



The Scoop

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 (but if they are, they'd be exceptionally good ones). For more information contact Penny Christy 12 Blue Grass Rd., Middletown, Ct 06457 Phone (860) 857-8757 e-mail pmchristy@earthlink.net

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March 2005

2nd Annual CLAS Safety Seminar

was held on Saturday, February 26th, 2005 from 8 AM to 6 PM among the large commercial Turbofan Engines at the Pratt & Whitney Customer Training Center in East Hartford, CT

We had 70 attendees.



Breakfast, Lunch and mid-morning and afternoon snacks were provided.

Speakers included:

Pilot and Crew Safety:

Propane by Dr. James O'Brien



Weather - Winds Aloft



Pilot Decision Making: Tethering

by Chris Mooney with help from long-time crew-members Christine and Jeff Ratcliffe



Crewing for Gas vs Hot Air Balloons

by Polly and Dave Lasher

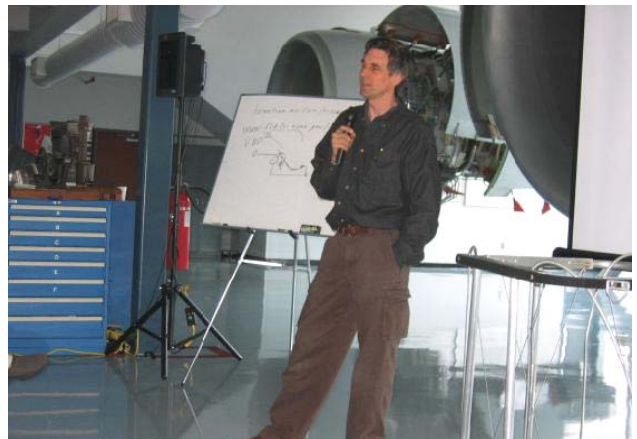


The Ratcliffes



Pilot Decision Making: Home Builts

by Paul Stumpf



Weather for Balloonists: Winds Aloft

by Carroll Teitsworth



and Mick Murphy



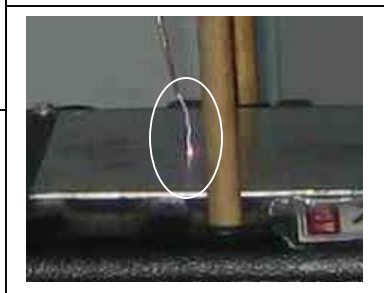
FARs Pilots Most Violate by Santo Galatioto



The Electrical Grid: What not to Touch by Nick Greci from CT Light & Power demonstrating powerlines-to-earth discharges thru “non-conductors”



- A Tree branch ?
- A rope?
- Insulated wire?



Balloon Accidents: Lessons Learned by Chris Mooney with help from Kathy Wadsworth



Awards Erwin presents Garry Guertin his 2004 crew award beside the new CLAS balloon.



“These engines are huge!!” said Mark and Gerard Lefevre and Steve Goodyear!!

Competition

A beanbag toss competition from the upper deck yielded **only one** (out of at least 100 tries) who scored the bean bag IN the box at the middle of the "X": **Bob Sommer**.



Congratulations Bob!! The Best of the Best!!!



Photos by Mike Bolea and Penny Christy

THESE PW4000 ENGINES ARE HUGE!!!



Lunch line



Photography for Ballooning by Rob Macfarlane

Ballooning offers a wealth of opportunities for photographers and with a little planning, you can make great images of your endeavor.

If you are on the ground as an observer or as crew, your choice of equipment is almost without limit.

Camera selection can be biased toward image quality and system flexibility, as simplicity and size are not a big issue.

If you will be airborne, size and simplicity become more important factors. Given today's selection of digital cameras, I would not consider bringing my 35mm SLR with me on a flight. unless my sole reason for flying was photography (so far that hasn't been the case); too big, heavy, and complex.

Photography for Ballooning (Cont'd)

by Rob Macfarlane For all cameras that use batteries, the biggest problem is low temperatures. As many balloon flights occur in the early mornings, the low temps can reduce the total capacity of the batteries by as much as 50%. This translates into fewer images, longer recycle times, and sluggish operation. To maximize your camera battery life, keep a few things in mind.

1 – Keep the camera inside your jacket next to body heat.

2 – Turn off the viewing screen (big power hog). This can be done for all your pictures all the time. For years we waited for the film to be developed – you don't need to look at every image when you take it. Have confidence that what you saw in the optical viewfinder is what is in the picture. See the camera's owner's manual to shut off the electronic screen.

