



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

Volume XIX, Issue 2

February-March 2006

CLAS MEETING April 20, 2006

Educational: "Personal Waivers"

Live with Beth Miller from IMC via phone conference.
Send in your questions early so we can send them to her.

Come to the Plainville Municipal building (Rte 372) on
Thursday, **Apr. 20, 2006** at 7:30PM

CT Balloon Events

Balloons over Bristol May 19th – 21st

Plainville Balloon Festival August 25th – 27th

Minutes – CLAS Meeting of January 19, 2006

Since CLAS President Penny Christy was delayed, CLAS Secretary Mark Sand called the meeting to order at the Plainville, CT Municipal Building at 7:45 PM. Members in attendance were: Mark Sand, Mick Murphy, Steve Ushchak, Mike Bollea, Ellen Dressel, Erwin Dressel, Rob Macfarlane, Garry Guertin, Santo Galatioto, Lisa Huck, Penny Christy, Tony Roswell, Pam Bogart-Macfarlane and Al Theodore. The meeting was designated as a business meeting.

Committee Reports:

Sunshine: A sympathy card will be sent to Charlie Perreault on the passing of his brother.

Treasurer's Report: No report.

Flight Manual: No Report

Competition: The Frozen Buns Flyout was cancelled on January 7, although Matt Dutkiewicz did show up and fly out of the Aquaturf. The event was rescheduled for the next day, but was cancelled on the field after a snow shower materialized, but not before Jim O'Brien had accomplished about 70% of his inflation! The next scheduled competition flyouts is on April 8, with a rain date of April 9. Since so many of the scheduled flights are cancelled due to weather, we may reschedule flights cancelled on the originally scheduled weekend to the next weekend.

BFA/FAA: Santo reported that Bob Martens plans to retire in March. The FAA will carry out a major revamping of the Safety Counselor program. Our safety counselors will not be automatically renewed. The Northeast FAA Region will eventually merge with the Eastern Region.

Winter Dinner: The Winter Dinner will be held at Gene's Restaurant on January 28. The cost is \$30/person. To date, 25 persons have registered. We need 45 people to break even. If we do not get 45 attendees, CLAS will have to pay Gene's the difference. We need nominations for the Shi* Happens Award as well as the two crew awards.

Safety Seminar: Plans for the Safety Seminar, to be held on February 25, are progressing nicely. Mark has designed presenter and attendee certificates as well as nametags.

Products: Gary reported that there are plenty of Tee Shirts left in inventory. There are 50 CLAS 2006 calendars left. We have made a profit of \$211 on the calendars so far.

Old Business: No additional old business was discussed.

New Business: Tony will contact his cousin, who printed our previous order of Land Owner Cards. There is a good chance we can get more printed gratis.

Mick reported that the Blastvalve Ballooning Web Site has a beta version of a comprehensive weather reference service. To try it out, visit: www.blastvalve.com/weather.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

The next meeting will be held on February 16 at 7:30 PM, at the Plainville, CT Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Sand, CLAS Secretary

CLAS Winter Dinner January 28, 2006

(Many Thanks to Ellen Dressel and Lisa Huck for their hard work and our wonderful evening.)



New Officers: Penny, Mark, Charlie, and Ellen



This year's cake from Mike Bollea

Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society - 2006 CLAS Officers were installed:

President:	Penny Christy	860-857-8757	pmchristy@earthlink.net
Vice President:	Charlie Perreault	860-536-7393	bythefireplace@earthlink.net
Secretary:	Ellen Dressel	203-272-6119	edressel@cox.net
Treasurer:	Mark Sand	860-426-0814	mdsand@snet.net



Gene's Corner House Restaurant at 1219 South Main St. Plantsville, CT

CLAS AWARDS

CLAS Challenge for points during CLAS Competitions went to Matt Dutkiewicz
Art Laliberte Perpetual Crew Award went to Jerry Boudreau, Nominated by the Dressels.
Judith Ushchak Perpetual Crew Award went to Steve Ushchak, Nominated by Santo.

C.L.A.S. Competition Winners For 2005

Pilot Competition - CLAS Challenge: A total of 14 Pilots came this year. With all the bad weather we had in 2005, we did not get any Hare & hound races in. But we did come up with a Winner for 2005.

First Place: Matt Dutkiewicz with 6 points

2nd Place: Tied. Mike Bollea with 5 points and Jim O'Brien with 5 points

3rd Place. 4 points: 5 Pilots tied: Jim Regan, Charlie Perreault, Penny Christy, Daryl Smith, and Cindy Smith.

