

# THE SCOOP



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**Next CLAS Meeting—Thursday, March 20, 2008 at 7:30PM**  
**Plainville Police Department, 19 Neal Court, Plainville**  
**Across from the Plainville Municipal Building on Rt. 372**  
**This will be an educational meeting!**

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## **CLAS Meeting Minutes - February 21, 2008**

CLAS President Charlie Perreault called the meeting to order at the Plainville, CT Police Station Building at 7:33 PM.

- Members in attendance were: Charlie Perreault, Mark Sand, Tom Murphy, Mike Bollea, Garry Guertin, Rick Silva, Terry Rollinson, Tony Roswell, Erwin Dressel, Ellen Dressel, Penny Christy, Steve Ushchak, Libby Richardson, and Kevin Brielmann.

### Old Business:

- Secretary's Report: Last month's meeting minutes were read. A motion was made, second and approved to accept the minutes as read.

### Treasurer's Report: No Treasurer's report was given.

- Financial audit was completed on January 24, 2008 by Erwin Dressel, Ellen Dressel, Mike Bollea, and Mark Sand who found the books to be in order.

### New Business:

- CPR and First Aid classes have been scheduled. See the February Scoop for full info.
  - CPR Classes are scheduled for April 21, 2008 & May 5, 2008.
  - First Aid Class is scheduled for May 14, 2008.
  - The cost is \$12 to be sent to Libby Richardson. \$6 will be refunded at time of class.
- CLAS Balloon or Remote Control Project was discussed again. New proposals are to be discussed at the next CLAS meeting in March.
- Erwin Dressel provided a recommendation that the Club include prize money for CLAS competition events. Competition events would be held twice a year, one in May and the other in August. The suggestion is to provide \$100 First prize, \$50 Second prize, and \$25 Third prize. A rule was recommended that the competition is only open to CLAS members and non-members may pay \$25.00 to join just prior to the competition.



*Frozen Bunz, Photo by Libby Richardson, January 2008*

- 2008 CLAS Safety Seminar 3/15/08
  - Registration is to be from 7:30 AM – 8:00. The seminar will run from 8:00 AM – 6:15 PM. The Safety Seminar will be dedicated as The Ruth Salberg Safety Seminar. Penny will select and obtain the speaker awards. Penny will send out e-mails to previous participants. Presenters get 50% off the \$30 seminar fee. Registration forms were in the February 2008 Scoop issue. Volunteers are to be at the Air Museum by 7:15 AM.
  - Mark provided maps and CD to Garry to be printed for the seminar.
  - Garry contracted Kane’s Kitchen to provide food and beverages for the seminar.
  
- Request for membership to sign up for CLAS Committees was passed around.
  - Sunshine: Tony Roswell
  - Education: Charlie Perreault, Ellen Dressel, Penny Christy
  - Winter Dinner: Jude Russell, Robert Zirpolo
  - Nominating: Tony Roswell
  - FAA Liaison: Penny Christy
  - Audit: Charlie Perrault, Erwin Dressel, Mike Bollea
  - Competition: Erwin Dressel
  - Safety Seminar: Penny Christy, Mark Sand, Garry Guertin

A motion was made and second to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM. Penny Christy will be bringing refreshments to the March 20 CLAS meeting.  
Respectfully submitted, Garry Guertin

### **FAA Mandates Plastic Pilot Certificates**

*By AOPA ePublishing staff, Contributed by Mark Sand*

Still hanging onto your paper pilot certificate? You’ll need to upgrade to a plastic pilot certificate by March 31, 2010. The FAA released its final rule ([DocketRuleAccess](#)) on Feb. 28, announcing the required switch to the certificate it deems is more counterfeit resistant. When the FAA proposed this mandate in 2005, AOPA members overwhelmingly supported the move to a more secure certificate. If you are attached to your paper certificate and original issuance date (the plastic certificate will have a new one), don’t worry. You can keep your paper certificate for nostalgia; you just can’t use it to fly. If you do miss the 2010 deadline, you won’t have to take a check ride or any exams to get back in the air as pilot in command. Simply request the plastic certificate. Temporary, student, and flight instructor certificates are not impacted by this rule. Those with nonpilot certificates, such as ground instructors, flight engineers, and mechanics, will have until March 31, 2013 to change to a plastic certificate. Pilots can request the plastic certificate through the FAA’s web site ([FAACertificates](#)). The cost is \$2. However, if you change your pilot certificate number from your Social Security number, the switch is free. Because the FAA is currently processing replacement certificate for pilots who fly internationally to meet the English proficient endorsement ([FFAEnglishProf.](#)) required by the International Civil Aviation Organization, pilots might want to wait a few weeks before requesting a plastic certificate to prevent a backlog.