3 – Turn off the flash – use it only when necessary. (Another big power hog).

4 – Carry spare batteries in an inside (warm) pocket. When the batteries in the camera start to lose power, swap the cold batteries in the camera with warm ones from your pocket. By warming the cold batteries, they will be able to regain power and be used again when the new batteries get cold.

Another cold weather tip – Keep a supply of resealable plastic bags (Zip-loc). You can carry all kinds of equipment in them, especially things that don't like moisture (cameras, PDAs, radios). Most cameras like water less than the cold; they warm up fine, but rarely dry out and work. The reason I mention this is when it is cold the outside the air is usually very dry. So far no problem. When the cold, dry camera is brought inside, the warm, moist air will condense on and **in** the camera. This is a **big** problem for most cameras because there is no good way to get accumulated moisture out quickly, and

corrosion occurs in the electronics and inside the mechanics of the lens and renders the camera useless.

The only method I've seen work is to open every door, cover, lid, back (for film), and any other opening on the camera, and put the camera in a warm (135-150 degree) oven for an hour. This will evaporate the moisture from inside the camera body and lens quickly and hopefully before any damage occurs. If the moisture gets in the camera out in the field (i.e. away from an oven) use whatever source of **dry** heat you have; auto defroster, propane burner, and hair dryer – got the idea?

Another cold weather / outdoor photography tip is to look for a water-resistant and/or ruggedized camera when you are in the market for a new one. Making this one of your criteria will cause compromise on other features (optical zoom range, maximum resolution, physical size), but also may make the difference in getting a picture and reusing the camera, or missing the opportunity completely.

To get the sharpest, most detailed images use a support for the camera whenever possible. Use any solid structure to brace the camera on; tripod, tabletop, wall, doorjamb, tree, basket support cables, edge of the basket, etc.

If your camera has a neck strap, **USE IT!!!** While moisture is a relatively slow death and can sometimes be avoided, impact is generally instantly **terminal and not economically reversible!**

Remember that a camera is a tool to be used. Think of your requirements and possibilities, and shop for a camera that fits them. Armed with a little knowledge, your pictures will display your creative ability and love of the sport of ballooning.



Albuquerque?

My buddy in Albuquerque sent me the attached pics, taken this morning, March 15, 2005. He ragged me all winter about the great weather out there.

Revenge is sweet, and best eaten cold!

– Mark Sand



Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society - 2005 CLAS Officers

President:	Penny Christy	860-857-8757	pmchristy@earthlink.net
Vice President:	Charlie Perreault	860-536-7393	bythefireplace@earthlink.net
Secretary:	Mark Sand	860-426-0814	mdsand@snet.net
Treasurer:	Andrew Dressel	203-272-6116	andrewdressel@hotmail.com

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Minutes of the CLAS Meeting February 17, 2005

CLAS President, Penny Christy, called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM at the Plainville, CT Municipal Building. Members in attendance were: Charlie Perreault, Mark Sand, Penny Christy, Mike Bollea, Steve Goodyear, Andy Dressel, Garry Guertin, Tony Roswell, Terri Rollinson, Steve Ushchak, and Robert Zirpolo.

The minutes for the January 20, 2005 meeting were read and approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Checking account: \$4697.04. CDs: \$5596.00. We cleared \$106 at

the Winter Dinner. The \$215 collected for the raffled prizes made the difference. The totals for the Winter Dinner are: Cost: \$1279, Outlay: (\$1170), Raffle: \$215, Net: \$106.

Committee Reports:

Products: Gary will display some CLAS-embroidered tote bags, shirts and towels at our Safety Seminar at Pratt and Whitney on February 26.

Mark got a quote from Tees Plus in Groton for t-shirts with members' balloons portrayed. Prices would be: \$4.95/\$6.20,

S-XL/XXL for short sleeve and \$7.35/\$8.60 for long sleeve. Ten color silk screen: \$200. Minimum order is one gross. Penny got a quote for slightly less cost per shirt with a 36-shirt minimum and \$250 for a ten

color silk screen set up. Both quotes assume we will do our own artwork. When we pick a vendor, we will solicit digital pictures of members' balloons to include on the shirts.