4th Place: 3points: 2 Pilots tied: Pauline Baker and Santo Galatioto

5th Place: 1 point did show up on Jan. 8th. 2006 for year 2005 were Chris Mooney and Robert Zirpolo.

Crew Competition Winners:

We had a total of 28 crewmembers show up for year 2005.

Winner for 2005 is Lisa Huck with 4 points.

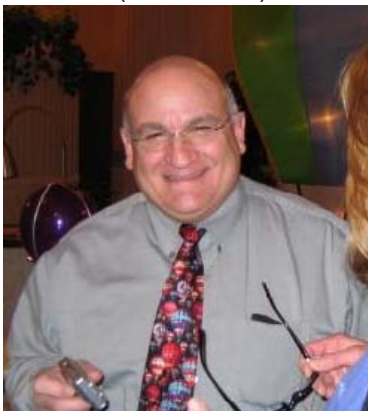
2nd Place: 4-way tie with 3 points: Eric Altman -- Lisa Regan -- Dave Curry -- Brian Clark.

3rd Place we had 4 way tie. with 2 points: Garry Guertin -- Debbie Smith -- Alert Post -- Ellen Dressel

All the rest of crew that showed up had one point. Most of them showed up on Jan. 8th 2006. 22 crew showed up! If we can have a turn out like that for each competition, it would be a great year-like the old day's in the mid-80's when as many as 18 Balloons would show up in Jan.



Crew Comp. Winner: Lisa Huck, 2nd Place CLAS Comp. Jim O'Brien and Mike Bollea, S*IT Happens: Jim O'Brien accepting the award from last year's winner Penny Christy. Runners up for 2005 S*IT Happens: Robert Zirpolo, Penny Christy and Charlie Perreault (after the fact).

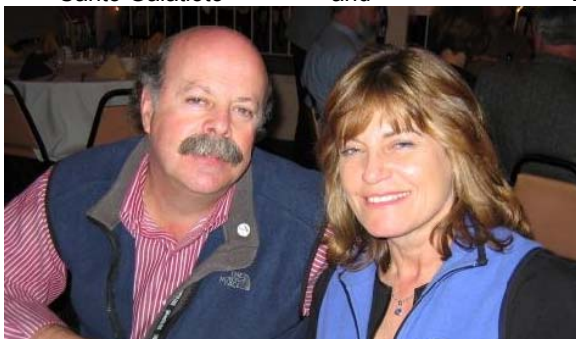


Santo Galatioto



and

Erwin Dressel



Robert Zirpolo and Kristen Brighenti



The Sands with a table decoration Ellen Dressel made.

“Minutes” – CLAS Meetings: January, February, March

CLAS Meeting, February 16th, 2006

Attendance: Ellen Dressel, Lisa Huck, Santo Galatioto, Kevin Brielmann, Mike Bollea, Jack Perry, Mick Murphy, Cheryl Regan, Al Theodore, Tony Roswell, Mark Sand, Charlie Perreault, Penny Christy, and Garry Guertin

Meeting began at 7:30 p.m. with Penny Christy giving an up dated report on the Safety Seminar to be held on Saturday the 25th of February.

Set up to begin on Friday at 4p.m. for those that could help.

Garry Guertin went through his checklist.

The seminar has been approved, any changes need to go to Polly Lasher.

Handouts are to be in a simple folder and not the binder as in the past.

Heating to be on as to last year where it became cold.

Food to be about \$17/person and will include:

Breakfast, mid-morning, lunch, and mid afternoon.

Mark Sand produced the certificates and nametags.

He will have extras for walk-ins.

There will be a microphone for use as well as a Power-Point program projection capability.

Mike Wallace, local BFA rep will have a raffle for those who pay or renew their BFA dues.

Ellen Dressel has the presenter awards ready.

Old Business: Bristol Balloon Festival is changing direction. Kate Houlihan is no longer with St. Paul's school and we will be working with someone else.

A letter of thanks was sent to Fran Roswell for the landowner cards.

New Business: CLAS Competition should have a revolving trophy as with the other plaques we present at the winter dinner. It would be in memory of Ruth Salzberg. An Item will be placed in the “Scoop” to get feed back from members.

Members have expressed an interest in developing a BFA sanctioned competition format.

