival - Brookhaven, NY (LI), Brookhaven Airport
Aug 23-26, 2002	Plainville Fireman's Balloon Festival - Norton Park, Plainville, CT
Aug 31-Sep 3, 2001?	New York State Festival of Balloons - Dansville, NY
Sept 20-22, 2002	Adirondack Hot Air Balloon Festival - Glens Falls, NY County Airport
Dec 6-8, 2002 ?	Mt. Washington Balloon Gathering - Schuler Park, N. Conway, NH (N. Conway Chamber of Commerce)

CLAS Business Meeting: May 16, 2002

Meeting called to order at 7:39 p.m. Members present: Lisa Huck, Jim O'Brien, Al Theodore, Mike Bollea, Santo Galatioto, Ellen Dressel, Erwin Dressel, Charlie Perrault, Cindy Smith, Daryl Smith, Terri Rollinson, Tony Roswell, Jack Perry, Kevin Briemann, Penny Christy, Randy and Diana Riley.

Minutes

Minutes from March '02 meeting were read. There was discussion related to the club account standing at year end, since, although our account showed us \$288 ahead (modified tonight to \$118), we actually lost money based on accounting properly for product inventory. Minutes were accepted unanimously subject to the \$288 being modified to \$118.

Treasurer's Report

Checking account: \$1760.89. CD's: \$5,400

Jack presented budget to date. Membership was budgeted to realize \$1,600 – we have \$1,055 so far (63 members). So far we have \$524 in unassigned income. We're down 17 members. Report accepted unanimously.

Correspondence: None.

Sunshine: Steve Griswold's mother had a stroke. Dan King's mother passed away.

Products: Merchandise on hand: \$2,268. (resale value based on pre-sale prices)

After discussion, it was agreed to give gifts (t-shirts) from product inventory at SafetyFest to the 4 presenters. Santo suggested putting some of Gloria's stuff (donated to the club last month) on eBay to raise money. Landowner pins, including extras received from Mick M, are out of stock again. Penny has a contact to investigate for pricing pins, a company which did some nice work for Pratt & Whitney. Santo suggested getting pre-orders as a way of minimizing the risk of ordering pins, should we decide to order more.

Membership: Current number: ~ 63 renewed so far, 3 newsletters

Ellen has sent out cards and e-mails to those who have not yet renewed. There are about 40 total to hunt for. A letter from Jim Regan was read, to the effect that he won't be renewing. Apparently Jim R. is upset about competition schedule communication. There was brief discussion of rumors of some former members of CLAS starting a new balloon club in Connecticut.

Santo says is MM doing a good job with the newsletter. Tony says Dave L. has offered to do publication of the newsletter if MM needs help. Scoop complaints – MM stopped paper-mailing to people who have e-mail, but there have been some complaints. It may have been a misunderstanding. To help with cost savings, we could maybe reduce the size of each Scoop issue to 8 pages. We need to be getting new crew members into the club too.

Flight Manual: Completed manuals are to be presented at SafetyFest or at the Sunday follow-up seminar. Pratt & Whitney will print it for free as a safety contribution – Penny suggested we therefore update it each year at the same time. Santo offered some binders if needed.

Education: We got a letter from the BFA (from Polly) that the CLAS 2001 safety program was approved. The mailing included some BFA safety pins for the education committee.

Sign-up form for SafetyFest is in the Scoop. There will be 5 courses starting at 9am but we should get there by 8:30am. Santo will arrange registration *in the classroom* for the balloon people. Santo reported we have a booth for SafetyFest. It was suggested that perhaps we display some of Gloria's balloon memorabilia, as well as magazines, club products, *etc.* Frank has not committed to display a balloon, but Daryl will contact him and will substitute a basket if Frank can not. Mike B will bring his tv/vcr combo. For Sunday, we meet at 9am at the barn. Contact Penny or Daryl if it looks flyable. Training culminates with a class on trailer backing.

Competition

Erwin reported on the Salmon River flyout, and the great time everyone had, both flying and at Daryl & Cindy's. Warm thanks were conveyed to Daryl and Cindy.

May 25 (backup date May 26) at the Harwinton festival is the next club competition. Anyone who didn't get a letter from Harwinton should get a certificate from IMC, and come to the festival regardless.

FAA/BFA

Oxford tower in operation as of 5/15/02.

In low visibility there is an extension to the airspace which impacts a great deal of the flying area of some club members.

Audit

Next time, we will bring the balance sheet, explain and discuss the numbers in detail.

Nominating

Penny joins Erwin on the nominating committee. There is no pressing business until November.

Other Business

Old: None

New:

It was agreed we should once again have a photo contest and calendar this year.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm

Respectfully submitted, Jim O'Brien, Secretary.

