



The Scoop

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The Pilot Slept Only 15 Minutes on the Last Night of the Mission

In his first public appearance since Bud Light Spirit of Freedom landed earlier today, Steve Fossett addressed international media during a news conference in Sydney, Australia, at 10:45 p.m. (CDT). Fossett, excited and refreshed, spoke about his motivations for the round-the-world mission and discussed the potential dangers he faced during the last day of the flight.

The final 24 hours His landing this morning, in Lake Yamma Yamma, Queensland introduced some problems into the otherwise smooth mission. In response to questions, Fossett explained that three major issues arose during the last day. "I was really worried about last night," he said, later adding that while he normally would get several hours of sleep each night, he only rested for 15 minutes the night before. First, turbulence disrupted the flight over its final 24 hours. Another difficulty was landing in

winds of 20 knots. The pilot and Mission Control were seeking to land in conditions of no more than 10 knots, to decrease dragging, which is why he landed one day after completing the circumnavigation. However, due to the balloon's height (180 feet), ground conditions vary between the capsule and the top of the balloon. So, even though reports accurately had ground winds at virtually non-existent, winds were high near the top of the balloon's envelope.

Finally, Fossett faced a potentially disastrous situation when a connector between a propane tank and

a hose separated, immediately igniting the fuel. Fortunately, he was awake at the time. Fossett explained that he hurried and turned off all of the tanks within a matter of seconds. If he hadn't, "I would not be here," he explained.

Motivations for the flight

When asked why he had decided to go after the lofty goal of flying round-the-world solo, Fossett told the audience that he first thought of flying around the world in 1992.

"I thought about what would be the most interesting adventure sport I could do," he recalled. He decided that the two most exciting endeavors that had yet to be accomplished were sailing the Atlantic Ocean solo and flying around the world in a balloon on his own. He achieved the first goal in just two years. Ten years and six tries later, he has accomplished the second.

He also hopes that his flight will serve as inspiration to others.

"I think it's a very... important goal," he said. "I hope that it's some example, not that people will try ballooning, but that they will try and achieve something [important to them]."

Receiving gifts and congratulations The conference began with Mayors Paul Robson, of Kalgoorlie, and Ray Head, of Northam, congratulating the pilot. The pair had flown from Western Australia to see Fossett. Kal-

goorlie had been the starting point of last year's Solo Spirit attempt in June, and Northam had hosted both last year's August launch, as well as this year's Bud Light Spirit of Freedom mission.

"Thank you for using Australia for your launching of this incredible [mission]," said Robson.

Robson had given Fossett a boomerang to carry with him on the trip, in hopes it would return as the Australian symbol always does. In return for it, Robson gave Fossett a new boomerang to keep with him as a reminder of the historic voyage. They

(Continued on page 6)



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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

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 Minutes 6/20/2002

Present; Daryl and Cyndi Smith, Erwin and Ellen Dressel, Al Theodore, Lisa Huck, Santo Galatioto, Randy Riley, Mike Bollea, Tony Roswell, Terri Rollinson, and Carlos Kebe.

This was an educational meeting and was called to order at 7:45pm.

Daryl made a presentation on competition for the pilot and crewmember. He reviewed the typical club competition and explored the many different tasks that the BFA sponsors. Rules, observers, sanctioning and other topics were discussed. After the presentation the session became a forum where crew and pilots exchanges ideas.

The group reached consensus that monthly club fly-outs was a good thing that should be continued since they fostered good club spirit. It was agreed by all that crew membership, participation and recognition had to increase for the club to remain viable in the future. There was general interest in introducing new tasks to the club competition yet there was little interest in supporting sanctioned events. The competition committee indicated that the process of competition would be more efficient if all pilots would sign in at the assigned van at the assigned time. This would help them stay informed and probably enhance their competition experience.

The underlying theme of the competition is to have fun. It is preferred that flexible rules vs. stringent BFA rules would foster more participation thus allowing interim ground contact and other things that strict rules would prohibit.

The next education meeting is scheduled for August 15th. The topic will be a side-by-side comparison of a variety of baskets from different manufacturers. This will serve as an opportunity to those pilots and crew that normally fly/crew for one system to learn how others operate. An outdoor location is being sought so we may combine the review of baskets with a pot luck/picnic type meeting. More to follow on this.

The meeting adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Santo Galatioto, fill-in secretary

The competition June 22, was a fun fly out from Litchfield. Judge declared goal was Bristol Eastern High. It was a fun target since it was about one hours flight time away and approximately 14 balloon air miles.

Second place went to Dressel, about 1.5 miles off target, who landed at St. Paul's School.

First place went to Bart and Bollea, who hit the target right on.

For the rest of our members they missed a beautiful morning at Chestnut Hill Road in Litchfield.

This coming weekend will be quite local. We'll be flying from the Ushchak Aerodrome in Cheshire.

