

THE SCOOP



Next CLAS Meeting—Thursday, November 15th at 7:30PM
Plainville Municipal building (Rte 372)
Members will review a safety video as part of our continuing education series

CLAS Meeting Minutes, October 18, 2007

Attendance: Ellen & Erwin Dressel, Charlie Perreault, Mike Bollea, Garry Guertin, Mick Murphy, Tom Murphy, Libby Richardson, Phil Silo, Al Theadore, Jim Goodwin, Santo Galatioto, Lisa Huck, Kevin Brielmann, Penny Christy, Terri Rollinson, Tony Rozwell, & Pan Bogart-Macfarlane

- Meeting began at 7:40 p.m. by Charlie Perreault, president.
- Discussion as to building a remote control balloon versus cold air inflatable or small home built. Tabled until next meeting.
- Discussion as to Jim Regan's idea of CPR & First Aid. Cost seemed high, how many will come, pay ahead then refund portion, Adult/child, what is needed. Will investigate for next meeting. To be held during February, March or April.
- Report on the safety seminar: eight presenters lined up, date is March 15th at the Air Museum.
- Kevin Brielmann was acknowledged of his distance in the Gordon-Bennett race. 391 miles and a "soft" landing. The winning team went all the way to Canada.
- Motion to accept the award as listed in the 'Scoop' for the calendar winner was accepted.
- Pauline Baker's father and Garry Guertin's mother were acknowledged as having passed.
- Meeting adjourned for the calendar photo contest.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted, Ellen Dressel, Secretary

Calendar Contest Results

Thanks to all that participated in the CLAS Calendar Photo contest. There were many great pictures entered and it was hard to choose the top 12. The following are the winners of the Photo Contest:

1. Charlie Perreault (Erwin's balloon on water)
2. Mark Sand (Glens Falls 8 balloons)
3. Rob Macfarlane (Charlie's balloon with wind mill)
4. Charlie Perreault (Kevin's balloon over pond)
5. Mark Sand (Mark's balloon over pond)
6. Mark Sand (Glens Falls 46 balloons)
7. Debbie Smith (Kevin, Charlie, & Penny's balloon)
8. Bev Theodore (Balloon with hay wagon)
9. Bev Theodore (Cluster Balloons)
10. Garry Guertin (4 balloons with autumn back ground)
11. Terri Rollinson (Balloon with tree branch)
12. Penny Christy (Basket peak-a boo)



Charlie Perrault's winning photograph



10th Annual Mooney Family Christmas Party - December 15th

To all our good friends in CLAS, please join us at "Four Green Fields Farm" and help celebrate this very special time of year. Come early if you like and see the horses, pet the goats and maybe help get the Xmas bow on the donkey. Bring the whole family. Lots of great food and refreshments plus many other balloonists from GEBA and GSBA. Good hotels, motels, and B & B's nearby. Bring a special veggie dish, dessert, drink, or nachos if you like. 4 p.m. until Bill and Patty go home. Call 203-263-0167 or write cmooney5@aol.com with questions....."HAPPY HOLIDAYS"Chris

Brand new, Cameron padded flight bag Black. 16"x10"x5" \$20
Call Jim Regan, 860-209-0351



CLAS Safety Seminar

March 15, 2008

New England Air Museum at Bradley Field

An exciting roster of speakers in the works—stay tuned for more details

Your 2008 Dues Are Due Soon!

C.L.A.S. dues for 2008 are due by the end of this coming January. Additionally, numerous members are in arrears for their past dues, in some cases multiple years' worth. Please pay your dues for 2008 in a timely manner. If you don't know if you owe dues for past years, contact C.L.A.S. Treasurer Mark Sand at mdsand@snet.net or via Snail Mail at 142 Greenmanville Ave., Mystic, CT, 06355. Phone: 860-536-7393.

A New Arrival

Hi Everyone,

Darren and I are anxiously awaiting our wedding photos. However, in the interim the new "baby" has arrived. (For all of you who have been taking bets.) She is beautiful, rather large and colorful. It has been over nine months since she was conceived and she was delivered via FedEx "stork" on Tuesday, October 9, 2007. The Doctors assisting with the delivery were Santo Galatioto, Erwin Dressel and Mike Bollea. She weighs 735 lbs., is 60' wide and 63' tall. On the morning of October 14th, she was inflated for the first time at 7:30am in Middletown, CT on Brechlin Drive. She was properly toasted with champagne. Her name will be forthcoming.

Soft Landings and Love to All,

Amy Goodyear

Santo Galatioto adds: Amy's new arrival is one of the last to be produced by Aerostar. They have been the surrogate parents for many hundreds of similar new arrivals. With tears of joy we welcome Amy's balloon to the Connecticut family of balloons, while with tears of sadness we say goodbye to an old friend, Aerostar.



Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society

THE SCOOP

From the Editor, Libby Richardson

Having managed volunteers for over five years now, I know that it takes many willing and able volunteers to make things happen. From running a meeting to building a balloon, it all takes teamwork. And, many hands make light work. So, to the members of the club, no matter where you are across this state or across the country, I encourage you to get involved with this club by doing more than just receiving this newsletter.

From near or far, you can always contribute to this newsletter by letting me know what is going on in your neck of the woods regarding ballooning. Tell me a story about your crew, email me pictures, or send in an article you read online. If you're local, become an officer of our club, volunteer to build our club balloon, or just attend a meeting. Your ideas are welcome and appreciated.

If not in our club, especially during the holiday season, give to those who need it most, give to those who have less than we do. Share the holiday spirit with those around you.

I wish you a happy and healthy season.

Libby

Thanks for your contributions for this month's Scoop: Garry Guertin, Penny Christy, Kevin Brielmann, Santo Galatioto, Chris Mooney, Charlie Perrault, Ellen Dressel, Mark Sand, Jim Regan

Publishing Information

The Scoop is published on a monthly basis prior to the club's monthly meeting on the third Thursday of each month. Submissions for The Scoop are preferred by email to Editor Libby Richardson at libby_rich@yahoo.com. Photos, articles, and ideas are always welcome. Information may be mailed to 380 Hitchcock Road #258, Waterbury, CT 06705 or can be brought to any CLAS meeting. All materials should be to the Editor at least two weeks prior to the club meeting for inclusion.

The Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society publishes this newsletter for its members and interested parties. Portions of this newsletter may be reprinted if credit is given to the writer and to CLAS. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the organization or members of this organization. For more information contact Libby Richardson, CLAS, PO Box 53, Southbury, CT 06488-0053 Email: libby_rich@yahoo.com; Phone: 203-988-6577

Many hands make light work. Become an Officer for 2008!

We need CLAS officers to help guide the club into the future. Officers are: president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Please submit nominations to Santo Galatioto at Santo.Galatioto@yale.edu and Charlie Perreault at bythefireplace@earthlink.net Also, please get your nominees' permission before you submit their names for office.

Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society – 2007 Officers

President: Charlie Perreault	860-536-7393	bythefireplace@earthlink.net
Vice President: Santo Galatioto	203-432-9873	Santo.Galatioto@yale.edu
Secretary: Ellen Dressel	203-272-6119	edressel@cox.net
Treasurer: Mark Sand	860-426-0814	mdsand@snet.net

Convention Registration to Begin

It's not too soon to begin planning to attend the BFA's first National Convention in over a decade. Unbridled Flight, a 3-day national gathering of balloonists is coming to Louisville, KY on April 4-5-6, 2008. Multiple registration opportunities are planned beginning with:

- Sunrise registration - October 1-31, 2007 - \$175
- Early registration - October 16- December 31, 2007 – \$195
- Registration - January 1, 2008 to convention opening – \$225
- Spouse's registration - \$125

*One family registration available for spouse or child under 18 years of age for each full paid registration. Includes all Full Registration Benefits.

Safety Seminar Only

- October 1 - December 31 - \$125
- January 1 - April 3 - \$150

*Includes all educational programs Friday through Sunday

Registration is available online at bfa.net, at the BFA Booth during Fiesta, and by mail. Three early registrants will win free hotel accommodations at The Galt House in Louisville. One winner will be selected from the Sunrise registrants, then a second and third winner will be drawn at the end of November and the end of December. See You in Louisville!!



Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta: Video clips not to be missed

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QfFOxtuk0-A>

http://www.metacafe.com/watch/876437/time_lapse_albuquerque_international_balloon_fiesta_2007/

http://youtube.com/results?search_query=albuquerque+balloon+fiesta

Fiesta named in Wrongful Death Suit: Sister of Balloon Fiesta Passenger Who Fell To Her Death Sues; Three Other Women Injured In Balloon Accident Named as Plaintiffs
www.aero-news.net

The sister of a woman who fell to her death during the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta earlier this month filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the balloon pilot, his employers and the fiesta. The lawsuit, accuses the defendants of being reckless and causing the October 8 incident that led to the death of Rosemary Wooley Phillips, 60, who was a resident of Oceanside, CA at the time of her death.

Three of Phillips' friends Sheryl Diaz, 60; Susan Simpson, 57; and Doris Currier, 52. who were also in the balloon and were injured during the same incident are plaintiffs in the case. Phillips sister's attorney declined to comment Friday, according to the Associated Press.