AdVenture Balloon, Inc.

PO Box 55 Plymouth, CT 06782 Ph: 860-584-1300
1300 Fax: 860-584-1300
E-Mail info@adventureballoon.com

CLAS mail list, open invitation update.

Re: 2002 Northwest Connecticut Balloon Festival, Goshen June 28, 29, 30th

Our event insurance company just now informs us that pilots will not cover us for claims, which originate with flight operations and off the property accidents. This coverage is not available to us for purchase at this time so we must ask to be named as an additional insured on your policy if you intend to fly as part of the festival.

On a personal note, while I wish the festivals could get their own flight insurance, I am willing to go along with it to get into festivals that I really want to attend, because number one, I know I will not be having an accident and two, if I did, I don't believe in sticking others with legal fees that I cost them. We are not sure if this has anything to do with 9/11 but several of the festivals we are attending this year have had to ask for this endorsement.

A few words about naming additional insureds. Have the endorsement written so as to cover only accidents, which you are involved with. Your insurance will not be tapped to defend any other pilots or the festival if you are not involved. We are only asking you to be responsible for your own actions, (which you will have to be anyway). Odds are if you had an accident at any festival you would be sued by the festival's lawyers anyway, to recover the costs of defending against the plaintiff's suit (which would name everyone regardless of blame) this just puts us on the same team from the beginning.

Again, **no pilot will be permitted to fly from the festival unless the festival is issued an endorsement naming Into the Wind, Inc. and Adventure Balloon, Inc. as additional insured.** Please forward as soon as possible. If you are an official pilot, the festival will pay you \$25.00 for the cost of the endorsement. If you prefer not to attend the festival on these terms, there will be no hard feelings on our part and we hope none on yours.

Registration will start Friday at 2pm at the Goshen Fairgrounds. Flights are scheduled for 6am and 6pm with the mandatory roll call briefings a half-hour before the flight. Please allow for the initial briefing to start one hour before flight time on Friday afternoon. We will have more ground to cover at that briefing. **Pilots who need to bring paperwork checked off below** are asked not to arrive late or at the last minute before the briefing.

As always the propane situation is, arrive full, leave full.

Hot off the Net

Hey I'll

We just got back from a great seminar at Hartford. It was part of a much larger aviation event and sponsored by the Windsor Locks Connecticut FSDO. It was called Safety Fest/Maintenance Fest 2002 and there were vendors and other displays. The balloon seminar included Airworthiness by the FSDO officer, Balloon Accidents and Pilot Decision Making, an overview of the Flitted digital instrument and the best part, a talk given by "Do" Clayton Thomas. If you ever get to hear Do, you're indeed fortunate! If you haven't, make it a point to do so.

The seminar was held at the spectacular Part and Whitney engine manufacturing facility in East Hartford. The museum tour was worth the trip to Connecticut and enduring the cold and rainy weather. They even have a Surplus Store with marvelous surplus items for sale (wan build a turbine for your balloon?).

Highlight of the entire event was a talk given by Captain Al Harness, pilot of the DC-10 that lost all flight controls after engine disintegration, at 39,000 ft, in 1989. Captain Haynes 'landed' the plane in an inferno at the Sioux City Iowa airport, saving over 2/3 of the passengers' lives. His talk focused on preparedness for emergencies, which cannot happen, and what to do when they do! There was a clear message in there for all of us in aviation and in life in general. Given that it was just disclosed that none of the safety and security procedures which were suggested after the WTC bombing in 1994 were ever implemented, his message was particularly appropriate and pointed.

Kudos to CLAS for doing the work to put on the seminar. I was a bit skeptical about holding a safety seminar this late in the season but realized that good information should be shared, no matter when.

Sidney

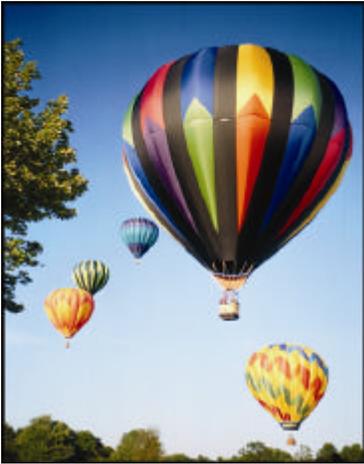
We have a few new ideas planned for this year, which we will go over at the briefing. Some old traditions are back as well. The glow is Friday night and is voluntary but encouraged,(and may be rewarded) fireworks will follow. Pilots will be allowed to tether before the glow, and during and after if you have FAA approved night-lights. The fireworks will be far enough away. We are looking forward to seeing you this year. Drive safe, fly safe, and let's all have a great weekend.

