



The Scoop

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Volume XVII, Issue 1

February, 2004

Meriden Report:

from your FAA Liaison, Kathy Wadsworth

As promised I am following up on our conversations concerning our FSDO, the City of Meriden Police Department and the Balloon flights on January 12 over Meriden. At this point it seems as though there will be no further action from the FAA or the Meriden Police concerning the several flights that terminated within the city limits that Sunday morning.

Regardless, both the FAA (through Bob Martens) and the police (Officer Zajak) want to be assured that such an occurrence would not be repeated. Both were also baffled and perturbed to hear that a competition with a target in Meriden was the purpose of the flights of the six balloons that day. The officer's main concern was the amount of time spent hovering and/or passing back & forth at low levels (reportedly 100 – 200 ft) over the highway (691) by several of the pilots.

I did get to speak with each of the pilots who flew on the 12 January, and I appreciate that each of them was willing to give me a report of the flights from their perspectives. But, as Bob Martens said to me while we discussed these incidences, we (aviator types) all must be mindful of the perception of those on the ground as they watch our activities. This is particularly important in our case as Balloonists, because the nature of our aircraft and its flight characteristics very often create a direct relationship with folks on the ground, either of happy excitement, as in most cases, or fear, worry and anger in other instances.

The impression that I was left with after speaking with the pilots was that, possibly, some were too caught up in the competition and the desire to score well, especially as they judged themselves to be in a good position. This may have clouded their perception of what confusion and concern they were causing on the ground, as they certainly did not perceive themselves in any kind of trouble.

All had fairly uneventful landings but emergency and official vehicles were close at hand also because of a perception, theirs. I'm sure valuable lessons were learned by this experience and that, in the future, regulations and common sense will play more of a role in the decision making process. Perhaps our club should rethink how it executes its local competitions so that a whole group of Balloons will not be congregating over or targeting a potentially inappropriate area.

We all know that if we don't regulate and police ourselves properly then the FAA will step in and the consequences will cost us some of our hard-gained credibility and consideration with that body. Local balloonists are fortunate that all there has been is a warning for this incident, because if the Meriden police had wished to press for further action they had every right and reason to do so.

Please don't forget that several years ago, during a Balloon Festival, a matter somewhat similar to this was pressed by an area amusement park whose owners were not at all amused by the visit of a Hot Air Balloon. A full inquiry was carried out by the FAA. The outcome was not favorable to the balloonist, whose license was suspended for several months.

The Balloon community has been lobbying the FAA over many, many years for a relaxation of altitude minimums for itself. Our responsible attitudes and actions are elements that will influence that result but unfortunately any bad news may hold more weight than all the years of good. So, that's it from the soap-box.

Look forward to seeing you all at the Safety Seminar the end of the month.

Minutes – CLAS Meeting of January 15, 2004

Vice President Penny Christie called the meeting to order at the Plainville, CT Municipal Building at 7:33 PM. Members in attendance were: Mike Bollea, Mark Sand, Steve Ushchak, Mick Murphy, Erwin Dressel, Ellen Dressel, Amy Goodyear, Charlie Perreault, Penny Christy, Terri Rollinson, Tony Roswell, Kathy Wadsworth, and Kevin Brielmann.

Winter Dinner: Tony Roswell reported that he has received only 6 reservations so far. Some concern was expressed that a minimum number of attendees would not register. A nominal count of 50 was projected.

Table decorations are set and no additional help is needed. There have been no nominations as yet for crew awards or for the S--- Happens Award.

Frozen Buns Incident: Kathy Wadsworth reported that she was called by Bob Martens, FAA FSDO Windsor Locks, concerning incidents over and in Meriden, CT during the Frozen Buns Flyout on January 11, 2004. Penny Christie stated that a Meriden police sergeant approached her shortly after she landed. He said a number of balloons were observed flying low over the city for a prolonged length of time and that represented a nuisance. He also said there was a traffic accident attributed to motorists watching the balloons instead of the road. He did not issue Penny a ticket, but indicated that she came close to being the scapegoat for the entire group. We determined that a contributing factor to the situation was the designation of the Target Stores parking lot as the target. This necessitated flying low over congested areas. In the future, we will not designate targets in congested areas. It was also suggested that all members who anticipate flying over or landing on Meriden public lands obtain/renew their use permit for 2004 at the Meriden Parks and Recreation Department. The permits are free. Bring your pilot certificate, balloon registration, and proof of insurance with you when you apply. Kathy will call Bob Martens and go over the facts of the incident as discussed at the meeting.