Education: Charlie asked the members to suggest educational topics and speakers they would like to have at our

Minutes of the CLAS Meeting Feb. 17(Cont'd)

educational meetings. The Bylaws require six educational meetings/year. The Safety Seminar on February 26 will count as an educational meeting.

Competition: Mike reported that he and Matt will meet to set the competition schedule for 2005. We will try to have our first competition fly-out in March.

Audit Committee: The annual financial audit was held and no discrepancies were found.

Old Business: Penny read a letter of thanks from the Mattaponi Healing Eagle Health Clinic for our donation in Ruth Salzberg's name. She also read Ruth's obituary as written

by her husband, Bob. Both documents will be included in the next edition of the Scoop.

New Business: The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing logistics for our Safety Seminar on February 26. Penny asked for volunteers to help with setting-up on Friday night, February 25. We may also take the visiting presenters out to dinner that night. Penny also asked for volunteers to show up early on Saturday morning to help out.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

The next meeting will be held on March 17, 2005, at the Plainville, CT Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Sand
CLAS Secretary

Reminder: Members who have signed up to bring refreshments to the meetings are:

- Apr: Ellen Dressel
- May: Mike Bollea
- Jun: Terri Rollinson/
Tony Roswell
- Jul: Charlie Perreault
- Aug: Mark Sand
- Sep: Cindy Smith
- Oct: Mike Bollea
- Nov: Matt Dutkiewicz
- Dec: Everyone
- Jan: Jack (changed from DEC, when we all bring goodies)

How many differences can you see?



We all have stories and ,
all of you are invited to submit articles and pictures for inclusion in the Scoop.
After all, it is your newsletter.

Arlene and Tom Osborne's "Twin AX7"s.

We won second place in a ribbon tie contest at the High Hopes festival two years ago. I'm not fond of that kind of stuff (especially when flying passengers although they get a kick out of it), but it was fun. Got a couple of cute trophies for it too.

Yup, both commercial although after flying passengers for 20+ years, when I retired from work, Tom and I decided to only fly for fun now (and take our crew usually). We DO fly commercially at the High Hopes rally. It benefits critically-ill New Hampshire children and their families.

CLAS Competition News - Matt Dutkiewicz will be working with Mike Bollea to coordinate our CLAS 2005 competitions.

Aquaturf - from the Air Photo by Garry Guertin



Photos over the web...

If you want to send photos over the web, save them at a resolution of 72. They transmit and are received a whole lot faster, and it does NOT take anything away from the picture. What you do is keep the original at the size off the camera and save a copy at 72 resolution.

The person receiving it can then make it larger.
– **Barbara Chagnon Knoxville, TN**

Group Trip to Sicily Sicily is Ballooning Paradise - by Mario DiStefano

(See Photos at Website www.bellaviaballoon.com.)

The experiences were extraordinary and of high value. To recall all of them would take a small novel because we traveled and saw at least a dozen historical and natural sites. Along with that, every person in our group had their own deep individual and personal experience with the people in Sicily and Sicily's spectacular Geology and History. They have made friends with my family and other people they got to know while there. There is no better place to eat in the world. Pastry shops that will virtually stun anyone, fresh local meats, produce and fish, everything cooked excellently, etc, etc.

The flying there, was breathtaking. Farm country everywhere all the way into the mountains and all the way to the shoreline. There were also landing sites, historical buildings and beautiful Villas everywhere. I guess you will all have to go if you really want to know! I will be posting some of the pictures on my website first chance I can get.

Dennis Chiarelli from Princeton, NJ found his family's origin in a town right next to my hometown. That was very emotional. You should have seen the fest people of Castofillipo gave him. He wants to go back next time if he can. If not, he is still going to go back there soon.

Rob and Alice Eddy from Greenville, SC were astounded that the trip they got could never have been expected and it was worth at least twice what they paid if not more. They were happy no one else came on the trip because they got to go more places and got a complete example of Sicilian hospitality. (Rob ate everything we served him and I think he is still drinking espresso.). Especially Alice. My Cousin Rosa adopted her.