The Art Laliberte Crew Award plaque that is filled will be on display at the Plainville Fire House. Cheryl Regan will handle the arrangements.

Mick Murphy made mention about the JR Balloonist program and mentors. The program is expanding.

Respectively submitted,
Ellen Dressel, Secretary

IMPORTANT! Landowner Relations From Mick Murphy:

I received information about a complaint from a landowner located on Munger Lane in Bethlehem, CT that a balloon reportedly came thru the trees and scared his livestock and then continued on this past Saturday afternoon. There were no injuries to any of the animals but the owner was pretty upset and called to provide a description of the balloon and to report the incident.

I am not sure who was flying in the area but for anyone flying in the area, the farm is located approximately 1 mile West of Long Meadow Pond. Long Meadow Pond is located about 1/2 mile North of the center of Bethlehem.

I would appreciate anyone flying the area to review this and if you have any questions please call me to review.

SEE PAGE 8 FOR More Official Format of Red Zone submission...

CLAS 2006 COMPETITION

First 2006 Fly-out/Competition Saturday April 8th Ellington, CT

Meeting time will be 5:30am in the Ellington Supermarket parking lot, Rte 83 Ellington. Following pilot sign-in and task briefing, we will depart to the launch site. Please RSVP to either Jim Regan or Mike Bollea if you plan to attend. Sunday April 9th will be the back-up date in the event of bad weather.

Yes we are meeting at the Ellington Supermarket, and yes we are flying from the airport. The area we'll be using is not visible from the airport parking lot. If anyone follows the signs to the airport, they will not be able to get to us, nor see us. The supermarket is easy to find and has a large parking area, i.e.. very convenient. As long as everyone goes by the announcements I've made, it will work out fine.

We will send at least 2 email reminders out each month, as well as publishing it in the newsletter. We're going to vary the tasks this year, so it's not the same thing every time. We may even score multiple tasks on the same day if the weather will allow it. And I'll try to get you the standings each month for the newsletter.

2006 CLAS Competition Schedule

April 8	Ellington, CT	Rt. 83 Ellington Supermarket parking Lot
May 20	Bristol, CT	Balloons Over Bristol
June 10	Cheshire, CT	Rte 10 Commuter lot
July 8	TBA	
August 26	Plainville, CT	Plainville Balloon Festival
September 16	TBA	
October 14	Cheshire, CT	Rte 10 commuter lot
November 18	TBA	
December 9	TBA	
January 6, 2007	Southington, CT	Frozen Buns fly-out

Competition flights are scheduled for Saturday mornings.
The next morning (Sunday) is the back-up date.

2006 CLAS Calendars:

We had a few calendars left. Penny is taking 20 to Sicily with her.

Garry Guertin (gguertin@cox.net) is presenting them to our presenters and some to one of the best calendar customers we had. She bought in the hundreds of dollars worth.

Congratulations, Gary on a successful calendar campaign.

Get your pictures ready for next year.

2 CLAS Members Finish in GEBA Top 5

CLAS members Jim Regan and Mario DiStefano were recognized recently at the annual Great Eastern Balloon Association awards dinner. The pair finished third and fifth respectively, out of 73 pilots for the 2005 competition season. Scores from each event were calculated using BFA rules; with the sum of the highest six scores for each pilot used for the final rankings. A total of 12 tasks were scored in 2005. The top five scores were:

1. Jon Radowski 17,188 (8)
2. Ken Leota 16,057 (8)
3. **Jim Regan 11,065 (5)**
4. Jack Edling 10,572 (7)
5. **Mario DiStefano 10,428 (4)** # of tasks scored in ()

Other CLAS members involved in the GEBA competition were: Gene Burnstein, Gene Dente and Bob Metz.

CLAS 2006 3rd Annual Safety Seminar February 25 at Pratt & Whitney's Customer Training Center

There were 70 participants this again year. Current employees of P&W were in charge of the facility for the day: Garry Guertin, Charlie Perreault, and Penny Christy.



P&W Customer Training Center,



Ellen Dressel and Mark Sand Registering Participants



FIRST AID: Judy Carino and EMT Instructor trainer from Pratt & Whitney (P&W) started the seminar with First Aid for some of the injuries you might encounter during ballooning. Santo is giving her a gift after her presentation. Paul Stumpf was next with **MAINTENANCE** of balloons. The **WEATHER** segment, presented by NOAA's Jeff Tongue, included winds aloft and all the sources of data that make winds aloft levels possible for us to know.