Proposed Part 91 Changes: Kevin Brielmann reported on the potential changes to FARs, Part 91. These changes would effectively eliminate low-hour pilots (defined as less than 400 hrs) flying passengers for hire. Another revision would eliminate sightseeing flights within 25 miles of an airport. If either of these changes go into effect it would change the sport of ballooning as we now know it. The FAA often forgets that balloons are aircraft, too and are subject to the same rules that are meant primarily for fixed-wing aircraft. Letters to the FAA explaining the unique aspects of our sport might help.

Safety Seminar: Plans for the Safety Seminar are effectively finalized. The seminar will be held at Pratt and Whitney in East Hartford on February 28, 2004. The food vendor is set. Pratt and Whitney will print the manuals. We decided to pay for Beth Miller's (IMC Insurance Rep.) trip from Minnesota. Penny will provide her balloon as a static display. We need auction items from the membership. We will give the presenters plaques, CLAS pins, and possibly engraved letter openers. We need biographies for the presenters, as well as requirements for those coming from afar. Mark Sand volunteered to man the registration table. Mick Murphy will contact the BFA concerning their sending materials for sale. Penny will contact Carol Teitsworth and Paul Stumpf to see if they want to provide material for sale. We have received only 3 reservations so far. Penny has received numerous inquiries from out-of-towners.

Treasurer's Report: Charlie Perreault reported that there was \$2233.42 in the checking account and \$5515.00 in CDs. Mick Murphy stated that the annual financial audit was due in March. Mick will handle the details.

Committee Reports: Sunshine: A sympathy card will be sent to Dave Lasher for the passing of his brother. FAA Liaison: Kathy and Kevin's comments are reported above. BFA Liaison: Our Safety Seminar is listed in Skylines. Scoop: We need more articles. Penny will write about the Frozen Buns Flyout.

Miscellaneous: A meeting of the club officers will be called to develop a budget for 2004. A sign-up sheet for post-meeting refreshments will be promulgated.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Sand

CLAS Secretary

FORSALE

Cameron Ball M55 Instrument Pack, 15 hours, asking \$500.00. Cameron Basket CB301-7B 42"x48 Sports model, went with a C-80, 15 hours, comes with drop line, fire extinguisher, and paperwork display brief. \$2500.00 obo.
Call Bill Colyer 203-255-1929 or ayankeeballoon@aol.com

Cameron airship car fits either DP70 or DP90 w 2-10 gal alum cyls, Konig 4 cyl 570 cc radial engine, MKIV burner w/ airship mounting, all in custom trailer. \$9,800.00 (860) 678-7921 or Katdelano@aol.com

Balloon Works T3 burner asking \$800.00 and 5 hp fan \$200.00
Contact Jack Perry 203.263.5962 or jackp02@sprynet.com

FOR SALE 1992 Ford XLT E350 15-passenger van/hot air balloon chase vehicle. The XLT package includes a 351 cu. in. engine with a three-speed auto. Transmission with overdrive, pwr. Windows & door locks, tilt wheel, intermittent wipers, cruise control, am/fm cassette radio, pwr. steering/brakes, front/rear heat & air, factory-tinted windows, with carpeting and gray velour interior. Optional extras include transmission cooler, heavy-duty brakes, and heavy-duty engine cooling. This package includes a Del hydraulic lift gate, modified rear suspension, a CB radio/antenna and Michelin 10 ply tires all around. This van has always been professionally maintained with oil changes every 3,000 miles or sooner. The current mileage is 138,000. This chase vehicle has been set up to haul a 105,000 cu/ft. and a 77,500 cu/ft rag bag, fan, tether lines, tarps and related gear inside with the basket and tanks riding on the lift gate. While doing this, it will carry eight passengers in comfort and deliver reasonable fuel economy. (Two additional rear seats included) Asking price: \$6,000.00.