Heavenly Ride, piloted by Tom Reyes, snagged a utility line that morning near Interstate 25 (I-25) with all of the women on board. The pilot threw down a tether to a pickup truck on the ground in an apparent attempt to reel the balloon down and free it, State Police said at the time, as reported in ANN. The tether broke and the balloon suddenly shot up, witnesses said, causing Phillips to fall out.

The balloon, meanwhile, drifted across I-25. It crash-landed in a vacant lot used by other balloons as a landing site, injuring the other passengers. Two of the women had broken legs and the third had minor bumps and bruises. Witnesses reported that Phillips was waving her arms, and screaming as she fell. According to reports paramedics on the scene tried to revive her but she was pronounced dead a short time later at University of New Mexico Hospital.

Named in the lawsuit as defendants are the balloon fiesta; pilot Reyes of Sandia Park, NM who has been described as a longtime veteran of hot-air ballooning; his employer, Star Trail Inc.; and Rainbow Ryders, the company Reyes was contracting with to provide balloons flights during the fiesta.

The women had booked the flight with Rainbow Ryders, who have been in business in Albuquerque for 24 without an accident. The lawsuit states: ". . . the defendants are directly liable for their intentional, reckless and negligent acts." Winds on the morning of the crash were light enough that many balloons launched, but speeds increased in velocity soon after.

Balloon fiesta spokeswoman Kathie Leyendecker had no knowledge of the lawsuit, and would not comment Star Trail Inc. officials were also unaware of the filing but noted that the accident was still under investigation by federal officials.

Phillips was well known as a former Alaskan who had lived in Nome and Wasilla. Phillips was known as an adventurous woman who was a dog musher and had flown the Iditarod Sled Dog Race Trail, from Anchorage to Nome several times. Phillips traveled the 1,149 mile Iditarod Trail by snow machine one year to photograph dog teams competing in the sled dog race. She later became the race's executive director during the early 1980s.

The air up there: Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, October 24, 2007

Chicago Sun-Times; Submitted by Penny Christy

After overcoming a case of the jitters and a pilot quoting lines from 'Top Gun,' it was time to take in the high-flying beauty of a hot-air balloon ride

I'd always wanted to go up in a hot air balloon, and I finally had the perfect opportunity: the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta -- the biggest ballooning event in the world. More than 700 colorful, buoyant contraptions from 22 countries would flock to New Mexico's largest city for nine days in early October, and I was thrilled to be going up in one of them.

More than 700 balloons filled the desert sky during this year's nine-day Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. Balloon pilot Bill Baker has traveled the world for his sport, but he says flying in Albuquerque "is like nowhere else."

Until Mom called. "Did you see the news?" Mom said in that maternal, panicked voice that can take a 38-year-old back to childhood in a nanosecond. "A woman died at that balloon festival you're going to! She died! She fell right out of the balloon!"

Gulp. I hadn't really factored death into my simple equation of hot air ballooning plus me equals fun. A quick Google search showed Mom was right: A California woman plummeted more than 60 feet to her death after her balloon snagged a static line, which is strung above power lines to protect them from lightning. The balloon then crash-landed, and two other women in the gondola broke their legs. The next day, four separate balloon accidents sent nine people to the hospital.

"C'mon," I told my mom in the most nonchalant voice I could muster. "They have this festival every year with hundreds of balloons. I'll be fine."

A few days later, my jangled nerves and I pulled up to Balloon Fiesta Park at the unholy hour of 5:30 a.m. It was chilly and pitch black outside, except for some food vendors selling breakfast burritos and the occasional propane flame from the "dawn patrol." These balloons head up before sunrise to make sure the weather is suitable for flying. In Albuquerque, it usually is.



The city is famous in ballooning circles for the so-called Albuquerque box, a combination of upper and lower level winds courtesy of the Rio Grande Valley and the Sandia Mountains. Cool air near the surface takes pilots in one direction while higher winds blow the opposite way. When the box is working, pilots simply change altitude to switch direction, letting them land close to where they took off and creating a kaleidoscope-type effect for spectators.

(Sweet Escape, being flown by Mark Sand in Albuquerque)

Fantastic flying conditions like this have helped the festival grow from 13 balloons and 20,000 visitors in 1972 to this year's 700-plus balloons and more than 800,000 spectators. A little after 6 a.m., pilots and their crews started filling up the 80-acre launch field, pulling out their nylon balloons from a stuff sack as spectators got up close to watch the magic literally unfold. Kids darted around the field, eagerly collecting the baseball-like trading cards crews hand out for their balloons.

The air up there (con't.)...

This morning marked what is arguably the fiesta's most popular event: the Special Shape Rodeo, featuring almost 100 giant balloons in the form of bumble bees, Noah's ark, a soccer ball and flying pig, to name a few.

