

THE SCOOP



**Next CLAS Meeting—Thursday, May 15 at 7:30PM
Plainville Police Department, 19 Neal Court, Plainville
Across from the Plainville Municipal Building on Rt. 372**

The FAA "WINGS" program will be the discussion point for this educational meeting.
Jim Adams will explain the wings program and answer any questions.

Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society

THE SCOOP

From the Editor, Libby Richardson

Someone once told me if I didn't receive any submissions for the Scoop, to just make something up, so here's is this month's made-up "stuff":

- Derald Young of Dixfield, Maine—didn't hear from you. Are you in Maine, do you still live there? Have you checked on my house? I'll be there in two weeks!
- Did anyone check out the ad for 'The Children's Place' that featured the bright yellow hot air balloon? Haven't given anyone 1000 points yet. I'll up the ante to 2500 and a ride in *my* balloon (if and when I get one) if you tell me what's wrong with the picture!
- Anyone planning any special flights or trips this summer? Didn't hear from anyone, so I guess I'll just assume no one is reading this and no one is flying. Right? Wrong?
- Does anyone know why there were flight restrictions on April 25th within 50 miles of Bradley International Airport? I do—it's because President Bush was flying in, and then visited the Boys & Girls Club in Hartford, which is where I got within five feet of shaking his hand. It was fun.

Thanks for your contributions for this month's Scoop: Chris Mooney, Erwin Dressel, Charlie Perreault

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First Aid and CPR Courses

Thanks to Pam McFarland, Penny Christy, Tony Roswell, Terri Rollinson, and Erwin and Ellen Dressel for taking First Aid and CPR.



Safety first!

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

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Don't Shoot, I'm Only Trespassing

***By Bill Smith, President of the Balloon Society of Kentucky
Reprinted from SouthEastern Michigan Balloon Association, Inc.***

Nothing spoils a good balloon chase faster than hearing an angry landowner holler "Get off my property!" Well maybe getting shot at by that landowner is worse, but either one will ruin your day.

What are your rights as a trespasser? Can a landowner shoot you or assault you for coming onto his property uninvited? Can he confiscate your equipment? Is he within his right to charge the pilot a \$1,000 landing fee? What will happen if he calls the police?

Well, I posed these questions to Connie Tobbe, a Louisville, Kentucky, attorney who specializes in property law. Here's what I found out: there are two types of trespassing, criminal and negligent. Each has its own set of legal principles.

Criminal trespassers are people who enter property with intent to cause harm or damage. For example, a person who breaks into a house to steal (continued next page...)

Up in the Air, but Never Confused ***As told to Patricia R. Olsen, New York Times***

I have a full-time job at [American Airlines](#) as a pilot, and I run a balloon ride business, Skyblue Ballooning, on the side with my husband, a pilot who works for AirTran Airways. I'm also the mother of two girls, Lauren, 5, and Danielle, 3. My friends say they don't know how I do it all. You could say I'm a master juggler.

Some people think that being a pilot is a part-time job because it seems that we work less than five days a week. But when you consider the time it takes to commute to our home base and add that to the hours we are away, it can amount to a lot more hours than it seems.

For example, I live an hour from Atlanta, and my home base, where my flights originate, is Miami. So I drive to one airport and fly two hours to another just to get to work. To be sure I make it on time, I have to take an earlier flight than would normally be necessary. Also, I have to arrive an hour before the plane I'm piloting departs Miami. So, for a 7:45 p.m. flight, I've had to leave my house at 9 a.m. Then I'm usually gone three nights a week. But I'm not complaining. I love flying.

My husband, Kyle, has arranged his schedule so that he is home on Saturday and Sunday to pilot the balloon rides. I'm the scheduler. I answer the phone and take reservations. If I'm not flying on a weekend, I'm also the chaser. I follow the balloon in my car and drive the customers back to their car. Otherwise, one of our friends does it. I also make calls to customers when I'm away from home. I never call customers while in an airport terminal, though. It's too noisy.

One thing I do to make my life easier is to stick to domestic routes while my girls are young. That way I can be home in a relatively short time if there's ever an emergency. I also try to get as much work done on the computer as I can while I'm away, so that my time at home is family time and balloon ride time. I pay bills online from the hotel room, for example. I'm extremely organized. I have to be. The calendar on my Macintosh laptop is a lifesaver. I enter the balloon ride dates in one color, our flight schedules in another color and our daughters' activities in yet another. There's a matching calendar on my husband's laptop and on our home computer, and I frequently sync them with mine.

I also use a meal planning service, www.savingdinner.com. For \$30 a year, we get six meal plans a week, along with a grocery list of the ingredients required. It's another system I rely on. We used to have housecleaning help, but in this economy we decided to do it ourselves. I have to admit Kyle does most of it, and he's quicker than I.

With such a busy life, I'm also mindful of my health — both mental and physical. I get Reiki treatments for stress reduction and increased energy when I'm home, and recently I took a three-hour class that is supposed to get your energy flowing in the proper way.

My husband and I schedule our trips so that at least one of us is home every night. Sometimes when I'm home on the weekend, the girls wake up cranky, and they can be needy if they haven't seen me in a couple of days. When this happens, I drop everything and focus totally on them. After all, they're first on the list. People have told us they chose our ballooning service because we project a family image on our Web site. That makes me feel good. I work hard to make everything come together.

Kyle got into ballooning as a hobby, and at first we did it because it was fun. Then we decided to try it as a side business, and we soon realized that it's something we can do in retirement. We charge \$450 for an hour ride for two. Lately we've had calls from a lot of men wanting to propose to their girlfriends in a unique way. We also offer what's called a tether, in which the balloon is tied to the ground and gently rises about 50 feet in the air. It gives an idea of what a balloon ride is like. It requires five people to manage the ropes. This ride is \$1,400 group rate for two hours. We cater to groups and take two people up at a time for about five minutes, as many as 24 pairs in the two hours.

A LOT of people don't understand my life. Every once in a while during conversations in the cockpit, I can tell that a captain thinks my girls must be neglected. I explain that our daughters understand that both Mommy and Daddy work and that the girls are bright and well-adjusted. After a teacher tested my older daughter for kindergarten recently, she joked that Lauren was ready for college.

Not everyone understands or agrees with balancing a career, a side business and a family, but it's right for me. I think of it as organized chaos, and I've never thought I should be doing less.



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.

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