(Anyone interested in photos of van please e-mail Mick @ Info@AerBlarney.com)

Gift Certificate Law changes effective 16 August 2003 in Connecticut
Submitted by Thad Bur

As I discussed with several of you at our recent CLAS winter dinner, last year's changes in the law with respect to gift certificates makes me wonder whether it is worth it to even issue gift certificates anymore. The following sections come out of Public Act 03-1 as enacted by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor this past year.

As the law empowers the State Treasurer (Denise Nappier) to administer this program, I called her office and spoke to Lisa Monroe [(860) 702-3014] about these changes and how she interprets the language with respect to gift certificates that are not decremental, do not have a value shown in dollars and cents, do not contain microprocessor chips, magnetic stripes, etc. She was quite sure that gift certificates for hot air balloon rides fall under these statutes, and as such, those of us who issue gift certificates for balloon rides at some indeterminate time in the future, are subject to all of these requirements.

I would urge all of you to at least look up the State Treasurer's website on this matter (www.giftcardlaw.com) to understand more fully your duties and responsibilities when you issue a gift certificate.

In my opinion, these changes can be summarized as follows:

- (1) Gift certificates can not have an expiration date
- (2) Gift certificate owners can not be charged a fee for non-use; the gift certificate, once issued, maintains its full value
- (3) When you issue a gift certificate, you must obtain and maintain that person's address, value of the gift certificate, unique ID# assigned to that gift certificate, and the date issued. If you know the name of the person to whom the certificate was issued, you should record that as well.
- (4) The "unused value" of a gift certificate is presumed "abandoned" 3 years after it is issued
- (5) At the two year point you are required to send notice by 1st class mail to the last known address of the gift certificate owner that the value of the gift certificate will be transferred to the State Treasurer once the gift certificate is 3 years old
- (6) By the end of March each year, each balloonist must provide a list to the State Treasurer of all gift certificates that became "abandoned" in the previous calendar year including name(if known), last known address, date of gift certificate, gift certificate ID number, and a check for the full value of all such abandoned gift certificates
- (7) Lastly, any gift certificates issued before August 16, 2003, while not subject to the changes enumerated below, still escheat to the State after 3 years

As you can see, the reporting and record keeping requirements are quite onerous for the small business owner. In addition, once the 3 years are up and you have sent monies to the State Treasurer for all unused gift certificates, you may still honor an "old" gift certificate, however, in order to be reimbursed by the State you must provide a receipt/record of transaction proving that you actually rendered the services for which you are seeking reimbursement. According to Ms. Monroe, a photocopy of your logbook *would not* suffice; it must be a written receipt for services rendered. Again, in my opinion, this is not "balloonist friendly" and obviously the law was not primarily intended to apply to our operations, but unfortunately, the State Treasurer is interpreting the law as described above, such that legally we are bound to abide by the provisions thereof.

As I said, it appears evident that the law was intended to go after companies that issue thousands, or hundreds of thousands, of gift cards, which gradually become less and less valuable over time, resulting in the loss of millions of dollars each year to consumers here in the State. I do not realistically see the State Treasurer routinely pursuing balloonists for violations, *unless*, an "informed" gift certificate owner was to be denied their flight by a balloonist and chose to register a formal complaint with the State Treasurer. Once on notice of a potential violation, or if they choose to conduct random audits, the State Treasurer is empowered to conduct complete audits and investigations of companies issuing gift certificates, compel those companies to turn over the assets/value of the gift certificates "abandoned", and to impose such other penalties as are permitted by law.

I hope this helps. If you need any further assistance, contact your attorney!

Thad Burr, GONE Ballooning
(203) 262-6493

P.S. Don't forget the age-old "10 percent rule" whereby 10% of your customers cause you 90% of your work/headaches!

References:

5) "Gift certificate" means a record evidencing a promise, made for consideration, by the seller or issuer of the record that goods or services will be provided to the owner of the record to the value shown in the record and includes, but is not limited to, a record that contains a microprocessor chip, magnetic stripe or other means for the storage of information that is prefunded and for which the value is decremented upon each use, a gift card, an electronic gift card, stored-value card or certificate, a store card, or a similar record or card, but "gift certificate" does not include prepaid calling

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cards regulated under section 42-370 or prepaid commercial mobile radio services, as defined in 47 C.F.R. Sec. 20.3;