Buoyant Regards,
Frank Bart

Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society

2002

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



Twelve photographs will be featured in the CLAS 2003 Calendar
Deadlines 7:30 pm, Thursday, September 19, 2002.

- Subject: Any ballooning related subject, pictures of balloons, pictures from balloon, etc. Hint, the judges generally favor pictures of local balloons and events.
- Contest is open to all CLAS members and their family.
- Limit **3** entries per person. Members may submit photographs by non-members, however, those photographs count toward their limit of three entries.
- Please submit 8 x 10 photographs with your name, address and phone number on the back.
- Photographs will be judged by members present at the September 19th meeting.
- All entries will be returned to owner.
- Send entries to Jack Perry, 206 Railtree Hill Road, Woodbury, CT 06798.

PRIZES

1st, 2nd, 3rd Place and 9 Honorable Mention
Photographs will be featured in the CLAS 2003 Calendar.
1st Place: four CLAS 2003 Calendars.
2nd Place: three CLAS 2003 Calendars.
3rd Place: two CLAS 2003 Calendars.

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Competition schedule is as follows with the second day planned as back up: Date Back-up Place

June 22 23 Litchfield
 July 20 21 Cheshire ----(Ushchak Aerodrome)
 Aug 24 25 Plainville
 Sept 28 29 Southington ----(Aqua Turf)
 Oct 19 20 To be announced
 Nov 23 24 To be announced

✂

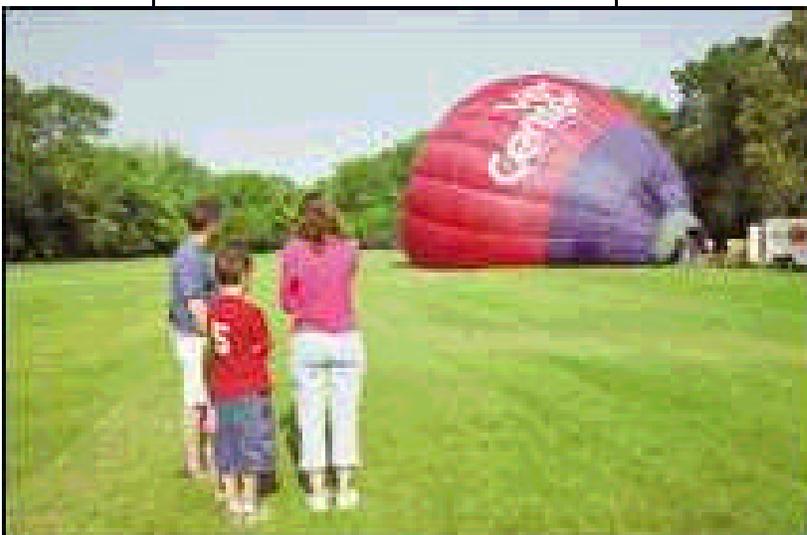
The Litchfield competition will take place by the Haight Vineyard on Chestnut Hill Rd.
 Directions: From Route 8 take exit 42 onto Rt. 118. Travel West towards Litchfield.
 Take the left after Rt. 254 which will be Fern Rd. Fern Rd turns onto Chestnut Hill Rd
 (continue South) and in less than a mile you should see the Haight Vineyard on your left.
 Continue on and just a little further up the road, on your right, you will see a white farm-
 house. (62 Chestnut Hill Rd.)
 We will meet in the driveway or in front of the house at 5:00AM. From there we will travel on
 to the launch site.

✂

The competition will be canceled if the winds at Bradley are greater than 6 knots on the surface and greater than 25 knots at 3000 ft. Gather around Mike's truck for Pilot's briefing and sign in. Competition task to be announced at Pilot's briefing. Questions: Call Erwin Dressel (203) 272-6116

Those camping at Bull Run Regional Park in Centreville last weekend may have been surprised to discover a huge hot-air balloon in their midst.

Early Saturday morning, Michael Loy, of Reno, Nev.; Sydney Conn, of Firefly Balloons in Statesville, N. C.; Jerry Clark of the Veterans' Outreach Center in Alexandria; and several others launched the balloon over the park for just under an hour. Floating up above the tree line and then back to earth several times, the balloon took children who stopped by the park, campers there and several area veterans for rides. The balloon, as Loy explained as the crew worked to get it ready to



launch, was actually part of the center's group therapy for war veterans. For the past three years it has been traveling across the country as a

form of outreach. "A lot of wartime veterans tend to isolate themselves. This is a way to draw them out in the community," Loy said. Conn, who re-

paired and refurbished the balloon, said a depiction of the statue of Glenna Goodacre that is part of the Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington, D.C., recently was added to the balloon. "There were 280,000 women who served [worldwide]," Conn said, noting that the women who served are often forgotten. Those women, he said, are also eligible for the vet center's services. After stopping at the park, Loy said the balloon was scheduled to proceed to the main event, the May 26 Rolling Thunder motorcycle demonstration in Washington, D.C.