## **Steve Fossett declared dead but his body remains missing**

*By Simon Alford, The Sunday Times Online*

Steve Fossett, the tycoon and adventurer who became the first person to circle the globe in a hot-air balloon, has officially been declared dead five months after he disappeared in a flight over the mountains of Nevada.

Fossett, who was 63, was flying a single engine aircraft when he vanished from radar screens. A month-long search and rescue mission found no trace of Fossett or his plane.

Yesterday in Cook County Circuit Court, Illinois, Judge Jeffrey Malak said there was “sufficient evidence” to declare Fossett dead after hearing from his wife Peggy, a family friend and a search-and-rescue expert. His wife of 40 years had pleaded with the American authorities to certify her husband dead once the search had ended. Fossett’s estate, an estimated eight-figure sum, can now be split up.

The self-made tycoon and adventurer struck up a high-profile rivalry with the entrepreneur Sir Richard Branson during the 1980s and 1990s as the two men battled to take a hot air balloon around the world for the first time. In 1998, he joined forces with his rival and struck up a strong friendship with Branson as they jointly tried for the record.

Branson, Fossett and Per Lindstrand, a Swedish balloonist, made it more than halfway round the world before poor wind conditions forced them to ditch in shark-infested waters off Honolulu on Christmas Day.

After six failed attempts, Fossett took the the crown in 2002 after floating nonstop for 19,428 miles around the southern hemisphere. The record-breaking trip took him two weeks.

In 2005, Fossett became the first solo pilot to fly a plane around the world without stopping to refuel after Branson paid for the plane GlobalFlyer. A year later in the same aircraft he completed the longest nonstop plane flight in aviation history, flying 26,389 miles in 76 hours. Fossett’s other exploits included climbing the Matterhorn in Switzerland and Mount Kilimanjaro, and swimming the English Channel. In all he set more than 100 separate records as a pilot, sailor and hot-air balloon navigator, of which 60 still stand.

Fossett, a Stanford graduate, used his self-made fortune to fund the adventures. Fossett won an economics degree at Stanford University before completing a master’s degree in business administration at Washington University. He went on to become a successful stockbroker and made his millions trading soy beans, setting up several trading companies, including Marathon Securities and Lakota Trading. Fossett is survived by his widow Peggy.

### **Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society – 2008 Officers**

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

## **Amazing Chiang Mai - In the Sky**

*From www.pr-inside.com*

From 7-9 March 2008, Thailand's northern capital will launch an international festival with a difference - and turn all heads skywards with "Viva Weddings in the Air" aboard 16 magnificent hot air balloons

Just after dawn on Saturday morning 8th March, 16 hot air balloons will gently lift fourteen excited couples, together with members of the press and media, high above the city. The couples will be accompanied by a registrar who will conduct an official wedding ceremony in the sky. The specially-selected brides and grooms from all over the world will enjoy numerous sponsored privileges, including an expenses-paid honeymoon. The record-breaking 'Weddings in the Air' attempt, to be certified by 'Ripley's, Believe it or Not' is expected to draw a large number of media representatives and spectators, turn thousands of heads skywards, and probably bring early morning traffic to a halt.



As a prelude, there will be early morning free flying balloon launches on the 5th and 6th March. The festive feeling will commence on 7th March 2008 when the spacious grounds of Lanna Polytechnical College in Chiang Mai fill with the sound of marching bands, and see a mass launch of more free flying hot air balloons. In the late afternoon and for 3 days from 7th-9th March, colourful trading booths and a classic cars display will form the backdrop for the 'International Heritage Festival'

The Heritage Festival is a unique section created by members of the foreign community, featuring attractive displays and native products, plus amateur performances of song, dance, and other forms of entertainment reflecting their homeland. The following countries will be represented: Austria, Burma, China, Germany, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Norway, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Switzerland, Tahiti, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, USA, & Vietnam.

