

THE SCOOP



Next CLAS Meeting—Thursday, October 16th at 7:30PM
Plainville Police Department, 19 Neal Court, Plainville
Across from the Plainville Municipal Building on Rt. 372
Bring your photos for the Calendar Contest!!

A Connecticut Double Header

By Santo Galotioto

On September 3rd, long time crew person and active club member, Gary Guertin, stepped up to the plate and became Connecticut's newest Private Pilot.

After many years of crewing for Erwin Dressel, Gary added to his passion of ballooning and did all that was required to take on this new challenge. When Gary called me on the preceding Saturday to tell me he was ready for the check ride, I told him I wasn't available on Wednesday but was every other day of the week.

We were being sandwiched by the remnants of one hurricane and the development of another. Ah, late summer and fall in New England, you gotta love it. As you would expect, Wednesday was forecast to be the best day of the week. As it approached, I was able to rearrange my schedule and we got to fly. That was a bit of luck, since the rest of the week was less than stellar. Wednesday morning, there was enough residual moisture from the preceding storm that there was a bit of fog off in the distance. The balloon/weather gods were looking upon Gary that day since our entire flight was fog-free. Crewing for Gary were Erwin, Ellen and Eric Albright.

Gary demonstrated with great skill his command of the balloon. We had a great flight out of the Aqua Turf. There was a lot of steerage so he was able to skillfully navigate to our final landing place in a church parking lot. As I was looking over the basket railing, I was commenting on the church spire. I said "look at that balloon sticker." Gary was a bit perplexed because there was no patch or image of a balloon anywhere to be found.

Despite my silly distraction, he carefully flew us into a perfect landing on the paved side of the trees (Erwin was pleased with the dry pack-up). What a great addition he will be to our pilot ranks in Connecticut.

As with all pilots who occasionally crew, Erwin was going to go to the wrong church to pick us up. Thanks God for the professional crew people we had that day.



(continued from page 1...)

Being the sensitive lot that we are, we briefly toasted Gary's accomplishment in the "Mormon" church parking lot. Erwin should be very proud of his latest student. Gary was calm, contemplative and competent. He showed signs of Erwin's organizational skills and was well prepared for the exam. Congratulations to all.

A little over a week went by and Mark Sand called me to say he was ready for the Commercial Exam. Mark was eager to get the new certificate so he could once again return to "The Big One" but this time as a working pilot rather than dutiful assistant.

If anyone has attended one of Mark's instructional presentations either at a club meeting or our annual safety seminar, it goes without saying that Mark knew the required information and more. Mark has a depth of knowledge on many ballooning topics and he regularly shares that knowledge on the balloon reflector.

As it turns out, I told Mark that I was available TOMORROW. He scurried about and confirmed for me that it was a go. The forecast for Thursday, 9/11 was for light and variable winds both on the surface and at 3,000 feet. Mark informed me that the soundings would provide for a mid level breeze out of the east. The sounding was right on that morning. Crewing for Mark were Mike Bollea, Rick Silva and Gerry O'Neill Jr. We took off from an industrial area in Plainville and took advantage of the higher level wind for some skilful navigation. Two other pilots were in the air that morning. Bill Costen was giving his usual morning ride out of Kathy's and Erwin was flying into the valley from Page Park on the east side of the ridge. As forecasted, the winds on the surface were light and variable thus a couple of very nice attempts to land were thwarted by Mother Nature. Our trusty crew was with us every step of the way. We finally landed in a parking lot just off of West Street in Southington.

As I informed him, the Commercial Test required him to treat me as a student and he didn't shut up from the time I arrived until the time I left. Mark continued to give detailed, thoughtful explanations on ballooning matters. Should Mark ever decide to take on a student, that student will be indeed be fortunate.

Now with wet ink in his pocket, off he goes to the Adirondack festival to be followed-up by the Big One in ABQ. Good luck to you Mark. You were fortunate to be able to fly with one of the area's more experienced pilots, Mike Bollea. Congratulations to Mark, Mike, and all the others that have helped you along the way.

Footnote: Both of these exams were given prior to my having to go to work in a shirt and tie. Since I had to run off immediately after flying, I plan on collecting on my missed breakfasts sometime in the future!!!

Photos on page 1 submitted by Erwin and Ellen Dressel, quite possibly taken by Mike Bollea September 3, 2008



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Glens Falls 2008

By Erwin and Ellen Dressel

What a beautiful New England weekend it was September 19 - 21 at the Warren County Airport. There were record crowds and no one was disappointed. The only negative for the weekend was the record traffic. Sign in, for us, was a breeze this year. At times those FAA guys can really nit pick your log books and bi-annual.



At least half the balloonists flew Friday night. Some guys were setting up amidst the kites still flying over the field. We took off for a short hop later and flew our crew. We got lost in the dark trying to find the propane, however once we got there the fill up was quick. Looked like they could fuel at least eight balloons at a time reducing the wait time. Then onward to the Ramada Inn for hors d'oeuvres and Pilot briefing.