Corporate Balloons in far northwest suburban Cary arranged for me to bum a vertical ride in Frito-Lay's Flat Earth fruit and veggie chips balloon, which was more or less a normal hot air balloon sprouting a huge butterfly, tomato, strawberries and other bizarre barnacles. Surely this balloon was too cute to be the vessel that would deliver me to an untimely death.

As the crew powered up a big fan to begin blowing up the balloon's "envelope" with air, I figured I'd get to know the pilot, Bill Baker, a full-time, competitive balloonist from far northwest suburban Crystal Lake. I tried to get Baker's attention but he was busy chatting with spectators and repeating the line, "I feel the need -- the need for speed!" in his native Texas twang. Great. I get to go up with the over-caffeinated "Top Gun" fanatic.

"Have you crashed in one of these?" I managed to ask him. "Not today," Baker said, with a Cheshire cat grin spreading over his weathered face.

Under the morning sun, I gingerly climbed into the balloon's wicker gondola -- barely big enough to hold myself, Baker, a Frito-Lay employee and two big canisters of propane gas. After a few shots of propane, we were off. The waving spectators grew smaller as we traveled toward the clouds. I felt a bit like a baguette sticking out of a picnic basket.

The higher we climbed, the quieter and calmer it got. Everywhere I looked, the desert sky was filled with a rainbow of inflated shapes that seemed to just hang there, barely moving. The Rio Grande looked like a tiny creek as we floated 2,633 feet above ground. Balloons bigger than three, 2,000-square-foot homes put together sailed right past us. The Frito-Lay guy and I busily snapped photos while Baker succinctly explained how he got into ballooning more than 30 years ago.

"My first ex-wife," he said, sprouting that same Cheshire cat grin.

After 60 thrilling and peaceful minutes in the air, it was time to head back to terra firma. As we came in for landing, Baker told us to hold on tight and bend our knees to absorb the shock. One, two, three . . . touchdown. Just a little jostle and there we were, safe and sound. Baker's first ex-wife taught him well. Would I go up in a hot air balloon again? In a heartbeat. But I'll wait until I land before telling Mom.



Mark Sand flying Sweet Escape with a full basket

Pilot hurt on balloon trip, October 18, 2007, Northampton England

Northampton Chron & Echo, submitted by Penny Christy

A hot air balloon pilot, who was dragged more than 100ft after crash landing, was not wearing a safety harness, an accident investigation report has found. The pilot, a member of staff from Northampton-based The Ballooning Business, had set off from a hotel on the edge of town on April 8, with 12 passengers, and headed in the direction of Santa Pod.

A report by the Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) discovered that, on the approach to the track, the pilot was warned that cars were still practising below. He decided to perform an emergency landing, during which he was thrown from the basket and dragged under it.

The report into the investigation, released this week, said: "The pilot briefed the passengers to prepare for landing and warned them that the landing would be firm, with a possibility of the basket tilting and dragging.

"When the balloon touched down, the basket tilted on to its front and the pilot was ejected. The basket passed over the pilot, causing him serious injuries. Nevertheless, he was able to retain a hold on the red deflation line until the balloon stopped moving.

"The basket was dragged approximately 35m across the field before coming to rest."

After just under an hour's journey, the balloon crash landed in Souldrop, close to the Bedfordshire border, between Northampton and Rushden. It left one passenger with minor injuries. None of the passengers was thrown from the basket. The AAIB concluded that the 58-year-old pilot, who was not named, was injured because he was not wearing the safety harness.

The report added: "Although the pilot was prepared for the landing, his safety harness was not attached to the safety strap. He was therefore not secured to the basket and was particularly vulnerable. "He could not recall why he had not attached the safety harness to the strap since he was normally conscientious in doing so."

The Ballooning Business declined to comment on the AAIB report.



Photo courtesy of Penny Christy

So what is there to do in the winter??

Have breakfast with friends!



Photos courtesy of Penny Christy

Play with the dogs!



Photos by Mike Bollea

What are you doing this winter? Tell me—libby_rich@yahoo.com

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 monthly on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Plainville Municipal Building (Route 372 at Whiting St.) at 7:30 PM. For more information, contact any of the officers listed in this newsletter.

CLAS DUES \$20 include membership privileges and newsletter.

Extra voting family member add \$5

Newsletter Subscription Only \$15 CLAS Member Pins \$5 (\$3 members)

Decals \$2 (\$1 members) Landowner Pins \$4 (\$3 members – limited quantity)

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Single (\$20) ___ Family (\$20) ___ Extra Vote (\$5) Name: _____ Newsletter Only (\$15) ___

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Crew ___ Student Pilot ___ Private Pilot ___ Commercial Pilot ___ N# _____

BFA # _____ BFA CAAP Level _____ BFA PAAP Level _____

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Make Checks payable to CLAS and mail to: CLAS PO Box 53, Southbury, CT 06488-0053



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