OPEN TOPIC - AWARDS PROGRAMS: Lisa Huck described the BFA Crew Awards Program. Santo Galatioto introduced the BFA Pilots Awards Program. Andy Baird of Cameron Balloons, a BFA District Director, introduced the BFA and the advantages of having the BFA represent the relatively small proportion of the aviation community, balloonists, to the much larger voice of the fixed wing pilots. Jim O'Brien presented the FAA Wings Program.

Balcony

Then there was lunch and practice at baggy tossing from the balcony into the box below. **Garry Guertin won the final toss.** As you can see, it's not as easy as it looks OR few can toss a baggy with any accuracy!

Target: in the box



CLAS 2006 Safety Seminar (Cont'd)



Erwin Dressel had the after lunch slot with his presentation on **PILOT AND CREW SAFETY** Flight Decisions Go-NO Go from mid-week until that Saturday. Penny Christy presented an **OPEN TOPIC** on the things to think about when choosing an **Event Away from Home** what to bring and what to consider about your flying ability before going to any particular event. Daryl Smith enlightened us on new ways to visualize **AIRSPACE**. Andy Baird took us through an analysis of a situation that kept repeating itself in a segment on **BALLOONING ACCIDENTS**.

Thanks to those of you who contributed your long hard working hours to make this successful seminar happen!



Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society - 2006 CLAS Officers

President:	Penny Christy	860-857-8757	pmchristy@earthlink.net
Vice President:	Charlie Perreault	860-637-4017	bythefireplace@earthlink.net
Secretary:	Ellen Dressel	203-272-6116	edressel@cox.net
Treasurer:	Mark Sand	860-536-7393	mdsand@snet.net

CLAS BUDGET 2005 and PROPOSED 2006

Please review and submit your comments to Mark Sand. See officer contact information above.

Connecticut Light than Air Society	Budget	Proposed		Budget	Proposed
INCOME	2005	2006	EXPENSES (Cont'd)	2005	2006
Membership Dues	\$1,765.00	\$1,900.00	Office Supplies	\$20.00	\$20.00
Calendar Sales	\$902.00	\$1,300.00	Post Office Box 53	\$48.00	\$50.00
Raffle Ticket Sales - 50/50	\$100.00	\$200.00	Web Site & Radio License	\$100.00	\$100.00
Other Product Sales	\$100.00	\$400.00			
Safety Seminar	\$3,400.00	\$3,300.00	Scoop Publication and Postage	\$742.00	\$780.00
Winter Dinner	\$1,680.00	\$1,800.00	EXPENSES	2005	2006
Scoop News Letter Only	\$25.00	\$90.00	Products	\$0.00	\$0.00
Scoop Advertisements Income	\$100.00	\$200.00	Education	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Total Income	\$8,072.00	\$9,190.00	Refreshments	\$120.00	\$120.00
ASSETS	2005	2006	Sunshine	\$50.00	\$50.00
Check Book (as of January 1)	\$3,854.00	\$6,411.91			
CDs	\$5,596.00	\$5,697.55	Landowners Awards	\$100.00	\$100.00
Savings Accounts			Safety Seminar	\$3,000.00	\$3,600.00
Products in Inventory			Calendar Printing	\$1,017.00	\$1,200.00
Total Assets	\$9,450.00	\$12,109.46	Winter Dinner Past	\$0.00	\$0.00
EXPENSES	2005	2006	Winter Dinner Coming	\$1,557.00	\$1,600.00
Bank Charges	\$20.00	\$20.00	Winter Dinner Awards	\$15.90	\$300.00
			Scholarship	\$50.00	\$50.00
Contributions	\$200.00	\$200.00	Uncategorized Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Gift Certificate	\$0.00	\$0.00	Flight Manual	\$0.00	\$0.00
			Total Expenses	\$8,039.90	\$9,190.00

Landowner Relations From Bill Colyer: IMPORTANT FLIGHT MANUAL INFO!

Landowner Alert

Description: Red Zone

Submitted by: Bill Colyer (November 2005)

Landowner: Frank Simon

Location: 324 Munger Lane, Bethlehem CT

Located between Double Hill Rd (to the south) and Gros Rd. (to the north) on the East side of Munger Lane, One mile South of Morris/Bethlehem town line.

GPS — Approx. N 41deg 39.3 min W 73 Deg 13.2 min Elevation 1000 ft.