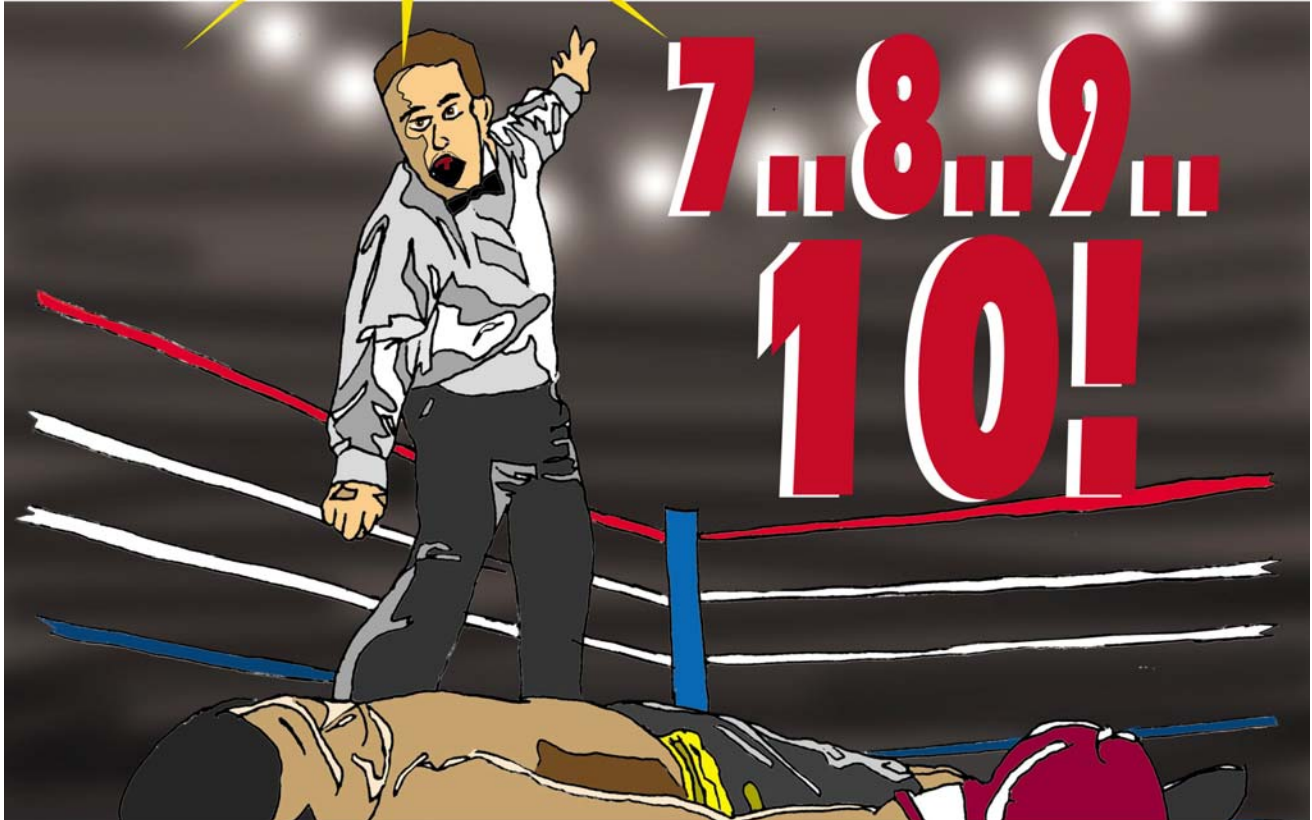
Tom Miklousic from Croatia, the owner of the balloon we rented, considers Sicily to be the best ballooning country he has ever seen and states emphatically that Sicily has the best food in Europe. He brought home a case of Ribera Oranges and Lemons back to his wife Marija in Zagreb.

I brought back much more than all of them. The fulfillment that I was able to share what I consider to be one of my most precious possessions, My Birthplace and what a place it is.

I will be posting a new update to next years' groups on the BFA GEBA and CLAS news letter and my website very soon. There are at least a dozen other important points of interest within an hour's drive in any direction. I have hotel brochures if you need one. Just call (508 853 6101) or E-mail me at bellavia63@charter.net) to get one.

Amedeo (Mario) Di Stefano

KNOCKOUT SALE!



KO **7% Off FireFly 7 Envelopes** **KO**
8% Off FireFly 8 Envelopes
9% Off Firefly 9 Envelopes
10% Off Firefly 10 Envelopes

This sale also includes full systems!

Make Sure To Check Our Website in March
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Sale Ends March 31

CONNECTICUT LIGHTER THAN AIR SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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 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

Decals \$2 (\$1 members)

CLAS Member Pins \$5 (\$3 members)

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Cell) _____

E-Mail _____ Will accept newsletter electronically? Yes ___ No ___

(Default will be electronically 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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