Sec. 74. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The value of a gift certificate that is not redeemed three years after the later of (1) the date of purchase or issuance of the gift certificate, or (2) the date of the last transaction by the owner that increased or decreased the value of the gift certificate, is presumed abandoned.

a) Within [one year] one hundred eighty days before a presumption of abandonment is to take effect in respect to [any] property subject to section 71 or 73 of this act and within one year before a presumption of abandonment is to take effect in respect to all other property subject to this part, and if the owner's claim is not barred by law, the holder [issuer] shall notify the owner thereof, by first class mail directed to the owner's last-known address, that evidence of interest must be indicated as required by this part or such property will be transferred to the Treasurer and will be subject to escheat to the state.

b) Within ninety days after the close of the calendar year in which property is presumed abandoned, the holder [issuer] shall pay or deliver such property to the Treasurer and file, on forms which the Treasurer shall provide, a report of unclaimed property. Each report shall be verified and shall include: (1) The name, if known, and last-known address, if any, of each person appearing to be the owner of such property; (2) in case of unclaimed funds of [life insurance corporations] an insurance company, the full name of the insured or annuitant and beneficiary and his or her last-known address appearing on the [life insurance corporation's] insurance company's records; (3) the nature and identifying number, if any, or description of the property and the amount appearing from the records to be due except that the holder[issuer] shall report in the aggregate items having a value of less than fifty dollars; [or less;] (4) the date when the property became payable, demandable or returnable and the date of the last transaction with the owner with respect to the property; (5) if the holder is a successor to other holders, or if [he] the holder has changed [his] the holder's name, all prior known names and addresses of each holder[issuer] of the property; and (6) such other information as the Treasurer may require.

a) During the 1998 calendar year and every second year thereafter, the [State] Treasurer shall cause notice to be published of all property having a value of fifty dollars or more reported and transferred to [him] the Treasurer which was presumed abandoned during [the] preceding [two] calendar years and notice of which was not previously published. Such notice shall be published at least once in a newspaper having general circulation in each county in which is located the last-known address of each person appearing to be the owner of such property. In addition to such published notice, the [State] Treasurer may make such notice accessible to the public electronically by means of the [internet's] Internet's world wide web or through additional telecommunications methods as the [State] Treasurer deems cost effective and appropriate.

(b) Such published notice shall contain: (1) The names, in alphabetical order, and the last-known addresses, if any, of all persons reported as the apparent owners of unclaimed property, and (2) a statement that any person possessing an interest in such property may obtain from the Treasurer information concerning the amount and description of such property and the name and address of the holder[issuer] thereof free of charge. The [State] Treasurer may cause to be published at any time, in the manner prescribed in subsection (a) of this section, an additional notice stating that such list may be obtained from other specified sources.

Sec. 83. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) A holder[issuer] of property subject to part III of chapter 32 of the general statutes and sections 71, 73 and 74 of this act may not impose on the property a dormancy charge or fee, abandoned property charge or fee, unclaimed property charge or fee, escheat charge or fee, inactivity charge or fee, or any similar charge, fee or penalty for inactivity with respect to the property. Neither the property nor an agreement with respect to the property may contain language suggesting that the property may be subject to such a charge, fee or penalty for inactivity

Sec. 84. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) No person may sell or issue a gift certificate that is subject to an expiration date. No gift certificate or any agreement with respect to such gift certificate may contain language suggesting that an expiration date may apply to the gift certificate.

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(b) Any person who sells or issues a gift certificate shall obtain the address of the owner of such gift certificate and maintain a record of such address. In the absence of a record of the address of the owner of the gift certificate, the address of the owner shall, for purposes of part III of chapter 32 of the general statutes, be presumed to be the address of the Treasurer.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent a holder[issuer] from honoring a gift certificate, the unredeemed value of which has been reported to the Treasurer pursuant to part III of chapter 32 of the general statutes, and thereafter seeking reimbursement from the Treasurer.

Something of Interest

On July 19, 1989 Captain Al Haynes of United Flight 232 maneuvered the crippled DC-10 airplane he was flying to a cornfield near the Sioux City, Iowa, airport runway where it crashed in a ball of fire. Not all of the 296 people on board survived but 184 of them did because of his actions and those of his crew.

