



THE SCOOP

There is no August meeting.

**Annual CLAS Summer Picnic
Saturday, August 21st at 4 p.m. at Ellen and Erwin Dressel's**

In lieu of our regular meeting, please join us for a cookout picnic at the Dressel's, 1476 Highland Ave, Cheshire. CLAS will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and non-alcoholic drinks. Please bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert. Also, please bring your own chairs if you have them. Please RSVP to Erwin & Ellen at 203-272-6116 or edressel@cox.net if you plan to attend.

From The Scoop Editor, Libby Richardson

Here's to a summer of safe flights and soft landings! Great to see so many familiar faces in Stowe, VT in early July. Looking forward to seeing folks in Plainville in August!

Thanks to Jim Regan, Penny Christy, Carlos Keebe, Bruce Richardson, Erwin and Ellen Dressel, and Garry Guertin.

Photos throughout the Scoop not labeled are by me.

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



Stowflake Balloon Festival, July 9-11, 2010, Stowe, Vermont

Many local balloonists participated in the Stowflake Balloon Festival in July including Erwin Dressel, Mick Murphy, Tom Murphy, Clive Livingston, and Ron Thornton, with families and friends in tow.



Photo By Carlos Keebe



Photo by Bruce Richardson



Photo by Garry Guertin



Photo by Libby Richardson

Enjoy this video shared by Jim Regan of Balloons Over Letchworth during Memorial Day Weekend:

http://rochester.ynn.com/content/top_stories/506389/ballooning-over-letchworth

Minutes – CLAS Meeting of July 15, 2010

CLAS Secretary, Garry Guertin called the meeting to order at the Plainville Municipal Building, at 7:48PM.

Members in attendance were: Garry Guertin, Ellen Dressel, Erwin Dressel, Libby Richardson, Penny Christy & Tony Roswell.

Last meeting minutes will be published and reviewed in the next Scoop.

Sunshine Committee: N/A

Winter Dinner Committee: No Report

BFA/FAA Committee: No Report

Competition Committee: No Report

Education Committee: No Report

Nomination Committee: N/A

Audit Committee: No Report

Safety Seminar Committee: No Report

Treasurer Report: No Report



Old Business:

- **CLAS Aug 21st Picnic at Erwin & Ellen Dressel's has been scheduled.** Garry will ask Jim O'Brien to send out e-mail with RSVP to Ellen Dressel to allow Ellen to accurately estimate the food purchase.

New Business:

- **Erwin notified CLAS that there will be a static display at the Tweed Airfest on Sept 25, 2010.** This event will strictly be a static display of all kinds of aircraft and aviation related equipment, and is geared to show the public what General Aviation is all about. Questions can be directed to Ev Cassagneres of Cheshire at 203-272-2127.
- **A Utility Communication, Inc. notice was sent to all licensed radio operators** stating that the FCC is requiring all land Mobile Radio licenses currently operating in the 150MHz – 174MHz band and the 420MHz – 512MHz band to convert to narrow band mode (12.5KHz channel spacing) to increase spectrum efficiency. CLAS's radio band width is 151.62500MHz.

Aug. CLAS meeting is cancelled but all members are invited to the CLAS Picnic at the Dressel's. The next scheduled CLAS meeting is on Thur. Sept. 16, 2010. Al Theodore will bring the refreshments.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Garry Guertin, CLAS Secretary

Minutes – CLAS Meeting of June 17, 2010

CLAS President Mark Sand called the meeting to order at the Plainville Municipal Building, at 7:40PM.

Members in attendance were: Garry Guertin, Mark Sand, Rick Silva, Al Theadore, Mick Murphy, Tom Murphy, Penny Christy, Ellen Dressel, Erwin Dressel, Tony Philpin, & Charlie Perreault.

Last meeting minutes were distributed in the Scoop and accepted as written.

Sunshine Committee: N/A

Winter Dinner Committee: Penny to provide final costs at next meeting

BFA/FAA Committee: No Report

Competition Committee: Tom encouraged all members that if they would like to host a local completion that would be OK. It's always hard to get everyone to show up to a larger full CLAS completion event. Instead, if anyone feels that they would have success with arranging a smaller group competition that would be OK.

Education Committee: Tour of Oxford Airport. Mick is working to set-up a date.

Nomination Committee: N/A, Still need members to sign up for this committee

Audit Committee: No Report

Safety Seminar Committee: Penny to provide final costs at next meeting

Treasurer Report: Penny to provide update at next meeting

Old Business:

- **Mick provided an update to the members on the Seminar at the Great Barrington Airport, MA.** "Seminar" to be advertized Aug 1 – 4 on BFA web page and in two additional newsletters and announcements. Next summer's event will most likely be held at the Berkshire School. Insurance will be covered by BFA. It will cost \$395 to sponsor a child 13-18 years old. We need a minimum of 10 kids to sign up to launch the seminar this year.