Aerial Landmarks: 20 acres, multiple fenced areas with red barn and house with brown shingles. In back of the barn is a riding ring, also a wooded lot with pond. East of the location is a 100 acre apple farm.

Incident/Situation Description: Intended to land but decided not to because the angle of descent was not suitable. Landed a few minutes and two streets north. Two days later, I received a call from Jim Adams of Flight Operations at Bradley. Frank Simon had called Flight Operations with a complaint. Frank and his wife have great concerns about the balloon causing their horses distress. In the past, they have had problems with balloons in their present location, as well as their former home in Roxbury, CT. I have talked to Frank and have told him I would get his property listed in the CLAS Red Zone Book.

Recommended Fly Over Procedure: Do Not Land. 1000+AGL



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Hot Air Balloon Inventor and Pioneer Honored

Ed Yost, the 88-year-old Father of the Modern Hot Air Balloon, is honored with a medallion struck in honor of the anniversary of his invention and first flight. Newly licensed lighter than air pilots can apply for a free medallion in order to share in the celebration.

Austin, TX (PRWEB) March 5, 2006 -- In order to honor Paul Edward Yost on the 45th anniversary of the first modern controlled hot-air balloon flight, the International Aeronauts League has commissioned a special medallion.

On October 22, 1960, Ed built and piloted the first modern hot air balloon for the United States of America's Office of Naval Research. This aircraft consisted of an envelope manufactured from plastic film which was heated by 5 plumber's pots burning white kerosene. The design quickly evolved to incorporate a nylon envelope, familiar wicker gondola and an ingenious propane fuel burner system that included self-contained vaporization coils which allow the propane fuel to burn optimally in all conditions. Today, events like the annual Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta are a testament to the beauty and fun Ed's work launched for thousands of pilots and millions of spectators who enjoy events like this all over the world.

The medallion features a three quarter profile bas-relief bust of Ed on the face. The background of the portrait depicts a scientific gas balloon rising through a cloudy sky. The scientific balloon reminds us of Ed's tireless work to insure that the work launched at the Stratobowl by the pre-astronauts of the 1930's is not lost to the ages. During the 1930's man first reached the stratosphere in balloons bearing pressurized capsules as they conducted cosmic ray research and the effects of high altitude flight on man. The Balloon Historical Society was established by Ed in 2002 with the intention of creating a permanent shrine and museum to the work done at this important staging and launch site in western South Dakota.

The back of the coin depicts Ed as he mans the controls below ONR X 40 Raven 1 on its historic ascent the morning of October 22, 1960 in Bruning, Nebraska.

The man commissioned to create the beautiful artwork for the coin is Texas artist Jacob Steimer. Jake is a prolific artist with an eclectic award-winning portfolio. Jake was very excited during the planning and execution of this work. He noted, "I tried very hard to capture the steely determination of Ed Yost. I hope I have done justice to his strength and brilliance." Jake consulted photographs and friends of Yost like, publisher and historian, Christine Kalakuka to find just the right elements to infuse into his portrait of the father of the modern hot-air balloon.

In order to fully share this award with the public and further encourage newcomers to attain their pilot certificate – part of the International Aeronauts League charter - a version of the medallion has been created that will be awarded to all new private LTA pilots who wish to have one. This award applies to certificated pilots anywhere in the world. The special 1.5 inch medallion has been double die-struck from a solid ingot of nickel. When asked why he commissioned the medallion, IAL founder John Craparo stated, "To honor Ed and those who have taken up ballooning. In addition, the Montgolfier brothers of France had a medallion struck in their honor by Louis XVI which is still clinking around collections more than 220 years after it was minted. Ed deserves to be honored in such a lasting way."

Anyone who attains a first Lighter than Air (LTA) pilot certificate on or after October 22, 2005 is eligible to receive this 1.5-inch medallion. To order, please send your name, address and proof that you received your first certificate (photocopy of certificate or temporary certificate) on or after October 22, 2005 to:

International Aeronauts League, PO Box 200931, Austin, Texas 78720-0931 USA

The International Aeronauts League is a world-wide-web based association of individuals from around the world. The association's 1,000 members share a passion for Lighter-Than-Air flying in all of its forms. Membership in the IAL is free and more information can be obtained at www.interaeroleague.com.

Media Contact: John S. Craparo 512-740-2506

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 (Route 372 at Whiting St.) 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) _____

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The Scoop/ CLAS

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