Now, he is trying to save the life of his daughter, Laurie Haynes Arguello who has undergone two years of doctor appointments and transfusions, but now needs a bone marrow transplant. Fortunately, she has a donor, but does not have the more than \$200,000 needed to pay for an operation, which is not fully covered by insurance.

If you would like to give your support to Laurie and make a donation you can go to the website <http://www.transplants.org> and look for patient campaigns and click on Laurie Arguello or follow the donate link from <http://www.friendsforlaurie.com>.

Donations may also be made to:
National Foundation For Transplants at NFT For Laurie Arguello
P.O. Box 7781
Covington, WA 98042



I would like to thank all of you for your generous donations and thoughtful letters. I have read every letter and e-mail that was sent. It is all very touching. I really appreciate the support.

We met our first goal, of the \$156,000 deposit that is required by the hospital very fast.

We reached our 2nd goal of another \$100,000 for some after care medicine and follow up visits for the first 6 months to a year.

Because of the unpredictability of an unrelated Bone Marrow Transplant, and the many complications that can occur, it is important to continue fundraising at a slower continuous level.

Please keep in mind that this money that is raised will be in my account. It will continue to pay for any medical expenses that I incur that are transplant related for the rest of my life.

Thank you again for all of your support. If you feel your donation will be better served elsewhere, please go to The National Foundation for Transplants website, www.transplants.org and find another deserving person to donate to. If you would like to send a donation to me, please use the website above or mail to **P.O Box 7781 Covington, WA 98042**.

I would also like to thank the Foundation and my wonderful Campaign Committee because without them, none of this would be possible.

We will continue to update this website on my medical status. Right now we are still uncertain of when the transplant will take place.

Sincerely,
Laurie Arguello (Haynes)

Ed Note: Kevin Brielmann has pointed out that Captain Al Haynes as traveled the country speaking at seminars at his own expense for the safety of others. He has spoken over three times here in Connecticut at seminars and now would be a great time for people who have benefited from his experiences and love of aviation. It would be nice if CLAS would be willing to show there support. No amount is too small and we could potentially donate the proceeds from a 50/50 raffle to assist.



Federal Communications Commission
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

RADIO STATION AUTHORIZATION

Licensee: CONNECTICUT LIGHTER THAN AIR SOCIETY

FCC Registration
Number (FRN): 0007742240

CONNECTICUT LIGHTER THAN AIR SOCIETY
PO BOX 53
SOUTHBURY CT 06488

Call Sign WPMQ629	File Number 0001505853
Radio Service IG - Industrial/Business Pool, Conventional	
Regulatory Status PMRS	
Frequency Coordination Number	

Grant Date 11-05-2003	Effective Date 11-05-2003	Expiration Date 11-06-2013	Print Date 11-05-2003
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STATION TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Fixed Location Address or Mobile Area of Operation

Loc.
1 Area of Operation
Nationwide:South of Line A US

Antennas

Loc. No.	Ant. No.	Frequencies (MHZ)	Sta. Cls.	No. Units	No. Pagers	Emission Designator	Output Power (watts)	ERP (watts)	Ant. Ht./Tp meters	Ant. AAT meters	Construct Deadline Date
1	1	151.62500	MO	35	0	20K0F3E	50.000				
1	1	151.62500	MO	51	0	20K0F3E	5.000				

Control Points

Control Address
Pt. No.
1

City	County	State	Telephone Number (203)761-4485
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Conditions:

Pursuant to Section 309(h) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. Section 309(h), this license is subject to the following conditions: This license shall not vest in the licensee any right to operate the station nor any right in the use of the frequencies designated in the license beyond the term thereof nor in any other manner than authorized herein. Neither the license nor the right granted thereunder shall be assigned or otherwise transferred in violation of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. See 47 U.S.C. Section 310(d). This license is subject in terms to the right of use or control conferred by Section 706 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. See 47 U.S.C. Section 706.



Darrell Jameson

Joel Worthington

Golan Karta

Dwayne Victor

IT MIGHT BE ONE OF THE COLDEST WINTERS ON RECORD,



Ron Thornton

Golan Carta

George Richard

Bret Christian

**BUT FIREFLY
IS JUST HEATING UP!**

These are just a few of the brand new balloons delivered this winter.

Own a quality built American balloon that can take the cold,
and even more important...THE HEAT!