New Business

- **CLAS Aug 21st Picnic at Erwin & Ellen Dressel's has been scheduled.** Erwin & Ellen will purchase hotdogs, hamburgers & drinks. CLAS will reimburse the cost. CLAS members attending are asked to bring a desert, appetizer or side dish & chairs.
- **Sept. 11, 2010 CLAS fly-out has been scheduled.** CLAS will buy breakfast for all CLAS members and their crew that participate in the fly-out.

Garry Guertin will bring refreshments for the next meeting on July 15, 2010. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20

Respectfully submitted by Garry Guertin, CLAS Secretary

To All Pilots and Crew,

We have Secretary's Day, Boss's Day, Sweetest Day, Grandparent's Day and Sea Serpent Day is just around the corner so don't forget to mark your calendar for August 7th. Do we have a "Crew Appreciation Day" or "Crew Chief Appreciation Day"? I mean if ground hogs, sea serpents and lobsters can have their own day shouldn't we at least offer these guys/gals who bust their hump for us pilots a day to call their own?

I would like to take today to officially (or unofficially) and publicly recognize some of my hard working crew, specifically my Crew Chief, Steve Sumner, who is a member of this list. I didn't give Steve the "Crew Chief" title. I don't use that term very loosely on my operation. He has earned it by being a proactive, safe, and conscientious member of the crew. Steve has been at this gig for about 5 or 6 years. When I met him he had recently retired from the United States Postal Service after 32 years of service. He had been out crewing a handful of times with a local sport pilot. I found out that he liked balloons (and that he had a schedule that was pretty open) and quickly corrupted him by offering him large amounts of money in exchange for a chance to spend some time with balloons. (That last sentence may contain a white lie). When he first started crewing for me, Steve's biggest concern used to be making a mistake that would cost my commercial operation money. My response was always something to the effect of "If you show up on time, pay attention, and follow directions you'll be OK in my book". He took that and ran with it.

The man has now basically memorized my systems and procedures and can perform most of them as good or better than I can. He comes out almost everyday that we are flying and thinks like a pilot and an owner of the company despite the fact that he is neither. He acts and works like a crew member who is fighting for his job each day. We have a lot of non-verbal communication that has been established over the years and much of our work is accomplished in this manner. However, when I need something very specific or a bit out of the ordinary and ask Steve to do this, there is never any hesitation on his part. Even if the task seems menial or "nit-picky" he just does what is asked of him. He quickly tends to any "command" promptly and without complaint. There are no jobs or tasks that he tries to shirk to junior members of the crew because they are "too menial" for him. He is consistent and very efficient, often having done what I am about to do, before I have had the chance to do it. He does what needs to be done. This attitude and work ethic allows me to do what I need to do and also to focus more on flying than on all the other distractions around ballooning. If there is a news camera present, he is busy making sure that the company is well represented and could care less about getting any face time himself. So for a man who does not seek any recognition, I am forcing it on you. Thank you, Steve. Your efforts are always noticed and appreciated.

Since he gave 32 years to the Postal Service I feel he should give at least half of that time to me. So Steve...we'll just say that you've got 10 years left (clock starts at the end of this season, of course) and by then I might have had time to find and suitably train a replacement.

So for those of you who have a Crew Chief who is as valuable to you and your operation as Steve is to me personally and my company, let 'em know. Give 'em a pat on the back, an extra few bucks in their check, an "atta boy", a thoughtful gift, a title, a special balloon related tool or gift, etc. Let's just say that Crew Chief Appreciation Day is August 1st and that will give everyone a couple days to throw something together. It could even just be as simple as a sincere "Thank you". If there is already a day such as this that I don't know about, then I'll just expect a dozen or so emails from people on the list letting me know.

Thanks for all of your hard work my brother!

Jeff Snyder
P.S. We're actually not brothers.

Pilot/Owner, Above Reality Inc.
www.BalloonVermont.com <<http://www.balloonvermont.com/>>
802-899-4007 (Office), 877-386-7473 (Toll Free)
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In The News

From Ellen and Erwin Dressel via The Republican-American

Does a 25-foot-tall, 122-foot-long dinosaur need a permit to avoid extinction? That's the unlikely dilemma posed by "Vermontasaurus," a whimsical sculpture thrown together with scrap wood by a Vermont man. The oddity now faces opposition from neighbors and regulatory challenges from government entities that he fears could force him to dismantle it.