The date is July 20th with weather back up date of July 21. We're planning to do the coffee walk first, followed by a judge declared goal. Extra crew will be beneficial, the kind of crew that can run with coffee avoiding the gopher and woodchuck holes.

General Rules: The competition will be canceled if the winds are greater than 6 knots on the surface at Meriden-Markham Airport. (MMK) If winds aloft are greater than 25 knots at 3000ft at Bradley (BDL).

Sign in: To be included in the competition it is the PIC responsibility to sign in at Mike Bollea's truck.

Pilot Briefing: To be held at 5:30 AM at Mike Bollea's Truck.

Questions: Call Erwin Dressel @ 203-272-6116 or e-mail erwin@castleviewballoons.com

Note: The August competition will take place at the Plainville Balloon Rally August 24th with the back up date being the 25th.

Please add to the competition Info that we'll all be going to Paul's Resturant, just 1/2 mile further down the road from Richard Chevrolet on Rt 10. (Mike Bollea's favorite steak and egg place)

**Canoe trip is
Peter Krieg's last adventure**

June 28, 2002

Some people are hard to get to know. They put up walls; they don't talk much. Other people open up. Peter Krieg was the kind who opens up. He was the retiree who took a canoe trip down the Ohio River. He shoved off from Pittsburgh June 11, aiming to arrive in Madison, Ind., sometime in July. Earlier this week, in Jackson County, W.Va., something went wrong, and on Wednesday the authorities fished Krieg's body from the river. They identified him Thursday. Krieg was 65. In early June, I spent a morning with Krieg at his house at 73rd and Pennsylvania. It was supposed to be an interview about a canoe trip, but the talk wandered into a broader realm, Krieg leading the way. Krieg believed in the active life -- he was a balloonist, he rode a motorcycle, he once drove across North Africa in a Volkswagen van. But he was a thinker, too. He thought deliberately about life, about what he wanted to do with his. He had retired in March from his job as a salesman of boilers and industrial ventilation equipment. After being divorced for a decade, he had remarried in December. He had goals. He wrote them down: travel, adventure, volunteerism, continuing education. He said it was important to map things out, so that you get done what you want to get done. Everybody says that, of course. It has become one of the leading cliches in this era of self-improvement. But seeing it put into practice was invigorating. Being in Krieg's garage and seeing his canoe all

packed with food and water, etc., was invigorating. Some people don't tell you their goals -- maybe because if they fall short of them, their failure won't be so obvious. Krieg was upfront about his shortcomings, too. He said that he'd been too self-centered in the past and that he was working on it. He brought along a half-dozen books on his canoe trip. Two of them were about narcissism. Perhaps Krieg's list of goals was long because he counted on longevity. He had reason. He took care of his body -- he was 5-9 1/2 and 156 pounds. His father, William Krieg, a prominent Indianapolis lawyer, lived to be 91 -- and raced sailboats into his 80s. The canoe Peter Krieg was paddling when he met his fate, a 17-foot aluminum Grumman, had belonged to his father. The authorities in West Virginia aren't sure exactly what happened to Krieg. Bob Bibbee, one of the recovery men, speculates that the canoe was overturned by the wake of one of the many enormous barges that ply the Ohio and that Krieg for some reason lost hold of the boat. The boat was found on Monday along a remote bank, right side up, undamaged, full of water. In the days before the trip, Krieg

Date: Tue, 09 Jul 2002 07:39:05 -0400

It is with the heaviest of hearts that the FireFly family here in Statesville wants to let you know that our good friend and brother Charlie Gardner passed away yesterday afternoon. Charlie had been in failing health for a number of years but he was such a fighter that it never occurred to us that one day he just wouldn't be with us.

Charlie had been our Senior Engineer since this time of year in 1989. He was held in very high regard by the FAA and held a Designated Engineering Representative certificate in the Structures and Powerplant categories. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

His family has made no arrangements at this time.

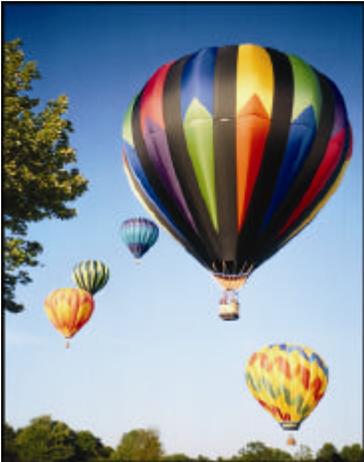
The FireFly Balloons family Statesville NC

didn't seem nervous. He said he'd been canoeing since he was 9 years old. He knew all about the barges and expected to capsize at least once. "I know how to paddle (a canoe) when it's full of water," he said. He sent me a fax on June 16, from New Martinsville, W.Va. I assume he sent it from some marina. He'd been paddling nine days and had covered 127 miles. He had faced a headwind most of the way and was getting a workout despite the current, he said. But the tone of his message was whimsical. In talking about bathing in the river, he said: "There are plenty of places to strip down -- must watch the sun on some parts however." The fax he sent was five pages long. I don't think he was a publicity hound. I think he was just the kind of guy who likes to communicate -- the kind of guy who makes life interesting.