704.878.9501 FAX 878.9505
810 SALISBURY RD. STATESVILLE, NC 28677

RADIOS

Dave Lasher

(About the CLAS radio license and radios.)

As a member of CLAS, you are entitled to use the Club's VHF radio license for your ballooning activities. CLAS is licensed to use the frequency 151.625 MHz (megahertz). Our license is good for 10 years now. It will expire November 6, 2013. We share this frequency with other individuals and businesses around the country. Our radios can be used anywhere in the continental United States south of Line A as shown in the accompanying map. North of Line A requires special licensing so as not to interfere with Canadian Radios.

CLAS is licensed for 35 mobile units (car type) with a maximum out power of 50-watts and 51 handheld units with maximum power of 5-watts. Most mobile units available are 25-watts. These are available from most two way radio communication firms. Occasionally used equipment is available. Most of the mobile units today are synthesized as opposed to the older crystal controlled radios. The synthesized units are programmed to specific frequencies. When you buy these radios from a communications company, their technicians program the radio. You can also have one or two extra frequencies programmed to receive NOAA Weather. A nice option to have. Used equipment usually comes from fire, police, EMS or commercial companies. These used have had heavy usage and at times under severe conditions. New radios are usually more reliable.

The handheld radios are available in many different powers and number of frequencies. They range from a single frequency 1 watt to switchable 5-watt/ 1/2-watt with as many as 10 frequencies. The lower cost handhelds are usually sold as VHF red, green or blue dot radios. Red Dot radios are preprogrammed to 151.625 MHz.

Most dealers will remind you that you must get a license. You do not need to register or submit any forms to use these radios. You must have a license if you use UHF radios or a radio on any frequency other than 151.625 MHz.

Radio usage

Please remember we share the radio frequency. Starters at a golf course in Southbury use the same frequency as an example. Keep your transmissions short and avoid long winded conversations. Our frequency is usually "quiet"



during our morning fly time especially on weekends but may be quite busy during afternoon flights. The higher you go the more other users you will hear. Remember to listen before you broadcast. Those who have and use "Privacy Channels" should remember to check for a frequency busy light before talking. The privacy feature only makes other radios invisible to you but you can be heard by others using the same frequency and can interfere with their communications. The privacy feature can also reduce the range of radios, especially handhelds.

What type of radio is best?

As Tim Allen on Tool Time is famous for saying 'More Power is better'. The best performance and ability to communicate is a 25-watt unit in the chase vehicle with an antenna mounted in center of the roof and a 5 watt handheld radio in the balloon. When the balloon is in the air, as little as a 1/2-watt is all that is needed to maintain 2 to 3 mile communications. Power is needed when the balloon is on the ground.

Some balloonists use a handheld with an exterior antenna for the chase vehicle. This can be a low cost alternative but often results in unsatisfactory ground to ground communication. If you do not fly a lot, maybe a used mobile will work.

If your chase vehicle is also the soccer team hauler, a permanently mounted radio may not be practical. You can have

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the radio powered by a cord that goes into the cigarette lighter and use a magnetic base antenna. This also works for those who use multiple vehicles.

Again the more powerful 5-watt handheld wins hands down for the radio in your balloon. More Power. A ½-watt/5-watt switchable saves battery power.

Combining aircraft and VHF radios.

This would be great; one radio does all the communicating. However our radios are FM, frequency modulated and the aircraft radios are AM, amplitude modulated. AM does not speak to FM and manufactures have not seen this to be large market. Nice idea though.

Final Comments.

The CLAS license can be used anywhere south of Line A in the US. Keep transmissions short and to the point. Be courteous to other users. This license is for CLAS members only and only for 151.625 MHz.