It's art, not edifice, says Brian Boland. "They should leave me alone. It's a piece of artwork," he said. Boland, 61, is a former teacher, hot-air balloon designer and pilot who runs the Post Mills Airport, a 52-acre airfield.

To read more, visit

http://www.rep-am.com/articles/2010/07/12/news/new_england/doc4c3a8d8327212795974841.txt

Cell phone ignites propane, explodes in Temecula

By Sarah Burge, The Press-Enterprise

A man from a hot air balloon company who was filling propane tanks was burned Wednesday night in Temecula when leaking gas ignited, authorities said. He and another man were filling the tanks in an enclosed trailer and the gas apparently accumulated inside, said Sgt. Don Fortney of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. Fortney said the blast happened when one of them answered a cell phone. Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire Department officials were still trying to determine what role, if any, the cell phone played in the accident, said spokeswoman Jody Hagemann.

The accident happened about 10 p.m. at AmeriGas Propane Center, 41830 Enterprise Circle South. The blast blew the man out of the trailer and knocked over a second man standing at the open entrance, Fortney said. The man who had been inside suffered second-degree burns over 30 percent of his body and was taken to the burn unit at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton for treatment, Fortney said. The other man's clothes were torn up by the explosion but he was not seriously injured, Fortney said. The name of the balloon company involved was not available.

Firefighter Paramedic Bob Genn said the fire from the propane flash did not spread, but the trailer and the hot air balloon basket inside were damaged. Genn said some of the firefighters at the station next door to AmeriGas heard the boom and went to investigate. But the two men who had been filling the tanks had left the scene of the accident, he said. "They ran because they thought that there were going to be more explosions from the propane," Genn said. Sheriff's deputies found the men nearby. "They were bouncing around in sprinklers when our deputies got there," Fortney said.

Hot-air balloon from festival blown into power lines in Franklin

By Joshua Burd, mycentraljersey.com

FRANKLIN (SOMERSET) — Four people taking part in the Quick Chek New Jersey Festival of Ballooning were uninjured Sunday morning after strong winds caused their hot-air balloon to become ensnared in power lines in Franklin, police said. Police responded at 8:10 a.m. to Weston Canal Road, Sgt. Philip Rizzo said. They learned that the balloon was landing in the township when a strong gust lifted the basket and pushed it some 50 yards into a fence owned by New Jersey American Water.

The balloon, meanwhile, struck a set of 26,000-volt power lines overhead and caused a short circuit, Rizzo said. The accident caused some surrounding homes and businesses, including the water company, to lose power. Power was restored in about an hour, Rizzo said. New Jersey American Water was never without power because the facility has an emergency generator.

The occupants of the balloon were the operator, a 72-year-old Rhode Island man, and a 45-year-old man and 9- and 13-year-old girls, all from Holmdel. They made it out of the balloon safely. The balloon was one of dozens to take off that morning from Solberg-Hunterdon Airport in Readington as part of the annual balloon festival.

Woman tumbles from hot air balloon after hard landing **Journal Star**

CHILLICOTHE — A Fort Madison, Iowa, woman took a short tumble from a hot air balloon at last weekend's Balloons at the Park. The balloon, piloted by Al Reusch of Macomb, was taking part in the Illinois State Championship balloon race about 6 a.m. Saturday when it hit the ground harder than expected, causing Nannette Griffin to roll out of the basket and land on her back. Griffin was transported to OSF Saint Francis Medical Center by ambulance, said Evie Reusch, wife of Al Reusch. Griffin, who often flies with Al Reusch, spent a few hours at the hospital while she was evaluated for injuries. She was not admitted.

"It just hit the ground too hard," Evie Reusch said Monday. "It's obviously not something we want to happen, but we're glad she's all right." Chillicothe's Rescue 33 was hosting a fundraising breakfast at the park Saturday morning, so medics were only seconds away. The balloon race contest had balloonists attempting to complete various tasks such as landing the closest to a target, which is what Reusch reportedly was doing at the time of the accident.

From Jim Regan: This was just outside Ottawa Canada. T-storms in the area caused some serious low-level windshear, collapsing the mouth of the balloon and forcing the pilot to burn thru fabric to keep it aloft. He landed successfully with no injuries. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vt0uP4VnREQ>

From Garry Guertin: Here is a youtube video of the Stoweflake Balloon Festival that Jack Perry created. He did an excellent job on the video. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3dMIhlgcvyk>

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)

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
TELEPHONE (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Cell) _____
E-Mail _____
(Default will be electronic newsletter unless notified otherwise.)

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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