Festival visitors will therefore enjoy a global presentation of traditions, national dress, music, handicrafts, and cuisine in an ambiance designed to engender goodwill between nations, increase trade, and boost tourism. Added to this will be a large variety of local sights and sounds, including some of Thailand's top showbiz personalities, spectacular parades, marching bands and concerts by first-class performers. To top it all, there will be hot air balloon 'Night Glows' and fireworks synchronized with music.

Both the Balloon Weddings and the Festival are sponsored by Krungthai Card Public Company Limited and MasterCard, plus Master Car, Centara Duang Tawan Hotel, Mandarin Dhara Devi Hotel, and Samsung, in association with the Tourism Authority of Thailand, and Chiang Mai Province.

The organiser is Earth Wind & Fire Co. Ltd., the first and longest-established hot air balloon operator in Thailand, which is committed to showcasing the Lanna Thai capital as the vibrant cosmopolitan city it has become in recent years. The company plans to make the festival a major annual event.

## **Balloon banned from fiesta due to real estate rivalry**

*By Jo Moir, Wairapa Times, New Zealand*

Rival real estate companies have come to blows over a bit of hot air.

Gillies Group is an amalgamated real estate business in the lower North Island and is for the first time sponsoring the Wairarapa International Balloon Fiesta this year. Bob Francis, Gillies Group Wairarapa International Balloon Fiesta promoter, said an Auckland balloonist has been asked not to fly his **Remax-sponsored hot-air balloon** in this year's fiesta, because of commercial sensitivity around the Gillies Group sponsorship.

“Remax and Gillies Group are in direct competition and we are delighted to have Gillies Group on board. We wouldn't do anything to compromise their significant sponsorship and because of that, our decision to not allow the Remax balloon is not negotiable.”

Mr. Francis said the fiesta committee has written to the Auckland balloonist, who has attended the balloon spectacular every year, stating reasons why his Remax balloon is not suitable this year. “He's not happy about it but there's nothing we can do about that and in order to protect the event, which is very expensive to run and relies on sponsorship, we had to say no. We are more than happy for him to still come down and have offered him another balloon to fly,” he said.

Gillies Group Wairarapa International Balloon Fiesta spokeswoman Lisa Sims said it is “not usual practice” to have a competing business to the naming rights sponsor. “This event entirely relies on having a naming rights sponsor, without it, it wouldn't happen. The Remax balloon does present a dilemma and if Gillies Group is putting up the funds for the event then you have to decide whether it's worth having competition.”

Organisers are encouraging the balloonist to still take part in the fiesta but his “balloon will not be part of the event,” she said. The Auckland balloonist declined to comment to the Times-Age.

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Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society

# THE SCOOP

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[From the Editor, Libby Richardson](#)

**[Thanks for your contributions for this month's Scoop: Mark Sand, Garry Guertin](#)**

So did our Scoop-by-mail readers receive all of their pages last month? Please let me know how the Scoop came through, as we now are using two staples instead of one.

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](mailto: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](mailto:libby_rich@yahoo.com); Phone: 203-988-6577*



*Photos by Peter Hubbell, Adirondack Balloon Festival*

## **First Aid and CPR Courses** **Please join us!**



**CPR by American Red Cross**  
**Monday, April 21, 2008**  
**OR**

**Monday, May 5, 2008**

Certification is good for 1 year  
Only 12 people allowed in this course

**Standard First Aid by American Red Cross**  
**Wednesday, May 14, 2008**

Certification is good for 3 years  
Only 20 people allowed in this course

### **Details:**

- CPR has to be taken before First Aid. If you have current certification from this or another agency, that is good and qualifies you as having the certification.
- Each class will begin at 6 p.m. and will end by 10 p.m.
- Classes will be held at the Waterbury Girl Scout Service Center, 171 Grandview Avenue, Suite 102, Waterbury, CT 06705
- \$12 per course for CLAS members (pilot, crew, etc.); \$6 will be reimbursed to each member who shows up for the course; \$12 fee for non-CLAS members with no reimbursement
- Indicate which course or courses you will be taking and who you are paying for if paying for more than one person; make check payable to CLAS and mail to:

Libby Richardson  
380 Hitchcock Road #258  
Waterbury, CT 06705



**2008 Dues Are Due. 2008 Dues Are Due. 2008 Dues Are Due. 2008 Dues Are Due.**

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 CLAS Member Pins \$5 (\$3 members)

Decals \$2 (\$1 members) Landowner Pins \$4 (\$3 members – limited quantity)

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**(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 \_\_\_\_\_

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



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