	FEBRUARY		MARCH	
	SUN-RISE	SUN-SET	SUN-RISE	SUN-SET
1	7:05	5:07	6:28	5:43
2	7:04	5:09	6:26	5:44
3	7:04	5:10	6:24	5:46
4	7:03	5:11	6:23	5:47
5	7:02	5:13	6:21	5:48
6	7:00	5:14	6:20	5:49
7	6:59	5:15	6:18	5:50
8	6:58	5:16	6:16	5:51
9	6:57	5:18	6:15	5:52
10	6:56	5:19	6:13	5:54
11	6:54	5:20	6:11	5:55
12	6:53	5:21	6:10	5:56
13	6:52	5:23	6:08	5:57
14	6:51	5:24	6:07	5:58
15	6:49	5:25	6:05	5:59
16	6:48	5:26	6:03	6:00
17	6:47	5:28	6:01	6:01
18	6:45	5:29	6:00	6:02
19	6:44	5:30	5:58	6:03
20	6:43	5:31	5:56	6:04
21	6:41	5:32	5:55	6:05
22	6:40	5:34	5:53	6:06
23	6:38	5:35	5:52	6:08
24	6:37	5:36	5:50	6:09
25	6:35	5:37	5:48	6:10
26	6:34	5:39	5:46	6:11
27	6:32	5:40	5:45	6:12
28	6:31	5:41	5:43	6:13
29	6:30	5:42	5:41	6:14
30			5:40	6:15
31			5:38	6:16

FAA Grants BFA Minimum Altitude Study Exemption

The FAA has granted an exemption from the minimum safe altitude requirements of FAR 91.119(b) and (c) for BFA pilots to participate in a one-year safety study.

For more information, please see the BFA website at: www.bfa.net

SHADOW TAG COMPETITION

off the reflector by Whit Landvater, Gardnerville, Nevada

Now that balloon events are far a few between, bust out those snow blowers, chain up the trucks, hit your favorite micro-brewery to fill up few growlers of (maybe) a nice porter and take advantage of the season... play some "Shadow Tag!"

What is Shadow Tag you ask? It's something you do (especially with a nice snow cover) while flying to entertain yourself and passengers! Here's the deal...

- a) Next time you're flying, keep track of your shadow, and maneuver it (your shadow) to targets on the ground (houses, crew vehicle, cows, etc.) Note: descents are much more noticeable when watching your shadow... a little goes far!
- b) If you have 2 or more balloons flying, tag your (maybe) unsuspecting balloonist(s) with a tag! If you do it right, you can "create" a "total eclipse" (you'll know if you scored one by looking at the outer edges of your shadow... If you cover the entire area with your shadow (duh... total eclipse), you score an extra 2 points! IF you can cover his/her balloon + its shadow... 3 points!

Note: Points aren't worth anything, except for self satisfaction, ASSUMING you chose a target.

When flying with multiple balloons who are Shadow Tag certified, points can be HUGE! Now, you wouldn't want to play Shadow Tag during fiesta ... that would be out of control. Playing with 5 balloons makes a pretty good field, and when playing with experienced shadow taggers, it can get exciting! Avoiding a "tag" can be a lot of fun too! You'll know when you're about to get tagged...well put that puppy into a climb to get out of the way! If you're lucky, you'll be able to position your shadow above your opponents', and then drop to tag him/her!

We used to play this here every time we flew (3 - 4 balloons)... \$5.00 to get in, the most tags scored takes all. Hey, \$20 fills 2 growlers!



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Tree Huggers

Why is it that we fly balloons anyway? For the thrill and being able to fly high above the crowd and the trees, well at least for some of us. There is always one or two that insist on hanging out at the tops of the trees and buildings through their whole duration of the flight. Could it be that these pilots are afraid of heights, porous envelope, and trying to maintain fuel consumption. Come-on pilots, you know the F.A.R.'S, so way get into a hissy fit when you are questioned about the competition flight for the morning of the frozen buns rally. We are all responsible for the actions that we perform pre, post, and during the flight. In the flying season there is a pilot or two that won't fly any higher than they would like to jump. As we are in the air our own passengers always ask, way that balloon is so low and how can someone see anything from that low altitude.

We all have had the police and local fire departments show up at one of our landings. As long as we fly low with the exception of take offs and landings, some landowner will call 911 about a balloon crash or it's on fire. For the most part these local departments understand it gets handle fairly well, because it's a 911 call it has to be answered even though the police know what is going on. But when the state police are called and show up at the landing site, they are not too happy and the next thing you know that FAA is called. Now we have the trickle down affect, and the phones are ringing off the hook.

We can count our blessings that the FAA has never shown up at any one of these landings or a state trooper that is a pilot them self's and knows the regulations of the flight rules and witness some low flying. So when one ends up in one of these situations, I'm sure it will, lets THINK before the mouth opens.

Anonymous