(Continued on page 7)

CLASSIFIED



1987 Cameron DP-70 Airship.GBNXG, 22TT.Complete w/box trailer, 2/10-gal.alum.cyls.,2-cylce/4-cyl.Konig radial engine 570cc, banner areas 2 sides, all very good/excellent condition, one private owner.\$25,000. Contact 860-678-7921 or delano120@aol.com



1999 Firefly AX-8.N7053Z, 45TT.5.basket,dual Mirage,DT-21,turning vent,two master tanks 25,000.



1997 FireFly AX-9.N3085Z, 140TT.5.5.basket dual T3s,DT-21,6 tanks, \$27,000. Both can be viewed at www.Berkshireballoons.com



1992 Cameron V-77 Envelope (300tt) with Single Mark IV Burner and 42x48 Basket with 3 ten gal. tanks, annual 9/10/01. \$3900.00 or Best Over. Call Bill Colyer Tel-203-255-1929 or cell 203-257-4242 and via e-mail ayankeeballoons@aol.com

Miscellaneous Items

Wanted

Collectibles: If you are looking to sell or just get rid of any LTA memorabilia or unique collectibles please contact Mick 860-567-3448 or Blarney007@aol.com.

Two, aviation radios for Sale, Call Santo at 203-432-9873 day and 203-397-0521 evening.

King radio with navigation and communication capability (frequency range Nav 108.0 to 117.9, Com 118.0 to 136.9), NiCad battery and wall recharger included \$175
Delcom radio with communication capability only (frequency range Com 118.0 to 136.9), Nicad battery and wall charger included \$125.

(Continued from page 6)

Loy said that, by participating in the Rolling Thunder event, the center hoped to gain exposure among veterans, many of whom don't realize they are eligible for the center's services. "We've seen World War II veterans who still do not know about the vet center," Loy said. The 206 Veterans' Outreach Centers across the country, which are part of the federal Department of Veterans Affairs, offer group and individual counseling and assist veterans in coping with the stress and trauma of war. "We still get Vietnam and World War II and Korean War veterans who have never talked about their experiences in any meaningful way," Clark said of the Alexandria center. Ronald Klein, of Centreville--who served in the U.S. Air Force in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, during the Gulf War--liked the idea of using the hot-air balloon as therapy. His wife, Keri Klein, agreed. "It's great. Whatever

we can do for vets--they've given so much," she said. Kimee Moore, 9, of Centreville, also enjoyed the balloon ride, even if she didn't realize its full intent. "It was cool," she said of the ride and added that her brother-in-law is now in Afghanistan.

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1/2 PAGE	\$15.00	5" X 8"
1/4 PAGE	\$10.00	4" X 5"
1/8 PAGE	\$ 5.00	(business card)

CLASSIFIED RATES

Classified ads are \$3.00 per line. Each line is approximately 50 spaces. "N" numbers and Total Time are required for all listings. Classified ads are free to CLAS members in good standing!!!

If you have an article or advertisement for the "Scoop", please submit it to the PO Box Address or send via E-Mail to: Blarney007@aol.com. by July 9th for the June Newsletter.

CLAS Merchandise Sale

- CLAS Club Pins 5 for \$20
- Landowner Pins 15 for \$15
- CLAS Mugs 6 for \$25
- CLAS Decals 5 for \$1

CLAS Short and Long Sleeve T-Shirts. Buy one get the 2nd at ½ price. The higher price prevails.

Short Sleeve	Long Sleeve
Medium \$12	
Large \$16	Large \$18
XLarge \$16	XLarge \$18
XXLarge \$16	XXLarge \$20

To place your order call Cindy Smith at 860-742-3681 Or

CONNECTICUT LIGHTER THAN AIR SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society is a club for anyone interested in learning about, participating in and improving the sport of ballooning. Pilots, crew, and enthusiasts alike are welcome and ALL can contribute to the safety, enjoyment and education of the sport. Meetings are scheduled during the months of Jan, Feb, Mar, April, May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov and Dec on the third Thursday of the month at the Plainville Municipal building at 7:30 pm. For more information, contact any of the officers listed inside this newsletter.

CLAS 2001 dues are \$20.00 for new and renewing members.

Newsletter Subscription \$ 15
Pins \$ 5. (\$3 for members)
Decals \$ 2 (\$1 for members)
Landowner pins(members only) \$ 21.90 (15 pins)
CLAS T-Shirts \$ 12. And up-Various Styles (Add \$3.00 for shipping)

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TELEPHONE Home _____ Work _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

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