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.

Balloonist plans new solo adventure ST. LOUIS -

Millionaire Steve Fossett doesn't give up easily. The 58-year-old adventurer announced Monday that he'll try for a sixth time to circumnavigate the Earth in a hot-air balloon.

DEPENDING ON THE weather, the former Chicago stockbroker will launch sometime in June from western Australia, traveling by himself.

Fossett hopes to fly mostly in the Southern Hemisphere, much as he did in his 2001 attempt. That flight ended in Brazil near the Atlantic Ocean and set records for time aloft in a balloon (12½ days) and solo distance record (14,235 miles).

This flight's route will take Fossett across Australia, the Pacific Ocean, Chile and Argentina, the Atlantic Ocean, Africa's Cape of Good Hope, the Indian Ocean and back to Australia.

"The first solo round-the-world balloon flight is my greatest challenge," Fossett said at a news conference.

"This is a grand adventure, chance of success."

Fossett has put together a team of meteorologists from Washington will be his mission control. Anheuser-Busch Co. is sponsoring the balloon the "Bud Light Spirit of Freedom." There will be a Web site to follow the adventure.



Trevor Collins / Pool via AFP file

(Continued from page 1)

held the boomerangs high as they swapped them before the crowd.

The Kalgoorlie mayor also gave Fossett a gold nugget and a gold coin, both from Australia, as well as a flag from the Official Year of the Outback. Robson joked that he had a feeling the gold would be Fossett's favorite of the gifts.

Mayor Head of Northam then spoke, telling Fossett, "you are our hero." Head gave the pilot half of a key before he launched, and he gave the second half upon Fossett's return.

"We invite you to come back to Northam at any time," said Head. "The door is always open."

The gift exchange was followed by a toast of Bud Light, the flight sponsor. A similar toast occurred at Mission Control early in the day, when they learned that Fossett had safely landed.

Following the conference, Fossett said he planned to return to the United States the next day. He would pilot his own jet, of course.

and with this team, I have every

team of engineers, students and me-University in St. Louis. The school center.

soring Fossett's latest trip and called follow the adventure.

"Spiderman" in the Sioux Empire"

Sioux Falls, SD, May 2 - Tonight some folks in Sioux Falls are counting down the hours until tomorrow's opening of the new "Spiderman" movie. The film has some hometown ties

Aerostar International of Sioux Falls made the hot air balloons you'll see in the movie. Some super heroes from Aerostar will shine when "Spiderman" opens. Chet Hoefert is the sales manager at Aerostar. He says, "to see it on the big screen is kind of a nice pat on the back for everyone."

When you were young did you ever say to your mom, "When I grow up I want to make balloons?" Neither did most folks at Aerostar. Mike Greco was the lead engineer for the film he says, "I never went to school for anything like this. Obviously, they don't have balloon school." Mike was in L.A. for the movie shoot. Even though that may sound pretty cool he kind of deflates his experience. He says, "It was an ordinary day on the movie set but I got to see some pretty cool stuff." When Aerostar got the heads up for the film it was a little scary. Chet says, "it's not every day you have a client come to you and say we want to build a giant balloon and destroy it." It's not all fun and games in the balloon business. A lot of planning goes into projects like this. As confusing as hot air may be anything's possible. Mike says, "that's the big part about working at Aerostar, it's always something different. I'd like to see what those folks in Hollywood could come up with that we could tackle next."

Aerostar won't tell us how much money it got for the project. We do know Aerostar put in about 2,600 man-hours into the "Spiderman" film. That's about 60-hours a week over six months.

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.

Garmin 3 plus GPS with local area map loaded, great for ballooning \$190 (new cost about \$300). Magellan 2000 gps, gives basis GPS info such as direction and speed \$100. Call Santo 203-432-9873 day or 203-397-0521 eve.

At 2:18 PM -0600 7/14/02,

Tom Deering wrote:

You must be doing something wrong, I received a heap of critical personal messages on this topic. Obviously my pitiful efforts have fallen short. Therefore, I will stop supporting this list as of August 1.

I deeply appreciate the contribution of several list members, who have given us all so much useful information, and a wealth of knowledge difficult to find elsewhere. I am personally honored

that they answered my questions and explored ideas with me. I have made some warm friendships on this list, and I hope these friendships will endure.

Respectfully,
Tom Deering

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Scoop Advertising Rates

ADVERTISING RATES

FULL PAGE	\$20.00	8" X 10"
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 August 1st for the August 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

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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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