Mark Sand's Mystical Flyer and Jim Clark's POW-MIA balloons at Glens Falls. *Photo by Pete Hubbell*

Saturday morning was gorgeous. The only glitch, I know of, was the lights and microphone going out under the briefing tent. We had a lovely family of five from Derby Connecticut fly with us and we flew North East to Fort Ann, right next to a fog bank along the canal. After the Champagne, and propane, we did what comes natural to all Balloonists. Our Glens Falls crew member, Bill, pointed out a real hole in the wall breakfast dinner called MAUD'S which was unique with Maud's recipes and apron uses written just about everywhere

The Airport on Saturday afternoon looked like the World Kite Flying Rally. There were hundreds of kites flying, and some large ones appeared to be 1000 feet high. Garry Guertin had his stunt kite and gave it a go. Our



Granddaughter, Jenny, gave it a try and had a blast. Again many balloonists took off late, however, I felt lazy and elected to hold off until Sunday morning.

A good nights sleep and we woke up to a beautiful Sunday morning. We set up the balloon and waited for someone to request a ride. In just a short time we had a willing couple and one crew member who still hadn't flown. Off we went for another beautiful fun ride, We climbed up high to fly South East and then dropped down low to travel North East. Landed in Kingsbury at the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Jim Clark's POW-MIA balloon piloted by Daryl and Cindy Smith. *Photo by Mark Sand*

We had a beautiful Brunch back at the Ramada Inn along with awards and a real desire to go back and do it again next year. Our hats off to Walt and Joan Grishkot, Mark Donahue, and Bill Hughes plus many volunteers for running a first rate Balloon Rally.

Save the Date!!

CLAS Safety Seminar at the New England Air Museum

February 28, 2009



Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society

THE SCOOP



From the Editor, Libby Richardson

Have a great time in Albuquerque!! If you see my Aunt Cynthia or her significant other Ricardo, say hi for me and let them know I'll see them next year!

Thanks for your contributions for this month's Scoop: Santo Galotioto, Mark Sand, Pete Hubbell, Erwin and Ellen Dressel, Garry Guertin, Penny Christy

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

Call for Nominations

This is a call for nominations for CLAS officers for 2009. Officers are: president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Please forward your nominees' names to the Election Committee Chairman, , Santo Galatioto, by e-mail at santo.galatioto@yale.org. Also, please get your nominees' permission before you submit their names for office.

Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society – 2008 Officers

President: Charlie Perreault	860-384-0592	bythefireplace@earthlink.net
Vice President: Mark Sand	860-536-7393	mdsand@snet.net
Secretary: Garry Guertin	860-919-4175	gguertin@cox.net
Treasurer: Tom Murphy	860-206-5972	tmurphyiv@gmail.com
Scoop Editor: Libby Richardson	203-988-6577	libby_rich@yahoo.com
Photo Historian: Mike Bollea	860-985-6508	mjbwindriders@webtv.net

Minutes – CLAS Meeting of September 18, 2008

CLAS President Charlie Perreault called the meeting to order at the Plainville, CT Police Station Building at 7:35 PM.

Members in attendance were : Charlie Perreault, Mark Sand, Mike Bollea, Erwin Dressel, Ellen Dressel, Garry Guertin, Kevin Briemann, Rick Silva, Alfred Theodore, Tom Murphy & Penny Christy.

Financial Report: Financial report was provided by Tom Murphy

Old Business: Garry Guertin reported Jim O’Brian has renewed the CLAS.org registration for an additional nine years, starting January 2009.

New Business:

- Congratulations were made to Mark Sand on receiving his commercial pilot certificate and Garry Guertin on receiving his private pilot certificate.
- Santo forwarded a recommendation that the CLAS consider hosting a group ground school event provided by Bill Hughes. The recommendation was embraced by the membership and discussion was focused around the possible timing of hosting such an event. Two actions were identified prior to a formal proposal.
 - Mark Sand - To approach Bill Hughes during the Glens Falls Balloon Festival to discuss the option of hosting a partial (1 day) event instead of a full 2 day ground school event.
 - The next action will be to poll the club, prior to the next meeting, to see how many members would like to participate.
- **2008 Photo Contest will be held during the Oct 2008 CLAS meeting.**
 - Garry Guertin volunteered to create the calendaragain. Top 12 voted pictures will be entered into the CLAS 2009 Calendar. The 1st place picture will be hosted on the cover of the calendar. Each member may enter a maximum of 3 photos. Photos should be 8.5” x 11” color pictures. Winning pictures will need to be digital and sent to Garry. Plastic sleeves for viewing will be provided at the meeting. Entries full name & picture location is to be provided on the back of all entries Prizes will be:
 - 1st prize – (2) Tickets to the 2009 CLAS Winter Dinner
 - 2nd prize – (1) Ticket to the 2009 Safety Seminar
 - 3rd prize – (1) 2009 CLAS membership
- Penny recommended that members looking for “old” misc. flight items can go to vintagewings.org

A motion was made and second to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:51 PM.

Due to a technical error Garry Guertin will provide the refreshments at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Garry Guertin

POP QUIZ

Estimate within five (5) years when the first aircraft was launched from a navel ship.

Congratulations to Gene Bernstein and Garry Guertin who both guessed the right answer to our POP QUIZ!

A hot air balloon was launched from a British sloop, HMS Pallas, to drop leaflets over France in 1806.

Have you paid your dues yet this year? You will not receive this for much longer. Pay now!

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 Police Department, 19 Neal Court, Plainville, 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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CLAS Membership Info:

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

New ___ Renewing ___

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

BFA # _____ BFA CAAP Level _____ BFA PAAP Level _____

FAA Wings Level Completed _____

Pilot Certificate # _____ Type(s) of Certificate(s) _____

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



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